

Winterize
your MOV
garden

See page B4



DIY
gingerbread
haunted
house

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Friendly
hosts
Wild West
shootout

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Still Free!

HAPPY
HALLOWEEN!

INNformer

Volume 6, No. 21

The Wells Inn, 316 Charles St. Sistersville, WV 26175

October 18, 2019

Sistersville proceeds with loitering, water ordinances

By Charles Winslow

SISTERSVILLE – Taking a couple of the steps necessary to finance Sistersville’s planned \$4.55 million water improvement project and holding the first reading of the city’s proposed Loitering Ordinance were among issues taken up by Sistersville City Council Tuesday, Oct 15.

After having Mayor Bill Rice sign a Binding Commitment Letter stating the city would accept the terms for a \$1 million grant and loans totaling \$3.35 million for the water improvement project, Tim Meeks, from the Mid Ohio Valley Regional Council, was invited to do the first reading of the ordinance that sets forth the new water rates, fees and charges for the water department.

The ordinance, which passed without opposition

from council members present — Greg Gage and Richard Long being absent, — formalized the rate increase to which council previously agreed in principle. According to information provided by Meeks, the rate increase will tack on an additional \$10 per month to the water bill of the average customer.

When the water project is completed in 2021, Sistersville will receive its water from the Tyler County Public Service wells in Friendly and will finally be able to retire the city’s ancient and deteriorated waterworks, which continues to show its age.

Reporting for the water department, Jason Rice said that while improvements have been made to the quality of the water coming out of the 1890s-era waterworks because he was able to switch to liquid chemical additives, the equipment continues to fail. Most recently, he and his crew had to repair a service

pump while the system was still under pressure and that some of the check valves need to be replaced.

Council also held the first reading of the Loitering Ordinance, which would make it unlawful for people to loiter, or prowl, within the city limits. The ordinance, which is similar to one on the books in St Marys, will give the Sistersville Police Department another tool to address suspicious activity.

Jason Wayne, chief of Sistersville Volunteer Fire Department, brought to council’s attention issues involving maintenance and flushing of fire hydrants and asked permission for the fire department to go around and flush them in the future. During the recent Oxford Street fire, one hydrant wouldn’t open, he said.

Mayor Rice requested the fire department coordinate

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Operating group of 4-H camp loses charter

By Lea Ann Butcher

MIDDLEBOURNE – Updates on the county 4-H camp and its operations, courthouse projects and purchases were the main topics of the Tyler County Commission Tuesday, Oct. 8.

The Tyler County 4-H Farm and Community Center Association, the group of individuals who run the county 4-H camp, has lost the ability to have “4-H” in the official name due to not meeting several of the criteria outlined by the West Virginia University Extension Service, according to Commission Vice-President John Sender.

Requirements not met included having volunteers complete a screening and background check, no meeting records, no annual budget and no annual plan, Dave Snively, Tyler County WVU Extension Service Agent, later explained to The INNformer.

“This does not affect any of the community clubs or activities and the camp will still be able to be used by Tyler County 4-H’ers,” Snively said, adding that while the group must remove 4-H from the name, as long as they do and the county reseats them, they could still oversee the camp.

“I think it would be better and easier for the group not to associate with the 4-H name as 4-H and the clover are federally protected trademarks and come with an extensive list of requirements and regulations to be able to be used,” Snively concluded.

Stender also said the Sistersville Senior Center needs help. Issues include lights need replaced, the ceiling is coming down in some places, and the cement ramp needs to be covered so it does not ice over in the winter.

“That’s something we’re proud of in Tyler County. We like to take care of our senior citizens,” Commission President Eric Vincent said. Commissioners decided to have the center get estimates on work needed then they will make a donation to help cover costs.

Placement of an historical limited edi-

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Still Free!

October 18, 2019

HALLOWEEN

TRICK OR TREAT TIMES C6 EVENTS C6-C7

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Whether you seek scary or sweet or even a showy treat, you'll find it all inside this issue! From making your own haunted gingerbread house to area events and trick or treat times, it's all inside for you.

LEPC to help secure funding for Wood St. repair

By Lea Ann Butcher

MIDDLEBOURNE – How Wood Street in Sistersville should be addressed, planning trainings and exercises and updating members on the status of grants and projects were the main topics at the Tyler County Local Emergency Planning Committee Oct. 3.

Wood Street starts from Route 2 at the north end of the city. It leads up the hill to Genesis Healthcare’s Sistersville Center and two apartment complexes – Timber Ridge and McCormick Greene. According to the Tyler County 911 Center, there have been 723 emergency service calls since Jan. 1, 2018, along that one road and it is in such poor condition an ambulance can hardly navigate it.

“The road is completely destroyed and the Board of Education says they can no longer run busses up there in its current condition,” Tom Cooper, director of the Tyler County Office of Emergency Management, said. Cur-

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Wildcat marching band achieves ‘ultimate goal’

PADEN CITY – The Padon City Wildcat Marching Band has achieved their “ultimate goal” for their season by being named Class B Grand Champions of the 2019 Ripley Viking Fest, beating out bands from Greenbrier West, Herbert Hoover, Ravenswood, Nicholas County and Ritchie County.

“It was awesome to win because we’ve been working really hard,” said Junior Rose Norris.

Affectionately known as “the biggest little band in the land,” 39 marching wildcats participated in three band-o-ramas over the fall season: the Oil and Gas Festival in Sistersville, the Hurricane Band Competition in Hurricane and the Ripley Viking Fest. Band Director Debra Price said she was proud of how much they improved each time.

“We’ve improved in regards to discipline and dedication. The kids really deserved the win,” Price said.

The students in the marching band are dedicated, indeed. They support, encourage and mentor one another by



forming long-lasting friendships that are sure to continue off the field.

“It’s a family thing, I love being in the band,” said Senior Destiny Harrison about her bandmates.

“I’m proud of the 7th and 8th graders that march with us. They’ve worked so hard and have really added to the pro-

gram,” Senior Nicholas Clarke added.

This year’s show theme was “unsettled,” which means not yet resolved. As the group practiced and showcased their abilities at each competition, they didn’t always get what they may have deserved. But Price said that just gave them more

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OUT & ABOUT



TCHS ALUMNI PARADE



BELLAIRE FIREFIGHTERS FESTIVAL



RHS ALUMNI PARADE



Sistersville

Continued from page A1

the flushing with the city water department and publish notices prior to doing it.

Under old business, the deteriorated condition of Wood Street Extension again came up, with the school district refusing to pick up students until repair work was completed.

“I think we need to get with the CEO of the nursing home, and with Timber Ridge and McCormick Greene and talk about paving fees,” Mayor Rice said.

LEPC

Continued from page A1

rently 15 students and one special needs student ride buses to school from that location.

Tyler County Delegate David Kelly said the state would likely have to take ownership of the road so they could use some emergency funding to make repairs.

“We’re going to change gears and try to get this emergency funding through the state because the city can’t really afford it. However, the city has found some funding to help and have patched holes but after this winter it’s going to be a problem again,” Cooper said.

Cooper also gave updates on grants awarded.

The 2019 Homeland Security grant of \$35,000 will be used to purchase an inflatable boat for \$15,000 to navigate the area’s lower-lying waters and the other \$20,000 to provide trainings.

The State Emergency Response \$1,500 grant will be available soon, he said, to buy new electronic equipment for their training room.

Cooper said 38 staff members from West Virginia’s county emergency management agencies had graduated from the first-ever WV FEMA/DHS

PC Band

Continued from page A1

motivation for the next show. “Our final song, White Rabbit, kind-of mirrors our theme the most because its a modge-podge of different sounds,” she said.

“Winning the competition felt really good, it was our goal and we finally did it” said Senior Walter Joy, who, after graduation, plans to attend West Virginia University, where he will join “The Pride of West Virginia” and continue his band career. Clarke will also accompany him in the endeavor.

Although the marching season is coming to a close, the Wildcats are not about to stop performing. They will participate in Paden City’s Halloween Parade on trick-or-treat night Oct. 29 and they have a Christmas concert at the Lincoln Theater in New Mar-

“Currently we only get \$5each from them.” He added that if something isn’t done, the road will have to be closed.

City Recorder Heather Rice had some good news. She said she was able to pay off a 2003 sewer bond with money sitting in the bond’s escrow account, eliminating a \$7,000 a month payment.

Mayor Rice reappointed Barbara Gage to the city’s Building Commission, which is currently negotiating the transfer of the city-owned Sistersville General Hospital to Wheeling Hospital.

Before going into a 25-minute executive session to discuss personnel issues, council approved holding

the Sistersville Lion’s Club Halloween Parade at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 31 and for the Sistersville Spook House to use the old middle school.

Also, Police Chief Rob Haught said he was seeking help during trick or treating and suggested that any high school student who needs community service hours contact him at (304) 652-1570.

The next regularly scheduled of Sistersville City Council meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m. at the city building.

Like this month, the second Monday of November, when the council usually meets, falls on a federal holiday.

National Emergency Management Basic Academy. The academy provides a 152-hour comprehensive curriculum that gives emergency responders the knowledge and skills they need to support the challenges faced in the field.

The LEPC has one year to complete the installation and hook up of four LED signs. Two have been installed; one at Proviron in Friendly and one at the health department in Paden City.

“The one at Proviron at the south end of the county is there and has power but is waiting to be programmed. The one in Paden City is waiting for power then it will be ready to go. The one at the school (Tyler Consolidated High School) is waiting for an electrician. They are supposed to have ripped the old sign out today so it should be installed by next week. The fourth sign goes to Sistersville Hospital entrance,” Cooper said.

FEMA gave the LEPC permission to move the sign across the street to the fire department, but the installer said it didn’t look right due to being housed over some large gas lines. The LEPC will need permission from FEMA to move it back to the hospital entrance.

The emergency response plan for SGH, Hospice and Wetzel County HealthCare is in review and a tabletop exercise will be slated when the review is completed.



Cooper reminded the group that a full-scale Search and Rescue exercise will be held at Grand Vue Park in Moundsville Saturday, Oct. 26. He said it would be massive and would utilize many of the LEPC’s tools. “It will be a big event with emergency management folks from all around,” he added.

The Bullex Fire Extinguisher Training System has been repaired. Cooper said if an agency needs training to let him know and he will help make arrangements.

The next regular LEPC meeting is Thursday, Nov. 7, at the Middlebourne Senior Center. Breakfast begins at 9 a.m. and the meeting follows at 10 a.m.

4-H camp

Continued from page A1

tion Henry Rifle was also discussed. It is currently in possession of the Tyler County Sheriff’s Department and soon will be placed in the commissioners’ office at the courthouse so more people can view it.

Commission then voted to approve the purchase and installation of a concrete slab on which to place the new shed/employee lunch room at a cost of \$5,400. While the shed does not need to be placed on a slab, commissioners felt that it was better to do so to keep it out of the snow and mud.

Stender also said Gorrell Run Road is being modified and having some of its corners cut off, the dirt from which will be given to the courthouse to assist in filling the hole in the parking lot.

Lisa Stackpole, executive administrative assistant for the Tyler County Circuit Court, requested a new copier. She said the copier they have is eight years old and only makes about two copies per minute.

Commissioners approved the purchase of a new copier that is guaranteed to make at least 70,000 black and white or color copies per year at \$12,035. The purchase price includes toner and maintenance.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Tyler County Commission is Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 9 a.m. in their chambers at the Tyler County Courthouse in Middlebourne.



tinsville Saturday, Dec. 7, at 7:30 p.m.

The band would like to offer a sincere “thank you” to everyone who has supported and believed in them throughout the season; from the band parents to every patron who has traveled to

watch them play their music and execute their singular style.

For more information about the Marching Wildcats, follow the Paden City Wildcat Marching Band on Facebook. — *Lea Ann Butcher*

The INNformer

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To be considered for publication, letters must be no longer than 400 words, and must contain the writer’s complete address and phone number. This information will not be published, but is required for verifications before publication.

All letters should be written to the editor, not to a third party. The INNformer reserves the right to edit letters

for length and content at our discretion. Letters written to the exclusivity of the INNformer will be given priority.

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The INNformer will publish, free of charge, a political candidate’s announcement that they are seeking an elected position. These announcements can include personal information, political platform and a photo of the candidate. Announcements are not to exceed 450 words and will run only once.

The INNformer may, at our discretion, further profile a candidate with an interview in the weeks before an election. We will not, however, publish political award announcements or print photographs of candidates giving awards or donations in the edition immediately preceding election day.

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Letters to the Editor endorsing candidates are accepted and will be run, subject to the discretion of the editor. All contact information must be provided as it will be verified prior to publication. Letters to the Editor with political content will not be published in the edition immediately preceding election day.

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REGIONAL NEWS

Monroe, Belmont counties see tax revenues from oil & natural gas

From staff reports

WOODSFIELD, Ohio – Natural gas development in the Buckeye State has added tens of millions of dollars in real estate property tax revenues for area counties, according to a report released last week by the Ohio Oil and Gas Association and the industry trade group Energy in Depth.

During a seven-year period, from 2010 through 2017, the top eight producing Ohio counties, including Monroe and Belmont, brought in a total of \$141.9 million in revenue according to the report “2019 Update: Ohio’s Oil and Gas Industry Property Tax Payments.”

The report, part of the Utica Shale Local Support Series, outlined the economic impact of oil and natural gas real estate property, or ad valorem, taxes, paid.

“Over a seven-year period Monroe County has received over \$17 million in ad valorem taxes,” Monroe County Treasurer Taylor Abbott explained. “In that same period Monroe County alone has produced over 771 billion cubic of natural gas, which is incredible.”

According to the report, in 2017 Monroe County received more than \$7 million in ad valorem property taxes. In addition to natural gas, oil production in Monroe County totaled 738,856 barrels from 2010 through 2017.

In Belmont County, just north of Monroe, ad valorem taxes totaled almost \$16,838,000 for the same seven-year period with 724,235 barrels of oil and 1.65 trillion cubic feet of natural gas being produced. In 2017 Belmont county collected some \$8 million in ad valorem property taxes.

“We are sitting on a world-class gas field,” Abbott said. “What we as a county and as a state do with it and how we plan for the future is essential. People have to become engaged and realize this isn’t Mayberry anymore. We need involvement and people to ask questions. Demand that your elected officials prioritize and plan. If we fail to plan, we must plan to fail.”

MIDDLEBOURNE TO BEGIN WINTERIZING ROADS

MIDDLEBOURNE – Middlebourne Council made plans to prepare the city’s roads for winter, proclaimed American Legion Auxillary Centennial Day and set its Christmas parade date at their Oct. 15 meeting.

Council members will be driving the city’s streets over the next couple of weeks, marking pot holes to be patched with asphalt before winter. Robert Riggs was recently hired by the city to help accomplish this project. His other duties will include cleaning and painting curbs, mowing and snow removal when the time comes. Council also will check their cinder supply and gave permission to purchase more if needed.

Council decided to replace the “compact cars only” parking sign that used to be at the corner of Long Reach Federal Credit Union and Wetzel Avenue. Mayor Stephen Seago said it is unsafe for larger vehicles to park in that location as it makes it hard to see oncom-



ing traffic before pulling out into the road.

The American Legion Auxillary will turn 100 years old Nov. 10. A letter from Cathy Post of American Legion Tyler County Post 48 Auxillary asked the mayor to sign a proclamation declaring that day as “American Legion Auxillary Centennial Day” which he did.

Tyler County Development Authority asked council to provide names of three individuals who might be interested in joining the authority. Council member Charlene Galluzzo named her husband, Mike, adding he is very “civic minded” and would most likely be interested. Council agreed but did not provide more names. When two more are selected, the names will be given to the TCDA who will take them to the Tyler County Commission for approval.

Council set the city’s annual Christmas parade for Saturday, Dec. 7, at 11 a.m.

The next regular meeting of Middlebourne council is Thursday, Nov. 7, at 6 p.m. at the city building, 211 Stealey St., due to the Veterans Day holiday.

VILLAGE OF CLARINGTON SETS TRICK OR TREAT

CLARINGTON, Ohio – Clarington Village Council breezed through the agenda for their regular meeting Oct. 3. Trick or treat, water meter reading software, a new fence for the cemetery as well as the newly installed water tank were addressed during the 17-minute meeting.

The Village of Clarington will make their annual \$100 trunk or treat donation to the Clarington United Methodist Church. However, council decided to give an additional \$50 “because candy has gotten more expensive.” Trunk or Treat is Thursday, Oct. 31, at 5 p.m. at the church followed by the village’s trick or treat from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

In August, council members discussed purchasing new meter-reading software through Badger Meter because the handheld meter readers will be obsolete



in June 2020. Badger Meter wants the meters read by tablet via a software upgrade and not a new system, council approved the \$14,954 purchase, which includes training of two city employees.

Two levies will appear on the November ballot for the Village of Clarington. One 3.0 mill tax levy for maintenance and upkeep of the Clarington cemetery, which will include a new fence for the front of the property. Members discussed what type of fence should be purchased and threw around ideas of a 2x4 split rail, while others preferred wrought iron. The decision was tabled until after the election.

The second 3.0 mill tax levy will go toward current village expenses. Council plans to use this levy for purchasing, installing and maintaining street lights and roads, among other village expenses.

Also, the new water tank on Sykes Ridge has been completed and is now named Smigill Tank in honor of Joe Smigill for his hard work on the project. Council discussed the need to fence the tank for safety reasons per Environmental Protection Agency regulations. They also decided they no longer need to maintain the property on Schoolhouse Hill since that tank has now been removed.

The next regular meeting of the Village of Clarington Council is Thursday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m. in the city building, 361 Market St.

NEW TRAIL HEAD, SIGN VANDALISM TOP MONROE COUNTY COMMISSION

WOODSFIELD, Ohio – A possible new trail head and vandalism of a bridge closed sign were among the issues heard by the Monroe County Commission during their regular meeting Oct. 7.

Mark Gallagher, director of the Monroe County Park District, discussed opening a trail head in Wayne National Forest for horseback riding and hiking. Commission President Tim Price said he saw no problem with it and would discuss the plans with the county soon.

County Engineer Amy Zwick warned the panel about a continually vandalized sign at the edge of a closed bridge on County Road 6 near the junction of County Road 29. Zwick said the sign has been broken numerous times and moved off the edge of the bridge. She expressed concern that without either installed cameras or a greater law enforcement presence someone would drive onto the bridge causing it to collapse. Discussion of escrow funding to deal with the situation followed but no action was taken.

Commissioners also signed a procla-

mation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Presented by Chelsea Scott, Tri-County Help Center administrative compliance coordinator, the proclamation highlighted the issue of increasing incidents of domestic physical, mental and sexual violence to both men and women and endorsed not only remembering victims but celebrating survivors and letting them know they are heard. Headquartered in St. Clairsville, TCHC is a private, non-profit contract agency of the Mental Health and Recovery Board serving Belmont, Monroe, and Harrison counties.

Scott provided statistics: It is estimated that nationally 1 in 3 teenagers, 1 in 4 women, and 1 in 10 men will experience some form of domestic violence in their lifetime with nearly 16 million children exposed to domestic violence each year. Scott said 693 males and 1,713 women have been documented as victims in the tri-county area. Also, there’s 72 percent murder-suicide rate involving intimate partners where domestic violence is concerned.

Scott also spoke about the increased human trafficking issue in Ohio. “The amount of child trafficking is becoming staggering. The reason for it is that there are many intersecting highways in the state that make it easy for traffickers to transport women and children,” she said.

Price said: “We appreciate the work Ms. Scott and the center do. The impression in a small county is that there isn’t a large domestic violence problem but there is. It is very important that there is public awareness to these facts. Education awareness is just as important so that people can be able to see signs of domestic violence and do something before it’s too late for the victims.” The commission agreed to displaying a “We Believe” banner around the county Oct. 20-26.

Also Katie Kovaly and Wyatt Feldner from the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District were approved for a 50 percent payment (\$1,140 of the \$2,280 budget) of the RC&D Endowment Fund grant for the cover soil program to help with preventing erosion by planting cereal rye and wheat. The program involves 10 landowners and covers 285 acres.

Commissioners also approved creation of a plaque for the flag case presented during the Sept. 10 Monroe County Silent Watch ceremony.

The Monroe County Commission meets every Monday at 9 a.m. at the county courthouse in Woodsfield.

FARMERS IMPACTED BY DROUGHT CONDITIONS CAN APPLY FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

CHARLESTON – West Virginia livestock farmers impacted by recent drought conditions may be eligible to apply for cost-share funding to help them purchase water tanks and fittings needed to provide their animals with water.

Gov. Jim Justice declared a state of emergency because of the prolonged shortage of rainfall in all 55 counties. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor shows nearly all areas in the southern half of West Virginia fall in a moderate or severe drought designation. The northern half of the state is mostly considered “abnormally dry.”

The State Conservation Committee then approved the emergency program, which will provide 50 percent of the total cost of water tanks and necessary fittings, with a maximum reimbursement of \$400 per farmer, based on receipts.

Retroactive purchases of water tanks and fittings dating back to Sept. 1, 2019, will be eligible for reimbursement if the farmer provides receipts and documentation. The tanks may be filled with water from various sources and are to be used solely for the purpose of supplying livestock with drinking water.

The life span of the program is five years, meaning a cooperater who receives a reimbursement for water tanks and fittings cannot apply again for another five years. Interested farmers should contact their local conservation district to participate in the emergency program.

In Pleasants, Tyler and Wetzel counties, it’s the Upper Ohio Conservation District. Phone is (304) 758-2512 and email is UOCD@wvca.us.



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Paden City Council hears water project updates

PADEN CITY – Updating residents on the water project, listening to citizens' complaints and learning of a police department promotion were among items in front of the Paden City Council at its regular monthly session Oct. 7.

Council also held a brief, but legally required, public hearing prior to the meeting on the municipality's intent to file for emergency funds to upgrade the water plant to address the water contamination issue. There were no public comments.

During citizens' comments, council was addressed by a frustrated resident who complained the city had failed to complete drainage pipe work and, as a result, her property was being damaged. She added that dead trees were left in an alley by the city.

"This was brought up in another council meeting and it was supposed to have been taken care of," Councilman JP Springer said. "The problem, we are told, is that the catch basin is too high. Regardless, the pipe needed to be taken out and reinstalled. There is no excuse for this," he said before adding council had also previously talked about removing the dead trees.

Another resident complained that another drainage project, which was started in March 2018, was only partially completed.

Mayor Clyde Hochstrasser then turned to the status of the section of the water project dealing with the water contamination issue. "It's going to be six months," he said, explaining the city is opening bids Oct. 25 and it will take three months to get the equipment in for the air stripper, which will remove the contaminants from the well water, and six months to erect a building to house it and get it operational.

"We have to go get the grant money, do the revenue bond funding. The delay isn't the council; it is the government funding," said Carolyn Flannery, the city's attorney.

Hochstrasser also reported the long-delayed Meadow Heights project is nearing completion, with the lines being tied into the booster station and Mon Power had to bring electrical lines to the pump.

Police Chief Earl "Bob" Kendle announced he is going through applications for the police department and is promoting patrolman Austin Lowe to the rank of corporal, with a pay raise commensurate with that

rank. Lowe graduated in the top 20 percent of his class from the West Virginia State Police Academy earlier this year.

Kendle also said the department was working on a Memorandum of Understanding with Tyler County regarding switching dispatching from Wetzel County to Tyler. He added he is looking at the costs of replacing the department's worn-out police cruisers.

Under new business, the council was told they had received a bid of \$1,000 for new signs at the city's boundary. One sign was destroyed in a crash. The city expects to back-charge the vehicle's insurance company.

Also, William Bell, Paden City High School's new history and government teacher, is also the National Honor Society advisor. He talked about some volunteer activities and proposed exploring a Junior Council for his students.

Before adjourning, council held a 40-minute executive session to talk about a personnel issue.

The next regular meeting of the Paden City Council is Monday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m. at the city building on Main Street.

OUT OF THE ATTIC OPENS
Sistersville's newest store, *Out of the Attic* at 715 Wells St., opened for business Oct. 9. Read about the antique and home decor store in the next issue of *The INNformer*. Hours are Wednesday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At right are Fred Bennett with his wife Kim Bennett, owner.



Wetzel County man admits operating drug house

WHEELING – David M. Metz of New Martinsville has admitted to maintaining a house to sell drugs, U.S. Attorney Bill Powell announced Wednesday.

Metz, 44, pled guilty to one count of "aiding and abetting the maintaining of a drug-involved premises." Metz admitted to having a house on Veteran's Highway in New Martinsville for the purpose of distributing and using methamphetamine from July 2018 to June 2019.

Metz faces up to 20 years incarceration and a fine of up to \$500,000. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed will be based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the prior criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert H. McWilliams Jr. is prosecuting the case on behalf of the government. The Marshall County Drug & Violent Crimes Task Force, an HIDTA-funded initiative, and the West Virginia State Police investigated.

Senior U.S. District Judge Frederick P. Stamp Jr. presided.

COPS & COURTS

SISTERSVILLE

In September the Sistersville Police Department, under the command of Chief Rob Haight, responded to 46 calls, conducted 9 traffic stops and made 7 arrests.

The calls included: 911-Silent 1, 911-Hungup 1, Animal Bite/ Attack 1, Animal Complaint 3, Assault and Battery 1, Auto Accident 3, Back Up Officer on Call 1, Breaking and Entering 1, Disorderly Conduct 1, Domestic Violence 4, Drug/ Alcohol Emergency 2, Structure Fire 2, Fire Misc 1, Intoxicated Person 2, Medical Emergency 2, Misc Notification 1, Prisoner Transport 2, Shooting 1, Speak to an Officer 1, Suicidal Subject 2, Suspicious Person 1, Suspicious Vehicle 2, Theft of Property 1, Traffic stop 9, Trespassing 2, Unknown Trouble 1, Vehicle Complaint 1, Vehicle Lock Out 4, Warrant Service 1, Welfare Check 1.

Arrests made during September were: two for speeding, and one for each of the following: no operators license, possession of a controlled substance, no insurance, no registration and one for a dog running at large.

PADEN CITY

During September the Paden City Police Department, under the command of Chief Bob Kendle, responded to 65 calls, conducted 26 traffic stops and issued 5 citations.

ATV Complaint 1, 911- Open Line 2, Abuse 1, Assist Law Enforcement 1, Be on the lookout 1, Breaking and Entering 1, Burglar alarm 1, Civil complaint 1, Direct complaint 7, Disabled Vehicle 1, Disorderly 2, Domestic Violence 1, Drugs 1, Event coverage 1, Found property 1, Mental Hygiene 1,

SISTERSVILLE BURNING PERMIT OUTLINED

Sistersville residents are required to get a burning permit from the Sistersville Police Department, said Lt. Alex Northcraft, who recently updated the department's burn permits to bring them inline with state law.

Some of the requirements: fires must be attended at all times, with a shovel and a water source nearby, and be no closer than 50 feet from a structure unless in an approved waste burner with a closed top. Then it can be 15 feet from a structure.

Among the list of prohibited materials: It's illegal to burn household trash, including paper products, as well as construction and building materials.

The burning season goes through Dec. 3 and no burning is allowed from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Permits, as well as the list of rules, are available at the police department's office in the city building on Diamond Street. Willfully setting fires is a felony and punishable by fine and/ or a prison sentence. Residents are also reminded they will be responsible for all costs of fighting a fire, and any damage that may result, should their fire get out of control.

Noise complaint 1, Order Violation 1, Overdose 1, Parking 1, Prowler 1, Public Utilities 1, Reckless driver 1, Reckless DUI 1, Report- Destruction of property 1, Robbery 1, Sick 2, Speak with an officer 5, Stolen Vehicle 2, Suspicious 2, Suspicious Person 4, Suspicious Vehicle 2, Traffic hazard 1, Traffic hazard- disabled vehicle 1, Trespass 6, Unconscious 1, Wanted person 3.

In September the department issued one citation for each of the following violations: Fleeing police, speeding, expired registration, breaking & entering and petite larceny.

IN MAGISTRATE COURT Josh Bennett of Jefferson Street, Paden City, was arrested for failure to appear on a charge of breaking and entering and Kevin Purnell of Miller Street, Paden City, was arrested for fleeing from an officer. IN CITY COURT, Luis Perex, address unknown, forfeited a \$272 bond for no operators.

CIRCUIT COURT

MIDDLEBOURNE – According to Prosecuting Attorney D. Luke Furbee's

Oct. 10 Circuit Court update:

Billy A. McIntyre, 47, entered a guilty plea to the felony offense of "possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver." The case was developed by the Sheriff's Office from September 2018 to March 2019. He will be sentenced at a later date after a pre-sentence investigation is conducted and will be held in jail until that time.

Nichelle Reed, 27, entered a guilty plea to the felony offense of "possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver." Acceptance of the plea is deferred and she was ordered to comply with supervision by the probation office, as well as Treatment Court. This case was developed by the Sheriff's Office in February 2019.

GRAND JURY

MIDDLEBOURNE – According to a press release issued by Tyler County Prosecuting Attorney D. Luke Furbee, the following were indicted Oct. 8 by a grand jury sitting in the Circuit

Court of Tyler County:

Joshua Andrew Ebert, 27, of South Chelsea Street, Sistersville: 1 felony count of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver (methamphetamine). Joshua M. Bennett, 27, of South 3rd Avenue, Paden City: 1 felony count of failure to appear. Jeffrey Wayne Godfrey, 50, of Rayon Drive, Parkersburg: 1 felony count of wanton endangerment with a firearm, 1 misdemeanor count of discharging a firearm within 500 feet of a residence.

Vincent Kochanowski, 31, of Jefferson Street, Paden City: 2 felony counts of delivery of a controlled substance (methamphetamine and hydrocodone). Donna Wright, 53, of East Street, Sistersville: 1 felony count of delivery of a controlled substance (methamphetamine). Robert Allen Wise, 32, of Wells Street, Sistersville: 1 felony count of burglary; 1 misdemeanor count of petit larceny; 1 misdemeanor count of destruction of property. Zachary Isaac Farley, 26, of South 4th Avenue, Paden City: 1 felony count of Fleeing in a vehicle with reckless indifference; 1 felony count of burglary; 1 misdemeanor count of obstructing an officer; 1 misdemeanor count of possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine). Joshua L. Hunter, 40, of Pleasants Ridge Road, Sistersville: 1 felony count of sexual assault in the first degree; 1 felony count of incest; 1 felony count of sexual abuse by a parent.

The defendants are scheduled to appear for their arraignments before the Hon. Jeffery D. Cramer, Chief Judge, Oct. 25, at 10 a.m. in the Circuit Court of Tyler County in Middlebourne.

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Tyler County BOE expels 3 students for 365 days

By Lea Ann Butcher

MIDDLEBOURNE – The Tyler County Board of Education expelled three students, heard a presentation about the radio station, discussed updates on projects and approved trip requests and personnel matters at their regular meeting Monday, Oct. 7.

Two middle school and one high school student at Tyler Consolidated were expelled due to “violating the safe schools act” for “365 days,” Superintendent Shane Highley said after a 45-minute executive session. Neither the students or their parents were present and with students being minors nothing else was said.

Highley also released a letter to parents in response to the recent loss of a Tyler County student due to suicide. The letter outlined the board’s postvention plans to integrate an evidence-based program called “Sources of Strength” in conjunction with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Prevent Suicide West Virginia.

“My goal as the superintendent of Tyler County is not to raise test scores and it is not to ensure that all our children attend college; it is to make certain ALL of our students have their social, emotional and psychological needs met. If as a community we can ensure our kids have that, we will see our students be successful in whatever they choose to do in life,” Highley wrote in the letter that was sent home with students and available in full on the Tyler County Sheriff’s Facebook page.

Since landing the job with the Tyler County BOE, it has been Highley’s stated goal to recognize student achievements at board meetings. Greg Goodfellow, station manager for Knights Radio WRSB 95.1, was on hand to recognize some of his students. They were: Sistersville Elementary student Sadie Negie, who contributed 67.5 hours over the summer and is the youngest radio contributor they’ve ever had, Goodfellow said. Also recognized were Cora Lough (TCMS) with 70.5 hours and Eduora Lough with 72.5 hours

(TCHS) as well as Chance Johnson and Mason Riter for their contributions during the summer.

“We thank the Tyler County Board of Education for the privilege of utilizing the airwaves to showcase Tyler County. As county school boards have eliminated their radio stations and programs for a variety of reasons, that is all the more reason to recognize the support the Tyler County BOE has given WRSB Radio over the past 20 plus years, with the last 18 plus devoted to making the best radio possible for the best listeners anywhere,” Goodfellow said.

In other business, Highley said kindergarten through fifth grade students were now using the i-Ready online math curriculum at least 30 minutes per week and that improvements were already being seen. Highley added that teachers who complete the 30-minute goal were being recognized as “all-stars” each week.

Also Steven Paine, state superintendent of schools, and possibly Governor Jim Justice, will visit Tyler County Schools Wednesday, Oct. 23. Highley said Paine is definitely coming while the governor’s schedule is still being worked out.

Tyler County Sheriff’s Office is accepting applications for a Prevention Resource Officer for Tyler County schools. Highley said Sheriff Brian Weigle keeps him updated on the process daily.

The roofs at both elementary schools are still being worked on but now that all materials are on site an estimated completion date is Oct. 19. “It’s the slowest roofing project ever,” Highley said, “but every day more is completed.”

The board also acted on trip requests, employments and resignations. Suzette Miller requested eligible Arthur I. Boreman Elementary fourth and fifth grade students be permitted to travel to Sistersville Elementary School Dec. 19 to participate in Math Field Day with bus transportation. Wendy Carpenter requested approval for drivers to take the TCMS varsity volleyball team to the Robert C. Byrd Center Oct. 12

and the TCMS JV volleyball team to New Martinsville School Oct. 19. Drivers included were Carpenter, Scott Wall, Tisha Wall, Krista DeVaughn, Jessica Lattea, Mandy Fetty, Shane Highley, Sam Livingston, Marsha Riffle and Corrie Stover.

The Sistersville Ministerial Association requested permission to use the TCHS Auditorium for the Community Christmas Cantata Nov. 30 from 6 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. The organization will be responsible for clean-up. The TCHS band requested permission to use the TCHS/MS Commons area for a craft show fundraiser Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and will be responsible for clean-up.

Two parents requested their child be permitted to leave Tyler County Schools to attend school in Pleasants County for the remainder of the school year.

All requests were approved.

Michael Aaron Foltz resigned as assistant girls’ track coach to take the same position with the boys’ track team. Brian Ferrell resigned as assistant boys’ baseball coach and Edie Dennis resigned as substitute instructional aide. All resignations were approved and are effective immediately.

Cindy White was hired as secretary at AIB Elementary, Shawna Griffin was hired as accountant, auditor and secretary at the central office, Tracy Koontz was hired as cook II at TCHS, Cathy Boggs as special education (SPED) mentor teacher at AIB, Tomela Paden as SPED mentor teacher at TCMS, Erin Cooper as early childhood classroom assistant teacher (ECCAT), autism mentor and SPED transportation aide at SES, Martha Hayes as SPED aide and autism mentor at AIB, Dave Langer as homebound teacher at TCHS, Jill Lemasters as fifth grade mentor teacher at AIB and as art mentor teacher at both AIB and SES.

The next regular meeting of the Tyler County Board of Education is Monday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. at the BOE Office on Dodd Street in Middlebourne.

FFA students showcase skills at AutumnFest

NEW MARTINSVILLE – Lydia Adams, 16, gently pulled a long paddle back toward herself and out again, careful not to spill the concoction she stirred. The liquid was red and a bit lumpy. It might remind one of applesauce.

As Adams stirred the liquid in a large cauldron, Sommer Scyoc, 14, did the same to a smaller cauldron. Both girls stood under an unrelenting sun that beamed down from the tallest part of the sky.

Scyoc wiped her brow and Adams smiled knowingly. “I’ve done this before,” she said as she pushed the paddle out again. “I used to help when my sister was in the FFA and my family makes apple butter at home, too.”

The younger girl was making apple butter for the first time and was a bit weary. She asked to be relieved for a little while, and a young man stepped up, fresh and strong. Scyoc took a seat and watched as the two teens constantly, constantly stirred the liquid.

“We’ve been here since 5 a.m.,” a low voice said behind Scyoc’s chair. Scott Shannon, vice president of the Pine Grove FFA Alumni, stepped out from under the pavilion at the 4-H camp outside of New Martinsville. His hands on his hips, he looked approvingly at each cauldron, though they had hours to go yet before they were ready.

In the meantime, he pointed to the sandwiches gathered there as he

munched on with vigor. “As well as making this apple butter, the kids process the sausage that’s in these buns,” he said with pride. “From the kill to the final process, the students did it all themselves.”

Though there are 25 to 30 kids involved in this FFA program, 12 were able to miss school to be there for the AutumnFest in New Martinsville Oct. 11. It was their hands that tended to the apple butter.

The large cauldron will make about 100 pints, while the small one 50 to 75, Adams said. She had now taken a seat as well. Though she’s older and more experienced in farming, she got tired as well at some point. Tommy Shannon and Gunner Stillwagoner now pulled the paddles back and forth, watching as the liquid boiled itself into something it’s not. Yet.

The FFA claims to be “the premier youth organization preparing members for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture.” That’s true, but these students had another trait - discretion. No one would tell you what’s in the FFA’s apple butter. One can rightly assume apples, but that’s all you were going to get from smirking teenagers with lips sealed.

All Adams would say is the recipe was from a very old gentleman who shared it with them. They can it and sell it. And that’s all you needed to know. – **Angela H. Cutrer**



A party at the Tyler County Library in Middlebourne Oct. 12 celebrated Ruth Hoover’s retirement. Hoover, 84, above left, was part of the Foster Grandparent Program, which places seniors in such places as schools and libraries to help with children, said Rosanne Eastham, Tyler County’s Librarian. “Ruth prepared everything for our children’s programs and helped the children when they were there for their program. She also was the main person for our story hour,” Eastham said. Hoover plans to continue to be active in the Foster Grandparent Program as a volunteer.

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October kicks off with Middle Island Harvest Festival

By Dave Shelton

TYLER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS – From apple butter-making and the appearance of 2019 Mrs. West Virginia America Melissa Smith to a Civil War cannon firing, there couldn't have been a better start to October than the 2019 Middle Island Harvest Festival at the Tyler County Fairgrounds in Middlebourne. Hundreds of people came from all over the county and beyond to experience some of the best in home-made traditions, crafts, pumpkins and hayrides.

With sunny skies and warm autumn temperatures over the Oct. 4-6 weekend, there was something for everyone to enjoy. People marveled at the hourly firing of the 1835 (proofed in 1837) working 6 lb smoothbore cannon presented by the Western Virginia Artillery. Founded by John Haddox of St. Marys more than 17 years ago, the artillery re-enacts Civil War battles as well as firing of the cannon at various festivals. With 18 members from St. Marys, Parkersburg, Ravenswood and as far away as Ashland, Kentucky, the artillery has performed across the east and south in places including Charleston, South Carolina, West Tennessee and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

A crowd favorite was the Little Miss Middle Island Harvest Festival Pageant in which 12 youngsters competed in dress and question categories for the honor of being the 2019 winner. Emceed by 2019 Mrs. West Virginia America Melissa Smith, 27, from Sistersville. One girl, who elicited a supportive chuckle when asked what one of her favorite things to do was, responded with "going to Starbucks." Other local pageant winners served as judges, including 2019 Miss Tyler County Fair Shayla Griffey, 2019 Miss Middle Island Harvest Festival Queen Madison Campbell, and 2019 Miss Middle Island Harvest Festival Teen Lydia Midlap. The winner was 8-year-old Sadie Smith, with first runner up Olivia Richards, second runner up Makayla

Metzger and third runner up Sloane Wall.

Melissa, an elementary school teacher at Arthur I. Boreman Elementary and mother of three, said she has been winning pageants since she was Miss Mason Dixon at 15. She offered some great advice for all of the girls who competed as well for anyone with the desire to achieve that winning tiara. "It is important for anyone who wants to compete in pageants, at any age, to remember these things: Know who you are, be true to yourself and, most importantly, have fun."

No festival is complete without a vintage car, truck, rod and custom show and the 2019 edition of the Middle Island Harvest Festival didn't disappoint. The President's Choice Award went to Donnie Kimball from Ashley in Doddridge County, owner of a 1946 custom purple Chevy truck. The Queen's Choice award stayed in the Kimball family, going to Donnie's cousins, Joe and Janet Kimball, for their green '57 Chevy truck.

There was no lacking for crafts at the festival. Home-made soaps, crocheted blankets and dolls, clothes, jewelry and more were all available for purchase and pumpkins, ranging from small to massive, were a must for many festival-goers. For the foodies in attendance, home-made treats, including baked cookies and fudge, apple butter, stone ground cornmeal, pumpkin bread and chili, were abundantly available for purchase and sampling. Tyler County FFA students were again busy grinding corn into meal with a motor more than a century old that chugged and spewed, but valiantly worked all through the festival. Tyler County Fair Association member Derek Thomas kept the grinder fed. Another popular FFA exhibit was the apple cider press.

Andy Weekley, 35, from Sistersville, president of the Tyler County Fair Association Inc., which sponsors the Harvest Festival as well as the group's namesake

event, the annual Tyler County Fair in August, has been in the position for the last four years and said he has worked to make the festival a must-attend event during his tenure. "This festival is not just something to bring out the community, it is more than that. It's an event for everyone to feel like a community and to have a good time. Also, there aren't a lot of alternatives for the kids around here. These festivals are the only vacations many of them have," Weekley said. "A lot of people don't do fairs anymore. I want to keep the fairs and festivals going and make them better and better each year."

He pointed out that midways, which were once part of the festival but are no longer cost-effective, are something he would like to bring back and with several sponsors may be able to do that. "I'm working now with a new midway concession and think we could have them next year," Weekley said. "I want to keep the festivals free and I am very grateful for the sponsors that help keep us going. If it weren't for them and the volunteers and members of the association, none of what we've been able to accomplish would be possible."

Weekley, a communications technician by trade, said he has been coming to the festival and fairs at the Tyler Fairgrounds for years and when the opportunity to get involved with the association came up "I couldn't just sit around and do nothing." So, along with his best friend Joseph Smith, he took up the reins and has not looked back. He added he also is thankful for the community's efforts to help. "So many people have reached out to help make this festival better every year. I couldn't be more grateful to them."

Weekley said he is always looking for more people to get involved and join the Tyler County Fair Association. Anyone interested should contact him at their website: tylercountyfair.org.



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Chilly Monroe County Fall Festival still draws crowds

By Dave Shelton

WOODSFIELD, Ohio – The weekend started rainy and chilly but that didn't stop the crowds from coming out for the 6th annual Monroe County Fall Festival at the fairgrounds Oct. 12-13.

Saturday started with a brisk 5K walk/run that had participants pacing around the track, some carrying hot drinks, but all dressed for the chilly 40-degree temperature. A chili contest followed, which proved popular with morning patrons as they gathered to stay warm and taste some of the best chili Monroe County has to offer.

The afternoon began to warm up and the sun even made an appearance, just in time for the livestock competition sponsored by the Ohio Valley Cattlemen Association. A total of 88 heifers and steers and their owners vied for more than \$2,000 in prize money. Josh Van Horn served as judge while 2019 OVCA Beef Queen Casey Betts, 19, of Somerton, Ohio, performed announcer duties. John Williams, director of the OVCA for the last three years, oversaw the competition. Williams is also on the Senior Fair Board of Monroe County, which produces the Fall Festival as well as the annual Monroe County Fair in August. Williams said the weather was a small factor that had very little impact on the crowds that came out. "The morning rain just caused us to switch events around but we didn't cancel any one of them. That's the great thing about the people who come here to enjoy this festival," Williams said. "They love what we offer them and we can't keep them away."

One of the most popular events was the truck pull Saturday afternoon. Even more popular than Sunday's demolition derby, another festival fave, the pull attracted dozens of custom trucks from all over the Ohio and West Virginia areas, competing for some big prize money.

Since its inception six years ago, the pull has been a charity-driven event. Money from the event, which sold entry tickets, goes to Hookin' For Hope, a group of volunteers who raise money for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. The pull, held in October, coincides with national Cancer Awareness Month. Tish Messenger of Cameron, Ohio, is one of the group's

directors and behind the idea of using the pull to tie in with them. Truck pulling being a primarily male sport, Messenger was instrumental in having women drivers in the competition as well. "We thought it would be a joke to the men who pull," Messenger said. "But we also knew this would be a great place to raise money for this great cause and the men were all on board."

Hookin' For Hope has exceeded their fundraising goal every year. Last year they had a goal of \$3,000 but wound up with more than \$10,000. The other directors are Amanda Rothenbuhler and Megan Mowder. Messenger said cancer has hit her family as well as Amanda's and that is why this charity is very personal. Messenger said the best part of being part of the Fall Festival is watching the community come together. "People come from as far away as Indiana and Pennsylvania to be part of this and that's wonderful," Messenger exclaimed.

This sentiment is also shared by Jason Winkler, Woodsfield, another Senior Fair Board director. "I like the camaraderie of the people who attend as well as the volunteers and participants," Winkler said. "It's people helping the community."

Other popular events included a live antique auction at the Rabbit Barn conducted by Morris Auctions, barbecue ribs judging, parade of tractors and the antique/classic car show.

Kids were also entertained throughout the weekend. A petting zoo sponsored by Rusty and Eugene Antill from Pampered Pets Petting Farm in Beverly, Ohio, was a favorite for kids of all ages. Everyone had a chance to feed and spend some up close time with sheep, donkeys, alpaca, cows and other farm animals. There was also the clown, The Balloon Man, pumpkin painting competition, and free barrel train rides around the park.

Saturday night ended with a real country hoedown and square dance. Live music was provided by Pickin' On Country.

Rounding out the event were dozens of craft, food and flea market vendors throughout the fair grounds. With attendance near capacity, Williams said the festival was a major success.





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Spooky or sweet, gingerbread haunted house is a treat!

Compiled by Mary Crawley

Those oh-so-crafty types who have way too much time on their hands have realized that Halloween offers far greater potential in terms of wow power than your basic [ho-hum] Christmas gingerbread house. So whether your gingerbread comes from a kit or is homemade, the directions listed below will start you on your journey to Halloween haunted house happiness! Perhaps your first few attempts should follow – or at least use as a guide, depending on how gifted your craftiness is – one of the many free templates available online. Or pick and choose from several and create a structure truly your own. Enlist the kids as helpers!

HALLOWEEN GINGERBREAD HOUSE

What you need:

1 gingerbread house from scratch (recipe below) or from a kit

One template for a gingerbread house. There are hundreds available for free online

Royal icing

Base for the house – A large platter or sheet pan would work. (I covered a square sheet pan with brown paper)

Pastry bag with medium writing tip and large star tip

Candies

Small Halloween decorations and toys

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DOUGH

3/4 cup butter

7/8 cup packed light brown sugar

1 teaspoon lemon zest

1 1/2 Tablespoons lemon juice

1/2 cup molasses

2 eggs

3 cups all-purpose flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

1 Tablespoon ground ginger

2 teaspoons ground allspice

6 egg whites

4 (16 oz.) packages confectioners' sugar, sifted

First cut out in thin cardboard: a side wall, 4 1/2 x 8 inches; an end wall, 4 1/2x5 inches; a triangular gable, 4 1/2x3x3 inches; and a roof rectangle, 4 1/2x9 inches. Tape the rectangular end wall piece to the triangular gable piece: match the long side of the triangle, 4 1/2 inches, to one of the 4 1/2 inch sides of the end wall.

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Stir in lemon zest, lemon juice, and molasses. Gradually beat in 2 eggs. Sift the flour, baking powder, and spices together; stir into creamed mixture. Wrap dough in parchment paper, and refrigerate for 1 hour.

Turn out dough onto a lightly floured surface. Divide into 6 portions, 2 slightly larger than the others. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the 4 smaller pieces to approximately the size of the side wall and the end wall with gable templates; cut out two of each. Roll out remaining dough, and cut into two rectangular roof



pieces. Transfer gingerbread onto greased baking trays.

In a preheated 375 degree F oven, bake gingerbread for 10 minutes, or until crisp. When removing from the oven, leave the gingerbread on the baking trays for a few minutes to set, then transfer to wire racks. Leave overnight to harden.

In a large bowl, lightly whisk 2 egg whites. Gradually beat in approximately 5 cups confectioners' sugar. The icing should be smooth and stand in firm peaks. Spread or pipe a 9 inch line of icing onto a cake board, and press in one of the side walls so that it sticks firmly and stands upright. If necessary, spread or pipe a little extra icing along either side to help support it. Take an

end wall and ice both the side edges. Spread or pipe a line of icing on the board at a right angle to the first wall, and press the end wall into position. Repeat this process with the other two walls until they are all in position. Leave the walls to harden together for at least two hours before putting on the roof. Spread or pipe a thick layer of icing on top of all the walls, and fix the roof pieces in position; the roof should overlap the walls to make the eaves. Pipe or spread a little icing along the crest of the roof to hold the two pieces firmly together. Leave overnight to set firmly.

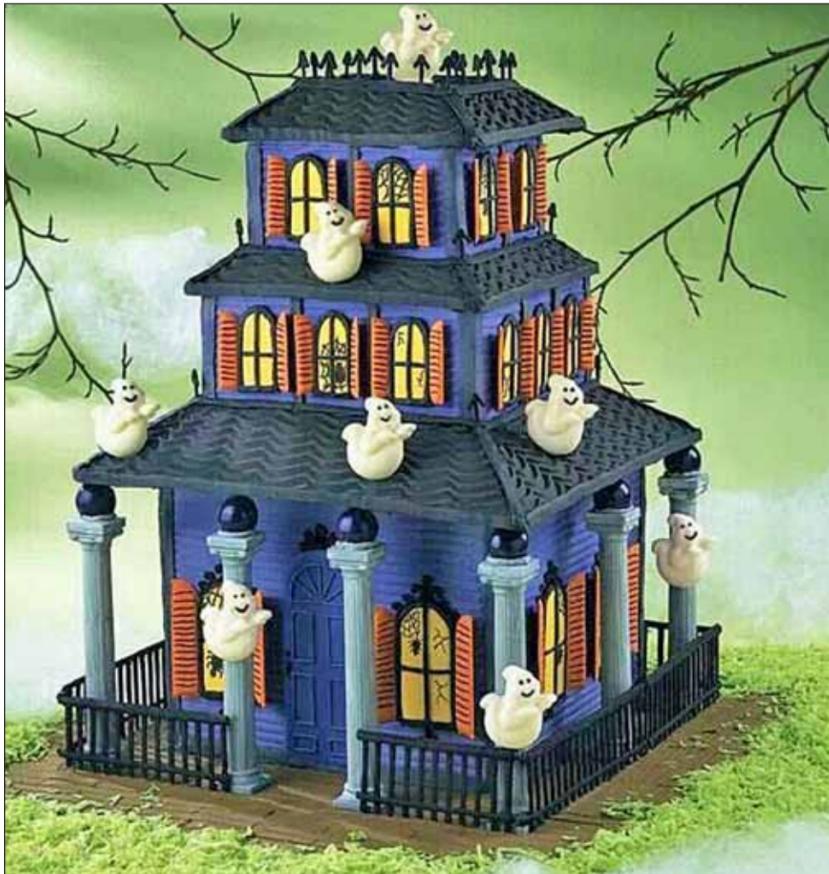
** This recipe makes one small house. Double or triple as needed for your own creation.*

See more photos on page B2





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The scariest part of Halloween? Modern mindset

By Katie Logan, Life Coach
Special to The INNformer

With Halloween fast approaching, I have seen numerous social media posts, news articles and online blog testimonials that have got me thinking about how much this holiday has changed since I was a child. I remember when I was young spending lots of time planning my costume, coordinating trick or treating with my neighborhood friends and planning for classroom parties. We would make sure our costume could accommodate a winter coat in case we got early-season snow and that we could wear comfortable footwear so we could cover as many blocks in my development as possible. At the end of the night, my siblings and I would dump all our candy in a big pile, throw out any that had torn wrappers and keep the rest in a giant bag to enjoy over the next several weeks.



I cannot remember a time where my parents had to tell me that I couldn't pick a certain costume because it wasn't politically correct or that I had to wait for them to get a magnifier out to inspect each piece of candy for sharp objects, drugs or poison. I didn't have to worry about being too inappropriately dressed to march in my school parade or be concerned about hurting someone's feelings. I decided when I felt too old to go trick or treating and when it was more fun to stay home and watch scary movies and pass out candy to younger kids. No one told me I was too old to participate in a fun and safe activity with my friends.

Yet these are the current problems being discussed wherever I look. This may be so prevalent, perhaps, because it invokes panic and fear among adults, which in turn keeps with the spirit of the season. Or maybe we have just become alarmists and sensitive, looking to victimize ourselves whenever we have the opportunity. Whatever the case may be, I would like to address some of these things.

The first big one for me is all the hype about appropriate and inappropriate costume choices. Last season there was a big stink about appropriate race involving costumes centered around "progressively cast" actors and actresses in movies. I read an article two days ago about how offended this man got over a costume he saw at Spirit Halloween that he felt was a bad representation of his culture. I saw a thread on Facebook about a little boy who wanted to dress up as a Disney Princess and the horrid comments that followed floored me.



Since when have we begun to tell our young people that they could not play pretend? Isn't that what Halloween is about? Getting to be creative and embody a character you don't get to be in everyday life. It is about being scary, silly or imaginative for one day out of the year where people won't judge for you wanting to do something different. The same thing applies to adults who choose to dress up. How fun it is to be childlike once more! I can attest to how much excitement I have had looking for inspiration for my costume this year. I can say in my very eclectic grouping of peers and friends, not a single one would feel offended if someone chose to dress up from their culture or change the race or gender identity of a more commonly known character. Just two years ago I dressed up as Beast from Beauty and the Beast myself!

And why are we putting age restrictions on who can participate? I enjoy seeing the teens in my neighborhood dress up and troll the streets in search of as much chocolate as they can carry. This surely is more auspicious behavior than spending their time doing other precarious endeavors, like those discussed in my "Hidden in plain sight" article. Why do we see people refusing candy to these individuals? Also, who is to say that just because you see a grown body standing before you that the individual does not have the same aged mental faculties. Many special needs

individuals enjoy participating as well. Just give them the candy!

Lastly, the candy dilemma. I am by no means suggesting for you to allow your child to go wild and eat everything they find within their candy bags. But I can tell you as a parent, I am more concerned about bacteria exposure in opened candy than finding a razor blade, poison or drugs. In fact, according to Snopes.com there have only been around 80 reported findings of sharp objects in Halloween candy since 1959 (proven to be bad pranks from loved ones), only a handful of attempted poisonings (also performed by family members of the children) and a couple of drug findings (again, which were done by family members). What this tells me is I should be careful of which of my friends and family may want to use the day as a scapegoat to off me! Do I still check my kids candy every year? Yes I do. Do I go CSI on the bag prior to letting him enjoy his plunder? No.

People, please. Take a breath and lighten up a bit. Enjoy this creepy-crawly holiday. Encourage your kids to make their own choices about what to be. Allow them to be creative. Encourage your older teens to participate. And for goodness' sake, let them eat their candy.

If you have an issue or a question you would like Katie to address anonymously in a future column, feel free to email her at askkatie.innformer@gmail.com.

Happy Halloween!



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Autumn in Mid-Ohio Valley spotlights food, fests

By Angela H. Cutrer

NEW MARTINSVILLE – The change of color and falling leaves are just two signs that autumn has arrived. Temperatures may be more moderate, which encourages the public to celebrate the coming changes and the end of planting. We visited a few growers around the area to see how they do fall and what advice they offer for keeping the ground safe during winter and ready for spring planting.

Virginia VanCamp looked up from her reading and smiled when asked about mums. “These are the ones we have left, but this greenhouse was completely full when we started. Here, let me show you some pictures.” With that, she whipped out her phone and provided descriptions of the first-time fall opening of Doak’s Greenhouse in New Martinsville.

“We sold 1,000 mums in a month’s time,” she said, noting most were for residential use, some for businesses and at least one order was for white mums for a wedding.

Most of her time at the greenhouse is spent hunting for “what [the customer] wants but doesn’t know the name of,” she said with a laugh. VanCamp described the greenhouse’s many offerings – pumpkins, fall signs, mums (of course), cornstalks, haybales, gourds, flags and the owner’s daughter’s skin-care products.

In spring and summer, the greenhouse, owned by Doug and Frances Doak, offers a large selection of vegetables and flowers, hanging baskets, ferns, flags and perennial grasses. Search Facebook for Doak’s Greenhouse to enter their competitions – this year they gave away a little scarecrow to a Facebook winner – and said they hope to have more of those kinds of competitions in the future.

VanCamp said most residents don’t have to do much to winterize their gardens because whatever is there is already probably pretty used to the severe weather. She did recommend covering strawberries, mums and delicate flowers. “But not hostas,” she added. “Hostas are tough.”

For the winter, VanCamp said many people plant mums because they are hardy. “I’ve had people come by and say they’ve had their mums come back up for four or five years.” This year they sold a wildly popular one called “candy corn mums,” which burst into a multitude of colored blooms. “Next year, we are going to grow a bunch of these.”

VanCamp said this is the first year for the greenhouse to open in fall [in New Martinsville]. “We’ve done it at Indian Creek, but it’s the first time here,” she explained. “Next year, we hope to do a pumpkin patch for the kids and [for the whole thing to] be even bigger.”

Frances Doak added they also hope to have a mini photo shoot for kids and their parents next year. “We thank all our customers,” she said, “and we hope to see them every year.”

Between New Martinsville and Paden City lies a farm tended by Raymond Young. While Young was unloading pumpkins and winter vegetables during AutumnFest at the 4-H camp last weekend, fiancé Nancy Roberts pushed around items on several tables in front of her, preparing for buyers.

“He does the farming,” she said with a thumb over her shoulder at Young, “while I do the selling.” Her



smile was as bright as her Halloween-orange shirt. She seemed to be a gentle woman, her hands tenderly arranging festival T-shirts hanging from the couple’s tents. “We said we would help sell some of these shirts for the festival,” she added as she noticed some containers of fudge slipping down to ruin her perfectly lined offerings. “Thank you for coming out to support us farmers. It’s so nice,” she said to this writer. “It means so much to all of us, I’m sure.”

About that time a few adults walked by. Like sentinels, they surrounded a tiny little girl in a very big wagon. The child looked up and offered a dubious look toward the adults, not sure if she’s liking this activity since the pumpkins accompanying her are as big as she is. Her father said “no pictures” so there are none, but the adults tried to reflect ease to the child with their smiles. The little girl finally gave a hesitant smile as the wagon moved on down the path.

Robert Young has finally fiddled with the last thing he could find to do, so he sat in a folding chair and adjusted his cap as he was asked about how he wintered his fields. “After you till everything up, you put on a cover crop like rye or turnips or wheat,” he said, squinting against the afternoon sun. “Then you till it back up come spring.” And there one has his winter tips in two sentences. “That’s about it,” he said with a grin.

Nancy Roberts playfully swatted at him. She has a permanent stand called Nancy’s Farm Fresh Produce in New Martinsville, so the two of them have an easy way of working together. “You don’t have to winterize the trees, except from deer,” Young added. “They eat it and it kills the tree.” With that comment, Young was done and he turned to find something else that needed his expertise. Roberts waved at new customers walking up and the selling continued.

Rod and Frances Ullom of Shreve, Ohio, had a gorgeous set up at AutumnFest. There were more pumpkins than one could shake a stick at and their trailer was loaded with huge boxes hinting at even more of the orange treat. A giant chocolate lab watched Frances as she moved around the autumn display. Rod kept a half-hearted hold on the leash, too thin to really keep the dog from bolting.

They seem a good team, these three. Rod said he, too, used rye as a cover crop and straw and leaf cover to winterize their residential plantings. Frances offered a smile and patted the dog’s head, which seemed to calm them both. They’ve farmed all their lives and questions about their process must sit strangely with them. But they were social and don’t mind answering, even to a stranger. They were here to share their bounty and talking never hurt sales, their faces seemed to say, so why not? It helped pass the time, too, as the sun continued to beam down so bright and unfiltered, even with a cooling breeze that occasionally filtered through each AutumnFest stall.

On the other side of the river, Melanie Keys, an employee at the Hannibal Garden Center, took long strides as she worked her way through two of the spacious greenhouses nearly empty of plants. Outside it was a different story, as mums and pumpkins lined the ground from north to south; small ones, big ones, white ones, strangely oblong ones. Melanie was matter-of-fact, yet friendly and definitely helpful.

As someone who works with plants, she knew a bit about autumn and getting ready for winter. She said many people winterize their fields with different crops because it injects different nutrients into the soil. That’s why many farmers let portions go fallow for at least a season and why small-size gardeners rotate their gardens.

“Residents use mulches like hay or straw to protect any residential plantings,” she said. “And crop cover helps keep the topsoil intact.”

The sound of car doors slamming let her know more customers have arrived and she needed to help them. She helped load some aloe vera into this writer’s vehicle and subdued a large, well-maintained spider plant that needed a seat of its own rather than a spot in the trunk.

As the doors shut tightly, Melanie gave a smile as the sun sat above her shoulder. A child’s squeak from somewhere brought a turn of the young woman’s face. She offered a wave as she headed back in, sidestepping pumpkin after pumpkin, all waiting to go home with someone to be the star of their autumn show.



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Friendly fire turns town into Wild, Wild West

By Dave Shelton

FRIENDLY — Shots were fired in Friendly at the 3rd Tyler Rod & Gun Club Cowboy/Cowgirl Shoot Sunday, Oct. 13. A total of 18 sharpshooters, from young to old and as far away as Arkansas, vied for prize money and bragging rights on a sunny, fall day competing in four different gun stages testing speed and accuracy in several disciplines including six-shooter, rifle and shotgun.

The shoot is the brain child of Jeff Nichols of Little, a Tyler Rod & Gun Club member for the last 10 years. Nichols thought up the idea of the shoot because of his love of the Old West and the cowboy tradition. “Most shooters, especially those in this part of the country, like the Old West and keep up that ideal by not only the guns they use but the way they dress and think,” Nichols said. “For me, I love the Old West, and everything about it — six-shooters, hunting, everything.” He said he also didn’t want people to forget about the Old West and with history being whitewashed in schools, younger generations are being raised with no knowledge of the past that blazed trails which made America.

Nichols presented his idea to Joe Smith, second vice president of the gun club, and he loved the idea. He was not only behind it, he became a participant. The first shoot was in July and had about 16 participants, many of whom have since attended all three, including the lone cowgirl shooter, Amber Slider, 31, of Alma. She found out about the shoot through Nichols. Born to be a cowgirl, Slider said she has been shooting since she was a child and can’t get enough. “Shooting is one of the most fun things I do. I feel natural shooting,” she explained. Even though she’s the only girl in the competition, it doesn’t bother her. “I’ve been shooting around men my whole life and it doesn’t bother me at all. I love the competition.”

Not only does Slider love the competition with men, the shoot has become a family affair. Amber’s husband of eight years, JP Slider, overall winner of the first shoot in July, and her father-in-law, Jim Slider, also compete. Although it does get fierce on the course, JP said it’s all good fun. “It wouldn’t be fun if it weren’t competitive,” he noted.

The Sliders weren’t the only family in the shoot. Larry E. Spencer of Cameron, a cowboy that could have come straight out of a classic Clint Eastwood movie, whose real job is shoeing horses, competed along with his father, Larry L. Spencer, 74. Larry L. also enjoyed coming to the shoot and shares Nichols’ love of American West history. “I believe the West is still here because it’s part of our culture, especially here in West Virginia and I’m proud of that history,” he said with a smile. Jed, Dalton and Chris Rollins were another family that competed.

The shoot is broken down into four stages. Stage 1: six-shooter, Stage 2: shotgun, Stage 3: rifle close and Stage 4: rifle distance. Stage 1 is spread over two courses. Entry to the shoot is \$15 and shooters must bring their own ammunition with the guns. Winners were: First place (\$68) – Dalton Rollins; second place (\$47) – Ridge Thompson, and third place (\$20) – Chris Rollins, who won in a shootout against Jed Rollins.

Nichols said this was the last shootout until spring 2020. He suggested looking at the Tyler Rod & Gun Club Facebook page for updates.



TOP: Jeff Nichols explains the contest. **ABOVE CENTER:** Amber Slider knocks down the final tin can target. **ABOVE LEFT:** Larry L. Spencer. **ABOVE CENTER:** Rifles are ready. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Amber Slider was the only female shooter in the recent Cowboy/cowgirl shootout at the Tyler Rod & Gun Club in Friendly.

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OCTOBER 11TH	BUFFALO @ TCHS
OCTOBER 18TH	WILLIAMSTOWN @ TCHS
OCTOBER 25TH	MAGNOLIA @ TCHS
NOVEMBER 1ST	TCHS @ VALLEY
NOVEMBER 8TH	OPEN (Potential River Playoff Game?)



Temptations aplenty at Taste of Town

NEW MARTINSVILLE — Participants at the third annual "Taste of the Town" Oct. 11 were in for a treat when winners of the 2019-2020 Best Food of Wetzel County Facebook contest gathered to serve their specialties to the public.

"It's a way for everyone to come check out the local cuisine," Robby Parsons, executive director of the Wetzel County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, explained. "We bought \$300 of each dish featured in the competition in order to let citizens try out local eateries all in one place."

Musician Adrian Niles accompanied the 100 plates filled by connoisseurs. "The event was fantastic," said Lori Estep, site manager for Captain Richards and Captain's Quarters in New Martinsville. "Last year it was raining, so everyone had to stand to eat, but not this year. We brought our mild and our spicy barbecue wings from Captain Richards to introduce them to people who've not tried them yet. And the next day, a woman called us and said she tried them at the event and now wanted to order some herself. That was just awesome!"

Featured were Dairy Dream (burger), Dos Hermanos (international cuisine and overall), Captain Richards (wings), Choo-Choo's Restaurant (homecooked meal and breakfast), PJ's (pizza), Pascos Pizza (pepperoni roll) and Stalder Family Creamery (dessert). — *Angela H. Cutrer*



Powhatan Point Council ready to start paving village streets

POWHATAN POINT, Ohio - The Powhatan Point Village Council had a double workload Oct. 15 since scheduling issues nixed the last meeting.

Mayor Jeff Haught led a discussion on a mutual aid agreement with York Township. The mayor stated his concern about a letter sent out saying York had doubled their previous \$100 charge for ambulance and emergency services out of York's range as of Oct. 1. Rather than matching the \$200 fee, council decided to reach out to York Township to discuss the agreement.

Haught also talked about the upcoming pavement of village streets. "The paving of the 'tree streets' begins Monday, Oct. 21," he said, referring to

Chestnut, Hickory, Beech, Birch, Pine, Elm, Ash, Walnut, Cherry, Maple, Oak, Cedar and Sycamore streets. "It will take a day to mill the streets, starting in the south end, going north," he said. "Then it's two to three days to pave."

The village will receive 36 dumptruck loads of grindings. Asphalt is a non-biodegradable material, so when streets are milled and grindings created, many towns use it in place of gravel, recycling it into compactible hard surfaces for roads, project sites and parking.

Council member John Mitchell asked if the grindings could be used to repair potholes in the parking lot and pavilion areas. Council agreed to split the costs between the water and park depart-

ments, and to rent or borrow an asphalt roller to compact the grindings in areas needing road repairs. The mayor suggested they work with another village to co-own a roller for multiple use.

Council member Dave Walters brought up the Christmas in the Village event planned for the second Saturday in November. "They plan to dedicate it in the memory of Carol Davenport, an initial founder of the event," he said.

Walters also said a business was willing to donate fireworks for Christmas, but council agreed it had been too dry. "Tell them to think about July instead," Mitchell said, noting the council appreciated the thought of the donation.

The council approved, with Mitchell voting no, investing \$1,120 to install equipment in the police department for the police to view cameras set up at the marina. "This is all the village has to pay — installation of the cameras," Walters said. The rest of the marina rehab was covered under a grant, which specified the money could be used only on the marina itself.

The mayor noted an increase of \$2,070 in the amended rates from the Belmont County auditor, putting the total of Belmont County local government money at \$48,698.05.

Powhatan Point Village Council meets the first and third Wednesdays in the city building at 104 Mellott St. The next meeting is Nov. 6. — *Angela H. Cutrer*

Wetzel commissioners evaluate fence, 4-H, fire issues

By *Angela H. Cutrer*

NEW MARTINSVILLE — The Wetzel County Commission pondered a fencing issue Oct. 8 concerning neighbors in the Beechwood Estates area.

After discussing the issue at length, the commissioners and the homeowners — Nancy and Matt Quinet, John Charles Mensore, Becky Kocher and Lito Turcios — decided to take a week for all parties, including neighbors not in attendance, to read up on a proposed agreement for a trial period of not having a fence so the homeowners could use the area as a walking trail. That agreement specified that if the homeowners see anyone in the area on an all-terrain vehicle — or any vehicle — homeowners will contact the commission immediately. If this happens, the trial period would become void and a fence would be placed in the area for safety concerns.

The commission had ordered the fencing to be placed on commission-owned land that is behind the homes of the four families and is accessible only through their yards. Someone cut trees on the land, which first prompted the fence discussion. The four homeowners did not want a fence because it would limit their ability to use the area and some thought the fence would be unsightly.

During the Oct. 15 meeting, some neighbors again appeared before the commission, saying they had spoken to other neighbors to see if the issue was one the homeowners' association should take up. Those neighbors, because the land in question was only accessible from those homes, said the HOA should not get involved.

Commissioner Lawrence Lemon said a quandary still remained: Delay installation of the fence for a year for a trial run or build the fence now? Commissioner Lisa Hasley suggested they wait until they can have a legal document created for the neighbors to sign before agreeing to either settlement. The fence company agreed to keep the order open for a year without raising the price. Commissioner Gregory Morris said he preferred to fence, but agreed a trial run might be in the best interest. The four neighborhood families have installed cameras to ensure the field is visible for safety reasons and Lemon proposed the agreement should include such rules as no camping, no fires and use only from dawn to dusk. Hasley said legal counsel could help them all by drafting paperwork that spells out the rules.

The director of the Operations Emergency Management department updated the commission Oct. 8 on the new OES/911 telephone system and its maintenance policy prices. Steve Yoho said the maintenance policy spanned five years and its purchase significantly lowered the cost of the OES/911 telephone system they were thinking of purchasing. The commission approved both purchases for \$145,705.64. It will take five to six months to get the new system up and running, which fit perfectly with the timing

of the old phone system's maintenance coverage expiration. The company it was purchased from will no longer maintain that system, so the expiration meant the OES/911 department had decide on buying something brand new.

In September, Yoho told the commission the new equipment will be the next-generation 911 product that allows citizens to text to 911, as well as receive texts from 911 officials. This could come in handy in case a person cannot speak due to circumstances such as a kidnapping, house invasion or injury, he added.

The new system "will be monitored 24-7," Yoho said. "It will have the same components as the CAD system so if something happens to it, the company will know it before we do. Right now, we have to use cell towers to triangulate within 30 feet where a person might be. The new system uses GPS in the cell phone itself, so we can triangulate within just feet of the person."

Currently, 911 operators must use a portal laptop on the side to find locations, which means losing valuable time. The new system is completely integrated, "so it's light years ahead (of our old system)," Yoho said.

However, representatives of the Folsom Fire Department requested help from the commission Oct. 15 to get basic communication in the department, much less state-of-the-art features for dispatch. Folsom Fire President Jimmy Glasscock, Vice President Larry Manear and Chief Jimmy Glasscock II expressed concern their radios didn't work and were outdated and their paging system isn't much better.

"[Our old radios] use a lower frequency and we need to switch over to a higher frequency," the chief said. "It started about 10 years ago when radio towers went up in Hundred, which had put a repeater system in. That was a temporary fix for Hundred, but not Folsom. Next, we put a phone line in. At least once a week, we have no phone service or internet for the day. It's just the way it is. It's nice to hear about text messaging 911, but when our phones are out, we wouldn't get a text. Data is not strong enough to send, but sometimes we do receive."

President Glasscock said the department needs a repeater so they can talk to each other with the high band and they need a paging system set up. "It's half the cost to buy new than to fix the old, outdated [equipment]." He said low-band equipment could run \$2,500, while a hand-held radio would be between \$600-\$700. "We've talked to [Yoho] about this, but it feels as though we get nowhere," he said. Since Yoho, as well as the sheriff, were not at the meeting, Hasley said a group meeting should be called for a round table discussion and the Folsom officials agreed to attend.

Yoho later told The INNformer in an email: "I have spoken with these Folsom Fire Department members multiple times over the past year about this issue.

One big part of this issue is the Frontier phone line that controls the Folsom Fire Tower. I have spoken with Frontier Communications on several occasions about this issue as well. I will continue to work with Frontier and the dedicated volunteers from the Folsom Fire Department on this issue."

The fire officials also gave an update on the old building they bought for \$70,000 right behind the department's fire hall. Glasscock Sr. said they had hoped to renovate the building, but it was too far gone. Instead, he said they plan to use the land to expand their building as "land in Folsom is very limited." They also discussed sending a letter to the commission about the cost of another ambulance, since the two they use have at least 88,000 miles already. One needs a new engine or to be replaced. Once they find out the costs and send the letter to the commission, commissioners can decide whether refurbishing the old engine or buying a new ambulance would be the most cost-effective.

Two other issues discussed Oct. 8 involved the 4-H camp location. Commissioners learned they needed an elevation certificate from an engineer for the fair ground area after Yoho said he had a verbal complaint about dirt being brought into the flood-plain area for the fair's demolition derby and mud bog activities. The commission also was told that a \$1,525 change order was needed to repair a 400-amp system at the camp.

On Oct. 15 Carla McBee with the Chamber of Commerce asked if the Santa's Gift Shop, scheduled for Dec. 7, could be held again in the Shiben Building and if the commissioners could offer a donation to go toward the children's gifts. "Sometimes this is the only gift a child gets for Christmas," she said. The commissioners approved the use of the building and a \$2,000 donation for the gifts. McBee said two years ago Santa's Gift Shop served 79 children and last year it was 150. They are expecting at least 200 children this year, she added.

Also, Pine Grove Town Recorder Rhonda Spencer told commissioners Oct. 15 that one of the village's two vac sewer pumps was down and needed to be replaced. A refurbished pump would cost \$18,967.70. Commissioner Lemon asked for a letter from town officials saying they would attempt to sell the refurbished pump once Pine Grove's new sewer system is in place, in about eight months. Spencer said then the village could reach out to other villages using the same type pump they will refurbish and offer it for sale.

Commissioners also heard Lindsay Eddy had fulfilled addition credentialing to be moved into a full-time salaried position at the Child Advocate Center, with her salary paid by a grant.

The Wetzel County Commission meets every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in their chambers in the Wetzel County Courthouse.

Sistersville artist Hendley is just the right fit

By Dave Shelton

SISTERSVILLE – Sistersville is a quaint little town that on the outside seems miles away from the cultural diversity of the big cities. But nestled in the alcoves of this place along the Ohio River exists a treasure trove of talent. One such example is Ann Hendley.

Born in 1952 and raised in Washington, DC, Hendley is an artist who moved from Bowie, Maryland, to Sistersville five years ago after she retired from her job as an Annapolis pulmonary specialist in 2014. Her husband, John, a retired meat cutter, had been coming to the Sistersville area to hunt for 45 years and when they were looking for a place to retire saw it as not only a nice town to settle in but an affordable one, too. “When I first came out one summer with my husband to Sistersville after retiring, I commented on how beautiful the houses were here,” Hendley said. “The wood, original glass doors, everything about the homes was so nice. Then when I found out about the price, I was, like, where do we sign?”

Being in Sistersville has been a huge inspiration for Hendley, whose love of art has been a part of her since she was a child. “I had very cool art teachers in high school who inspired me,” she said. It led her to enroll at the University of Maryland in College Park as an art major but that was short-lived. After her father died in the middle of her freshman year, she left the school to work for McGraw-Hill Continuing Education in Maryland for six years printing text books for home schooling, which was when she met her husband. After her daughter Kellie was born, she took a medical assisting class in Silver Springs, Maryland, then began working as a medical assistant for the next 15 years. While there, she gave birth to her second daughter, Laura. Her final job as a pulmonary specialist lasted an-



Local artist Ann Hendley displays one of her work: ‘Kitty Cat’ done in pastels. Below is ‘Winter Farm,’ an oil inspired by Robert Warren who has given permission to show the work.

other 15 years before her retirement.

But through these years, she said her love of art and desire to create never waned. However, she admitted she often wondered where this desire came from. Her three brothers have no particular interest in the arts outside of one enjoying woodworking, another having a talent for good taste in putting a room’s look together and the third being a chemist, Hendley said she was at a loss for the source of her talent. “I don’t

know where my love of art came from initially when I was a child. Definitely not my parents,” she stated. “But as long as it’s artistic, I can’t do enough.”

Thinking that she now was going to have all the time in the world for her art since coming to Sistersville, and her children grown and out of the nest, things initially didn’t go as planned. When one of her daughters was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease at 36, Hendley went back to work, landing a job at the Sistersville General Hospital Fitness Center in 2017 to help with bills.

But she has never stopped painting. Her award-winning work has been exhibited in various art shows in West Virginia, including the Gas and Oil Festival where she said she has won prize money for the last five years. She has also had her work at the ArtsLink show in New Martinsville. Since moving to Sistersville, Hendley has displayed her work in front of her house as part of the Marble Festival and shares her property with other local artists who are very grateful for the opportunity. “Since coming here I have experienced nothing but generosity and support, from teachers, other painters and patrons. They share everything, supplies, whatever I need, so I am more than happy to help other artists get their work shown,” she exclaimed.

Hendley is equally talented in any painting medium. Her favorites are oil, pastel and watercolors but she also enjoys acrylic. Since moving to Sistersville, she has developed her talents by taking classes with many of the area’s best art teachers, including pastel artist, Hilda Steen in Middlebourne, and world-renowned PBS artist Robert Warren, at his Canal Winchester, Ohio, studio. She said Robert is an amazing inspiration and a dynamo. “He just keeps on going. From the time he starts at 9 a.m., he just keeps you on task and wanting to paint more and more. I’ve learned so much from him – from how to pop colors to brush strokes and composition. He just takes you away into a painting mode totally.”

The inspiration for her paintings comes from many different subjects and artists. One of her favorites is Mary Cassatt, a decorative, still life and figure artist from the late 1800s. Hendley pointed out that Cassatt was not accepted as an artist because she was a woman and had to defy all of that to make it. “Male painters, even her family, never believed in her, but she kept painting anyway, even in Paris and didn’t let that bigotry define her,” she said.

Hendley’s next project is an acrylic of Maureen McNaughton’s Purple Sleigh Troika, either on canvas or Masonite.





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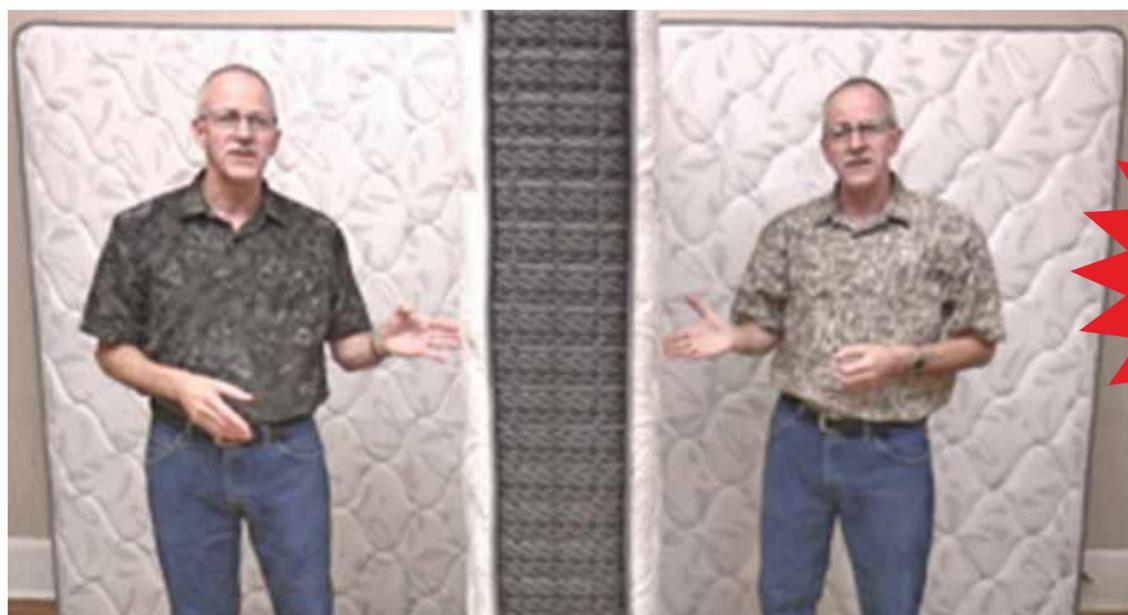
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