

# WETZEL CHRONICLE

COMMUNITY SERVICE • OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE

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Photo by Kayla Van Dyne  
Shown are the police officers for the Paden City Police Department. In the front row are Sgt. Tim Shreve and Patrolman Josh Helmick. In the second row are Chief Joe Richardson and Justin Wade.

## Paden City PD Changes Directions

By KAYLA VAN DYNE  
Editor

In the weeks since Joseph Richardson was hired as the Paden City Police Chief, he has made a lot of progress but feels that he still has a ways to go.

Flanked by three officers, two of those being rookies, Richardson is confident he and his guys can make a difference in the community.

The officers include Patrolman Josh Helmick, Patrolman Justin "Shrek" Wade and three-year veteran Sgt. Tim Shreve.

"There's a bunch that needs done. When I came in, they are really lacking equipment-wise and experience-wise obviously. We have two brand new guys that do not have a month in, so they are going to need a lot of training," said Richardson, who has been a police officer for 10 years.

Richardson was approached before the chief retired and asked if he was interested in taking the position. At the time, he was working part-time at Paden City Police Department and full-time at Sistersville Police Department.

"He has come in here and has done a lot of great things already with seizing drug money that we had trouble with in the past, he jumped right into it. (Chief Richardson) has done excellent so far. A lot of good things have been said around town and I am glad he is here," Shreve said.

One of the department's biggest goals, which has already been set in motion, is more interaction and bonding with the youth in the area.

"I'm really big into bonding with the kids. The kids are the future, so you make them your friends. It goes along ways," Richardson said.

So far the kids have responded really well. Richardson went on to say that when the officers are on patrol and see children in the yard playing or fishing at the park, they are encouraged to stop and talk to the kids.

"Just to let them know that we are not the bad guys, we are here to help you," Richardson said.

Other than working more with the youth in the area, some of his other changes includes repairing relationships with administration and vehicle upkeep.

Richardson stated that Tammy Billiter has been a huge help with the budgets and keeping him up-to-date.

He hopes to add more officers in the future as well as a School Resource officer at the schools, but that mostly depends on budgets.

See "PD" on page 2

## Helen Dallison Still Going Strong at 98



Shown is Helen Dallison, 98, with one of her many pieces of work. Dallison is still going strong and is looking forward to next November when she will turn 100.

Photos by Lauren Matthews

## Folsom Resident Reflects on Hardworking Upbringing

By LAUREN MATTHEWS  
Staff Writer

Helen Dallison, 98, of Folsom, W. Va., has not let personal tragedy or time get in the way of living her life to the fullest. And fortunately for us, neither does she sparingly give out advice or her wisdom on the ever-changing world, when asked for it.

"I don't know if the changes are for the best or not. But these computers... I can't turn one on or off," she adamantly said while quietly seated, alongside son Ken, at a table in her neat and tidy kitchen.

"Computers have taken a lot of people from working. People need to work instead of watching television and playing with the computer. Children have it too easy anymore. They don't appreciate what you buy for them. The toys do not last any length of time... the children anymore have it too easy, and they don't really appreciate it. (In the past, you didn't hear of drugs and shootings and sex. Now that is all you see and hear on TV. The kids will sit and watch that, and I think that encourages them to make a change in their life."

One certainly should not discount Dallison's advice. She will be 99 in November and is looking ahead to November 2016 actually.

"I'm trying to reach the 100 mark," she said, explaining she wants to be on Willard Scott's birthday list on the Today show. "You have to be 100 to do that."

Besides a lack of junk food and minimal pop, except for the occasional root beer, Dallison tends to credit her good health to a respectful upbringing, along with hard work.

"I can remember living over in Wallace beside my dad's parents... My grandpa made us work. We were always having to do something; maybe he'd give us a nickel, a dime, or a quarter. Now children want five and 10 dollars. I just don't have



Shown are beautiful WVU quilts Helen has created. Helen loves to watch WVU basketball.

time for a lazy person. If they can't get out and work, to make an effort and to have something in life."

Dallison's family was in no way spoiled.

"Every Sunday, there was a peck on the window for us to get dressed to go to Sunday school and church," she said. "We didn't have the play things that the children have now. We mainly had a toy or two, as well as clothes. We always had plenty to eat. My mother sewed. She made all of our clothes. I never had a store-bought dress until probably I was 14 years old."

Dallison said she was required to help her grandpa mow the yard, as well as pick berries out of his berry patch. Furthermore, if her grandpa had a garden, Dallison and her two sisters, were required to help with that.

Dallison remembers a time when her grandpa had gone away on a trip and had to stay overnight.

"Grandpa and grandma had a cow. Grandpa always put a cap on and put his head up against the cow to milk it... Grandma came to our house and said 'Helen, you are going to have to come up and milk for me.' She said, 'I can't put my head up against the cow. It kicks me.' So I went over and milked for her. I didn't have a bit of trouble. And every time Grandpa was away to stay overnight, that was my job, to go milk the cow."

Helen met her late husband Pat at a prayer meeting.

"He walked home with me" she said, smiling at the memory. "He stayed a while."

See "Strong" on page 5

## Toppe Pays Visit to 4-H Camp

By LAUREN MATTHEWS  
Staff Writer

Mollie Toppe, WVU Extension Agent for Wetzel County, paid a visit to the Wetzel County Commission on Tuesday, July 14 to give an update on the county's 4-H camp.

Toppe said the camp was "very successful," and included 122 campers, 73 girls and 49 boys.

Furthermore, 20 full-time volunteer counselors were on-hand for the camp, along with six full-time volunteer junior counselors. Nineteen volunteers were in and out at the camp throughout the week. Additionally, there were four full-time WVU Extension Staff available.

Toppe said 29 classes were offered to campers. These included Archery, Air Rifle, Canvas Painting, First Year Camper, Leather, Outdoor Cooking, Hiking/Nature, Sports, Charting, Trapping, Fishing, Pet Care, Ceramics, Basic Auto Mechanics, Desserts, and Leadership. Ten Volunteer Class Instructors attended the camp to help with the classes.

All 122 campers conducted the STEM Experiment titled "Fizz, Pop, Boom: An Explosive Celebration of 100 Years of Camping." Toppe said a chemical reaction was

used to power a rocket.

Notably, 169 hours of volunteer training time was also put in by camp staff. Toppe said the camp training focused on Risk Management, Youth Development, Roles and Responsibilities of Staff, 4-H and WVU Rules and Policies.

Toppe said this number of training hours did not include the time spent doing online training for "Children on Campus," which was required of all adult volunteers.

Toppe said one of her favorite parts of the experience was the feedback received by campers. Top responses as to favorite camp activities, included tribal sports, council circle, tribal meetings, classes, group games, cabin time, and scavenger hunts.

Responses to "What would you change about camp?" included "Nothing," and "More days at camp," along with "Staying longer than one week."

When asked what they intended to do differently when they go home, campers had responses such as "Not fight," "Care for others," "Respect and listen," "Be a better leader," as well as "Focus more on the important things in life rather than stressing about the little things that don't matter in the end."

## N.M. Man Found Not Guilty

By LAUREN MATTHEWS  
Staff Writer

Defendant Joseph Kipling Norris, 31, of 362 Madison Rd., New Martinsville, was found not guilty on both counts of first degree of sexual assault and was released from his bond. The trial is being heard before Judge David W. Hummel.

Norris, represented by Attorney Brett Ferro, was indicted by the January 2015 grand jury, charging him with two counts of sexual assault in the first degree. Norris was later charged by the May 2015 grand jury, with two counts of failure to appear on felony bail. Monday's trial dealt with the January 2015 charges which allegedly occurred in early August of 2014.

Several witnesses took the stand on behalf of the state, the first being Detective Donnie Harris of the New Martinsville Police Department. Detective Harris testified that he interviewed Norris on Sept. 23, 2014. Norris was not under arrest when interviewed by Harris; Harris further stated Norris wasn't placed under arrest after the interview. Harris said Norris did not ask for anything that he didn't receive, in re-

gards to a drink or a bathroom break. Harris also said Norris's demeanor was "somewhat jittery, but pretty much normal."

Harris testified that Norris had told him that he had stayed at the victim's mother's residence overnight.

The detective said Norris had told him that he was not alone with the child except for one occasion when he took her for a walk.

The victim's mother in the case reported, while on the stand, that Norris was her ex-boyfriend's brother. She said he did stay at her home for a few nights. The mother said her daughter made a statement regarding Norris the same day the alleged offense occurred. The mother said as soon as her daughter had told her what happened, she took her to the ER. After the alleged victim was examined, she then spoke to Child Protective Services.

Teresa Gaiser, an ER Nurse, at Wetzel County Hospital, also took the stand on behalf of the state.

See "Not Guilty" on page 2



# Man Expresses Concern Over Fire Department

## Goodard Feels DOH Should Take Care of Non-Emergency Calls

By LAUREN MATTHEWS  
Staff Writer

Dave Goodard of the Grandview Volunteer Fire Department approached the Wetzel County Commission at their regular meeting held on Tuesday, July 28, to express concern over the fire department being dispatched for traffic issues.

Goddard said the previous Wednesday, Grandview VFD was dispatched because a large truck and dozer were stuck on Anderson Hill. Goddard argued that for these non-emergency calls, the Division of Highways or law enforcement should be required to respond, not the fire departments. Goddard suggested the policy on such responses be reviewed.

Commissioner Don Mason inquired as to what the definition of an emergency is, in which Goddard said it would involve "hazardous materials or fire." Goddard said the fire departments' job is not to respond to traffic.

Wetzel County Office of Emergency Man-

agement Director Ed Sapp said that a letter had already been submitted by Grandview VFD's chief. The letter stated that the fire department would not respond to any incidents involving trucks stuck on the hills or incidents involving a tree or debris in the road.

"The letter took care of the situation," Sapp said. "If a truck is stuck on a hill, who directs traffic?" Mason inquired.

It was stated that the Division of Highways is to set up a traffic stop if the response will take longer than 30 minutes.

Paul Hicks of West Virginia's Division of Highways said the DOH wants to know when there is an obstruction of traffic; however, "we don't have people sitting there (at the office). They are out working and maintaining roads. We will not be immediate responders."

Goddard lamented that after Grandview VFD acquired a traffic department, dispatch began calling for them to respond to calls.

"If the majority of fire departments do not want to be called out, then they need to let you know," Mason further stated.

It was noted that at the next fire association meeting, the fire departments need to discuss the issue, as to whether they want to be dispatched out for road blockages.

# Strong

continued from page 1

Helen said Pat had a sawmill. Groceries would be brought in for the working men, along with feed for the cattle that were used to log with.

"They would bring a truckload of groceries in for the sawmill men and feed for the oxen. They would leave it there at our place. The men from the sawmill would come down to pick it up. Pat and I got to be close friends. We were married in 1936."

Helen became in charge of cooking for the men at the saw mill.

"You'd cook potatoes and beans. Very seldom you had meat, unless you raised meat," she explained, adding she had ten men to cook for.

"You didn't have fancy foods. You had food that would stick to the bones."

Helen and Pat had three boys; the oldest is deceased.

"Ken and Dick are the ones who has carried the sawmill business," Helen said, adding that the business was sold about a year ago after being in the family for 78 years.

Ken notes that Dallison was the oldest privately-owned business in the state of West Virginia and was in the family through six generations.

Helen said all the lumber in her home was picked out by Pat.

"We've been here since 1948," she said, adding that all the floors are hardwood and the steps are original. The floor upstairs has never been redone or had anything done to it."

Furthermore, the stone on the house was all gathered by hand.

Decades later, Helen is still very much keeping busy. She is seen regularly for health-related checkups by Dr. Isha Woofter, as well as Registered Nurse Regina Carlin. Helen has someone who stays with her 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Oftentimes, Helen's caretaker can be found quilting alongside with Helen.

Not a bed inside the Dallison house can be found without one of Helen's hand-made

quilts covering it. She has made more than 200 quilts since Pat passed 14 years ago.

Helen said when she lived beside her grandparents, her grandma would quilt.

"I would go over at night and quilt with her. Of course, I don't remember what kind of stitches I made or whether she took them or not," she adds, laughing. "When we moved to Folsom, I went to church and Sunday School and taught a class. They had what they called Ladies Aid. They worked to earn money to help with expenses of the church."

"So then when I would come home of the evenings, I would work on piece puzzles. And Pat would say 'Can't you find something else to do to show for what you are doing?'"

Helen said Pat ended up making her quilting frames, which she still has.

"I have used them a lot, but with modern quilts and beds, queen and king . . . you have to make them wider, and so I had to quit using them."

Two of Helen's favorite quilts are her West Virginia quilts.

"When West Virginia is playing, Mom is right in front of that TV," Ken says. "She has a picture of her and Coach Beilein . . . She's been a basketball fan for as long as I can remember."

There are many days when Dallison does not make it outdoors; however, this does not stop her from engaging in physical activity in other ways, as Dallison said she will still trek up and down the steps in her house three to four times a day.

Besides quilting, Helen also cans greens beans and freezes peaches.

"I told her, before you got here, that she has enough food in the cellar to last her a year," Ken jokes.

"When (Pat and I) lived on Arches Fork, we raised a big garden," Helen said. "We had pole beans. I had gotten all the beans I wanted. My mother and dad said they'd like to have some. So they came over on a Sunday. The night before

the deer got into the beans, so (Mom and Dad) didn't get any beans."

Helen is also known for her great baking skills. Ken says she is known for her rolls, which she "makes for basically every family function." Perhaps this request can be credited to the days Helen would help make bread for the working men.

"I had a large pan that would hold nine loaves of bread. I would mix up bread every other day and bake it. I got so that it just looked like a store-bought loaf."

"Here's a cute story," Ken said, beginning to chuckle. "When my brother and I were still at home . . . around the time pepperoni rolls were introduced here, we were telling Mom about the pepperoni rolls. Well, Mom decided she was going to make us some pepperoni rolls. She used a whole stick of pepperoni in the roll!"

"I learned how to make them," Helen reassured.

When asked as to what was a favorite dish that Pat liked, Helen said "rice."

"He said if I didn't know what to cook for the evening, I could always fix rice."

"You didn't have fancy furniture," she added. "You had a table that was made rough. You didn't have chairs. You had a bench, and you'd set on the bench to eat."

Perhaps not having the fanciest upbringing makes Helen a bit more grateful for what she was given, as she easily recalls one of her favorite Christmases.

"My dad had a brother that wasn't married. He worked for a hardware store, and they sold furniture and things like that . . . That was one of the nicest Christmases we ever had was when he got a table and a chair, three for three of us, and a set of dishes that went with it, and a doll-baby in each chair."

Also, besides quilting and canning and watching basketball, Helen does watch a bit of television every now and then, though stresses the importance of turning the set off when there is company.

# 'Toy Story' to Play at Park

It's hard to believe summer is almost over. Before long, kids will be back in school and summer vacations will seem like a distant memory. For New Martinsville Parks and Recreation, the summer is coming to a close, as well. However, N.M. Parks will be hosting one last "Movie in the Park" event on Friday to close its summer programming season. "Toy Story" will be shown at 8:30 p.m. Friday at Bruce Park. Admission is free.

Popcorn and other refreshments will be available for an additional fee. Please, bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy one last summer evening watching "Toy Story" with us. "Movie in the Park" is co-sponsored by West Virginia Northern Community College and WesBanco. In the case of bad weather, the movie will be screened at the Lincoln Theater on Main Street.

"We're sad to see another summer come to a close. Thank you to everyone who has supported our programs this summer," Bev Gibb, NM Parks Director, said. "Hopefully everyone can come to Toy Story this Friday for this summer's last movie event."



AP Photo

New Martinsville WesBanco representative, Nancy Broughman (left) giving New Martinsville Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Laura Kane, a check covering the cost of the rights purchased in order to screen Toy Story.

# Free Meals for All Students

Wetzel County Schools will provide free breakfast and lunch to all students, regardless of their economic eligibility, beginning this school year due to the Wetzel County School Board of Education's decision to use the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

Formerly known as Community Eligibility Option (CEO), the community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, allows qualifying high-need school districts to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students, providing the nutrition and energy chil-

dren need to be healthy and ready to learn.

The Wetzel County Board of Education voted to implement the CEP for this school year, ensuring all Wetzel County students would have the opportunity to receive free meals while at school. This provision allows local educational agencies to serve meals to all students for free without having to collect the free or reduced meal applications. Although the CEP is a federal provision, it is a local educational agency's decision to implement the provision, since the costs associated with CEP come from local monies, not state

or federal funding. Without the support of Wetzel County voters for our school levy, it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to financially support the CEP.

"We are excited to be able to give back to our communities in a way that benefits every family," Amanda McPherson, Director of Child Nutrition for Wetzel County Schools, said.

In addition to free meals for all students, the CEP also eliminates the need for families to fill out the School Meals Household Application. The one thing it does not eliminate is past balances.

# Attendance Information Announced

Compulsory school attendance in West Virginia shall begin with the school year in which the sixth birthday is reached prior to September 1 of that school year or upon enrolling in a public kindergarten program and shall continue to the seventeenth birthday, or for as long as the student shall continue to be enrolled after the seventeenth birthday. Attendance in school is required by law and absences are coded as either excused or unexcused.

Absences of students with disabilities are governed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act and related state and federal rules. Additionally, there are changes that have been made to state law and to West Virginia Board of Education Policy regarding truancy procedures and the following steps are now required of the

county boards of education. First, a warning letter will be mailed to the parent/guardian when their child has three unexcused absences from school to notify the parent/guardian of their child's attendance. The warning letter will also indicate a conference will be scheduled in the future if their student's attendance does not improve. Then, if necessary a conference will be scheduled with the parent/guardian if your child has five unexcused absences. Finally, if necessary a complaint will be filed with the court system if your child has 10 unexcused absences. Please ensure your child(ren) attend school faithfully as required by law. A potential conference and/or court appointment can be eliminated with your cooperation and your child's education can be maximized with faithful attendance.

## energizing

WV'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

<p><b>80,400</b> Total statewide jobs provided or supported by the oil and natural gas industry</p> <p><b>\$5.8 BILLION</b> Value added to West Virginia economy</p> <p><b>\$40,498</b> Average salary in West Virginia across all industries</p>	<p><b>\$3.6 BILLION</b> Contribution to West Virginia's labor income</p> <p><b>230</b> Identified state vendors in the oil and natural gas supply chain</p> <p><b>\$78,770</b> Average salary in West Virginia for oil and natural gas employees</p>
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Source: American Petroleum Institute

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