



NOVEMBER 21, 2019

# The RECORDER

**Death Notices:** (see page 3)  
JOHNETTE (SANDERS) WARE, 60

**AREA SPORTS IN THIS WEEK'S RECORDER**  
**Marshall High School**  
Diving and Swimming, page 8  
Volleyball, page 8



**Albion College and Career Day**  
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**Stirling Books & Brew**  
See page 2



**Rotary Club of Albion**  
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**Veteran's Day**  
See page 7



**Santa is coming to town**  
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# Smith sworn in at Albion City Council meeting

By ANN DWYER  
Contributing Writer

Monday night's regularly scheduled city council meeting was the first since Sonya Brown was defeated by opponent Al Smith in a special election on Nov. 5. Along with swearing in Smith as the new precinct three council representative, the council also voted Vicky Clark as the new mayor pro-tem, replacing Brown. The vote was unanimous.

As mayor pro-tem, Clark will serve in Mayor David Atchison's place when he is unavailable to be in attendance.

The council also decided in a four to three vote to remove Brown from Albion's Economic Development Corporation (EDC) board over violating the city's charter. The violation stemmed from private messages she made to former city manager, LaTonya Rufus, suggesting Rufus fire Albion Public

Safety Chief Scott Kipp.

Councilperson Jeannette Spicer (Prec. 5) argued that since Brown was appointed by former Mayor Garrett Brown for a six-year term when Sonya Brown's term as a councilmember would end in 2020, that then-Mayor Brown had appointed her as a citizen and not as a councilmember.

However, Atchison refuted that the EDC's legal counsel considered Brown a city council member appointee.

Atchison and councilmembers Smith, Lenn Reid and Shane Williamson voted to remove Brown from the EDC board. Councilmembers Spicer, Clark and Marcola Lawler dissented.

Council also confirmed to reappoint Scott Evans to the DDA, term to expire Dec. 31, 2023. Nidia Wolf was confirmed in a five to two vote to be reappointed to the DDA, term to expire Dec. 31, 2022. Herm McCall was confirmed for a partial term to

the EDC, term to expire July 1, 2020. Annette Norris was confirmed for EDC Workforce Development, term to expire at the completion of project.

Acting Director of Public Services Kent Phillips updated city council on the Irwin Ave. project. A final grade on the street will be completed this week and an asphalt basecoat will be set down by next Tuesday, according to Phillips. Driveway aprons will be poured during the first week of December. Because of weather conditions, a final asphalt topcoat will not be able to be set down this year. At this time, final completion of the project is projected to be completed by July 2020.

An ordinance on collection bins was also approved unanimously by council. The bins, often used to collect used clothing, have become a nuisance in some areas as people use them as general dumps for furniture and garbage. The ordinance states

the bins can only be placed with a permit in commercial and industrial areas and must be at least 1000 feet apart. Collection bins cannot be banned as federal courts have ruled this a violation of the First Amendment.

Mayor Atchison also asked City Manager Darwin McClary and City Attorney Cullen Harkness to begin putting together terms for the establishment of a permanent Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission; a permanent Arts and Culture Commission; and a permanent Public-Private Partnership Program.

Councilmember Spicer suggested the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission instead be an advisory committee since there is already a Parks Division in place.

The Arts and Culture Commission would be put in place to help guide the city in placing public art and attracting and funding other artistic attractions whether

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# Harrington students receive new coats



**Members of Albion Knights of Columbus, Council 5255** *Cris Solis, Marilyn Kniburys, Tom Hickey, Paul Hickey, Carol Hickey, Tom Gaylord, Frank Kniburys and Carl Weiskittel* pose with some of the Harrington Students wearing their new coats.

The Albion Knights of Columbus, Council 5255, donated 45 winter coats, gloves and hats to students at Harrington Elementary. The coats were a much needed gift donated by members of the Knights of Columbus. The students were excited to receive, wear, and stay warm in the outerwear.

Each year coats are given from the Knights of Columbus for students who need them along with some hats and gloves. The efforts are coordinated by the members of the Knights along with Carolyn Amos, the school's interventionist, and Robert Giles, the principal.

# Marshall School Board Meeting

By ANN DWYER  
Contributing Writer

The Marshall district school board met this week after last week's regularly scheduled meeting was cancelled due to weather.

The school board approved a resolution for the collection of summer taxes. This is a continued practice and presents no changes to taxpayers. Districts that have previously authorized a summer tax levy must adopt a resolution to determine to continue the summer tax levy and file a copy of that resolution with each taxing authority for each new year.

"The proposed resolution is consistent with the district's past practice of collecting 50 percent of the school tax levy in the City of Marshall and Marshall and Fredonia townships. All other taxing authorities will continue to collect 100 percent during the winter levy," according to the Marshall District Board of Education.

Superintendent Randy Davis updated the council on the Facility Needs Assessment Committee. According to Davis, the core committee is looking at what can be done now with the funds available. The district will also meet with financial advisors Baker Tilley for their opinions on where the district stands now. Davis spoke highly of the core committee, stating, "We have a really engaged group."

The next Board of Education meeting will be held at Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Middle School Community Room, 100 E. Green St., Marshall.

# Whitehouse Nature Center ushers in Holiday Season

By SYLVIA BENAVIDEZ  
Contributing Writer

Sustainability at the Whitehouse Nature Center at Albion College had a holiday twist for adults attending a pop-up wreath crafting event last Saturday, Nov. 16.

New Whitehouse Nature Center Director Jason Raddatz explained where the materials came from for the holiday wreaths.

"The vines came from the front of the nature center. It's our Asian bittersweet. This vine is an invasive species (not native to Michigan).

Raddatz searched through David Green's files, the previous Whitehouse Nature Center director, to see what had been done before for winter events. Then one program caught his eye.

"When I was first hired, getting rid of the invasive was one of my (stated) goals," said Raddatz.

Using the invasive Asiatic bittersweet vine as the base of the wreath became a great way to model sustainability for Raddatz. "They make fabulous wreaths." Otherwise, he said they would have just been burned in a pit.

With his wife, Leigh Rowley Raddatz, coordinating the event and his staff also watching youtube videos and experimenting with designs, the final products led participating adults to attach greens to the vines by either weaving them in and out or using wires to at-

tach them securely. The greens were collected from the winter trail maintenance of the 140 acres. Provided pine cones, berries, and various evergreens with holiday bows gave participants the opportunity to make wreaths with a Thanksgiving or Christmas theme.

The 43 individuals of a mostly adult crowd came from places like Albion, Albion College, Jackson, and even as far away as Mason, Michigan. The event was created with adults in mind.

"When we think about the Nature Center and how it relates to the community, it almost seems to be myopic in focus on kids because we really want kids to experience nature," said Raddatz, "Sometimes we do that at the expense of the adults, he added."

"There are lot of people who utilize the Nature Center, but they may or may not connect, and they may not necessarily be college kids or high school kids," Raddatz added.

Not only does he want to promote family events, but he shared, "We need to have more adult events like this. This is sustainability in action."

Rowley Raddatz observed that this kind of Whitehouse Nature event is a great outreach into the surrounding communities, and attendees agree with her.

Rose Stutesman lives in Albion and enjoyed meeting others who appreciate craft making and was happy to bring with others from out-of-town to make wreaths. "I always wanted to do a wreath-making event, and I come here



**Albion resident Rose Stutesman displays the beginning of her creation at the wreath making craft at the Whitehouse Nature Center**  
Photos by Sylvia Benavidez

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