

(Photo by Peter Jakey)



has been named the Millersburg Homecoming parade grand marshal. It will be Saturday at 11 a.m. along Main Street.

Shirley said she was in last

"Her mom and dad lived right next door," said Gary, pointing out the patio doors. "Grandma (Lorena) was 101 when she died, and

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## Chestnuts are working in Moltke Township; public welcome to event, Sept. 15

by Peter Jakey  
Managing Editor

The Johnson family will be roasting chestnuts for Christmas in Moltke Township. It won't be a lot, but it's the start of something new.

Nick and Abby Johnson are involved in a project to see if chestnuts are a sustainable crop in northeast lower Michigan.

The couple was awarded a \$10,255 grant from SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education). Approximately 450 chestnut trees were planted last September.

Even with a stretch of bitterly cold temperatures, so far so good.

"There were a lot of people who lost chestnuts. We had really good survival. We lost four out of the 450 we planted," said Abby.

"Typically, you would expect to lose about 10 percent. You would be feeling pretty good. So, at one percent, we were really excited."

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ABBY JOHNSON will be giving tours of her chestnut farm she calls, Ox Heights, Sept. 15. Anyone interested in chestnut production should make a point of being there to get questions answered.

(Photo by Peter Jakey)



...n, under the direction of Heather Heidemann ... musical "Once On This Island Jr." before ... week. The summer production of the Rog- ... told the story of Ti Moune, played by Chloe ... Pritchard played young Ti Moune in the ... (Photo by Richard Lamb)

## election campaign focuses Michigan's 36th District

children graduate school they are whatever they in life whether the workforce, ation or voca- g. Finally, we ve government and account- bworking tax- o know that the y spending ev- y pay in taxes," said his focus three and one- s been on jobs, accountability

Leglistature and the unem- ployment rate was 15 per- cent and up here more than 20 percent unemployment. And now we are down to 4.5 percent across the state, but up here we are just over 6 percent," Stamas said.

HE SAID he has appre- ciated the constituents who ask questions of him and who have offered support.

"We are going to make sure we continue to stay focused on bringing jobs and keeping our kids here. I think back and we lost al- most 700,000 people that

Stamas said some of the keys for the turnaround could be policy and the state's commitment to edu- cation.

"This year we are going to invest \$14.7 billion dol- lars going from kindergar- ten through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade. That equals in the last eight years to \$700 per student for Presque Isle County by itself. That is not a one-time fund- ing, that is an ongoing fund- ing," Stamas said.

He said that the state has not been just throwing money at education but get-



of the public. Citizens John Vogelheim and Richard Vogelheim offered comment on the matter during public comment.

John Vogelheim asked the council to read the ordinance to give the public a better understanding of what the ordinance was about.

## Chestnuts

(continued from page 1A)

At this point, the plantings have been successful; however, several questions remain, including, "Is the growing season long enough to get nuts to maturity. Then you're concerned with (Fahrenheit) temperatures dropping below 27 degrees. You drop below 27 degrees



CHESTNUT BURRS are beautiful but prickly. And by no means, are the chestnuts easy to get out.

(Photo by Peter Jakey)

and it causes damage to the nuts, and makes the flavor off and unmarketable."

The Johnsons not only received a five-star rating from the top chestnut consultants in Michigan, but deer prefer them over acorns.

"As a wildlife tree, they are fantastic," she said. "The deer are going to love them once they start dropping. Someone might plant an apple tree for the deer –

It's something we will not only want to discuss but have community input on," said McLennan.

Hefele also clarified that the intent in adopting such an ordinance is to keep property values up, not to bring money into the city. In both Alpena and Onaway

you could look at planting a chestnut tree to attract deer."

Currently, many of the trees have two or three chestnut burrs. The fruit of the chestnut is located inside the prickly burr. The heat has been helpful to growth this summer.

"They are a Mediterranean tree, so hot and dry is really what they prefer," said Abby. "We have been watering periodically this summer, just to keep them going. Dry conditions are not a concern."

To learn more about the chestnuts planted on the Moltke ridge, the young family of seven is having a field day that will be open to the public, Sept. 15. There will be tours and demonstrations on planting.

THE AGENDA is as follows:

- 1 to 2:30 p.m., presentation - why chestnuts? Why Moltke ridge? What did we do? What have we learned? What we still need to learn?
- 2:30 to 3:00 p.m., orchard tour, inspect varieties, infrastructure and landscape.
- 3:30 to 4:00 p.m., tree planting and tree protection demonstration.

"The trees look really great, we are really encouraged at this point that this may be viable," said Abby.

"We really hope to target people who are interested in growing chestnuts on ground that is within six miles of Lake Huron and has good elevation. Planting chestnuts elsewhere in the area will likely fail because it is too cold and or wet."

be civil infractions or misdemeanors; how often properties should be inspected; if apartment buildings should be included; if the city wants to do re-inspections to resolve issues; whether the ordinance spells out what will be inspected or refers to the international property maintenance code; if there will be a board of appeals; and who will enforce failure to register and failure to allow inspection issues among other

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## Millersburg Homecoming 50's & 60's Hometown Block Party September 1st

Taking place at the Trailhead

### EVENTS

#### Saturday, Sept. 1

- 8 am** - 5K Run @ Millersburg Trailhead
- 9 am** - Cornhole tournament
- 11 am** - Parade
- Noon** - Kids' Games/Adult egg throw contest
- 1 - 4 pm** - 50's & 60's Tribute, band, Bobby His Rock 'n' Roll Caravan
- 4 pm** - Honored Citizen Program - Shirley
- 6 pm** - Duck Races @ Millersburg Bridge
- 7 pm** - Entertainment/Ocqueoc River Boat

#### Sunday, Sept. 2

- 1 pm** - M.A.V.F.F.A. 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Bump 'n' Run  
Presque Isle Fair Grounds

\* Get Your \$2 button to win prizes throughout the day

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