

Waynesboro's Cato joins in helping community's Erin Knight Fund

Submitted/The Wayne County News
Waynesboro's Cato store has joined other businesses and individuals in the community by donating \$350 to the Erin Knight Fund through Calvary Baptist Church. Knight, of Waynesboro, recently received a double lung transplant in Texas. Accepting the check was the Rev. Whit Lewis of Calvary Baptist Church. Making the presentation on behalf of Cato were, from left, Candace Bradley, second assistant manager; Lesia McDonald, store manager; Erica Allen, Cato district sales manager; and Sherika Everett, first assistant manager. Those wishing to contribute to the Erin Knight Fund can do so through the church, located on South Street in Waynesboro.



Radios

The radios — manufactured by E.F. Johnson — have better transmission and reception clarity, and can be picked up in most areas thanks to strategically placed communication towers.

“Because of Wayne County’s topography, the state built four communication towers — near State Line, on Highway 63 South in the National Forest area, on Highway 45 North and on Highway 84 in the Beat Four area,” Cleary said. “There hasn’t been a place we’ve been to yet that

you can’t communicate with these new units.

“With the old radio system, there were places that you could not communicate, and that is not a spot we wanted to put our first responders in — communication is everything when you are in the field, and can mean the difference between life and death.”

Added benefits of the radios include being able to communicate with officers and ambulance crews should they have to travel outside of their jurisdictions, according to

Cleary.

“This is a statewide communications network that will allow us to be elsewhere on a call and still have radio communications,” he continued. “The radios also come with a four-year warranty, and we are required to pay a \$200 per year maintenance fee on each radio — but that covers any upgrades or repairs that will have to be made.”

The 80 percent grant from the state for the radios totaled \$198,188, according to County Comptroller Sylvia Chancellor.

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Cleary said the radios were not purchased for the Wayne County and Waynesboro fire departments because of the volume of pagers and radios that are already in service.

“We have issued radios to the city and county fire chiefs and the county fire coordinator in the event they need to utilize the digital radio network,” Cleary said. “The fire services will continue to use the existing analog radio systems that are in place in the county.”

From Page 1A

Aldermen

Bunch received quotes from two companies to install all the wiring and a new system, with the lowest quote being just over \$13,000.

When questioned, Bunch said his department was told that it was cheaper to keep the current configuration — one where the police and fire departments share some lines — in place rather than separate the two systems.

“I’m not sure that is correct,” said Alderman-at-Large Greg Johnson, who was a long-time phone company employee before retiring.

“I think they have some things in this quote in the way of service and equipment that you don’t need. To separate the two systems should actually save some money for the police department. It might increase the fire department’s phone costs, but I’m just not convinced that separating the two out would be more expensive.”

The Board asked Johnson to look over the quotes and contact the providers to see where reductions in costs could be obtained.

The Board is expected to meet later this week or early next week to make a final decision on the matter.

The Board also tabled a request from Mary Taylor to utilize the City Auditorium for an after-school tutoring program until liability issues and other alternatives could be explored.

Taylor is developing an after-school tutoring program to be held on Thursday afternoons, the day that is traditionally set aside with public schools as “data days,” where students are dismissed early from school.

She said the cost would be \$5 per student, with that money being used to defray costs.

“I met with the Superintendent and the Board of Education, and they said they didn’t

have a room or a facility that was available,” Taylor said. “We would like to see if we can use the City Auditorium on Thursdays.”

Johnson said the Auditorium Committee had recommended approval of the request, but that Thursdays are traditionally a high-use day for the facility.

“Would you consider the Southside facility instead?” Johnson asked of Taylor.

“The auditorium is the only building I know that is large enough to house this,” she replied.

All of the Board members expressed concern about the proposal, saying the issue should be handled by the school district.

Some members of the panel also expressed concerns about the legalities of allowing an organization that charges a fee use of the auditorium free of charge.

“If you are charging a fee to recover your costs, then I feel like the city should charge you a fee in order to recover some of our costs for electricity and utilities at the facility,” Johnson said. “I believe that would be the only fair thing to do.”

The Board tabled the matter and told Taylor they would look into the liabilities and other issues involved with the proposal.

Taylor said that if an agreement could be reached, then the State Department of Education would also have to approve the project before it could move forward.

In other action, the Board of Aldermen:

- Approved the Claims Docket.
- Approved the Narcotics Claims Docket.
- Approved all travel request for the upcoming month.
- Approved renewing the city’s liability insurance with Joiner-Sigler Agency at a pre-

mium that is slightly lower than the year before.

- Authorized advertising for bids on supplies, repairs and services for the 2011 calendar year.
- Approved a quote from Trustmark Bank for financing a tractor/sideboom. The financing package will be for three years at 2.99 percent interest with a monthly payment of \$2,325.83.
- Approved the bid from Waste Management for solid waste/disposal services. There will be no increase in garbage rates for residents and businesses under the new contract.
- Approved renewing the annual hardware and software agreements with BBI, Inc.
- Approved the holidays for the 2011 calendar year. Holidays for city employees will be New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King/Robert E. Lee Day on the third Monday in January, George Washington’s birthday the third Monday in February, Good Friday on March 25, Memorial Day/Jefferson Davis’ birthday on the last Monday in May, Independence Day on July 4, Labor Day on the first Monday in September, Veterans Day on Nov. 11, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.
- Took no action on a request for a donation to the Wayne County High School soccer program, citing a legal opinion that says donations cannot be made to an entity that is already supported with taxpayer dollars, with the soccer program falling under that heading as a school sanctioned sport.

In the past, other donations have been made to athletic foundations or booster clubs not funded by the school district.

- Approved payment of Estimate No. 2 and No. 3 to Walters Construction Co., Inc., in the amounts of \$26,908.20

and \$33,156.90, respectively, regarding the airport north taxiway project.

- Approved payment of Invoice No. 067910 to Pickering in the amount of \$10,581.84 regarding the airport north taxiway project.
- Approved applications for payment of State Aid Request No. 3 and No. 4 in the amounts of \$937.25 and \$828.92, respectively, regarding the airport north taxiway project.
- Tabled payment of Estimate No. 5 to Tanner Construction Co., Inc., in the amount of \$46,347 regarding the Patton Creek Bridge replacement project.
- Approved CDBG Requisition No. 11 in the amount of \$5,000 regarding the rubbish site project. Requisition consists of one invoice to Samples, Hicks & Associates.
- Approved the purchase of grit removal equipment for the treatment plant.
- Approved hiring Bobby Farley as a full-time police officer.
- Approved sending a resolution to the state legislature request a local and private bill for a vote on liquor sales within the city.
- Approved granting an easement to BellSouth Telecommunications to bore city property for an underground phone line to Clark Oil Co.
- Tabled discussing a burn ban, pointing out that burn bans have to be enacted by the Governor’s Office or the Mississippi Forestry Department unless a city has an ordinance on the books concerning the issue, which the city currently does not have.
- Set plans for the Annual Employee Christmas Dinner.

From Page 1A

Holyfield

From Page 1A

Holyfield’s family suggested in lieu of flowers that toys be given so families that might not have Christmas presents under their trees would hopefully have a happy holiday season.

Almost immediately, a parlor at Freeman Funeral Home in Waynesboro became a collection point for the toys that quickly filled the room.

Marlon Walley of Freeman Funeral Home said he had rarely seen such an outpouring of grief and support for a family as was the case for the Holyfields.

“We’ve been absolutely astounded by the number of toys that came through the doors of the funeral home,” Walley said prior to Holyfield’s funeral services on Saturday afternoon. “Everyone that sees how many toys were given in memory of Arizona is left speechless.”

The volume of toys was also a pleasant surprise for The Salvation Army, which loaded one of its trucks to capacity with the contributions.

“These toys will mean so much to children that might otherwise not have gotten anything for Christmas in Wayne County and surrounding areas,” said Carol Anne Ferguson of Waynesboro’s Salvation Army Thrift Store and Service Center.

“This is a fitting tribute to

a young woman that a lot of people thought a great deal of, and we are so thankful to the thoughtfulness of Arizona’s family during one of their most difficult moments.”

The Salvation Army is presently in the process of helping families in the region with Christmas gifts and food supplies, and Ferguson said the toys donation is a major shot in the arm for this effort.

“The economy has been tough, and the donation of these toys is such a blessing for what The Salvation Army is trying to do to help those in need,” she continued. “This will make a lot of children happy, and we owe it to the generosity of the Holyfields.”

Family members have suggested that the toy collection effort could possibly become an annual event to remember Holyfield’s life and to honor her memory.

Holyfield attended Millry Elementary School in Washington County, and was a member of West Shady Grove Baptist Church in Wayne County.

Funeral services for Holyfield were held Saturday afternoon in Waynesboro with interment in the Chapel Hill Cemetery in Millry.

Details regarding those services and survivors appear on Page 2A in today’s edition of The Wayne County News.

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Joe Britton	Chase Sumrall	Casey Clements
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Katie Lahti

Will Lomax

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Gentry Stevens

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