



**SABRINA
HAZEN
APPOINTED
AS MAYOR**

**HART: STATE READIES
FOR COAL COMEBACK**
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TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025
Volume 118 • Issue 45

Falmouth

OUTLOOK

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New director Wells fosters New Hope at pregnancy center

Walk for Life annual fundraiser set for May 17

By Burton Cole

FALMOUTH — Shannon Wells wasn't sure that she should leave her long-time job, but New Hope Pregnancy Center wouldn't leave her mind.

"I've been doing customer service work for 25 years," said Wells, 48, a Pendleton County native who split her younger years between the farm about five miles outside of Falmouth with her dad and the house in town where her mom lived — the best of both worlds, she said.

"I had such a great childhood."

For the last 16 years, she worked at a private practice doctor's office, working as a receptionist, handling paperwork, doing human resources and managing other aspects of the office.

Previously, she was a lead at U.S. Bank and handled documents at the Pendleton Data Farm. She started working at age 14 in Angelo's Pizza in Falmouth.

"I was struggling with what my purpose was at the doctor's office," she said. "So much has changed in health care. Insurance dictates everything."

When Pastor Abram Crozier announced at Trinity Southern Baptist Church one Sunday in November that the New Hope Falmouth director was retiring, Wells wondered about the job.

"I questioned whether I was worthy of such a great cause," she said.

She said that she prayed a lot about it, but sabotaged herself. Staying put where she was comfortable sounded like the safer plan. But God kept bringing New Hope back to her mind, she said.

In January, she reached out to the retiring director. The position was still open.



Shannon Wells

"I started here in February," Wells said. "I'm passionate about it. I feel like I have a purpose. It's nice to help somebody."

NEW HOPE

The New Hope facilities — with centers in Falmouth, Covington, Crestview Hills in Kentucky, and Vevay in Indiana — were started because moms sought abortions because they didn't see any other options. New Hope first talks to moms about bringing their pregnancies to full term, and offer support or adoption.

"We want to educate them on their body and their health," Wells said.

If the mother chooses adoption, the parents can be involved, including choosing the adoptive parents.

If the mothers choose abortion, New Hope offers after-abortion support and care.

"The after-effects, what they have done, it's hard on them," Wells said. "We offer counseling."

"Our mission is to let you know there are other alternatives."

New Hope works with a certified adoption organization at no cost to the parents.

"A lot of people go to abortion because they can't afford a baby," Wells said. "We show them that there are options."

New Hope, Page 2

Of sheep and men



This statue of a sheep, reinstalled last week outside of Falmouth City Hall, triggered a week of controversy which included the arrest of former mayor Sebastian Ernst on a charge of criminal trespassing when he attended an April 14 City Council meeting. Photo by Burton Cole.

Falmouth bleats with controversy

Council allows former mayor to air grievances

By Jim Thaxton

FALMOUTH — This time, instead of being arrested, former mayor Sebastian Ernst was allowed to speak.

When he attended a special meeting of Falmouth City Council last Monday, Ernst was arrested on a charge of trespassing, stemming from an argument earlier in the day with police Chief Marty Hart.

Hart said that Ernst made threats — which Ernst denies — and therefore was banned from city-owned property.

Thursday night, Falmouth City Hall filled to standing room only, and Mayor Sabrina Hazen requested that those in chairs move forward so those standing outside city hall could move in. She also encouraged those who wanted

to speak to sign in on the sheet provided.

Morgain Patterson from the Kentucky League of Cities was there in an advisory capacity in the absence of former city attorney Brandon Voelker, who resigned earlier in the week.

Conspicuously present were seven uniformed Falmouth police officers standing on either side of City Hall.

The City's Fire Department was also well represented. Fire Chief John Lucas turned in his resignation the previous week, citing family obligations.

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Hazen informed everyone that she would be following the agenda.

During the public comments portion of the meeting, Ernst quickly read a number of rhetorical questions.

Ernst began by alluding to his arrest three days earlier.

Council, Page 3

Week of turmoil set off by dispute over sheep statue

By Burton Cole and Jim Thaxton

FALMOUTH — This is a timeline in notes and quotes surrounding events of the arrest of former mayor Sebastian Ernst on a charge of trespassing by attending a special meeting of Falmouth City Council.

MONDAY, APRIL 14 — City workers reinstall a statue of a sheep painted in patriotic colors and bearing the words "We the people" outside of city hall, from where it had been stolen more than a year prior.

The sheep had been stored for months in the evidence room in the basement of the Falmouth police department.

Ernst went to police Chief Marty Hart Monday afternoon to reclaim the sheep, asserting that

the sheep was his because it originally was in the former Conrad Hardware Store building that he bought on Shelby Street that now houses his We the Pizza restaurant.

Heated arguments ensued, both inside and outside the police station. Hart, who admitted losing his cool, said that Ernst made threats while the two of them were on the sidewalk, which led to Hart banning Ernst from city-owned property, including the police station, fire department and city hall.

"When he's challenging the authority of the police department, we have the obligation to follow through, like we would do with anyone else," Hart said today. "We are very impartial and consistent."

That evening, City Council met in special session to appoint an interim mayor to fill the unexpired term of Mayor Luke Price, who resigned because of a change in his employment.

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