

Crafty friends share woolly dream

By Nila Harris

FALMOUTH — It started — started again, really — as a way to fill time between calls.

Now Susan Booher Gibson and Monaca Gales, both former dispatchers with the now-closed Pendleton County 911 Center, have opened Country Angels Crochet & Craft Supplies, located inside The Mystery Box, 305 Main St., Falmouth.

"I learned how to crochet from my Granny Booher when I was 8, 9 years old. Didn't do it again though, for many years after that," Booher said.

"When I worked nights at dispatch, it would sometimes get boring between calls, so to fill the time, I began doing genealogy and then re-taught myself how to crochet.

"Monaca started working there a couple years after me. We worked nights together and I taught her how to crochet also. We've both been 'hooked' on it ever since," Gibson said.

own both inside The Mystery Box, 305 Main St., Falmouth.

"We're starting small with the booth at Mystery Box, and plan to add more items as we can," Gibson said.

"Monaca and I would like to eventually open our own store in Falmouth where people can come and buy yarn and crafting supplies, have workshops, sell hand crafted items, and just get together with other like-minded people."

Gales added, "Mine and Susan's dream is to be able to bring a craft store local to town so that people don't have to drive so far to get the things that they need to make homemade projects."

When talking about their love of crafting, Gibson told how she and Gales "can just sit for hours crocheting."

The two not only share a love of crafting, but both women have husbands who serve on the Pendleton County Fire Department.

"So, when they're doing their fire department thing, we do our crafting thing,"



Susan Gibson, left, and Monaca Gales, right, share their love of craft items by opening a yarn booth inside the Mystery Box store in Falmouth. They offer many different types and colors of yarn at their booth. Eventually the two plan to add additional craft goods for making homemade products. Photo courtesy of Monaca Gales

Gibson said.

Gales said she enjoys making any kind of crocheted products, whereas Gibson's crafting includes making things out of wood, decorating items using a Cricut machine and creating stickers and T-shirts with a sublimation printer.

"I just like making all kinds of things — got that from my mom (Brenda Booher)."

Besides their booth at Mystery Box, the duo is on the Country Angels Facebook page or can be

reached by email at susan@countryangels-ky.com or monaca@countryangels-ky.com.

Their Facebook page states, "At Country Angels, we believe crafting is more than a hobby — it's therapy, connection, and pride in making something with your own hands. Whether you're picking up a crochet hook for the first time or have been crafting for years, we're here to support your creativity, encourage learning and build community one project at a time."

River Valley administrator awarded for flood action plan

By Nila Harris

BUTLER — When the city of Butler issued a mandatory evacuation during flooding last April, Michelle Wallace, administrator of River Valley Nursing Home, already had a structured action plan in place.

Wallace and her team, with the help of emergency services, evacuated residents to their sister facilities — The Seasons, Highland Springs, Villa Springs, Continental Manor and Mariemont Rehabilitation, and Grafton Oaks in Dayton, Ohio.

For her actions, Wallace received the Meritorious Service Award during the 32nd annual Northern Kentucky Firefighters Association Awards Banquet earlier this year.

Social Services Director Jessica Brill said, "It was the most emotional week I've ever been through in my 19 years at River Valley.



The River Valley Nursing Home staff cheered on Michelle Wallace as she received the Meritorious Service Award. From left at social service director Jessica Brill, business office manager Karla Grubbs, Administrator Michelle Wallace, Director of Nursing Heather Lopez, speaker Terry Foster, medical records/scheduler Ramona Robertson, infectious control/quality assurance nurse Rebecca Rouse, maintenance director Chris Bryant and environmental service manager Karen Edwards.

"Michelle had a structured plan for getting residents out safely and getting them back safely. She met with Mayor Mason Taylor, Adam Fuller (Northern Pendleton Fire Department chief), and Mike Moore (Pendleton County Emergency Management direc-

tor) the whole week leading up to the evacuation.

"When Michelle announced evacuation at 10 a.m., she designated jobs to management staff," Brill said.

Within five hours, all residents were safely placed at their temporary place-

ment.

Fifty-nine RVNH residents were evacuated on April 4, 2025, with assistance from several agencies, including NFPD and Lexington Fire Department. Nearby nursing facilities loaned out staff and vans to support the evacuation.

Nine residents were able to go home with family members, and one was already in the hospital.

"Michelle visited all of our residents at all of the facilities our residents were at," Brill said.

The whole process was repeated in reverse when the residents returned "home" six days later.

Taylor stated on his Facebook page, "During the evacuation, I witnessed Michelle personally stopping to speak with residents alongside her staff. All of this was done while ensuring her residents felt safe, calm and cared for during an extremely stressful event.

Supporting education



Pendleton County Education Foundation Director Kay Mudd, left, presents a \$2,000 education support check from the foundation to Northern Elementary School Principal Wesley Murray. With the support of PCEF, Northern Elementary recently purchased a ViewSonic Commercial Display with a mobile cart to enhance instruction and schoolwide activities. This large, high-quality digital screen can easily move throughout the building, providing flexible use in classrooms and shared spaces. In classrooms, students benefit from clearly displayed lessons, interactive digital content and opportunities to showcase their work for peers. The display also supports Bobcat Parties, special programs and guest presentations, helping us celebrate student achievements and strengthen connections within the school community, according to the foundation. Photo courtesy of PCEF.

Preventing child abuse

By Jordyn Johnson

FALMOUTH — On Feb. 9, judicial support specialist and Upstream Academy member Jordyn Johnson hosted her first Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky Upstream Academy training session at the Farm Bureau Building, 400 Main St.

The training was provided to members of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program through the local Child Advocacy Center, with Lisa Fardo Wiggins serving as host.

The event drew 32-plus attendees for its first session — a strong turnout that reflects the community's commitment to protecting children and strengthening families, Johnson said.

Johnson led participants through the LEAN ON ME Kentucky training, an initiative of Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky that serves as both

a movement and a call to action.

The initiative encourages every Kentuckian to play a role in creating safe, supportive communities where children and families can thrive. The interactive session focused on the principles of Listening, Empathy, Affirmation and Non-Judgment, empowering attendees to become community supporters.

Participants learned practical ways to strengthen families, reduce risk factors, and promote protective factors that help prevent crises.

Johnson shared that small, compassionate actions can make a powerful difference when communities come together with intention.

Organizations, churches, schools and community groups interested in hosting a training session can email Johnson at pckaypendleton@gmail.com.

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