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Chillicothe Gazette



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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Homemade winter joy

Westmoreland resident creates miniature village for nursing home

Shelby Reeves
Chillicothe Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

CHILLICOTHE — With beautiful buildings and small smiling people, miniature villages are a popular decoration this time of year. While many people receive parts of these villages from

family or buy them from the store, one man at Westmoreland nursing home in Chillicothe makes his from materials he gathers all year.

Eddy Templin said he first got interested in designing and creating models when he was just 17 years old and helped build a set for a local play. Since then he has continued to create sets and minia-

tures, including model train sets. During 2022 he worked from March to September to collect everything and construct his current winter village. He also created a similar fall village.

"I really enjoyed doing it," said Templin.

The winter village is made predominantly out of material Templin has

found outside including pinecones and sticks for trees. He also used cut and painted cardboard to make the buildings, the steps and the train tracks. For things like the ice rink, Templin got creative and used a small mirror to look like ice.

The buildings are a mixture of old stores, like Royal Blue and Yellow Front, and generic places, like a barber shop

See **VILLAGE**, Page 2A



People came out to see the annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Nov. 18 in downtown Chillicothe. TY WRIGHT/CHILLICOTHE GAZETTE

4 homes win '22 holiday contest

Shelby Reeves
Chillicothe Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

CHILLICOTHE — Earlier this month the city of Chillicothe announced the winners of the 2022 Holiday Lights Contest sponsored by the Chillicothe Parks and Recreations department. The city was broken up into quadrants and out of the 22 houses that entered four houses won.

For the competition the city was divided into four quadrants: northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest. The intersection of Main street and Paint Street served as the divider. A winner was then chosen from each quadrant by Lori Graves and her group of judges.

At 747 Jefferson Avenue Stanley

See **LIGHTS**, Page 2A



747 Jefferson Avenue houses a display created by Stanley Kennedy for the 2022 Chillicothe Holiday Lights Contest. PROVIDED BY CHRISTINA MARTIN

'HO HO HO!'

A day in the life of Chillicothe's Santa Claus

Shelby Reeves
Chillicothe Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

CHILLICOTHE — "Ho Ho Ho!" and "Merry Christmas!" have been ringing through Yocangee Park this holiday season during Santa Claus's visits to the area. The mystical jolly soul is here to

bring Christmas joy to everyone and while almost everyone knows the iconic red suit and white beard, fewer people recognize the man behind the beard, Tom Osborne who has been bringing joy to Chillicothe for over 13 years now.

Osborne is a Chillicothe native who graduated

See **SANTA**, Page 2A

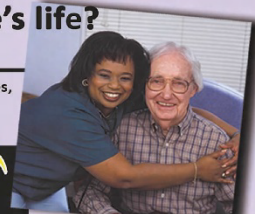
Looking to make a real difference in someone's life?

Consider becoming a Volunteer Ombudsman!

Volunteers help provide an essential voice for residents of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other long-term care settings. Volunteers help address resident concerns, serve as an advocate, and their visits can lessen the isolation and loneliness many residents experience.

Want to learn more? Contact the Area Agency on Aging District 7

1-800-582-7277 or e-mail info@aaa7.org



Shoppers hold off

Holiday procrastinators are back as inflation bites into budgets and retailers fret. **Nation & World, 6A**

Weather

High -1° | Low -2°
Very windy; snow at times. Forecast, 2A



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LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY HIGH: -1 LOW: -2 Very windy; snow at times, 1-2"	SATURDAY HIGH: 12 LOW: 8 Cloudy with winds gradually subsiding	SUNDAY HIGH: 18 LOW: 7 Frigid with sunshine and patchy clouds	MONDAY HIGH: 23 LOW: 12 Mostly cloudy and quite cold	TUESDAY HIGH: 31 LOW: 19 Chilly with times of clouds and sun
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AccuWeather Go to AccuWeather.com

ALMANAC Wednesday TEMPERATURES High 42 Low 17 PRECIPITATION (inches) 0.00" Wednesday	SUN & MOON SUN Today Rise .. 7:49 a.m. . 7:49 a.m. Set .. 5:09 p.m. . 5:09 p.m. MOON Today Rise .. 9:21 a.m. . 9:21 a.m. Set .. 5:17 p.m. . 6:30 p.m.	MOON PHASES New First Full Last Dec 23 Dec 29 Jan 6 Jan 14	NATIONAL EXTREMES 48 contiguous states Wednesday HIGH TEMPERATURE Marathon, FL 84° LOW TEMPERATURE Havre, MT -35°
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Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2022

BIBLE DIGEST

"And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call his name JESUS; for he shall save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21) **AKJV**

LOTTERIES

(Drawings: Dec. 22)
Pick 3 (early): 4 8 7
Pick 4 (early): 5 2 9 8
Pick 5 (early): 5 9 7 2 6
(Drawings: Dec. 21)
Pick 3 (late): 3 9 4
Pick 4 (late): 1 8 4 6
Pick 5 (late): 6 3 9 9 9
Rolling Cash 5: 6 13 16 17 30
Classic Lotto: 1 4 14 45 46 49
Saturday's jackpot is \$3.0 million.



Eddy Templin worked on his winter village for months, creating a small town reminiscent of what he remembers when he was younger.
SHELBY REEVES/CHILLICOTHE GAZETTE

Village

Continued from Page 1A

and hobby store. Templin said he was inspired to model this village after the small towns he remembers from his younger days.

"It is the way I remember small towns used to be," said Templin.

One thing he was not expecting when building this village is all the recogni-

tion he has been getting. The nursing home displayed the village in a common area near the entrance of the building, allowing residents and guests to enjoy Templin's hard work. Many people, including staff, have commented on how beautiful and festive the village is and how it adds some holiday cheer to the facility.

Shelby Reeves is a reporter for the *Chillicothe Gazette*. You can email her at SReeves@gannett.com or follow her on Twitter @Shelby_Reeves.

Santa

Continued from Page 1A

from the Pickaway-Ross Career and Technology Center. As an electrician, he worked at the local VA until retirement. After retiring he didn't like having nothing to do, so he found another job at a car auction that can hold 12,000 to 15,000 vehicles. Osborne also rode Harley motorcycles and was in charge of the local Harley club for a couple of years, bringing in many new members.

Originally Osborne never thought he would be Santa. It was his niece, who owned a local cafe, who first asked him to put on the suit for customers. After being asked many times, and saying no every time, he decided to do it just once. After his first day however he knew this was something he loved, so much so that he went to New Jersey to get a suit that was customized for him to sit in and grew out his beard.

That one-time gig turned into over a decade of putting smiles on people's faces, which Osborne said is his favorite part of the job, not that he thinks of it as a job. For him it is more about bringing joy to the Christmas season. "I love everything about it," said Osborne of being Santa. "It is the greatest job anyone can ever have."

It is not only kids that Osborne brings joy to, it is everyone he encounters as Santa. While he is mostly downtown and in the park he has also made visits to veterans at the VA, home visits and nursing home visits. He said people of all ages love seeing Santa this time of year.

"The smiles you see are priceless," said Osborne. "It doesn't matter if it is five-year-old or an 85-year-old, you get the same reward."

After he knew he would be doing this more than once, Osborne started to learn more and invest in being Santa with new coats and attending a two-day Santa school.

At this school, he learned from an experienced Santa on how to act, pose for pictures, address families and many other small aspects of being Santa including Santa-related jokes. One of the bigger things he learned during this training was that he needed to have "Twelve Night Before Christmas" memorized. Osborne had previously read from the book but now he has it memorized to say as he leaves.

"I thought I was a good Santa when I

About the Series

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went but I was a novice," said Osborne of the Santa training.

Many kids tell Santa about their life, some stories are good and others are not. Osborne recalls children asking Santa to bring back a relative that had recently passed away. At these times, he has to be honest with the kid and tell them Santa does not have that power, but he does try to tell them that whoever is now gone is proud of them and that they are looking down watching them grow up.

When it comes to being Santa you have to be ready to answer many different questions from children, especially those who don't believe Osborne is the real deal. He often asks kids if they believe he is the real deal if not he explains that Santa has many helpers.

Osborne also asks the kids on his lap questions and not just the traditional what's your name, how old are you and what do you want for Christmas. He spends time getting to know each of the children by asking them what they like to do for fun and if they have any pets. He said he enjoys making meeting Santa a personable experience that a child will remember.

One important question Osborne always asks school-age kids is how they are doing in school. If the answer is not all A's he encourages them to put in more and do better. He also asks them about their favorite class and what they are learning. Osborne said encouraging education is important and hopes to help kids become more interested in school.

"That's the most important thing to me - a good education," said Osborne.

During his time as Santa, Osborne said he can't recall a bad memory. He especially loves being able to be Santa for Chillicothe as he said at Christmastime the town looks like a Hallmark movie with the lights and the shops downtown.

"We have such a gorgeous town," said Osborne. "To see it all decorated is amazing."

Every year he looks forward to this time of year as he knows it will bring joy to his heart as well as others.

"Every year I can't wait for my first day," said Osborne

Lights

Continued from Page 1A

Kennedy's display won. This house was decorated in the front and the back so people were encouraged to drive through the alley to get a full view.

At 757 E. Water Street Heath Lawson's display was selected as a quadrant winner. Set to music a picture does not fully capture the beauty of this light display.

At 144 Sharon Drive Jack and Cassidy Martin's display featured an entire yard of decorations.

At 330 Platt Avenue Cathy and John Zangri's display featured multiple levels of lights.

The city encourages citizens to drive by each home and pick a favorite out of the four winners. Voters can then go on the city's Facebook and vote for a grand prize winner, voting ends on Dec. 26. Those wanting to see the city covered in lights are encouraged to visit the other contestant's displays which are listed on the City of Chillicothe's Facebook page.



330 Platt Avenue houses a display created by Cathy and John Zangri for the 2022 Chillicothe Holiday Lights Contest. PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA MARTIN



144 Sharon Drive houses a display created by Jack and Cassidy Martin for the 2022 Chillicothe Holiday Lights Contest.

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