

Ashland TIMES-GAZETTE

157th YEAR, No. 21

THURSDAY JANUARY 25, 2007

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Mayor sees favorable outlook for ethanol plant

Officials, area residents hear company's plan

By DARCIE LORENO
T-G Staff Writer

More than 80 farmers, elected and public officials and individuals just interested in alternative fuels came prepared to a City Council work session Wednesday with officials wanting to build an ethanol plant in Ashland.

While many aspects still need to be researched before any concrete plans are made, most voiced support for an ethanol plant for environmental, economic and land use purposes.

"After (the positive input at) this meeting," said Mayor Bill Strine afterward, "things seem favorable."

Las Vegas-based Silver State Ethanol Inc. submitted plans last year for a plant in Ashland Business Park that would produce 54 million gallons of ethanol and use 18 million bushels of corn a year. It would operate under a new entity, Ohio State Ethanol.

Attorney Dean Homayouni, representing the company, said the owners have been in business 30

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Ashland City Council chamber was filled to capacity Wednesday afternoon as residents attended a work session to hear about the proposed ethanol plant in the business park. Times-Gazette photo/Tom E. Puskar

Renovation a labor of love



Times-Gazette photos/Tom E. Puskar

Dan and Terri Meyer sit in their library near the painting of the farm Dan commissioned Terri to paint before they started dating.

Farmhouse work started with commissioned painting



Dan and Terri Meyer's farmhouse at 1432 County Road 1575 was built in the 1860s. The couple has been renovating it for several years.

By JARRED OPATZ
T-G Special Projects Editor

It all started with a high school reunion and a painting. It has become a major renovation with many artistic touches.

Dan and Terri Meyer have spent the past several years renovating an old farmhouse, barn and farm in Ashland, decorating much of the house and barn with original art work by Terri, making the house more open with fewer rooms and doing all kinds of landscaping.

"I had an entirely different vision," Dan said about their renovation at 1432 County Road 1575 near Goasis. "Thank God she used her influence because it would have looked a lot different. It

wouldn't have looked near as nice.

"I would have followed the structural guidelines of replacing it back to the original, and that wouldn't have worked," he added.

Dan said he's glad he hired Terri to do a painting of what the farmhouse, barn and farmland looked like in the 1940s because it led to them dating. He asked her to paint it after the two reconnected at their 20-year Ashland High School reunion in 1999.

"He got the rest for free," laughed Terri about the other artwork throughout the home.

The painting of the farm hangs on the wall of an upstairs room Terri likes to call

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Senators bash Bush Iraq plan

Committee says troop buildup 'not in the national interest'

By DAVID ESPO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After nearly four years of war in Iraq, newly empowered congressional Democrats look like they've just begun to fight.

In a calculated snub of President Bush, the Democratic-controlled Senate Foreign Relations Committee dismissed plans for a troop buildup in Iraq on Wednesday as "not in the national interest" of the United States.

"The president has made his decision," Vice President Dick Cheney fired back, a response that made it clear the administration would go ahead anyway. "We need to get the job done."

The committee vote, 12-9 along party lines, capped hours of debate in which Republicans and Democrats vented their frustration and anger — both with the administration and their own past unwillingness to change the course of a war that has claimed the lives of more than 3,000 U.S. troops.

"There is no strategy. This is a pingpong game with American lives," said Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska.

"This Congress was never meant to be a rubber stamp," added Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., "Read the Constitution. The Congress has the power to declare war. And on multiple occasions, we used our power to end conflicts."

Hagel was the only one of 10 committee Republicans to support the nonbinding measure. Several of the panel's 11 Democrats said they favored stronger legislation to register their opposition to the war.

In the wake of midterm election losses, Bush announced two weeks that he would order an additional 21,500 troops into the war zone. In Tuesday night's State of the Union address, he implored skeptical

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"Unless the president demonstrates very quickly that he is unlikely to continue down the road he's on, this will be only the first step. ... I will be introducing ... constitutionally legitimate, binding pieces of legislation. We will bring them up."

Sen. Joe Biden
D-Delaware

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Meyer bought property in 1996

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"The Library" because she likes to go there to relax and read.

After going through a divorce, Dan bought the 28-acre farm in 1996 and began doing basic renovation work on the house and barn, which he said both were in a state of great disrepair. The house and barn were built by farmer/banker Christian Hess in the 1860s, and it stayed in the Hess family until the middle of the 20th century when the Wolf family took over ownership until the 1980s. A couple other owners followed until Dan bought it.

It wasn't until Dan met Terri, who also was divorced, that the major renovation work began. The couple, who were married in 2002, still are working on their renovation project.

At first, Dan used the barn for his masonry business. Now, it houses Terri's art studio and retail art business (The Creative

Chateau — www.CreativeChateau.com) where she offers custom framing, as well as her fine art productions, jewelry and customized clocks. Dan has moved his masonry equipment and warehouse to Jeromesville, but still has an office in the couple's home.

Dan and Terri also have done a lot of work around the house and barn, including converting the old milking parlor into a potting shed for gardening and building a brick trail of about 30,000 bricks which leads to a small building for parties that overlooks a pond they had dug by a local excavating company.

When they added on to the home, they used bricks for the addition from another local old farmhouse also built in the 1860s that was torn down a few years ago.

After a lot of discussion about restoring the house, Dan and Terri said they decided to reconfigure it to make it practical to today's standards.

"My wife does all the artwork and design," Dan said. "I supply the labor."

Murals make up much of the artwork throughout the house, including ceiling murals.

"It was a new avenue for me," Terri said. "I had never done a mural before, so it challenged me in a new direction."

"I got to do a lot of new stuff," she added with a smile.

While Terri said she always has had an interest in art, she didn't study it in college. She majored in business in college while also serving in the military, where she was a meteorologist with the Air Force. Before returning to Ashland to pursue her passion of art, she also worked in human resource management in Las Vegas.

Terri said she has taken a lot of art classes and has read a lot about art over the years.

Some of her classes have been at the Ashland Community Arts Center, which recently

exhibited some of her customized clocks. On her clocks, she recreates history from turn-of-the-century postcards, her own paintings and antique photographs.

Tricia Applegate, director of the Arts Center, said she never has seen another house decorated with as much original artwork as Dan and Terri's home.

"It was amazing," Applegate said about her visit to the home. "I was incredibly impressed with what they have done with an old farmhouse inside and out, and all the artistic touches."

The Meyers have a posterboard they like to show people with photos of what the place looked like before they began their major renovation project.

"To see what they started with, they deserve to be on a home improvement show," Applegate said.

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