

Roger Muselman, son of the late Art and Gloria Muselman, addressed those present for opening Swiss Days ceremonies on Thursday evening. Muselman and his sister, Karen, along with their families, will represent their parents who were selected posthumously as grand marshals for Saturday's Swiss Days parade. [Photo by Jim Langham]

Spirit of ancestral heritage fills the air at Swiss Days opening

By Jim Langham

It opened with the melodic notes of an Alpine horn and concluded with a musical presentation of the Switzerland National Anthem. And in between, the Swiss Days opening ceremony on Thursday evening was filled with memories past and tributes present to the heritage ancestry that is the basis for the annual Swiss celebration.

At no point in the evening was the heritage celebration more heart penetrating than that which commemorated the lives of Berne business, civic, and religious leaders, Art and Gloria Muselman, whose lives were tragically taken in a car accident last August.

In noting that the Chamber of Commerce had selected the Muselmans to serve as Swiss Days Parade grand marshals posthumously, Chamber executive director Connie Potter said that in spite of our grieving, the Muselmans are currently in a celebration unlike any they had ever witnessed on earth.

"We miss them for all that they were to us but this year they're enjoying the best celebration possible," said Potter. "Even John the Revelator couldn't find words to describe what they're experiencing right now."

Those attending were deeply touched and the Muselman's son, Roger, represented his parents with deep emotion and appreciation for their lives. Muselman said that his family was deeply touched that their parents had been selected for such an honor.

"We would deflect any of the honor of this to our parents. Needless to say, the past 10 months have been most difficult, to lose our parents so suddenly together," said Muselman, who was also representing his sister, Karen Thomas, in his remarks.

"We've always considered them our heroes. They loved Berne; they were proud of this community and they knew no rank," continued Muselman. "They loved God and they lived for Him daily. They loved people each time they saw them as though they would never see them again. They loved God and lived every day as though it were their last day."

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Adams, Wells County law officials arrest 26 in drug raids

By Bob Adams

A joint effort between Adams and Wells County law enforcement officials resulted in arrest warrants being issued for 31 people in the two counties. These warrants were served late Thursday evening and came as a result of a year long investigation.

During the past year, the DETECT Drug Task Force and the Indiana State Police purchased or seized the following drugs: 1106 grams (nearly 40 ounces) of marijuana, 119.5 grams of cocaine, 420 doses of liquid morphine, 109 doses of morphine tablets, 16 doses of oxycodone, 176 doses of hydrocodone, 41 doses of klonopin, 132 doses of Xanax, 21 doses of other prescription drugs, and one handgun.

"These drugs are off the street, have all been processed by the lab, and are in our custody," noted Adams County Sheriff Charles "Chuck" Padgett.

The DETECT Drug Task Force is a multi-jurisdictional task force pooling resources from the Adams and Wells County Sheriffs' Departments, Bluffton Police Department and Decatur Police

Department. The task force is funded in part by a federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and administered by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

By late Thursday night, local law enforcement officials had arrested 26 of the 31 individuals and had processed 21.

Jared Schoeff, 22, was charged with two counts of dealing Schedule IV drugs, both C Felonies, dealing Schedule I, II, and III drugs, a B Felony, and Aiding, Inducing, and dealing Schedule I, II, and III drugs, another B Felony.

Julie Browning, 25, was charged with three counts of dealing Schedule I, II, and III drugs, and aiding, inducing, and causing dealing Schedule I, II, and III drugs, all B Felonies.

Gregory Johnson, 30, was charged with two D Felony counts of dealing marijuana, two Felony B counts of dealing cocaine, one A Misdemeanor count of dealing marijuana and one A Felony count of dealing cocaine.

Deborah Anderson, 45, was charged with three Felony B counts of dealing Schedule I, II, and III drugs, and two C Felony counts of dealing

Schedule IV drugs.

Luke Gasper was charged with three C Felony counts of dealing Schedule IV drugs, one B Felony county of dealing Schedule I, II, and III drugs, and one D Felony count of dealing legend drugs.

Christine Gasper, 27, was charged with four Felony B counts of dealing Schedule I, II, and III drugs, and three C Felony counts of dealing Schedule IV drugs.

Sheryl Delmas, 42, was charged with two counts of dealing Schedule I, II, and III drugs.

Keith Crews, 20, was charged with a B Felony count of dealing cocaine, one A Misdemeanor count of dealing marijuana, and one A Felony count of dealing cocaine.

Christopher Johnson, 24, was charged with one A Misdemeanor count of dealing marijuana, two D Felony counts of dealing marijuana, one B Felony count of dealing cocaine, and one A Felony count of dealing cocaine.

Gary Haney, 20, was charged with one B Felony count of dealing Schedule I, II, and III drugs,

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Minimum wage going up, little help as costs soar

WASHINGTON (AP) – About 2 million Americans get a raise Thursday as the federal minimum wage rises 70 cents. The bad news: Higher gas and food prices are swallowing it up, and some small businesses will pass the cost of the wage hike to consumers.

The increase, from \$5.85 to \$6.55 per hour, is the second of three annual increases required by a 2007 law. Next year's boost

will bring the federal minimum to \$7.25 an hour.

Workers like Walter Jasper, who earns minimum wage at a car wash in Nashville, Tenn., are happy to take the raise, but will still struggle with the higher gas and food prices hammering Americans.

"It will help out a little," said Jasper, who with his fiancée support a family of seven, and who earns the minimum plus commissions

when customers order premium car-wash services.

The bus fare he pays each day to get to work already went up to \$4.80 this spring from \$4. "I'd like to be on a job where I can at least get a car," he said.

Last week, the Labor Department reported the fastest inflation since 1991—5 percent for June compared with a year earlier. Energy costs soared nearly 25 percent. The price

of food rose more than 5 percent.

So the minimum wage hike is "a drop in the bucket compared to the increases in costs, declining labor market, and declining household wealth that consumers have experienced in the past year," Lehman Brothers economist Zach Pandl said.

The new minimum is less than the inflation-adjusted 1997 level of \$7.02, and far below the inflation-adjusted level of \$10.06 from 40 years ago, according to a Labor Department inflation calculator.

Twenty-three states and the District of Columbia have laws making the minimum wage higher than the new federal requirement, a group covering 60 percent of U.S. workers, according to the Economic Policy Institute, a think tank.

"You get desperate, because you can't really pay for everything," said Gladys Lopez, 51, a garment worker from Adjuntas, Puerto Rico, who makes military uniforms and has earned the federal minimum for 18 years.

She says she would need to make at least \$50 more a week to pay all her bills and take care of her 84-year-old mother, whom she supports.

When the minimum rises again next year, catching up with more states, more than 5 million workers will get a raise, said Lisa Lynch, dean of the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.

Some small businesses are

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JUST IN TIME FOR SWISS DAYS, THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING GETS A SIGN—Above from left to right: Officer Jason Oswalt, Officer Corey Sparks, Officer Earl Hough, Mayor John Minch, and John Kirchoffer as they installed landscaping around the new City of Berne Public Safety Building sign on Tuesday. The plants were a gift from John Kirchoffer. [Photo submitted]

Swiss Heritage covered bridge represents a lifetime of enjoyment for Amos Schwartz

By Jim Langham

When Amos Schwartz walks through the bridge at Swiss Heritage Village these days, he beams with a sense of accomplishment much greater than the structure he was responsible for.

The bridge, documented with the state as, "Schwartz Covered Bridge No. 2," represents a lifetime of memories that began when he started assisting his father in remodeling barns. "Schwartz Covered Bridge No. 1" is located at Wabash Valley Golf Course near Geneva, a spread that has always given sanctuary and enjoyment to the noted construction expert.

Schwartz noted that over the years he has had a passion for examining the exactness of the construction of old buildings, particularly barns. It has been Schwartz's preoccupation with studying old structures that has contributed to his own success in restoration.

"When I see those barns and old buildings, it blows my mind to see how good the workmanship was, especially with the tools that they had," said Schwartz. "It's so neat to

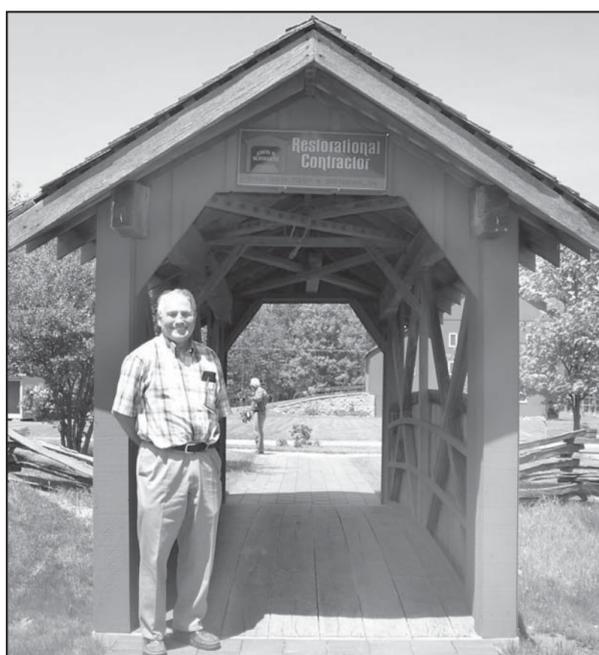
take someone else's work, add your work, and make it look like nothing had been done to it."

Schwartz's interest in restoring covered bridges can at least be traced back to the time when he assisted his brother, Sol, in remodeling the Ceylon Covered Bridge. In 1965, when the Limberlost Cabin in Geneva was given to the state of Indiana, he was asked to assist in its restoration.

"We did crosscut oak on the stairway in such a way that you couldn't even see that we replaced it," observed Schwartz. "When that project was completed, the state's Department of Natural Resources started asking us to work on other projects for them."

The combination of Schwartz's excellence in the bridge and cabin projects quickly spread throughout state circles. Within a short time, he was working on restoration projects in Metamora, Madison, New Harmony, Potato Creek and other historic areas.

Schwartz credits his Amish background and careful learning habits he acquired from his father for his



Local resident Amos Schwartz, well-known for his restoration of classic structures around the state, feels a sense of kinship for the covered bridge that he constructed at the entrance of Swiss Heritage Village. [Photo by Jim Langham]

lifetime of success.

"I feel that the entire ride has been helped by my Amish background, my Swiss background," Schwartz said. "That gave me the love to do these old buildings and restore them the way that I do. Because of that, I really take a lot of pride in all that has been accomplished at Swiss Heritage Village."

Because of that, no project has been more dear to Schwartz's heart than the village's cider press. Schwartz still recalls the day that he traveled with the late Claren Neuschwander to view the press, which was located off of Indiana 5 north of Huntington.

"When they started talking about a cider press, I had no idea that they were talking about a monstrosity like this," observed Schwartz. "A building had collapsed on it. When that happens with some of these old buildings, it looks like they could never be restored."

"It took so much money to tear that press apart," continued Schwartz. "Once we had a chance to look at it, it was obvious that everything was still working fine.

We asked the state to come and look at it. I told them that we know that we still have things to do, but we want to stay historically correct."

Once the press got going, state officials mandated that its product be tested for safety. Schwartz said that their testing indicated that it was some of the purest cider in the state.

In addition to bridges, Schwartz also traveled throughout the region, Indiana and Ohio, to assist in restoring mills and mill wheels. During his travels, the local entrepreneur had the opportunity to meet many noted people.

One of his biggest joys was that of meeting Bob Evans. In fact, Schwartz stayed in Evans' homes many times when he was working in that region. He also had the opportunity to meet many politicians, including the late President, Gerald Ford.

In Jasper, a town made famous by association with Abraham Lincoln, Schwartz worked on a mill. In New Harmony, his business constructed a brick wall. But in spite of his

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Muselman

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Potter said that although she hadn't had the opportunity to get to know the Muselman on a real deep level, she has been greatly touched by those who do. She said that she began to realize what deeply they were from comments she heard when the Chamber of Commerce recognized them with a lifetime achievement award this past January.

"Throughout the years, Art and Gloria Muselman lived a life of service, gratitude, and humility," stated a news release from the Chamber of Commerce. "Art and Gloria's unprecedented generosity and involvement in the community have made them outstanding assets of Berne. The Berne Chamber of Commerce honors Art and Gloria's lives by bestowing posthumously upon them the distinct tribute of Swiss Days 2008 Grand Marshal."

In addition to community-wide business accomplishments, Art was a 49-year member and past president of the Berne Rotary Club. He was also a founding director of the Wabash Valley Golf Club and served on the Swiss Village Board of Directors for 31 years. Gloria served as a leader in the Wabash Cloverleaf 4-H Club, was a founding director of the Swiss Heritage Society, a member of the Berne Mother's Club, and a South Adams Music Booster.

But it was in the area faith where many remembered the Muselmans on a community-wide basis and beyond. The Muselmans were extremely active in Peace Lutheran Church. Their mission outreach included deep commitment to Christian Radio Station WBCL in Fort Wayne, Taylor University, and to various commitments in Florida.

Members of the Muselman family representing Art and Gloria include Roger and Naomi Muselman, with their children, Sarah, Mark and David, and David and Karen Thomas, with children, Luke, John Paul, and Mary Esther.

Berne Mayor John Minch lauded the Muselmans for their contributions to Berne, especially their zeal and commitment to the wellness center that is currently under construction.

"They had a very loving vision for this community and cared for and loved the people here," said Minch.

In other comments, Minch emphasized the fact that the music of the opening ceremony, and other music throughout Swiss Days, will be presented on a stand located close to the site of the original Berne bandstand.

"Isn't it something how things come full circle," said Minch. "Live

Minimum wage

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already making plans to raise prices to offset the higher wages they have to pay their workers.

David Heath, owner of Tiki Tan in College Station, Texas, said the increase will force him to raise prices for his monthly tanning services by about 12 percent. Tiki Tan had been paying its employees \$6 per hour.

"There just isn't any room for profit, and so this is why prices will have to go up," he said, citing the wage increase and higher fuel costs. "I have to recoup those costs."

The increase in the minimum wage could push food prices even higher by rising the pay for agricultural workers, said Brian Bethune, chief U.S. economist at consulting firm Global Insight.

But he said he did not expect the change to have a major impact on the economy because recent increases in productivity, which enables companies to produce more with fewer workers, are keeping labor costs in check.

That makes it unlikely the minimum wage increase will trigger a "wage-price spiral," in which workers facing higher costs demand more pay, which in turn causes companies to raise prices higher, sending inflation coursing through the economy.

And most businesses, even restaurants and other service sector companies, already pay above the minimum wage anyway. Dan Whitaker, general manager at Anis Bistro in Atlanta, a casual French restaurant, said employees earn at least \$8 an hour.

"You can't get a dishwasher for minimum wage," he said.

Schwartz

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regional travel, Schwartz's heart always returned to his Adams County roots where he had been raised as one of 19 children by his parents, John P. and Barbara Schwartz.

In recent years, Schwartz and his wife, Neva, have continued to devote more time to Swiss Heritage Village.

"The thing that means the most to me about all of this (Swiss Heritage) is that it shows what a community can do when it puts its mind to it," noted Schwartz. "My wife, Neva, has also taken an extreme interest in all of this and the history of it. We are so fortunate to have such good board members with a vision that keeps moving along."

"I've never made big money in all of it," continued Schwartz. "When you restore something, it takes a lot more money than what

meets the eye. Many times, you would get beyond the point of no return in a project, and there wasn't enough money to complete it. But you kept going because of the pride and love you felt in the completed restoration."

"I used to have a lot more energy than I do now," added Schwartz. "Hard work has been a part of my background. My sister and I peddled vegetables in a buggy when I was 13-years old. It's really been a journey."

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Tuesday, July 29
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Wednesday, July 30
Harness Racing - 11:00 a.m.
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Thursday, July 31
Senior Citizens' Recognition - 3:00 p.m.
Classic Car Cruise-In - 4:00-8:00 p.m.
Phil Dirt & the Dozers Concert - 8:00 p.m.

Friday, August 1
Lonestar with Cook & Belle - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 2
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Bloodmobiles scheduled

There will be three bloodmobiles in Adams County the week of July 28. With the support of Meshberger Brothers Stone Corporation, the Adams County Chapter of the American Red Cross will host a bloodmobile on Monday, July 28 from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Lehman Park Pavilion in Berne. On Thursday, July 31, there will be a bloodmobile at the VFW #6751 in Geneva from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m., and with the support of Adams Memorial Hospital, the Adams County chapter will host a bloodmobile on Friday, August 1 from 10: a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the hospital.

Blood supplies are critically low in this and the surrounding areas. Anyone who is at least 17 years of age, weighs a minimum of 110 pounds, and is in good general health may be eligible to donate blood. For more information or to schedule your blood donation appointment, call 1-800-Give-Life (1-800-448-3543).



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