

# THE NITTY GRITTY

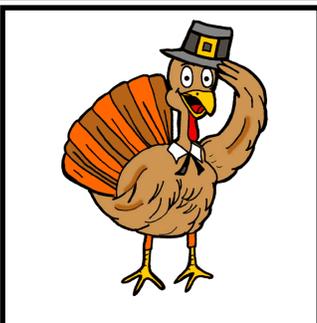


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## Events

- Lions Club—2nd & 4th Mondays, 7 pm at Christ UMC
- Sunday Worship, Christ UMC, 9:00 am; Sunday School, 10:00 am
- Council meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, Village Hall, 7 pm
- Food Pantry, 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 10 am; Christ UMC



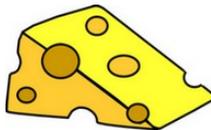
## BLOOD DRIVE

Please come and donate blood at Christ UMC on Tuesday, November 24 between 1pm and 7 pm. There is a critical need for blood products. Appointments may be scheduled at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or walk-ins are welcome. All blood donations are tested for Covid-19 antibodies. If you are full covered from the coronavirus, you may be able to donate convalescent plasma.



## AMISH CHEESE SALE

The Amish Cheese will be arriving November 14. The club has ordered some extras, so if you didn't get an order in, contact a club member. Cheese is sold in one pound packages. Cost is \$7.00 per pound. Available varieties are: colby jack, pepper jack, mild cheddar, smoked cheddar, smoked Gouda, baby Swiss, mozzarella, roasted garlic, green onion, and horseradish. Cheese comes from Yoder's in Shipshewana. This one of the club's biggest fund-raisers. With the Lions Club, all funds earned are required to be used in service projects, no funds are used for administrative costs.



## *From Portage Yesteryear . . .*

### PORTAGE BUSINESS DISTRICT IS SWEEP BY FIRE SUNDAY

Four Buildings Destroyed by Flames in Temperature of Four Above Zero

Reprinted from the Sentinel-Tribune, December 23, 1935

Undaunted by total destruction of four buildings which were razed by racing tongues of flame Sunday morning, victims of the Portage fires today are making plans to resume business as soon as possible in new headquarters.

Total destruction of four buildings in the heart of the business district was recorded, making losses amounting to approximately \$36,600 according to rough estimates made by those involved this morning. Much of the loss was insured, it was declared.

Buildings and business establishment involved in the fire were as follows: Winton and Kinney Grocery in a 2 story frame building owned by Amos Valentine; Dale

Continued on the next page

## **24/7 Recycling**

Plastic #1-7  
Flattened Cardboard  
Paper  
Aluminum/Steel  
Cans  
Glass  
No plastic bags  
*Located Behind the  
Village Hall*

## **Agape Food Pantry**

The Agape  
Food Pantry  
(formerly the  
Portage Food  
Pantry) is open  
the second and  
fourth



Saturdays of  
the month for one hour, starting  
at 10 am. If you need food come,  
and get what you need. If you  
are interested in seeing our  
changes, come and visit us. We  
have a whole new set up and a  
lot more variety of food items as  
well as some non-food items (like  
shampoo, soap, etc). Visit us at  
301 West Main Street, located  
within Christ UMC. If you are  
interested in helping, bring  
donations during pantry hours.

The Nitty Gritty is sponsored  
by the Portage Lions Club.  
Send comments and  
suggestions to  
portagelions@dacor.net.

## *From Portage Yesteryear . . .*

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McKinnis Barber Shop in a 1 story brick building owned by Harry Hatfield, Jr; LS Hatfield Grocery Store in a 2 story frame building owned by LS Hatfield; Ruby Hottinger's Restaurant in a 2 story frame building owned by W. Koons; Repair shop and filling station owned by AW Koons.

Windows of buildings across the street were broken by the heat and there numerous small roof fires discovered in some of the neighborhood structures as sparks flew helter-skelter about the village. Principal building involved in this manner was the Saylor Hardware store in the northeast corner of the main cross there. This store just changed hands on last "Friday the thirteenth" when Marshall Winton took charge. He was lucky today to have his store.

The fire apparently started in the back of the Winton and Kinney Grocery store early in the morning. The cause could not be learned. Different theories existed, many thinking that the truck, ice box or meat case had developed a short.

By five o'clock the flames had gained considerable headway when Junior Gillian, on his way to work for the Model Dairy, discovered them and called Edna Ray, Portage central, who sounded the general alarm by calling all residents by telephone.

At that time an American Transport Company truck, of Detroit, stopped at the main corners and turned on their air horn for a full 15 minutes. Shotguns were also employed to awaken residents it was said.

A bucket brigade was hastily formed while urgent calls for aid were sent to neighboring towns. Men, women and children hauled water from nearby wells in a futile effort to combat the rapidly gaining fire with its terrific heat

Upstairs above their restaurant, Ruby Hottinger and her son John, together with Mr and Mrs Charles Thiebaut in a double apartment were aroused and had time to get much furniture and clothing out of their building before the fire reached it.

Dale McKinnis saved a cash register and a few tools in the barber shop and Leonard Hatfield had only enough time to rush into grocery and retrieve his file case from the hungry flames.

The Cygnet fire department arrived first, a short time after the alarm was received and did a noble job in saving the hardware building by pouring water on the side and roof They wasted no time in trying to save any of the flaming structures which were already far beyond help.

The Bowling Green Fire Department received the first alarm at five thirty but Galen George, the only fireman on duty, was powerless to respond because of local statutes. A couple more calls finally aroused Fireman Jim Smith, who reported and then officers authorized release of a local truck to go to Portage.

The BG truck arrived there at six thirty and strung some hose to aid in preventing the spread of the fire southward. The Weston fire truck arrived and also did some fine work in stopping the spread of the blaze.

They succeeding in stopping the conflagration after one wall and some of the roof of the Koons Repair Shop had burned.

Fireman and the Portage bucket brigade suffered badly from the four above zero temperature which prevailed.

Coal piles back of the two grocery stores and restaurant continued to burn late last night

No one was injured during the battle with the flames.

Plans for re-opening of his grocery store were announced this morning by Leonard S Hatfield, Portage, following the loss of this place of business.