

Scout restores signs to earn Eagle award

By **TABITHA GOODLING**
Sentinel correspondent

There are new white signs along Route 35 at both ends of the village of McAlisterville. The signs declaring “The churches of McAlisterville welcome you” were made possible by a young man who achieved his childhood dream.

Seventeen-year-old Cody Shadel is not one normally found in the spotlight. He’s not the captain of the football team. He’s not the lead in the school play. He’s not the class clown or at the top of his class.

But the quiet East Juniata High School junior is making big accomplishments that support the community and will pave a way for his future simply by being himself.

Cody will achieve the status of Eagle Scout following his 18th birthday on March 27. He is a part of McAlisterville Troop 65. Cody started with the troop at the age of 7 as a Cub Scout. Like all Cubs, his ultimate dream was to become an Eagle Scout.

Cody’s mother, Christine Shadel, says that has been his goal from the very beginning.

When Cody came home at age 7 from his first Cub Scout meeting, “He said, ‘I’m going to be an Eagle Scout.’ That’s been the goal.”

But it is no easy task and most boys do not reach the top honor.

Only 2 percent of all young men who are a part of Boy Scouts of America achieve the ranking. It is a process that requires earning at least 21 merit badges.

Around age 11, boys may begin meeting a host of requirements to rise up through the ranks — Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life. The young men must show a board of reviewers their skills, such as first aid procedures, tying various knots, attending conferences, cooking skills at camp sites, rescue skills, and leadership ability, among other requirements.

The next step is Eagle Scout, which is no small feat.

The young men hoping to achieve Eagle Scout status must, among other requirements, complete a service project that aides a religious institution, school or community.

Continued on Page 16



Left — Having met all the requirements, Cody Shadel, of McAlisterville, will become an Eagle Scout after he turns 18 in March.

Sentinel photo by BRADLEY KREITZER

Below — Cody, right, and his father, Dan Shadel, center, worked together on the project. His friend and fellow scout, Patrick Fitzgerald, helped to set the signs into place.

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Sentinel photo by BRADLEY KREITZER

Cody Shadel restored the welcome signs in McAlisterville.

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