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Vertical Wellness reaches agreement with state

BY MICHELE VOWELL
AND JON RUSSELBURG
CADIZ RECORD MANAGING EDITOR
AND NEW ERA EDITOR

Vertical Wellness hemp plant in Cadiz has reached an agreement with the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet to temporarily reopen its plant while it works to rectify failures to follow state regulations.

Earlier in the year, Trigg County residents informed the cabinet that they believed the plant, located at 134 Roger Thomas Road, was not operating within the state's environmental guidelines. The cabinet reported that since March 30, it had received 22 complaints from 10

different citizens.

Court records obtained by the New Era shed more light on the story.

On Nov. 10, the Energy and Environment Cabinet filed an order to discontinue, abate and alleviate against the hemp plant, effectively shutting down the plant. The order found three areas of wrongdoing by the plant.

OPERATION WITHOUT A PERMIT

The plant was accused of operating without proper permits. According to court documents, around April 1, representatives

of the cabinet's Division for Air Quality inspected the Vertical Wellness site in response to claims that the site had "a smoke stack emitting a burning smell."

The state representatives found a white plume emanating from a stack, and that the plant was operating without a permit or registration for the emission.

"... an employee of Vertical Wellness admitted that the site was constructed in December 2019 and had been operating since February 2020," the court records state.

The records go on to say the plant constructed and continues to construct additional emissions

units prior to submitting a registration application or obtaining a permit. Both of those actions are violations of the Kentucky Administrative Regulations.

The records state that the violations endanger the health and welfare of the people of the commonwealth.

From July 20 to Oct. 22, the plant increased its production throughput by 500%, from around 20,000 pounds per day to 100,000 pounds per day. The records indicate that the plant did not have proper permits for the increase.

At the time of the order's filing, the plant's most recent per-

mit application allowed the plant to process 96,000 pounds per day.

The records state, "the frequency of complaints regarding the odor of emissions emanating from the site has increased proportionately with the increased unpermitted operation and throughput at the site."

VIOLATION OF THE SECONDARY AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARD

Around Sept. 15, a representative of the DAQ again inspected the plant in response to

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Photos provided

Homemade caramel pies topped with meringue were made by Carolyn Bland of Trigg County.

GIVING THANKS

BY MICHELE VOWELL
CADIZ RECORD MANAGING EDITOR

A holiday of tradition, Thanksgiving for many families is a day to reflect on the past, appreciate the present and to look forward to the future.

For Carolyn Bland, Thanksgiving brings back memories growing up on a farm near Linton in Trigg County.

"It was always the slowing down of time," she said. "Thanking God for the harvest we had and the family, neighbors and friends. Just being blessed with all the things necessary to maintain life."

As a Trigg County Extension Homemaker At Large, Bland said she learned how to appreciate the little things in life, while learning family

traditions from her mother, Maxine Ford.

"My mother was a renowned cook," she said. "She baked. We would have an array of desserts."

Among those holiday treats Bland enjoyed growing up were boiled custard, coconut cake and chocolate pie.

"My family likes sweet potato pie, instead of pumpkin pie," Bland said.

Like her mother, Bland said she enjoys baking.

"That's where I'm my happiest — is in my kitchen," she said.

For Thanksgiving, homemade caramel pie with meringue is a family favorite.

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Trigg County Homemaker At-Large Carolyn Bland stirs the filling for a caramel pie inspired by her mother's dessert recipes. Bland grew up on a farm in Linton and remembers Thanksgiving as a special holiday for her family.

Trigg hospital prepping for COVID-19 vaccine storage

BY MICHELE VOWELL
CADIZ RECORD MANAGING EDITOR

With national news reporting at least two COVID-19 vaccines are testing more than 90% effective, Trigg County Hospital is preparing for the future.

Members of the hospital board approved the purchase of a freezer at its Thursday night meeting, which would be used to store the vaccines when they are FDA approved and distributed across the country.

John Sumner, hospital CEO, said the drugs have to be held in extremely cold temperatures and said these freezers cost between \$10,000 and \$13,000.

"We don't have all of the information, we just think we need to

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HES, Pennyrile Electric announce plans for internet service

BY TONYA S. GRACE
CADIZ RECORD STAFF WRITER

Representatives of Hopkinsville Electric System and the Pennyrile Rural Electric Cooperative Corp., were on hand last week to announce plans for internet service in Trigg County.

"We're looking for some cheerleaders in the community," explained Alan Gates, president and CEO of Pennyrile Electric, during an announcement of the expansion

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