(continued from page 1)

Field said the name comes from the sound they make when scared.

He explained a method he uses to chase them away. "I patrol the farm every night in the spring. If there's a hole that I find, I fill it up. If the woodchuck digs it back out the next day, then I know he's in there. I put a smoke bomb in and cover it back up. It's a real war. It's straight out of Caddyshack. There's no other way," he said.

Farming is in Field's blood. He grew up on the family farm, Grassy Ridge Orchard, an apple orchard and vegetable farm, which is 1 1/2 miles down the road. His brother, Mark, operates the orchard today.

"If you want some good cider, and I'm not bragging, he makes absolutely the best cider anywhere. He blends real good tart apples with sweet apples. "

The cider is sold at Whistle Pig. "We're trying to co-promote both farms.'

On fall weekends, Stacy puts out fresh, chilled apple cider samples, greets visitors, runs the register and does just about everything else that needs to get done.

Joel Field says the couple is proud to instill the work ethic in their three children. Shamus, 14, operates the tractors. "Whenever I can, I take him out and make him drive. He was a little nervous at first, but he's got some confidence to him now," Field says.



Joel Fields, owner of the Whistle Pig Pumpkin Patch, Noxen, holds the bridle for Frank Harvey's set of draft horses from Centermoreland. The horses pull wagons for hay rides at the farm.

Natasha, 12, runs the cash register, and son Zach, 6, is the tour guide on the hayrides. "This summer they were out of bed every day at 6:30 to work in strawberry patch. They kept it weed free."

Field is teaching them what his parents taught him, he says; Work hard and you'll achieve something."

Field explained how they made the 3-acre corn maze. "We planted the corn in two directions so it is thicker than a normal corn field. We took a dry marker board and said, 'let's try a pinwheel, let's try some concentric circles,'

When the corn was only a few inches high, he placed flags around to make the design. "Then we went in and mowed it with a common lawn mower. There may be a better way of doing it, I don't know because this is my first year doing a corn

A friend with an airplane flew Field and his daughter over the maze to take an aerial picture. "Natasha had never flown before. We were a little nervous at first, because we're not a strong stomach family, but she did great."

Field likes the challenge of creating a new kind of business for himself and his family.

"I like to learn as I go," he said. "Farming isn't simple, it's really complicated, so I like to



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Josh and Justin Winters, Noxen, enjoyed jumping off the hay bale fort built for kids at the Whistle Pig Pumpkin Patch.

learn on a smaller scale. I get you don't do it right and do it better each year. You have one carefully, you can waste a lot of shot a year to get a crop out. If money and time."

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association members spotted an opportunity within the debris.

The group had beautified the islands — one large and two small — a decade ago, but in the years since they had been infiltrated by weeds. Members had been talking about a new project for three years. Then, one day in July, Sobeck noticed that the water company was tearing up the large island.

"We needed a spark to get it going," he said, and this was it. Not only that, Sobeck found a willing partner in the water company, which had taken over neglected systems once owned by National

Utilities. Sobeck said the project, which will include "hundreds and hundreds" of flowers that will bloom from spring through fall, an irrigation system and lighting, will cost \$16,000. There will even be a topiary, a sculptured evergreen, "hopefully shaped like a sailboat."

Rather than simply restore the large island to its former state, United Water has agreed to contribute \$6,000, and provide equipment to do some of the work.

The association has budgeted \$4,000 from its treasury, and this week launched a fundraising campaign to its 171 members seeking the remaining \$6,000. There are four levels of funding: silver at \$100; gold at \$250; platinum at \$500 and major sponsors at \$1,000. Sobeck and Matt DePrimo are chairing the fund drive.

Supporters' will be acknowledged by having their names and gift level engraved on a plaque that will hang inside the municipal authority building.

Sobeck said at least one business is considering a major contribution, and if donations exceed the goal, less will be taken from the association's treasury, leaving funds for other projects.

TO HELP OUT

Send contributions for the Harveys Lake traffic island beautification project to: Harveys Lake Protective Ass'n

P.O. Box 45, Harveys Lake, PA 18618 Note "Island project" on checks



traffic islands at the intersection of Route 415 and Lakeside

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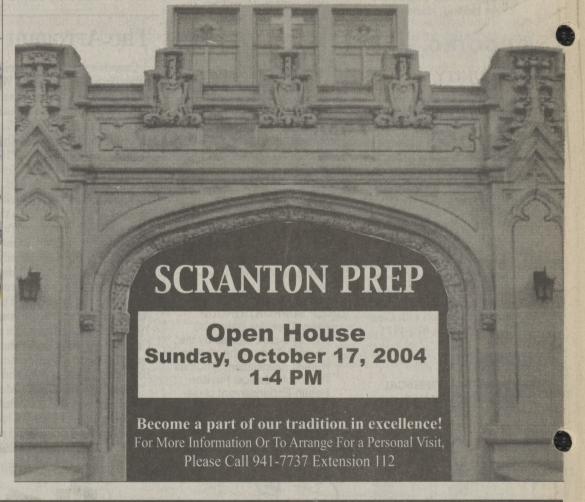
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