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June 16, 2017

## Press Release - For Immediate Release

### **Honoring Kevin and Barb Wurtz**

The Union County Child Protection Team, which is an organization within Union County filled by the State's Attorney's Office, Law Enforcement professionals, school administrators and counselors, medical personnel, forensic interviews, social workers, and other professionals who provide services to families with children in Union County, meet on a regular basis to address issues within Union County that involve children. The goal of this team is identify issues involving children and families with children that could use assistance or intervention prior to the child or the family entering the court system. When those families and / or children are involved in the court system, the team's goal is to identify the best way to provide services to those families.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and each April our Child Protection Team brings awareness by celebrating and highlighting the efforts of those in our community who go above and beyond when it comes to the interests of children. This year, the Union County Child Protection Team wish to honor and highlight the effort of the husband and wife team of Kevin and Barb Wurtz. Kevin and Barb are well-known as the owners of Pioneer Drug and Edgar's Soda Fountain in Elk Point but their efforts in the community go far beyond their work as business owners. Since moving to Elk Point in 1975, Kevin and Barb have hosted the Edgar's youth basketball tournament for 27 years, only recently turning over the reins to the Elk Point-Jefferson basketball teams. The Wurtz's created the tournament, scheduled all of the games, lined up workers, and prepared all of the food necessary to feed those involved for 2 days. Barb ran the concession stand for the tournament and over the span of 27 years, cooked over 5400 hot dogs, 810 pounds of hamburger, and 945 pizzas. Barb did all of the cooking in her own kitchen which caused her son Mike (to this day) to dislike the smell of browning hamburger and onions. Barb and Kevin used the proceeds of the Edgar's tournament to give kids the opportunity to attend art, music, and sports camps.

Barb and Kevin also sponsor several youth sports teams and provide donations to special events, teams attending state tournaments, and kids who are attending pageants, camps, and trips. Kevin has also spent many hours coaching youth. They have also provided scholarships to graduating seniors and many Elk Point youth entered the work force being employed at the soda fountain and drug store.

Barb and Kevin believe in building our community. They have been spent many hours developing and maintaining Heritage Park here in Elk Point. They have been involved in organizing and supporting other community events such as 'Heritage Days' and 'Art in the Street.' This year's national theme for Child Abuse Prevention Month is 'Building Community, Building Hope' and we believe that Barb and Kevin Wurtz answered that calling through a life time of service to this community and we applaud their dedication to our youth and our community.

This award was presented in April and a very nice write up was done by the Elk Point Leader Courier. I and all of CPT thank Barb and Kevin for the service and the Leader Courier for their support and efforts to bring attention to Child Abuse Prevention Month.