



THE

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PERIODICALS
NEWSPAPER

"The people must know before they can act, and there is no educator to compare with the press." - Ida B. Wells

Vol. XVI, Issue 40

January 21, 2015

Knightstown, IN

Grants Workshop Wednesday, Feb. 4

The Henry County Community Foundation (HCCF) will be hosting its spring grants workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 4 p.m. It will be held at the New Castle-Henry County Public Library auditorium. Contact Jayanna Thompson at 765-529-2235 or info@henrycounty-cf.org to register.

First Baptist Church Hosting Breakfast

First Baptist Church of Knightstown, 210 E. Jackson St., will host a pancake breakfast on Saturday, Jan. 24, at 9 a.m. The community is invited. Menu includes scrambled eggs, bacon, donuts, muffins, milk and juice.

Carthage Council Meeting Thursday

The Carthage Town Council has rescheduled its January monthly meeting for this Thursday evening, Jan. 22. The town council, which normally meets the second Monday of each month, did not meet on Jan. 12 due to inclement weather. Thursday's meeting will be held in the council's regular meeting location, Carthage Town Hall, 6 W. First St., at 6 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

HKI Museum Open Fridays, Saturdays

The Historic Knightstown museum, located on the Public Square at 22 N. Washington St., will have new winter hours. Winter hours will be 10 a.m.-12 p.m. each Friday and Saturday. For more information, or to visit the museum by appointment, call David Steele at 765-345-7585. Membership payments (family, \$20; individual, \$15) may be mailed to HKI at P.O. Box 74, Knightstown, IN 46148.

Expiration Dates Appear on Labels

Attention Subscribers

The Banner no longer mails renewal notices to subscribers of the print edition. The expiration date of every subscription is printed on the top of the mailing label each week, right above the subscriber's name.



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CAB Board Leadership Unchanged

The top leadership of the Charles A. Beard School will remain unchanged in 2015.

Board members voted 7-0 last week, at their Jan. 13 organizational meeting, to keep Wade Beatty as the board's president. Don Scheumann - not Tom Schaetzle, as the county's daily newspaper misreported - was unanimously chosen to remain the board's vice president.

Several other appointments and organizational matters were also approved by 7-0 votes. John Swartz was approved as the board's secretary, replacing former board member Kevin Knott, who held that office in 2014, and Treasurer Stephanie Madison was approved to continue in that post. The board voted to keep the Noblesville law firm of Church Church Hittle & Antrim as CAB's attorneys.

Also remaining the same for 2015 will be the annual \$2,000 stipend paid to board members. This is the maximum amount of compensation state law allows school board members to receive.

Board members agreed to continue holding their monthly meetings at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at Knightstown High School. If additional meetings are needed, they will be held, if possible, on the first Tuesday.

The board approved Swartz as its legislative liaison for 2015, and Superintendent Jed Behny will continue as CAB's representative to the board that oversees the special education co-op to which the district belongs. School board member Gerald Leonard will represent CAB on the vocational education board.

Steve Ferrell was the only school board member to make a conflict of interest disclosure. He is the father of Madison, the treasurer.

At Beatty's urging, the school board did not make its appointment of a fifth, ex officio member to the Knightstown Department of Parks and Recreation Board at last week's meeting. Board members were expected to address that issue at last night's regular monthly meeting, which took place past the news deadline for this week's issue.

Just before the last week's organizational meeting was called to order, three board members, Beatty, Schaetzle and Cynthia "Suzee" Neal, were sworn in. Beatty, who defeated former school board member Tim Wehr in the fall election, is now in his third term on the board, while Schaetzle, who had twice been appointed to fill vacancies on the board, is starting his first full four-year term after running

See CAB, Page 3

Ridge Runners



A pair of deer were spotted on a ridge near Kennard Road last week. The animals are nicely silhouetted against a winter sunset. (Eric Cox photo)

Third Time's a Charm for Attorney as K-town Council Renews Contract

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

The third time did turn out to be the charm for the town of Knightstown's legal counsel.

Members of the Knightstown Town Council voted unanimously last week, at their Jan. 15 monthly meeting, to renew the legal services contract for attorney Gregg Morelock and his Greenfield law firm, Brand & Morelock, for 2015. This was the third time in as many meetings that this issue had been presented to the council for its consideration.

At the council's Dec. 18 monthly meeting, then-Vice President Cassandra Steele, whose term on the council ended Dec. 31, made a motion to renew Morelock's contract, but the motion died when none of the other council members seconded it. A similar motion made at a special meeting on Jan. 6 meeting did receive a second, but council member Clyde South, who made the motion, ended up withdrawing it before a vote could be taken.

When this issue came up at last week's meeting, Council President Cort Swincher said he wanted the council to have "multiple choices" when choosing its legal counsel, echoing comments he had made at the Dec. 18 and Jan. 6 meetings.

"I didn't think that was a big deal," Swincher said. "But, apparently, it was a large one."

When Swincher asked for feedback from other council members, South once again made a motion to renew Morelock's contract.

Council member Mitch Roland, who seconded the

motion, said he had not supported renewal of Morelock's contract at the two prior meetings, in part, for personal reasons, which he said was not appropriate. He also said that he felt if the town council thinks it wants to make a change in its legal representation, that issue should be addressed in the fall instead of waiting until the current contract has expired.

Before the vote on Morelock's contract, Swincher revealed that the two other attorneys who submitted

resumes and expressed interest in the town attorney position were Tony Saunders of New Castle and David Murphy of Greenfield. He said one of those two - he didn't specify which - would have charged less than Morelock's hourly rate of \$175, while the other would have charged the same.

Council member Valerie Trump, who seconded the motion to renew Morelock's contract at the Jan. 6 meeting, again spoke in favor of keeping him as the town's attorney.

As she had the week before, she again said that she felt Morelock had "the experience the town needs."

Swincher said he agreed that the choice was "pretty clear based on the resumes" that were submitted. He joined South and Trump, along with Roland and the council's newest member, Vice President Sarah Ward, in voting unanimously to renew Morelock's contract.

In a related matter, the council also voted unanimously to approve paying Morelock and his firm a monthly retainer of \$2,500 instead of paying the \$175 per hour proposed in the renewal contract. Morelock pointed out that this does not cover litigation or work

See Contract, Page 3

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Small Business Owners Invited to Social Networking Workshop

Social media is constantly evolving, and small business owners face a lot of questions about which platforms are best for business growth. "Social Media: What Your Small Business Needs to Know Today" will run from 8:30-10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 28, at the River Point Office Suites, 210 U.S. 52, in Rushville. The event is presented through a partnership with the East Central Indiana Small Business Development Center, inSourceCode, Rush County See Workshop, Page 3

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OBITUARIES

Betty O. Melton

August 21, 1940 - January 17, 2015

Betty O. Melton, 74, of Kennard, passed away Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015 at Hancock Regional Hospital. She was born Aug. 21, 1940, in Olive Hill, Ky., to the late Delbert and Leola (Logan) Conley, Sr.

Betty loved children, especially her children and grandchildren, and they were all a big part of her life. She enjoyed growing flowers, cooking holiday family dinners, telling stories to her grandchildren and shopping. She also enjoyed watching Steve and Bud race at the Mt. Lawn Speedway. Betty was a very good seamstress, making clothing for her children and even a wedding dress for a daughter-in-law. She was also active in the Boy Scouts for a number of years.

Betty is survived by her six children, Yvonne Mead of Crawfordsville, Edward "Bud" Harwood of Shirley, Kenny Harwood of Kennard, Tim Harwood of Shirley, Steve (Jennifer) Melton of New Castle, Robert Frazier of Kennard; 19 grandchildren, Misty (Todd) Garland, Michael (Katie) Mead, Megan Mead, Adrienne Compton, William Harwood, David Smith, Jeremy (Jenny) Harwood, Austin Harwood, Ray Harwood, Jennifer (Jimmy) Quinn, Steve (Brittany) Sanders, Nicole (Tyler) Smith, Brittany (Ryan) Tharpe, Somer Parker, Karina Bowling, Nikalas Roach, Cortnei Roach, Alyssa (Jeremy) Glover, and Stephanie Melton; many great-grandchildren; five siblings, Delbert (Karen) Conley Jr., Bonnie (Ronald) Gross, Barb (Wayne) Austin, Mary Lou Huckleby and Sue Parnley; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

In addition to her parents, Betty was preceded in death by husbands, Edward "Bucky" Harwood and Leon Melton; two grandchildren, Jesse Sanders and Johnny Harwood; and two daughters-in-law, Karen and Polly Harwood.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service in Knightstown with Rev. Ryan McCarty officiating. Burial will follow in McCray Cemetery. Friends may call from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be given to the Hancock Foundation, c/o Cancer Wing, 801 N. State St. Greenfield, IN 46140. Condolences or memories of Betty may be shared at www.Hinsey-Brown.com.

Alfred D. "Mick" Richey

January 28, 1925 - January 15, 2015

Alfred D. "Mick" Richey, age 89, of Greenfield, formerly of Shirley, passed away Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015, at Kearns Private Care Home in Greenfield.

He was born Jan. 28, 1925, in Marion County, the son of the late James and Blanche (Jessup) Richey. Mick was employed by Diamond Chain in Indianapolis for 20 years. He was a member of the New Castle Shriners Club, Masonic Lodge of Knightstown and the Scottish Rite in New Castle.

Survivors include a brother, Richard "Dick" (Dorothy) Richey; a sister-in-law, June Richey; six nephews; Mike (Marsha) Richey, David Richey, Richard "Rich" (Shari) Richey, Robin Richey, Kevin Richey and Jamie Maxwell; and three nieces, Pricilla "Pixie" (Roger) Kenyon, Marcia "Marty" (Tom) Elsworth and Nancy (Jim) Garrett

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Francis "Tippy" Richey in 2011; and a brother, James Richey, in 1976.

There will be no service per his wish. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Condo and Son Funeral Home in Wilkinson. Online condolence can be made at www.condoandson.com

KHS Hosting Financial Aid Workshop on Feb. 24

There are two nights this semester to help students with financial aid at Knightstown High School. On Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the KHS Media Center, the school will offer Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Filing Night, which is open to all seniors in Henry County and any community member that is filing their 2015-16 FAFSA.



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Those who attend should bring tax information and Social Security numbers, because they will log on and actually file their FAFSA forms. There will be a financial aid expert available to assist with the process of filing the application. Then, on Tuesday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the KHS cafeteria, juniors are invited to an early financial aid awareness workshop. ISM College Planning, Ivy Tech, and the KHS guidance staff will be there to help organize juniors and their families for their senior year. This workshop will explain what financial aid is and how to apply. Grants, scholarships, loans, FAFSA, and more will be explained.

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K-town Council Rescinds New Salary Ordinance

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

The Knightstown Town Council voted unanimously last week to rescind a salary ordinance it passed last month that gave pay raises of varying amounts to some town employees and officials.

Ordinance 9-2014, which set pay levels for 2015, was adopted after being passed 4-1 on two readings at the council's Dec. 18 monthly meeting, with council member Tony True dissenting. The hourly pay for many positions was increased 50 cents, amounting to raises ranging from 2.9 percent to 4 percent, while some received larger pay hikes and others received none.

There was no other discussion of the new salary ordinance's terms before the council took its votes on Dec. 18. In the days that followed, one council member expressed some remorse over not asking more questions about the pay increases.

Cort Swincher, the council's president for 2015, told The

Banner that Knightstown Clerk-Treasurer Bart Whitesitt had not provided council members with a copy of the previous year's salary ordinance so that a side-by-side comparison could be made with the new one under consideration. While he voted with Council President Clyde South, then-Vice President Cassandra Steele and Mitch Roland to approve the ordinance, Swincher said he had not realized the raises varied so much and that some employees received no increase.

Last week, at the council's Jan. 15 monthly meeting, South made a motion to rescind the salary ordinance. Roland seconded the motion.

Swincher asked that the council's office committee of Varlie Trump and Vice President Sarah Ward meet with Whitesitt to go over pay information and look at options. He apologized to a crowd of nearly three dozen, which included several town employees, for voting on the ordinance in December when he said he really

didn't have all the information needed to make an informed decision.

With no further discussion, the council voted 5-0 to rescind the salary ordinance. This action sends those town employees who received raises back to where they were at the end of 2014.

What the council's action will not do, however, is take away the 14.3-percent that the salary ordinance had given to council members, raising their annual salaries to \$4,000. That's because state statute, according to the town attorney and state officials, precludes them from lowering their pay.

The statute in question, Indiana Code 36-5-3-2(c), prohibits the town council from changing the pay for any elected officials in the year for which pay has been fixed. So, because the salary ordinance had set the council's pay for 2015, once Jan. 1 arrived, the council lost the legal authority to make any changes in pay this year for the town's elected officials.

The statute goes on to say that when the council does vote to make a change in pay, it cannot "be reduced below the amount set for the previous year." If the council were to vote this year to make a change in the pay for elected officials for 2016, it would seem that, since they would be taking their action in 2015, the "previous year" referred to in the statute would be 2014, not 2015.

Gregg Morelock, the town's legal counsel, told The Banner that

CAB, from Page 1

unopposed on the November ballot. New board member Neal, who also ran unopposed last fall, replaces Knott, who did not seek reelection to a third term.

he agreed that the newspaper's reading of the statute seemed to make sense. However, both he and Todd Caldwell, director for cities, towns and libraries at the Indiana State Board of Accounts, said case

law has interpreted the statute as preventing the council from ever lowering the pay of the town's elected officials, meaning the "previous year" in the statute would be
See Rescind, Page 7

Contract, from Page 1

on bond issues, and said the town would be charged at his hourly rate for work of that nature.

Trump, who made the motion to switch to the monthly payments, said she had reviewed Morelock's bills for the past two years and found that the town paid him \$20,515 in 2013 and \$28,470 in 2014. Due to the "large amount" of legal work that may be required this year, on issues involving the town's utilities and possible annexation efforts, she said she thought the monthly payments could end up being less than if the town paid Morelock by the hour.

Workshop, from Page 2

Chamber of Commerce, and Rush County Economic and Community Development Corporation.

Presenter Jerome Lodovisi serves as a product champion at inSourceCode, an Indianapolis-based marketing and web design firm. Lodovisi leads the Fight for Small Initiative and helps clients meet goals. During this presentation, attendees may ask any question related to social media. Lodovisi will answer questions and cover best practices and practical tips to use in the realm of social media.

Registration is required and can be done by calling Carolyn Bunzendahl with the Rush County EDCD at 765-938-3232 or logging on to www.isbdc.org and clicking on the "Workshops and Events" link.

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Published weekly except Christmas week by Knightstown Banner LLC at 24 N. Washington St., P.O. Box 116, Knightstown, Ind. 46148. Periodicals Postage Paid at Knightstown, Ind. 46148. Subscription rate is \$40 per year (in state), \$45 per year (out of state). Banner offices are open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. All correspondence may be directed to The Banner, Post Office Box 116, Knightstown, Ind. 46148. Telephone number is 765-345-2292. Fax number is 765-345-2113. E-mail: thebanner@embarqmail.com

Letters to the editor must be signed by the author and contain a work or home telephone number for verification purposes.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P.O. Box 116, Knightstown, Indiana 46148

Eric Cox - Editor and Publisher
Stacy Cox - General Manager

Printing Done by MidCountry Media of Knightstown

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Banner PERSPECTIVES

Aging Not Cause for Melancholy

My mother said, "When I sit real still so that my arthritis doesn't hurt, I don't feel as if I'm over 80 years old. I feel like I'm - oh - 32 or so."

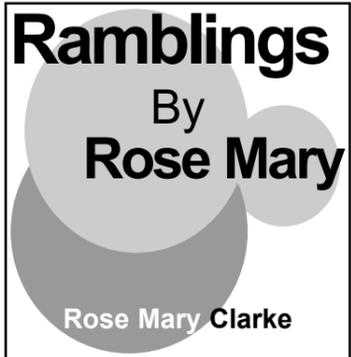
I understand that now. Sometimes there's a disconnect between the being we are at the core of our minds and the reality of our bodies. I've avoided looking at the underside of my chin since the day when I leaned over to dust a mirrored table. Eek!

In astrology, a cusp is a place between two signs or houses of the Zodiac. I had begun to think of myself as old at age 77. When I consider that my beloved friends Vivian and Imy are well over 100 years old, perhaps I need to adjust my thinking. Think of it: Imy's 30 years older than I. Now that's old! However, I don't think that I'm middle-aged anymore. Perhaps I'm a "tweener," caught between generational houses.

When I was an earnest college student my friends and I would muse about the eternal questions: "Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going?" Now those questions have arisen again during the fullness of my years. I've been blessed - cursed? - with an excellent memory that has stored vignettes and segments of my life in the trunks in my mind's attic. I know who I was and where I have been. However, even the near

future of tomorrow is terra incognita.

I think I've done pretty well at following Henry David Thoreau's dictum of living consciously and extracting the juice from every moment. He also admonishes us to love our life even if we live in a poorhouse. I have loved being alive.



According to astrology, I am a Gemini, one of the heavenly twins, thus double-natured. So, too, is life. I recognize the inevitability of irrevocable change and loss. I shall never again take long strides up a path beside a rushing, boulder-strewn creek in my beloved Teton Mountains ... During the past few years, 10 of my beloved nieces, nephews and great-nephews have passed away ...

Examining my life shows me that friendships have dwindled or weren't really true friendships. My

priorities have changed. Time was when I hustled and bustled, feeling the weight of responsibilities. Now in this cusp of time, much of what I devoted my time to doesn't seem of such great import. I am not melancholy about this or regret it. However, I've come to realize that as the circle of my life has tightened, I've become liberated from one-way friendships. I still write a daily to-do list, but I no longer feel guilty if I don't check off every item.

I've become like a caterpillar that has gorged on milkweed leaves and spun a cocoon around itself. One day a metamorphosis is complete, and the lowly, crawling caterpillar has been transformed into a lovely, ethereal Monarch butterfly. I have feasted on the rich pleasures and delights that life has to offer. I don't know what I would find were I to move on into a new "house," but I am content to rest here in the cozy cocoon of our home, liberated, and waiting for Spring. I don't really care that I don't have answers to the big eternal questions. I feel a great kinship with the native American woman who composed these lines:

"Here on this mountain I am not alone

For all the lives I used to be are with me.

All the lives tell me now I have
See Rose Mary, Page 6

Judge S. Hugh Dillon Changed My Life

United States District Court Judge S. Hugh Dillon changed my life in 1980. Dillon expanded his 1973 busing order aimed at desegregating Indianapolis Public Schools.

That meant thousands of inner city blacks would be bused to township schools in Indy's suburbs. Among them was my school district, the Metropolitan School District of Perry Township on the south side.

When I was in sixth grade at Meridian Middle School, busing began for me. I was paired with a "buddy" - a kid my age or a year younger, who was bused from their uptown neighborhood to my end of town.

His name was Alonzo Triplett, and I'll never forget him.

For me, it was the first time I'd ever spent any significant time with African-Americans. I knew nothing of their culture or how they lived.

Alonzo was a nice kid with a great sense of humor. He was bright, energetic and interested in learning about his new school. We shared some laughs and had a lot more in common than either of us probably ever imagined.

But, the new busing scenario was not without its problems. At first, racial fights were common in the school. America's own terrorist organization, the Ku Klux Klan, even picketed local roadsides, an embarrassment to me and some of my southside friends.

The rough spots smoothed out eventually. As we got into high school, we settled in with our new friends, some of whom - like my white friends - I'm still friends with today.

After all, these kids weren't any different from us. They wanted to play sports and excelled in various academic endeavors. Just like the whites, the blacks

had their standouts, their class clowns, their trouble-makers. After a while, it was all just fine because we realized our similarities were more common than our differences.

Alonzo and I remained friends, but drifted apart as we got older. I remember being dumbfounded when he told me about the 90-minute bus ride he had to endure getting to and from our far-southside schools. The black athletes with whom I played sports had it even worse, sometimes not returning home until 9 or 10 p.m. - homework still not done.

Some southside families opened their homes to these kids, particularly the athletes who would sometimes stay the night with friends to avoid the long travel times after ball practice.

Finding out about African-Americans via the controversial busing program, which continues today, was instrumental in my understanding of a different culture. I sincerely value those experiences and the life-long friends I made as a result.

With Martin Luther King Day a few days behind us, I wanted to share this important story because I think it fits nicely, particularly in light of all the racial tension in America that seems to have been swelling lately.

As human beings, we're all part of the same race. Typically, all it takes is a little curiosity and adventurous spirit to seek out that with which we are unfamiliar. Doing this sometimes sifts out fear of the unknown, something with which we've struggled since the dawn of human kind.

We all have the same hopes and dreams. The color of one's skin has nothing to do with that.



BANNER PERSPECTIVE

The signs are everywhere.

Elections brought new faces in local leadership. People are starting to attend Knightstown Town Council meetings. Social media is abuzz with good feelings. Positive talk about the future is blossoming all over town.

How refreshing is that?

It seems people have some real confidence in our new local leadership. The Banner agrees 100 percent. We've had some nice conversations with a few of these officials.

The result is that this newspaper shares in the confidence so many are apparently experiencing. We are hopeful things will progress and continue on a positive track.

New Town Council President Cort Swincher seems like an honest person who wants to see the community prosper. Likewise, interim Knightstown Police Chief Anthony Darling seems competent, professional and forthright. Sarah Ward is a welcome addition to the council, just like Valerie Trump.

So far, the current council leadership has been engaged, opting for a more inclusive approach to the citizens attending meetings.

The latter may be the most important facet in this blossoming positivity: The public is finally latching onto its role as the ultimate watchdog, and leaders are listening. With citizens also watching, maybe The Banner won't have to shoulder the entire oversight load, which we welcome, of course.

In the meantime, we'll do what we've always done. We'll watch all this very closely - particularly the money - so taxpayers can continue feeling confident and positive that maybe things really are turning around for Knightstown. Please, help us.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

If we are going to spend billions every year on health care and food assistance programs, then we need to start investing more of that money into sustainable projects that are nearly free or can pay for themselves over time. Community farms on every block would boost every local economy in this country.

I do not think it makes sense that we pay farmers to not grow certain crops while people go hungry. Farmers should be paid for their surpluses instead. Until we meet the needs of our own people, we are a poor example to the world. Not for long though - this generation is here to unite us.

This is how we put people back to work. We just need a New Deal that will allow us to build the food system in this country block by block just like we built up the roads and bridges. It is our most pressing need. Any initial costs would be made up after harvests and sales in the first year.

It will change our society when there is a local food system for every person. God willing, the people will eat and no one will go hungry. Everyone and everything will be free to live in social harmony when our basic needs are met.

Garrett Collins
Orange City, Fla.

Dear Editor,

An Open Letter to the Charles A. Beard Community -

Happy New Year and thank you for your dedication to Knightstown Civic Cheer Guild. With your help, we were able to serve 95 families, including 240 children! With this increase in numbers, we never could have done this without you! We would like to thank The Banner for helping us get the word out to the public on several occasions.

Many civic, church and school organizations, as well as private

See Letters, Page 12

The Banner values reader opinions and welcomes letters to the editor. To be considered for publication, letters must be signed by the author and contain a phone number and address for verification purposes. The Banner does not guarantee the veracity of factual assertions contained in letters to the editor, and their publication should in no way be construed as the newspaper's endorsement of the letters' contents. The opinions represented in letters to the editor, as well as any misstatement of fact therein, are solely those of the letters' authors. Letters to the editor may be edited, and, ideally, should be no more than 300 words in length.

EDITORIAL BOARD
Eric Cox - Editor & Publisher
Stacy Cox - General Manager
765-345-2292

THE **Banner**
a responsible community newspaper

"Freedom is hammered out on the anvil of discussion, dissent and debate."

Hubert H. Humphrey

BITS & PIECES

◆The town of Kennard has announced it will be meeting the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in 2015. Meetings will take place at Kennard Town Hall, 100 N. Main St. Due to the holiday, the Kennard Town Board has rescheduled its Jan. 1 meeting. The first meeting of the year will take place on Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.

◆The Carthage Town Council has rescheduled its January monthly meeting for this Thursday evening. The town council, which normally meets the second Monday of each month, did not meet on Jan. 12 due to inclement weather. Thursday's meeting will be held in the council's regular meeting location, Carthage Town Hall, 6 W. First St., at 6 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

◆Psi Iota Xi, Gamma Eta Chapter, Knightstown is sponsoring a fundraiser with Schwans Home Delivery Service. The sorority will receive a percentage on orders placed Jan. 15-March 1. To support this fundraiser, place an order online with Schwans.com. On the checkout page, indicate that a contribute to Fundraiser Campaign #18058, or PIX Knightstown. Call Schwans at 1-888-schwans (1-888-724-9267) to place an order.

◆First Baptist Church of

Knightstown, 210 E. Jackson St., will host a pancake breakfast on Saturday, Jan. 24, at 9 a.m. The community is invited. Menu includes scrambled eggs, bacon, donuts, muffins, milk and juice.

◆The Disabled American Veterans' mobile service officer van will be at Knightstown American Legion Post 152 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on July 17. For more information, call Morris Cole at 906-241-3565.

◆The Henry County Community Foundation (HCCF) will be hosting its spring grants workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 4 p.m. It will be held at the New Castle-Henry County Public Library auditorium. The workshop is for Henry County non-profit organizations wishing to submit an application for the spring 2015 community grant cycle. Attendance is mandatory for consideration. Applications and deadlines will be provided at the workshop. Seating is limited, please contact HCCF at 765-529-2235 to reserve a seat by Feb. 2. One seat per organization will be allotted. Contact Jayanna Thompson at 765-529-2235 or info@henrycountycf.org to register.

◆New Covenant Worship Center, 815 Western Rd., New

Castle, will host the inaugural Reflected Light Art Exhibition this spring. An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, May 1, 6-9 p.m. The event is free, open to the public and family-friendly. Featuring painting, ceramics, photography, mixed media, sculpture and more, the event also includes free refreshments. For more information, call Brian Russelburg at 317-652-3120 or e-mail silversilvervisage@gmail.com.

◆The Shirley Historical Society is raising money to restore a railroad caboose and purchase a motorized rail inspection car. The items will be placed near the Shirley railroad depot. Donations may be sent to Joan Cupp, P.O. Box 407, Shirley, IN 47384.

◆Anyone locating unwanted, unused or outdated prescription medications may dispose of them at the New Castle Police Dept., 227 N. Main St., or the Henry County Sheriff's Dept., 127 N. 12th St., New Castle.

◆The Historic Knightstown museum, located on the Public Square at 22 N. Washington St., will have new winter hours. Winter hours will be 10 a.m.-12 p.m. each Friday and Saturday. For more information, or to visit the museum by appointment, call David Steele at

765-345-7585. Family and individual HKI memberships are \$20 and \$15, respectively. Membership payments may be mailed to HKI at P.O. Box 74, Knightstown, IN 46148.

◆The Henry County Disabled American Veterans (DAV) organization meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Knightstown American Legion Post 152. DAV Service Officer Morris Cole encourages Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to attend so they can learn more about DAV benefits. Cole is available at Post 152 10 a.m.-3 p.m. each Friday. For more information, call 906-241-3565.

◆Alcoholics Anonymous meets weekly, on Tuesdays, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hoosier Gym (enter on East side). Meetings will continue each Tuesday at the same time and location. For more info, call 765-313-1637.

◆The Parish Clothes Closet, located in the basement of Bethel Presbyterian Church, 112 S. Franklin St., Knightstown, is open each Thursday from 3-5 p.m. Food is now available at the Closet. Call 345-5951 or 345-5930 for more info.

If you have an item that fits into Bits and Pieces, send it to thebanner@embarqmail.com.

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Local Appointments Made

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

New appointments were made last week to the Knightstown's plan commission, board of zoning appeals, and park board.

The Knightstown Town Council voted unanimously at its Jan. 15 monthly meeting to appoint two of its members, Valerie Trump and Clyde South, and town works manager Greg Neice to the seven-member Knightstown Plan Commission. Cort Swincher, who, as council president, gets to make four appointments to the plan commission, reappointed Marion Adkins to finish out the term on his seat, while two other plan commission members, President Rod Lingenfelter and Bill Bergmann, still have time remaining on their four-year terms.

Swincher declined to appoint someone to the plan commission's seventh seat at last week's meeting. He said he wanted to have to talk to the two
See Appointments, Page 12

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Former Knightstown Resident's Six-Year Effort Results in Stunning Tribute to Vets

by Logan Cox
for The Banner

Coming from a family with a storied past of military activity, Anderson resident Grace Atherton has always shown support to those who fight for her country's freedom. It is this sense of responsibility that inspired her massive artistic quilt that pays tribute to those who served, now on display at the Indiana War Memorial Museum.

The quilt took six years to complete. It features the photos of 58 servicemen and women transferred onto the fabric, some of which were signed personally by the veterans that are portrayed. In the center of the quilt is a painting that honors the soldiers who served from World War II to the present day.

"The only way I can describe this whole project is that we never expected it to get this big," said Atherton.

Having originally intended the quilt to be featured at a venue in her hometown to honor people who serve in the military on Memorial Day, Atherton never expected that her work of art would be displayed at the War Memorial Museum.

"By the time I finished the quilt, which was years later, I was living in Indianapolis at the time," she said. "So I thought it would be cool if we could put it in the library there, and that way a lot of people would be able to see it."

Around this time, the people of the Indiana War Memorial Museum reached out and offered to display the quilt themselves. Atherton and those at the Indianapolis Public Library agreed that it would be more fitting if it were displayed at the museum.

The quilt was only supposed to be up at the museum until Veterans Day of 2014, and then it was extended to the end of November. This was until a friend of Atherton's passed the story along to FOX-59. After this development, the quilt gained widespread acclaim throughout the state of Indiana.

"However, due to this story and then later the story by the Herald being shared all over the country in other newspapers, along with shares on social media and popular demand, we have extended the deadline for the quilt being at the Museum to at least Memorial Day of 2015."

Atherton now uses the quilt to inspire others to support soldiers by donating money to her beneficiary, Soldiers' Angels, a group dedicated

to delivering care packages to the people serving overseas. This is something Atherton herself has been actively involved in for some time. She has already collected \$3,350 of her \$10,500 fundraiser goal.

"I actually started thinking about doing the military quilt because my dad served," said Atherton. "He really inspired it, but I had also done a lot of study on my family history."

Her research into her family's genealogy turned out to be another major inspiration behind the creation of the quilt. Many of her great uncles served in WWII, and her own father is a veteran of the US Marines.

"I was reading about different people in my family who were in the military and what they went through. That helped me realize how much people have sacrificed for the freedom that we all experience."

Her grandmother also inspired the quilt and her interest in genealogy in spirit.

Atherton grew up seeing her grandmother's wall of photos displaying family members that served as soldiers, which she recalls were later featured in a newspaper.

Though she was a resident of Shelbyville for over 20 years, Atherton lived in Knightstown between the ages of two and four. She looks back on her time there as one of the coolest places she's ever lived, admiring the countryside and farmlands.

While living in Knightstown, she met the Aspling family who stayed with hers briefly. She remembers Mr. Aspling fondly, and recalls how he was another early inspiration for her support of soldiers. Mr. Aspling later agreed to be included on the tribute quilt, primarily to honor his own son who died in service to the military.

While she has always been eager to help others, Atherton is not used to being in the spotlight. The popularity of her quilt was somewhat overwhelming to her, but she felt a duty to let everyone know about it and what it stands for.

"I think about how much other people put on the line and that has given me the courage to do these interviews and to speak to people," said Atherton. "These people who I've never met, but are constantly making the ultimate sacrifices so that I and everyone else in this country can be free. I just think that's huge."



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MEETINGS CALENDAR

Wed., Jan. 21 - Knightstown Dept. of Parks & Recreation board meeting, 7 p.m., town hall back meeting room

Thurs., Jan. 22 - Hancock Co. Planning Commission plat committee meeting, 8:30 a.m., Courthouse Annex room 101, Greenfield

Thurs., Jan. 22 - Henry Co. Planning Commission, monthly

Rose Mary, from Page 4

come home.
All is a circle within me . . .
I have gone to the edge of the sky.
Now all is at peace within me.
Now all has a place to come

meeting, 7 p.m., Old Circuit Court Room at courthouse, New Castle

Mon., Jan. 26 - Rush Co. Commissioners meeting, 9 a.m., courthouse room 103, Rushville

Tues., Jan. 27 - Hancock Co. Planning Commission monthly hearing, 6:30 p.m., Courthouse Annex room 101, Greenfield

Tues., Jan. 27 - Rush Co.

home."
I, too, see the circularity of life. Everything I ever was, everything I ever enjoyed, everyone I ever loved is still present within me.
wclarke@comcast.net

Area Plan Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m., courthouse assembly room, Rushville

Wed., Jan. 28 - Henry Co. Council meeting, 3:30 p.m., Old Circuit Court Room at courthouse, New Castle

Wed., Jan. 28 - Henry Co. Commissioners meeting, 6 p.m., Old Circuit Court Room at courthouse, New Castle

Thurs., Jan. 29 - Hancock Co. Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, 6:30 p.m., Courthouse Annex room 101, Greenfield

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FOLKWAYS

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Camp will be presented and discussed.

"We'd love to connect with community leaders, business owners, and concerned adults from the Henry County region," noted Brett Fischer, founder of Victory Lane Camp. "We're excited about the progress we have seen in our first two years and would like to share what's on the horizon for Victory Lane Camp."

Seating is limited and reservations are required. RSVP by calling 765-591-4191 or sending an e-mail to victory@victorylanecamp.org.

Wayne Twp. Board Meets Jan. 27

The Wayne Township Board will hold its first meeting of 2015 on Tuesday, Jan. 27.

The meeting notice issued by Wayne Township Trustee Randy Overman did not specify what items of business would be addressed at the meeting. However, Overman previously told The Banner the board will review his annual report at the meeting, and board members are expected to elect officers, something that, according to state statute, should have been done no later than Jan. 6.

Tuesday's meeting is being held at the Knightstown-Wayne Township Fire Department, 30 S. Washington St., at 7 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

Rescind, from Page 3

2015 for pay levels for 2016.

While they may now be prevented from officially voting to change their salaries back to 2014 levels, or to give themselves more modest raises, Morelock acknowledged that there is one avenue of recourse always available: Council members are always free to voluntarily refund or refuse any portion of their pay they do not wish to accept.

Homemakers Enjoy Christmas Party

On Dec. 2, eight members of the Town and Country Homemakers Club began the celebration of the Christmas season with the annual club Christmas party.

The celebration began with members meeting at the home of Pam Bever and traveling to Indianapolis to the Hollyhock Hill restaurant. The restaurant was beautifully decorated for Christmas, and members enjoyed a delicious meal.

After dinner, the club returned to Bever's home for their gift exchange, and dessert. Bever and Judy Martin creatively carried out the theme of "Mrs. Claus" in the decorations and favors on the table.

A game of "Christmas Bingo" was enjoyed, with

Sonnie Thompson and Melody Zapf being the prize winners. Brenda Reece was also a lucky winner of the door prize.

A social time was enjoyed along with dessert by members Bever, Martin, Reece, Norma Reece, Thompson, Sandra Van Hoy, Kathryn Waits and Zapf.

Thompson and Zapf will be the 2015 Christmas Party hostesses. The theme will be "Christmas Trains." A huge thank you was extended to Martin and Bever for what members called "a wonderful and enjoyable Christmas party." The January meeting is scheduled for Jan. 20, at Thompson's home.

Titus Earns Spot on Vincennes University Dean's List

The Vincennes University Dean's List for Fall 2014 includes students from the Vincennes campus, Jasper campus, Aviation Technology Center in

Indianapolis, military bases, and other extended sites. To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete at least 12 credit hours and achieve a grade point index of

3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale.

Local students on the Vincennes University Dean's List include Benjamin W. Titus of Knightstown.

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A Look Back



Winners of the Cub Scouts Pack 462 Pinewood Derby back in 1982 included (l-r) Donnie Gross, Todd Atkins, Chris Roberts, Paul York and Brock Avery.

Knightstown Park Board Meeting Tonight; Officers Election Expected

The Knightstown Department of Parks and Recreation Board will hold its first meeting of 2015 this evening.

Board members, who last met in November, will meet at Knightstown Town Hall, 26 S. Washington St., in the back meeting room accessible from the west side of the building. The meeting is open to the public.

Among other items of business,

board members are expected to elect officers for the year. During 2014, Randy Riggs and Bruce Brown served, respectively, as the park board's president and vice president.

Last week, at its Jan. 15 monthly meeting, the Knightstown Town Council voted to appoint Belinda Grigsby and Kevin Richey to two vacancies on the park board. Grigsby replaces Gerald Roberts,

whose term ended, and will get a four-year term, while Richey will finish out the term of Lisa Cook, who, it was announced at last week's meeting, had resigned.

A fifth, ex officio member is appointed to the park board by the Charles A. Beard School Board for a term of one year. The school board was expected to discuss appointing someone to this position at its January monthly meeting, which was held last night, past the news deadline for this week's issue.

Local Fire Board's First 2015 Meeting Tonight

The Knightstown-Wayne Township Fire Board will hold its first meeting of 2015 this evening.

Tonight's meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the meeting room at the fire department, 30 S. Washington St., which is accessible from the building's west side. It is open to the public.

Among other items of business, board members are expected to elect officers for the year. During 2014, Wayne Township Trustee Randy Overman served as the board's president.

At its last meeting, held Dec. 17, the fire board voted, at Overman's urging, to stop automatic payments for things like the fire department's rent and utilities, which had been made without the board's monthly approval. Going forward, these expenses will now be handled just like regular purchase orders that are reviewed and voted on by the board each month.

Overman said this change in how these bills are handled will make it easier for the fire board to know where the department stands financially. With all bills now being reviewed by the board through the same approval process, he said the list of purchase orders will be able to be used as a guide for future spending and budgeting.

Board members approved payment of monthly claims totaling almost \$11,800. Included in those bills was one for \$2,500 to Genevieve Anderson, a grant writer helping the fire board with an application for a Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant to help pay for a new fire truck.

In other financial matters, Overman also suggested that the board consider paying the fire department's annual rent payment of \$15,000 to the town of Knightstown on a quarterly basis

instead of one lump sum. Board member Nova Sorrell suggested the fire board once again approach the town and ask them to renegotiate or waive the rent.

Fire Chief Bob Schaeffer advised board members that the fire department had offered to donate some old fire coats the department no longer needs or uses to Central Nine Career Center in Greenwood for use in its firefighting vocational program. He said the coats are no longer approved for use by the fire department.

"They've been lying in that closet for over a year," Schaeffer said. "It's time to do something with them."

The December board meeting was the final one for Sorrell and Tony True, whose respective terms on the Wayne Township Board and the Knightstown Town Council, the bodies that appointed them, expired at the end of 2014. Sorrell, who served six terms on the township board, will be replaced by Jeff Van Hoy, the township board's newest member, and Knightstown Town Council member Mitch Roland will replace True.

True said he enjoyed his four years on the fire board, and that he was "real impressed" with the fire department and Schaeffer's leadership.

"It's good to know that our community has a department like this," True said.

Sorrell said she believed the fire department to be one of the best ones in the state, and said she hated to be stepping down from the fire board.

"It's breaking my heart to leave it," Sorrell said.

The fire board's other three members are Overman, Knightstown Town Council President Cort Swincher and Wayne Township resident David Millhoan.



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Longtime CAB Teacher Mark Rozzell Retiring

by Jeff Eakins for The Banner
The Charles A. Beard School Board recently approved several

personnel matters, including the resignation of a longtime teacher at the district's former Carthage Elementary School.

It was announced during the personnel report approved at the board's Dec. 16 monthly meeting that teacher Mark Rozzell had turned in notice of his intention to retire as of the end of that week. Rozzell, who taught at CES for 35 years and had been on extended medical leave in recent years, cited his failing vision as the reason for his decision.

Board members also accepted resignations at the Dec. 16 meeting from two non-certified employees at Knightstown Elementary. The resignations of Title I aide Kelly Fields and special education aide Angela Weaver were effective as of the day of the meeting.

In other personnel matters, the board approved the following teachers as team leaders for their respective grades at Knightstown Elementary and Knightstown Intermediate School: kindergarten (Leslie Spooner); first grade (Julie Lewman); second grade (Jennifer Veach); third grade (Shelly Fortune); fourth grade (Mindy Conklin); fifth grade (Lisa Kennedy); sixth grade (Katie Calvert); seventh grade (Amber Jones); and eighth grade (Aaron Burton).

In addition to her team leader appointment, the board also OK'd Jones as the seventh grade class sponsor. Knightstown Intermediate School teacher Greg Iverson was approved as sponsor for the KIS Student Council, and the board OK'd paying music teacher Chris Holland a stipend for heading up the elementary school's

See Rozzell, Page 12

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LOCAL SPORTS

Panthers Win Henry County Title

The Knightstown varsity boys basketball team shot 50% from the field, 60% from behind the arc and sunk 28 free throws to defeat Shenandoah 70-66 on Jan. 13 in the Henry County Tourney championship game.

The Panthers knocked the Raiders back on their heels in the first quarter, jumping out to a 24-9 lead.

Shenandoah worked hard to overcome that first quarter, outscoring the Panthers 15-10 in the second quarter. Both teams posted 14 points in the third quarter.

Both teams were on fire in the fourth quarter.

In most other games, the Raiders' 28 points would doom the other team. But, the Panthers were not interested in losing a home

game and knocked down 22 points in the final frame to get the 70-66 win.

Jackson Edwards' 23 points led the Panthers scoring effort. He also had three rebounds, three assists and two steals.

Jake Kwisz had a good night with 15 points, six assists and two steals.

Coleman Wyatt posted eight points, seven rebounds, two blocks, an assist and one steal.

Drake Peggs finished with eight points, two assists and one rebound.

Riley Ruble had seven points and two rebounds. Max Wever got five points and two rebounds.

Tyler Hubble got four points, three rebounds and three assists.

Knightstown's season record following the win stands at 9-5.

Royals Edge Out Panther Wrestlers 39-32

"This dual could have easily gone either way," said Knightstown varsity wrestling coach Jared Evans about his squad's match against Eastern Hancock on Jan. 14. The Royals topped the Panthers 39-32.

"The boys fought hard, but came up short," Evans said. "We had our opportunity to win this match, but Eastern caught a couple of our guys in some moves and we did not get out of them."

Individual match results were as follows:

106 - Kaleb Buchanan (K) beat Jack Smith (EH) 10-9
113 - Thomas Sollars (K)

pinned Caleb Giddings (EH)

120 - Jordyn Wills (EH) pinned Bruce Nichols (K)

126 - Adam Bundy (K) pinned Austin Henderson (EH)

132 - Cameron Fender (K) beat Gabe Blake (EH) 9-0

138 - Steven Heady (K) pinned Corey Ray (EH)

145 - Zach Davis (EH) pinned Kaleb Kinnaman (K)

152 - Garret Janes (EH) beat Jon Simmons (K) 11-4

160 - Jared Waterman (EH) pinned Zach Clark (K)

170 - Balin Orcutt (K) beat Dakota Myers (EH) 5-2

182 - Matt Bowman (EH)

pinned Ryan Hunter (K)

195 - Jacob Goble (K) beat Colby Hunt (EH) 16-5

220 - Wesley Myers (EH) pinned Jason Dishman (K)

HWT - Mitch Guinn (EH) pinned Tyler Jackson (K)

The Panthers' Coach Evans predicts more close matches in the future.

"Both teams are top programs in the state for wrestling on the 1A level. Both of the teams lose only one starter next year and both are at the same weight class," said Evans. "This will provide for some great duals between the two of us next year."

Lady Panthers Fall to #7 Lapel

A second quarter slump ultimately doomed the Knightstown varsity girls basketball team in their match-up against Class 2A's seventh-ranked Lapel on Jan. 13.

The Lady Panther fans had plenty to cheer about when their team ended the first quarter just one point down, 19-20. But Lapel held KHS to just five points in the second quarter to take a 34-24 lead into the locker room.

Knightstown outscored the Lady Bulldogs in the last two quarters, 14-11 and 14-13, but those margins were not enough to pull KHS past the second quarter slump, losing at home, 58-52.

Seniors Macy Burton and Kori Biehl led the Lady Panthers in scoring with junior Brooke Vise also having another good game.

Burton was 3-for-3 from the field, 6-of-11 from the free throw line and hit two three-pointers for 18 points. She also pulled down six rebounds and had one steal and an assist.

Biehl had 12 points, hitting 5-for-9 from the field and two free

throws. She stole the ball four times and grabbed one rebound.

Vise finished with 10 points, knocking down two from the line and 4-of-6 from the field. She led the team on the boards with seven rebounds and had two blocks and three steals.

Hannah Thomas got six points with three rebounds, one steal and an assist.

Carmen Cleek had four points, one rebound and a steal.

Lacy Thomas hit two free throws and got two rebounds and an assist.

Jordan Ventresco dished out three assists and had two steals and one rebound.

Lapel was led by freshman Breanna Boles who had 22 points, eight rebounds and four steals. Samantha Kern, a sophomore, had 14 points and six rebounds before both players fouled out of the game.

The loss dropped the Lady Panther season record to 9-6 as they host Union County at home on Jan. 17.

KHS Girls Improve to 10-6

After giving seventh-ranked Lapel a scare a few days earlier, the Knightstown varsity basketball team put another win on the board Jan. 17 when they defeated Union County at home 51-33.

KHS went up 13-6 at the end of the first quarter and never trailed, holding Union County to just nine points in the other three quarters.

Two Lady Panthers, Brooke Vise and Hannah Thomas, had double-doubles against the Lady Patriots.

Vise led the team with 15 points, going 5-for-8 from the field and from the line, and pulled in 14 rebounds along with four steals.

Hannah Thomas had her best performance of the year, hitting 5-of-6 from the field and sinking all three of her shots from the line. She

added ten rebounds and two steals to her 13 points in the game.

Kori Biehl also had 13 points and added five steals, one assist and two rebounds.

Macy Burton struggled from the field against the Patriots, knocking down just one of 11 shot attempts, but sunk seven points at the free throw line for nine points in the game. She grabbed six rebounds, including five off the offense glass, and had three steals.

Lacy Thomas hit a free throw and Jordan Ventresco made three assists and got one rebound.

Knightstown's win over Union County improved their record to 10-6.

The Lady Panthers are set to play Cambridge City Lincoln on Tuesday, Jan. 20 at home.

KIS Teams Compete

Knightstown's eighth grade basketball team dropped a game to North Decatur last week, 49-20.

Dylan Hiner led the KIS team with 10 points. Trevor Cook got three points. Devyn Schaeztle, Ethan Yoder and Hunter Clark each had two points. Cooper Strawsma added one point.

The eighth graders competed in the annual New Castle Invitational on Jan. 17.

New Castle topped the Panthers in the first game 83-24.

Hiner again led the Panthers with 10 points. Jose Olivo had eight points while Cook, Schaeztle and Clark each had two points.

In the consolation game, the Panthers fell to Greenfield 56-38. Hiner had 20 points to lead the Knightstown scoring effort.

Austin Campton knocked down 10 points. Hunter Haines, Cook, Olivo and Yoder each had two points.

The seventh graders also competed in a tournament in Richmond last Saturday.

In their first game against Richmond Test Middle School, the Panthers triumphed 36-32 but were defeated 50-18 by Marion in the second game.

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Rush County Community Foundation Sets Deadlines for Various Grants

Applications for grants from the following funds are now available at the Rush County Community Foundation:

***Shane Young Memorial Soccer Fund** - Established by Young's family as a memorial for his love of soccer, proceeds are distributed annually to a worthy Rush County club and/or organization as decided by a selection committee. The purpose of the fund is to promote soccer in Rush County and grants may be used to send a delegate to a soccer camp, to improve soccer facilities, to promote sportsmanship, to train adult leaders, to provide monies for training youth in soccer skills, or to serve as a conduit for those interested in helping support youth soccer. Deadline for application is 4 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17.

***Rush County Parks Fund** - Proceeds from this fund provide support to parks programs not ordinarily funded by city or county government. This grant is available to all established parks in Rush County.

Deadline for application is 4 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17.

***Rush County Youth Athletic Fund** - Grants are intended to support the training of amateur athletes and coaches while promoting educational opportunities for youth through athletic excellence. Deadline for application is 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17.

For information on applying for any of these grant opportunities, visit the foundation's website or contact the foundation office.

Meeting the philanthropic needs of Rush County since 1991, The Rush County Community Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit public charity established to serve donors, award grants and scholarships, and provide leadership to enrich and enhance the quality of life in Rush County. For more information, visit or contact Alisa Winters, executive director, or Terry VanNatta, assistant executive director and chief financial officer, at their office at 117 N. Main St., Rushville, or call them at 765-938-1177.

Rushville, Rush Co. Finalists in Hometown Collaboration Initiative

Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann electronically sent congratulatory announcement videos to the six newly designated finalist communities for the Hometown Collaboration Initiative (HCI). The program, in its inaugural year is administered by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) in partnership with Ball State and Purdue Universities and was unveiled by Ellspermann at regional conferences held around the state last fall.

"Congratulations to each of the HCI finalist communities. As Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, I am a strong proponent of growing rural Indiana. That means ensuring our communities provide quality of place where residents and talented people choose to live, work and raise a family. I am confident the HCI program will assist the communities in further developing opportunities for growth and pros-

perity," stated Lt. Governor Ellspermann in the recorded messages.

2015 HCI Finalist Communities include the town of Corydon, the city of Lebanon, Perry County, Pulaski County, Rush County and the city of Rushville, and the city of Seymour.

This initiative is open to communities of fewer than 25,000 people that want to expand their pipeline of local leaders, strengthen and expand jobs by building on existing economic assets and improve the attractiveness and quality of life of their hometowns. A core principle of HCI is that broad-based input and buy-in is vital to the long-term success and sustainability of all community development initiatives.

Eligible applicants were asked to choose between three building blocks:

Economy - Strengthening our Hometown Economy

Leadership - Developing our Hometown Leadership Pipeline

Placemaking - Focusing on our Hometown's Natural & Built Resources

The application consisted of six open-ended questions that demonstrated the community's ability and need to participate in the program as well as identified the current strengths and weaknesses. Additionally, they were asked to explain why their community was prepared for this program.

After semi-finalist communities were announced in early December 2014, the HCI team conducted site visits at each of the local communities who were able to further elaborate on their need for the program and allow the team to experience each community.

For further information on the Hometown Collaboration Initiative or to contact a regional Community Liaison with questions, please visit www.in.gov/ocra/2732.htm or www.in.gov/ocra/2330.htm.

Senator Pursuing 'Hoosier Promise'

On Tuesday, State Senator Mark Stoops (D-Bloomington) announced a legislative initiative that he has authored for the 2015 legislative session. Senate Bill (SB) 513 would establish the "Hoosier Promise" program to provide two years of community college or technical training for high school seniors that participate in the program and meet certain requirements.

"Our students need to be prepared for the jobs of the 21st century," said Sen. Stoops. "This program aims to provide college affordability to students that seek postsecondary education or job training in growing industries."

In 2013, Forbes ranked Indiana 16th among the states for business using six factors: costs, labor supply, potential growth, quality of life, government regulations and current economic climate. While Indiana ranks 2nd in terms of regulatory environment, Indiana ranks 45th in labor supply, or the availability of suitable human resources for potential labor markets.

A recent study by Ball State University estimates a sharp growth in the manufacturing, health care and transportation industries by the end of the decade, increasing the demand for skilled workers in Indiana. Senate Democrat Leader Tim Lanane (D-Anderson) lauded the proposal by Sen. Stoops calling it a wise investment at the right time.

"We in the legislature have done a lot in recent years to ensure that businesses in Indiana are in a position to grow and succeed," said

Sen. Lanane. "But with the rise in demand for skilled workers we expect to see in the coming years, we need to make an equal investment in our future workforce."

The program is modeled after a proposal in Tennessee that was signed into law by Republican governor Bill Haslam. The Tennessee program will provide tuition assistance to high school seniors to attend community college if they participate in the program for consecutive semesters, engage in a mentoring program, maintain GPA standards, and participate in community service. The estimated cost of Tennessee's program is \$34 million.

"Making an investment in our young people can help to close the skills gap in Indiana," said Sen. Stoops. "By providing students the

Rozzell, from Page 8

extracurricular music program.

More information about the school board's Dec. 16 meeting can be found in the Dec. 31 issue of The Banner, as well as in the school board's memoranda and minutes for the meeting. The latter are both public records, available for inspection and copying at CAB's central office, 8139 W. U.S. Hwy. 40, Knightstown, during normal business hours.

KHS Beats Centerville By 33

Knightstown hit eight three-pointers and led a steady stream of scoring, with 11 players putting points on the board, in the varsity boys' 68-35 victory over Centerville on Jan. 16.

The Panthers jumped out to a 17-10 lead after the first quarter, then held the Bulldogs to just four points in the second quarter while hitting 20 points and taking a 37-14 lead to the locker room.

KHS continued their balanced scoring in the second half, outscoring Centerville 16-12 in the third and 15-9 in the fourth to get the win on the road.

Coleman Wyatt led the Panthers with 13 points, five rebounds and one steal.

Tyler Hubble hit three shots from behind the arc and one from the field for 11 points and had two rebounds.

Jake Kwisz hit eight points,

made five assists and had two rebounds and two steals.

Riley Ruble also had eight points, including two three-pointers, and stole the ball once.

Drake Peggs had seven points, three rebounds, two steals and dished out six assists.

Jackson Edwards got seven points, two rebounds and made six assists.

Zach Manley handed out five assists, pulled down five rebounds and got two points and one steal.

Max Wever had four points, one rebound and one steal.

Kyle Rayburn and Perry Milton each hit one three-pointer and Rayburn also grabbed one rebound.

Sam Moore rounded out the Panthers' effort with one bucket and a rebound.

The win over the Bulldogs puts the Panthers' record at 10-5.

#2 Northeastern Defeats Panthers

Knightstown's varsity boys basketball team kept the score close throughout their game on Jan. 17 at Northeastern but couldn't find a way to stop the Knights, who prevailed 59-49.

The Panthers had hopes of knocking off Class 2A's #2 Northeastern and were optimistic at halftime, only down four points, 34-30.

But the Knights were able to hold the Panthers to just 19 points in the second half to take the win.

Jackson Edwards led the Panthers with 18 points, including three shots from beyond the arc. Edwards also got five rebounds, six assists, two steals and one block.

Jake Kwisz had seven points,

five rebounds, four assists, three steals and one block.

Drake Peggs hit seven points and had two steals, one rebound and one assist.

Coleman Wyatt had six points, four rebounds, one steal and one block.

Tyler Hubble also had six points, stole the ball once and grabbed two off the boards.

Riley Ruble hit one three-pointer and got two rebounds, one steal and an assist.

Max Wever blocked three shots and added one bucket and two rebounds.

The loss for the Panthers moved their season record to 10-6. They next play Shenandoah at home on Jan. 23.

Appointments, from Page 6

applicants who had expressed interest in serving on the plan commission before making a decision.

For the Knightstown Board of Zoning Appeals, Swincher had three appointments of citizens to make to the five-member body. He appointed Bruce Brown, Randy Gross and Marion Adkins.

Gregg Morelock, the town's attorney explained that of the BZA's two remaining seats, one is a citizen appointed by the council, and one is appointed by the plan commission, which still has yet to hold its first meeting of 2015.

Bart Whitesitt, the town's clerk-treasurer, was unable to verify that night when Bill Windsor's current term on the BZA ends. Morelock suggested that issue be looked into, so the council can know whether the council needs to reappoint him to a new term or find someone else.

The town council also voted last week to appoint Belinda Grigsby and Kevin Richey to two vacancies on the Knightstown Department of Parks and Recreation Board. Grigsby replaces Gerald Roberts, whose term ended, and will get a four-year term, while Richey will finish out the term of Lisa Cook, who, it was announced at last week's meeting, had resigned.

A fifth, ex officio member is appointed to the park board by the Charles A. Beard School Board for a term of one year. The school board was expected to discuss appointing someone to this position at its January monthly meeting, which was held last night, past the news deadline for this week's issue.

Letters, from Page 4

individuals, were involved in this endeavor. While we had 130 names on the Christmas Eve sign-in sheet, we know there were many who did not sign in. This number did not include the donors of food, paper goods, clothing, toys and money. Everything is deeply appreciated, especially by the recipients!

We are already working on next year's event; monetary donations are always accepted c/o Knightstown Civic Cheer Guild, P.O. Box 3, Knightstown, IN 46148. Donations are tax-deductible. We wish all of you the best that 2015 has to offer.

**Knightstown Civic Cheer Guild
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