PAGE 3 JULIE VAUGHAN EARNS RUSH CO. LILLY SCHOLARSHIP

PAGE 12 THREE KHS CHEERLEADERS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

75¢

The Banner

PERIODICALS NEWSPAPER

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

Vol. XVII, Issue 1 | April 15, 2015 | Knightstown, IN

CAB Kindergarten Round-up April 28-29

Knightstown Elementary School's Kindergarten Round-up will take place Tuesday, April 28, 12-7 p.m. and Wednesday, April 29, 12-7 p.m. To schedule an appointment, contact KES at 345-2151. Appointments take approximately one hour. Each child must be five years old by Aug. 1. This is a full day kindergarten program. Parents and guardians should bring each child's birth certificate and immunization records.

Community Yard Sale Items Sought

Donations are now being accepted at the Knightstown Cafe, 12 W. Main St., for the Beautify Knightstown Community Yard Sale, May 28-30. Any item that is clean, in good repair, and preferably priced will be appreciated. Proceeds will be used for beautification projects. Those interested in being a part of the steering committee on this project may contact Linda Lashbrook at 765-565-8007.

Carthage Lions' Breakfast April 25

Carthage Lions Club will host its spring pancake and sausage breakfast, featuring all-you-can-eat biscuits and gravy, on Saturday, April 25, 6:30-11 a.m. at the Carthage Community Center. A freewill offering will be accepted, along with used eye glasses.

First Baptist Church to Host Breakfast

Knightstown First Baptist Church will host a pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 28, beginning at 8 a.m. This event is 100 percent free. The church will also host its vacation Bible school June 15-19. The church is located at 210 E. Jackson St. The event is open to the public.

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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Barnyard Baseball

Sheep and panthers normally don't mix well. But, it wasn't a problem last Friday when the Knightstown High School varsity baseball team made a meal out of Indian Creek during a home game. The Panthers won handily, 20-2. Kaleb Kinnaman (right) talks with head coach Daren Hardesty on third base in the game's early innings. For decades, the Keesling family's farm has made a nice backdrop for Panther baseball games. (Eric Cox photo)

K-town Sewer Rate Hike Could Come Tomorrow

The Knightstown Town Council could take a final vote tomorrow night on an ordinance that will raise rates and charges for customer's of the town's wastewater utility 43 pecent.

A divided council voted 3-2 at a special meeting on March 3 to approve on first reading Ordinance 3-2015. If approved on second reading, the average monthly sewer bill, based on 4,000 gallons of usage, is expected to increase $15.52, from $36.10 to $51.62.

Council members Clyde South and Valerie Trump made and seconded, respectively, a motion to approve the ordinance at the March 3 meeting. Council Vice President Sarah Ward joined them in supporting the motion, which passed 3-2 with Council President Cort Swincher and Mitch Roland dissenting.

It is hoped the increase will allow the utility's operating fund to get out of the red and provide money for needed repairs. Additionally, the increase could also aid the town's efforts to get grants and low-interest loans to help pay for needed improvements to the town's sewer plant and infrastructure.

As previously reported in The Banner, the town of Knightstown's wastewater treatment plant frequently exceeds its rated capacity as the result of problems with inflow and infiltration into the system. Engineering reports prepared by two different firms have estimated the cost of rehabilitating parts of the town's wastewater collection system and making upgrades to the sewer plant as being between $3.9 million and

See Hike, Page 16

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Carthage Finds Savings on New Gun Safe

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

A new gun safe for the Carthage Police Department could end up costing about $250 less than initially anticipated.

Danny Baker, the town's part-time town marshal, told members of the Carthage Town Council at their regular monthly meeting Monday evening that he had recently sold the Carthage Police Department's old gun safe for $500. He said he found a replacement safe that holds 24 guns and has a digital keypad lock at Menard's for $649.99, and that he expects to purchase it later this week, using proceeds from sale of the old one.

The town council had voted in February to give Baker permission to spend up to $900 on a new safe, provided he was able to sell the old one for at least $500. Baker had complained about the dial locking mechanism on the old safe, saying it took anywhere from 15-30 minutes to open.

Baker did not say at Monday's council meeting who purchased the CPD's old gun safe. Also, no details were provided about what steps were taken to advertise the sale of the old safe in order to try to get the best price for it.

In other police business, Baker also told council members that he is continuing to work with the Rush County Prosecutor's office on a civil forfeiture issue involving a truck the CPD had seized. Baker did not provide any additional information about the truck or the circumstances that led to its seizure.

In what has been a recurring problem, most of the CPD's volunteer reserve officers are continuing to fail to work the minimum of 16 hour per month the department requires. According to the monthly report Baker submitted to the council on Monday, only one reserve, Baker's son, Keith Baker, logged 16 hours during the month of March.

Of the CPD's three other reserve officers, two, Tony Campbell and Doyle Richmond, each logged eight hours, while the third, Travis Biehl, had none. Baker's report also indicated that Campbell is currently on a leave of absence.

Town Council President Bill Davis, who has repeatedly raised the issue of reserve officers failing to work at least 16 hours a month, said he is still concerned about this. Baker said he believed compliance is getting better and that he has told reserve officers they need to meet this requirement if they want to continue with the CPD.

Following the announcement last month that one reserve officer, Chuck Stephens, had resigned, Baker said Monday he may want to add a couple of more reserves to the department. One or two council members are expected to assist Baker with interviewing reserve officer applicants before any recommendations are brought to the full council for a vote.

Baker told the council that March had been "quiet," with his monthly report showing 15 service calls for the CPD, with no citations issued and no arrests made. The part of Baker's monthly report where the amount of gallons of gas used by the CPD in March should have been listed was left blank.

Property Taxes Due May 12

Henry County homeowners should be receiving current property tax statements in the mail this week.

Henry County Treasuruer Gene Bundy said this will be the only notice taxpayers will receive for the year. If homeowner or their mortgage companies have not received a tax statement by May 1, they should contact the Henry County Treasurer's office at 765-529-4404.

Failure to receive a tax statement by mail does not relieve the tax payer of the responsibility for payment and penalties when delinquent, according to Bundy.

Spring taxes will be due by May 12, 2015. Taxes can be paid at the treasurer's office from 7 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, and 7 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. on Friday.

"Remember, the treasurer's office is closed on Mondays and from noon-1 p.m. everyday," Bundy reminded taxpayers.

Payments can also be mailed to P.O. Box 1258, New Castle, IN 47362 or paid at the following Henry County banks: Ameriana, Citizens, First Merchants, Main Source and Star Financial. Taxpayers may use credit cards by calling 1-866-480-8552 or online at www. henryco.net. Credit card payments will have a 3 percent processing fee.

For questions on assessments call, the Henry County Assessor at 765-529-2104. For questions on exemptions and rates, call the Henry County Auditor at 765-529-2800. For questions on drains, call the Henry County Drainage Board at 765-529-4802.

Taxes can be found online at www.henryco.net (under assessor's office) or google: beacon.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN CLEAN-UP WEEK
April 20, 2015 – April 25, 2015
from 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

A dumpster will be provided at the Knightstown Street Barn, located at 7605 W. U.S. Hwy. 40

Items accepted are trash and yard debris. Items not accepted are anything electronic, petroleum-based products (paint, oil, gas, etc), propane tanks and tires. Anything recyclable can be taken to the recycle bins at the sewer plant located at 4177 W. County Line Rd.

The dumpster is being provided by the Town of Knightstown and The Henry County Community Foundation.

For additional information contact Knightstown Town Hall at 765-345-5977. (4/8, 4/15)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice for Bids

The Town of Knightstown will accept Sealed Bids for Computer Services for monthly Computer Maintenance. The service would be for approximately 21 computers.

We will begin accepting bids on Wednesday, April 8, 2015. Bids need to be delivered or mailed to the Clerk Treasurer's Office at 26 S. Washington Street, Knightstown, Indiana 46148. Bids are to be submitted no later than 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2015. Bids received after 3 p.m. will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened at the next scheduled Town Council Meeting, after April 22. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Any questions should be directed to Knightstown Town Council President Cort Swincher at 765-345-5977. (4/8, 4/15)

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KHS Student Julie Vaughan Earns Rush Co. Scholarship

A Knightstown High School student who lives in Rush County has been named the recipient of the Rush County Community Foundation's (RCCF) 2015 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship.

Julie Vaughan is Rush County's 34th student to receive the prestigious scholarship.

The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship provides full tuition to the Indiana college of her choice and a $900 yearly stipend for required books and equipment.

Vaughan is a resident of Ripley Twp. and a senior at Knightstown High School. She is the daughter of Rich and Lee Vaughan. Vaughan plans to attend Butler University to pursue a degree in health sciences.

"My ultimate goal is to serve," said Vaughan of her future plans. "Whether within my community or in a third-world country, my purpose is to change lives with modern medicine."

Vaughan explained what influenced her passion and long-term career goals. "Nearly every bright-eyed graduate wishes to change the world," she said, "but I feel drawn towards this work because someone changed mine.

"My older sister, Katie, was born with the genetic disorder Trisomy X. I learned from a young age the important link between health and happiness because Katie needs one in order to achieve the other. While special needs is not the focus of my education, hers certainly pointed me in the direction I am headed now. Without Katie's unique challenges and impact on my life, the future plan would look significantly different."

Upon being presented the scholarship, Vaughan said, "At this point, my thoughts continue to bounce through an array of excitement and disbelief. The Rush County Community Foundation and Lilly Endowment groups have given me the chance of a lifetime - the chance to turn dreams into reality. This is an enormous blessing and I will be forever grateful."

Vaughan has been an active leader throughout her high school career. She was chosen from over 21 Rush County applicants.

> "Whether within my community or in a third-world country, my purpose is to change lives with modern medicine."
>
> **- Julie Vaughan**

Academic standing, school involvement and community involvement all play a key in the decision of the scholarship nominating committee. The foundation's selection committee uses a blind application review process and does not know the names of the students. Each application is reviewed and judged separately by three members of the committee and in 10 separate categories. The committee narrows the field to three nominees and forwards their recommendation to the RCCF Board of Directors for final recommendation and submission to Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc. (ICI) for the selection of the recipients.

ICI is a nonprofit corporation that represents 31 regionally accredited degree-granting, nonprofit, private colleges and universities in the state. The scholarships are the result of a statewide Lilly Endowment initiative to help Hoosier students reach higher levels of education. Indiana ranks among the lowest states in the percentage of residents over the age of 25 with a bachelor's degree.

Knightstown High School senior Julie Vaughan (third from left) stands with her parents, Rich and Lee Vaughan, and members of the Rush County Community Foundation recently at KHS. Vaughan was announced as the foundation's 2015 Lilly Endowment scholarship recipient, which she will use to attend Butler University. (Photo submitted)

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

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Stacy Cox - General Manager

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Charlottesville United Methodist Church
Chicken & Noodle Dinner
Saturday, April 25, 4:30-7:00 p.m.
Location: Charlottesville Lions Club
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Banner Perspectives

No Substitute for Peter Paas at Easter

Ramblings By Rose Mary

Rose Mary Clarke

Peter Paas Easter Egg Dye is to eggs what chocolate chips are to cookies. When I was a girl, Mother and I used the dye tablets dissolved in vinegar; and Bill, Vicki and I dyed eggs and ornamented them with the little doodads from the kits.

Peter Paas has been around far longer than I. During the 1880s, a druggist in Newark concocted the dyes to sell to his customers for five cents a packet. They became so popular that he started the Paas Dye Co., taking the name for Easter from the Pennsylvania Dutch word, *Passen*.

Today, the company sells 10 million packets a year and estimates that 180 million eggs are colored. The company says, "The original is still the best!" I think that also applies to Nestle's chocolate chips, which is the only kind that I use.

I rummaged through the "Easter" trunk of tissue-wrapped memories in my capacious mental attic where everything that I ever experienced is stored: Down near the bottom, there's little Rose Mary in a pastel dress and hideous, hated Buster Brown oxfords. At a higher level, I am at Easter Sunrise service with some of the Nine Nifty Nicitinos before going to our church with Mother.

One year, the Peeps had no eyes. Here Bill is, using a toothpick to dab on eyes for the Peeps in Vicki's basket. Closer to the top, another layer, another memory: It seems as if it were only yesterday that Vicki's little boys, were standing next to our bed, giggling and blowing on the whirligigs from their Easter baskets.

My parents and siblings have been gone these many years, but the family feasts have continued either at Vicki's home or ours. Last year, we gathered here for the traditional ham dinner that also featured candied yams, green bean casserole and deviled eggs that I cussed about because the shells stuck tight when I peeled them so that the eggs looked as if mice had been nibbling them. Those little, giggling boys are grown men now with such things as beards, jobs, homes of their own, a wife and studies.

I saw a hilarious cartoon picturing two chocolate rabbits. One whose tail has been bitten off, says, "My butt hurts!" "What?" says the other bunny, whose ears are gone.

Not that I foresee it, but if I were ever canonized I would be billed as "Saint Rose Mary of the Perpetual Diet." I told Bill, "Don't buy me any chocolate marshmallow eggs this year, and I won't buy marshmallow peeps for you." Sunday morning he handed me a carton of the eggs, a small chocolate rabbit and a piece of string. "I thought that you should have this."

I giggled and turned over the memories in my trunk until I came to our family all gathered round after Mother's Easter Feast, reminiscing about their youth during the Great Depression. Mother always said after the blessing, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone in the world could have such a meal."

That would lead to the family's recounting their memories of the Great Depression when they were cold and hungry because Daddy refused to accept government relief. They always ended with the story of the chocolate rabbit that someone gave me. My siblings, who were starved for sweets, thought that I would surely share with them. Not so. I fell in love with that rabbit, tied a string around its neck and dragged it

See Rose Mary, Page 6

Real Leaders Rise Above the Rest

Blah Blah Blah

by eric cox

As far as I can tell, my little experiment failed.

I thought the economic development meeting last month might have ignited some interest in business attraction here. Alas, nothing has happened.

Truthfully, I'm not sure what I expected. Perhaps I envisioned a new era of progress in good ol' K-town.

Maybe I thought, with the right kind of nudge and some positive words from two outside speakers, the community would launch into a fresh dialogue of development, tinged with an urgency - a pressing need to do something NOW.

Yet, on the heels of that well-attended meeting, nothing has happened. Initiative, as always, sits waiting for Knightstown's leadership, both elected and volunteer, to seize it and move forward.

My expectations may be too high, of course.There have been some steps in the right direction. Take, for example, CAB Superintendent Jed Behny. He's a breath of fresh air. His straightforward, no nonsense approach is heartening, giving me and The Banner some much-needed confidence that we (and hence, you) are not being repeatedly lied to about our tax-funded school corporation.

As others have expressed, I, too, am appreciative of Behny's candor and class.

The same can also be said for Knightstown's new chief of police, Duane Booth. So far, Booth has exemplified police professionalism by taking a BS-free approach, which could've been torn from Behny's playbook.

Whether they realize it or not, these two are primarily responsible for reestablishing trust between the newspaper and their respective institutions.

Knightstown Town Council Vice President Sarah Ward is, likewise, another welcome and positive addition to local leadership. Anyone who knows Ward understands that she is not someone to be trifled with. Her razor-sharp wit and plain-spoken demeanor is just what Knightstown needs.

Ward is a true representative of the people, and she's not afraid to ask questions, find her own answers or have a heated face-to-face with fellow council members, town employees or even Town Attorney Gregg Morelock. Unlike so many others, she's not afraid to do what's right.

Knightstown Plan Commission President Kevin Richey is another bright spot for Knightstown. His love for the community is apparent in just about everything he does, from his heartfelt Facebook posts to his upcoming community yard sale to benefit Knightstown's beautification.

Richey is one of only a few Knightstown natives who actually show up to carry out - with genuine action - what they believe should be done. Like so many others, he's not waiting for someone to come along and magically fix Knightstown's progress problem. He's rolled up his sleeves and is doing something about it.

None of the people I've talked about here are reactionaries. They are proactive leaders who don't just *talk* about Knightstown's potential and what the community *could* be. They're actually doing something about it. Please, support them.

Banner Perspective

Knightstown's upcoming community clean-up week (April 20-25) is an opportunity residents and businesses shouldn't ignore. A lack of ordinance enforcement over the years has resulted in some unsightly situations in town. With the tourism season upon us, now is the time to clean-up yards and business lots.

Curb appeal is half the battle when it comes to tourism. The other half lies in strong tourist attractions. Knightstown has an abundance. We just need to tidy up a bit.

The town is making it easy for everyone to do just that. The community clean-up day will feature a free dumpster for trash and yard debris. As always, recyclables will be accepted at the town's recycling bins.

Again, The Banner respectfully requests that the town - at least - clean-up debris and trim weeds at the site of the former Bullet Hole building on Main Street. We realize the property is embroiled in litigation, but surely a general tidying wouldn't upset any pending lawsuit.

Such a gesture might also inspire others to engage in similar clean-up efforts, such as arranging for the removal of derelict vehicles found in backyards and curbsides. Incidentally, the Knightstown Police Department has apparently, after a long hiatus, begun issuing warnings and citations for such unsightly junkers - a solid step in the right direction.

Clean streets, manicured lawns, junk-free yards and immaculate business properties are hallmarks of successful communities. They also signify cities and towns that know the value of tourism.

Does that value register on Knightstown's radar? We'll see.

When the end of April rolls around, it won't be hard to see exactly how much the community values not only tourism, but tidiness.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Spring has sprung and has brought along all of the sunshine and storms alike, just like this year's legislative session. Similar to Indiana's ever-changing weather, the environment here at the Statehouse is constantly changing. The past three and a half months have flown by and with each week came a new debate or another bill that works to improve the lives of Hoosiers all around the state. Some bills have already passed both chambers and a few have been signed by the governor. One piece of legislation that will most directly affect all Hoosiers is the budget.

The House passed our version of the budget earlier this session and the Senate recently presented their proposal. We will work together in the coming weeks to pass a budget that benefits all Hoosiers. It is important to discuss and debate this bill extensively in order to craft an honestly balanced budget that maintains healthy reserves with no tax increases. Without a budget, we would be forced to live off of our state's reserves, or savings account, which would only sustain Indiana for a little over a month. The state's two year budget must protect Hoosier taxpayers, increase education funding, increase public safety and maintain the stable fiscal environment necessary to grow the Hoosier economy. Our budget proposal makes the largest appropriation to education in our state's history. Over 50 percent of our state's budget will be spent on K-12 education.

There are many priorities in the House proposed budget this session that are working towards increasing the well-being of Hoosiers. The Safety PIN (Protecting Indiana's Newborns) grant program has been made a top priority for House Republicans. Did you know Indiana ranks fifth highest in the nation for infant mortality? In 2012, there were 556 infant deaths. We are working to create a grant program to incentivize individuals to develop innovative plans to reduce Indiana's infant mortality rate. This is an issue which is a devastating reality that effects far too many Hoosier families and

See Letters, Page 16

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.

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The Banner
a responsible community newspaper

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

Bits & Pieces

◆Knightstown Elementary School's **Kindergarten Round-up** will take place Tuesday, April 28, 12-7 p.m. and Wednesday, April 29, 12-7 p.m. To schedule an appointment, contact KES at 345-2151. Appointments take approximately one hour. Each child must be five years old by Aug. 1. This is a full day kindergarten program. Parents and guardians should bring each child's birth certificate and immunization records.

◆Carthage Lions Club will host its **spring pancake and sausage breakfast**, featuring all-you-can-eat biscuits and gravy, on Saturday, April 25, 6:30-11 a.m. at the Carthage Community Center. A freewill offering will be accepted, along with used eye glasses.

◆The next **Carthage friends get-together** will be held Saturday, April 25, noon-3 p.m., at the Ponderosa restaurant at 1585 N. State St., Greenfield. Attendees are urged to bring old photos and memories to share. For more information, contact Hester Shelby at 317-513-2438.

◆Knightstown Wesleyan Church, 471 N. Franklin St., is holding a **canvas and cookies** painting event on Thursday, April 23, at 6 p.m. For more information, call Amy at 765-686-7063

◆Charlottesville United Methodist Church will host its annual **chicken and noodle dinner** on Saturday, April 25, 4:30-7 p.m. at the Charlottesville Lions Club building. Menu includes chicken and noodles, green beans, mashed potatoes, salads, rolls, desserts and drinks. The event is open to the public and a freewill offering will be accepted.

◆The town of Knightstown is sponsoring **Town Clean-up Week**, April 20-25, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. A dumpster will be provided at the town street barn, 7605 W. U.S. Hwy. 40. Trash and yard debris will be accepted. No electronics, petroleum-based products (paint, oil, gas, etc.), propane tanks or tires will be accepted. Recyclables can be taken to recycling bins at the sewer plant on West County Line Road. The dumpster is being sponsored by the town and the Henry County Community Foundation. For more information, call 345-5977.

◆Donations are now being accepted for the Beautify Knightstown **Community Yard Sale**. Clean items in good repair and preferably priced may be dropped off at the Hoosiers Home Court Café (formerly the Knightstown Diner), 12 E. Main St., during business hours or by appointment, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. The sale will be held on the Public Square, May 28-30, during National Road Yard Sale Days. Contact Kevin Richey at 765-445-2328 for more information.

◆Hancock Hope House will host a **benefit concert** at Greenfield's H.J. Ricks Centre for the Arts, 122 W. Main St., on Thursday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m. The concert features Chris Knight. Tickets are $16.50. All proceeds benefit Hancock Hope House. Call 317-467-2991 or visit hancockhopehouse.org to order tickets.

◆Henry County Historical Society will host a **grand opening** for its Maxwell automobile addition, featuring a 1911 Maxwell donated by Howard Joyner, on Saturday, April 25, at 1 p.m. The HCHS is located at 606 S. 14th St., New Castle. To RSVP, call 765-529-4028.

◆Knightstown First Baptist Church will host a **pancake breakfast** on Saturday, April 28, beginning at 8 a.m. The church will also host its vacation bible school June 15-19. The church is located at 210 E. Jackson St. The event is free and open to the public.

◆Hancock Wellness Center, 888 W. New Rd., Greenfield, will host a **Zumba fundraiser** for the Hancock Regional Hospital Cancer Center on Friday, April 17, 5-6:30 p.m. Recommended donation is $10 for participants over 12 years old. Complimentary childcare will be provided.

◆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.

◆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 silvervisage@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.

◆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.

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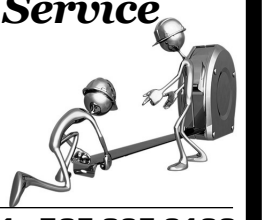

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Marine, World Traveler, Russian Linguist - '87 KHS Grad Ross Wells Has Quite a Story

by Logan Cox
for The Banner

From Marine to Russian Cryptolinguist Interpreter to rugby player to club-owner to firefighter, Knightstown High School graduate Ross Wells has amassed quite a resume.

In 1987, the same year he graduated from KHS, Wells earned the title of Marine. He spent a year studying Russian language and culture at the Defense Language Institute at Presidio of Monterey in California. He then studied intelligence and cryptology at Goodfellow Air Force in San Angelo, Texas.

"With my newfound skills, I was assigned to Camp Lejeune, NC. While my primary focus was on the then Soviet Union, I deployed not only to Europe, but also supported humanitarian and counter drug operations in Central America," said Wells.

While Wells was stationed at Camp Lejeune, The On-Site Inspection Agency (OSIA) was formed under the Department of State and assigned the mission of international treaty implementation and verification.

As he explained, "The treaties of note (INF, START, TTBT, NTT, CWC, CFE) were with the Soviet Union. Therefore, they had a need for linguists who were fluent in Russian. Through an interview and testing process, I was selected to join this Joint Service Agency and got my orders to report back to the Presidio of Monterey for additional language training."

This coincided with Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait. Around the time he was supposed to be returning to California, Wells was offered temporary duty as an air crew member scheduled to fly intelligence gathering flights during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Supporting the flux of ground combat operations in Kuwait and Iraq, he was released after only a handful of missions in the Persian Gulf region. With this accomplished, he then went to California to begin his new training.

"Being fluent in a language is one thing," said Wells. "Being able to do simultaneous and consecutive interpreting is quite another. My new training would bring me up to speed and certify me as an interpreter able to work with international law and military weapons of mass destruction."

In 1991, he was assigned to the San Francisco Field Office of OSIA, beginning a six-year career with that agency. During his time there, he deployed over 900 days of service. He travelled the U.S. extensively and around the world as well.

He carried out escort duties when the Soviets came to the U.S. to do inspections, flying air crew missions from Japan to Siberia to deliver inspection teams. He also visited Russian chemical weapons storage facilities and studied nuclear warhead delivery systems, chemical and biological weapons and rocket motor production (all in English and Russian).

"During my time with the agency, I was still, first and foremost, a Marine. It was time for me to return to the fleet and I got my orders back to Camp Lejeune, where I would spend the rest of my military career as an intelligence analyst," he said.

In his spare time, Wells enjoys playing rugby. Living in California, he started playing rugby, joining teams in that state as well as Texas and North Carolina.

"After playing a dozen years or so I got pretty good at it, and actually was chosen for the All Marine Team (the best rugby players from the Marine Corps worldwide) to play in the Interservice Rugby Championships in Pensacola, Fla., in 2000. I began coaching Camp Lejeune men's and women's rugby teams, and continued to do so after I got out of the Marines," Wells said.

Having saved up some money from contract work, he had the opportunity to purchase a local sports bar, which doubled as a "rugby player watering hole."

"So, I stayed in North Carolina, just a few miles outside the gate of Camp Lejeune, took ownership of my team's favorite hangout, and began transforming it into a live music venue. I had local bands always approaching me, wanting a place to play. I gave 'em a shot," Wells explained.

When the bands started bringing in crowds, Wells built them a stage to perform on. Soon, live music became a regular feature at his sports bar. In light of this, he bought a sound system for the bands, upgraded the stage, and revamped the room for acoustics.

"I loved the bands," he said. "(I) loved taking care of them. The reputation I got for treating them right was quickly noticed by bands from all over the coastal Carolina area. Suddenly I was getting demo CDs and requests from bands all over the state - then South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia."

This continued to escalate, the acts getting bigger and the bands coming from all over the country, and featuring a couple of international acts as well.

Wells went from being a simple club-owner to interviewing bands, promoting bands, scheduling acts, booking hotels and designing posters, among other things.

See Wells, Page 16

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MEETINGS CALENDAR

Thurs., Apr. 16 - Hancock Co. Planning Commission plat committee meeting, 8:30 a.m., Courthouse Annex room 101, Greenfield

Thurs., Apr. 16 - Knightstown Town Council meeting, 7 p.m., town council chambers, 28 S. Washington St.

Mon., Apr. 20 - Rush Co. Commissioners meeting, 9 a.m., courthouse room 103, Rushville

Tues., Apr. 21 - Hancock Co. Commissioners meeting, 8 a.m., Courthouse Annex room 101, Greenfield

Tues., Apr. 21 - Rush Co. Health Dept. board meeting, 7 p.m., Health Dept. office at courthouse, Rushville

Wed., Apr. 22 - Henry County Council meeting, 3:30 p.m., Old Circuit Court Room

Wed., Apr. 22 - Henry Co. Commissioners meeting, 6 p.m., Old Circuit Court Room, 2nd floor of courthouse, New Castle

Wed., Apr. 22 - Wayne Twp./ Knightstown Vol. Fire Dept. board meeting, 7 p.m., at fire station

Mon., Apr. 27 - Henry Co. Fire Chiefs meeting, 7 p.m., Henry County Office Building meeting room, New Castle

Tues., Apr. 28 - Hancock Co. Planning Commission monthly hearing, 6:30 p.m., Courthouse Annex room 101, Greenfield

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

Tues., Apr. 28 - Rush Co. Area Plan Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m., courthouse assembly room, Rushville

Rose Mary, from Page 4 ——

along everywhere I went until it became so dirty and battered that no one would eat it.

This year we didn't plan a family gathering, so Bill and I did something daring and totally different from the traditional ham dinner. Instead, we went out after church for Mexican food and margaritas, and a new memory is on the top layer of my trunk. Of course, some of the memories in my trunk are sad. However, there are many more happy ones that warm my heart.

wclarke@comcast.net

FOLKWAYS

DNR Lifeguard Tests Now Available Online

Lifeguarding tests are online for applicants seeking positions at Indiana State Parks facilities during the 2015 recreation season.

The test is for first-year applicants only. First-year applicants must pass the test as part of the job application. Candidates who have already worked at a state park facility are exempt from this requirement.

The test is 50 questions, with approximately half of the test covering CPR and first aid, and half covering lifeguarding knowledge and training. The successful applicant must score at least 70 percent.

A link to the test and application information for both first-year and returning candidates are at stateparks.IN.gov/lifeguardtest.

Applicants must be certified in lifeguarding and CPR for the professional rescuer before taking the test. If an applicant is enrolled in a certification class but has yet to finish, he or she may take the test but must complete certification before being eligible for employment.

Passing the test qualifies a certified applicant to be considered for a lifeguard position with Indiana State Parks and does not recertify a lifeguard. Lifeguards must maintain valid certifications on their own. Certification course work may be obtained through the Red Cross or at YMCA locations offering the program and must be completed before swim season.

The swim season generally runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Hiring will begin immediately. Positions are available at Brown County, Clifty Falls, Versailles, Spring Mill, Harmonie, O'Bannon Woods, McCormick's Creek, Ouabache, Mounds, Indiana Dunes, Shakamak, Turkey Run and Prophetstown state parks, and Lieber State Recreation Area.

To view all DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

CAB School Board Members Attend ISBA Academy

Four members of the Charles A. Beard School Board recently attended the Indiana School Boards Association's annual Spring Board Member Academy.

The seminar was held last Thursday and Friday at the Indianapolis Marriott East Hotel. According to an ISBA press release, those in attendance were able to learn more about topics that included financial matters like budgets, referendums and property tax caps; collective bargaining; and Indiana's Student Centered Accountability System.

The opening session featured a presentation on "Using Demographic Forecasts and GIS to Drive District Master Planning," while another panel addressed building collaborative relationships between schools and municipalities. A group of lawyers also gave a presentation on the role of school attorneys, while other sessions included updates from the State Board of Accounts and covered topics of student handbooks, the Open Door Law and board members' roles in personnel matters.

CAB School Board members who attended all or part of the two-day seminar were Gerald Leonard, John Swartz, Don Scheumann and Cynthia "Suzee" Neal.

The ISBA is a nonprofit organization with 289 member school districts. Service provided to its members include legislative services, legal and school financial advice, board member training seminars and information on a variety of school-related topics.

K-town Park Board Meeting Tonight at 6

Members of the Knightstown Department of Parks and Recreation Board will convene on South Washington Street at 6 p.m. today to look over what is hoped will be developed into a canoe and kayak launch area along Blue River.

Board members will spend time before their 7 p.m. regular monthly meeting inspecting the property in order to determine what work needs to be done at the site. The Henry County Community Foundation had previously awarded the town a $3,000 grant to use for the canoe and kayak launch project, but these funds will be lost if not used by Aug. 1.

Members of the public are welcome to join park board members at the South Washington Street property tonight. The regular meeting that will follow at seven will be held in the back meeting room at Knightstown Town Hall, 26 S. Washington St., which is accessible from the building's west side.

Nominations Still Open For Math, Science Awards

There are still a few days remaining for nominations to be submitted for the state's 2015 Mr. and Miss Math and Mr. and Miss Science Awards.

These annual honors recognize up to four outstanding high school seniors for exemplary performance in science, math, engineering, and technology (STEM) courses. Winning students receive $1,000 college scholarships through Indiana's CollegeChoice 529 Direct Savings Plan.

Indiana's Mr. and Miss Math and Science awards honor the top high school seniors in STEM classes, as well as extracurricular activities, work/research projects, leadership roles, and community service. The nominations will be reviewed by a panel of STEM experts, including teachers, college and university instructors, and staff from the Indiana Department of Education and the Indiana Education Roundtable.

Gov. Mike Pence is expected to announce Indiana's Mr. and Miss Math and Mr. and Miss Science in May. Nominations for the awards can be submitted at www.secure.in.gov/apps/mathscienceawards/. The deadline for nominations is 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 19.

Former Gov. Mitch Daniels created the Indiana Mr. and Miss Math and Science awards in 2008. David Lu Liang of Carmel High School and Sonali Sunil Mali of Avon High School were named Mr. and Miss Science, respectively, in 2014.

Clear Thinking

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Part of Carthage Street Will Close for Event

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

The Carthage Town Council has approved the closure of part of Mill Street in early August for a local nonprofit group's annual summer festival.

Acting on a request from the Blue River Community Harvest Inc., the council voted 5-0 at Monday's regular monthly meeting to close Mill Street, from Main Street to East Street, from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 1. Kathy Gibson, a representative of BRCH, a food and clothing pantry serving Rush County, southern Henry County and surrounding areas, said this will be the fifth year for the group's event.

In the past, the festival has been held at the BRCH's property on the southeast corner of Carthage Pike and County Road 950-North. Due to road work that has that portion of Carthage Pike closed and is expected not to be finished by August, Gibson said BRCH will hold this year's event at the Ercell Bever Jr. Community Center in downtown Carthage.

Gibson said BRCH expects there may be as many as 30 booths for arts and crafts vendors set up along Mill Street and on the sidewalk on the east side of Main Street. Council members expressed concern about the potential hazard posed by the dilapidated building on the north side of Mill Street that formerly housed Gus's Café.

The town is in the process of trying to get remedial action taken with respect to that building, and a handful of others, that could pose a hazard to the public. Unfortunately, Bob Bullock, the person the town has hired to act as its building inspector, did not attend Monday's meeting or, in his absence, provide a written update on those matters.

Adam Forrest, the town's attorney, told the council he had not received any notification from Bullock about the Mill Street property or the others on Bullock's list. He said he would call him and get an update.

In other legal matters, Forrest reported that he is still working on a draft of a new personnel manual for town employees. He said he would incorporate some proposals suggested by council members, and would send out a revised draft for their review.

The council approved paying monthly claims totaling $37,882.60 Monday, and OK'd comp time for three town employees. Clerk-Treasurer Linda McMahan told the council that works manager Josh Douglas had earned 88 hours, Jared Landuyt had 100.5 and Hershel Kaster had 16.

Council President Bill Davis reminded the council that it had said it would start doing regular personnel evaluations for town employees this year. He said he thought the council should try next month to start scheduling these.

During his monthly report, Douglas again told the council, as he has in past months, that he would like approval to get the seven lift stations that are part of the town's sewer infrastructure cleaned. He said that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management recently told him, after an inspection, that this needs to be done.

Douglas said one estimate he obtained was for $3,050 to clean all seven lift stations. McMahan said it would be better for the town, financially, to do two at a time instead of all at once, and the council asked Douglas to check on pricing for spreading the work over three or four visits.

In a related matter, Douglas told the council the town is continuing to experience problems with water infiltrating the sewer system. He said the town should consider doing smoke testing to try to identify the sources of the leaks, which he said are most likely attributable to busted sewer lines.

Douglas said the deadline for people to remove items from the town cemetery on Carthage Pike would be extended one week, to Friday, April 22, due to road construction that has that part of the road blocked off. Despite the closure, he said motorists can get around barriers after 5 p.m. and reach the cemetery.

The council also heard a brief update from Dan Lake of Kieser Consulting Group, the Lawrence firm hired to help the town with an economic development study project. KCG is being paid with the proceeds of a $40,000 planning grant the town received from the state last year.

Lake told the council that efforts to obtain state and federal historic designations for the town's library are ongoing. He also said KCG is working on a final draft of its report, with a public hearing expected to be held in coming weeks.

Carthage resident Rebecca Nichols was told the town will not pay to have three trees taken down near her Main Street home. Davis told Nichols that trees growing between the sidewalk and the street are the responsibility of the homeowner and suggested she check to see if her insurance company could help with the expense.

More information about Monday's Carthage Town Council meeting can be found in the memoranda and minutes of that proceeding. Those public records are available for inspection and copying at Carthage Town Hall, 6 W. First St., during normal business hours.

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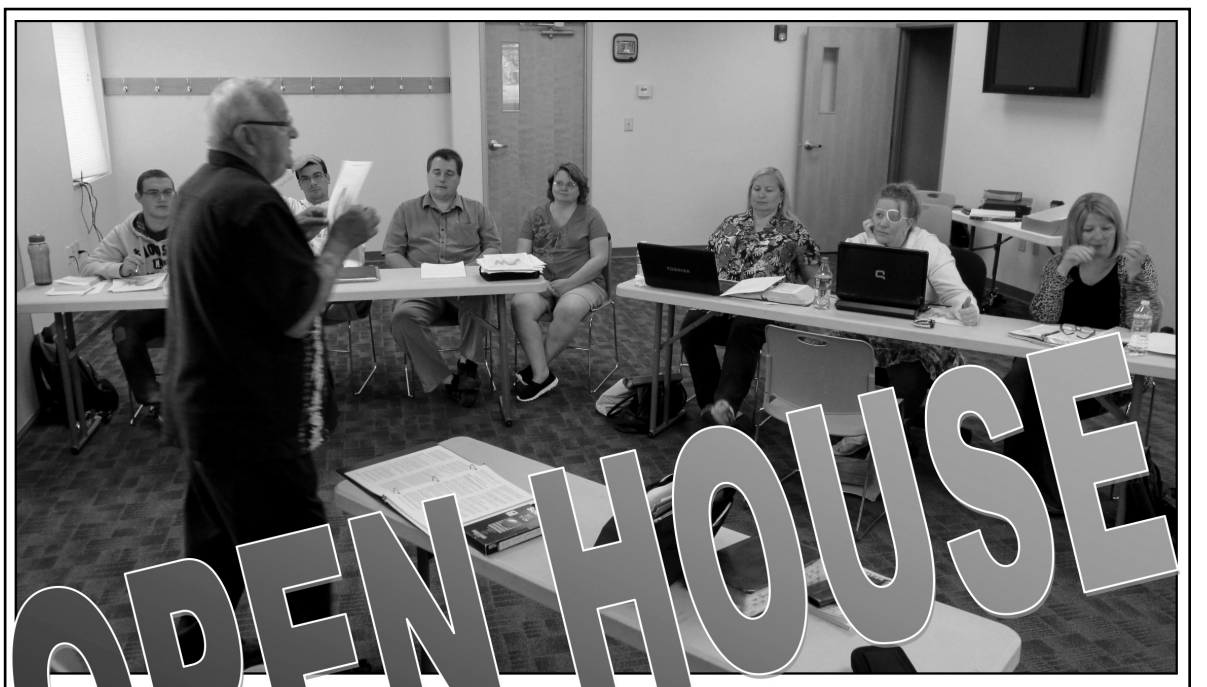
The Board of Brick Street Poetry Inc. wishes to invite you to participate in the Indiana Bicentennial Commission-approved "Birthday Book" project. The book will showcase poetry written by citizens of each county that are submitted through the library. Submit your original poem for the book to the Knightstown Public Library. Current residents having lived in the county at least a year, and any non-resident born in your county having been a resident for at least twelve years, will be able to submit one poem for the book. These poems may be up to 40 lines in any form, but their subject must be one that adequately represents the history and spirit of your county. Three or four of the best poems entered will be selected by a local committee and submitted to the project board, and one poem will be selected for inclusion in the book; it could be yours!
The deadline is Tuesday, April 28, 2015
Knightstown Public Library, 5 E. Main Street - 345-5095

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP
Monday, April 20
thru
Saturday, April 25
8 a.m.-5 p.m.
A dumpster will be provided at the Knightstown Street Barn, located at 7605 W. U.S. Hwy. 40.

Items accepted are trash and yard debris.
Items **NOT** accepted include any electronics, petroleum-based products (paint, oil, gas, etc.), propane tanks and tires.

Recyclable items may be taken to the recycling bins at the sewer plant, located on West County Line Road.

The dumpster is being provided by the Town of Knightstown and the Henry County Community Foundation.
For more information, call Town Hall at 345-5977.



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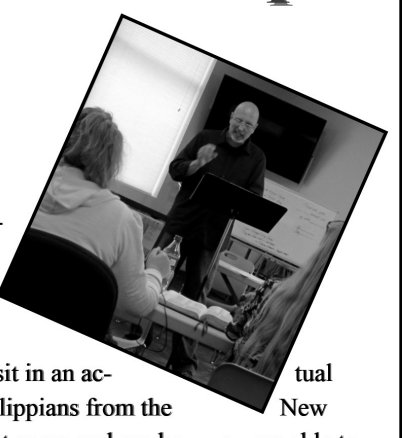
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Littered Highways Up for Adoption

Each spring, many Hoosiers roll up their sleeves and begin the task of "spring cleaning" along Indiana's highways. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) annual Trash Bash is a statewide effort to focus resources on removing litter and debris from state roadsides.

Trash Bash 2015 begins this week and will be conducted through the month of April. INDOT is calling upon Adopt-A-Highway volunteer groups, Department of Corrections offender crews and INDOT personnel to clean up the roadsides after a long winter and rainy early spring.

Across the state, 2,400 Adopt-A-Highway volunteers helped pick up 16,471 bags of trash and 9,394 cubic yards of loose debris along 1,486 miles of highways last year. Those volunteers logged in more than 10,250 hours.

Organizations interested in caring for a portion of a Hoosier highway as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program, may contact the INDOT East Central District Office at 1-855-463-6848 for information. The Adopt-A-Highway program helps significantly reduce the roadside trash problem and improves the look of

Continued Below, Right

Indiana's communities while helping to uncover the state's natural heritage and save tax dollars.

INDOT is pursuing innovative ways to provide highway litter control at the lowest cost to taxpayers, including the Sponsor-A-Highway program for interstate highways in Indianapolis and the surrounding area. Under Sponsor-A-Highway, businesses and organizations contract with private service providers for litter cleanup. The service provider and its safety procedures are approved by INDOT, but unlike volunteer groups, the personnel are trained in working safely along interstate highways. The same service providers perform these functions for similar programs in many other states. If you are interested in sponsoring a highway, go to http://www.in.gov/indot/2597.htm.

Adopt-A-Highway and Sponsor-A-Highway programs benefit all

See Adoption, Page 11.

KHS Art Club event Friday, April 17

The Knightstown High School Art Club is hosting "Cookies & Canvas," a painting event open to all ages of the public on Friday, April 17.

For a cost of $20, the Art Club offers delicious cookies and provides all participants with an 11x14 canvas and access to all paints and brushes.

Spaces are limited for the event. Those interested should contact James Jahrsdoerfer on Twitter @khs_art or by emailing him at jjahrs@cabeard.k12.in.us.

"Cookies & Canvas" takes place from 6-8 p.m. in the KHS cafeteria.

Free Dental Care Available April 24-25

A two-day dental clinic at the Indiana State Fairgrounds will provide free dental care for up to 2,000 Hoosiers on Friday and Saturday, April 24-25.

The IndianaMOM Mission of Mercy clinic will deliver approximately $1 million in free dental care. The event is a charitable outreach program of the Indiana Dental Association Foundation for Dental Health, and is being sponsored by the Delta Dental Foundation as well as several other foundations and organizations.

The event will focus on providing free oral health care to patients of all ages who cannot otherwise afford or access care. The goal is to provide at least one dental service to up to 1,000 people each day of the clinic. Over 1,100 volunteers are expected to participate.

Patients will be treated on a first come, first served basis starting at 6:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Event organizers expect people to start lining up on Friday night, so potential patients are encouraged to arrive early and expect a long wait. Patients will receive a health history screening and dental treatment as well as education on overall wellness resources, habits for improving dental health, and help with finding a dental home.

Patients are asked to come early and wear comfortable shoes. All patients should bring water and snacks, photo ID, medicine (if needed) and diapers (if needed).

Agents will be available to help patients register for available social services. Anyone interested in registering for social services must bring Social Security numbers for all family members, birthdates for all family members, photo ID, proof of address, paystubs and current insurance information. Additional information and a patient FAQ is available online at http://www.indianamom.org/patient-faq.htm.

PUBLIC AUCTION

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 5:30 P.M.

116 West Morgan St., Knightstown

Thompson – Miller Milk Bottles,Several Crocks,Canning Crock,Copper Kettles,Wooden Bowels,Cast Iron Skillets,Oil Lamps,Ball Jars,Pickle Jar,Lanterns,Peyrex Dishes,Wood Planes,Oil Cans,Oyster Box,Armour Dried Beef Bx,Primitive Hand Tools,Baby Buggy,Vintage.Wheel Barrow,Rug Beaters,Apple Crates,Lawn Cart,Wicker Lamp Table,Veg.Baskets,Garden Water Pump,Pine Shutters,Glassware,Vin.Kitchen Utensils,3Sets of Metal Gym Lockers,File Cabinets,Oak Chairs,Horse Collar w/mirror,Oak Sewing Table,Vin,Flatware,Heidi Dolls,Old Eyeglasses,Vin,Lights,Galv.Wash Tubs, Galv,Water Cooler, GWW Lamps,Meat Chopper,Dep.Glass,Drawknife,Ice Hooks,Cookie Jar,Plastic Cookie Cutters,Whal Oil Can,,Machinery's Handbook,PMA Bullet Penciles,Coca-Cpla Bottle Opener,Skeleton Keys,Vin.Trunk,30+R.R. Glass Insulator's ,Primitive Wood Mallets,Estate Washer&Dryer and much more!!! Dress Warm

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: All items sold as where is. Announcements made day of sale take precedents over printed material: For more photos go to Auctionzip.com ID #8305 Terms:Cash or Check with proper ID.

Auctioneer Mark Tompkins AU19500170 - 765-571-0627

HENRY COUNTY LAND AUCTION

34.27 Acres of Tillable Farm Land Situated At Approximately 200 N. 600 W.

NEW CASTLE, IN

Offering is tillable, productive farmland, Land is approx. ¼ mile north of SR 234 and on the east side of 600 W. Sale to be held at Swindell Farm Equipment @ 8409 N. 1000 E., Wilkinson, IN 46186 on:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 @ 6:00 PM

TERMS: Offering will be sold subject to Seller Approval, with no contingencies, and "AS IS" "WHERE IS". Seller will furnish Owner's Title Policy in amount of purchase, and prorate taxes to date of closing. Buyer to pay 15% Non-Refundable Earnest Money, and execute a Purchase Agreement immediately following Auction. 2015 Farming Possession will be given when Earnest Money Check clears.

For full details of terms contact List Agent Brittany Burke of RE/MAX Realty Group at 317-498-7847 or RE/MAX agent/auctioneer Steve Sanford at 317-716-8679.

More information will soon be available online @ www.steve-sanford.com

Auctioneer License AU01028055

Any announcements Sale Night by Auctioneer will take precedence over any printed material, or prior information. Cooperating Buyer's Brokers will be offered 1% commission at closing.

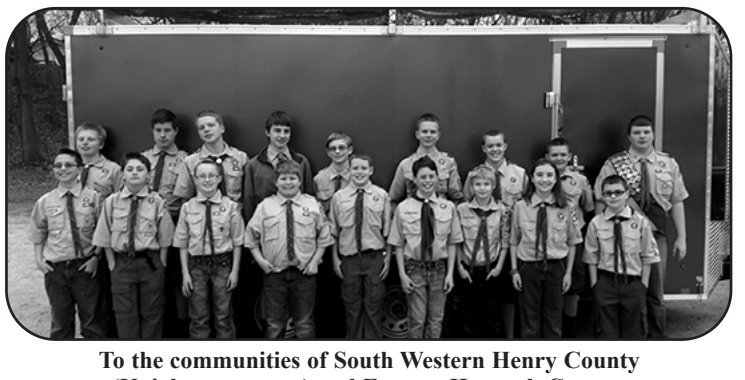
BLC# 21287260

Closing to be on or before May 22, 2015

OWNERS: Chris & Scott Maxwell

RE/MAX RE/MAX

Thank You!



To the communities of South Western Henry County (Knightstown area) and Eastern Hancock County,

Boy Scout Troop 293 would like to thank everyone for their support during our recent fundraisers to help purchase our new Troop trailer. Your gracious donations have allowed us to purchase a 2015 Look 7x16 enclosed trailer to keep our troop equipment in and to help transport all of our troop and boys gear to and from our multiple outings every year. The total cost of the new trailer was $4,230. With the sale of our previous trailer, which was grossly undersized, and your gracious donations we have raised all but $885. We have had someone loan the Troop the money so we could purchase the trailer and not have to cancel any of our planned outings that require its use.

Again, Troop 293 would like to say **THANK YOU** to everyone who has helped us in working to obtain our goal. We will continue to work to raise money beyond paying for the trailer so we can put our Troop graphics on the side of it to identify who we are everywhere we go.

BSA Troop 293

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Knightstown Plan Commission Approves Updates to Growth, Development Timetable

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

The Knightstown Plan Commission voted unanimously Monday to approve updates to the timetable for growth and development that is part of the town's comprehensive plan.

The commission's seven members approved a new pie chart at their April 13 meeting that lists specific plans for the immediate future, as well as those for two, five, 10, 15 and 20 years from now. This is the culmination of work that has been going on almost weekly since late January.

Here is what the plan commission has identified for growth and development goals for the town over the next 20 years, as worded on the pie chart:

Immediate Goals

Future Annexation North, South and West of Town that Knightstown Utilities Services; Street and Alley Repair and Maintenance; Safe Routes to School for Sidewalk Installation and Repair; Brand the Town; Implement Ordinance Violations Bureau; and Update Zoning Ordinances and Fiscal Planning Procedures.

Two-Year Plan

Seek Funding for Bullet Hole Project; Seek Funding for Installation and Repair of Sidewalks; Develop Strategies for Growth and Development; Partnership with Local Businesses; Attract New Businesses; Complete Sewer Rehab and Upgrade; Develop Pool Grant Plan; Develop Main Street Strategy; Cemetery Funding Plan; Police Station Remodel; Real Estate Developer-Annexation Plan; Continue Street Repair and Maintenance; Initiate Fresh Water Rehab Plan; Continue Water Well Acquisition; and Utility Rate Studies (to be done every two years).

Five-Year Plan

Analyze and Replace Multi-Task Transformer; New Town Hall (Planning Stage); Seek Funding to Complete Rails to Trails; Bullet Hole Project; Annexation West (Plan Begins); Sidewalks, Curbs, Paving; Strategy for SR 109/I-70 Corridor; Freshwater Rehab; New Police Station (Planning Stage); Develop Plan for Raysville; Annex SR 109 to CR 750-S and CR-850 S to Greensboro Pike; Identify/Explore Real Estate Development; Develop Strategy Upgrade to Main Street; Water Tower; Rate Study for all Utilities; Update Comprehensive Plan; Evaluate Park and Recreation Expansion Needs; and New Building for Water Plant.

10-Year Plan

Rate Study; Develop/Plan Industrial Park; Water Well Acquisition; New Town Hall; Continue Main Street Upgrade; Park Impact Fee; Review Utility Capacity; and Update Comprehensive Plan.

15-Year Plan

Trail Expansion; Complete Annexation of Raysville; Annex North and West to Hancock County Line; Evaluate Police/Fire Protection Needs; New Pool; Continue Residential Development Plan Annexation East to Dunreith; and Update Comprehensive Plan.

20-Year Plan

Continue to Improve All Utilities; Seek Opportunities for Continued Growth; Educational Opportunity Review; Review Safety Needs; Government Overhaul; and Update Comprehensive Plan.

More information about Monday's plan commission meeting can be found in the memoranda and minutes of that proceeding. Those public records are available for inspection and copying at Knightstown Town Hall, 26 S. Washington St., during normal business hours.

The plan commission's next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Monday, April 20, in the back meeting room at town hall. The meeting is open to the public.

Henry County Hospital Unveils New Family Health Center in Cambridge City

Cambridge City Family Health Partners at 415 E. Main St., Cambridge City, has been opened by Henry County Hospital to better serve communities in Wayne, southern Randolph and Fayette counties with evening and Saturday hours.

Another important benefit is the extensive list of Obamacare Health Insurance Marketplace plans the office and Henry County Hospital accept. These plans include Anthem, MDWise Marketplace, CareSource, United Healthcare, Ambetter from MHS and Assurant Health. They also participate in HIP 2.0 and accept Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance.

Experienced and board certified nurse practitioners Juli Taylor, FNP-BC, CDME, and Toni Wilcher, FNP-BC, CDME, will provide care for infants, children, teens and adults. They care for acute problems such as the flu or minor illnesses as well as chronic conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure.

Occupational Medicine services available for local businesses include DOT physicals. The office also provides sports, school and camp physicals.

If further specialized care is needed, they will provide convenient referrals to specialists at Henry County Hospital or other facilities as needed. They are assisted in the office by Julie Blaase, LPN, and Brandi Jessee, MA.

Convenient Evening and Saturday Hours Available

New to the area is the opportunity to receive medical care in the evenings and on Saturday morning. On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday the office is open 11 a.m.-7 p.m. On Wednesday, the office is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m.-noon.

"We've set these convenient hours because we know it often is hard to arrange schedules to coincide with the usual office hours offered by most family medicine offices," said Taylor, who has 15 years of experience as a family nurse practitioner.

"In most cases we can see you the same day you call for an appointment," she continued.

Appointments may be made by calling 765-478-4541. Walk-ins are welcome, however patients with appointments are given preference.

The office accepts checks and Visa, MasterCard and Discover for services not covered by insurance.

Henry County Hospital and its physicians provide specialty care in asthma, allergies, cardiology, obstetrics/gynecology, general surgery, orthopedics and sports medicine, immunology, infectious disease, pain management, pediatrics, internal medicine, family medicine and physiatry. A complete list of specialists is available on Find A Doctor at www.hcmhcares.org.

Henry County Hospital also offers other specialty services including advanced wound care with hyperbaric oxygen chambers to promote wound healing, Cardiovascular and Sleep Centers, Joint Replacement Center, BirthCare Center, physical, occupational, aquatic and speech therapies, home care and hospice.

Survey Reveals Higher Retail Food Prices

Higher retail prices for several foods, notably orange juice and three varieties of meat, resulted in an increase in Indiana Farm Bureau's spring market basket survey.

The informal survey shows the total cost of 16 food items was $52.40, up $1.22 or 2 percent compared to the survey last fall – and up more than $4 and more than 8 percent compared to the survey conducted this same time last year.

This increase was despite the fact that farm income, particularly regarding grain prices, has been in decline for more than a year, noted Isabella Chism, Indiana Farm Bureau second vice president.

"Many people are under the impression that increases in grocery store prices are the result of higher on-farm prices. But that is often not the case, and this quarter's survey is an example of that misconception," explained Chism, who with her family farms near Kokomo.

Farm income from the sale of crops decreased by 9.3 percent from 2013 to 2014 and is expected to drop by nearly 8 percent from 2014 to 2015, according to the USDA's Economic Research Service. Income from livestock rose by more than 14 percent from 2013 to 2014 but is expected to drop by nearly 5 percent from

See Survey, Page 16

State Parks Offer Variety of Organized Runs and Walks

Organized runs and walks, hiking and mountain biking opportunities and more make Indiana's state parks the perfect place to get fit this year.

Also this month is the Hardy Lake Ramble for the Raptors, April 18. Proceeds from the 5k run/walk race benefit Hardy Lake and the Dwight Chamberlain Raptor Center.

The Hardy Lake event and additional races throughout the year at state parks is at stateparks.in.gov/7610.htm. Organized races, including triathlons, also are taking place at Chain O'Lakes, Indiana Dunes, Lincoln, Mounds, Ouabache, Pokagon, Summit Lake and Versailles state parks, and Mississinewa, Monroe and Patoka lakes. Check the website regularly for additions to this list.

Sandra Wills' 2015

BUS TRIPS

Lunch and Show! — **March 12** - $65.00 Matinee Lunch & Show "So[illegible]" at LaComedia — GREAT TRIP!

7 Days, 6 Nights! — **April 12-18** - $589.00* New Orleans 7 Days/6 Nights (Double Occupancy) — HAVING A BALL!

Cruise! — **May 14** - $70, Cruise the Ohio River and Have Lunch on the Belle of Cincinnati Riverboat

Dinner and Show! — **August 4** - $75.00 "Tribute to Elvis" by Mike Albert (Evening Dinner & Show)

7 Days, 6 Nights! — **September 13-19** - $638.00* Cape Cod - 7 Days/6 Nights (Double Occupancy)

Lunch and Show! — **October 2** - $65.00 - Church Basement Ladies "The Last Potluck Supper" - LaComedia

Lunch and Show! — **November 6** - $65.00 - "A Christmas Story" The Musical - LaComedia

5 Days, 4 Nights! — **Nov. 16-20** - $519.00 - Nashville Show Trip 5 Days/4 Nights (Double Occupancy)

Please call if you want to put your name on a list for any trip!

Sandra Wills: 765-987-8503 (cell)
765-529-2067 (home) - 765-529-2348 (work)

THE Banner = ACCURATE NEWS REPORTING

Rushville's Rush 2 Health Hosting May 9 Family Fitness Celebration

Rush 2 Health will be celebrating its first year's progress by hosting a family fitness celebration following the Mayor's 5K Run/Walk in Rushville.

The celebration will include games, prize give-a-ways, an inflatable slide, "Bunge" run, and a kickball game following the run/walk.

The Rush 2 Health Family Fitness Celebration is partnering with the Mayor's 5K Run/Walk on Saturday May 9, at Rushville's Riverside Park Amphitheater from 7:30 a.m.-noon.

Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. and the Mayor's 5K Run/Walk will begin at 8:30 a.m. At 9:30 am, Clean Green Rush will be giving away free trees.

Registration deadline for the Mayor's 5K Run/Walk is April 27 (to guarantee a T-Shirt).

Registration packets can be found on the city of Rushville's website, Rush2health.org and at city hall. Rush 2 Health participants qualify for a $3 discount by providing their membership numbers on their registration. Not a Rush 2 Health participant? Now is the time to register and save $3. In addition to a $3 discount, Rush 2 Health participants will receive a special gift on race day. A portion of the proceeds from the Mayor's 5K Run/Walk will benefit Rush 2 Health.

Rush 2 Health is a part of Partners for a Healthy Rush County Fitness Initiative Team. The mission of the Fitness Initiative Team is to reduce obesity and physical inactivity within our community and to raise the overall awareness of health and well-being in Rush County.

Small Business Advocates Offer QuickBooks Training

The East Central Indiana Small Business Development Center (ISBDC) is hosting a beginning QuickBooks workshop on Friday, May 1, and an intermediate QuickBooks workshop on Friday, June 23. Both sessions run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Innovation Connector (1028 W White River Blvd.). Karen Tower, Accounting and Business Administration Chair at Ivy Tech in Richmond, will teach participants how to use key aspects of QuickBooks including set up, bank accounts, sales, payments, inventory, payroll, invoicing, estimating, sales tax, and financial statement analytics.

"QuickBooks will help small businesses keep their financial information organized and report-ready. This helps in the decision-making process as the business grows," noted Tower. "These workshops will provide attendees with ideas for better setup of the systems and preventing common pitfalls. There is always more to learn. If you leave the training with even one time-saving tip, your time was well spent."

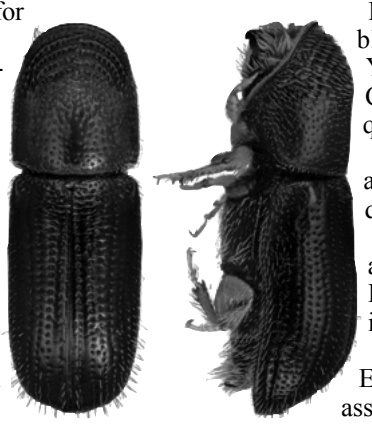
Participants can enroll in both workshops for $150 or $99 per session. To register, please go to www.isbdc.org and click on the "Workshops and Events" link. For more information, call 765-282-9950.

The East Central ISBDC provides no-cost, confidential small business consulting to 11 counties of East Central Indiana. Access these services by visiting www.isbdc.org or calling 765-282-9950.

Walnut Twig Beetle Detected Here

The Walnut Twig Beetle (WTB), Pityophthorus juglandis, the insect involved in Thousand Cankers Disease of Black Walnut (TCD), has been detected in Indiana for the first time at a Franklin County sawmill.

The beetle was detected in a trap placed at the sawmill for a 2014 statewide survey for WTB.



Additional WTBs were found during an inspection of walnut logs and lumber at the sawmill.

TCD is caused by the fungus Geosmithia morbida that is transmitted by WTB.

The beetles bore into walnut branches, feeding on the tree's tissues and depositing the fungus that creates a canker, or dead area, under the bark. Multiple feedings cause the formation of thousands of cankers under the bark and destroy the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Gradually the tree dies.

Tests for the fungus from the collected beetles and walnut samples in Franklin County are ongoing. So far, the fungus has not been detected.

Surveys at the sawmill have not detected any infested walnut trees. Another survey is planned for this summer for the area surrounding the sawmill.

State Entomologist Phil Marshall has ordered the sawmill quarantined. The sawmill is working with the DNR and is destroying walnut material on the property to prevent movement of TCD from the property.

In 2014, TCD was discovered in a black walnut plantation in Yellowwood State Forest in Brown County. That plantation has also been quarantined.

Franklin County is not under quarantine because TCD has not been detected in a walnut tree in the county.

Movement of walnut logs, lumber and other walnut material within Indiana is not restricted. Movement into and out of Indiana is restricted.

Contact the DNR Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology for assistance to move walnut.

Of the other 100-plus survey locations in 2014, no WTB was detected.

The other states with TCD are Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and eight western states.

More information on TCD can be found at dnr.IN.gov/entomolo/6249.html.

KHS Boys Golf Team Relying on Veterans

Knightstown boys golf coach Bob Allen has finalized his varsity roster and is ready to get the season started.

The team will lean heavily on the experience of returning players Curtis Robbins, Nolan Hagy, Drew Greenwood and Spencer Roberts," Coach Allen said. "All four players contributed significantly last year."

Robbins, Hagy and Roberts are seniors this year while Greenwood is a junior.

Allen said Jackson Edwards and Noah Stone also return this year "with a much improved game."

Jackson is a junior and Stone is a sophomore. Both golfters plan to see significant varsity action this year, Allen added.

"Newcomers looking to have an impact are Ryan Braunschweig and Sam Moore," reported Allen. The two newcomers are both seniors.

The golf team kicks its season off in Rushville on Wednesday, April 15, then goes on the road again to compete against New Palestine the following day.

Adoption, from Page 9

parties involved: The motoring public benefits from litter removal, the taxpayer receives a valuable service while allowing more resources to be invested in roads and bridges, and the group is promoted by well-located signage in high-traffic areas.

Everyone shares the responsibility to keep Indiana's highways clean by following these tips:

*Don't litter: Set a good example for everyone, especially children.

*Be responsible: Carry a trash bag in the car instead of tossing litter out the window.

*Report it: Report areas where people have illegally dumped garbage to your local transportation, public works or conservation office.

Adopt-A-Highway: Call 1-855-463-6848 and become involved in helping beautify an area near you

JV Softballers Get Underway

Knightstown's junior varsity softball team overwhelmed South Decatur in their home opener on April 7, pounding out 19 hits and defeating the conference foe 21-1.

The Lady Panthers dominated from the start, going up 6-0 at the end of the first inning. They added four more runs in the second inning and two in the third to increase their lead to 12-0.

South Decatur finally got on the board with a run in the top of the fourth. But, the Lady Panthers answered that with nine runs in the bottom of that inning and held their opponent scoreless in the top side of the fifth to get the win.

Tori McDonald and Courtney Carlton shared pitching duties, with McDonald getting the start. The two combined for four strike outs and allowed only one hit.

Carlton also led at the plate, going 3-for-4 with one walk. Dharma Holder hit two doubles and Allyson Hauk had a double and single. Candice Wyatt scored four runs.

On April 11, the JV team whipped Indian Creek 17-7 at Trafalgar.

McDonald got another win on the mound, finishing with four strike outs and allowing no walks. She was also hot at the plate, going 4-for-5 with two doubles and five RBIs.

Holder was 4-for-5 from the plate, including a home run.

Allyson Hauk and MaKenna Leisure each hit a double. Leisure also frustrated the Lady Braves with her baserunning, getting four stolen bases.

Other players with multiple hits included Kiley Breece, Candice Wyatt, Paige Nelson, Sierra Pursley, and Mackinsy Fowler.

The JV team is now 2-0 on the season and in the Mid-Hoosier Conference.

Clear Thinking

"What do we mean by patriotism in the context of our times? I venture to suggest that what we mean is a sense of national responsibility...a patriotism which is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime."

Adlai Stevenson

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Three Panther Cheerleaders Named to Academic All-state Cheerleading Team

By Stacy Cox
General Manager

Just 12 cheerleaders from across Indiana were selected to this year's Academic All-State Cheer Team.

Three of those 12 are Knightstown High School cheerleaders.

Drumm

KHS seniors Suzanne Drumm, Shelby Patton and Abby Winters were chosen for the academic honor this year.

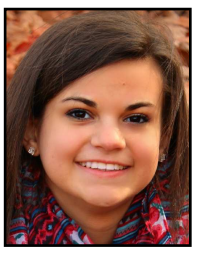
The Academic All-State Cheer Team is selected based on the cheerleader's accomplishments in the classroom and in their communities. Each team member receives a $100 scholarship with the highest-scoring team member awarded a $1,000 scholarship.

Kathryn Riccitelli of Hamilton Southeastern was given the top honor and the $1,000 scholarship.

The other eight cheerleaders on the academic team are Briana Crowe (Munster HS), Kennedy Drago (Delta HS), Dominique Effinger (Bishop Dwenger HS), Marissa Hochstetler (Northwood HS), Kynnedy Kelly (Cathedral HS), Lucy Schenkel (Bishop Dwender HS), Bailey Ridgway (Tri-West HS) and Karlie VanHouten (Lake Central HS).

Knightstown varsity cheerleading coach Jana Burton was proud to see three girls from her squad being recognized.

"The Knightstown cheerleaders are just as successful in the classroom as they are on the competition floor," Burton said. "These three girls have always been strong academically and put their academics first. It was never a rare site to see them with their books out at a game studying when they weren't cheering."


Patton

Suzanne Drumm, daughter of Roger Drumm and Linda Norton, carries a 4.08 grade point average at KHS and is in the top 10 of her class. In addition to cheerleading, she serves as the president of the French Club and the History Club, the vice-president of the Student Council and is treasurer of the KHS National Honor Society.

"Cheerleading has taught me that hard work truly does pay off as well as the importance of sportsmanship and giving credit where it is due," said Drumm, who also spends time outside of school as an Optimist Club cheerleading coach and as a tutor.

Drumm received the Herbert Presidential Scholarship from IUPUI where she will attend next year to major in mechanical engineering. She hopes to someday work on the development and construction of theme park attractions.

Winters

Drumm's teammate Shelby Patton also plans to attend IUPUI after graduating from KHS this year to major in nursing. She would like to eventually become a neonatal nurse practitioner.

Patton is the daughter of Joe and Penny Patton of Knightstown. She was given Knightstown's award for "highest GPA" on the cheerleading team in 2013 and in 2015 with her 4.14 grade point average.

"My experience on the squad has helped shape me to be hardworking and a positive role model," Patton said about her time on the Panther team.

Her hard work earned her the Indiana Career & Technical Education Award for Excellence. She also participated in History Club, National Honor Society, Health Occupations Students of America, the National Technical Honor Society and the Spanish Club, where she serves as treasurer.

Abby Winters, daughter of Eric Winters of Carthage, has been on the honor roll all through high school. She's a student leader of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a group she's been involved in for two years.

"Talent and success are God-given," said Winters. " I cannot take credit for what God has done for me but can only be thankful."

Winters carries a 4.024 grade point average. She is treasurer of the French Club and secretary of the History Club. She is also on the school's National Honor Society and played on the tennis team. She is attending Indiana University at Bloomington after graduation.

"KHS cheerleading has been a huge part of my high school career," Winters added. "I am sincerely grateful for the memories and friends I have gained from it."

Coach Burton said she will miss having these three exemplary student-athletes on her squad.

"I wish these girls the best and have no doubt they will be very successful in the years to come."

Lady Panthers Trounce South Decatur in Home Opener

Lady Panther Vivian Goodpaster leads off first base last Friday against South Decatur. (Eric Cox photo)

Knightstown varsity girls softball team kicked off their season with a 20-2 victory at home over Mid-Hoosier Conference member South Decatur on April 10.

The game was practically over at the end of the first inning with the Lady Panthers jumping out to a 12-0 lead. They improved that lead to 14-0 at the end of the second inning.

South Decatur was able to prevent Knightstown from adding to that lead in the third and finally got on the board with two runs at the top of the fourth inning.

The Lady Panthers answered with six more runs at the bottom of the fourth and kept the Lady Cougars from scoring in the top of the fifth to claim the victory.

KHS head coach Bret Mann named sophomore Robyn Clark the MaxPreps Player of the Game.

"Robyn had two bases-loaded clearing triples," reported Mann. "Clark also made a superb double play, catching a deep ball in centerfield and gunning out a runner going from second to third base."

Clark also hit a single, had six RBIs and scored two runs.

"Haley Fowler also played great," Mann added. "She pitched a one-hitter with nine strikeouts and was 2-for-2 at the plate with three runs scored and two RBIs."

Vivian Goodpaster hit two singles, walked once, scored four runs and stole base once.

Brooke Vise was walked at all her four appearances at the plate. She scored three times.

Sidney Hastings got two hits and three RBIs with two runs scored.

Ryan Johnson hit a single, scored one run and had one RBI.

Georgee Lawhorne also hit a single, walked once and scored two runs.

Sammi Eaks added a base hit and scored a run. Tori McDonald and Candice Wyatt also scored once.

Player of the game Robyn Clark catches a ball deep in right field Friday evening against South Decatur. (Eric Cox photo)

Ladies Fall to Indian Creek; Blank Liberty Christian

Last year's Mid-Hoosier Conference champions Indian Creek held off the Knightstown varsity softball team to take the 4-3 win on Saturday.

The Lady Braves got on the board first with a run in the bottom of the first inning. The Lady Panthers tied it up in the top of the second. But, Indian Creek scored two more in the bottom of the second to take the 3-1 lead.

Both teams were scoreless in the third and fourth innings. Indian Creek scored another run in the fifth inning then KHS tightened the Braves' lead to 4-2 with a run in the top of the sixth.

The Lady Panthers held their opponents in the bottom of the sixth. KHS rallied in the seventh, scored another run but Indian Creek ultimately prevailed 4-3.

"Robyn Clark was again our offensive spark, going 3-for-3 with one run and one RBI," said head coach Bret Mann. Clark was named the MaxPreps Player of the Game for the second straight game.

Haley Fowler pitched all six innings, allowing seven hits. She struck out two batters and walked eight.

Carmen Cleek made 10 assists from the shortstop and second base positions with no errors. She had one hit and scored one run.

Vivian Goodpaster hit two singles with one RBI and Ryan Johnson hit an RBI-single.

Georgee Lawhorne and Brooke Vise each got a base hit.

Courtney Carlton had one stolen base and scored Knightstown's other run.

The loss to Indian Creek moved the Lady Panthers' record to 1-1 on the season and in the conference.

KHS vs. Liberty Christian

Knightstown's varsity softball team bounced back from their tough loss to Indian Creek on Saturday by pounding out 16 hits in just four innings to defeat Liberty Christian 17-0 at home on Monday.

"We played 17 kids and they all contributed," Coach Bret Mann reported.

"Georgee Lawhorne and Vivian Goodpaster both had three hits and three runs," said Mann, who named Lawhorne the Player of the Game. "Georgee just crushed the ball three times, including an inside-the-park home run and added a sacrifice bunt as well. And, to top it off, she finished the game with a 6-4-3 double play."

The Lady Panthers scored four runs in the first inning, two more in the second, six runs in the third inning and five runs in the fourth.

Fowler got the win from the mound, pitching three innings before she was replaced after the team's first out in the fourth inning. Fowler struck out six batters and walked just one while allowing only two hits.

Tori McDonald took over from Fowler in the fourth and pitched the final inning.

Besides Lawhorne's home run, the Lady Panthers also hit two triples, seven doubles and six singles.

Lawhorne added a double and a single to her home run. She had two RBIs and stole one base.

Goodpaster also had a stolen base and finished with a triple, a double and a single with one RBI.

Sammi Eaks hit a triple and a double with one RBI and one run scored.

See Ladies, Page 16

Local Sports

McRoberts Player of Game Against Indian Creek

The Knightstown varsity baseball team finally got some cooperation from Mother Nature and worked in a game last week.

In their home opener, the Panthers clobbered Mid-Hoosier Conference foe Indian Creek on April 10. KHS had 15 hits in just four innings to claim a 20-2 win over the Braves.

Isaac McRoberts was named the MaxPreps Player of the Game by the team's coaching staff. He went 3-for-3 with four runs scored and two RBIs.

Isaac McRoberts was named the MaxPreps Player of the Game by the team's coaching staff. He went 3-for-3 with four runs scored and two RBIs.

Tyler Richardson got the win on the mound, striking out nine batters and walking just one. He allowed only three hits and two runs in the five innings he pitched.

Drake Peggs hit a two-run home run and a single. He scored three times.

Spencer Mattix had four RBIs on two hits and a fielder's choice with two runs scored.

Kaleb Kinnaman had two hits, a fielder's choice and two RBIs with three runs scored.

Jake Bearhope hit a double, knocking in two runs. He scored once.

Mike Jones hit an RBI-double and also scored once.

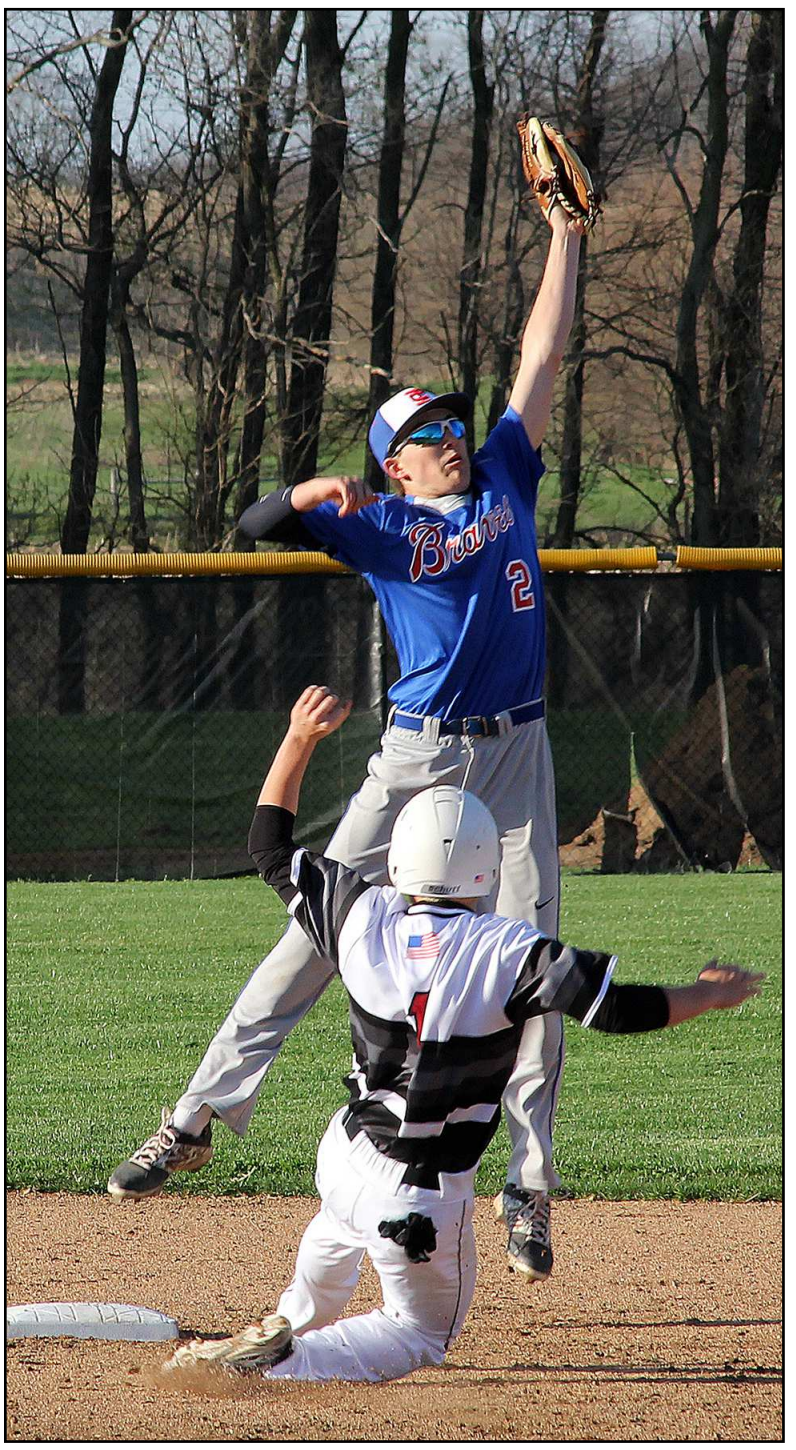
Richardson had two hits, one RBI and scored three times.

Tyler Hubble hit a single, knocked in two runs and scored one run. He also got the team's only stolen base.

Tyler Burton added a base hit and scored a run and Jake Kwisz had two RBIs and one run scored.

The Panthers take their 1-0 record to South Decatur on Tuesday, April 14.

Tyler “Tank” Richardson enjoys congratulations from his fellow players during the Panthers’ 20-2 shellacking of Indian Creek last Friday at home. (Eric Cox photo)



Panther Drake Peggs slides into second base as an Indian Creek leaps to field a high throw. (Eric Cox photo)

Early Lead Helps New Castle Beat JV Team

The Panthers' junior varsity baseball team suffered a 14-2 loss against New Castle at home on Monday night in the team's season opener.

The Trojans took an early 3-0 lead at the end of the first inning. Both teams scored a run in the second inning and were scoreless in the third.

New Castle put two more runs on the board in the top of the fourth inning and Knightstown came back with another run in the bottom of that inning. Neither team scored in the fifth inning.

The Trojans were up 6-2 to start the sixth inning and then pounded out eight runs at the top of the sixth. The Panthers were unable to score again.

Freshmen Kaunner Cleek and Colin Ferree split the pitching. Cleek struck out five batters and walked six while allowing three hits and seven runs. Ferree walked three batters and allowed two hits and three runs.

Hagan Moore was the standout for the JV Panthers. He was 3-for-3 with two doubles and one run scored.

Jared Porter hit two singles and knocked in both of the team's runs. Connor Brockman scored the Panthers' other run.

Tyler Burton had a hit and one stolen base.

The JV Panthers take on rival Eastern Hancock on Tuesday and Triton Central on Wednesday this week. Both games are on the road.

Saturday Brings Guided Hike at Mounds S.P.

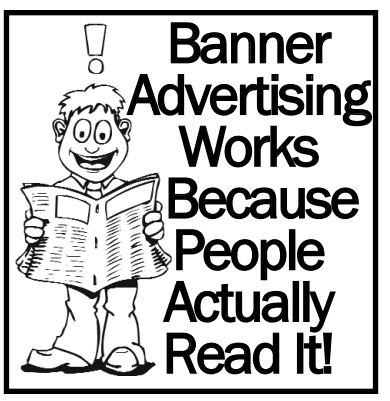
A free, guided hike at Mounds State Park on April 18 offers a chance to learn about the park’s spring wildflowers and unique groundwater springs from a local botanist.

Kevin Tungesvick, an expert on the park’s plant life, will lead the hike, which starts at 1 p.m. at the nature center. The distance will be between 1 and 2 miles and travel through upland ravines and floodplain woods.

Tungesvick is co-author of “The Additions to the Flora of Mounds State Park,” an article published in the Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science.

Regular park entrance fees of $5 per in-state vehicle and $7 per out-of-state vehicle apply.

Mounds State Park (stateparks.IN.gov/2977.htm) is at 4306 Mounds Rd., Anderson, 46017.



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YARD SALE - Clear glass, clothes, little bit of everything. 217 S. Adams. Thursday-Saturday, 8 a.m.-??

EVENT

CARTHAGE LIONS CLUB will host its annual Spring Pancake & Sausage Breakfast, featuring all-you-can-eat biscuits & gravy. Freewill offering. Saturday, April 25, 6:30-11 a.m. at the Carthage Community Center. Proceeds to Carthage Lions Club projects.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT - 3 bedroom, 2 bath, newly remodeled, 4-car detached garage in Carthage. $750 per month, plus $750 deposit. Service animals only. 765-571-2278. (4-22)

FOR RENT – Nice, turn of the century 2 BR/1BA with laundry room addition, and newer 11x22 mini-barn at 333 E. Main, Knightstown. New floor covering and paint throughout in October 2014. Service animals only. No smoking. $540/month, $500 deposit. 1-year lease. 317-902-3755 (4/15)

HOUSE FOR LEASE – in Raysville at 9288 S. Mill Rd. Nice 2 BR mobile home, 2-car attached garage, laundry room, central air, stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer furnished, large yard and porch. No smokers. Service animals only. Outside pets OK. Call Adams Enterprises 765-345-5113. $400 per month, with $400 damage deposit. (4-15)

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DOG or CAT GROOMING - $25 for full groom, large dogs, matted or specialty grooms may be a little more. 905 W. South Dr., Knightstown. Call 614-917-9964 to schedule an appointment.

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Ladies, from Page 12

Brooke Vise and Ryan Johnson each had a two-RBI double. Both scored once. Vise also had one stolen base.

Robyn Clark got a stolen base, hit a double and scored two runs.

Dharma Holder hit a double and scored once.

Fowler and Raeleigh Stallsworth each had a base hit, a stolen base and scored once.

Sidney Hastings got an RBI on a sacrifice fly. Candice Wyatt walked at her one plate appearance, stole one base and scored a run. Courtney Carlton also scored once while Haleigh Ooten had an RBI and one run.

The victory improved Knightstown's record to 2-1 on the season. They play rival and conference opponent Eastern Hancock on Tuesday evening. Complete game results on that game will be published in next week's issue.

Survey, from Page 10

2014 to 2015.

“Several meat items increased in price, accounting for much of the modest increase in the market basket,” noted John Anderson, deputy chief economist for the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Items showing retail price increases from last fall were: deli ham, up $1.25 to $6.34 per pound; ground chuck, up 24 cents to $4.46 per pound; sirloin tip roast, up 15 cents to $5.57 per pound; orange juice, up 43 cents to $3.67 per half-gallon; eggs, up 24 cents to $2.10 per dozen; flour, up 13 cents to $2.46 for a 5-pound bag; apples, up 15 cents to $1.87 per pound; bagged salad, up 9 cents to $1.95 per 1-pound bag; vegetable oil, up 34 cents to $3 for a 32-ounce bottle; toasted oat cereal, up 8 cents to $2.88 a 9-ounce box; white bread, up 15 cents to $1.53 per 20-ounce loaf.

These items showed retail price decreases compared to last fall: bacon, down 89 cents to $3.96 per pound; whole milk, down 44 cents to $2.81 per gallon; shredded cheddar cheese, down 41 cents to $4.09 per pound; potatoes, down 27 cents to $2.66 for a 5-pound bag; boneless chicken breasts, down 5 cents to $3.05 per pound.

As retail grocery prices have increased gradually over time, the share of the average food dollar that America’s farm and ranch families receive has dropped.

“Through the mid-1970s, farmers received about one-third of consumer retail food expenditures for food eaten at home and away from home, on average. Since then, that figure has decreased steadily and is now about 16 percent, according to the Agriculture Department’s revised Food Dollar Series,” Anderson said.

Using the “food at home and away from home” percentage across-the-board, the farmer’s share of this $52.40 market basket would be $8.38.

The INFB survey is part of a nationwide survey compiled by the American Farm Bureau Federation from data supplied by state Farm Bureaus. AFBF, the nation’s largest general farm organization, has been conducting the informal quarterly market basket survey of retail food price trends since 1989. The series includes a spring survey, summer cookout survey, fall survey and Thanksgiving survey. A total of 86 shoppers (14 of them from Indiana) in 29 states participated in the latest survey, conducted in March.

According to USDA, Americans spend just under 10 percent of their disposable annual income on food, the lowest average of any country in the world.

Hike, from Page 1

$5.2 million.

The council held a brief public hearing on the proposed rate hike on March 25. Only two local citizens spoke at the hearing, one in support of the rate hike and one opposed.

The council did not take any further action on the proposed increase during a special meeting that followed the March 25 public hearing. At the end of the council’s March 19 monthly meeting, Ward had made a motion, which passed unanimously, to delay a final vote on the ordinance until April because she would not be able to attend the March 25 public hearing and special meeting.

Tomorrow's council meeting, which is open to the public, will be held in the council's chambers at 28 S. Washington St. It starts at 7 p.m.

Wells, from Page 6

Wells even ran the sound system for the bands. He also acted as resident DJ for "Carpe Noctem", a huge monthly event featuring darkwave, industrial and other underground music and bands.

"It was a few years into this flurry of activity before I realized I hadn't had a day off," said Wells. "I was getting tired of working seven days a week. I loved it all, but needed a break."

Eventually, he sold the club, and the new owner wanted to utilize the space he had built for their own uses.

"So, after six years of being the coolest place around, I shut the doors and walked away," said Wells.

He then moved to East Tennessee and found a job inspecting titanium cooling tubes for nuclear reactors. Following the recent economic slump, nuclear production came to a halt and resulted in Wells's first layoff.

"Suddenly, I didn't have a job," he said. "This was a first since I was probably 14 years old or so. I didn't know what to do with myself. So while I hunted for jobs, I went to college and got a degree in computer science, then another in criminal justice."

On top of working at a communications company, Wells found a new outlet by joining the local fire department. He completed the required training to serve as a state of Tennessee commissioned firefighter.

"That became my new passion - helping those in need, serving the community, working in hazardous situations," Wells said.

He currently live in White Pine, Tenn., located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains.

Wells has two children, 23-year-old Kayleigh and 18-year-old Ryan.

His parents, Mike and Sonja Wells, still live in Knightstown, in the house where he grew up. His brother, Todd, and sister-in-law, Monica, live in Greenfield.

"Being in the Marine Corps really formed who I am today," said Wells. "From small town Indiana to world traveller in just a few short years, I got to experience things that others will never be able to even imagine. The intensity of Marine Corps life, the dedication, honor, the brotherhood ... all of those things are so important to me. I guess that's why I love being a firefighter so much now."

A Look Back

Old Fashioned Days in Knightstown, circa 1970.

Letters, from Page 4

we are working towards combating it. I look forward to all the initiatives that the Safety PIN program funds in an effort to educate and provide resources for new and expecting mothers.

Along with infant mortality, unfortunately, domestic violence is also something that is effecting Hoosiers across the state. According to the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, nearly 1,800 domestic violence victims were denied shelter because programs were over capacity over the course of a year. Also included in the House proposed budget is to double domestic violence funding from $2.5 million to $5 million. These additional resources will help care for those dealing with domestic violence situations.

Additionally, this session I have co-authored House Bill 1159 which provides a voluntary veterans' preference policy for hiring, promoting or retaining a veteran in private employment. Essentially, this bill will help to reduce veteran unemployment figures in Indiana and help veterans to find work. It is important to me to that we continue to help our Hoosier military members, and I have no doubts that the Legislature will ensure that active members and veterans are well taken care of.

Despite the storms and seemingly endless deliberations of this session, the coming weeks will ultimately illustrate the hard work and success of the Legislature. I look forward to seeing all that we can accomplish for the betterment of all Hoosiers.

State Rep. Tom Saunders
R-Lewisville

Dear Editor,

In slightly over a year, Indiana will celebrate its bicentennial with fireworks, parades and plenty of speeches in small towns across the state that are quickly emptying and nearly forgotten as a generation or two rushes to fill up larger cities and their adjacent suburbs.

While Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Evansville and South bend continue to expand with the refugees from rural life, I’ve witnessed a more simple way of life in small towns during a project to photograph each county courthouse and courthouse square as well as important historic buildings that may be soon lost to history.

During these trips on quiet county roads, it has become apparent that Indiana’s network of hamlets, villages, and small towns are among the state’s greatest assets. It doesn’t take many visits to a mom-and-pop store, touring a small manufacturing company or spending time on a family’s front porch drinking a cold ice tea on a warm summer night to realize the potential future of our state’s economic strength may be hidden – far away from the big cities, suburbs and interstates.

That potential lies deep in the small and rural communities that dot the Hoosier landscape. While it might appear as though the ‘small Midwestern town’ way of life is dying as many economists, politicians and writers have suggested, it only takes a short visit to these communities to discover they offer the seeds for renewal – both personal and economic.

In fact, "Regional Cities, Small Towns and Rural Places: Policy Issues for Indiana," a recent study by Ball State’s Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER), found that Indiana would boost economic growth by crafting policies to strengthen key regional cities and nearby suburban communities — often a driving distance of less than one hour —attracting new businesses and households. But just consider that just down the road from the outlying suburbs and communities are the smaller hamlets, offering a quiet way of life far.

Every time I visit one of these idyllic Midwestern small, I come upon what I believe to be the very future of our state. Residents within these communities, locations often consisting of less than 2,500 residents, live within walking distances to each other, the grocery store and other services. These communities have tremendous pride in good roads, clean sidewalks and high academic achievements by students in local schools. Each community is filled with a workforce eager for new opportunities.

One hundred years ago, Colonel Richard Lieber convinced state officials to create a park system as a birthday gift for Indiana’s centennial, in part to honor the rich natural heritage of our forests, lakes, and streams, while providing access for the public. The horrors of the urban industrial revolution spurred a nationwide commitment to protecting natural habitats in local, state, and national parks.

Next year marks Indiana’s bicentennial and it may be time to embrace small town life. Perhaps we should use this as a chance to pause and reflect on how we live in America. We should at alternative living arrangements that better fit within the limitations of the environment, energy and our pocket books. If not, we can always look back at my photos of life as it was once – quieter, slower and more peaceful—but still lost to history.

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