



THE

# Banner

75¢

PERIODICALS  
NEWSPAPER

*"It is sobering to reflect that one of the best ways to get yourself a reputation as a dangerous citizen these days is to go about repeating the very phrases which our founding fathers used in the struggle for independence." - Charles A. Beard*

Vol. XVII, Issue 47

March 9, 2016

Knightstown, IN

## BPW Hosting Dinner and Garden Lecture

Shannon Dawson will be hostess for the March 21 BPW meeting at Sugarbakers at 6:30 p.m. Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp, author of *Hoosier Gardeners Guide* will be the speaker. Anyone interested in attending the meeting for dinner will need to make a reservation with Dawson (317-501-2105) by March 18. Cost is \$10 per person.

## Greensboro UMC Blood Drive Set

Greensboro United Methodist Church will host a community blood drive on Saturday, March 26, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Those who plan to donate should bring valid photo identification. Call Roxie Dalton at 765-686-5207 for more information.

## Vintage Gospel Lads Returning

The Vintage Gospel Lads will appear in concert at Knightstown First Christian Church, 138 W. Main St., April 1-3. The theme of the concerts is "The Four Soils." Watch for more information in coming weeks.

## EH Royal 3-on-3 Tourney March 12

The Eastern Hancock Athletic Boosters will hold their annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament at Eastern Hancock Schools on Saturday, March 12. There will be five divisions of play each for boys and girls. There will also be two open divisions for those under age 35 and age those 35 and older. Early registrations are due by March 5. Space permitting, registrations will also be accepted from 9-10 a.m. the day of the tournament. For more information, visit the school websites at [www.ehathletics.org](http://www.ehathletics.org) or [www.ehhoops.org](http://www.ehhoops.org).

## Workers Removing Glen Cove Items

Glen Cove Cemetery workers will be picking up grave blankets and any other decorations that are not on foundations the week of March 14. Patrons should pick up all items they are wanting to keep before this date. For more information, call 345-9181.

## Knightstown Department Heads Give Reports

by Jeff Eakins  
for The Banner

The Knightstown Town Council recently heard presentations from the heads of the town of Knightstown's electric, wastewater, street and water departments.

The presentations were made at the town council's Feb. 25 monthly meeting. The department heads gave brief overviews of their job responsibilities, equipment they maintain and use, and some of the issues they face.

Wayne Terry, who heads up the town's electric department, gave the first presentation. He told the council that he would like to add a fourth employee, which he said would allow the department to use its two bucket trucks simultaneously.

"Right now, we can't do that," Terry said, explaining that each bucket truck requires two employees to operate.

Terry said that requiring him to get three price quotes before purchasing needed supplies would make his job "a lot more difficult." He said that if Greg Neice, the town's works manager, didn't help gather pricing information, he would spend a third of his day just doing that.

"It's not our intent to make your life difficult," council member Roger Hammer told Terry.

Terry also told the council that he would like electric department employee Tim Apollos to be promoted back to the Lineman 1 position he had previously held. After he had failed to obtain a commercial driver's license, Apollos had been demoted to the Lineman 2 position.

Rick Taylor, the operator of the town's wastewater treatment plant, gave the night's second presentation. He said he had "seen a lot of town board members come and go" over the years and turn "a blind eye" to issues affecting this utility.

Taylor said that 2015 had not been a good year for the wastewater utility in terms of its budget, and he said this year might be worse. He said a water seal pump at the sewer plant that dates back to 1974 needs to be repaired or replaced, and said there could be other needed repairs as well.

Brian Lane, who heads the town's streets department, told the council that a recently purchased street sweeper is "the best sweeper we've had for years." He said that his typical work day "can be stressful" and "aggravating to no end."

See Reports, Page 11

## Maple Marvel



Early spring warm-ups mean sap from Hoosier maple trees is flowing freely. At Locust Farms near Knightstown, the McCartney family is collecting and boiling the sweet, watery liquid as they produce delicious maple syrup. Find out more on Page 7. (Eric Cox photo)

## Kennard's Balance Sheets Tick Up as Town Curtails Some Official Spending

As the result of spending less than it brought in during the past year, the town of Kennard's cash and investments balance was nearly 4.1 percent higher at the end of 2015 than it was at the start of the year.

According to the town's annual report (published in its entirety in last week's Banner), Kennard started 2015 with \$412,841.29 in cash and investments. Over the following 12 months, the town had \$375,516.89 in receipts and \$358,684 in expenditures, leaving a balance of \$429,674.18 at year's end.

While most of the town's individual funds saw small or modest growth during the year, three of them registered losses.

The operating fund for the town's wastewater utility began 2015 with a balance of \$171,415.42. This fund had revenue of \$130,390.22 during the year, but spent \$163,489.48, leading to a year-end balance of \$138,316.16, a decrease of 19.3 percent.

A town fund that holds proceeds the state doles out

from riverboat gambling operations in other parts of Indiana had \$17,090.47 at the start of 2015. This fund's revenue for the year was \$4,618.97, while expenditures were \$8,573.36, which led to a 23.1-percent decrease in the fund and a balance of \$13,136.08 by the end of the year.

The third fund that saw its balance drop during 2015 was the town's trash fund. It began the year with a balance of -\$1,109.47, and, with spending over the next 12 months outpacing revenue \$15,280.20 to \$12,175.44, the balance at the end of the year had dropped 280 percent to -\$4,214.23.

The town of Kennard is still awaiting the results of a state audit that was prompted by the revelation last fall that the town's former clerk-treasurer, Karen Stanley, had, for more than two years, been overpaying herself. An investigation by the State Board of Accounts and Indiana State Police into this matter is ongoing.

## Lewisville Council Decide's Clerk's Pay

by Jeff Eakins  
for The Banner

After much discussion, the Lewisville Town Council voted at its Feb. 18 monthly meeting to approve paying Tammy Matney, the town's new utility billing clerk, \$11 an hour.

Larry Smith, who took office as the town's new clerk-treasurer in January, had recommended to council members that Matney's hourly wage be \$12, with her

working no more than 30 hours a week. Two of the council's three members however, President Richard Craig and Robert Blake, were opposed.

"Looking at the funds, I don't see how we can sustain that high of a wage," Craig said. He initially proposed paying Matney \$10 an hour.

Justin Thompson, the council's newest member, who also took office in January, supported a high-

er wage. He said he had looked at past town salary ordinances going back to 2002 and had seen where the town had paid \$12.50 and \$12 an hour to some its past utility billing clerks.

"In my opinion, \$12 an hour is not an unreasonable request," Thompson said.

Smith said Matney is "a good, qualified person who does an excellent job." If the town were to

See Lewisville, Page 10



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## The Banner Welcomes Letters to the Editor

Do you have an opinion? If you do, then write us a Letter to the Editor. *The Banner* welcomes Letters to the Editor. Letters must be signed by the author and contain a phone number for verification purposes. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. For more information or to submit a Letter to the Editor, call *The Banner* at 765-345-2292.

# OBITUARIES

**William R. "Bill" Merrell**  
January 4, 1942 - March 5, 2016

William R. "Bill" Merrell, 74, passed away March 5, 2016, at Rush Memorial Hospital. He was born Jan. 4, 1942, in Connersville to the late Jean and Blanch (Kelly) Merrell. Following graduation from Milroy High School in 1960, he served in the Air Force from 1960-1965 in the Cuban crisis and Vietnam. In October 1996 Bill retired from Local Union 933 Rolls-Royce, as a tool and dye operator.

He was a member of OES Milroy Chapter 471, Milroy FA&M #139, Scottish Rite and Murat Shriners of Indianapolis, Knights of Columbus, 40/8 of Shelbyville, Eagles Lodge 2036 of Rushville, American Legion Post 150 of Rushville (over 50 years now a lifetime member, serving as Commander 1975-1976), Veterans of Foreign Wars (serving as Post 1541 Commander in 1973, and 10th District Commander). Bill loved attending and watching racing, football, basketball, his grandchildren's sports and the Cincinnati Reds. He also bowled in a bowling league three nights a week at Rushville Bowl.

On Aug. 22, 1977, he married Brenda Gorman Campbell Merrell, and she survives. Also surviving, in addition to his wife, are a daughter, Keithanna Merrell Kidd (companion, Joe Custer) of Rushville; a stepson, Donald (Tony) Campbell of Greenfield; two stepdaughters, Roxanna (Mrs. Steve) Zimmerman of Knightstown and Angel Campbell Ragan of Rushville; a special son, Patrick Campbell (fiancé Kasey Crabtree) of Hagerstown; a grandson, Seath Kidd; a granddaughter, Keizer Kidd and Savannah Custer; a step-granddaughter, Jennifer (Mrs. JR) Hatten of Rushville, and Jessica (Mrs. Boone) Keith of Rushville; a step-grandson, Derek (wife Stormie) Bertrand of New Castle; step-granddaughters Stephanie and Alyssa Zimmerman and grandson JD Ragan and granddaughter Kathleen Ragan and great-grandsons Ethan and Cale Campbell. 15 step grand children and 11 great-grand children. Also surviving are a sister, Joann (Mrs. Jerry) Herbert; and a brother, Charles Merrell of Milroy.

Deceased, in addition to his parents and one sister, is Brother PFC Keith Merrell, killed in 1969 during Vietnam War.

## TEAMS FORMING NOW!

Register online at [www.greenfieldsoccer.org](http://www.greenfieldsoccer.org)

**Feb 20th 11am-2pm** - Walk in Registration at Hancock Public Library

**Feb 27th 11am-3pm** - Walk in Registration at Dick's Sporting Goods - East Washington Store

**Boys & Girls 2 1/2 & up**  
Registration Ends March 6th

For more information, call 317-620-1057







*Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service is hosting a 6-week Grief Support Workshop*

*The Grief Support Workshop will take place at Senior Living at Forest Ridge, 2800 Forest Ridge Pkwy., New Castle. The workshop will be at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday, starting March 8 through April 12. As a service to our community, this workshop is free and open to the public. Wanda Jones and Allen Collier will facilitate the meetings.*

Call 529-7100 to Register Now.

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## Clear Thinking

"The lowest form of popular culture - lack of information, misinformation, disinformation, and a contempt for the truth or the reality of most people's lives - has overrun real journalism. Today, ordinary Americans are being stuffed with garbage."

Carl Bernstein

## Look Who's COMING BACK to Knightstown!



"Vintage Gospel Lads" free concert April 4 at the Hoosier Gym. Hosted by Men for Christ.

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Friday, April 1 at 7 p.m.  
Sat., April 2 at 7 p.m.  
Sunday, April 3 at 10:30 a.m.

First Christian Church, 138 W. Main St.

# Prosecutor Tight-lipped About Jail Inmate's Death

by Jeff Eakins  
for The Banner

Henry County's top law enforcement officer, Prosecutor Joe Bergacs, is releasing very little information about the circumstances that led to the death of a Henry County Jail inmate late last week.

According to a brief press release Bergacs issued Monday afternoon, 32-year-old inmate Brian Gosser had been "involved in a fight" at the jail. It goes on to say that Gosser was transported to Henry County Memorial Hospital "late in the night" on March 3, and was then transferred to St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis the following day, where he died.

Bergacs' press release does not indicate when exactly the fight at the jail occurred - only that it happened "[p]rior to March 3." It also does not indicate whom Gosser had been fighting.

Speaking to Bergacs Monday afternoon, The Banner asked what more information he could provide about the circumstances that led to Gosser's death.

"Nothing," Bergacs said. "I can't tell you anything because we're still in the middle of investigating it ... and just gathering information from it. Also, we don't have any results from the autopsy, so, at this time, it's just a death investigation."

The Banner asked Bergacs whether Gosser had been fighting with another inmate, or if it had been a jail employee or officer with the Henry County Sheriff's Department. In light of past allegations that inmates and others in the custody of the HCSD have been subjected to excessive force, The Banner asked if that had been ruled

out in this situation.

"I can't tell you right now," Bergacs answered.

The Banner asked Bergacs when more details about Gosser's death would be released.

"I'm not trying to be difficult," Bergacs said. "I don't know the answer to that. There's a lot of information that we're trying to gather and look through."

Bergacs said that the Major Investigation Team, which includes law enforcement officers from the HCSD, the New Castle Police Department and the Indiana State Police, "is trying to gather information, records, what have you, and that is going to take some time to get."

The Banner asked whether surveillance video from the jail is part of what is being reviewed.

"It's going to include a lot of things," Bergacs said. "I'm not going to comment on what it is."

The press release Bergacs issued indicates that Gosser had been arrested Feb. 17 and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Level 6 felony, and public intoxication, a Class B misdemeanor. He was also charged with being a habitual vehicular substance offender due to prior convictions.

Gosser, who was the son of former Rush County Sheriff Doug Gosser, pleaded not guilty at his initial hearing on Feb. 18. A hearing to reduce his bond or place him on home detention was filed March 1 and a hearing on that motion had been scheduled for March 7.

As he wrapped up his conversation with The Banner on Monday,

## Debbie Fausset to Speak at Mt. Comfort Quilt Meeting

Common Threads Quilt Guild will meet again Wednesday, March 16 at 9:30 a.m. with a panel of presenters, including Debbie Fausset on basic fabric identification; Cindy Howard on applique and hand embroidery; Fran Jacobs on paper piecing; Karen Burkett on quilt embellishments; and Marcia Robertson on T-shirt quilts.

Guild members will be demonstrating various quilting techniques in different stations. Members and guests choose which stations they want to attend.

Hancock Regional Hospital's Andis Women's Clinic will provide information on women helping women. They will also give information on women's health care issues at the March 16 meeting.

Common Threads meets from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church with approximately 60-75 members present at each meeting. Guests registration is \$5.

Upcoming speakers include Martha Higdon on May 18, discussing borders and batting. On June 23, Pat Knoechel from "Quilt in a Day" will be discussing a new quilting book.

The Harvest of Quilts show will be August 26-27.

### LEGAL NOTICE

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Bergacs again tried to explain why he was not more forthcoming with information about Gosser's death.

"I would say that this one is a trickier investigation just because of where it occurred," he said. "This isn't something that's out in the public, and so there are certain investigation things that the police

will be doing, and the less information out there regarding that the better."

"Normally, I usually give out more information than I am ... but this one is just different," Bergacs continued. "I've never been involved in something like this before."

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at Greenfield Parks & Recreation

### Gymnastics & Tumbling

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**Recreational Gymnastics Classes for Toddlers, Preschoolers and Ages 6-12**




**Mondays, March 14 - April 18**

Preschool Motor Development - 5:30-6:15 p.m. (ages 3-5)  
Intermediate - 6:15-7 p.m. (ages 6 and up)  
Beginner Tumbling - 7-7:45 p.m. (grades K-6)

**Tuesdays, March 15 - April 19**

Tumbling Tots - 4:45-5:15 p.m. (ages 2-3)  
Beginners - 5:15-6 p.m. (ages 6-12)  
Advanced - 6-7 p.m. (ages 6 and up)

**Wednesdays, March 16 - April 20**

Preschool Motor Development - 4:45-5:30 p.m. (ages 3-5)  
Beginners - 5:30-6:15 p.m. (ages 6-12)  
Intermediate Tumbling - 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m. (grades 6 and up)

**Thursdays, March 17 - April 21**

Advanced Gymnastics - 4:45 p.m.-5:45 p.m. (ages 6 and up)  
Advanced Tumbling - 5:45 p.m.-6:45 p.m. (grades 6 and up)

Cost is \$42 for Greenfield residents, \$47 for nonresidents. Register online, in person, or by phone, e-mail or fax through 3 p.m. Friday, March 11. Patricia Elmore Center Multi-Purpose Room (Lower Level)

# Banner PERSPECTIVES

## Cultural Differences Very Apparent

I finally had to promise Vadel that we'd call him if we need help even though one of my dear nephews lives 10 minutes away and another one lives just across the county line. This tremendous concern about old people is just one example of the vast cultural differences between Mauritania and the U.S. that cannot be bridged.

He said many years ago, "You could never understand our tribal system." This makes me wonder if our officials have failed to recognize the role of such groups in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

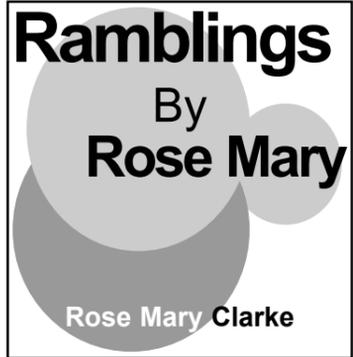
He also explained that there are strict classes in Mauritania, and that one cannot move from one to another. He said, "Let's say that you have a wonderful singing voice. It would not be possible for you to be a professional singer because that is reserved for the musician class." There is also a military class and a scholar class.

Mauritania was the last nation in the world to abolish slavery. It still exists, although illegal, and some are trying to do away with it. He said in a paternalistic manner, "My family's slaves eat with us. We clothe and house them, and they depend on us. They could not get along without us." "Vadel," I responded, "Slavery is slavery, regardless!"

I also asked him about the female circumcision - eek! - that is practiced in Mauritania as well as other Islamic nations. Also called

genital mutilation, it's on the rise in the U.S. among Muslims who have come here.

When we first knew him I asked if women worked outside the home. He chuckled and said, "No. We'd have to watch them all the time to know what they are doing. Anyway, why should they work? They are treated like queens!"



However, Vadel's wife had a job before their marriage.

A devout Muslim, Vadel is also very tolerant. The only criticism I've heard him make about America is to say mildly, "American females could stand to wear more clothes." When I consider the Victoria's Secret commercials on TV I agree, although I strongly believe in the right of women to dress as they choose. Vadel is very modest. He refuses to go to the Y because he'd have to disrobe in front of other males.

After he left, Bill and I chuckled. He wants his children to be educated in American schools.

"However," he said, "My daughters will absolutely wear the head covering, and there will be no dating or staying out late at night when they are teenagers!" I think that he'd better investigate private schools.

He reminisced about his experiences in America. When he first came to the U.S., he went to Washington, D.C. One day, he wrecked his motorcycle and was taken to a hospital. He spoke only a few words of English, but felt that he ought to say something to the people who were taking care of him. "All I could think of to say was 'Thank you.' I said it over and over. 'Thank you! ... Thank you! ... Thank you!' All day long I said 'Thank you.' They even kept my motorcycle for me."

Vadel left here and worked nights as a cashier at a gas station in a rough neighborhood in Chicago. Even though he worked in a bullet-proof cage, he packed a gun. One night a guy came in and tried to hold him up. Oh dear, he has learned some very bad American words since we first knew him! He said to the robber, "You bleeping bleeper, your bleeping little gun will not shoot through this bulletproof glass, but my gun is bigger, and it will. Now get out before I shoot you!"

We couldn't help laughing when we heard such words spoken by our charming, courteous and mild-mannered Vadel. More to come. wclarke@comcast.net

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am just writing to say I am so sick and tired of those politicians standing on stage hammering one another down into the ground and acting like they are the only ones who have the right to be in the White House - that the White House should belong to them. They are acting like a bunch of clowns.

Donald Trump - "The Mouth" - acts like he's already the president. He stands up there pushing lips in to a kiss when he talks.

He is rude and full of himself. You would think he was the only person in the world who knows anything. Someone should have taught him some better manners.

As far as I can see from his body language, he has all the makings of wanting to be a dictator.

All of them together hate the president and have since the start.

Well, it isn't his fault that his father was a black man and his mother was a white woman.

We can't choose our parents. We have to take what we get.

And they have no right to complain. They have done very little to help in the cause of our great nation.

Now they want to be the ones who decide who will be appointed judge to replace the one who just passed away.

They think they should have that right because they are sure of themselves that one of them will be the next president.

They are like a bunch of spoiled rich kids who are bullies on a school playground, pushing and bullying the little kids around.

The big mouth likes to brag about what all he's going to do as president.

Well, a smart man or woman won't tell all their business or plans so as to not give a heads-up to others who would do harm to our own country. The old saying is "walk softly and carry a big stick."

Besides, he isn't president yet and a lot can happen between now and then.

And the last I knew we still have a "Lord" in Heaven who has more power than "The Donald."

All Trump and the others are going to do is make more people around the world hate the United States more, just like George W. Bush did.

They all need to grow up and act like adults, instead of a bunch of clowns.

They need to get over themselves and take a good look at themselves. I have thought about not voting in this next election. But I feel like I owe that to all the service men who have fought and died so that I might live in freedom. I owe that to them, so they did not have to die in vain.

And may God bless those who have fought and lost so much so that these smug politicians can go around acting like they own the world.

Thank your veterans out there who gave me the right to vote. I won't let you down.

God Bless you.

Virginia Peters  
Kennard

Dear Editor,

"We're number 1!" Words typically associated with a victory celebration carry a more dubious distinction in Indiana.

The *Kids County in Indiana Data Book* shows that in 2014, Indiana logged the highest number of methamphetamine incidents nationwide. Those include active labs, dumpsites, or when police seize meth-making equipment or ingredients.

Children are often caught in the middle. Recently, a 16-year-old Muncie girl reportedly suffered severe burns from a meth mishap in her home. And data shows more than 350 children were found in a meth lab in 2014.

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## Have CenturyLink? Check Your Bill!

This is a cautionary tale about unscrupulous telephone service providers.

If I hadn't carefully scrutinized my phone bill last year, I'd have continued paying a fat fee to have unpublished phone and fax numbers here at The Banner.

It costs a lot to keep these numbers secret. For the life of me, I can't figure out why I ever did that. Businesses, after all, shouldn't conceal their contact information from the general public.

After I saw how much the business had paid for this secrecy, it occurred to me that I never authorized CenturyLink (formerly Embarq ... formerlyl Sprint) to make The Banner's numbers unpublished.

Why would I?

Making sure contact information is easily accessible is something every business tries to accomplish. There's no good reason for wanting The Banner's phone and fax numbers unpublished.

That's why I encourage each and every one of you to carefully look over your billing statements - particularly if you have CenturyLink as a service provider.

I'm still not sure how many hundreds of dollars we paid that company for services we did not order. Upon discovery of these erroneous charges, I, of course, called CenturyLink to rectify the situation.

The customer service rep I spoke with was nice enough, but he was rather bored with my claim, which he confirmed immediately.

Was there any way I could get credit for what must be hundreds in excess fees, I asked him.

"Probably not," he said. "But, I'll see what I can do."

He put me on hold and came back with an offer of \$100 off my next bill. "Fine," I said, "Though it's likely I paid much more than that."

He didn't seem to care much, so I hung up and went on my merry way. That was last year.

Monday, when I called CenturyLink to make a change to my service, not only did they keep me on hold for 15 minutes, they also wanted me to jump through a bunch of hoops to make the change, which reduced the number of phone lines The Banner maintains.

Again, the customer service rep seemed bored with my request. So, I told them their past poor service, the erroneous fees with which they seemed relatively unconcerned, and their lackadaisical attitude toward my plight meant that they were losing my business, once and for all.

I called NineStar Connect and spoke with a very helpful representative named Teresa. I'm changing all my service over to this locally-based company - and away from the dubious services provided by CenturyLink.

Check your phone bills, folks. American companies aren't above gouging you on "phony" fees and other charges you may not actually owe. I hope we can trust NineStar Connect. I believe we can.



<p><b>EDITORIAL BOARD</b> Eric Cox - Editor &amp; Publisher Stacy Cox - General Manager 765-345-2292</p>	<p><b>THE Banner</b> a responsible community newspaper</p>	<p><i>"Freedom is hammered out on the anvil of discussion, dissent and debate."</i> Hubert H. Humphrey</p>
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# BITS & PIECES

◆The Eastern Hancock Athletic Boosters will hold their annual **3-on-3 basketball tournament** at Eastern Hancock Schools on Saturday, March 12. There will be five divisions of play each for boys and girls. There will also be two open divisions for those under age 35 and those 35 and older. Early registrations are due by March 5. Space permitting, registrations will also be accepted from 9-10 a.m. the day of the tournament. For more information, including an entry form, visit the school websites at [www.ehathletics.org](http://www.ehathletics.org) or [www.ehhoops.org](http://www.ehhoops.org), or contact Greg Hall at [gghall58@gmail.com](mailto:gghall58@gmail.com).

◆In honor of **Rush County Players' 40th anniversary season**, Director Carrie Scholl, along with Assistant Directors Kim Ursin-Cronin and Donita Davis have been working hard to put together a very special show. This show will be a reprise of favorite numbers from all the shows we have performed over the last 40 years. Auditions will be held March 7, 8 and 9 at RCP, 306

N. Main St., Rushville. Directors are looking for those from high school age up, and will need all sorts of talent. Audition material will be available the nights of auditions. Shows will be May 6 and 7, with both a matinee and evening performance on the May 7. For more information, call Rush County Players at 765-561-9403.

◆Knightstown Neighborhood **Crime Watch** will meet Monday, March 14, at 6 p.m. in the Hoosier Gym. The public is invited.

◆Greensboro United Methodist Church will host a community **blood drive** on Saturday, March 26, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Those who plan to donate should bring valid photo identification. Call Roxie Dalton at 765-686-5207 for more information.

◆Blue River Community Harvest announces that the **Gleaner's Mobile Food Truck** will be at a new location in Carthage from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturday, March 19. Look for the truck on Mill Street, just east of Main Street and south of the community center.

Mill Street will be blocked off and there will only be street parking. Check-in and registration may be in the community center or outdoors. Patrons are encouraged to be patient as the organization adjusts to its new location.

◆Shannon Dawson will be hostess for the March 21 **BPW meeting** at Sugarbakers at 6:30 p.m. Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp, author of *Hoosier Gardeners Guide* will be the speaker. Anyone interested in attending the meeting for dinner will need to make a reservation with Dawson (317-501-2105) by March 18. Cost is \$10 per person.

◆**Glen Cove Cemetery** workers will be picking up grave blankets and any other decorations that are not on foundations the week of March 14. Patrons should pick up all items they are wanting to keep before this date. For more information, call 345-9181.

◆The **Vintage Gospel Lads** will appear in concert at Knightstown First Christian Church, 138 W. Main St., April 1-3. The theme of the concerts is "The Four Soils." Watch for more information in coming weeks.

◆Henry County **Girl Scouts** are again selling cookies as a fundraiser, according to Henry County Service Unit Manager Barb Mofield. Scouts are selling seven varieties of cookies this year. Those who would like to purchase cookies may contact Mofield, who will have a Girl Scout contact customers. Call Mofield at 317-442-2620 for more information.

◆**Beautify Knightstown** said Hoosier Gym T-shirts are now available for purchase. Proceeds from shirt sales help the group raise funds for a mural. Orders may be placed via Facebook, [www.beautifyknightstown.org](http://www.beautifyknightstown.org), or by calling 765-445-2328. All shirt sizes are \$20 in gray or gold.

◆Knightstown Wesleyan Church has **welcome packets** available. Anyone new to the area interested in receiving local business information and discounts may contact Kathie Rummell at 765-345-9660 or Amy Bell at 765-686-7063.

◆The Shirley Octagon House is open for **free tours** by chance or appointment. To get a free tour, stop by Shirley Hardware and one will be arranged. To schedule an appointment for a tour, call 812-583-0031 or 765-737-6856.

◆The **Historic Knightstown museum**, located on the Public Square at 22 N. Washington St., has new winter hours. The museum's current hours, in effect through March are 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (sometimes longer) each Friday and Saturday, or by appointment. For more information, or to schedule a museum visit by appointment, call David Steele at 765-345-7585. Family and individual HKI mem-

berships are \$20 and \$15, respectively. Membership payments may be mailed to HKI at P.O. Box 74, Knightstown, IN 46148.

◆**Alcoholics Anonymous** meets weekly, on Tuesdays, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hoosier Gym (enter on East side). Meetings will continue each Tuesday at the same time and location. For more info, call 765-571-1132 or 765-571-1662.

◆The **Parish Clothes Closet**, located in the basement of Bethel Presbyterian Church, 112 S. Franklin St., Knightstown, is open the last Thursday of each month from 5-7 p.m. Any questions can be directed to Laura Hodge at [l.hodge23@yahoo.com](mailto:l.hodge23@yahoo.com).

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# K-town Police Fuel Use Jumped 20% in January

While the Knightstown Police Department's number of service calls fell in January, the department's fuel usage was up nearly 19.5 percent for the month.

According to a monthly report that Knightstown Chief of Police Duane Booth presented at the Knightstown Town Council's Feb. 25 monthly meeting, KPD officers used 1,305.05 gallons of fuel during January. In December, the

department had used 1,092.2 gallons.

Booth's report showed that the KPD's vehicles were driven 6,228 miles in January, an increase of almost 8.8 percent over the mileage logged in December. Based on the numbers from the December and January reports, the KPD's vehicles got 5.2 miles per gallon in December and nearly 4.8

See Fuel, Page 12

# KHS Graduate Tamra Ross Haltom Building General Contracting Construction Firm

by Logan Cox  
for The Banner

With new prospects on the horizon, former Carthage resident and Knightstown High School graduate Tamra Ross Haltom has become an entrepreneur, setting up her own construction company under her maiden name.

"I am the sole owner of Ross Construction, LLC," said Haltom. "I handle all administrative work."

Ross Construction is a small, local construction company based out of Knightstown.

"We specialize in new construction, remodel, demo and natural disaster clean up, roofing, guttering and custom construction," she said.

Her reasons for venturing into the construction business were personal just as much as they were financial, as she explains.

"I decided to try my hand at entrepreneurship because prior to starting the business I had made several, rather big life changes," said Haltom. "It seemed par for the course."

Not wanting to go into great detail, Haltom went on to say, "I will share that my marriage had ended and I met the love of my life. We have welcomed a son, Gabriel, and have blended our families."

Ross Construction, LLC has been in business since Haltom first organized it in November 2014. She currently employs eight carpenters and/or laborers.

"Currently, I'm only running Ross Construction,

LLC. In the past I've worked in the medical field, predominantly nephrology," she said.

Prior to Ross Construction, Haltom had worked in the medical field since 1999. She was mostly involved with specialty practices, like, as she stated, nephrology. Nephrology is the branch of medicine dealing with the physiology and diseases of the kidneys.

"I decided to leave my position in October 2014. There were some disagreements between myself and management. I still hold the practice in my highest regards and have nothing but respect for the physicians," said Haltom. "My original plan was to work full time and run the business as well. I think there's always a higher force at work because with our workload I wouldn't have been able to give both positions the attention they deserve."

1999 was also the year Haltom graduated valedictorian from Indiana Business College's medical campus with an associate's degree in applied science. The year before that, she had graduated from Knightstown High School.

Originally from Carthage, Haltom now resides in Arlington with her fiancé Jason and their children.

Going forward into the new year, she is confident that Ross Construction will continue to see its fair share of work.

"2016 is projected to be a huge year for new construction," Haltom said. "With that we are extremely busy in Hancock and surrounding counties."



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## Rural Towns, Counties Invited to Submit Projects for Millions in Transportation Funds

Speaking before the Purdue Road School conference Tuesday, Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner Brandye Hendrickson announced that rural cities, towns and counties may begin submitting project applications late this month for an estimated \$80 to \$100 million in federal transportation funding.

"INDOT sets aside a quarter of its federal-highway funds each year for local transportation projects," Commissioner Hendrickson said. "Keeping the project pipeline full puts this funding to work in improving quality of life because roads mean jobs."

Metropolitan Planning

Organizations distribute federal highway funds to cities, towns and counties within the state's larger urbanized areas while INDOT distributes funds outside MPO areas. For this latest round of funding, rural communities would design, develop and purchase land for projects that would be bid during the fiscal year beginning July 2020.

### Common Paths

As part of the call for project applications, \$5 million in federal funding will be made available for sidewalk improvements in rural communities. In addition, INDOT plans to invest \$2.5 million each year to improve crosswalks and other sidewalk infrastructure along

state highways in both rural and urban communities.

The new sidewalk program is part of a larger "Common Paths" umbrella that INDOT unveiled Tuesday. Common Paths unifies and implements the agency's transportation programs and policies regarding transportation planning and design, including Complete Streets, bicycles and pedestrians.

"Whether you are traveling in a personal vehicle, using public transportation or enjoying various non-motorized forms of travel, we all have common paths in seeking safe, efficient and accessible transportation," Commissioner Hendrickson said.

## Mays Community Academy Round-up April 9

Mays Community Academy will hold kindergarten round-up on Saturday, April 9, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Mays Community Academy is a free public school for grades K-6. The school has bus routes that pick up stu-

dents in Rush, southern Henry and western Fayette counties. Contact the school office for more information at 765-645-5577. Visit us on the MCA website at [www.mayscommunityacademy.org](http://www.mayscommunityacademy.org).

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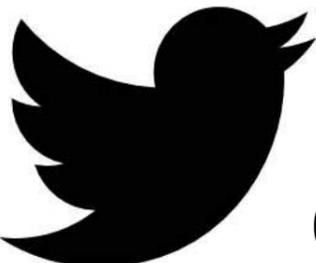
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# Boiled to Order

Knightstown's Locust Farms Cooks Up Fresh Maple Syrup and Honey from Local Trees and Local Bees

by Eric Cox  
Publisher

About 40 gallons of maple tree sap yields one gallon of maple syrup.

The McCartney family of Knightstown has been making that ratio pay over the last eight years, as they make and sell maple syrup and honey from Locust Farms on Greensboro Pike.

Pat McCartney heads up the effort, collecting sap from about 60 maples trees in food-grade plastic buckets. A tree's size determines how many sap collection bags it can hold. Larger trees can be tapped multiple times at once.

The sap in maple trees rises when spring temperatures climb, drawing the sugary water up into the tree from underground roots, according to McCartney. On a good day, he can harvest four or five gallons of good sap. An average day yields as little as two gallons.

Once collected, the sap is boiled in an outdoor fireplace McCartney built himself. A stainless steel pan over a wood fire is where the magic happens. But, it's a time-consuming process - about four hours to cook down 40 gallons of sap into one gallon of pure maple syrup.

It's worth the wait, as this reporter discovered. Locust Farms maple syrup is much richer and flavorful than typical store-bought brands, like Mrs. Butterworth's. McCartney said most of the popular brands come from Canadian maple trees.

He said the flavor and color of maple syrup intensifies as the season progresses. Syrup produced in late February may be light colored, like honey. Conversely, late-season syrup is darker and tastier. McCartney said the longer the sap season goes, the higher the sap's sugar content is, making for richer syrup.

Locals have certainly discovered this local treat. Locust Farms sold out of its first "run" of four gallons. McCartney said each round of syrup collection and processing is called a run, with each season holding multiple runs.

Timing is critical, too - not only in the collection time, but also in the processing. Sap not boiled long enough may ferment, while overcooked sap simply turns into sugar.

"The key is keeping the sap boiling at all times," said McCartney. Boiling steams off the sap's water content, leaving behind the minerals and sugars that give maple syrup its popular flavor.

The McCartneys usually sell their goods at the Hancock County Farmers Market in Greenfield. But, syrup and honey can also be purchased directly from Locust Farms, which can be found on Facebook, or by calling 345-9086. Located at 7055 S. Greensboro Pike, Locust Farms is not a retail establishment, but a family home. The McCartneys prefer phone calls and Facebook queries, instead of personal visits.

Photos  
by  
Eric Cox



Boiling off the sap's heavy water content leaves only minerals and sugar, which gives maple syrup its amber color.



Locust Farms owner Pat McCartney of Knightstown heads out to collect maple sap from about 60 trees on his Greensboro Pike property.



Using a homemade fireplace, McCartney boils the sap, which later becomes homemade maple syrup bottled at 180 degrees.



# FOLKWAYS

## Applicants Sought for Drug Treatment Program

ARIES is offering a pilot outpatient drug treatment program called Therapy Intervention for Substance Addictions (TISA). In surveys and talking with individuals, officials have found the need for an effective outpatient program within Henry County.

According to ARIES officials, this is a motivational enhancement therapy program that helps individuals resolve their issues about engaging in treatment and stopping their drug use.

For this pilot program ARIES wants individuals who have expressed the desire to overcome their addiction disease issues without being required by the courts or other agencies to complete this type of program.

If this pilot program is successful, the goal is to continue offering this resource in Henry County.

The cost for this program is

very low due to special funding from local sources.

Dr. Erica Kane (PsyD, HSPP), will be providing treatment. It will involve nine weeks of a group session once a week. Additional individual sessions are part of the series.

ARIES plans to start the program at the beginning of April. Applications are due by March 17.

For an application, contact Olene Veach at 765-533-4205 or 765-521-7032, or email [oveach@henryco.org](mailto:oveach@henryco.org).

The application includes more information about the program. Applications will be reviewed and a given number selected. All individuals who submit applications will receive a notice as to the result of this selection. Applications not accepted for the pilot will be kept and considered for a potential future treatment series.

## Clever Clovers Meet at KUMC

The Wayne Township Clever Clovers 4-H Club held their monthly meeting on Feb. 29 at Knightstown United Methodist Church.

President Hannah Thomas called the meeting to order.

The meeting was opened with Rachel Imel leading the American pledge and Sam Thomas leading the 4-H pledge.

Roll call was taken with 25 members, five adults and three leaders present.

The secretary's report was given by Kinsy Fowler and was approved as read.

Jordan Ventresco gave the treasurer's report.

Devotions were led by Lori Thomas, reading from Chapter 41 from the book of Isaiah.

Guest Speaker for the meeting was Kiley Erwin from the Junior Leaders Club. She spoke to the group about joining Junior Leaders and their activities. She encouraged those who meet the requirements to join.

There was no new business.

In old business, Jackson Lukens made the motion that the club purchase a new 4-H banner. Jordan Ventresco seconded the motion. After a vote was taken, the motion passed.

Leader comments included reminding the members of important dates (meetings, weigh-ins). They also asked for club meeting ideas and speaker recommendations.

Before adjourning the meeting, the

## Christ Preached Kindness, Love

by Rev. Gail Whitmire  
Knightstown First Wesleyan Church  
765-759-5944



*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other ..."* (Ephesians 4:32).

They were a frail little couple, perhaps in their 80s. He helped her out of the car, and she took small, hesitant steps as they held hands from the parking lot to the restaurant entrance. He opened the door for her and released her hand just long enough for her to enter, then took her hand again. As I watched them, I almost felt as if I was intruding on something very private. There was such a special tenderness between them, even to the eyes of a stranger.

Our verse for today speaks of kindness, compassion, forgiveness-how many times had these things been extended to each other by this couple? Probably years of these things had been offered, which seemed to now cement in place a still-loving relationship.

If we are followers of Christ, we should have many such moments to look back on, which reflected our kindness, compassion and forgiving attitude towards others.

Perhaps this is the day to begin anew to allow these qualities to be a real part of who we are in Christ. This partnership with Him, and the joy it can bring, is meant to last for a lifetime.

A good prayer for today, or any other day, might be something like this: "Lord, when I'm feeling a little frail and my steps are hesitant, thank You for letting me put my hand in yours."

## Gardening Author to Speak in K-town

Members of Knightstown Business & Professional Women will host a dinner and presentation on community gardens by renowned Indiana author and columnist Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp.

The meal and presentation are open to the public on Monday, March 21, at SugarBakers.

The meal costs \$10 per person and will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the program to follow at 7 p.m.

Guests are welcome to attend

the program without taking part in the meal. Meyers Sharp will talk about the importance of visible public garden spaces, no matter the size of the community. Time per-

mitting, she will also answer home gardening questions.

Meal reservations are required. Contact Shannon Dawson at 317-501-2105 by Friday, March 18.

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# Indianapolis Howe Defeats Eastern Hancock, Knightstown; Wins Sectional 42

Seventh-ranked Indianapolis Howe knocked off three local teams at the boys basketball sectional 42 last week to claim the sectional title at Shenandoah.

In the first game of the opening round Mar. 1, Eastern Hancock was the first victim of Howe's. The Royals fell behind early in the game and couldn't catch back up before ultimately seeing their season end with a 53-68 loss.

EH senior Ryan Speas hit four three-pointers and sophomore Duncan Cherry also scored 12 points to lead the Royal scoring.

The Royals completed the season with a 7-16.

In the second game of the opening round of sectional 42, Triton Central defeated Irvington Preparatory Academy 70-59.

Knightstown enjoyed a first round bye but suffered a similar fate as the Royals in the semifinal round Mar. 4. The Panthers also

fell behind early to Indianapolis Howe and despite a 42-point second half, KHS lost 66-80 to the Hornets.

Jackson Edwards scored 28 points and Coleman Wyatt had 15 to lead the Panther offense.

Knightstown finished the season with a 12-11 record.

Host school Shenandoah,

ranked fifth in the last regular season poll, prevailed over Triton Central 70-64 in the other semifinal game.

Shenandoah's fantastic season was cut short in the championship game Mar. 5 when Indianapolis Howe kept rolling offensively to claim the sectional title with a 53-41 victory over the Raiders.

Shenandoah ended the season 21-3, the best record the Raiders have had in at least the past two decades.

The only time since 1993 that

the Raiders have had a comparable record was the 2006-2007 season when they went 21-4 and lost in the regional championship game.

E.Hancock	10	14	10	19	-	53
Indpls Howe	24	12	10	22	-	68

Indpls Howe	24	16	20	20	-	80
Knightstown	17	7	19	23	-	66

### Royals' Individual Results

Ryan Speas – 12 points (four 3-pointers), 1 rebound, 1 steal

Duncan Cherry – 12 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists

Addison True – 11 points (one 3-pointer), 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal, 3 shots deflected

Tom Barton – 8 points (one 3-pointer), 9 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 5 shots deflected

A.J. Muegge – 7 points, 3 rebounds, 1 steal

Tyler Blatner – 3 points (one 3-pointer), 2 rebounds, 1 shot deflected

Jordan Stillinger – 1 rebound

### Panthers' Individual Results

Jackson Edwards – 28 points (one 3-pointer), 2 rebounds, 5 assists, 1 steal

Coleman Wyatt – 15 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist

Riley Ruble – 5 points (one 3-pointer), 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 blocks

Jake Bearhope – 5 points, 4 rebounds

Drake Peggs – 5 points (one 3-pointer), 4 assists, 1 steal

Dylan Hiner – 3 points (one 3-pointer), 2 assists

Jarrett Weidner – 3 points, 1 rebound

Daniel Rayburn – 2 points, 1 steal

Jose Olivo – 1 rebound

## Titans Fall in First Round of Sectional

In the opening round of sectional 56 of the state boys basketball tournament Mar. 1, the Tri Titans fell 54-62 in overtime to tourney host Blue River Valley.

The Titans had a strong first half to take a 25-23 lead into the locker room. But, Tri's shooting went cold in the third quarter, allowing the Vikings to outscore them 18-6 to go up 41-31.

With the end of their season on the line, the Titans caught fire and rallied with a 19-point fourth quarter performance while holding the Vikings to just nine points and sending the game into overtime.

The Titan rally was short-lived though. Blue River scored 12 in the extra period and held Tri to just four points to get the win and move on to the semifinal round.

Juniors David O'Neill and Carson Cox led Tri's offense. O'Neill scored 22 points and Cox had 11. Alex Melton pulled down seven rebounds to lead the Titans on the boards.

Tri finished the season with a 6-17 record.

In the second game of the opening round, Union City defeated Union (Modoc) 63-44.

Second-ranked Seton Catholic whipped Blue River Valley by 22 points, 74-52, in the first semifinal game. In the second semifinal game, Union City beat Randolph Southern by 26 points, 53-27.

Despite Union City's big wins over Union and Randolph Southern, the Indians were no match at all for the Cardinals. Seton Catholic outscored Union City 19-0 in the first quarter of the championship game before going on to a 62-38 sectional title victory.

Blue River	17	6	18	9	12	-	62
Tri	15	10	6	19	4	-	54

### Tri Individual Results vs. BRV

David O'Neill – 22 points (two 3-pointers), 2 rebounds, 5 steals

Carson Cox – 11 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal

Kaleb Harrison – 8 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 4 steals

Masen Phelps – 6 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal

Alex Melton – 4 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 block

Austin Stroud – 2 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist

Nick Wilson – 1 point, 1 rebound, 1 steal

Eric Bilby – 1 rebound, 1 assist

Seth Butler, Gage Rowe, Zach Smith – 1 rebound

On Twitter @ktownbanner



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Community Academy

**Mays Community Academy will hold Kindergarten Round-Up**

**Saturday, April 9 from 8 AM-12 PM**

Mays Community Academy is a FREE public school for grades K-6. We have bus routes that pick up students in Rush, southern Henry, and western Fayette counties.

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**MOVING SALE** - Everything goes! Thursday, March 10, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday, March 11, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, March 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. No early birds! 508 W. Main St., Knightstown

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Go to right side menu at our website, [thebanneronline.com](http://thebanneronline.com).

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## Wood Bat Tournament for 16-18 Year Olds June 22-26

The Bob Cene Baseball Complex in Stuthers, Ohio, will host a wood bat tournament June 22-26.

The tournament will showcase teams of players ages 16-18 from Ohio and Indiana.

For more information about the tournament, please contact Ken Quinn at 330-719-0581 or email [kenneth\\_qnn@yahoo.com](mailto:kenneth_qnn@yahoo.com).

## EH 3-on-3 Tournament Mar. 12

Eastern Hancock Athletic Boosters are hosting their annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament Mar. 12.

Cost of participation is \$80 per team up until Mar. 5 and increase to \$90 after Mar. 5. Each team must have at least three players and no more than four players.

There will be seven different age groups in each boys/men and girls/women. Those groups are 7-8 year olds, 9-10 year olds, 11-12 year olds, 13-14 year olds, high school, under age 35 and over age 35.

All games will be officiated by licensed, paid officials.

Check-in for all pre-registered participants is 9:30-10 a.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Those registering on the day of the tourney should arrive at 9 a.m. Birth certificates will be required to show proof of age. Admission for spectators is \$3 per person.

Interested persons can find the tournament registration form at the school's website, [www.corp.easternhancock.org](http://www.corp.easternhancock.org).

Questions may be directed to Greg Hall, email [gghall58@gmail.com](mailto:gghall58@gmail.com).

### Lewisville, from Page 1

reduce her pay to \$10 an hour, as Craig proposed, he said he feared Matney wouldn't keep working for the town, something he said he thought would "be detrimental" to Lewisville.

"The goal is not to hurt you," Craig told Matney. While some prior utility billing clerks were paid more, he said the council had "come to the realization that the utility wasn't going to support that."

Smith revealed that when he came into office, he discovered the town's water utility had more than \$40,000 in delinquencies from customers not paying their bills. He said Matney, who also does billing work for Henry County Memorial Hospital, will be an asset to the town in helping to recover some of these unpaid amounts.

Craig said these delinquencies were "nothing new at all," and that "for years, it's been like this." He said Sue Saunders, the town's former longtime clerk-treasurer, had not provided the council with monthly updates on the amount of these unpaid water bills.

Craig asked Thompson if he would agree to paying Matney \$11 an hour. Thompson said he thought \$12 was a fair wage.

"We're offering a compromise

in the spirit of working together," Craig said.

Smith asked Craig and Blake if they would consider setting Matney's pay at \$11 an hour, and then revisit the issue in June to see if a pay raise is warranted. Blake and Thompson made and seconded, respectively, a motion to that effect, and it passed 3-0. The council followed that up with a 3-0 vote approving \$30,000 security bonds for Smith and Matney.

In other business, council members signed off on a fire protection contract for 2016 with the Franklin Township. Despite the council's endorsement of the agreement, however, Craig, Blake and Thompson never actually voted at the Feb. 18 meeting to approve the contract. Smith told The Banner the council will need to reconsider the agreement when it meets Thursday.

The council approved payment of monthly claims totaling \$31,217.35. Craig said \$14,995 of that was for half of the town's annual liability insurance premium.

The Lewisville Town Council's March 10 monthly meeting, which is open to the public, starts at 6 p.m. and will be held in the Houston Brick community building, located at 101 E. Main St.

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Charlottesville, Indiana

## Reports, from Page 1

Lane said some town roads are in such a state of disrepair that it's more than his department can handle. He said the town needs to hire a company that has a roller and the equipment to mill the roads down and pave them the right way.

"Over the years, it's not been done," Lane said, "and we're at the point where we have to do something."

Randy Anderson, supervisor of the town's water department and the water treatment plant operator, gave the final presentation of the evening. He told the council that the town's water tower, built in 1967, needs to be inspected and should have regular maintenance done on its interior at least every three years. He said he had been trying for close to 10 years to get the town to purchase a maintenance agreement for the water tower.

Anderson also said that some of filtration equipment at the water plant, in place since 1992, may

need to be replaced. First, though, he said testing should be done to determine if an acid wash of this equipment is sufficient.

"We need to start prioritizing and get something done," Council President Sarah Ward said. "... Look at Flint, (Mich.) We don't need to be another Flint."

Anderson also told the council that the town needs to finish moving equipment into a new chlorine treatment room at the water plant. He estimated that it could cost about \$10,000 to get all of the equipment moved from the old location to the new one, and said the state wants this done by August.

The water plant, Anderson said, could also use some other renovations.

"You would think you'd like something that would look a little better for your community," Anderson said.

Hammer said he would like to see each of the department heads create a list of maintenance issues and prioritize those items. He said it's important to deal "with the most critical issues" first and said the council "will do all (it) can to make things run smoothly."

## Letters, from Page 4

"Quite often, we're uprooting those young people with just the clothes on their back because when we find meth labs, we find the associated toxic environment that goes with the making of meth," said Indiana State Police Sgt. Tony Slocum.

A survey found 13.4 percent of Hoosier children have lived with someone who had a substance problem. The national rate is 10.7 percent. The National Center for Biotechnology Information reports a parent with a substance use disorder is three times more likely to abuse their child.

Indiana's Department of Child Services reports a 70 percent increase statewide in the number of drug-related cases. The drug problem is affecting children in cities, suburbs and rural communities such as Scott County. *The Kids County Data Book* shows that from 2011 to 2014, Scott County's number of neglect cases rose 116 percent and physical abuse cases jumped 142 percent.

Michelle Korty of Prevent Child Abuse Scott County says at least 90 percent of abuse and neglect cases there are drug related. She says some parents are so fixated on drugs that "very little of their time, energy, and resources is left to focus on providing the safe, nurturing environment and for meeting the basic needs of their children."

Traumatic stress experts say children may blame themselves for those problems and feel rejected when left alone for long periods of time. They're more likely to experience anxiety, depression, low self-esteem and struggle to form adult relationships.

Republican State Senator Jim Merritt of Indianapolis introduced several proposals on drug enforcement and treatment. He says the conversation needs to change. "We've always thought of it as a character issue. I always say drug addiction is a disease not a character flaw."

John Wernert with Indiana's Family and Social Services

Administration says state officials "understand these are chronically relapsing diseases" that "may take several rounds of detoxification."

Meanwhile, some Hoosier children will continue to suffer. Indiana law requires everyone to report suspected child abuse or neglect. Calling the state's toll-free child abuse hotline at 1-800-800-5556 may be one way to ensure that the health, safety and future of some of Indiana's most vulnerable children becomes priority number one.

**Glenn Augustine**

interim CEO, Indiana Youth Institute

Dear Editor,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our heroes on the Knightstown-Wayne Township Fire Department, as well as the surrounding fire departments that came together to try to save our business on Feb. 23 of this year. We would also like to thank our local police department, the Henry County Sheriff's Department and the Indiana State Police for providing security during the fire.

Our building was a total loss. Our unique store and everything in it were destroyed.

And thanks to all our friends and people in the community who stopped by to lend support.

We will rebuild and hope to have a new store ready by summer. In the meantime, we'll be opening a store at 103 E. Main St., Suite A, here in downtown Knightstown. So, please, everyone stop in and see us.

**Rod Lingenfelter, owner**

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# OBITUARIES

**Bobby E. Richmond**  
February 15, 1938 - March 7, 2016



Bobby E. Richmond, 78, of Carthage, passed away Monday, March 7, 2016, at Rush Memorial Hospital.

He was born Feb. 15, 1938, in Vanceburg-Old Trace, Ky., a son of Delbert and Josie (Carpenter) Richmond. Bobby worked at Richardson Lumber Co. for 35 years and then at Troutman Hardwoods in Carthage. He loved bluegrass music and spending time with his grandkids and great-grandkids. He enjoyed westerns, squirrel hunting, Bean Blossom, and riding around town in his 1985 Ford Crown Victoria. Bobby also loved sweet food and he called them his "sweeties."

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mertie Richmond; six children, James Richmond of Carthage, Rayburn Richmond of Carthage, Marketta (Ron) Richmond-Humes of Spiceland, Brenda Richmond of Woodville, Ohio, Shelle Richmond of Carthage and Joe (Jeri) Richmond of Carthage; five grandchildren, Brittney Schroeder, Joni Lawson, Anna Richmond, Robert Richmond and Bobby Richmond; three great-grandchildren, Khloe Schroeder, Ellie Lawson and Mallorie Graham; two brothers, Hobert Richmond and Dewey Richmond; a sister, Sally Richmond-Butler; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Maggie Butler and Dorothy Spence; and four brothers, Herbert, Fred, Walter and Carl Lee Richmond.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, March 11, at Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service, Knightstown Chapel. Burial will follow in Carthage Cemetery. Friends may call from 4-8 p.m. Thursday. Condolences and memories of Bobby may be shared at [www.hinsey-brown.com](http://www.hinsey-brown.com).

## Fuel, from Page 6

miles per gallon in January.

The KPD logged a single arrest in January, according to Booth's report. Of the 80 service calls logged for the month, the highest number, 16, were for reports of suspicious activity, with 11 calls for assistance from other agencies, nine accidents

with property damage and seven theft reports.

The department's volunteer reserve officers worked 21 shifts in January, up from just 12 worked in December. The KPD's paid part-time officers worked 27 shifts in January, six less than they worked the month before.

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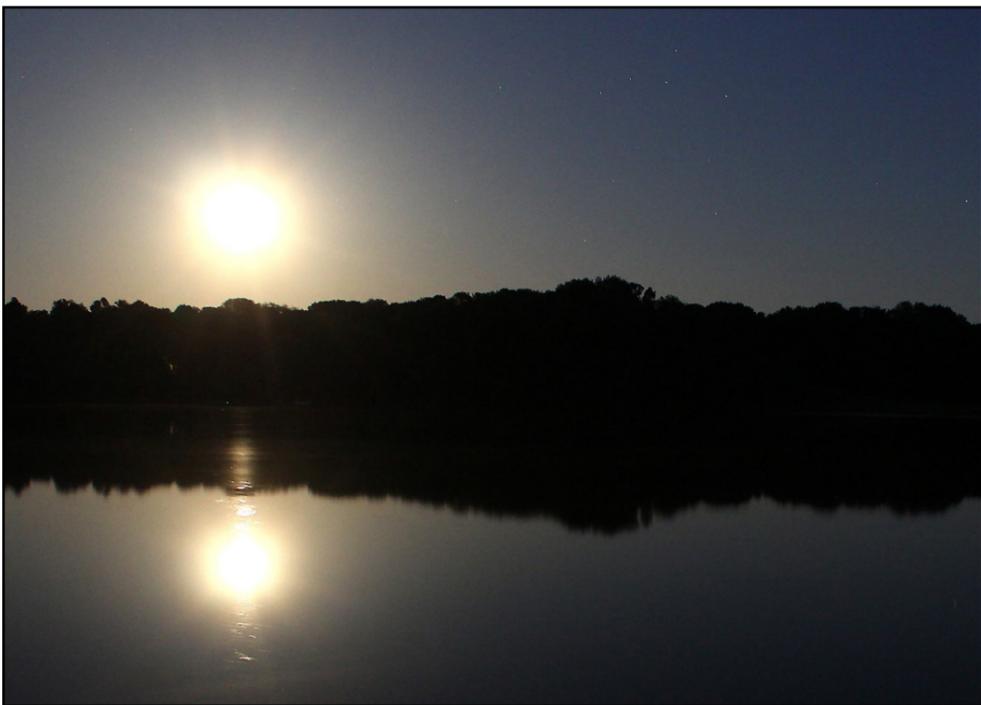
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Looking Forward to Both Spring and Summer

Photos by Eric Cox

