



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 49

March 23, 2016

Knightstown, IN

T-shirt Sales Help Mural Project

Beautify Knightstown, Inc. has Hoosier Gym T-shirts available for purchase. Proceeds from shirt sales help the group raise funds for a mural in Knightstown's business district. Orders may be placed via Facebook, www.beautifyknightstown.org, or by calling 765-445-2328. All shirt sizes are \$20 in gray or gold. The Hoosier Gym is owned by the town of Knightstown.

Legion Easter Egg Hunt Saturday

Knightstown American Legion Post 152 will host its annual Easter egg hunt for local kids on Saturday, March 26, at 10 a.m. at Sunset Park in Knightstown. The public is invited to this free annual event. Children bring their own baskets or bags.

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."

Clayton Jennings Returning to KHS

Bue River Community Harvest of Carthage will host Harvest Helpings: Feed and Be Fed with Clayton Jennings on Friday, April 29 at 7 p.m. in Knightstown High School gymnasium. This is a chance for local people to hear the "good news" through Jennings. It is also a chance to give back to the community by donating canned food or non-perishables to the Blue River Community Harvest. Patrons also may donate money and volunteer time. Donations (food or funds) will serve as "tickets" to this event. BRCH is in the process of changing locations.

Church of God Sets Sunrise Service

Knightstown Church of God, 405 North St., will host a Sunrise Service, featuring Rick and Elwood Evans, on Sunday, March 27, at 7 a.m. A breakfast in the church's fellowship hall, 199 Grant St., will follow. The regular morning service starts at 10:30 a.m., featuring Pastor Larry Bigham.

Knightstown Water Rates Could Rise by as Much as 41 Percent

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

With a study of the town's water rates now complete, the Knightstown Town Council could vote as early as next month to start the process of seeking a 19.5-percent or 41.7-percent across-the-board increase in rates and charges.

Christina De Witt of H.J. Umbaugh & Associates, an Indianapolis accounting firm hired to prepare a rate study for the town's water utility, presented her firm's findings last week at the town council's March 17 monthly meeting. The 14-page document presented two options, which De Witt said would increase the current average water bill for customers using 4,000 gallons of water from \$25.81 to either \$30.84 or \$36.57 per month.

Knightstown last raised its water rates in 2008. De Witt had previously told council members that rates should be reviewed and adjusted, as necessary, at least every three to five years.

Finances for the town's water utility are not in a good position. The town's new clerk-treasurer, Beth Huffman, revealed in January that the balance for the utility's operating fund had dropped to about \$1,000.

Acting on a recommendation from Huffman, the council had voted in January to approve the transfer of up to \$100,000 from the electric utility's cash reserve

fund to the water utility's operating fund. Those funds would have to be paid back to the electric utility by the end of the year.

Huffman told the council at last week's meeting that, so far, about \$30,000 has been transferred from the electric utility to the water utility. She acknowledged concern that this infusion of cash from the electric utility may not be sufficient to cover the water utility's expenses.

"It's a nervous situation, I'll be honest," Huffman said.

According to the rate study prepared by Umbaugh, the water utility's expenses for 2015 were \$377,908. De Witt said that she made some adjustments to that figure and, depending on the utility's capital improvement needs, projected that the utility would need either \$374,400 or \$444,000.

Based on the water utility's current rates and charges,

Umbaugh's report showed that Knightstown would only have \$313,400 in available revenue, leaving it either \$61,000 or \$130,600 short of the amount required. To come up with the lower amount, the town would need to increase its rates and charges 19.5 percent, while a 41.7-percent hike would be needed for the higher figure.

"The top rate, I think, is just unacceptable," Council President Sarah Ward said. "... It's just too

See Hike, Page 11

"The top rate,
I think, is just
unacceptable
... It's just too
much."

- Sarah Ward

Council Cans Works Manager

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

The Knightstown Town Council voted last week to terminate the town's works manager.

With one member absent, the council voted 4-0 near the end of its March 17 monthly meeting to fire Greg Neice. The termination took effect immediately and Neice was escorted from the room by Knightstown Police Department Captain Elmer New and asked to surrender his keys and other property in his possession.

In his motion to fire Neice, Council Vice President Kevin Knott said the action was being

taken due to Neice's "inability to perform job duties as required," but detailed no specific shortcomings. Council member Roger Hammer seconded the motion, and President Sarah Ward and council member Mitch Roland joined Knott and Hammer in supporting it. The council's fifth member, Valerie Trump was not in attendance.

Neice, who had previously been employed by the city of Greenfield for nearly three decades before taking the Knightstown job, was hired as the town's new works manager in late July 2011. He began working in mid-August of that year,

overseeing the town's utilities and street department, at a starting salary of \$45,000.

When Neice was first hired, the town council said he would get a 10-percent raise at the conclusion of his six-month probationary period, and then another 10-percent at the end of his first year if his job performance was favorable. The town council at that time, however, didn't stick to this schedule, opting instead to give Neice a 22-percent raise that took his salary to \$55,000 after less than five months on the job.

Since his hiring, Neice has consistently been the town's highest

See Canned, Page 11

Health by Design Workshop April 28

Health by Design and the Indiana State Department of Health will co-present a workshop on Thursday, April 28, designed to help New Castle and Henry County become a healthier and more active community for all ages and abilities.

The event takes place 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the New Castle-Henry County Public Library.



The daylong workshop will bring together government staff and civic leaders to learn about the benefits of designing for active living and strategies for success. The group will conduct an informal walk audit to assess the accessibility and condition of sidewalks and street crossings, and prioritize built environment strategies to encourage active living in New Castle and Henry County.

"The purpose of the workshop is to help residents of Henry County see that strong communities are built for all ages and abilities, and to begin planning and designing an environment that will make it easier for residents to be active in their daily lives," said Kim Irwin, executive director of Health by Design. Health by Design is a coalition that works to ensure that communities throughout Indiana have neighborhoods, public spaces and transportation infrastructure that promote physical activity and healthy living.

"If someone can easily walk to the grocery store or bike to work, they're more likely to do so on a regular basis, which benefits them and the community," Irwin added. "We also encourage people to look at the built environment from the standpoint of whether someone using a wheelchair or pushing a stroller can easily move from one destination to another."

Presenters will include staff from Health by Design and the Indiana State Department of Health.

Hoosiers Happiness!

Beautify Knightstown, Inc. has Hoosier Gym T-shirts available for purchase. Proceeds from shirt sales help the group raise funds for a mural in Knightstown's business district. Orders may be placed via Facebook, www.beautifyknightstown.org, or by calling **765-445-2328**. All shirt sizes are \$20 in gray or gold. The Hoosier Gym is owned by the town of Knightstown.





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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

Charles "Charley" Leland Saunders
August 26, 1959 - March 19, 2016

Charles "Charley" Leland Saunders, 56, of the Knightstown/Charlottesville area, entered eternal life on March 19, 2016, with his family by his side. He was born on Aug. 26, 1959, to the late Bernard Neil and Gladys Louise (Pearson) Saunders in New Castle.

Charley was a loving husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather and friend. He married his wife, Tammy (Helms) Saunders, on Jan. 16, 1981. He was widely known as a great auctioneer and had a passion for collecting antiques, especially pottery. Charley had a contagious personality. He never met a stranger and had a story for everything. They have two children and seven grandchildren; a son, Josh Brinson and wife Misty, with children Noah, Gabriella, Cody, Kaitlyn, Wyatt and Damien; a daughter, Trilby Whitham (Saunders), mother of Destiny Layne; five brothers, Wayne (Trish), Reece (Joan), David, Jim (Kelly) and Elmer (Carla); a sister-in-law, Brenda Elsamiller (Rich); two brothers-in-law, Terry Helms (Linda) and Michael Mosley (Nycol); and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Charley was preceded in death by his brother, Danny Saunders.

Services for Charley will be held Wednesday March 23, 2016 at 2PM at HERITAGE FUNERAL CARE in Knightstown. Friends may visit from 11AM until time of service. Burial will follow in Glen Cove Cemetery in Knightstown with Minister George Huff to preside. Memorial contributions may be made in Charley's memory to the St. Vincent Heart Hospital. Heritage is entrusted with care and honored to serve the Saunders Family.

Russell Earl Lutes
September 17, 1948 - March 18, 2016

Russell Earl Lutes, 67, associate minister of the Wilkinson Church of Christ, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, March 18, 2016. He was born Sept. 17, 1948, in Brazil, the son of the late Earl and Lenora (Price) Lutes. His central value was love through service to others.

He proudly served in the United States Air Force from 1967-1972. He served the Lord in full-time ministry for 28 years with Youth for Christ, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Wilkinson Church of Christ. He served his family and friends throughout his life with compassion, generosity and many hugs.

Survivors include his wife, Diane; a son, Chris (Sherri) Lutes of Pendleton; two daughters, Tawnya (Nick) Provenzano and Natasha (Derek) Howard of Indianapolis; six grandchildren; three brothers, Steve, Tim (Carol) and Greg (Melanie) Lutes; a sister, Terry (Sam) Riddell; his children's Uncle Jim Smith; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three grandsons, Devin Earl Lutes, Andrew Howard and Samuel Provenzano.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, March 24, at 10 a.m. at Wilkinson Church of Christ with Ryan McCarty officiating. Friends may call at the church, Wednesday, March 23, from 3-8 p.m. There will be a private burial at a later date at Marion National Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Mahoning Valley Christian Service Camp, 3823 E. 225-N, Rushville, IN 46173 or Riley Children's Foundation, 30 S. Meridian St., Ste. 200, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3509

Vera J. (Brooks) Merchant
March 14, 1923 - March 18, 2016

Vera J. (Brooks) Merchant, 93, of Knightstown, passed away Friday, March 18, 2016, at Hancock Regional Hospital in Greenfield. She was born March 14, 1923, in Henry County, to the late Robert E. and Emma (McCorkle) Brooks.

Vera was a lifelong resident of the Knightstown area and a 1941 graduate of Knightstown High School. She was a 70-year member of Knightstown United Methodist Church. Vera has spent a majority of her life as a homemaker, but did work at the school cafeteria for some time. Vera was loved and respected by her family and all who knew her.

Vera is survived by her two sons, Jim and Terry Merchant, both of Knightstown.

In addition to her parents, Vera was preceded in death by her husband, Paul Merchant, in 2001.

Services will be at 12 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, at Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service, Knightstown Chapel, with Pastor Curt Hunt officiating. Burial will follow in Glen Cove Cemetery. Friends called at the funeral home March 22, and prior to services on March 23. Condolences and memories of Vera may be expressed at www.hinsey-brown.com.

Hinsey-Brown is pleased to be a member of Selected Independent Funeral Homes, an international organization made up of locally owned funeral homes who must meet very stringent qualifications. Membership is by invitation only and there is usually only one Selected funeral home in a community, which is your assurance of outstanding care and attention to detail before, during and after the service. Thank you for your continued support.

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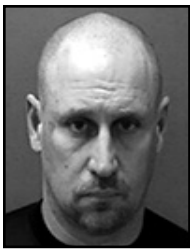
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Sat., April 2 at 7 p.m.
Sunday, April 3 at 10:30 a.m.



First Christian Church, 138 W. Main St.
"Vintage Gospel Lads" free concert April 4 at the Hoosier Gym. Hosted by Men for Christ.

Keith Is Former Carthage Officer



Keith

A Rush County Schools bus driver who formerly served as a volunteer reserve officer with the Carthage Police Department has been arrested and charged with four felonies, including sexual misconduct with a minor.

Anthony Keith, 48, was arrested by the Henry County Sheriff's Department early last week as a result of an investigation into his relationship with a 14-year-old Henry County girl. Keith allegedly met the girl and her family while he was working at the Yogi Bear Jellystone Campground just north of Knightstown.

The Henry County Prosecutor's Office filed the following charges against Keith on Thursday, March 10: sexual misconduct with a minor, a Level 4 felony; vicarious sexual gratification, a Level 5 felony; child solicitation, a Level 5 felony; and possession of child pornography, a Level 6 felony.

According to court documents, the alleged victim had told a friend that she and Keith had been sexually active at the campground for three years. She reportedly told her friend she was in love with Keith and that they planned to get married when she was old enough.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Public Test of the direct record electronic voting system and the absentee automatic tabulating equipment, to be used at the Primary Election on May 3, 2016, will be conducted in the Henry County Voter Registration Office, Henry County Justice Center, New Castle, Indiana, at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 30, 2016. The Henry County Election Board will also discuss the upcoming Primary Election.

This meeting is open to the General Public.

Indiana Election Code: 3-11-14.5 and 3-11-13-22

Debra G. Walker, Henry County Clerk (3/23)

The alleged victim friend, after seeing several text messages the victim said were between her and Keith, told her father about what she'd learned. The friend's father contacted the police.

The probable cause affidavit filed with the Henry Circuit Court 2 indicates that the alleged victim was interviewed twice in February by a forensic interviewer with the Delaware County Department of Child Services. During these interviews, the girl reportedly admitted exchanging nude photos with Keith on multiple occasions and engaging in sexual conduct with him on at least two occasions.

The charging documents filed by Henry County Prosecutor Joe Bergacs allege that sexual misconduct with a minor and vicarious sexual gratification offenses occurred last October. They allege that the child solicitation offense happened on either Nov. 4 or 5, and that Keith possessed child pornography in mid December.

Keith's initial hearing was held on the afternoon of March 15, the day he was arrested. He posted a \$30,000 surety bond, plus another \$3,350 in cash, and has since been released.

A pretrial conference is **See Keith, Page 11**

Banner Correction Noted

A story in the March 9 issue of The Banner incorrectly listed the Knightstown Police Department's fuel usage as 1,092.2 gallons for December and 1,305.05 gallons for January. Those figures, taken from a monthly reports submitted to the Knightstown Town Council, were actually dollars spent on fuel, not amount of fuel consumed. In fact, the gallons used in December and January were 508 and 607, respectively.

Fuel usage in January was nearly 19.5 percent higher than in December, as correctly noted in the original story, but the fuel mileage for KPD's vehicles was understated due to the error in The Banner's reporting. The department's vehicles got almost 11.3 miles to the gallon in December and nearly 10.3 miles to the gallon in January, more than double the figures The Banner mistakenly reported based on its errant calculations. The Banner apologizes for its error and any

confusion or inconvenience it may have caused.

In a related matter, the KPD's monthly report for February, presented last week at the March 17 town council meeting, revealed total mileage of 5,470 for KPD vehicles in February, a decrease of almost 12.2 percent from January. The KPD used 481 gallons of fuel in February, nearly 20.8 percent less than the month before, with department vehicles getting just under 11.4 miles to the gallon.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Knightstown Parks and Recreation Board will hold a public meeting at 7:15 p.m. on April 5, 2016, at the Sunset Park Shelter House, 206 South Hill Avenue, Knightstown, Indiana. The purpose of the public meeting is to gain citizen input on the Knightstown Park and Recreation Master Plan Update.

At this meeting, there will be the opportunity for questions and comments from the public. Participation is welcomed and encouraged. (3/23)

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The Banner

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

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

Eric Cox - Editor and Publisher
Stacy Cox - General Manager

Printing Done by MidCountry Media
of Knightstown

MAYS

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.

Please contact the school office
for more information at 765-645-5577.

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or our website at
www.mayscommunityacademy.org.

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Banner PERSPECTIVES

Easter Dinner Menu Written in Stone

Lovely Lady Spring has arrived early. I saw a robin last week; our pussy willow has fat catkins; and our daffodils, crocuses and magnolia tree are blooming. I know, of course, that it won't last. Thirty-degree weather is predicted soon, and we just hope that the magnolia's blooms won't be blasted.

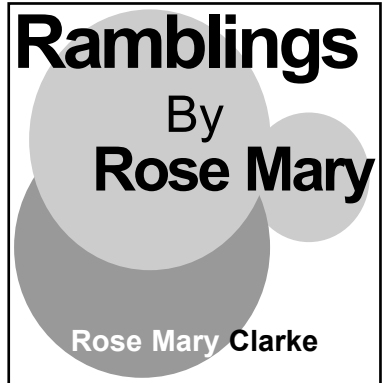
Eek! Here we are at Easter already! It seems as if Christmas were only a few weeks ago. That's the way it happens with time as one grows older. Time folds upon itself, and the intervals between the major holidays that delineate our years grow shorter.

My years speed by with increasing rapidity. When I was a kid the clock went tick ... tock ... tick ... tock. Now it goes ticktickticktick-tick. Faster, faster! Time is an invisible, unbankable dimension whose passage we cannot slow down or stop. However, my past coalesces with my present when I rummage through the dusty trunks stored in my mental attic at the core of my being where nothing is ever lost.

It's all still there: At the deepest layer, here I am, little Rose Mary, dragging around a big chocolate rabbit during the Depression. My sweet-starved siblings yearned for a taste, but it became too dirty to eat. The family often repeated that story while gathered at the round table, stuffing themselves with Mother's Easter banquet of ham, candied sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, Mama's corn pudding,

green beans simmered with bacon and onion, lime Jello with melted cream cheese and pineapple, homemade rolls and two or three of her pies with tender crust made with lard. When I was in high school, I attended Easter sunrise services with my girlfriends.

Fast forward: Life continued in the same comfortable pattern.



Here Bill, Vicki and I are coloring eggs with the Peter Paas dyes that Mother and I used and that are still available today. In a photo from our album, Bill and I are in bed. Billy and the identical twins, Chris and Tony, are standing next to us, blowing the whirly-gigs that were with their baskets. Vicki sometimes hosts the Easter feast, but the menu remains unchanged. Since the family wasn't here last year, Bill and I were ever so daring and went to a restaurant after church for Mexican food instead of a ham dinner and toasted each other with margaritas.

Vadel gave me a charming

grouping of statuettes of three dark-skinned women wearing turbans, golden earrings and long robes. They are singing. One clutches a cross to her chest; another is holding a candle; and one is holding an open book. This most tolerant of men said, "I wanted to give you something Christian."

One dictionary definition of the word "epiphany" describes it as when a person undergoes a spiritual change. Suddenly, one sees or understands something that one hadn't been aware of or understood before.

I believe that Vadel witnessed a man's "epiphany." When we headed for Knightstown, even though it's only 30 miles away, Vadel said, "I must buy some drinks." (Perhaps this was a throwback to his life in the Sahara.) He stopped at the station where he worked.

The first time that I met him, he was working at the cash register a few days after 9/11. All of us waiting in line were shocked when a man yelled at him, "Why don't you go back where you came from?" and stomped out of the station.

When Vadel got back in the car he had a bemused expression on his face. "What's up?" I asked. "When I went to pay for my drinks the clerk said, 'That guy ahead of you paid for your stuff.' It was the man who was so hateful to me. I called out 'Thank you' as he was leaving." He called back, "That's OK, buddy."

wclarke@comcast.net

Four Seasons Offers Its Own Charm

Holy cow, the grass is ready to mow. It's March! That's the earliest I can remember it being ready for a cut.

Several weeks ago, I wrote about smelling some freshly-mown grass while on a country bike ride. Still in the depths of winter, I was really surprised.

Now, my own grass is up and others are mowing away all over the state.

Maybe it's El Nino. Maybe it's global warming. Maybe it's just one of those winters we often wish for, but seldom get.

We got it this year! Only a handful of really bitter cold days come to mind. The rest were just cool and gloomy - cloudy, but relatively mild.

I can live with that. In fact, I think many of us could easily endure warmer winters. What worries me is how warm will they get before we realize something's out of whack?

Winters that require no salt, plows or shovels might sound really good. But, if winters are warm, what will our summers be like? Do snowless Januaries necessarily mean tropical summers, with the mercury rising steadily upward?

I hope not. No mild winter is worth sweltring, humidity-ridden spring, summer and fall days? Sometimes it seems as if we're heading for two seasons, instead of four, like we're used to.

Think of it: The entire year made up of summer and fall. That would be like living in Arkansas or southern Missouri - not bad, maybe. But, in a state like Indiana,

which has historically had a four-season climate, the two-season scenario isn't as welcome as it might seem at first.

Sure, the fishing and cycling season would be much longer. But, the sledding and snowball fight season would shrink, if not disappear totally. Likewise, ice fishing would become very challenging.

Other cold weather activities, like shivering and turning up the furnace, could also be in jeopardy. High heat bills may also face extinction. But, will they be replaced by higher electric bills as we struggle to cool ourselves?

Hope not. In fact, I hope all this crazy weather is just part of a natural cycle - one which hasn't been caused or spurred on by human activity.

Some of the benefits of a warming climate might be fairly alluring, such as prolonged colorful autumn foliage and flowers that really last, thanks to frost-free temperatures.

Yet, I can't think of a single warm weather pleasure that beats a beautiful blanket of white frost on field of soybeans, or crystal-clear night sky brought on by freezing temperatures and low humidity.

And who wants to teach kids to sled on grass? Who wants to be the jerk who leads the ice fishing expedition in a row boat, let alone the guy who brought his big ice augur, only to find no ice on the lake?

A two-season year sounds good in theory. But, I think each of our four seasons has something special to offer - even if it is too cold out to enjoy it!



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The last few issues of The Banner have had a number of articles that seem to demand comment.

The March 9 issue again raised the matter of Joe Bergacs, the Henry County Prosecutor. Of course, one wouldn't want the prosecutor to release incorrect information, or information that might hinder a criminal matter or unfairly prejudice public opinion against an innocent person. But it seems that too often a story about Mr. Bergacs' office reports that the most basic information about matters that he is responsible for is unavailable. In this particular matter, it is difficult to understand why he can not report if the fight involved another inmate or a jail employee. And certainly he has a duty to inform the public if there is video of the incident, even if it is not appropriate to release the video at the moment.

The reports of the various department heads, including the police illustrates another problem. Knightstown has been and is continuing to spend down its capital. There is only so long that it can continue. If the town is to survive, it must invest in the future. I am not suggesting outsized expenditures, such as the high school that may yet bankrupt the citizens, but clean water, sewage control, electricity and police are necessary for the town to survive and attract residents and business. Why has Greenfield grown rather than Knightstown? It's great to look fondly at the past, but people must also look to the future.

The article in the March 2 paper about at-large elections raises several interesting issues. The current system, where town council members are elected to represent districts by people who are not in their district (ward), is certainly peculiar, to say the least. The proposal to elect members at large is quite interesting, but how will the elections be conducted? Will everyone be able to vote for five candidates, and the five with the highest vote totals will be elected? Or, will people be able to vote for only one person? Will there be a form of proportional representation?

The Feb. 24 issue reports that the CAB School Board is investigating parking lot repairs. The article makes no mention of an evaluation of the matter by a licensed professional engineer. I am not familiar with the parking lots, but my understanding is that a proper paving job should involve at least two inches of hot "state mix" applied over a bonding layer of hot asphalt, liberally applied after milling. Such a paving job should have an expected life far in excess of five years. In a lightly used parking lot, a life of at least 30 years should be expected. Is the board being penny wise and pound foolish? If the job is worth doing, then it is worth doing right - the first time.

Eugene Falik
Far Rockaway, N.Y.

Dear Editor,

Roughly 83 percent, or 19.4 million acres of Indiana's 23.3 million acres of land is devoted to farms and forests. Indiana also ranks 10th in the nation for agricultural sales, totaling nearly \$11.2 billion. Knowing this, lawmakers continuously look for ways to improve the state of our agricultural industry in order to protect our farmland and farmers from undue financial burdens.

With the agriculture sector supporting over 245,000 Indiana jobs, keeping this industry thriving was a top priority for the 2016 legislative session. During this short session, I advocated on behalf of farmers and the hard-working individuals of Indiana that depend on agriculture to feed their families and make a living.

In order to effectively relieve Indiana farmers from unnecessary financial burdens, I co-authored Senate Enrolled Act 308, which uses the most recent data available to determine the base rate for farmland assessment and replaces the current formula to limit the volatility in farmland property taxes. This bill decreases property-tax burdens on farmland by almost

See Letters, Page 11

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 Church of God, 405 North St., will host a **Sunrise Service**, featuring Rick and Elwood Evans, on Sunday, March 27, at 7 a.m. A breakfast in the church's fellowship hall, 199 Grant St., will follow. The regular morning service starts at 10:30 a.m., featuring the church's regular pastor, Larry Bigham.

◆Knightstown American Legion Post 152 will host its annual **Easter egg hunt** for local kids on Saturday, March 26, at 10 a.m. at Sunset Park in Knightstown. The public is invited to this free annual event.

◆**Almighty Blessings Preschool**, located across the street from Knightstown United Methodist Church, will host open registration on Monday, April 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m. The event is open to the public.

◆**Health by Design** and the Indiana State Department of Health will co-present a workshop on Thursday, April 28, designed to help New Castle and Henry County become a healthier and more active community for all ages

and abilities. The event takes place 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the New Castle-Henry County Public Library.

◆In honor of **Rush County Players' 40th anniversary season**, Director Carrie Scholl, along with Assistant Directors Kim Ursin-Cronin and Donita Davis, has 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. 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.

◆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.

◆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."

◆**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, 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 memberships 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.

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Clear Thinking

"When they call the roll in the Senate, the Senators do not know whether to answer 'Present' or 'Not guilty'."

Theodore Roosevelt

Chuck Cathcart Draws on Love of Art for Creative Career as Self-taught Mason

by Logan Cox
for The Banner

Since 1977, Rush County resident Charles "Chuck" Cathcart has been in business as a masonry contractor, operating under the names C.C. Masonry or Old Style Masonry.

"I started up my business because I was basically a lead mason on several different crews I had worked on prior to 1977, and it was time to earn more than 'wages,'" he said.

Cathcart is self-taught in the art of masonry.

"When I first became a mason's helper in 1971, I thought it was at least an interesting trade, so I bought a quality trowel, a brick hammer, a mason's ruler, and 2-foot, 3-foot, and 4-foot levels," said Cathcart. "When I would get caught up, I would jump in on the wall and try to lay a few bricks. Eventually, my speed picked up and my technique improved."

Around 1973, laying brick, block and stone was a full-time job for Cathcart.

"This is the kind of trade where you will still learn some new tricks from time to time," he said. "Even now, all these years later."

Years ago, Cathcart used to run one or two crews, but lost interest because he found it "too competitive and stressful."

"Mostly now I work alone, but am currently trying to find an individual that is willing to work their way up from a helper' position to an informal apprenticeship," he said.

When it comes to his work, Cathcart considers himself as much an artist as he does a laborer.

"I've been fond of art since I was about a first-grader," he said. "It was my first-grade teacher, Mrs. Wilson, at Calhoun Grade School in Berlin, Wisc. She held up a picture of a robin I had drawn - showed it to the whole class and bragged on it, you know. And I didn't expect that, because it wasn't that difficult for me. It was just something I had done."

Cathcart considered attending The Herron School of Art after graduating from Warren Central High School in 1971, but decided to put it off and focus on masonry. Ultimately, he never went to art school, yet

he considers his background in art, the experience he gained and support he earned from others, to be key factors in much of his success.

His work in masonry began with the role of a hod carrier, the technical name for a mason's helper. Cathcart admits that he didn't carry an actual hod, a shoulder-mounted contraption with which hod carriers of the past could use to move large amounts of bricks.

"After I ran my own crews and stuff for awhile, it just kind of dawned on me that I'm gonna be beating myself up for years if I'm just doing what everybody else is doing," Cathcart said. "From '73 to '77, when I was working for other people, they saw that I knew what I was doing and they put me on building fireplaces. Because fireplaces are gonna be prominent in a person's home, so they want good masons on that. Because you don't want an ugly fireplace. And I kind of grew towards that."

Over the years, Cathcart has designed and made many fire-

places, chimneys, fire pits, decorative walls and more, all of varying shapes, sizes and materials. To this day, he keeps busy with his work.

"I think my enthusiasm lies in the fact that I have been able to take my love of art and transfer it to masonry," he said.

Cathcart noted the meticulous work that can go into his masonry, especially the ones involving stone. He often uses his skill for drawing to provide clients with detailed renderings of his project designs.

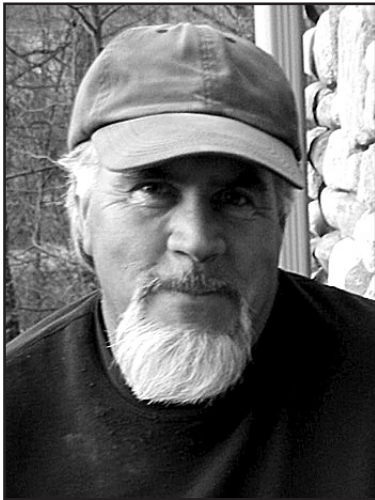
In the case of the grotto he made for St. Rose of Lima Parish, Knightstown's Catholic Church on U.S. Hwy. 40, the finished product was almost completely accurate to his original drawings.

Stone has become Cathcart's favorite medium in masonry. It's what he uses for a lot of his work now, having spent decades using brick and block save for the occasional stone job.

Whatever the case, Cathcart's business gives him the opportunity to flex his creative muscles and improve upon his craft all the time.

"We offer design options to our clients, as many

See Cathcart, Page 11



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FOLKWAYS

Vintage Gospel Lads Concerts Free and Open to the Public

The Vintage Gospel Lads will be leading a revival at the Knightstown First Christian Church April 1-3. Friday and Saturday's concerts will begin at 7 p.m. On Sunday, there will be two concerts, one at 10:30 a.m. and another at 7 p.m.

The theme of the revival is "Four Soils: What Kind of Soil Are You?" On Friday, there will be lots of music and Jon Stedman will deliver a sermon entitled, "The Shoddy Soil". The message on Saturday is "The Shallow Soil" by Steve Kehrer. Ron Rasmussen's presentation on Sunday morning will be "The Shared Soil". Adam Rasmussen will deliver the message, "The Surefire Soil" on Sunday evening.

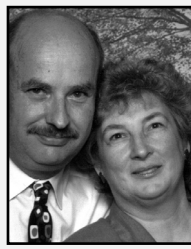
Individual member of the Vintage Gospel Lads reside in

Missouri, Oklahoma, Indiana and California where most of them are involved in full-time ministry, but they continue to accept singing engagements several weeks out of the year. Group members are Murray Hollis of Joplin, Mo.; Steve Kehrer of Mooresville; Ron Rasmussen of Yukon, Okla.; and Jon Stedman of San Francisco, Calif. The group has added two other members, Murray's daughter, Tammy Cady, who has performed in singing tours in the U.S. and in foreign countries, and Ron's son, Adam Rasmussen, who is an accomplished instrumentalist and music minister.

The public is invited to attend any or all of these free concerts. The church is located at 138 W. Main St. in Knightstown.

The Easter Story is Personal

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



Our focus today is on the first part of verse seven. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going ahead of you into Galilee ..."

Look again at what the verse says. Go, tell his disciples and Peter (emphasis mine). If we were to do an in-depth study of the book of Mark, we'd find that most of what Mark wrote came from the recollections of the disciple Peter. So we know that Peter knew very personally how much these words meant. This fiery disciple's attitude towards Jesus was always: "No matter what others do, You can always count on me!" But when it came right down to it, the Lord couldn't count on Peter, could He? He was the one who boasted of his love for and allegiance to Christ, but Peter broke his promise, didn't he? We read that the women at the empty tomb were told to

deliver a message to a group of people that included Peter. The phrasing of the words the women were to take to Peter weren't intended to single him out because he was more important or significant than the other disciples. The point of the message was to include Peter so he would know that he was forgiven and still an integral part of the disciples, despite his triple denial of the Lord. And isn't that the perfect example of the forgiveness of Jesus Christ?

There's a story about a Muslim in Africa, who became a Christian. Some of his friends asked him: "Why have you become a Christian?" And this was his answer. "Well, it's like this. Suppose you were going down the road and suddenly the road forked in two directions, and you didn't know which way to go, and there at the fork in the road were two men - one dead and one alive. Which one would you ask which way to go?"

Something to think about, isn't it?
Please join me in celebrating the risen, living Savior this coming Sunday. Happy Easter!

Karen Trent Hosts Avon Literary Club

The Avon Literary Club met March 7 at the home of Karen Trent. Members discussed *The Wright Brothers*, a book by David McCullough.

The next meeting of the club will be on April 4 at the home of Jane Leakey.

DAR Chapter Meets

Thirteen members of the Major Hugh Dinwiddie Chapter of the Knightstown DAR and one guest, Ron Hardman, met at noon on March 5 at Knightstown American Legion Post 152. The group had a social time and a meal before the meeting. The hostess was Denise Akers.

Dianne Taylor, with the assistance of Linda Ashwill, opened the meeting in ritualistic form. The President General's message was shared. Taylor talked about women's health month.

Sherry Rigney shared the National Defender. The subjects were Medal of Honor honoree Liet.

Gen. Susan J. Helms, a brief history of West Point, and Brigadier General James M. Stewart.

Akers read the minutes for the months of November and December. She shared the article in a local magazine that had the pictures of members on an August outing.

The chapter received a thank you note from the Sarah Winston Henry Chapter for attending their Christmas meeting at the Henry

County Historical Society.

Linda Ashwill, chairperson of the scholarship committee, reviewed the progress of the committee. The committee will have a meeting March 21 at 2 p.m. at Taylor's home.

Rigney and Vikkie Witham have been appointed as the nomination committee for this year. Ashwill reported three birthdays coming up this month.

Darlene Petry gave a report on the essay winners. Amelia Wyatt reported that she was working on two prospective members' genealogy. After a discussion of the August "trip" meeting, it was motioned to have Ashwill and Petry to check into the Madonna of the Trail in Richmond and a cabin to tour. More information is needed so the final details were tabled till next month.

See DAR, Page 12

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79th Annual Meeting of Henry County REMC

Thursday, April 14, 2016

First Baptist Church, 709 S. Memorial Drive, New Castle, IN 47362

REMC Member-Owners are cordially invited to attend the 79th Henry County REMC Annual Meeting. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Join us for a complementary dinner, music, gifts, prizes and more. Supervised youth activities (ages 5 and up) will be held on-site.

Attendees are required to bring the registration card printed in the March Electric Consumer.

Visit www.hcremc.com to learn more and RSVP for the event OR call **800.248.8413**.

LOCAL SPORTS

EH Boys Track Team Edges Out KHS in Season Opener

Knightstown and Eastern Hancock kicked off their spring track and field seasons by taking on each other Mar. 17

The varsity Royals, on their home field, edged out the Panthers 66-57.

Results for each of the events are detailed below.

100 meter dash

1st - Kennedy Osborn (K) 11.35 sec
2nd - Devyn Brinson (EH) 11.32
3rd - Jackson Edwards (K) 11.52
Other participants - Clayton Cochard (EH) 12.03

200 meter dash

1st - Devyn Brinson (EH) 23.22
2nd - Jackson Edwards (K) 23.87
3rd - Kennedy Osborn (K) 23.94
Other participants - Dylan Grose (EH) 34.02; Tony Cape (EH) 37.89; Kyle Moore (EH) 24.4; Blayze Sarber (EH) 24.75

400 meter run

1st - Jon Lukens (K) 55.65
2nd - Austin Smith (EH) 57.28
3rd - Blayze Sarber (EH) 57.91
Other participants - Riley Settergren (EH) 1:02.7

800 meter run

1st - Clayton Brumfield (EH) 2:12.54
2nd - Tommaso Gelmetti (EH) 2:18.87
3rd - Corbin Jennings (EH) 2:20.94
Other participants - JT Butler (K) 2:22

1600 meter run

1st - Clayton Brumfield (EH) 5:02.22
2nd - Gabe Blake (EH) 5:17.53
3rd - Skyler Schroepe (EH) 5:33.9
Other participants - Evan Nolan (K) 5:35; Cooper Strawsma (K) 5:45

3200 meter run

1st - Ben Willey (K) 10:58
2nd - Gabe Blake (EH) 11:11.22
3rd - Will Huffman (EH) 11:23.44
Other participants - Skyler Schroepe (EH) 12:15.72

110 meter hurdles

1st - Daniel Rayburn (K) 17.19
2nd - Clayton Cochard (EH) 17.89
3rd - Lane Parker (K) 18.26
Other participants - Luke Splater (EH) 20.56

300 meter hurdles

1st - Riley Ruble (K) 45.33
2nd - Daniel Rayburn (K) 45.35
3rd - Cole Cochard (EH) 47.21
Other participants - Clayton Cochard (EH) 48.28; Luke Splater (EH) 49.74

4 x 100 meter relay

1st - Alex Fields, Jackson Edwards, Riley Ruble, Kennedy Osborn (K) 46.7
2nd - Kyle Moore, Caleb Beyers, Devyn Brinson, Austin Smith (EH) 47.78
3rd - Clayton Cochard, Dylan Grose, Blayze Sarber, Tony Cape (EH) 52.30

4 x 400 meter relay

1st - Blayze Sarber, Clayton Brumfield, Tommaso Gelmetti, Devyn Brinson (EH) 3:51.36
2nd - Alex Fields, Kennedy Osborn, JT Butler, Jon Lukens (K) 3:56
3rd - Luke Splater, Cole Cochard, Corbin Jennings, Riley Settergren (EH) 4:28.00

4 x 800 meter relay

1st - Tommaso Gelmetti, Gabe Blake, Clayton Brumfield, Corbin

Jennings (EH) 9:32.91
2nd - Micheal Weiland, Ben Willey, JT Butler, and Evan Nolan (K) 9:48
3rd - Riley Settergren, Skyler Schroepe, Zachary Sickle, Will Huffman (EH) 10:37.25

Long jump

1st - Jackson Edwards (K) 19' 1"
2nd - Kyle Moore (EH) 17' 9"
3rd - Alex Fields (K) 17' 9"
Other participants - Clayton Cochard (EH) 15' 3"

High jump

1st - Daniel Rayburn (K) 5' 8"
2nd - Caleb Beyers (EH) 5' 8"
3rd - Luke Splater (EH) 5' 4"
DNP - Riley Ruble (K) 5' 4"

Shot put

1st - Aaron Riley (EH) 47' 8"
2nd - Reece Burkhart (EH) 42' 7.5"
3rd - Coleman Wyatt (K) 42' 0.5"
Other participants - Jared Boaz (EH) 38' 1"; Garrett Thomas (K) 37' 8"; Logan Johnson (K) 35' 3.5"; Sam Caze (EH) 33' 5"; Landon Fields (K) 33' 2"; Avery Spurling (EH) 29' 6"; Andrew Hatchett (K) 29' 3.5"; Kyle

Willard (EH) 28' 6.5"; Colton Ellison (EH) 27' 8.5"; Robert Wilson (EH) 27' 4.25"

Willard (EH) 57'; Colton Ellison (EH) 56' 2.5"

Discus


1st - Reece Burkhart (EH) 136' 1"
2nd - Logan Johnson (K) 124' 4"
3rd - Coleman Wyatt (K) 120' 4.75"

Other participants - Sam Caze (EH) 113' 7"; Jared Boaz (EH) 113' 4"; Garrett Thomas (K) 112' 10.5"; Andrew Hatchett (K) 89' 11"; Avery Spurling (EH) 71' 1.5"; Robert Wilson (EH) 64' 3.5"; Landon Fields (K) 61' 8.5"; Kyle

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Sir Winston Churchill

LEGAL NOTICE
STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE HENRY CIRCUIT COURT
COUNTY OF HENRY) SS: CASE NO.33C01-1603-MI-000025
IN RE CHANGE OF NAME OF MINOR:)
HAVEN NICOLE THOMPSON)
SHERRIE YVONNE CLEMENS,)
PETITIONER)
NOTICE OF HEARING
Notice is hereby given that Petitioner Sherrie Yvonne Clemens, pro se, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name of Minor to change the name of minor child from Haven Nicole Thompson to Haven Nicole Clemens.
The petition is scheduled for hearing in the Henry Circuit Court on May 16, 2016, at 11:00 o'clock a.m., which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date. The parties shall report Henry County Circuit Court 2.
Date: March 9, 2016
Debra G. Walker, Clerk of Henry Circuit Court (3/16, 3/23, 3/30)

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Celebration of 'Hoosiers' Featuring Angelo Pizzo Set for April 9 at Rushville Memorial Gymnasium

Funds Raised to Be Used for Princess Theater Restoration

The Heart of Rushville, in conjunction with the City of Rushville, Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, Milan Museum and the Hoosier Gym in Knightstown will be offering a night to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the movie "Hoosiers."

The event will be used to raise funds and awareness for the Princess Theater restoration project, while celebrating the movie Hoosiers, the fictitious Hickory Huskers and the real Milan Indians. The event is being sponsored by Clarkson and Gulde Law Office. The event, which will take place Saturday, April 9 at Memorial Gymnasium.

"We thought it would be fun to show the movie 'Hoosiers' in Memorial Gymnasium as a fundraiser for the Princess," said Brian Sheehan. "Then, we started brainstorming on how we could take that idea and make it bigger and better."

Sheehan contacted Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Executive Director and RCHS graduate Chris May in late December. May was eager to assist, merging his love for basketball with assisting an effort in his home town.

"Our committee is excited to announce a star-studded lineup will participate in the event in Rushville," May stated. The event will feature Angelo Pizzo, the writer of both sports classics, Hoosiers and Rudy. Members of the Milan Indians, including 1954 Mr. Basketball, Bobby Plump, as well as, members of the fictitious Hickory Huskers including Brad Long (Buddy Walker) and Steve Hollar (Rade Butcher).

The event will celebrate the 30-year anniversary of the movie Hoosiers, the 90-year anniversary of Memorial Gym and the Regional Championships won by Milan in 1953 and 1954 that were played at Memorial Gymnasium.

"Many people don't realize the greatest sports story ever told came through Rushville," said Sheehan.

"In '54, Milan easily defeated the Lions 58-34 in morning action, however, Bobby Plump and company needed a fourth quarter rally to defeat Aurora 46-38, to win the Regional and move on to create the 'Milan Miracle' story."

The event will feature a VIP session for \$20 that will allow the ticket holder to meet and greet the legends, participate in the FanZone provided by the

Rushville Parks Department in the auxiliary gym, special reserve seating for the Legends Program and the viewing of the Hoosiers movie and be entered into a special VIP drawing for a Legends autographed item.

For \$5, a general admission ticket may be purchased. This will allow ticket holders into the FanZone area, a general admission ticket for the Program and the viewing of the movie.

The schedule for the event will be as follows:

- ◆ 5 p.m. – Doors open for VIP event / Fanzone (\$20 ticket)
- ◆ 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. – VIP event (Memorial Gymnasium) / Fanzone (auxiliary gym) for VIP and general tickets

- ◆ 6:30 to 7 p.m. – Memorial Gym open for general admission ticket holders (\$5 ticket)

- ◆ 7 p.m. – Hoosier's program (speeches/discussion with legends)

- ◆ 7:45 p.m. (approx.) – Hoosiers movie shown on the big screen (run time: one hour, 55 minutes)

There also will be a basketball-themed silent auction, raffle items and concessions provided by the RCHS Booster Club (including soda, candy bars and popcorn) available for purchase.

Tickets can be purchased at Rushville City Hall or from any Heart of Rushville committee member. Any tickets left over will be sold at the door April 9.

All funds raised from the event will go towards the Heart of Rushville / Princess Theater Restoration Project.

Bob Gulde, a RCHS graduate, played in the movie for the Linton Wildcats and made a free throw in the regional final game against the Huskers.

Gulde stated, "Jack Clarkson and I take great pride in being part of this event because we both played for the Rushville Lions and we both love the game of basketball. I am really looking forward to this event."

Gulde is a local lawyer at the Clarkson & Gulde law firm in Rushville, an official event sponsor.

"We are really looking forward to celebrating this movie, our gym and Hoosier Hysteria in general. We welcome basketball and "Hoosier's" fans from around the state to come join us for this bicentennial celebration event. It is going to be a fun, family-friendly event," said Mayor Mike Pavey.

Wrestling Open Gym Every Wed. for K-12

Knightstown Wrestling Club has started its weekly open floor for those interested in learning more about wrestling on Wed., March 16.

There to help direct the practice sessions will be the Knightstown varsity wrestling coaches who have led the Panthers to county championships each of the past four years. Several KHS wrestlers have advanced to the semistate round in recent years and the team placed sixth at the invitation-only IHSWCA team state duals.

Any individual in grades kindergarten through 12th interested in wrestling are encouraged to attend. The sessions will take place every Wednesday from 6-7:30 p.m. in the high school wrestling room.

Participants will need to have a signed release form, a USA Wrestling card and wrestling shoes.

Those still interested in participating can contact coach Jared Evans by email at jevans@cabeard.k12.in.us.

County Library Featuring Variety of Free Activities for Local Kids

Henry County Public Library offers a variety of free activities for kids and families including story times for small children and learning programs for older kids. For more information, visit www.nhcpl.org/kids.

Pajama story time begins at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays (April 4-25) for all ages. Alphabet story time is 10 a.m. on Tuesdays (April 5-19) and is designed for ages four and up. During this program, kids learn letter recognition through stories, fingerplays, songs, and crafts.

Baby and toddler story times are Thursdays (April 7-28). Baby story time begins at 9:30 a.m. and features songs, rhymes, and stories for ages 0-2. Toddler story time is at 10 a.m., and ages 2-3 can groove to music, participate in various activities, and hear themed stories.

Second Saturday STEAM gives elementary-aged children the opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering, arts, and math in a fun setting. The session at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 9, will

highlight flight, and kids can make things that fly using various materials. In order to ensure that there are adequate supplies, reserve your spot by going to the "events" link at www.nhcpl.org or by calling the library at 529-0362.

Stop in and read to Lucky the therapy dog during Tale Waggers at 5 p.m. on March 31, April 14, and April 28. Lucky provides encouraging help to children who may struggle with reading.

The Children's Library is helping to host the annual Henry County Child Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 9. Families can participate in interactive booths and learn about community resources. There will be door prizes awarded throughout.

Celebrate Earth Day Friday, April 22 at 3:30 p.m. by making a recycled craft and enjoying a story and snack. This program is designed for elementary-aged students, and registration is required. Sign up under the website "events" link or by calling 765- 529-0362.

Basketball Hall of Fame Inducting 55th Class

The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame welcomed their 55th class of inductees and honors other Indiana boys' high school basketball legends on March 23 in ceremonies to be held at Primo Banquet Hall in Indianapolis.

Highlighting the evening's ceremony, 14 men will be inducted into the Hall, recognized with the highest honor bestowed in Indiana high school basketball.

Among individuals to be inducted are Indiana boys high school basketball all-time leading scorer, state champion, Indiana Mr. Basketball and 1990 National High School Player of the Year, Damon Bailey (Bedford North Lawrence 1990), and the consensus 1993 National College Player of the Year and longtime NBA player, Calbert Cheaney (Evansville Harrison 1989). Each had notable careers playing for Indiana University.

Willie Humes (Madison 1967) set impressive scoring records at Madison High School, Vincennes University and Idaho State University, Tom Bowman (Martinsville 1959) graduated as the all-time leading scorer at Butler University and Butch Wade (Columbus 1963) set numerous records, including career scoring, at Indiana State University.

Terry Stillabower (Lafayette Jeff 1964) was a star of the Bronchos' 1963 state finalists and 1964 state champion squad, Brad Miley (Rushville 1976) set the IHSAA state finals rebounding record and was a member of the 1979 NCAA national finalist Indiana State University Sycamores. Each were Indiana All-Stars.

Russ Grieger (Evansville Bosse 1960) was a starter for Evansville College's 29-0 1965 national cham-

pion squad, Bill Hahn (Michigan City Elston 1959) was a noted player and won 246 games as an Indiana high school coach, Jim Fisher (Lebanon 1979) was an all-state player at Lebanon and Joe Todrank (Holland 1956) followed an outstanding playing career as a successful Southern Indiana high school coach.

The late Hank Clason (Goshen 1938) was a local standout who became an all-Big Ten player at Northwestern University.

The recipient of this year's Centennial Award to recognize contributions to Indiana high school basketball from 100 or more years ago is Bill Diddel (Indianapolis Manual, 1904) who is inducted posthumously. Diddel was a star of Manual H.S. teams that won games throughout the Midwest and continued his career as a member of Wabash College's 1908 "Wonder Five" team that went 24-0 and were declared World Champions by numerous media outlets of the time.

Indiana Pacers 2016 Silver Medal Award recipient Mike Blake

is inducted for his 40+ year career in Evansville television with a distinguished career covering high school sports as well as his numerous charitable community involvements.

Three men – Ken Gorrell of Franklin, Rex Nichols of Mooresville and the late Jim Schwenk of Jasper – will be recognized with the Center Circle Officials Award.

Eighteen men will be recognized as members of the 2016 Silver Anniversary Team, acknowledging their spot as one of the top senior basketball players in Indiana 25 years ago.

The 1966 Michigan City Elston team will be recognized for the 50th anniversary of their state championship. The 1991 Gary Roosevelt team will be honored on the 25th anniversary of their state championship and the 1916 Lafayette Jeff Bronchos will be remembered 100 years after their state championship win.

A public reception took place at the Hall of Fame museum in New Castle on March 23.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Bid Notice
The Henry County Commissioners are accepting sealed bids for an Asphalt Recycling machine. The bids must be received in the Commissioner's Office by noon on April 13, 2016. They will be opened in the public meeting held at 6 p.m. April 13, 2016. The address is Courthouse, 101 S. Main St., New Castle, Indiana 47362. A new machine or used with less than 3,000 hours of operation would be acceptable. The recycler should have a minimum of 550 horsepower. Other requirements are listed below.
*Articulated rear wheel steering
*Central lubrication system
*Pressurized and filtered cabin air
*Hydrostatic all-wheel drive system
*96 inch drum
*Water/emulsion spray system
The County will trade in a 2007 Maddock 84E Recycle Machine. (3/23-30)

LEGAL NOTICE

Bid Notice
The Knightstown Department of Parks and Recreation Board is accepting bids for ground maintenance and/or grass cutting in Sunset Park for the time period from April through October 2016. Bids are to be sealed and returned to Knightstown Town Hall, 26 S. Washington St., no later than 5 p.m. on April 5, 2016. Any bids received after that date and time will be returned unopened. Bids are for the grass cutting and other ground maintenance needed for the 2016 year. Bids should be priced per mowing event or on a weekly basis. Bidding criteria information is included in bid packet that can be picked up at the Knightstown Town Hall. Should you have any questions, please contact Ed Johnson, Knightstown Department of Parks and Recreation Board President, at 765-425-8366. (3/16, 3/23)

Keith, from Page 3

scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 12. The case is tentatively set for a jury trial at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 21.

Following Keith's arrest, RCS Superintendent Matt Vance issued the following statement:

"Rush County Schools is working with local law enforcement authorities concerning the arrest of one of our bus drivers. The driver has been placed on administrative leave until further notice pending

Canned, from Page 1

paid employee. According to a report Knightstown recently filed with the state that lists employee compensation for 2015, the town paid Neice \$57,550.22 last year.

Speaking to Ward on Monday afternoon, The Banner asked the town council president if she could shed any more light on any specific shortcomings in Neice's job performance that led to his termination.

"It was his body of work for four-and-a-half years," Ward said. Although it had only been less than two work days since the council's vote, she added that morale among the town employees Neice had supervised had "just gone up over 100 percent."

Ward told The Banner that she had heard complaints about Neice as soon as she joined the council in January 2015, but, due to the makeup of the council at that time, she said, "We couldn't do anything with it." With Neice now gone, she said she thought it would "make it a little easier to make a few more adjustments."

In a related matter, acting on a recommendation from Clerk-Treasurer Beth Huffman, the council also voted just prior to its firing of Neice to appoint Lisa Hall as a deputy clerk-treasurer for the town. Hall, who had been serving as Neice's assistant, will not receive any pay increase as a result of this change.

the outcome of the internal investigation. Our school system maintains high expectations for all and we will continue to work with authorities through this process."

Keith was approved as a volunteer reserve officer for the Carthage Police Department in October 2008. While he has not been a reserve officer with the CPD for years, town officials were unable to tell The Banner when exactly he stopped serving in this capacity.

Letters, from Page 4

\$50 million dollars in 2018 alone.

Indiana farmers have dealt with rapidly increasing property taxes year after year due to an outdated assessment formula. From 2007 to 2015, agricultural property taxes increased by 63 percent while other property taxes showed a decrease. SEA 308 reduces farmers' per-acre base rate for farmland by roughly \$1,000 from the pre-2015 assess-

Hike, from Page 1

ment formula. Noting that many Knightstown residents are elderly or on fixed incomes, she said she would not be voting for the higher proposed rate increase.

"It's still very affordable when you compare it to all the other communities in the state of Indiana," De Witt told the council. She said she would send Huffman and members of the council a graph comparing the proposed rate increases with current rates for other towns of comparable size.

Council Vice President Kevin Knott said he was not prepared to vote on the rate increase that night and wanted more time to look over the rate study. He made a motion to table the matter until the council's April meeting, which was seconded by council member Mitch Roland and supported by Ward and council member Roger Hammer. The council's fifth member, Valerie Trump, was not in attendance.

Should the council act on the rate increase next month, De Witt said her firm should be able to have the needed rate increase application ready to file with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, the agency that has to approve the rate increase, by May. Under a "best case scenario," she said the IURC should issue its decision by the end of the year.

ment formula.

As chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, I listen to and evaluate bills that affect rural agricultural districts like the one I represent. I firmly support legislation such as SEA 308 that looks out for Indiana's rural economy. Small towns flourish when agriculture is prospering.

SEA 308 received overwhelm-

ing support in the Senate and the House of Representatives with a strong majority vote in both chambers. The bill is now before Gov. Pence for his consideration.

Sen. Jean Leising (R-Oldenburg)

Cathcart, from Page 6

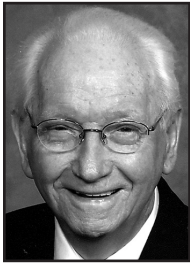
might want a fireplace or decorative wall or any number of pleasing to the eye type projects, but said a little help with ideas," said Cathcart. "In many ways, that is the most satisfying aspect of my work ... when the client picks from options we've given them, and then we build it for them."

Cathcart is a Wisconsin native. He moved to a Chicago suburb at age 15, and then, nine months later, to Indianapolis. In 1974, he moved to the Charlottesville area, and to Knightstown in 1976. He now lives in rural Carthage.

"The local communities have been very kind to my wife Della and our children."

For more information about Old Style Masonry, call Cathcart at 317-409-9355.

OBITUARIES



Robert F. Wischart, 92, of Greenfield passed away Tuesday morning, March 22, at his residence in CrownPointe of Greenfield.

He was born July 1, 1923, in Shirley, the son of the late Orville and Leone (Sheets) Wischart. Bob was a graduate of Wilkinson High School's class of 1941 and proudly served his country during WWII in the United States Army, 99th Infantry Division. He served in France,

Belgium and Germany. He was the postmaster of the Shirley post office from 1953-1968, owned and operated Bob & Gracie's Ladies and Children ware, Bob's Unique Shop, and was an avid collector of Indian relics and arrowheads. Bob loved IU basketball and enjoyed spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Grace Wischart; two daughters, Jane (Robert) Sparks of New Castle and Phyllis (Dwight) Addison of Greenfield; a stepson, Jim (Becky) Harrell of Wanamaker; a stepdaughter, Judy (Frank) Hilcz of Knightstown; 14 grandchildren, Kevin Sparks, Teresa (Paul) Leisure, Angela Jessup, Deanna (Dee Dee) Addison, Scott Addison, Dion (Donna) Coomer, Jennifer Coomer, Dan (Diane) Florea Jr., Dawn Florea, Carrie (Chris) Underwood, Jim (Jenny) Florea, David (Heather) Harrell, John (Leigh) Harrell, Ellen (Rusty) Skinner; 18 great-grandchildren; and a brother, Joseph (Sue) Wischart of Chicago. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Janelle Coomer in 2008;

a stepdaughter, Margie (Moge) Jones; a granddaughter, Mischelle Florea; and four sisters, Lorene Mahoney, Ruth Hines, Martha Harvey and Barbara Wood.

Funeral services will be Saturday, March 26, at 10 a.m. at Condo and Son Funeral Home in Wilkinson with Dennis Spegal officiating. Burial will follow at Glen Cove Cemetery in Knightstown with military graveside rites conducted by Knightstown American Legion Post 152. Friends may call at the funeral home on Friday, March 25, from 4-8 p.m.

Memorial donations can be made to Wilkinson Church of Christ, 7293 SR 109, Wilkinson, IN, 46186. Online condolences can be made at www.condoandson.com.

DAR, from Page 7

Next meeting will be Friday, April 8, at 1:30 at the Knightstown United Methodist Church. This meeting will be the Good Citizen awards and essay winners. Wyatt, Witham and Petry are hostesses.

The meeting was adjourned with the motion by Ashwill and seconded by Betty Foster.

LEGAL NOTICE

Bid Notice

Town of Kennard is accepting sealed bids for:
 *1978 Ford 900 Tanker - 6,073 miles, 2500 gallon tank, good for parts.
 *Generator - 1973 Empire Model 120NGC-8E
 *Ford 8N tractor
 Each item will be sold "AS IS" with no exceptions. Sealed bids will be accepted until 5 p.m. April 30, 2016. Package sealed bid(s) separately marked: Firetruck, Generator, or Tractor. Send sealed bid(s) to Town of Kennard, 100 N. Main St., PO Box 167, Kennard IN 47351.
 All sealed bids will be opened and read at regular meeting of the Kennard Town Council, to be held at 7 p.m. May 4, 2016. The council reserves the right to waive bid irregularities and reserves the right to reject all bids.
 Removal of equipment will be the responsibility of the purchaser and purchaser will have 14 (fourteen) days to remove equipment.
 1978 Ford Tanker and Ford 8N tractor can be seen behind the town hall building located at 100 N. Main St., Kennard IN 47351. Please contact Chris Millis at 765-591-3101 to see the generator.
 (3/23-30)

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 Vaughn's Computer House Calls

SMALL BUSINESS

Anderson Systems Integration Dietz Electric, Inc. Eastern IN Federal Credit Union F.C. Tucker/Crossroads Real Estate Frost Framing Garden Inn	Gillman Home Center Independent Plastic, Inc. JB & Paula Chapman Farms M.L. Taylor Construction, Inc. Magna Machine & Tool Co., Inc. McKown Properties & McKown Studio	Myers Furniture & Appliance Parkview Family Dentistry, PC Quality Fabrication of Indiana, Inc. (QFI) Remington Seeds, LLC Riley & Sons, Inc. Ross Lawns and Landscaping, LLC	South Henry Reg. Waste District The Promotion Lab The Storage Crib Weaver's Lawn Care
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CITIZEN / COMMUNITY

Bill Baker Insurance Agencies, Inc. Democrat Club H.C. Convention & Visitors Bureau Kevin & Michelle Frazier & Family	Mike & Patty Broyles Mr. & Mrs. Duane Brammer Mr. Bill Kindig Mr. Chad Malicoat	Mr. Corey Murphy Ms. Penny York Yanos Farms
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For membership information, please visit: <http://nchcedc.org/nc-hc-edc-membership>
 Or call: 765-521-7402

What your contribution does for Henry County:

- Markets Henry County Regionally and Nationally
- Supports Local Business Development
- Grows the Workforce
- Infrastructure Development
- Facilitates Collaboration

Continue the Momentum

1,000+ people in Henry County have the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC).

Henry County is pursuing ACT's Certified Work Community program.

It encourages job seekers (employees) to obtain the NCRC and for companies (employers) to recognize the NCRC. The certificate is obtained by successfully taking 3 Work Keys Assessments:

- Applied Mathematics
- Reading for Information
- Locating Information

Understand Job Skill Requirements
 Measure Individual's Skills
 Develop Skills to Match Requirements
 Certify Individuals in Essential Skills

More information at: <http://nchcedc.org/workready>

2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF NINESTAR CONNECT

April 1, 2016

Greenfield Central High School

810 N. Broadway

- Dinner & Registration begin at 5:00 p.m. for NineStar Connect & NineStar Communications Customers
- Join us for Free Dinner & Prizes!
 \$15,000 in scholarships will be awarded
 *\$5,000 in cash prizes will be drawn

Call 888-201-0049

or go to www.ninestarconnect.com/annualmeeting

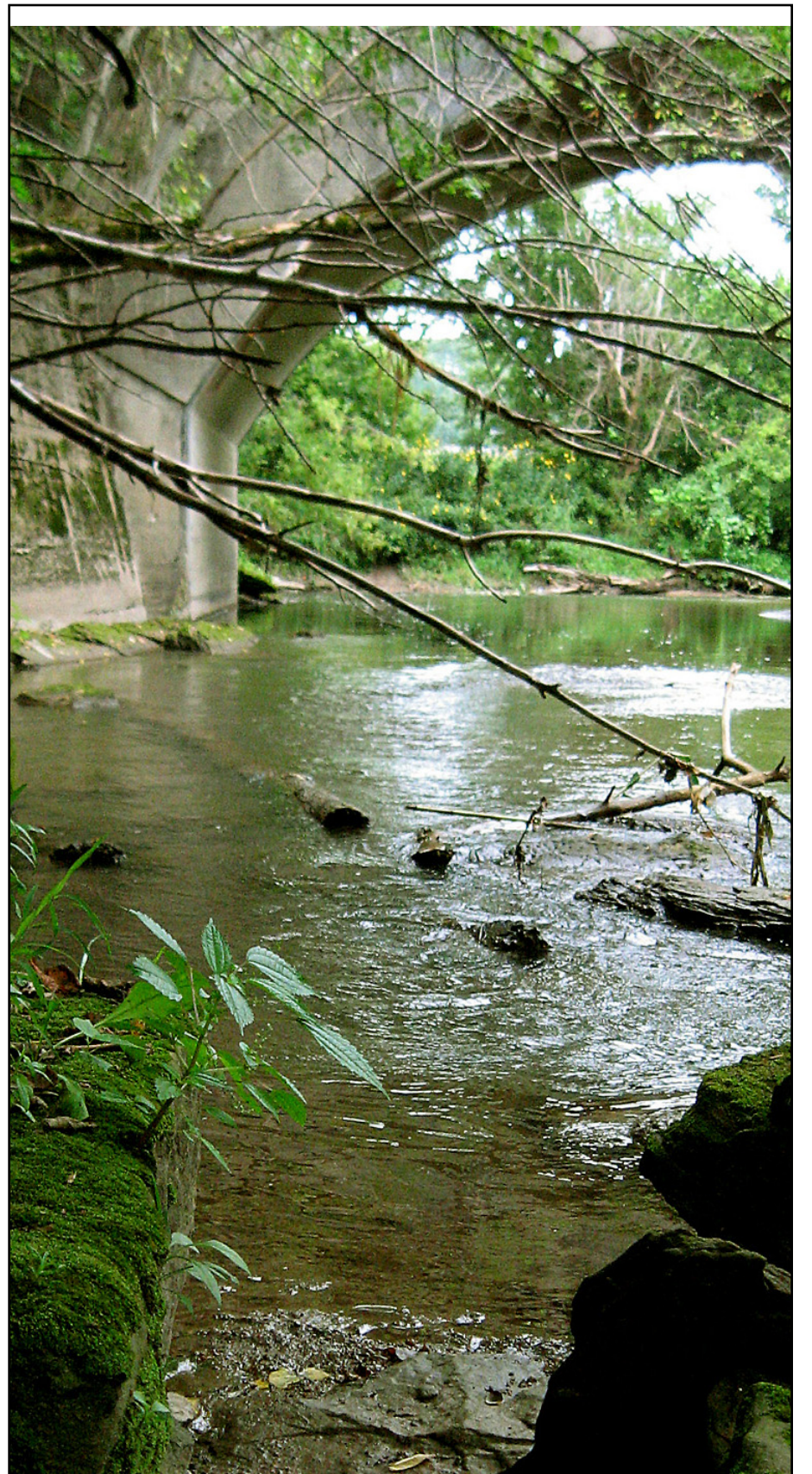
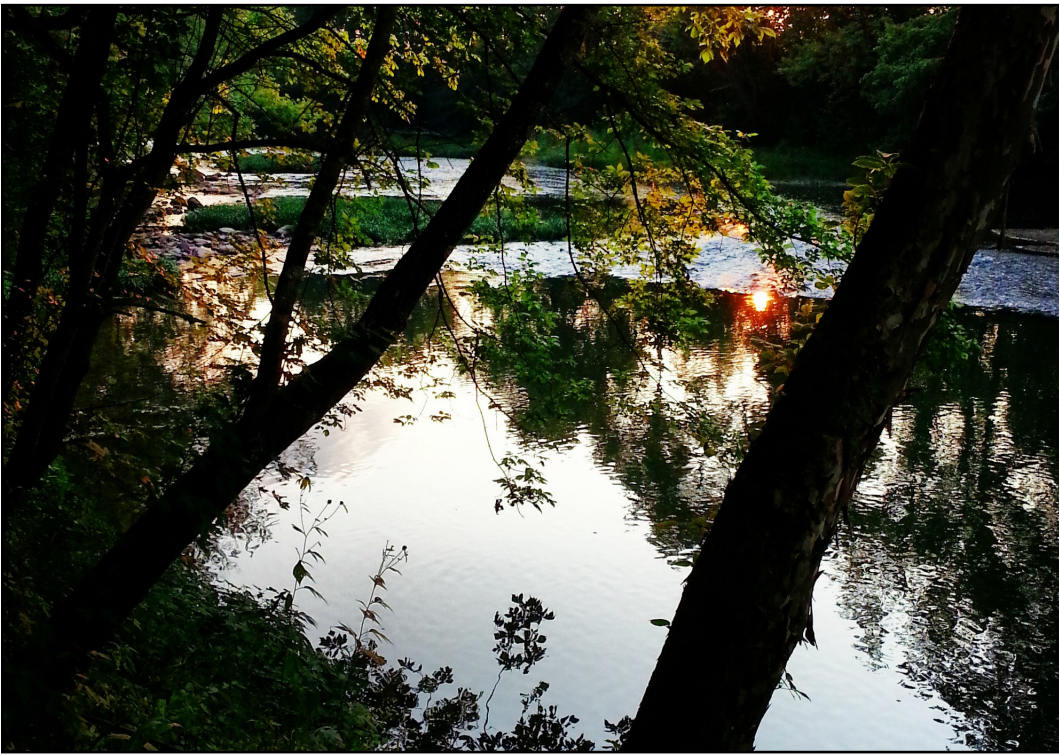
to RSVP by 4pm on March 25th

www.ninestarconnect.com

*Must be present to win.



Banner Bonus Page



Natural Beauty

Featuring
Local
Landscapes
and
More

Photos by
Eric Cox

