



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. XVIII, Issue 3

April 27, 2016

Knightstown, IN

EHHS Class of 1966 Reuniting July 30

Eastern Hancock High School's Class of 1966 will host its 50-year reunion on Saturday, July 30, at Hawk's Tail Golf Club, 145 S. Morristown Pike, Greenfield. The event lasts 6-11 p.m., with dinner service at 7 p.m. Cost is \$50 per person. Cash bar available in the golf course bar. Payments may be sent to Tom Barton, 104 N. Harrison St., Knightstown. RSVP to ehhsclassof1966@gmail.com.

Beautify K-town Still Selling Shirts

Bicentennial Hoosier Gym T-shirts are now available to order from Beautify Knightstown, Inc. in gray or gold with the official bicentennial logo. Sizes small through XL are \$20; 2X through 5X are \$22. To order, call 765-445-2328; go to Facebook at Knightstown ... It's a Beauty; or visit Hoosiers Home Court Cafe at 12 E. Main St, Knightstown. Celebrate *Hoosiers* 30th anniversary and Indiana's 200th birthday. Proceeds go to the *Hoosiers* movie themed mural project. Beautify Knightstown regularly discloses its fundraising activities and assures the public money raised will be used on aforementioned projects.

Welcome Packets Still Available

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.

Clayton Jennings Returning to KHS

Blue 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.

Knightstown Facing Big Water Rate Increase

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

The Knightstown Town Council voted last week to seek a nearly 40-percent across-the-board increase in rates and charges for the town's water utility customers.

The increase is only slightly lower than the 41.7-percent increase that H.J. Umbaugh & Associates, the Indianapolis accounting firm hired to do a rate study for the town, had presented last month as one of two options for the council to consider. The other, lower option included in Umbaugh's original rate study had been a 19.5-percent hike.

Christina De Witt of Umbaugh told council members at their April 21 monthly meeting that her firm had taken another look at the utility's capital improvement needs. By taking a new pickup truck that had been included in the original rate study out of the equation, she said it would be possible to seek an increase slightly lower than the highest one she had suggested in March.

For customers using an average of 4,000 gallons of water a month, De Witt said water bills would increase \$10.25, from \$25.81 a month to \$36.06. The original rate study presented in March had called for increasing the average 4,000 gallon a month water bill either \$5.03 or \$10.76.

De Witt told council members that once they voted to approve one of the options, Umbaugh would prepare a formal resolution for the council to pass. Then, she said her firm would prepare a rate increase application to file with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, the state agency that must approve any rate increase for the town's water or electric utilities.

"I encourage you to get moving on the process," De Witt told the council. She said if the council acted that night, she was hopeful that the new rates and charges would be approved by the IURC by the end of the year.

Council member Roger Hammer noted that it had been eight years since the town last increased rates and charges for the water utility. He also said that by choosing a higher, rather than lower increase, the town would have money to purchase new water meters that can be read automatically - something he said would reduce billing errors due to faulty meter reading.

See Water, Page 15

Read Like a Pro



Former Indiana Pacer Darnell "Dr. Dunk" Hillman reads to Knightstown Elementary School students Thursday as part of the team's Read Like a Pro program. Hillman, who played for the Pacers 1971-1981, was joined by Indiana State Teachers Association (ISTA) President Teresa Meredith, ISTA Vice President Keith Gambill and Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Detective Jim Albin in sharing their love of reading and the importance of literacy with local students. KES Principal Danielle Carmichael said she was excited her school was chosen for the program, which she and others applied for recently. Meredith (below, right) talks with students, while Hillman gets kids' attention at the program's onset. (Eric Cox photos)



State Asks Franklin Twp. Trustee to Repay Funds

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

The Indiana State Board of Accounts recently issued a report revealing the agency asked the Franklin Township Trustee to repay funds it believes were improperly spent.

In a Supplemental Charge Report issued on April 8, the SBOA said Franklin Township Trustee Debra Barnes overpaid herself for mileage and cell phone

reimbursements and improperly used township funds for personal expenses. The improper expenditures, which Barnes has repaid, totaled \$806.35.

According to the SBOA, Barnes reimbursed herself for driving 391 miles in 2014 at the rate of 56 cents per mile. The agency said the state-approved reimbursement rate, however, was only 44 cents per mile, resulting in overpayment of Barnes in the amount of \$46.92.

With respect to the cell phone expenses, the SBOA said Barnes was reimbursed a total of \$1,178.26 for this in 2013 and 2014. According to the SBOA, Barnes had paid herself for one-half the cost of a family share plan for cell phone service when she should have only paid herself back for one-fourth of this expense, resulting in overpayment of \$379.53.

See Repay, Page 15





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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

Robert C. "Bob" Messick
December 23, 1924 - April 21, 2016



Robert C. "Bob" Messick, 91, of Knightstown, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 21, 2016, surrounded by his family.

He was born to the late Henry and Hettie Jane (Denny) Messick on Dec. 23, 1924 in Rural Hall, N.C. Bob married the love of his life, Juanita (Gorman) Messick, on Sept. 22, 1951, at the Raysville Friends Church. He served in the US Navy during WWII. He was a member of Knightstown United Methodist Church, Raintree Wood Carvers, Knightstown American Legion Post 152, and Knightstown VFW. He retired from General Motors in 1986. Bob enjoyed gardening, fishing and he took great pride in his yard and landscaping.

Bob will be greatly missed by his two daughters, Vicki (Jessica) Messick and Judith (Sam) Rector; three grandchildren, Lori (Jason) Wortham, Julie (Jon) Sharp and Sam Rector; eight great-grandchildren, Amy Winchester, Logan Wortham, Kevin (Heather) Cournoyer, Dane, Mason and Gabe Rector, and Amelia and Kara Sharp; a great-great-grandson, Wyatt Cournoyer; and his sister, Sallie (Messick) Wadman.

In addition to his parents and beloved wife Juanita, Bob was preceded in death by seven sisters, Beulah Mundy, Gladys Flynn, Lilian Messick, Marquerite Messick, Myrtle Sims, Sarah Lloyd and Emma Messick; two brothers, Bill and Charley Messick; and a great-granddaughter, Victoria Lawson.

Services for Bob were Monday, April 25, at Knightstown United Methodist Church. Friends visited April 25. Burial took place in Glen Cove Cemetery in Knightstown with Rev. Curt Hunt presiding. Memorial contributions may be made in Bob's name to the Trustees' Maintenance Account of Knightstown United Methodist Church. Envelopes are available at the church.

Henry County Seeing Impact of Susan G. Komen Dollars Via Hancock Regional Hospital Services

Susan G. Komen of Central Indiana is awarding a total of \$832,677 in Community Impact Grants to 15 breast health programs in its 41-county service area. Henry County will benefit from funding provided to Hancock Regional Hospital and Interlocal Community Action Program (ICAP) during Komen Central Indiana's 2016-2017 grant cycle, which began in April.

These programs will use Komen grant dollars to provide comprehensive breast care for low-income women in the counties they serve, including education, care coordination, patient navigation, early

detection, treatment and survivorship support.

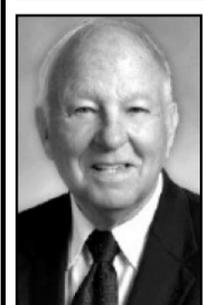
Over the years, Komen Central Indiana has awarded more than \$20 million in Community Impact Grants to local organizations that deliver breast health services in central Indiana and the Wabash Valley. These grants are focused on helping local women, men and families with the early detection of breast cancer and navigating treatment. Grant funds cover screenings (clinical breast exams and mammograms), diagnostics (biopsies and ultrasounds), treatment assistance, health care navigation, medication assistance and support serv-

ices, such as transportation, to ensure women complete treatment with support they need but cannot afford. Grants were selected by an independent grant review panel that reflects the community.

"We are so proud of the work Komen Central Indiana grantees do in Henry County to help local women, men and families overcome breast cancer with access to healthcare and navigating treatment. It is because of the terrific community support for Susan G. Komen Central Indiana that we can continue to make an impact through these grants," said Executive Director of Komen Central Indiana Natalie Sutton.

As a result of the 2014-2015 Komen Central Indiana community grants, more than 100 local women and men received their diagnoses of breast cancer, allowing them to seek and receive the treatment they need. In 2014-2015, Komen Central Indiana grant funding reached more than 26,000 Hoosiers with 40,000 life-saving breast health services including mammograms, diagnostics, patient navigation and survivor support.

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Banner Issues Correction on Wind Farm Story

The story in last week's Banner about the out-of-state wind turbine company that wants a 10-year abatement on property taxes misstated the approximate value of the proposed wind farm project. The correct figure, as listed on the Statement of Benefits form the company filed with Henry County officials, is \$66 million, not \$6 million, as we had wrongly reported. We apologize for our error and any confusion or inconvenience it may have caused.

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Youth Input Sought for Proposed Skate Park Project at Baker Park in New Castle

Skateboarders and BMX bike riders in Henry County may just get what they've been wanting for so long - a public skate park in New Castle.

Any young person or adult in Henry County is encouraged to attend a New Castle Parks Board meeting on Monday, May 2, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall to share their vision and ideas for a skate park design.

Hunger Skate Parks of Bloomington will be on hand to hear those thoughts and incorporate them into a design, on which the parks board is spending a \$5,000 Henry County Community Foundation grant.

If Parks Board President Patty Broyles has it her way, such a facility will be located at Baker Park, north of the swimming pool, near the intersection of Main Street and M Avenue, on the park's northeast corner.

Broyles and other park board members have busied themselves lately, traveling to skate parks in distant towns, some as far away as Louisville, Ky. There, they gather data - not just about the parks themselves, but also from young people who use them. Their hope is to make a very informed decision about a project that could cost as much as \$250,000.

New Castle park officials hope to land a \$350,000 grant from the Henry County Food & Beverage Tax fund, which county officials are ready to disburse again. They have just under \$1.5 million, but several other large projects will be vying for those same dollars.

Broyles said park board members are planning to spend \$250,000 on the skate park itself, with an additional \$100,000 for upgrades to nearby bathrooms and a surveillance security system to prevent vandalism. Those two projects are part of the park board's five-year comprehensive plan.

In seeking the food and beverage tax money,

Broyles and the park board are required to demonstrate their project's impact on the entire county. Though located in New Castle, park board members sought input from across Henry County - and they got it.

A survey about the proposed skate park drew about 260 responses, which Broyles said is far above what such surveys normally yield. She and her husband,

Mike, have also visited 11 state parks and talked to three different state park administrations about the project. They are laying the foundation for success by really researching and "doing their homework" on this proposal.

"We know this will be good for Henry County tourism," Broyles told The Banner. "That's why we've done all this. We've had lots of advertisements and lots of public meetings. We've also had special meetings and done surveys, as well as gathered letters of support from various people

around the county."

Adding to the proposal's potency is the fact that Hunger Skate Parks has agreed to accept in-kind donations of materials and labor for the project. That means anyone who wants to volunteer to work on the skate park, if it gets necessary funding, or donate raw materials, would be allowed to do so, helping control project costs.

But, for now, Broyles and the others are gearing up for their big design input meeting this Monday. They're hoping at least 20 Henry County skaters and BMX riders show up to share their ideas about a skate park design.

Anyone wishing to support the project monetarily, may do so through the Henry County Community Foundation, or by contacting New Castle Mayor Greg York's office.

Any young person or adult in Henry County is encouraged to attend a New Castle Parks Board meeting on Monday, May 2, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall to share their vision and ideas for a skate park design.

KHS Building Corp. Able to Convene Meeting

After efforts to hold meetings failed in January and February due to lack of a quorum, the Knightstown High School Building Corp. was finally able to meet earlier this month.

With four members present, the seven-person board had just enough for a quorum when it met briefly on Tuesday, April 12. The

meeting, which saw board members select officers and receive balances on outstanding debt related to prior bond issues, lasted less than 10 minutes.

Board members voted 4-0 to keep Jeff Weiland as the building corporation's president and to have Janet Buckles replace Tim Sorrell, who was absent, as vice president. They also voted to keep Cindy Huffman as secretary/treasurer.

CAB's business manager/treasurer, Stephanie Madison, told building corporation members there is a total of \$6,984,500 in out-

standing debt on two bond issues. She said these are scheduled to be paid off at the end of 2023 and 2024, respectively.

In February, after the building corporation was unable to meet that month, Superintendent Jed Behny announced that two members, Greg Stolle and Rob Winters, had resigned. In March, the CAB School Board voted to appoint former CAB School Board member Debi Ware and Adrian Darling to replace Stolle and Winters. While Ware attended the April 12

See Meeting, Page 6

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Banner PERSPECTIVES

If You Decide to Be Happy, You Will Be

Life is a double-sided coin: We can't be happy all the time. The circle of my acquaintanceships has dwindled so that I'm increasingly out of the loop. I've come to realize that even friends move on. I suppose that this is part of the natural human process. My friend, Phyllis, warned me years ago that this would happen.

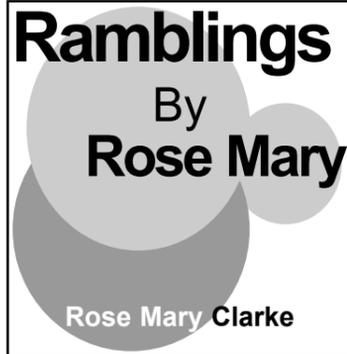
Some people have remained the North of my internal compass. One of them, Helen Ernestes, passed away week before last at age 101. I like the expression "passed away" because, although poignant, it implies a sense of heading from one place to another.

Helen was special to both Bill and me. We first met her in 1958 when we started teaching at the old Franklin Twp. High School that was located on Post Road, just north of Wanamaker. We didn't see her as often in later years, but she remained a constant in our lives.

How times have changed since Helen started teaching back in the old days, after World War II! She kept her marriage a secret for a year when she taught in Frankfort. "They would not hire young married women because they might become pregnant!" Come to think of it, many of my teachers were single women or past the child-bearing age.

Helen loved to tell that she was responsible for our marriage. Bill tells the story differently, but mine is the correct version, of course. I was teaching at Howe High School

after spending two years as a teaching assistant at IU Bloomington and was dating a fellow TA, whom I'd met there. Helen called and said, "Bill Clarke says for me to let him know if you ever want to go out." After the breakup, I tipped off Helen. She called Bill and said, "Rosie's ready!" We became engaged within two months, and



the rest is a 50-year-plus history.

Helen always preserved a cheerful demeanor. She never whined or complained. Her husband, John, was in the hospital and dying of lung cancer. Helen was leaving their Irvington home to visit him, slipped on the wet driveway and broke her hip. She never saw him again and couldn't even attend his funeral. All she ever said was, "He was my best friend."

One of Bill's former colleagues, Suzie, was also there when we went to the visitation for Helen. She said, "Rose Mary, I read your advice in your column. I haven't followed it yet, but I intend to." If I remember

correctly, the advice was that when you reach 65, you should begin planning where you will live when the time comes for you to leave your home. As our population ages, that time is probably going to come unless you are rich enough to hire full-time care. If you don't plan early, someone else is going to make decisions that you may not like. Get busy!

Bill and I are aware of costs and amenities of various facilities. We live in a one-story house that is located a few blocks from grocery, hardware and drug stores, a gas station, the hospital and physicians. We've decided to remain here as long as possible. We can hire repairmen, lawn care and house cleaners for less than it would cost to live in assisted living, and we have an extended health care policy. While you're younger, develop a relationship with a financial advisor and investigate various facilities and supplemental drug insurance and extended health care policies.

Four years ago, Helen's nephews urged her to move to Lebanon to be close to them. She spent a night at an assisted living place to see if she would like it; sold her home within a few weeks and moved. I called her later and asked, "Helen, are you happy there?" "Of course I'm happy. If you believe that you are going to be happy, you will be happy! I can't talk very long - I have an exercise class."

P.S. Our wrens are back!
wclarke@comcast.net

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

One time while driving from Greenfield to Knightstown, I heard a loud bang. A man was mowing his yard on the north side of U.S. 40. His mower had sent an object airborne 75 yards, striking the side of my 55 mph passing car. It had badly scratched the paint at the point of impact. I thought a moment and decided just to drive on, as that guy with the mower never knew and would not believe it.

So it is time to mow the grass again. Sure beats shoveling snow. And I remember my youngest daughter, Bethel Ellen, now a head nurse in an Indianapolis hospital. Bethel has a scar that took nine stitches. When Bethel was three, she was standing back in our car lot while I mowed our neighbor's yard with a push mower. Suddenly, I heard Bethel scream and saw her grab her head. We only lived three blocks from our local hospital's emergency facility.

One riding mower accident makes me cry to remember as I know this dark-haired little girl quite well. Her daddy would sit her on his lap while he mowed. They hit a short stump in the tall grass. The mower flipped over. A blade cut her life short right there.

While driving in Costa Rica, Central America, my job often took me and my vehicle through United Fruit palm oil plantations. There, the workers' children would run behind the tractor-drawn Bush-Hog mowers. One day I stopped to see what women and children were screaming and crying about. Actually they flagged me down, thinking this gringo could do something. I guess this blonde little girl was around three years old. She had a small hole in the middle of her forehead. There was no pulse. That is, no heartbeat. She was gone.

That could have been my Bethel Ellen, who, fortunately, has only a nine-stitch scar.

Well, I got a lot of mowing to do, but don't worry. I love children so much. None will be near while I mow. Only you know how much you love yours.

William O'Neal
Shirley

Dear Editor,

The April 13 article by Logan Cox about Knightstown native Wanda Smith reintroduced beliefs I have, too. But first, thank you, Wanda, for the federal service that you and your father provided. I came across my beliefs in an opposite way.

As stated in the article, Wanda's parents lived and raised her in Knightstown and she graduated from KHS in 1957 and recalled fond memories of her and her family's history there. She said it was nice to grow up in a small town because everyone knew everybody and there really wasn't any segregation like she saw when she moved to Indianapolis. She stated Knightstown was not that way and if it was she never knew.

I was raised in Knightstown and as far back as I can remember everything was about race. I was enrolled in an over 80 percent black school and was judged and bullied because of being white. When school was over, the

See Letters, Page 15

River Should Be Visible in Knightstown

If one is tall enough, or riding in an elevated vehicle, it is possible to see Big Blue River from U.S. 40 in Knightstown.

In a car, it's tough. The U.S. 40 bridge has tall side walls that block a view of the river, which is really quite beautiful. Yet, catching a glimpse of the river is difficult - sometimes almost impossible.

Knightstown should try to change that somehow.

Interest in outdoor activities is on the climb. Fishing, kayaking and canoeing have been popular sports for a long time. But, more and more people seem to be purchasing kayaks.

The kayakers I know always seem to be seeking new places to put their boats in and explore. Knightstown could be a destination for them.

One problem, though: It's not readily apparent that we have an accessible river here. Visibility is key to outdoors enthusiasts. If they can see

it, chances are they'll want to try it. Let's face it, if the world's tallest mountains weren't visible, there likely wouldn't be as many people attempting to climb them.

The same goes for Big Blue. If people don't know it's there, they can't be enticed by its charms.

River visibility and a public access point would be great additions for Knightstown. Anglers already have a fine, local bait shop in McDonald's Bait & Tackle on Grant Street. For decades, Phil and his late wife, Estelle, served fishermen with quality live bait and other gear, including a variety of state licensure.

So there are already a couple of puzzle pieces need-

ed to make Knightstown a prime spot for outdoors people and anglers. Passersby, however, must be able to see Big Blue River from U.S. 40 if we hope to get them to stop.

Some might ask why Knightstown should bother with the river. That's an easy one: It's already there. It's already beautiful, and it's not going anywhere. The river does most of the "work" by simply being.

Now, I know there are those out there who think I don't know anything about anything. I'm not "from Knightstown," I know. But, I really do believe - and others do as well - that Big Blue can and should be a tourism asset for this area.

We need some river visibility and a public access point with a small parking area and some trash receptacles. Also, trash needs to be picked up along the river banks near U.S. 40.

Knightstown is very lucky to have the services of Jeff Ray's Friends of the Big Blue River, who annually pull refuse from Henry County's stretch. But, they can't shoulder the entire load.

People should start by refraining from throwing trash in the river to begin with. They should report to the sheriff's department those who they see chucking in old tires, etc.

Big Blue River should be a point of pride for this community - not a hidden waterway convenient for trash dumping. Maybe, if people see the community cares about this valuable natural resource, they'll come to believe it cares about everything else as well.



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BITS & PIECES

◆ **Eastern Hancock High School's Class of 1966** will host its 50-year reunion on Saturday, July 30, at Hawk's Tail Golf Club, 145 S. Morristown Pike, Greenfield. The event lasts 6-11 p.m., with dinner service at 7 p.m. Cost is \$50 per person. Payments may be sent to Tom Barton, 104 N. Harrison St., Knightstown. RSVP to ehhsclas-sosf1966@gmail.com.

◆ The Eastern Hancock Athletic Boosters are sponsoring their annual **Elementary Track and Field Night** on Thursday, May 5, for elementary school students in grades 1-4. The purpose of this event is to introduce students to track and field. Each participant will receive a day of practice on Tuesday, May 3, with EH high school and middle school athletes to learn the events they will compete in. Each student will compete in two track events (a sprint and distance event) and two field events (long jump and shot put). The event is open to students from all schools. The cost is \$15, with a registration deadline of May 2. More information and entry forms are available at www.ehathletics.org.

◆ **Bicentennial Hoosier Gym T-shirts** are now available to order from Beautify Knightstown, Inc. in gray or gold with the official bicentennial logo. Sizes small through XL are \$20; 2X through 5X are \$22. To order, call 765-445-2328; go to Facebook at Knightstown ... It's a Beauty; or visit 12 E. Main St, Knightstown. Celebrate *Hoosiers* 30th anniversary and Indiana's 200th birthday. Proceeds go to the *Hoosiers* movie themed mural project.

◆ The town of Knightstown will host "**Town Clean-up Week**" April 22-29, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. A dumpster will be provided at the street barn, 7605 W. U.S. 40. Items accepted include garbage, litter, yard debris and other appropriate items. Items that will not be accepted include electronic items, petroleum based products such as paint, oil gas, etc., propane tanks and tires. Recyclables may be taken to the town's recycling bins located at the sewer plant on West County Line Road. For more information, call 345-5977.

◆ **Raintree Cycling Club** is gearing up for another season of bicycling around the tri-county area. The Saturday morning road ride leaves from Knightstown's Public Square (west side) at 9 a.m. This is a developmental road ride for aspiring riders with road bikes. Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m., a leisure ride departs from the Henry County YMCA, 300 Wittenbraker Ave., New Castle. The club also has a Thursday morning group ride for road bikes, which departs from the Baker Park pool house in New Castle. For more information about Raintree Cycling Club, find them on Facebook, or call 765-571-2168. Updates about specific rides, weather conditions and more can be found on the club's Facebook page.

◆ **Blue 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.

◆ The Riley Wranglers Square Dance Club will be sponsoring its **32nd Annual Arts & Crafts Fair** on Saturday, May 7. The event will be held at the Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds (620 N. Apple St.) in Greenfield, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Buildings are all handicap accessible. There will be over 100 booths, live local entertainment, food, free parking and free admission. For more info, call 765-763-6289 or 317-459-1319.

◆ **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.

◆ **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 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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Meeting, from Page 3

meeting, Darling did not.

Behny also announced at the school board's April 19 meeting that another building corporation member, Jon Means, had also resigned. Anyone interested in filling this vacancy should contact Behny at CAB's central office at 765-345-5101 by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, or send a letter of interest to him at 8139 W. U.S. Hwy. 40,

Knightstown, to be received by that deadline.

The KHS Building Corp. is a nonprofit entity formed in 2001 to oversee the construction and financing of the high school. While the group's bylaws call for it to meet at least once a year, before the April 12 meeting it had not met since 2009, and had gone over four years without meeting prior to that.

John Walters II Determined to Build Up Knightstown's Junior High Baseball Team

by Logan Cox
for The Banner

While he was once a baseball player himself, the encouragement of his family and colleagues has brought New Castle resident John Walters II back to the game with renewed passion. He is now head coach of the Knightstown Junior High Baseball team.

"As a coach and former baseball player, I realized I have a responsibility to the game of baseball," Walters explained. "The responsibility of creating a positive, organized, enjoyable environment which fosters a love for the game within the players inspired me to become a youth coach at Knightstown Youth Sports, Inc. for the Boys Minor Mudcats last season.

This year presented an amazing opportunity to build the foundation for our future Panthers playing at the youth levels, who aspire to play for Knightstown High School."

In the role of head coach, Walters tries to be dedicated to both the players' athletic progress and their overall enjoyment of the sport. He sets certain goals to aim toward, for both himself as a coach and the players as a team.

"Here are three basic, common youth coaching objectives I support," said Walters. "Provide an enjoyable experience, develop all players' fundamental skills and get all players to perform to the best of their abilities on a consistent basis."

Of course, Walters is not alone with Panther baseball. In addition to his players, he has Gabe Carmichael, Doug Pyle, Chris Keith, Jason Corbett and Amanda Pyle all working with him in various capacities. Walters is thankful for their efforts.

He is also thankful for the support of their team sponsors, Van Hoy Oil and Clutch Sports Apparel, as well as the Sunset Park board members for approving the baseball team's use of the old Babe Ruth field as

their practice facility.

"As part of our inaugural season, we are able to play six other teams at New Castle's Babe Ruth League," he said. "In addition, we have played against Doe Creek Middle School (New Palestine) and Greenfield-Central, while remaining games with Eastern Hancock, Heritage Christian, Rushville and Shenandoah Babe Ruth League teams are scheduled through June 21 for a minimum 20-game schedule."

The baseball team has a total of 15 young men, ages 13 to 15. There are eight players who are in the eighth grade and seven players in seventh grade.

"This talented group of young men are committed to building the future for Knightstown junior high baseball," said Walters. "Our Vision: We will build Panther baseball tradition with positive attitude, mental toughness and lead by example not only in the classroom but in our community."

When he is not coaching, Walters is employed as a vice-president at Freedom Mortgage Corporation in Fishers.

When initially asked what he did outside of coaching baseball, this was Walters' first response:

"If you ask my wife during baseball season, she will most likely say,

"Nothing but baseball and social media, all the time. I tend to disagree but she is often right," he said. "... my wife and I spend a lot of time supporting our children - Brayden, a junior at KHS, Brynlee, seventh grade, and Keelan, fifth grade, both at KIS - in their sports and school commitments."

He notes that it was his son who first prompted his return to baseball through coaching.

"My son, Keelan, motivated me to start coaching after walking away from the game I loved 16 years ago," said Walters. "His statement 'If you know so much, why don't you coach us?'"

Walters has taken his son's advice to heart.




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MEETINGS CALENDAR

Wed., Apr. 27 - Henry Co. Council meeting, 3:30 p.m., old circuit court room, 2nd floor of courthouse, New Castle

Wed., Apr. 27 - Henry Co. Commissioners meeting, 6 p.m., old circuit court room, 2nd floor of courthouse, New Castle

Thurs., Apr. 28 - Hancock Co. Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, 6:30 p.m., courthouse annex room 101, Greenfield

Mon., May 2 - Rush Co. Commissioners meeting, 9 a.m., courthouse assembly room, Rushville

Mon., May 2 - Greensboro Town Council meeting, 6:30 p.m., Greensboro Community Center

Tues., May 3 - Hancock Co. Commissioners meeting, 8 a.m., courthouse annex room 101, Greenfield

Tues., May 3 - Spiceland Town Council meeting, 6 p.m., Spiceland Town Hall

Wed., May 4 - Kennard Town Council meeting, 7 p.m., Kennard Town Hall

Thurs., May 5 - Hancock Co. Drainage Board meeting, 8 a.m., courthouse annex room 101, Greenfield

Sat., May 7 - Shirley Town Council meeting, 8:30 a.m., Shirley Town Hall

Sat., May 7 - Wilkinson Town Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., Wilkinson Town Hall

Mon., May 9 - Carthage Town Council meeting, 6 p.m., Carthage Town Hall

Mon., May 9 - Eastern Hancock School Board meeting, 7 p.m., corporation office

Tues., May 10 - Knightstown Public Library Board meeting, 4:30 p.m., at library

Tues., May 10 - South Henry School Corp. board meeting, 7 p.m.

Tues., May 10 - Rush Co. Historic Board meeting, 7 p.m., Historical Museum, 619 N. Perkins St., Rushville

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FOLKWAYS

Joan Cupp's Students, Family to Perform at May 1 Recital

Longtime area piano teacher Joan Cupp will host a recital for her students on Sunday, May 1, at Wilkinson Church of Christ. Cupp, who is in her 61st year as a piano teacher, and her daughter, Terri Gilliland, will open the show with piano-keyboard duet. Cupp's three great-granddaughters, Lucy, Annie and Emma Gilliland, will follow with performances of their own.

Cupp's students will also perform. They include Brooklyn Jones, Wanda Jones, Clara Wallace, Lexi Thomas, Rylee Ann Hunt, Jacob Sponsler, Evelyn Stout, Ashley Parker, Macey Parker, Cyrus Burton, Abby Ebbert, Ruby White, Tori Williams, Rahanna Hunt, Remington Hunt, Nolan Stout, Luke Nylund, Alexander Burton, Roanna Hunt and Kyler Schaetzle.

The public is invited.

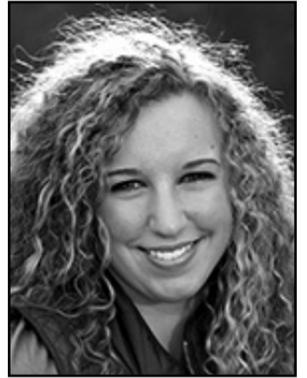
Ventresco Earns Scholarship

The Indiana State School Bus Drivers Association has announced the selection of Jordan Ventresco of Knightstown High School as one of the 2016 scholarship recipients.

Ventresco has taken numerous honors and dual credit courses throughout her four years of high school. She has participated in numerous extracurricular activities including basketball, soccer, softball, cross country and 4-H. Ventresco is also a member of National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society and SADD. She has also volunteered her services for the Knightstown Optimist Club, New Castle Animal Shelter and the Knightstown community and

assisted with a 4-H canned food drive.

Ventresco's awards include Knightstown Optimist Youth Leadership award; soccer: East-West All-Star 2014 (most assists and offensive player of the year, 2013); basketball: most assists (2014-2015, 2015-2016) (captain 2015-2016) and Knightstown Kids youth leadership award, 2015. She is the daughter of Chuck and Angela Ventresco of Knightstown. She plans to attend Purdue University and pursue an undergraduate degree in animal science.



Mounds S.P. Hosting Sale of Native Plants and Flowers

Indiana plants and wildflowers are being sold this year with help from the eighth annual Friends of Mounds State Park native plant sale on May 14.

The sale runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the park's visitors center lawn. Proceeds benefit the Friends of Mounds State Park group, which supports the park financially and through volunteerism.

Plants vary in price, with most being less than \$10. There will be at least 80 different species available. Plants are available while supplies last, so get there early.

May is the perfect time to plant flowers. Native flowers attract butterflies and other wildlife, require less water, are hardier and can be planted in less-than-perfect soils.

Plants include black cohosh, bergamot, Northern sea oats, big bluestem, New Jersey tea, Virginia bluebells and bloodroot.

For more details about specific plants, or for questions about the sale, call 765-649-8128.

The event is free, though standard park entrance fees of \$7 per in-state vehicle and \$9 per out-of-state vehicle apply.

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

License Branches Announce Election Day Service Hours

BMV license branches will extend hours of operation on Monday, May 2, and on Tuesday, May 3, to issue ID cards and driver's licenses that may be used for identification at a polling place. Branches will be open on Monday, May 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Tuesday, May 3, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

These license branches will only process new, amended or replacement ID cards, and renewed, amended or replacement driver's licenses and learner permits.

The Indiana BMV provides free, state-issued ID cards for voting purposes to any unlicensed Hoosier, as long as he or she can provide proper documentation and will be at least 18 years of age on or before the next General or Municipal Election.

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Paid for by Clay Morgan Campaign Committee

CAB Applies for Third State Financial Waiver

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

The Charles A. Beard School Board voted last week to once again apply to the state for a waiver from implementation of protected taxes, giving the school district greater flexibility in managing its finances.

Acting on a recommendation from Stephanie Madison, CAB's business manager/treasurer, the board voted 7-0 to seek the waiver

from the state's Department of Local Government Finance for a third year in a row. If granted, CAB will be allowed spread financial losses that result from application of the 1-, 2- and 3-percent "circuit breaker" property tax caps across all of its funds supported by property taxes, including its debt service fund.

Under a state law that went into effect two years ago, debt service funds are "protected" from the

losses that result from the property tax caps. This was done to ensure that local units of government would be able to meet their debt service obligations.

However, lawmakers also implemented a waiver procedure for school corporations like CAB that meet certain eligibility requirements. If they qualify, these school districts can spread the losses attributable to the property tax caps proportionally across their

debt service, capital projects, transportation and bus replacement funds.

To be eligible for the waiver, the loss that a school district would see in its transportation fund due to property tax caps must be equal to at least 10 percent of its property tax levy for that fund. According to documentation Madison provided at last week's meeting, property tax caps would result in CAB losing \$124,336.07 from its transportation fund, which is nearly 15.3 percent of its levy for that fund.

Board President Wade Beatty stressed that CAB has plenty of money to meet its debt obligations and said the district doesn't need this protection for its debt service fund. Instead, he said the flexibility that the waiver provides is more beneficial to CAB.

In other financial matters, the school board voted at last week's meeting to pay monthly claims totaling \$995,288.06. Of that amount, \$495,195.94 was for prewritten claims, \$192,653.91 was for current claims and \$307,438.21 was for payroll. Board members also voted to approve spending \$5,000 from an

emergency allocation in CAB's capital projects fund to pay a deductible for an insurance claim for recent roof damage at Knightstown High School caused by high winds.

The board voted to approve on second reading revisions to a policy dealing with CAB's food services, and to OK on second reading two new policies dealing with management of grant funds and the reporting of financial losses. Members also approved proposed summer school courses and gave permission for additional research into a possible trip to Mexico next year for KHS students.

In personnel matters, the board approved hiring Jason Williams as a substitute custodian at Knightstown Elementary. Risa Louks was approved as a substitute custodian and cafeteria worker at KES.

Superintendent Jed Behny gave brief updates on CAB's annual performance report and a potential bond issue that would be used to help fund needed work at the district's schools. He also provided new information on two

See Waiver, Page 14

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Vote Center locations open on each Election Day (6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

1. American Legion, 419 New York Avenue, New Castle, IN 47362
2. Grace Baptist Church, 2649 Q Avenue, New Castle, IN 47362
3. Ivy Tech Community College, 3325 S Memorial Drive, New Castle IN 47362
4. Henry County Art Center, 218 S 15th Street, New Castle, IN 47362
5. Whittier Lane Baptist Church, 1345 Whittier Lane, New Castle, IN 47362
6. First Christian Church, Community Ministry Center, 115 N Broad Street, Mooreland, IN 47360
7. New Lisbon Christian Church, 6477 E County Road 500 S, New Lisbon, IN 47366
8. Middletown Church Of The Nazarene, 698 N 5th Street, Middletown, IN 47356
9. The Gathering, 902 E Main Street, Lewisville, IN 47352
10. Cadiz Christian Church, 4894 W State Road 38, New Castle, IN 47362
11. Mount Summit Christian Church, 502 S Walnut Street, Mount Summit, IN 47361
12. Town Hall Annex, 26 S Washington Street, Knightstown, IN 46148

The following locations will be open prior to Election Day:

Henry County Justice Center, 1215 Race Street, New Castle, IN 47362

Monday – Friday: April 5th through April 29th, 2016

(8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Saturday: April 23, 2016 & Saturday: April 30, 2016

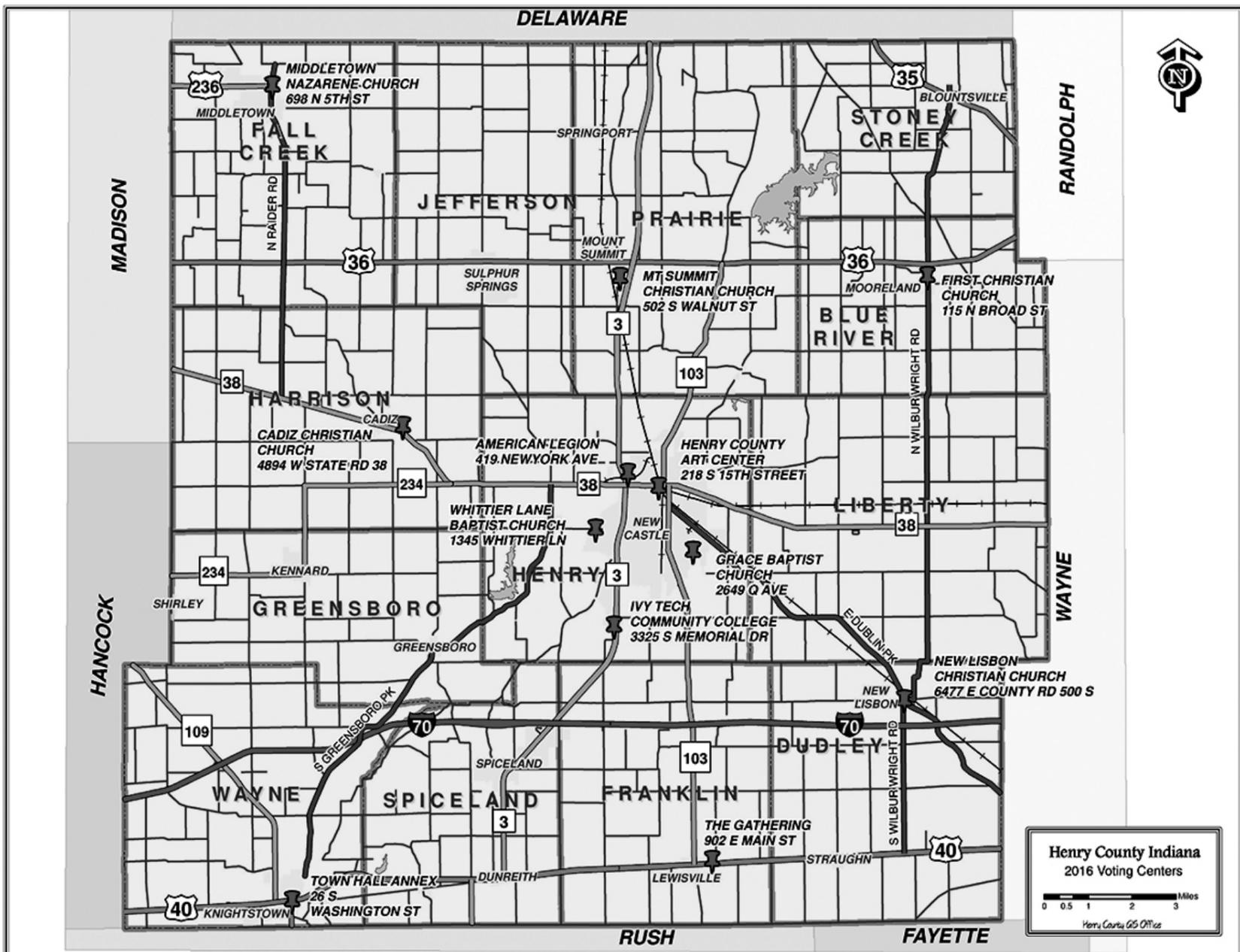
(8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.)

Monday – May 2nd, 2016 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 (noon)

Satellite Vote Center – Ivy Tech Community College, 3325 S Memorial Dr, New Castle, IN

April 25, 2016 through April 29, 2016 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays; April 23rd & April 30th, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Henry County Voters Registration Office at 765-529-9310.

LOCAL SPORTS

High and Inside



Knightstown Youth Sports hosted opening day for its softball and baseball programs Saturday. Dozens of area kids showed up to play ball as spring was in full-swing. Minor league player Zach Waltman of the Renegads eyes a pitch. (Eric Cox photo)

Cleek Pitches Shutout for Panthers

Sophomore Kaunner Cleek pitched a three-hitter in Knightstown varsity baseball team's shutout of conference foe Edinburgh on April 18.

KHS head coach Daren Hardesty said "the Panthers played well from beginning to end" and that was evidenced by the scoreboard. Knightstown scored three runs in the first inning, two more in the second inning and then really cranked it up in the third inning with five runs and another seven runs in the fourth.

The Panthers had 14 hits in their 17-0 home game win over the Lancers.

Cleek not only had a big day on the mound but was also 3-for-3 at the plate, including a double, with two RBIs. He struck out seven of

the 19 batters he faced and walked just one.

Isaac McRoberts hit a double and two singles for four RBIs and two runs scored.

Tyler Burton also hit a double and two singles for two RBIs and four runs scored.

Spencer Mattix smacked two doubles for three RBIs and four runs scored.

Jake Bearhope was 2-for-2 with four RBIs and one run scored.

Kaleb Buchanan and Hagan Moore each hit RBI-singles and scored once.

Drake Peggs scored twice while Bruce Nichols and Jose Olivio scored one each.

The win pushed up the Panthers record to 6-0 overall and to 3-0 in the Mid-Hoosier Conference.

Titan Baseball Team Beats Union City

Tri's varsity baseball team whipped Union City 9-4 on the road April 14.

Despite making eight errors, the Titans took advantage of their offense to get the Tri-Eastern Conference win.

Mason Phelps got the start on the mound and took the win. He pitched one out into the third inning, faced 17 batters, striking out seven batters and walking five. Phelps gave up one run on one hit and one error.

Josiah Jackson relieved Phelps on the mound to finish out the game. He faced 18 batters with seven strikeouts and two walks. He allowed

-- See Tri Baseball, Page 11 --

Lady Panthers Defeat South Decatur 13-0 on the Road; Maddie Lyall Pitches Two-Hitter

Knightstown varsity softball team defeated South Decatur 13-0 on April 15 on the road.

The game got off to a slow start but the Lady Panthers scored the first run of the game in the top of

the second inning. Then, KHS blew the game open with four runs in the third and eight runs in the

top of the fourth.

Maddie Lyall pitched all five innings. She faced 22 batters and

struckout five batters. She only allowed two hits.

Ryan Johnson had two hits and two RBIs with three runs scored.

Robyn Clark pounded out a two RBI-double and scored once.

Georgee Lawhorne got a base hit and scored two runs.

Sidney Hastings added a base-hit.

Vivian Goodpaster and Jess Buttler each scored two runs. Sammi Eaks and Fowler each got three RBIs and scored a run. Sidney Vise also made it across home plate once.

The victory moves the Lady Panthers to 2-2 on the year.

Lady Titans Whip Anderson Prep

Tri's varsity softball team clobbered Anderson Preparatory Academy 24-3 at home April 18.

The Lady Titans hit six doubles, two triples and three home runs in the game along with 13 singles to dominate their opponent.

Mackenzie Peggs was 4-for-4 with three home runs and one triple. She brought in five runs and scored four times herself.

Peyton Moore hit a triple and two singles and scored three runs.

Jesse Spong put down a double and a single, collecting three RBIs. She scored two runs.

Destiny Taylor hit a double and single for two RBIs and one run scored.

Kierstyn Conyers had two base hits, two RBIs and one run scored.

Kirsten Falck hit an RBI-double and scored once.

Lauren Bouslog and Bayley Prince each had two hits, one RBI and one run scored each.

Breanna Reece hit a double and single, knocking in one run and

-- See Lady Titans, Page 11 --

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LOCAL SPORTS

Eastern Hancock's Two Big Innings Shut Out Tri Titans

Two big innings for Eastern Hancock's varsity baseball team gave the Royals an 11-0 win over Tri at home April 19.

The Royals scored five runs in the third inning and another six runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to shut out the Titans.

Clayton White pitched a complete game for the Royals. In the five innings he pitched, he faced 19 batters, striking out two. He gave up just four hits with no errors.

Josiah Jackson started on the mound for Tri. He pitched three innings and faced 15 batters. Jackson struck out two batters and walked one while giving up seven runs on five hits and six errors. Mason Rottinghaus pitched the fourth and final inning. He faced six batters, walked two with four runs allowed on two hits and two

errors.

Garek Ferguson led the Royals at the plate with two doubles and one RBI and two runs scored.

White hit a two-RBI triple and Jarett Lewis hit a single and scored twice.

Tom Barton hit a two-RBI single and scored once.

A.J. Muegge also hit a two-RBI single and scored twice.

Levi Majority got a base hit and scored two runs.

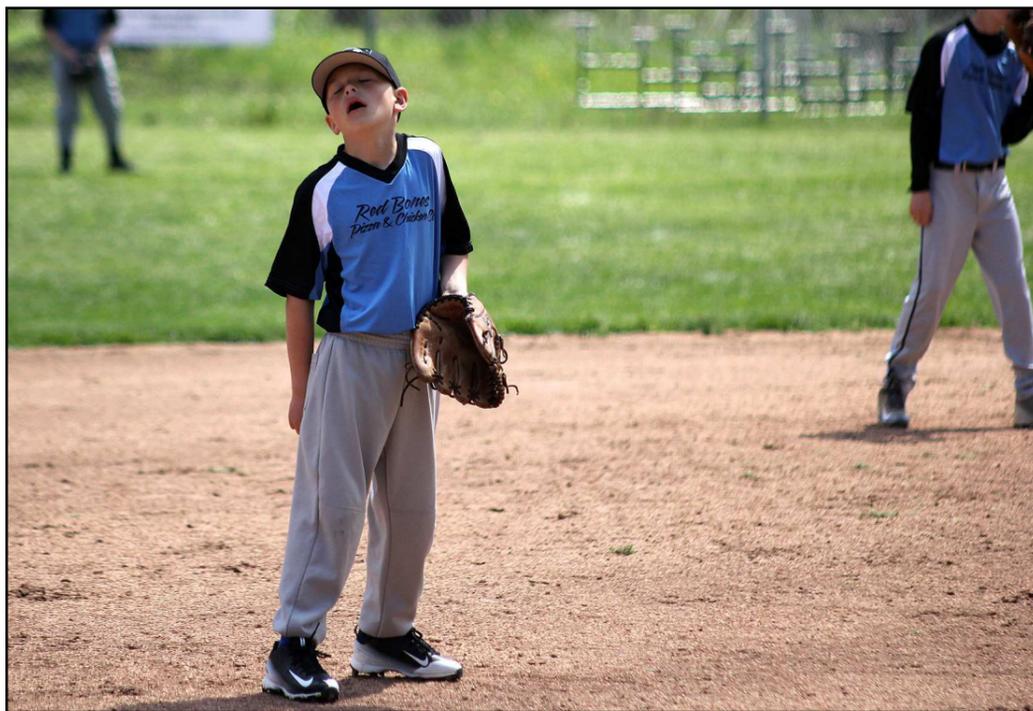
Devin Denny had two RBIs and scored once.

Addison True also scored a run for the Royals.

For the Titans, Kaleb Harrison hit a double, Masen Phelps had two base hits and Rottinghaus added a single.

The win improved the Royals record to 2-5 while the Titans dropped to 2-3.

Feeling the Heat



Knightsouth Youth Sports hosted opening day for its softball and baseball programs Saturday. This young third baseman was enjoying the warmth of the sun as his morning game got underway. (Eric Cox photo)

Lady Titans, Page 10

later scoring once.

Kristen McNew had an RBI-single and scored once.

Abbi Coffman, Bailey Coffman and Karlee Winkhart each had a

base hit. Winkhart scored one run as did Kelsey Donald, Kaley Harrison and Cassidy Stewart.

The Lady Titans are now 5-2 after this win.

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Tri Baseball, from Page 10

three runs on five hits and two errors.

Eric Bilby led the Titans at the plate with a double and two singles. He knocked in three runs and scored once.

Jackson hit an RBI-double, got one stolen base and scored one run.

Phelps had a base hit and scored once.

Kaleb Harrison and Gage Rowe each scored twice. Rowe also got two stolen bases.

Chris Blake, Drew Mondrush and Kyler Burchett scored one run apiece.

The Titans are 1-1 after the win over Union City.

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LOCAL SPORTS

Eyes on the Prize



Knightstown Elementary School third grader Conner Griffith aims at a target as he competes in the "Pitch, Hit and Run" contest Saturday at Sunset Park. Similar to other sports contests, this one is sponsored by Major League Baseball. Dozens of other area youth competed at Knightstown Youth Sports' opening day celebration. (Eric Cox photo)

Too Many Errors Cause Panthers to Suffer First Loss of the Season

It took eight innings, but Northeastern succeeded in giving Knightstown's varsity baseball team its first loss of the season. The Panthers fell 2-3 to the Knights at home April 19.

Neither team got on the board until Northeastern scored two runs in the top of the fourth. Knightstown rallied in the bottom of the sixth to tie the game up. Both teams were scoreless in the seventh to send the game into extra innings.

The Knights went up one run in the top of the eighth and the Panthers were unable to score in the bottom of that inning to give Northeastern the win.

"The Panthers recorded eight errors," said head coach Daren Hardesty. "It is extremely difficult

to win a game with that many defensive mistakes, but we somehow held in until the end. We tip our caps to a solid Northeastern team and look forward to seeing them again in the sectional tournament."

Spencer Mattix got the pitching start for the Panthers. He faced 23 batters, striking out four, in the five innings he was on the mound. He gave up two runs on three hits.

Drake Peggs relieved Mattix and pitched the last three innings. He faced 10 batters, striking out one. He gave up one run on one hit.

Peggs was 2-for-3 at the plate with a triple. Isaac McRoberts and Jake Bearhope got the team's only other hits.

The Panthers are now 6-1 on the season.

Lapel Comes Up Big in 7th Inning to Defeat Royal Baseball

Eastern Hancock's varsity baseball team fell in a close game against Lapel who came up with two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning for a 9-8 win on their home field.

The Royals used five pitchers in the game. A.J. Muegge got the start on the mound and pitched two innings. He faced 11 batters and allowed three runs on two hits with one error.

Addison True faced 10 batters in the 1.2 innings he pitched. He gave up one run, three hits and one error. He had one strike out and one walk.

Levi Majority pitched one inning, allowing one run and one hit while striking out one batter and walking one.

Dwight Duzan pitched 1.1 innings. In the eight batters he faced, he walked two and gave up

two runs, two hits and two errors.

Tom Barton pitched just two outs of an inning. He faced six batters and walked two while allowing two hits, two runs and two errors.

Devin Denny hit a double and single and scored twice.

Garek Ferguson had a double and single with three RBIs and one run scored.

Barton got two base hits and two RBIs and True smacked an RBI-triple.

Muegge hit an RBI-single and scored one run. Clayton White added a base hit.

Duzan had a base hit, a stolen base and one run scored.

Easton Fields scored a run and Jarett Lewis got one stolen base and scored two runs.

The loss moved the Royals season record to 1-5.

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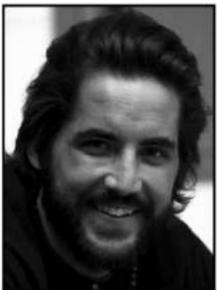
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LOCAL SPORTS

Lady Panthers Fall in High-Scoring Game Against Indian Creek

Knightstown softball team took on Indian Creek at home April 16.

A final rally in seventh inning by both teams to secure the win came up short and the two teams went into extra innings tied up at 13.

The Lady Braves scored one run in the top of the eighth and then held the Lady Panthers scoreless to clinch the 14-13 victory.

Knightstown had 16 runs in the game with four errors. Indian Creek got 20 hits and also had four errors.

Maddie Lyall got the pitching start and threw for one out into the sixth inning when Haley Fowler took over to finish out the game.

Lyall faced 36 batters with four strike outs and two walks. She gave up 11 hits, eight runs and six errors.

Fowler faced 13 batters, allowing six runs on seven hits and six errors.

Sidney Hastings had her best game of the season with a triple and single, three RBIs and one run scored.

Sammi Eaks and Vivian Goodpaster each hit a double and two singles for one RBI and two runs scored.

Ryan Johnson scored two runs after reaching base on a double and a single.

Robyn Clark put down a double and a single, knocking in one run and scoring two runs.

Sidney Vise collected three RBIs on a base hit and sacrifice hit. She scored once.

Georgee Lawhorne hit an RBI-double and scored once.

Haley Fowler and Jess Butler added a base hit apiece. Fowler scored one run as did Candice Wyatt.

The tough loss dropped the

Lady Panthers' record to 2-3 for the season.

The KHS girls moved to 2-2 in the Mid-Hoosier Conference following the loss.

Knightstown Baseball Team Beats Shenandoah

Knightstown's varsity baseball team shot out to an early lead at home April 23 against Shenandoah and didn't look back, defeating the Raiders 9-1.

The Panthers scored four runs in the bottom of first inning and another three runs in the fourth before the Raiders got their only run in the top of the sixth. KHS scored two more in the bottom of the sixth inning to seal the win.

Knightstown had 11 hits and just one error, a big improvement over what Panther head coach called "an ugly loss to Northeastern" on April 19 when they had eight errors.

Sophomore Tyler Burton pitched a complete game for the Panthers. He struck out seven of the 27 batters he faced while walking just two. Burton allowed just one run on five hits and one error.

Drake Peggs hit a triple and a

single for one RBI and three runs scored.

Jake Bearhope had two base hits, one RBI and three runs scored.

Hagan Moore hit a double and single for three RBIs.

Kaunner Cleek pounded out a double and a single for two RBIs.

Spencer Mattix hit a double and

a sacrifice fly for two RBIs and one run scored.

Tyler Burton added a base hit and scored one run to help his cause.

Isaac McRoberts had an RBI-double and scored a run. Kaleb Buchanan also scored a run.

With the win, Knightstown's season record goes to 7-1.

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Waiver, from Page 8

legal-related issues that had been omitted from a legal update he gave at the March board meeting.

KES Principal Danielle Carmichael recognized Ashley Cave, a behavioral specialist who works with CAB students at KES and Knightstown Intermediate School. Carmichael said Cave "really has brought comfort to students," and Cave said it has been "an absolute honor and blessing to work with them."

More information about the April 19 CAB School Board meeting can be found in the memoranda and minutes from that proceeding. Those public records are available for inspection and copying at CAB's central office, 8139 W. U.S. Hwy. 40, Knightstown, during normal business hours.

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Repay, from Page 1

The SBOA also said Barnes improperly spent \$379.90 in township funds to pay for half the cost of her personal iPhone and iPad accessories. The SBOA noted in its report that the township does not own an iPad and determined that these were personal expenses the township should not have paid.

According to the SBOA, these improper expenditures resulted from a lack of segregation of duties with respect to township finances. Because Barnes, as township trustee, serves as both the township executive and township fiscal officer, the agency noted that "there is no oversight of township financial activity on an ongoing basis by another official."

"Governmental units should have internal controls in effect which provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial information and records, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, proper execution of management's objectives, and compliance with laws and regulations," the SBOA said in its report. "Among other things, segregation of duties, safeguarding controls over cash and all other assets, and all forms of information processing are necessary for proper internal control.

"Controls over the receipting, disbursing, recording, and accounting for the financial activities are necessary to avoid substantial risk of invalid transactions, inaccurate records and financial statements and incorrect decision making," the agency continued.

In an official response to the SBOA's report, Barnes said she did not agree with the agency's position with respect to the cell phone charges.

"It was my understanding that the township would pay on half of the cell phone monthly bill," Barnes wrote in her response. "Because there was a second line added the auditor found that I would only be entitled to one-fourth of the monthly bill. I still disagree with this as the second line is seldom used. I did, however, reimburse the township for the amount requested by the auditor. I will be removing that number from any communication for the township and (will be) using only the landline."

As for the incorrect mileage reimbursement, Barnes said in her response that she had been using "the standard rate set forth by the IRS." Since the rate approved by the state was lower, she said she agreed to pay back the difference.

Barnes did not contest the

SBOA's position with respect to the personal expenses regarding the iPad and iPhone. These expenses included \$44.95 for a Bluetooth numeric keypad for an iPad, \$199.50 for half the cost of an iPhone, \$57 for an iPad cover and \$78.45 for a stylus to use with the iPad.

The SBOA also issued a Financial Statement Examination Report for Franklin Township on April 8 that covers 2013 and 2014. In a Supplemental Compliance Report issued that same day, the agency noted four problems discovered in its review of township records.

According to the SBOA, the township had not presented a salary resolution for 2013 and had not provided an inventory of all of the township's capital assets. With respect to the second issue, the agency noted that a laptop computer, computer desk and leather rolling briefcase had not been included in the capital assets inventory.

The SBOA also said the township had failed to issue 1099 forms for rental payments of \$2,400 the township paid to Barnes in both 2013 and 2014 for keeping a township office at her home. Barnes told The Banner that in her 20 years as trustee, she has never issued a 1099 for this, but has simply listed it as

Letters, from Page 4

back kids went home to their black neighborhoods and churches and the white kids to their white neighborhoods and churches.

My point is that just because you live in small town USA doesn't mean that the town residents necessarily will encounter racism or be racists. I learned about racism as a child living in a metropolitan city, supposedly diverse, but only in population but not in reality, is my experience.

Unfortunately, small town or country folk are only portrayed pro-life, pro-gun, pro-god lunatics who can't stand anyone not exactly like them. I believe this narrative is false, proven by the article about Wanda Smith and her family. Great Americans who cherish family, friends, country and God share a common bond.

I live in Kennard (population around 500), made up of people of different sexual orientations, races, political views, etc., than me, but each and everyone is welcome in my home.

Also I attend Kennard Friends Church and Pastor Bob has preached to white, black and interracial church members who laugh, sing, worship, hug and shake hands together without segregation. Even though some would have you believe small town folks are nothing but a bunch of flag-waving racists and haters. Without perpetuating division, some would be unemployed.

Peter O'Donoghue
Kennard

Water, from Page 1

Hammer made a motion to apply for the 39.7-percent increase that would raise the monthly bill for customers using 4,000 gallons of water by \$10.25. Council member Valerie Trump seconded the motion and it passed 4-1, with Council President Sarah Ward voting against the increase.

"I think it's too much," Ward said. "I'm not going to support it."

Council members have known at least since the beginning of the year that finances for the town's water utility are not in a good position. Clerk-treasurer Beth Huffman revealed in January, right after she took office, that the balance for the utility's operating fund had dropped to about \$1,000. Acting on a recommendation from Huffman, the council 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 are supposed to be paid back to the electric utility by the end of the year.

According to Huffman, so far, about \$30,000 has been transferred from the electric utility to the water utility. She has acknowledged concern that, without an increase in rates and charges, this infusion of cash from the electric utility will likely not be sufficient to cover the water utility's expenses.

miscellaneous income.

Finally, the SBOA also took issue with the fact that the township's bank had only provided the township with optical images of the front side of canceled checks, but not the back sides. While it is OK for the township to have the optical images on file instead of the actual canceled checks, the agency said the township needs to have images of the both sides of checks.

Barnes told The Banner she was surprised by some of the issues raised by the SBOA.

"The SBOA has rules and I try to follow them to the letter," Barnes said. "... I was just kind of taken aback by some of the things they took issue with that haven't been raised before."

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Celebrating Excellence



Henry County Hospital Recognized by Healthgrades for Achievements in Both Patient Safety and Patient Experience

Henry County Hospital announced that it has been recognized for two distinctions in quality excellence from Healthgrades: the Healthgrades 2016 Patient Safety Excellence Award™ and the Healthgrades 2016 Outstanding Patient Experience Award™. Healthgrades is the leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals.

Only 99 hospitals evaluated for patient safety and patient experience excellence achieved both distinctions. This places Henry County Hospital within the top 2% of eligible hospitals in the nation to receive both awards. This distinction recognizes Henry County Hospital for excellent performance in safeguarding patients from serious, potentially preventable complications, as well as providing a positive experience for patients during their hospital stays.

“We are very proud to receive these prestigious awards which place our community hospital within the top 2% nationwide

to receive both awards,” commented Paul Janssen, Chief Executive Officer of Henry County Hospital.

“While the awards go to Henry County Hospital, in reality they are a testament to the passion and commitment our staff and physicians have to care for our patients,” Janssen emphasized.

“They also show our community they can receive outstanding care at home with Henry County Hospital,” Janssen continued.

“We applaud all recipients for their accomplishments and organizational commitment to delivering high-quality care, reducing patient safety events and providing a safe and positive experience for patients during their hospital stay,” said Evan Marks, Chief Strategy Officer, Healthgrades.

For more information about Healthgrades or to download a full copy of the report or to receive information about hospital and physician quality, visit: www.healthgrades.com/quality today.



Upcoming

Events

Saturday, June 11 | 8 am - noon
Henry County Community Health Fair

Henry County YMCA
 765.529.4403 or 765.521.1580

1st Wednesday | 1:30 pm
COPD Support Group

Henry County Hospital
 Conference Room A
 Shelley: 765.599.3109

4 Weekly Sessions:

Wednesdays | 1 - 3 pm

Thursdays | 5 - 7 pm

Diabetes Education Class

Henry County Hospital
 Patty: 765.521.1544

1st Monday | 6:30 pm

Bariatric Support Group

Henry County Hospital
 Conference Room B
 Missy: 317.409.3159

2nd Monday | 5 - 7 pm

4th Thursday | 11 am - 1 pm

Infant Feeding Support Group

Henry County Hospital
 Women & Children's Unit Classroom
 765.521.1116

For more information on these and other events, check online at hcmhcares.org.

JUNE 1, 2016

ALL HENRY COUNTY HOSPITAL CAMPUSES ARE GOING SMOKE FREE

Henry County Hospital has announced all facilities and campuses are going Smoke Free on June 1. “We are taking a stronger stand against this known health risk and like most hospitals in Indiana we also are making our campuses Smoke Free,” said Paul Janssen, Chief Executive Officer.

Currently smoking is allowed 25 feet from the buildings and in the parking lots. On June 1 and after smoking will not be allowed anywhere at the Hospital, Forest Ridge Medical Pavilion, Fred's Pharmacy, Cambridge City Family Health Partners and other provider offices at 798 Washington Street and 1007 N. 16th Street.

“Going to a Smoke Free campus is the right step to take as it sends another signal to encourage current smokers to consider stopping,” Janssen continued.

According to the Hospital's 2016 Community Health Needs Survey, 24% of the Henry County population smokes which is nearly twice as high as the average in the United States. In Hagerstown and Cambridge City 18% of the residents smoke which is slightly higher than the national average of 15%.

Resources for Quitting

There are several free resources available to help people who want to stop smoking and need some extra help.



The Indiana Tobacco Quitline

(1-800-QUIT-NOW) offers free, evidence-based cessation treatment to help tobacco users quit and stay quit. Pregnant tobacco users who call the Quitline receive even greater intensity of behavioral support.

Quit Now Indiana (quitnowindiana.com) provides more resources and information about quitting tobacco including two new services: Web Coach and Text2Quit.

Henry County Hospital offers free Smoking Cessation classes periodically throughout the year. The next session of Freedom From Smoking® begins June 7. The sessions are geared to help you determine your readiness to quit, build your confidence and motivation to quit and talk about nicotine reduction therapy even before you choose your “Quit Day”. Each sessions builds to get you to – and maintain – a smoke free lifestyle. Information on the class is available by calling 521.1176.

HCH Hiking Club Is On the Move

Warmer weather has arrived and so, too, has HCH Hiking Club. Anyone ages 13 and above – and at any fitness level – who would enjoy the outdoors is welcome.

Choose your date and destination as all hikes are optional. A club disclaimer and rules must be signed prior to participating. There is no cost for membership, but some areas such as state parks, may have a fee associated with entry. Fee is usually \$7 per car.

Each hike will reveal:

- The type of hike or activity and difficulty level
- Hike or activity location and meeting place
- Start time and anticipated finish time
- Cost – if any
- Description of what can be expected and special instructions
- Hike leader(s) and contact person

Next hikes include:

Sunday, May 1

Spring Flower Recognition Nature Hike at Forest Ridge Woods

4-5:30pm | Free. Meet in Forest Ridge Senior Living Parking Lot. Trail distance is approximately 2 miles with an intermediate difficulty level. Hike leader is Allen King.

Thursday, May 5

Fitness Hike at Wilbur Wright Trail

7:15-8 pm | Free. Meet in YMCA Parking Lot. Trail distance is approximately 3 miles with an intermediate difficulty level. Hike leader is Laurie Stonerock Abrams.

Thursday, May 12

Fitness Hike at South Mound Cemetery

7:15 - 8 pm | Free. Meet at Bundy Street Entrance. Trail distance is approximately 3 miles with an intermediate difficulty level for the fast pace and hills. Hike leader is Laurie Stonerock Abrams.

Thursday, May 19

Fitness Hike at Memorial Park

7:15-8 pm | Free. Meet at Smith Building lower level parking lot. Trail distance is approximately 2 miles with an intermediate level for the fast pace and hills. Hike Leader Laurie Stonerock Abrams.

Thursday, May 26

Fitness Hike at Baker Park

7:15-8 pm. Meet in the parking area between the shelter and main playground. Trail distance is approximately 3 miles with an intermediate level. Hike Leader is Laurie Stonerock Abrams.

Hikes will only be cancelled when there is heavy rain, lightning, severe weather conditions, leader cancellation or unforeseen emergencies.

For more information on these and other hikes check online at hcmhcares.org or call Laurie Stonerock Abrams, MA CPT, HCH Director of Wellness at 765.521.1216 or labrams@hcmhcares.org.

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Unusual Spring Warmth Has Everyone Smiling

Photos by
Eric Cox

