



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 34

November 30, 2016

Knightstown, IN

Shirley Christmas Tree Walk Dec. 2-3

The Jane Ross Reeves Octagon House, 400 S. Railroad St., Shirley will host its ninth annual Christmas Tree Walk the first and second weekends of December. The walk will be open Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2-3, 4-8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, Dec. 9-10, 4-8 p.m. There will be a decorated Christmas tree in every room. There is no charge for the tour. However, food will be available for purchase, with proceeds benefiting continued upgrades to the octagon house.

Walnut Ridge Friends Bazaar this Saturday

The Walnut Ridge Friends are hosting their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Carthage Community Center on Main Street, Carthage, in conjunction with A Holly Jolly Carthage Christmas, sponsored by the Future of Carthage Committee.

Historical Society Open House Dec. 3

The Henry County Historical Society, 606 S. 14th St., New Castle, will host its Christmas Open House on Saturday, Dec. 3, 1-4 p.m. There will be music and food in the museum, an 1870 home once occupied by Civil War General William Grose. The event is free and open to the public. Tours will be available.

Legion Auxiliary Cookie Walk Dec. 10

Knightstown American Legion Post 152 Auxiliary will be having their annual Cookie Walk at the American Legion, 224 E. Main St., on Saturday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The event features homemade cookies for sale.

Carthage Church Hosting Santa Store

Carthage Community Church will host its 33rd annual Santa's Community Store on Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The church is located in the former Carthage Elementary School. Lunch will be provided and there is no charge for the gently used items. Donations are still being accepted. Call 765-565-6721 for more information.

Social Studies, Science Better ISTEP+ Areas for Schools

For the most part, students in Henry County's five school districts and four others that are nearby fared better on the science and social studies portions of last spring's ISTEP+ exam than they did on the math and English/language arts sections.

According to results released by the Indiana Department of Education the week before last, 64.9 percent of fourth and sixth graders - the only two grades tested on science - passed that part of the test. The two grades tested on social studies, fifth and seventh, had an average passing rate of 64.2 percent statewide.

Looking at Henry County's five school districts, the average passing rate for fourth graders at Blue River Valley (67.2 percent), Charles A. Beard (69.8 percent), Shenandoah (74.5 percent) and South Henry (65.4 percent) on the science section exceeded the combined state average for fourth and sixth graders. At 58.8 percent, the fourth graders in New Castle schools were below the state average.

As for Henry County's sixth graders, CAB (68.7 percent) and Shenandoah (72.4 percent) were, again, above the state average. Blue River (52.1 percent), New Castle (55.9 percent) and South Henry (41.4 percent) all fell below that mark.

At four other nearby school districts, the passing rate for fourth graders on the science portion exceeded the state average at Eastern Hancock (73.9 percent), Greenfield (71.7 percent), Mays Community Academy (70 percent) and Rush County (74.3 percent). The passing rate for sixth graders in these districts was above the state average at Eastern Hancock (69.6 percent), Greenfield (71.6 percent) and Rush County (78.7 percent), and below it at Mays (58.8 percent).

On the social studies part of the test, fifth graders at Blue River (64.7 percent), CAB (65.1 percent), Shenandoah (70.2 percent) and South Henry (80.4 percent) had higher passing rates than the state average. The only Henry County fifth graders with a passing rate lower than the state average were New Castle's, who posted a passing rate of 60.8 percent.

Seventh graders in four Henry County school districts, Blue River (72.9 percent), CAB (72.9 percent), New Castle (78 percent) and Shenandoah (65.2 percent), topped the state average on the social studies portion. South Henry's seventh

See ISTEP+, Page 3

Community Meal



In a community tradition that dates back to about 1992, Knightstown American Legion Post 152 volunteers serve up free Thanksgiving dinners last Wednesday, Nov. 23. The Legion prepared and served over 200 meals at its Main Street post. They also prepared and delivered a similar number of Thanksgiving dinners. Here Diane Love dishes up fresh, hot turkey slices to a Knightstown resident.

Park Board Approves Upgrades

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

The Knightstown Parks and Recreation Board voted last week to OK the purchase of a color TV and sound system for the main shelter house at Sunset Park.

The vote, which approved spending up to \$1,500 on a 70-inch television and a wireless soundbar system, came during the board's Nov. 22 monthly meeting. Board member Jacob Hart, who had recommended these improvements, was given the responsibility of selecting and buying the items.

Prior to the vote, board member Jan McGuire said she thought the TV and sound system would be welcomed by groups like the Knightstown Police Department that make use of the shelter house for training and other presentations. Board President Suzee Neal added that the park board's agenda could be displayed on the TV during meetings, and said the shelter house would be able to host things like movie nights for youth.

After several minutes of discussion, McGuire and Neal made and seconded, respectively, a motion authorizing Hart to obtain the TV and audio equipment. The motion passed 3-1, with Vice President Bruce Brown joining McGuire and Neal to support the motion, and Hart, who had initially proposed these additions to the shelter house, casting the lone dissenting vote.

Hart explained that, while he favored getting the TV and sound system, he thought the purchases should

wait until after the first of the year. Already facing the prospect of a 2017 budget that will be less than this year's, he said he wanted to see whether the state makes any further cuts to the park board's budget for next year.

There has been some confusion among park board members as to what happens to the park board's funds if it fails to spend by year's end all of the money it was approved to spend as part of this year's budget. While Neal said she thought the park board would lose these funds, Hart read e-mail correspondence he'd had with Beth Huffman, the town's clerk-treasurer, that clarified this is not the case.

Hart read the response that Huffman had e-mailed to him to the other board members. According to Huffman, the unspent funds are not lost at the end of the year, but using them for expenditures that are not already part of the 2017 budget will require getting permission for additional appropriations from the

state. This is a fairly routine process used by towns and other units of local government to deal with unforeseen expenses or to shift funds originally allocated for the purchase of one thing to something else.

The board also discussed replacing the shelter house's folding chairs at last week's meeting. Neal said that Costco sells packs of 32 chairs for \$999. The board delayed a vote on this purchase, however, to see if the local hardware store can get a better price.

See Upgrades, Page 5

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OBITUARIES

Curtis L. McClellan
September 14, 1958 - November 27, 2016



Curtis L. McClellan, 58, of Arlington, passed away Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016, at his residence. He was born Sept. 14, 1958, in Muncie, the son of Lloyd L. and Lynda D. (Lester) McClellan. Curtis was a graduate of Knightstown High School and was employed at Indiana Automotive Fasteners in Greenfield. He was formerly employed at Buckley's Surveying Company in Knightstown for over 25 years. Curtis served with the U.S. Navy for six years in the Persian Gulf. He enjoyed hunting, trapping, fishing, gardening and riding his motorcycle. He is survived by his mother, Lynda McClellan of Knightstown; a sister, Tamme Nasby of Knightstown; a nephew, Jeremiah (Nikki) Haler of Pendleton; great-nieces and nephews Clayton, Aubri and Khloe Haler; and several cousins. He was preceded in death by his father. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, at Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service, Knightstown Chapel. The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Friday with Pastor Curtis Hunt officiating. Burial will follow in Asbury Cemetery. Condolences and memories of Curtis may be shared at www.hinsey-brown.com.

Thelma "Maxine" Renfro
April 2, 1936-November 25, 2016



Thelma "Maxine" Renfro, 80, of Shirley, returned to her heavenly home surrounded by loved ones at IU Hospital on Nov. 25, 2016. Maxine was born in Rush County, to the late Charles and Lenora Jones on April 2, 1936. She was a dedicated member of the Shirley Church of the Nazarene. Earlier in life she worked for Western Electric and then had her calling as a homemaker. She was kind, soft spoken and she will be dearly missed by all. Her family takes solace in knowing she is at peace with her creator and with the love of her life, Franklin D. Renfro Sr., who preceded her in death on Jan. 6, 2007. Frank and Maxine were married in 1954 and then were blessed with a large and loving family. She is survived by four children, Cindi (Marvin) Adkins, Frank Renfro Jr., Jennifer (Jim) Carlton and Tony (Debi) Renfro; and 10 grandchildren, Mike Johnson, Christi Montgomery, Derek Haviland, Brandon Renfro, Stephanie Snider Fanning, Jessica Brown, Nathan Carlton, Jacob Adkins, Lisa Adkins and Bev Jones. She is also survived by several great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, as well as a special nephew, Pastor Dan Jones. Maxine was preceded in death by her parents; her daughter, Teresa Snider; a granddaughter, Heather Snider; a grandson, Chris Adkins; a great-granddaughter, Rylee Fanning; and six siblings, Robert Jones, Buzz Jones, Bill Jones, Joyce Tanner, Janie Carroll and Ruth Van Horn. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, Nov. 30, at 2 p.m., with visitation from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Shirley Church of the Nazarene in Shirley, with Pastor Dan Jones officiating. Burial will immediately follow at Glen Cove Cemetery in Knightstown. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Liming Family Funeral Home, 306 Main St., Shirley.

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County Council Seeking People for Different Area Positions

In its ongoing effort to make government and its appointments process more transparent and to set an example for other governmental entities, the Henry County Council invites registered voters in Henry County to apply for the following openings on boards and commissions to which Henry County Council makes citizen appointments:

- Alcohol & Tobacco Commission (one-year term: Jan. 1, 2017-Dec. 31, 2017). Requirement: must be able to attend its monthly meetings, which take place the first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m.
- Convention & Visitors' Bureau (CVB) Board of Directors (three-year term: Jan. 1, 2017-Dec. 31, 2019). Requirement: must be able to attend meetings, which take place the first Thursday of each month at 8 a.m.
- Henry County Redevelopment Commission (RDC) (two one-year term appointments: each Jan. 1, See Appointments, Page 10)

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K-town Park Board Has Vacancy After Resignation

A recent resignation has left a vacancy on the Knightstown Parks and Recreation Board.

Board President Suzee Neal announced at the outset of the board's Nov. 22 monthly meeting that board member Ashley Lapham, the board's secretary, had resigned. Neal read an e-mail she said she received from Lapham on Monday, Nov. 14, in which Lapham said she was immediately stepping down because she was moving and taking a job elsewhere.

Lapham, until recently, had been the funeral director at Heritage Funeral Care in Knightstown. She told The Banner she has taken a job as the managing funeral director at Hendryx Mortuaries' New Palestine location and would be moving there, and she also works as a deputy coroner in Marion and Henry counties.

In the resignation letter she sent to Neal, Lapham said she was proud of the board's "collective achievements and significant progress" with the town's park. With her new job and relocation, she said she would "not be able to devote the necessary time to the park board."

"I was honored to serve on the park board," Lapham told The Banner the day after she e-mailed

her resignation to Neal. "I learned a lot and I think we got a lot accomplished while I was on the board."

Under state law, the four regular members of Knightstown's park board must be town residents. Only the park board's fifth member, an ex officio member appointed by the Charles A. Beard School Board, is not bound by this geographical restriction. Neal, who also serves on the CAB School Board, presently holds this ex officio position.

State statute also forbids more than two of the park board's four regular members from being mem-

bers of the same political party. Because Lapham was a Democrat and there are already two Republicans on the board, the person appointed to take her place on the board will need to be a Democrat, an independent or a member of a third party.

Despite receiving Lapham's resignation on Nov. 14, Neal did not notify members of the Knightstown Town Council of this development in time for it to be addressed at the council's Nov. 17 monthly meeting. Neal told park board members at last week's meeting that she would report the resig-

nation to the council the next day. Anyone interested in filling the vacancy on the park board left by Lapham's resignation should submit a letter of interest to the

Knightstown Town Council, 26 S. Washington St., Knightstown, IN 46148. The council has set not yet officially announced this vacancy or set a deadline for applications.

ISTEP+, from Page 1

graders, with a passing rate of 51.9 percent, were the only ones with a passing rate below the state average.

Fifth graders at Eastern Hancock (76.7 percent), Mays (75 percent) and Rush County (64.5 percent) fared better than the state average on the social studies section, while those at Greenfield fell a little short with a passing rate of 63.1 percent. The passing rates for seventh graders at Eastern Hancock (78.8 percent), Greenfield (72.4 percent) and Rush County (70.9 percent) all exceeded the state average, while Mays, which only serves students up to sixth grade, had no seventh grade results.

Copies of the 2016 ISTEP+ results can be found on the IDOE's website, www.doe.in.gov, and summaries of the results of area school corporations and CAB students can be found in the graphics accompanying this story.

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Walnut Ridge Friends Meeting

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Sponsored by Walnut Ridge Friends Missions committee at the Carthage Community Center in conjunction with the FOC "A Holly Jolly Carthage Christmas".

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 - 9 AM-1 PM

The Bazaar will feature home made pies and other bakery goods, caramel corn, Christmas décor, new and gently used gift items; home décor; great craft items, locally-made jams and jellies, and the COOKIE COUNTER, made popular with cookies and candies sold by the pound. All proceeds will go to support missions projects designated by the church. Shoppers can also enjoy a slice of pie and coffee/beverage during the shopping times.

For more information about the Bazaar call Davina Starke at 765-561-0927.

Future of Carthage Holly Jolly Carthage Christmas from 4-7pm

- ☆ Kids can bring a non-glass ornament to decorate the tree!
- ☆ Write and mail letter to Santa!
- ☆ Sing Karaoke Christmas tunes in the Community Center!
- ☆ Santa arrives at 6pm!
- ☆ Talk to Santa in the gazebo in Veterans Park!
- ☆ Take a hayride around town!
- ☆ Free soup supper at Community Center
- ☆ Bring canned goods for the Community Church food pantry
- ☆ Enter the Ugly Sweater and Santa Lookalike Contests
- ☆ See the tree lighting ceremony at dusk!



For further information about the FOC event, contests, and the Ripley Township home decorating contest, call Kathy Gibson at 765-565-6798 or see the FOC Facebook page.



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Banner PERSPECTIVES

'Rage, Rage Against the Dying of the Light'

"Fight, fight, fight the dying of the light.

Do not go gentle into that good night." - Dylan Thomas

When it came to living, Granny took no prisoners. She never gave up, never whined. She went from being blind from juvenile cataracts, to having vision, to losing her sight again and one eye because of glaucoma. Her hearing faded, and she said, "Of the two, I'd rather be blind than deaf."

Grandpa was miserly. When Granny was young few married women worked. She said, "I fixed the old skinflint! I got a job, cooking at Jimmy McFarland's restaurant." I saw a documentary about the elderly women of Chernobyl, Russia, who returned to their homes following the atomic disaster in spite of the authorities and regardless of the danger. The commentator said, "They do what they please!" Granny was like that.

Mother's brother, Ivan, was as indomitable and irrepresible as Granny. He attended the Indiana School for the Blind. He could see playing cards held against his nose, while the other players told him what was discarded. He and Aunt Nola, his third wife who was sighted, lived in Brooklyn, New York. During the Depression they joined a street band of blind musicians who played for donations. He played an accordion, and she sang.

The group's leader had two

glass eyes. One day a man said to him, "Why, your eyes are as good as mine!" "Better!" he replied. "Watch this!" He clinked a dime against his eyes. Tough times, tough people! My father lost his sight when he was barely 60. He went from being the rose grower



for Schatzlein's Greenhouse to peddling brooms to augment my mother's meager income at the greenhouse.

Mother was 62 and engaged to my stepfather when she felt a lump in her breast that required a radical mastectomy. I thought nothing about it then, but now I understand how she must have felt, even though I am not busty as she was. Reconstructive surgery didn't exist. When her prosthesis wore out, we giggled when frugal Mother stuffed her bra with Kleenex.

Twenty years ago, a mammogram revealed calcifications in one

of my breasts for which I had radiation therapy - no big deal. Had a mastectomy been deemed necessary, I would have had one in a flash. Recently, my internist, Dr. Louis Wright, ordered an immediate diagnostic mammogram when I called about a lump. The radiologist said that both breasts were suspicious. Sometimes I see jokes about mammograms. There is absolutely nothing amusing about a mammogram. Those mammograms saved my life.

Dr. Thepjaterie, a breast specialist, took over and performed needle biopsies. The verdict: cancer in the breast that had had radiation. He brought in cancer specialist, Dr. Agarwalla, and radiation oncologist Dr. Wei. An R.N. "navigator" attends and schedules my appointments. I am so blessed with superb care!

I tell physicians, "My body is a rusted-out old pickup truck, but my brain is a red-hot, high performance Ferrari!" My beloved vascular surgeon, Dr. Jacob, understands me and my determination to try to live and die on my terms and to preserve my intellect.

Community Hospital's Cancer Center is associated with the Anderson Cancer Center in Texas. My trio of specialists discussed me with the specialists in Texas. Because my serious vascular problems - the curse of my father's

See Rose Mary, Page 6

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

On behalf of Pastor Harold Rodgers and the Knightstown Wesleyan Church board members and congregation, we would like to give a big thank you to Knightstown Christian Church for allowing us to use the church kitchen and facilities. We have been baking pies for going on three years now, and every year it is a bigger success. Last year, we baked 56 pies on one stove, in one very long day. This year, thanks to their generosity, we were able to bake 90 pies in that same time, having two stoves and added room for many more helpers. We were blessed this year.

Thank you again!

Amy Bell, Board Member
Knightstown Wesleyan Church

Dear Editor,

Since Ed Yanos and Kim Cronk have decided that their re-election is affirmation that constituents are happy with their service to the county, let me share some facts. Susan Huhn got 7,130 votes and David Herring got 6,502. Therefore 13,632 people went out of their way to vote a split ticket. Keep in mind that 68 percent of Republicans who punched a straight ticket in a year when pundits agree that Midwest conservatives had record numbers of voters based on their discontent with Washington, D.C.'s career politicians. In other words, because people don't know about the local issue with wind turbines, the Commissioners benefited from the victory of Trump. If you think that most people are aware of the wind "farm" issue by now, you should know that while I was in line to vote, there was a "no wind farm" sign along with other campaign signs. I heard two people near me ask what a wind farm is.

The wind companies have mailed thousands of letters, cards and packets with propaganda trying to sway the public in their favor. They rent out restaurants, pass out yard signs and have "boots on the ground" going through neighborhoods to try to influence people who don't know the truth about turbines or the real effect on economy, property values or the environmental and health effects. They employed a call center before the election to try to sway the voters and they offer scholarship money to high school seniors who will write essays about how wonderful wind farms are. In their many full-page ads, they state that they will invest millions in the county - notice how that does not mean they give the county money to get out of debt, as our re-elected officials seem to hope. Why are they willing spend this money to get the power turbines built? Follow the money!

It's disturbing that Steve Dugger was at a Calpine hosted dinner when he was so adamant that he wasn't getting paid by Calpine. I know our elected officials in Congress aren't supposed to take meals ... what about our locally elected ones? We need to ask why our elected officials are attending dinners set up to shmooze the locals. Why is Calpine allowed to bring in people from other counties to our meetings and try to outnumber the local citizens, making it appear that there are more in favor of wind farms than is actually true?

Wind energy is only sustainable if it is fueled by taxpayer funds. The turbines require traditional coal-based power to be built, started and for back up. The materials they are made of are not recyclable and they are bad for the environment. That is not green energy. If the turbines pose no problems as the wind companies like to claim, why are there thousands of lawsuits against them? If their mailers claim that "this is your home so

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Viewing Winter as Gateway to Spring

Fall, spring and summer are my favorite seasons, and in that order.

Some people don't like fall because it signals an end to warm weather. Some say the dying leaves and browning grass call death to mind. Fall means winter is next, like that's a bad thing.

Winter, nor death are bad. They are merely part of our natural lives. True, death is sometimes not timely. It callously calls on the least suspecting, often the very young or the seemingly healthy.

Yet, like winter, death, in all of its finality, also ignites a rebirth of memories. Sometimes old relationships are resurrected following the death of a friend or family member.

Winter, too, plays on in that way. Snow and ice-covered ground may shelter a vivid, green leaf tucked down in the thicket. While that emerald glimmer may soon wither, its power-packed roots are in hibernation, biding their time until the earth tilts favorably.

That hope carries me through these dimmer, drearier months. Some aren't as fortunate. They suffer what experts call "seasonal affective disorder," a sometimes debilitating depressive condition brought on by gloomy, sunless days and fewer daylight hours.

It can be depressing. Yet, I choose to look at it another way. I try to welcome the "bad" weather, putting each one behind me as I claw closer and closer to sunnier days. Each perilous drive, each shoveled sidewalk, every scraped windshield - they all nudge my freezing feet nearer springtime.

I see the freezing, icy conditions as a necessary step in the Midwestern seasonal process. We simply have to endure these things, which in the grand scheme of things really aren't that bad - in order to emerge warmer

and grateful in the promise of April.

Seems a hundred years off, April. But, it's not. It's right around the corner. In terms of time, everything is. So take heart. Today's gloom and cold is but a chilly trumpet heralding a pause in the glorious weather we had all spring, summer and fall.

Soon, February will be here, ushering in the really deep cold, which penetrates the ground, freezing the burrowed nests of stinging yellow jackets and decimating mosquito populations. Remember that when your fingers go numb as you shovel 10 inches of snow off the driveway. The cold isn't just killing your fingers; it's killing nuisance insects, too.

Learning the Job

Two Knightstown officials are doing a great job looking out for the citizens they serve. Others are also doing a good job, but I'm singling out these two because they impress me.

Clerk-Treasurer Beth Huffman and new park board member Jacob Hart, both certified public accountants, are actively seeking out information about their jobs and applying the new knowledge in practical ways that will enhance town finances and services.

That might seem pretty basic and not too praiseworthy to some. But, in my experience, few people elected or appointed to local positions bother to actively educate themselves on their duties and responsibilities.

In both Huffman's and Hart's case, they have each expeditiously sought out vital budgetary information. I appreciate their heads-up approach and their willingness to read up on matters at hand so they can make informed and responsible decisions. Some of these matters are complex, but they are doing the required work.



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BITS & PIECES

◆The Henry County Historical Society, 606 S. 14th St., New Castle, will host its **Christmas Open House** on Saturday, Dec. 3, 1-4 p.m. There will be music and food in the museum, an 1870 home once occupied by Civil War General William Grose. The event is free and open to the public. Tours will be available.

◆Knightstown American Legion Post 152 Auxiliary will be having their annual **Cookie Walk** at the American Legion, 224 E. Main St., on Saturday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

◆Carthage Community Church will host its 33rd annual **Santa's Community Store** on Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The church is located in the former Carthage Elementary School. Lunch will be provided and there is no charge for the gently used items. Donations are still being accepted. Call 765-565-6721 for more information.

◆The Walnut Ridge Friends are hosting their annual **Christmas Bazaar** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Carthage Community Center on Main Street, Carthage, in conjunction with A Holly Jolly Carthage Christmas, sponsored by the Future of Carthage Committee.

◆Knightstown American Legion Post 152, 224 E. Main St., hosts its **"Stars and Stripes" raffle** weekly. The jackpot is currently at \$2,100. Jackpot drawing every Saturday at 5 p.m. It is open to the public.

◆The Jane Ross Reeves Octagon House, 400 S. Railroad

St., Shirley will host its ninth annual **Christmas Tree Walk** the first and second weekends of December. The walk will be open Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2-3, 4-8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, Dec. 9-10, 4-8 p.m. There will be a decorated Christmas tree in every room. There is no charge for the tour. However, food will be available for purchase, with proceeds benefiting continued upgrades to the octagon house. Food offerings the first weekend include soup, sandwiches, desserts and drinks. The second weekend features a chicken and noodle dinner, desserts and drinks.

◆The Knightstown Department of Parks and Recreation will host an **adult painting class** at the Sunset Park shelter house on Dec. 16, 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person, per class. Participants will leave each class with a finished, painted river stone. To reserve a spot in the class, call Jan McGuire at 317-509-4039 or 765-345-9499.

◆Students grades 9-12, who want to **create a lasting work of art** (no experience required), are encouraged to become a part of the National Heritage Trail student mural team. Beautify Knightstown Inc. and Healthy Communities of Henry County are partnering and inviting students to participate in painting two 10' x100' murals on the bridge abutments located in Raysville. For information call Jeff Ray at 765-524-1753 or Jan McGuire at 317-509-4039.

Local Church Hosting Free Organ Concert

Knightstown Bethel Presbyterian Church will present an organ concert on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. The featured organists are Celia Burns, Robin Richey, Kathryn Waits and Chris Wilson.

Burns has been the organist at the Bethel Presbyterian over three years. She has played piano and organ in Henry and Wayne counties for nearly 40 years. She and her husband David live in New Castle. They are the parents of two grown children and have five grandchildren.

Richey is the organist for Raysville Friends Church and St. Rose Catholic Church. He has played the organ for 45 years and has given piano lessons for over 30 years. A Knightstown native, he has been a musician for 50 years. Richey sometimes does accompaniment for Guyer Opera House in Lewisville and

the O'Connor Family Singers.

Waits has been the organist at Knightstown United Methodist Church for approximately 45 years. A retired piano teacher, Waits began playing the organ when she was in high school. She has two grown sons and three grandchildren.

Wilson lives in Greenfield with his wife and three children. Originally from Knightstown, Wilson is a math professor at Butler University and has been playing the organ since he was in the eighth grade.

"There is no charge for this concert," event organizers said. "This is simply a gift from the organists and the church to the community. Please come to enjoy the music by these gifted and talented organists and featuring the iconic pipe organ of the church."



Upgrades, from Page 1

Neal also advised fellow park board members that the Wayne Township Board had agreed to help pay for replacement of the shelter house roof, with work scheduled to start earlier this week. She told them the township board had agreed to pay \$14,500 for the work, which isn't exactly correct.

The township board voted during a special meeting on Nov. 14 to pay the park board \$11,000 toward the roof's replacement, with the park board paying the balance, which was expected to be about another additional \$3,750. If there are any additional expenses above that, the township board authorized Wayne Township Trustee Randy Overman to pay up to \$4,000 more after the first of the year, but that was not to take the place of the park board's contribution.

At that same Nov. 14 meeting,

Neal had told township board members that the splash pad at Sunset Park had cost the park board \$30,000 this year for water and sewer service. When asked about this at last week's park board meeting, however, Neal admitted she had been wrong, and Hart said monthly utility expenses he reviewed put the figure closer to \$15,000.

Neal said she hoped the Knightstown Town Council would reconsider its earlier decision not to pay for all or some of the water utility expense for the splash pad. If the park board remains responsible for this expense, she said it may be necessary to look at limiting the water attraction's hours of operation next year.

In other business at last week's meeting, the park board voted 3-1, with Hart dissenting, to waive the

shelter house rental fee to allow the town council to host an appreciation dinner there for town employees on Friday, Dec. 9. At first, the motion to approve this didn't pass because Brown, a town employee, had abstained due to what he thought might have been a conflict of interest. Seeing that the motion would not pass with just the two votes of McGuire and Neal, however, Brown withdrew his abstention on a revote and gave the motion the third vote needed for approval.

More information about the Nov. 22 meeting of the Knightstown Parks and Recreation Board can be found in the memoranda and minutes of that proceeding. Those public records are available for inspection and copying at Knightstown Town Hall during normal business hours.

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Vickie Rhodes Enjoys Helping Community Via Her Many Years at Southwest District Ambulance

by Logan Cox
 for The Banner

Knightstown resident Vickie Rhodes has been with Southwest District Ambulance Service since its beginning nearly 30 years ago. She is one of two charter members that remain active in the service. She now works as their secretary/treasurer.

"I really enjoy helping the community," Rhodes said.

She has been aiding her fellow citizens as an EMT since 1989. Shortly before that, Rhodes worked at Butcher's Funeral Home. It was there she saw the ambulance service begin, following the arrival of new owner Harry "Bud" Whetsel.

"Butchers sold it. They gave it to Bud and it became Butcher-Whetsel Funeral Home," she recalled. "Butchers ran an ambulance out of the funeral home. That's how all of the ambulance services typically started."

After this, Whetsel chose a few Butcher's employees, including Rhodes, to be EMTs for what would later become Southwest District Ambulance Service.

"I was friends with Bud Whetsel," said Rhodes. "He needed EMTs, so he came to me and a few other people, and sent three of us through EMT school. I had absolutely no experience whatsoever. I did really well and I excelled in my class. And I have thoroughly enjoyed being an EMT, but it literally scared me to death to try to go through the class not knowing anything. It's been extremely rewarding. I'm so glad he pressured me to do it."

Whetsel now runs Whetsel Funeral Service out of Alexandria.

Although she is often a witness to the pain that affects people - even people she has known for years - Rhodes approaches the work at Southwest with a sense of optimism.

"We're kind of unique because we know just about everybody we go on a call for. So it's rewarding to know that when you walk in, somebody most likely is going to recognize you and be relieved," she said. "You know, just the fact that you are giving them just a little bit of peace and comfort ...

You're walking in and they'll say, 'Oh Vickie, it's you! Thank goodness!' And so I think that's what I like the most about it - is that not only am I helping people, but I'm most likely helping people I know and giving them a little bit of peace."

In addition to the medical field, Rhodes has just as much experience in the field of secretarial work.

She worked as a secretary at Knightstown High School for several years in the past. Until recently she had been an administrative secretary at Community Hospital East, a position she kept for the last four-and-a-half years.

"The drive to Indy was a little much for me. I wanted to get back a little closer to home," said Rhodes, regarding her job at the hospital. "Plus, I was so far away during the day that if they did need me to do something back at Southwest, I wouldn't be able to help."

Last week she began working as an executive assistant and gift manager at the Henry County Community Foundation in New Castle.

"I've been an administrative secretary for practically my whole adult life," she said. "So I should pick it up pretty easy, I hope."

Rhodes has lived in Knightstown since the eighth grade. She attended Eastern Hancock during her first seven years of schooling, but she's originally from Morristown.

"As soon as I graduated from high school, my family all moved to Kentucky," she said.

Rhodes graduated from Knightstown High School in 1971. Her husband, Chuck, is also a KHS graduate, as are their two sons, Chris and Kyle.

"Chuck, my husband, graduated in 1971 as well. Chris, my oldest one, graduated in 1995. And Kyle, my youngest, graduated in 1998. He was on the first football team that went to the state championship," she said. "It's kind of a rarity to have both boys that way, but they excelled in football."

Rhodes attended Indiana University after high school, earning a bachelor's degree in physical education.

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Rose Mary, from Page 4

family - make anesthesia dangerous, they prescribed a pill rather than the preferred mastectomy. I'll have another mammogram in February to see if the cancer's shrinking or slowing.

Someone said that it seems unfair that I have cancer on top of other serious problems. Why not me? It isn't a matter of fairness, it's a matter of genes. I hope

to be worthy of my predecessors.

Our society over-sexualizes breasts and acts as if they're shameful. Get your priorities in order! Far better to lose a breast than an eye or your life. Book a mammogram today if you've been putting it off!

Meanwhile, Christmas is coming. I must get busy!
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It's 'Shirley' Christmas!

Shirley Visionaries, Octagon House, Historical Society Combine Efforts in Holiday Kick-off

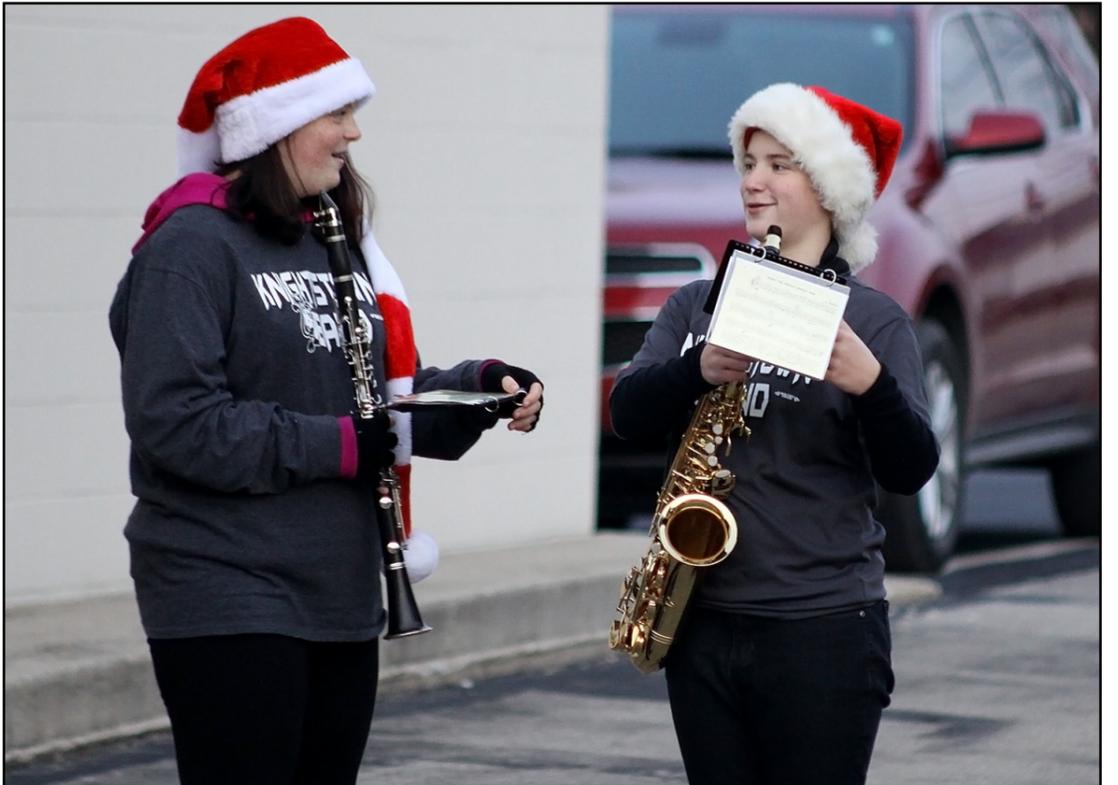
The town of Shirley ushered in the holiday season Saturday with a Shop Small event, tours of the decorated Octagon House, Santa visits, music, food and community fun.

Tyler Cullison of Shirley (top) greets Santa Claus and proceeds to describe his Christmas list in animated detail.

Two Knightstown High School band members (right) chat between performances of holiday standards. The band performed on Main Street in Shirley, in the Star Financial Bank parking lot.

Shirley's depot museum, enshrouded in Christmas lights (lower right) welcomes visitors.

An Octagon House upstairs bedroom, smartly appointed with nostalgic holiday decor, awaits visitors. Featuring 33 different Christmas trees in its various rooms, the Jane Ross Reeves Octagon House will offer public tours Dec. 2-3 and Dec. 9-10 from 4-8 p.m.



Carriage rides and miniature horse-draw wagon rides traverse Railroad Street. Eighty-eight-year-old Viola Westrich (below) of Noblesville proves that one is never too old to sit and visit with Santa Claus. She is the mother of Shirley Hardware Store owner Dennis Westrich.



Photos by Eric Cox

See a color slideshow of this event on The Banner's website: thebanneronline.com

LOCAL SPORTS

Tri Boys Triumph 65-36 Over Knightstown in Season Opener

The Knightstown and Tri varsity boys basketball teams kicked off their seasons Nov. 23. The Titans clobbered the Panthers 65-36 in front of their home crowd.

The game started slow with the first quarter score no indication of the eventual 29-point spread. At the end of the first, Tri was up just 9-8.

The Titans' offense then caught fire and did not let up for the rest of the game. Tri outscored KHS 16-9 in the second quarter to take a 25-17 lead at halftime.

Knightstown improved a bit in the third quarter, putting 12 points on the board but Tri dropped in 20 points to increase its lead to 35-29.

Tri continued to pound Knightstown in the fourth quarter, scoring 20 points while holding the Panthers to just seven points to get the 65-36 home opener.

Titan junior Elijah Davis started the season with a double-double and led all players with 18 points, 13 rebounds, three blocks, one assist and one steal.

Tri senior Masen Phelps also had a huge game with 14 points, six rebounds, seven blocks, six assists and one deflection.

Carson Cox added eight points, five rebounds and one steal.

Alex Melton had six points, four rebounds, two

steals, one block and one deflection

Eric Bilby posted six points, three rebounds, one assist and two steals.

Kyler Burchett had four points and three rebounds.

Nick Wilson pulled down seven rebounds, hit one 3-pointer and made three assists.

Austin Stroud had three points, five rebounds and one assist while David O'Neill scored three points and grabbed two rebounds.

Gage Rowe got two rebounds, four assists and one deflection for Tri.

Two Panthers also shot in double figures.

Senior Daniel Rayburn led KHS with 12 points and eight rebounds.

Panther sophomore Jose Olivo had 10 points, three rebounds and one steal.

Tucker Personett, a junior, scored seven points, and got six rebounds, two steals with one assist.

Dylan Hiner had five points, two rebounds, one assist and one steal while Lane Parker sunk two free throws and had one steal.

Matt Kemerly contributed three rebounds, one assist and one steal.

Trevor Cook and Cameron Jones each grabbed one rebound and Dallas Edwards had an assist for the Panthers.

Lady Titans Roll to 63-36 Win Over Lady Panthers

In the first game of a double-header Nov. 23 between the varsity basketball teams from Knightstown and Tri, the Lady Titans trounced the Lady Panthers 63-36.

The first quarter was a close one, with the Lady Panthers coming out a point ahead, 7-6.

That would be the only slow quarter for Tri though as the home court advantage kicked in, motivating the Lady Titans over the next three quarters.

Tri outscored KHS 19-8 in the second quarter to take a 25-15 lead into halftime.

The break gave the Lady Panthers some spirit but their 15 points in the third quarter could not cut the lead of the still fired up Lady Titans who scored 21.

The Lady Panthers' offensive effort fell off in the final period when they were outscored 17-6 by the Lady Titans.

Tri junior Payton Moore had a monster game, posting her first double-double of the year.

Moore finished with 24 points, 13 rebounds, three steals and one block.

Lauren Bouslog had a strong game for Tri with 11 points, six rebounds and two steals.

Tri senior Karlee Winkhart also scored 11 points and had one rebound, three assists and two steals.

Addy Edwards got nine points, six rebounds, four assists and two steals.

Kaley Harrison had six points, two rebounds and one assist.

Kennington Appleby hit two free throws and had three rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Breanna Reece got two rebounds, two assists, one steal and one block while Auburn Harvey grabbed a rebound for Tri.

Leading the Lady Panthers was Carmen Cleek with 11 points, one rebound, one assist, five steals and six deflections.

Silvia Panizzutti scored 10 points and one rebound and two assists.

Lori Thomas had six points, six rebounds, two steals and four deflections.

Kaitlyn Jackson finished with five points, one rebound, one assist and one steal.

Jessica Butler scored one bucke and had six rebounds, two assist and one steal.

Sidney Vise also scored two points and got four rebounds, one assist, three steals, one block and one deflection.

Katie Clark also came up with one steal for Knightstown.

The 27-point victory moved the Lady Titans' record to 3-1 while the Lady Panthers' season record goes to 2-3.

Titans' Second Season Game Nearly Opposite of First

After winning their first season game by 29 points just three days earlier, Tri's varsity boys basketball team experienced nearly the opposite Nov. 26 when Wapahani whipped the Titans 68-41 at home.

The Raiders showed up ready to play, scoring 24 points in the first quarter while holding the Titans to 11 points.

Tri again scored 11 in the second quarter while Wapahani scored 19 more to extend its lead to 43-22 at halftime.

The two teams executed an even third quarter, each scoring 13.

Faced with a 35-56 deficit to start the final period, the Titans could not get any momentum going and scored just six points.

The Raiders put 12 more up in the fourth to get the 68-41 win.

Carson Cox led the Titans with 10 points and four rebounds.

Masen Phelps had another solid game with six points, six rebounds, four assists and two blocks.

Nick Wilson posted five points, five rebounds and three assists.

Elijah Davis had five points, three rebounds, one assist, one block and one deflection

David O'Neill also scored five

points and pulled down two rebounds.

Seth Butler was 2-for-2 for four points and had two rebounds and one steal.

Gage Rowe sank 3-of-4 free throw attempts and made one deflection.

Austin Stroud had two points, one rebound, one assist and one deflection.

Bradyn Ellis added one point, two rebounds, one steal and one block.

Zach Smith had two rebounds and one deflection while Eric Bilby had one rebound and one assist. Alex Melton also had a one rebound.

The loss moved the Titans season record 1-1.

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Tri Varsity Girls Lose to Liberty Christian 38-61

After wiping out Knightstown a few days earlier, Tri's varsity girls basketball team found themselves taking the same type of shellacking on the road Nov. 28 in Anderson. The Lady Titans were defeated 38-61 by Liberty Christian.

The Lady Lions took their 10-5 first quarter lead up to 27-15 at halftime. Both teams scored 13 points in the third quarter before Liberty Christian blew the game open in the fourth quarter, outscoring Tri 21-10 to sail to the 61-38 win.

Payton Moore again led the Lady Titans with 15 points, eight rebounds, five steals and two blocks.

See Lady Titans, Page 10

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Lady Titans, from Page 8

Karlee Winkhart scored 12 points and had four steals and one assist. Kennsington Appleby got five points, two assists and one steal. Breanna Reece was 2-for-2 for four points and had one rebound. Addy Edwards sank two free throws and got three rebounds, four assists and two steals. Kaley Harrison contributed three rebounds, one assist and one steal. Lauren Bouslog added one rebound and two assists while Auburn Harvey snagged one steal. The loss to moved the Lady Titans' season record to 3-2.

Appointments, from Page 2

2017-Dec. 31, 2017). Requirement: must be able to attend its meetings, which take place on an as-needed basis.

Knightstown Public Library Board of Directors (four-year term: Jan. 1, 2017-Dec. 31, 2020). Requirement: must be a registered voter in Wayne Township.

New Castle-Henry County Public Library Board of Directors (four-year term: Jan. 1, 2017-Dec. 31, 2020).

Spiceland Town & Township Public Library Board of Directors (four-year term: Jan. 1, 2017-Dec. 31, 2020). Requirement: must be a registered voter in Spiceland Township.

Job Classification & Salary

Advisory Committee public member (two-year term: Jan. 1, 2017-Dec. 31, 2018). Requirement: must be able to attend committee meetings, which take place on an as-needed basis one hour before the beginning of county council meetings (generally the fourth Wednesday of each month). Note: This citizen appointment is only voted upon by the three county council members and one county commissioner who serve on this committee.

Those interested in being appointed to any of these positions should submit a letter of interest with qualifications, to include experience and education, to Nate LaMar, president, Henry County

Council, 5400 N. Muncie Pike, New Castle IN 47362-9211, or by email to: NateLaMar@cs.com. Letters must be received no later than Friday, Dec. 16, for consideration.

Candidates will be voted upon and appointments will be made at the Dec. 21 county council meeting. Current incumbent appointees to these positions are welcome to apply for reappointment.

Copies of letters of interest from candidates not selected by county council will be given to the county commissioners, the New Castle mayor, and the New Castle City Council president for consideration for their citizen appointments.

Area High School Sports Schedule for Nov. 30-Dec. 7

Boys Basketball -

Junior Varsity & Varsity

- ◆ Dec. 2 - Knightstown at home vs. Union County, 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 2 - Tri at home vs. Blue River Valley, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 2 - Eastern Hancock at home vs. Southwestern Shelby, 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 3 - Knightstown away at Hagerstown, 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 3 - Eastern Hancock at home vs. Indianapolis Howe, 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Girls Basketball -

Junior Varsity & Varsity

- ◆ Dec. 3 - Knightstown away at Arlington, 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 3 - Tri at home vs. Cowan, 12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 6 - Knightstown at home vs. Southwestern Shelby, 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 3 - Eastern Hancock at home vs. Liberty Christian, 12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 6 - Eastern Hancock away at North

Decatur, 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

- ◆ Dec. 7 - Tri at home vs. Randolph Southern, 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Swimming - Varsity

- ◆ Dec. 3 - Eastern Hancock away at Lawrenceburg Invite, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Dec. 6 - Eastern Hancock hosting Rusville and Tech, 6 p.m.

Wrestling - Varsity

- ◆ Nov. 30 - Knightstown at home vs. Cambridge City Lincoln, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Nov. 30 - Eastern Hancock away at Lapel, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 1 - Tri away at Muncie Central for Triple Dual, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 2 - Knightstown JV only at Blackford Duals, 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 3 - Tri away at Hagerstown, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Dec. 3 - Eastern Hancock away at Cambridge City Lincoln Invite, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Dec. 6 - Eastern Hancock at home vs. Triton Central, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 7 - Tri at home vs. Monroe Central, 6 p.m.

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Knightstown Girls Hosting Breakfast with Santa Dec. 10

Knightstown's girls basketball team is hosting a Breakfast with Santa event Saturday, Dec. 10 from 8-11 a.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Enjoy warm pancakes and have your photo taken with Santa. Cost for the breakfast and photo with Santa is \$5.

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Letters, from Page 4

your opinion matters", then why didn't they get our input in 2009 when this was originally proposed? Right now, nine towns have signed referendums against wind-assisted power plants being installed around their towns. It's time for the county representatives to start listening to us.

**Marian Helms
Spiceland Township**

Dear Editor,

Knowledge of Annoyance leads to Understanding. Annoyance synonyms: aggravation, bedevilment, bothering, disturbance, harassment, harrying, pestering, vexation, molestation, offense, persecution, provocation, torment, torture; devilment, devilry, mischief, distress, irritation, exasperation, & displeasure to name a few.

IWT (Industrial Wind Turbine) industries would have us believe there is no health issues associated with IWTs.

To the contrary, "annoyance" is acknowledged by the wind industry and government departments.

The American Wind Industry, The Canadian Wind Industry, The Environmental Protections Agency, The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, The National Collaborating Center for Environmental Health, Occupation and Environmental Medicine, The Administrative Conference of the United States, The World Health Organization, Noise Control Engineering Journal, The National Research Counsel and The Environmental Protection and Heritage

Council all acknowledge "annoyance" as a health issue.

IWT's annoyance is caused by visual acuity, noise/infrasound and shadow flicker.

Stress from IWT's leads to sleep disruption and other health issues associated with "annoyance." In any given population a small, but creditable percentage of the population will be harmed. Annoyance is a serious health and human rights issue.

Days, months and years of "annoyance" is a serious health issue which can lead to a greater risk of morbidity and is not to be dismissed lightly. Understanding annoyance is paramount to protecting the citizens of any given community.

Knowledge is understanding what is required once facts are realized.

**Patsy Conyers
New Castle**

Dear Editor,

As longtime residents of Henry County, we are very concerned about the hundreds of turbines that are being considered here. We live in a rural area and would be surrounded by them. We built our home in the country because we loved the peacefulness and beauty it offered. These turbines would not only change our way of life, they would drastically reduce the value of the home and property that we love. (ask local realtors) It is very disturbing to think our neighbors can put up turbines without our permission and get paid when doing so. There is also great potential

for noise and health risks.

The technology behind these turbines will be outdated in five years. (Do you use the same cell phone you used five years ago?) Who will remove them when they are obsolete, catch fire or just quit working? Do you think Henry County will foot the bill for the thousands of dollars needed to take just one turbine down? We can't even get our roads paved. They will just remain as "monsters in the sky!"

The electric service goes out-of-state to the national grid, our electric bills will not decrease! We are not opposed to clean energy, but these turbines do not belong near homes. We have visited areas where they are away from people - high atop mountains.

Those supporting these projects are the turbine companies who are getting subsidized by the Federal government and receiving tax abatements from Henry County. (of course we tax payers are footing the bill for both), land owners and county officials who hope to see a windfall, and those who will not be living near these monstrosities.

To quote President-elect Donald Trump, "Wind farms are an act of public vandalism."

Let's keep our wonderful county just like it is!

**Karen & Mel Hallmann
Fall Creek Township**

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Banner Bonus Page:

Octagon House Features 33 Christmas Trees



Photos by Eric Cox

