

# Merry Christmas!

**PAGE 3** ROOF REPLACEMENT AT PARK DELAYED BY CHIMNEY WORK

**PAGE 7** TRI KAPPA MEMBERS ENJOY CHRISTMAS MEETING



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 36

December 14, 2016

Knightstown, IN

## Santa Stopping in Carthage Dec. 17

The Henry Henley Public Library, 102 N. Main St., Carthage, will host visits with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 17, 1-3 p.m. Santa will read a classic holiday story and take pictures with children. The digital pictures and refreshments are free. All ages welcome. For more information, call 565-6631.

## Banner Closing for Christmas Week

As we do each year, The Banner will not publish Christmas week. There will not be a Dec. 21 issue. The newspaper will resume publishing on Wednesday, Dec. 28. Advertising and news deadlines remain the same: Monday at 5 p.m. for both.

## Christmas Eve Service Dec. 24

The public is invited to attend Christmas Eve services at First Christian Church, 138 W. Main St., Knightstown, beginning at 6 p.m. The story of the nativity will be told with scripture, carols and silhouettes. Anthony Darling will be the mediator for the evening. The program will close with communion. Also, the public is invited to attend the church's youth Christmas program on Dec. 18 beginning at 7 p.m.

## Friends Church Service Dec. 18

Knightstown Friends Church, 214 E. Brown St., will host its annual Christmas Candlelight Service on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. The event will include readings, congregational singing accompanied by Robin Richey, and the lighting of personal Christmas candles at the end of the service. Cookies, punch and fellowship will follow the service. The public is invited to attend this annual community event. The public is invited to attend this annual community service.

## Town Council Yields to ACLU Lawsuit Over Christmas Tree Cross

by Jeff Eakins  
for The Banner

The town of Knightstown removed a large cross Monday from atop an evergreen tree on the public square in an effort to bring a swift end to litigation filed last week.

The ACLU filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana last Thursday on behalf of Knightstown resident Joe Tompkins that sought to have the cross removed from the tree, which is decorated with Christmas lights and ornaments. The lawsuit claims the cross, which was illuminated at night, "is the best known symbol of Christianity and Knightstown's prominent display of this symbol represents an establishment of religion in violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution."

The lawsuit goes on to say that the cross, which, to Christians, represents "the instrument of crucifixion of Jesus," was not surrounded by secular objects that "in any way diminished" its religious significance. Therefore, the ACLU maintained, the cross amounted to "a religious display" in violation of the First Amendment.

Tompkins, according to the lawsuit, objected to the display of the cross and didn't believe "that government should ... be establishing religion of any kind." Tax dollars, he felt, should not be "going to pay for the erection or maintenance of the display or the lighting of it."

Monday afternoon, town workers used the Knightstown electric utility's bucket truck to remove the cross. Their efforts were temporarily slowed when a small group of citizens showed up to protest removal of the cross, but after local

police arrived, town employees were able to reposition their truck and take down the cross. Protests by those wanting to keep the cross in place began over the weekend, and continued well into the evening Monday, and are expected to continue, with a rally tentatively scheduled for Sunday.

Town Council President Sarah Ward was present Monday when the cross was being removed, and she read the following statement on behalf of the town, which was later posted to online social media:

"It is with regret and sadness that the Knightstown Town Council has had the cross removed from the Christmas tree on the town square and is expected to approve a resolution at the next council meeting stating they will not return the cross to the tree. We could not win the court case brought by the ACLU. We would have been required to pay the legal fees of the ACLU lawyer and monetary damage to the plaintiff, Mr. Joseph Tompkins, as set by the Court. This is our statement based on advice from our legal counsel."

The Knightstown Town Council is scheduled to hold its December monthly meeting at 7 p.m. this Thursday in the Sunset Park shelter house at 206 S. Hill Ave. The Banner incorrectly reported in last week's issue that this meeting would be held Dec. 22, and apologizes for this error.

Ward's statement, with its reference to "monetary damages" the town might have had to pay to Tompkins, repeated a factual error that had been first reported in a front page news story that appeared in The Indianapolis Star last Saturday. In that story, the Star's reporter incorrectly stated that

See Lawsuit, Page 2

## Cross Issue Draws Thousands of Social Media Comments

by Jeff Eakins  
for The Banner

The lawsuit filed against the town of Knightstown last week over the cross atop the decorated tree on the town's public square and the town's decision to remove the cross did not sit well with hundreds of people - local citizens and

those from elsewhere - who took to online social media to post their views. Here is a sampling of some of those comments:

Jerry Kopp: "Sad so very sad. I figured it would end this way. We are a small town & do not have the resources to fight the ACLU. The majority loses again."

## KHS Senior Ally Wilfong Earns Lilly Scholarship



Knightstown High School senior Allicia "Ally" Wilfong has been selected as recipient of the 2017 Henry County Community Foundation Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship, one of 142 Lilly scholarship winners statewide.

Wilfong, who is the daughter of Grant and Tracy Wilfong, plans to attend Purdue University next fall to study nursing. As the winner of this prestigious scholarship - funded by a statewide Lilly Endowment initiative - she will receive full tuition, plus an annual \$900 stipend for books and other materials required for classes.

"I would like to thank my family, friends, teachers, coaches, youth leaders and others who have helped me get to where I am today," Wilfong said in a press release issued by the HCCF. "This community and its members have provided me with an abundance of guidance, knowledge and love. I am truly humbled by this award and entirely grateful for the opportunities that it will give me. My intent is to attend Purdue University - West Lafayette to major in nursing and eventually become a nurse practitioner. Thank you so much, Lilly Endowment and Henry County Community Foundation, for this honor!"

Wilfong, who is president of her senior class, has been a cheerleader and involved in student government at KHS for four years. She played volleyball for three years and was on the tennis team for two, has belonged to the history and French clubs and is vice president of the school's chapter of the National Honor Society.

In addition to her courses at KHS, Wilfong is also enrolled in Health Science Education at the New Castle Career Center and at the end of the school year will be a certified nursing assistant. As a student in the Health Science Education program, Wilfong serves as vice president of her class there.

The other finalists for the HCCF 2017 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship were Catherine Brock, New Castle High School; Rachel Coers, Shenandoah High School; Jacqueline Habzansky, Hagerstown High School; Mikayla McKellar, Tri High School; Mallery Sharp, Blue River Valley High School; and Joshua Wilson, Union High School. Each finalist will each receive \$1,000 scholarship awards from the HCCF for being chosen to represent their school.

Every graduating senior who is a Henry County resident attending Blue River Valley, Hagerstown, Knightstown, New Castle, Shenandoah, Tri, and Union high schools is eligible to apply for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. Each high school nominates one student to represent their school in the HCCF's scholarship nomination process.

After the HCCF's outside-the-county scholarship committee narrows the field to three finalists, their names are submitted to Independent Colleges of Indiana Inc. for the selection of the Henry County recipient. ICI is a nonprofit corporation that represents 31 regionally accredited degree granting, nonprofit, private colleges and universities in the state.

Lisa Roland-Cook: "I'm so disgusted by the town council. They could have come up with a creative way to avoid this action. Let's just all remember their actions when election time comes around!"

James Gorman: "If he is offended so much about a cross and what it represent, it should be displayed

every day of the year. Lit up all the time! Everyone that is displaying them now, keep them up for the duration of your lifetime. Let him know, he might have won with this cross, but he will never forget the crosses displayed everyday."

Melissa C. McCord: "Please tell See Comments, Page 9



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# OBITUARIES

**Doris B. Steward**  
October 3, 1938 - December 6, 2016



Doris B. Steward, 78, of Carthage, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016, at Kindred Healthcare in Greenfield. She was born Oct. 3, 1938, in Jabez, Ky., a daughter of the late Eddie and Lola (Frye) Roy.

A 1958 graduate of Wilkinson High School, and a homemaker most of her life, Doris was an avid flower gardener, and entered her flowers in many 4-H competitions, which yielded her several championship ribbons. Also, when she was younger, she wrote as a columnist for the *Rushville Republican*, *Knightstown Banner*, and the *Carthage Chatter* newspapers.

She leaves to cherish her memory, three sons, Allen Steward of Carthage, Mark Steward of Pittsboro, and Kent (Tamera) Steward of Pittsboro; a granddaughter, Samantha Steward of California; a great granddaughter, Danica Steward of California. Also, three sisters, Darlus Johnson of Anderson, Barbara Norfleet of Carthage, and Kay (Floyd) Steward of Anderson; three brothers, Gary (Jean) Roy of Knightstown, Roger (Patty) Roy of New Castle, and Ronnie Roy of California; several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Sue Moore, and two brothers, Phillip and James Roy. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 9, at Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service, Knightstown Chapel, with Pastor George Maloyed Jr. and Doris' family officiating. A private burial will be in Harlan Cemetery near Wilkinson at the convenience of the family. You may share a condolence or memory of Doris at www.hinsey-brown.com.

**Helen Louis Merriman**  
December 10, 2016

Helen Louis Merriman, 92, of Greenfield, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016 at Golden Living Brandywine in Greenfield. The family will have a private graveside service.

**Ewell K. Barnes**  
November 29, 1951 - November 11, 2016

Ewell K. Barnes, 65, of Shirley, passed away Sunday evening at his home. He was born Nov. 29, 1951, a son of Herschel and Freya (Whitely) Barnes.

He is survived by several family members, including two sons, Gregory Barnes of Nineveh and Luke Barnes of Ft. Benning, Ga.

A complete obituary and memorial service arrangements will be announced at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service, Knightstown Chapel. You may share a memory or condolence of Ewell at www.hinsey-brown.com.

### Lawsuit, from Page 1

Tompkins was seeking monetary damages in addition to removal of the cross.

Ken Falk, the ACLU of Indiana's legal director and the attorney who filed the lawsuit on Tompkins' behalf, told The Banner that the Star's reporter got this part of her story wrong. Tompkins, he said, never asked for any monetary damages, and the ACLU would be contacting the Star to ask that they correct this misinformation. With the cross now removed, Falk said he anticipated the lawsuit would be dismissed, with the town not even being asked to pay court costs or attorney fees.

Based on the nature of comments posted on online social media and overheard around town since the filing of the lawsuit, the *Star's* mischaracterization of the lawsuit as one seeking monetary

town.

"That's definitely wrong," Tompkins told The Banner on Monday. "This is not - and never was - about money. ... What this is about is the Constitution and particularly the First Amendment with regard to establishment of religion."

In addition to the erroneous claim that Tompkins was seeking monetary damages as part of his lawsuit, there have also been some who have questioned whether the litigation was prompted by The Banner. The newspaper's owner and publisher, Eric Cox, said he wants everyone to know that is absolutely not the case.

### Banner Clarifies Tompkins Relationship

It is now being posted around social media that The Banner pays the plaintiff Joseph Tompkins cash to work at The Banner taking photos and delivering the paper. The Banner, like many newspapers, pays for stories and photos from correspondents and hires independent contractors to deliver the newspaper.

Since The Banner is published once a week and delivered to only a small number of local business news stand locations, we have always had an independent contractor to work about one hour per week delivering The Banner. The amount paid does not meet the annual threshold amount required and is considered a weekly expense. In our 18 years of running The Banner, we have had only three people handling this for us. Tompkins has been

See Banner, Page 9

damages - an error that was later repeated by several other news sources - led many to think that Tompkins filed the lawsuit solely in an effort to get money from the

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## Clear Thinking

"The human heart is a strange vessel. Love and hatred can exist side by side."

**Scott Westerfeld**

# Shelter House Roof Replacement Delayed

by Jeff Eakins  
for The Banner

While much of the replacement of the roof on the Sunset Park shelter house is finished, completion of the job will take a while longer.

Zane Trueblood of Trueblood Metal, the Greenfield-based firm hired to do the work on the roof, told Knightstown Parks and Recreation Board members at a meeting last Wednesday that he had run into problems trying to remove the chimney on the building's north side. While he was able to remove most of the chimney on the south side, he said one on the north side, which was built with larger stones, was proving to be more difficult to take down.

Trueblood said at last week's meeting that he would need to rent a 100-pound jackhammer and air compressor if the park board still wanted the north chimney taken down. He estimated that it would cost \$200 a day to rent this equipment and take 10 days to finish the job.

As an alternative, Trueblood said he could construct a wooden frame around the chimney, install weatherproofing and a cap, and then cover the chimney from top to bottom with vinyl siding that matches that on the rest of the shelter house. He was unable to provide board members with firm figures that night on how much it would cost to do that, or tell them how much the bill was, at that point, for work already completed.

Board members discussed the possibility of having a mason tuck-point the chimney and keeping it in place. Trueblood said if the board opted for that, his recommendation would be to get that work out of the way before finishing the roof around the chimney; otherwise, the new metal roof might be damaged by workers doing the tuck-pointing.

Suzee Neal, the board's president, said she had received several calls from people who did not want to see the chimney taken down. She said she favored keeping the

chimney and having it tuck-pointed to address any issues with leaking, but, in the absence of cost estimates, the board took no action that night.

The park board revisited the issue during a special meeting Monday evening, but Trueblood was not in attendance, leaving board members with some unanswered questions about the cost of its options. Neal said an e-mail from Trueblood indicated it might cost an additional \$2,500 to do put vinyl siding around the chimney, and board members had no estimates on what the tuck-pointing would cost.

Board member Jan McGuire said she had spoken to two people who do masonry work. One of them, she said, told her the work couldn't be done if it is below 40 degrees, while the other told her the work area could be covered and heated to allow the work to be done in colder temperatures. McGuire said she is waiting to hear back from a third person, and is expecting estimates from all three.

"Until we see those bids, we really can't do anything," Neal said. The issue will be taken up again at the park board's regular monthly meeting, which is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27, in the park shelter house.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the park board discussed a \$420 invoice received from park handyman Dave Huffman for work winterizing and closing the park's splash pad and restrooms. Board members held off approving payment of the Huffman's bill and said they would ask him to submit an itemized statement showing what he did and how much time he spent doing it before paying him.

More information about the Dec. 7 and Dec. 12 park board meetings can be found in the memoranda and minutes of those proceedings. Those public records are available for inspection and copying at Knightstown Town Hall, 26 S. Washington St., during normal business hours.

# Carthage Preparing to Seek Another \$40,000 Planning Grant

by Jeff Eakins  
for The Banner

The town of Carthage is preparing to seek another \$40,000 grant from the state that will help pay for the development of a comprehensive plan for the town.

The Carthage Town Council held a brief public hearing at the outset of Monday's monthly council meeting on its plans to apply for the grant. Dave Kieser, a Lawrence-based planning consultant whose firm, Kieser Consulting Group LLC, has been working with the town on planning and develop-

ment issues for a couple of years now, provided details about the grant.

According to Kieser, the town will be applying later this month for the \$40,000 planning grant through the state's Office of Community and Rural Affairs. The agency's State Community Development Block Grant program receives its funding through Title I of the Federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

If the grant is awarded, the town will chip in \$4,500 of its own funds to go with the \$40,000 from OCRA. Kieser said the town's portion will come from Economic Development Income Tax funds.

The council voted Monday to hire Kieser's firm to work with the town on development of a comprehensive plan, if the town gets the grant. Kieser said the plan will include an overview of the town's history and present conditions, and will propose both short-term and long-term planning and development goals for the town.

"This is, basically ... to evaluate the planning and development in Carthage for the next 20 years," Kieser told council members. He also stressed that having a comprehensive plan will help the town in efforts to obtain larger, more substantial grants to help pay for further improvements to the town.

Kieser said he thought the town

would find out some time in January if its grant application is successful. If it is, he said the next step will be to form a steering committee consisting of local citizens and business owners and one or two council members to work with his firm on drafting the comprehensive plan.

Kieser Consulting previously helped the town obtain a \$40,000 planning grant from OCRA a couple of years ago. Those funds were used to pay the firm to prepare a 60-plus-page Economic Development and Downtown Revitalization Plan that was

See Carthage, Page 9

## Council Alters Meeting Location

The Knightstown Town Council has changed the location for Thursday's monthly meeting.

According to notice issued yesterday by the town, Thursday's meeting is being moved to the shelter house at Sunset Park, 206 S. Hill Ave. While the notice gave no reason for the change in location, it is likely due to anticipation of a larger-than-usual crowd resulting from the controversy surrounding the lawsuit filed against the town over the cross that was atop the tree on the public square.

Thursday's council meeting will still have a 7 p.m. start time.



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# Banner PERSPECTIVES

## 'All Hearts Go Home for Christmas'

*"O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, Your branches green delight us! They are green when summer days are bright, They are green when winter snow is white ..."*

*O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree*

*You fill my heart with music. Reminding me on Christmas Day To think of you and then be gay ..."*

Christmas trees originated in Germany during the 15th century. Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's consort, introduced them in England. Bill experienced a tree with real candles at a home to which he had been invited while in the Army in Germany. "It was lovely!" he said.

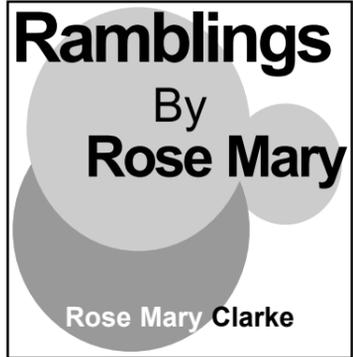
Christmas tree memories have been woven on my loom of life with threads of gold and silver, red and green. To me, a Christmas tree is an objet d'art, and I'd choose a beautiful tree over presents. Real trees are inefficient, messy and take effort. Those who buy pre-lit, packaged trees cannot have the family memories that come with real trees.

Daddy often bought crooked or prickly trees that only Charlie Brown could love. One year Mother and I made chains of cranberries. Alas, the cranberries rotted. After we finished decorating, we'd all go out and stand on the sidewalk to admire the lighted tree

through the window.

One year my brother-in-law dragged in a dried-out tree that promptly shed its needles.

Christine was so aggravated that she threw it out on Christmas day. A mild-mannered friend was having so much trouble installing the tree that he totally lost his cool



and heaved it out the door while his daughters wept and wailed. Their mother insisted that he immediately buy another tree.

We worried about our first tree. Would Bill choose a pretty tree? Would I be as slapdash as his sister, Joyce who threw the tinsel on the tree? Not to worry: Bill goes to great effort to find a beautiful tree, regardless of cost; and I am picky about decorating. Each strand of tinsel must hang straight.

When Vicki was about 13, we decided to buy an absolutely fresh tree. We froze our butts at a tree farm on the coldest day of

December without finding a tree. Another year, little Vicki watched through the rear window as we drove home via Shadeland Ave. during rush hour. "Stop, stop!" she shrieked. "The tree has fallen out!"

Traffic stopped and people honked and laughed as we dashed back to retrieve it.

One time a market owner's wife sold us a gorgeous tree that had been reserved for one of the city's movers and shakers who was irate when he found out about it. Another time a swallowtail butterfly flew out of our tree, but, alas, Kitter caught it. Then there was the tree that smelled like cat after it warmed up ...

Each box of ornaments contains memories: The first year that we were married, we bought a battered box of antique glass ornaments at the Catholic Salvage Store that included an old man in an ornament, strawberries, a beautiful pear and a charming stork with long legs. There's a ball with scenes from the famous tapestry at the Cluny Museum in Paris that friend Phyllis found for us and an Eiffel Tower that I bought when we were in Paris with her. I cherish ornaments that once belonged to Christine's sister-in-law, Hazel Jones Dudley. There's light-bulb Santa made by grandboy Billy, crafts made by nieces Sharon and Barbara, an Anne of Green Gables

See Rose Mary, Page 6

## A Scared Voice from Georgia Shows Love

"I saw what y'all are going through up there," she said in a raspy, gentle voice, "and I just wanted to call up there and spread some love."

I didn't get her name, but she said she was in a Georgia hospital, scared and alone. "It's not the time of year for all this right now," she continued. "I can't stand to see anyone mad at Christmas."

Her wheezing came through slightly on the phone, sounding like wind through dry grass. "I just wanted to wish you all a merry Christmas."

Another woman, her voice much softer and sweeter, like a grandmother's whisper, called from North Carolina. She wished Knightstown well amid its turmoil and said she was praying for the community.

"I hope you all have a merry Christmas up there," she said before she hung up.

Others called, all from other states, questioning, worrying, wondering about the cross situation. But, most of them seemed intent on one thing: wishing this community well in a time of turmoil.

No one called the newspaper and demanded Joe Tompkins be hung, or run out of town, or crucified or shunned. No one sent us messages, e-mails or letters asking for his head on a platter. Not there wasn't plenty of that. There was, and it continues even today.

What we received were calls of encouragement - not for harm to be done to this man. Rather, we received messages of forgiveness and love, of understanding and empathy.

It buoyed my hope that not everyone around here is enmeshed in this rather hateful campaign to malign, threaten and maybe even physically harm this person.

I empathize with those who are mad, too, though.

Something very, very near and dear to their hearts came under the mantel of scrutiny. Some say their elected officials let them down when they took down the cross. Some pretty heavy and hateful threats were leveled at them, too.

But, for all the venom deposited on Tompkins' head, it's the forgiving, love-driven complaints that ring true in my ears. Kind humans set themselves apart from the herd when they meet what they see as a threat with kindness - when they unconditionally love another person, though that person may have greatly offended them.

It may be the truest, most genuine form of kindness there is - to show love for, or embrace one who they feel has trespassed on something so very sacred.

It's easy to lose sight of core values and principles in the midst of a crisis like this. But, those who adhere to that ethos, in spite of their anger, reveal themselves as genuine and sincere.

For me, the heartfelt call from a sick and scared Georgia woman offered a welcome respite from the bitter whirlwind of hatred and scorn. It was clear from her tired voice and apprehensive tone that she was very weary of out distant turmoil and couldn't really bear to see such hostility at Christmastime.

Reaching out to soothe and love, she called the newspaper, thinking her voice, fragile as it was, would somehow echo and bring peace. I have no clue what horrors she was facing in that hospital. But, it was clear she was scared.

That fear didn't bring hate to her heart, though. It didn't drive from her the everyday goodness and empathy that are common traits in all people, whether they realize it or not. Her fear brought love.



by eric cox

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We all know that government is supposed to avoid the endorsement of a particular sect. Since when did that "rule" also require total eradication of all religious symbols in the public eye?

I struggle with the thought that a cross at the top of a Christmas tree decorated by the town be taken as a statement of governmental support for sectarianism.

Think about this: someone's offended by a cross atop a Christmas tree - in the same town in which a sign was erected for years on Main Street calling the President of the United States a dumbass. Really?

I just have a few questions.

What is the cost to the taxpayers to light that cross? What will the cost be to the taxpayers for the town to defend itself against Joe Tompkins' frivolous lawsuit? What specifically are the monetary damages Mr. Tompkins has suffered due to his inability to not look at a pine tree?

I suggest a fundraiser. Not to collect money to pay for the illumination of the cross or set up a defense fund because of the lawsuit. The easiest way to solve this problem might be to help Mr. Tompkins with moving expenses, thereby making his life more manageable.

I pledge \$100.

Ty Swincher  
Shirley

Dear Editor,

Christmas in Knightstown ...

The world seems like a terribly small place. We seem to be on the news more than usual this year, and given the state of the news these days, that's not a terribly great thing. If an objective observer of Knightstown was to view us entirely from the news, they would see a highly divisive, bitter community. They would probably write us off as just another angry small town, which is a shame because the Knightstown I grew up in is so much more than that.

The anger comes from so many people. Christmas isn't about politics, religious iconography, or eating lots of food (though, actually, it is about eating a lot of food). What is Christmas about? That's unique to each of us, I think.

As a child it was about presents, bright lights, uncomfortable sweaters, Rudolph on the TV, and food (I'm not obsessed with food, I swear). Now as an adult, it's harder to say. Though I'm a Christian, Christmas has never seemed like it is actually about Christ. If you look up "what Christmas is about" you will likely find opinions of every sort. "It's about the newborn Christ!" "It's a pagan celebration of the solstice!" "Its about giving gifts and buying things!" "Its about food!"

I'm not saying any of these are wrong (that last one isn't for sure), but I want to know what is Christmas about in Knightstown - really about. Here is my two cents.

Christmas in Knightstown has always been one thing to me: the Cheer Guild. My Grandfather use to make me go help, actually he asked me to help, but you know how that works. I use to feel uncomfortable there. Pulling food and gifts and putting it on a number associated with a family I very likely knew. But as I've grown, it upsets me to miss it. I've missed it twice in the last how many years, I don't know, and each time, Christmas is a lot more incomplete in my heart. And as I see (and

See Letters, Page 15

The Banner values reader opinions and welcomes letters to the editor. To be considered for publication, letters must be signed by the author and contain a phone number and address for verification purposes. The Banner does not guarantee the veracity of factual assertions contained in letters to the editor, and their publication should in no way be construed as the newspaper's endorsement of the letters' contents. The opinions represented in letters to the editor, as well as any misstatement of fact therein, are solely those of the letters' authors. Letters to the editor may be edited, and, ideally, should be no more than 300 words in length.

### EDITORIAL BOARD

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# THE Banner

a responsible community newspaper

*"Freedom is hammered out on the anvil of discussion, dissent and debate."*

Hubert H. Humphrey

# BITS & PIECES

◆The Shirley Fire Department is **collecting toys** to give to area families. The fire department is coordinating with Eastern Hancock schools and the Knightstown Cheer Guild. All new toys will be delivered to the schools and Cheer Guild for distribution. Collection boxes are located at Shirley Town Hall, Star Financial Bank in Shirley, Wilkinson Dollar General, Wilkinson Church of Christ, Wilkinson Insurance and Tennant Chiropractic Clinic. The boxes will be picked up on Dec. 19. For more information, call 765-738-6590.

◆Knightstown Friends Church, 214 E. Brown St., will host its annual **Christmas Candlelight Service** on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. The event will include readings, congregational singing accompanied by Robin Richey, and the lighting of personal Christmas candles at the end of the service. Cookies, punch and fellowship will follow the service. The public is invited to attend this annual community event.

◆The **Henry Henley Public Library**, 102 N. Main St., Carthage, will host visits with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 17, 1-3 p.m. Santa will read a classic holiday story and take pictures with children. The digital pictures and refreshments are free. All ages

welcome. For more information, call 565-6631.

◆As we do each year, The Banner will not publish **Christmas week**. There will not be a Dec. 21 issue. The newspaper will resume publishing on Wednesday, Dec. 28. Advertising and news deadlines remain the same: Monday at 5 p.m. for both.

◆The public is invited to attend **Christmas Eve services** at First Christian Church, 138 W. Main St., Knightstown, beginning at 6 p.m. The story of the nativity will be told with scripture, carols and silhouettes. Anthony Darling will be the mediator for the evening. The program will close with communion. Also, the public is invited to attend the church's youth Christmas program on Dec. 18 beginning at 7 p.m.

◆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 murals on the bridge abutments located in Raysville. For information call Jeff Ray at 765-524-1753.

or Jan McGuire at 317-509-4039.

◆**Bicentennial Hoosier Gym T-shirts** are now available to order from Beautify Knightstown, Inc. in gray or gold with the official bicen-

tennial 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 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 812-583-0030 or 765-737-6856.

◆The **Historic Knightstown museum**, located on the Public Square at 22 N. Washington St., has new hours. The museum's current hours, in effect now, 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.

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a blessed Christmas.

Please stop by Thursday or Friday, December 15th or 16th, from 3 to 6 p.m. for  
cider, cookies, and an ornament in memory of your loved one.

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**Sunday Night ... 6 p.m.**  
**Wed. Bible Study Prayer Service ... 6 p.m.**  
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**Timeless Furnishings Owner Diana Eyster Happy to Offer Classy, Festive Additions to Home Decor**

by Logan Cox  
 for The Banner

Only open for a year-and-a-half now, Timeless Furnishings is one of Knightstown's newest small businesses. It is owned and operated by Diana (Turpen) Eyster, and offers a variety of classy, festive additions to home decor. The store is currently making many sales on Christmas-related home furnishings.

"We are seasonal," said Eyster. "In the spring, we're decorated for spring. Of course, we're kind of rounding out the end of Christmas, so there's a lot of Christmas items in here."

The store originated out of Eyster's "love of buying things at a reasonable cost and passing them off to people at a reasonable cost. Just the fun of decorating."

According to Eyster, what is most significant for her about her work are the relationships she's established with her customers.

"I try to treat my customers like friends and find what they're looking for," she said.

Eyster enjoys the stories that come as a result of finding the things people are looking for. For her, it's a small way in which she can be part of people's lives.

"I just really like people," she said. "I like hearing what they're looking for, trying to match what I see at auctions with that, and make sure that they're able to buy something at an affordable price that they're proud of for their house. I kind of come from humble means. I've always wanted my kids to have their bedrooms the way they like them, in my own home, and I just try to do that for other people too."

She was happy to note that, despite her doubts early on, Timeless Furnishings has stayed relatively busy since it first opened.

"I was afraid that being in a small shop might be kind of difficult to make a go of it. But, as it turns out, Knightstown residents and people from the area really seem to like to decorate and do a lot of the same things I like," said Eyster. "So we've kept very busy. We haven't really had a downtime."

About 90 percent of the items Eyster has on display at Timeless Furnishings come from estate sales.

Her daughter, Ashley Turpen, runs a small business of her own out of the same store. With the Itty Bitty Bakery, Turpen offers a wide selection of pastries and other desserts to go alongside her mother's stock of antiques and home furnishings.

"We have a lot of fun," Eyster said of her daughter. "Where it might be stressful for some families, it's brought us closer. And I get to be a little part of her starting her own business. She's only 19, and we're real proud of her. As soon as she leaves culinary school, she'll be able to do this full time."

Longtime family friend, Brandon, and Ashley's boyfriend, Michael, also work in the building, providing assistance to both Timeless Furnishings and Itty Bitty Bakery.

Jeffrey Eyster, Diana's husband, is an engineer at Raytheon in Indianapolis. He also helps out at Timeless Furnishings.

Eyster and her family have lived in Knightstown for about as long as Timeless Furnishings has been open. They came from Batesville beforehand.

"We bought our house about five years ago, but it took about four years to renovate it," she said.

This house she referred to was the Solomon House on Main Street, which drew Eyster to settle her family in Knightstown.

"We didn't even know one person," said Eyster. "But I just fell in love with the town and there's been a lot of love since."

Eyster has been overjoyed at the warm reception of the town's citizens, who have helped her comfortably adjust to her new home as well as her new business.

"Kevin Richey came over to the shop the first day and took a picture with himself, me, my daughter and Michael who works here," she said. "He shared it on his Facebook and they kept sharing it for me. Renee McVey at Earth's Creations, she kept doing it. Lots of other people. They didn't even know me. They were just like, "Oh a new place, let's help them!""

Timeless Furnishings and Itty Bitty Bakery can both be found at 133 East Main Street in Knightstown.

THIS SECTION SPONSORED BY  
**MidCountry Media, Inc.**

Rose Mary, from Page 4

that Jana gave me, whimsical ornaments from nieces Dee and Patty, beautiful items that come in velvet boxes that Bill gave me ...

Vicki made a dough heart that says, "All hearts go home for Christmas for love is always there." When

we decorate the tree my heart returns to my childhood home in Knightstown, the double where Bill and I first lived, the house on Ritter where Vicki grew up, and now our Warren Park home.

[wclarke@comcast.net](mailto:wclarke@comcast.net)

**MEETINGS CALENDAR**

**Wed., Dec. 14** - Hancock Co. Council meeting, 8:30 a.m., courthouse annex room 101, Greenfield

**Wed., Dec. 14** - Rush Co. Council meeting, 9 a.m., courthouse assembly room, Rushville

**Wed., Dec. 14** - Henry Co. Commissioners meeting, 6 p.m., old circuit court room, 2nd floor of courthouse, New Castle (discussing wind farm)

**Wed., Dec. 14** - Rush Co.

Area Plan Commission meeting, 6 p.m., courthouse assembly room, Rushville

**Wed., Dec. 14** - Rush Co. Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, 7 p.m., courthouse assembly room, Rushville

**Thurs., Dec. 15** - Henry Co. Planning Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m., old circuit court room, 2nd floor of courthouse, New Castle

**Thurs., Dec. 15** - Knightstown Town Council

meeting, 7 p.m., Sunset Park shelter house, 206 S. Hill Ave.

**Mon., Dec. 19** - Eastern Hancock School Corp. board meeting, 7 p.m., administration building

**Tues., Dec. 20** - Hancock Co. Commissioners meeting, 8 a.m., courthouse annex room 101, Greenfield

**Tues., Dec. 20** - Charles A. Beard Memorial School board meeting, 7 p.m., high school media center

**Tues., Dec. 20** - Rush Co. Health Dept. board meeting, 7 p.m., Health Dept. office at courthouse, Rushville

**Wed., Dec. 21** - Henry Co. Council meeting, 3:30 p.m., old circuit court room, 2nd floor of courthouse, New Castle

**Wed., Dec. 21** - Henry Co. Commissioners meeting, 6 p.m., old circuit court room, 2nd floor of courthouse, New Castle

**Fri., Dec. 23** - Hancock Co., Henry Co. government offices closed for Christmas holiday

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# FOLKWAYS

## Local Tri Kappa Members Enjoy Christmas Meeting

On Tuesday, Dec. 6, following a brief business meeting in the upstairs art gallery of the Tour of Italy restaurant in Greenfield, the ladies of the Knightstown Chapter of Tri Kappa, headed downstairs for their annual Christmas celebration and dinner.

A beautifully set table awaited the members along with a gift bag filled with homemade candies prepared by the dinner committee, which includes Paula Ortman, Sandra Muncy, Erin Winters, Betts Adams and Brittney Dishman. Though lively conversation with friends would have been enough entertainment for the evening, vocalist Chad Brown was on hand to sing a variety of Christmas songs which added the perfect background for the festive occasion.

President Jill Null was presented with a Christmas gift from the chapter and a door prize consisting of a variety of winter warming treats was awarded to Cindy Biehl. After a filling pasta dinner and a delicious dessert the evening came to an end. Tri Kappa members said goodbye for the year and wished each other a merry Christmas.



Tri Kappa members enjoy their Christmas meeting. (Photo submitted)

## First Day Hike at Summit Lake

Usher in 2017 with other outdoor lovers at one of the many First Day Hikes, and one First Day Horse Ride, offered Jan. 1 at Indiana's state parks.

First Day Hikes are a healthy way to start 2017 and a chance to get outside, exercise, enjoy nature and connect with friends.

DNR's Division of State Parks is hosting 32 First Day events throughout the state.

Local events include:  
Summit Lake State Park: An indoor activity for kids starts at 11:30 a.m. At noon, hikers should meet at the park office for a "Hike in the Hidden Prairie." The hike

will be 3/4-mile long along a mowed path and will last about an hour. Coffee, hot chocolate and donuts will be available.

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## Cheer Guild, Others Get HCCF Grants

The Knightstown Cheer Guild Inc. and two other Henry County organizations will share \$6,300 in grant funds awarded by the Henry County Community Foundation to help provide Christmas gifts for needy children this holiday season.

The HCCF announced earlier this week that the Knightstown Cheer Guild, the Christian Love Help Center/Shelter in New Castle and the Middletown/Fall Creek Township EMS are the recipients of the Harold E. and Imogene M. Caine

Memorial Fund grants for 2016. The Knightstown Cheer Guild will be receiving \$2,000, while the Christian Love Center and MFCT EMS were awarded \$1,500 and \$2,800, respectively.

The Caines were residents of Mt. Summit and regular supporters of the Toys for Tots program. As part of their last will and testament, they established this fund, which, since 2002, has provided holiday cheer for over 2,600 Henry County children.

## State Police Alliance Bestows Grants

Since 1991, the Indiana State Police Alliance (ISPA), through its Cops for Kids program, has been able to assist our Indiana youth by funding programs around the state. The ISPA prides itself in building relationships between Indiana's youth and our member Indiana State Troopers. Building better and stronger communities by teaming local troopers with the youth in their communities is a benefit that is priceless, ISPA said.

In 2016, ISPA Cops for Kids has assisted the following programs:

- New Carlisle Wesleyan Church Youth Program - New Carlisle
- South Ripley Lady Raider Basketball Program - Versailles
- Indiana Raptors Youth Travel Baseball - Greenville
- Rochester Youth Wrestling - Rochester
- Mount Vernon (Posey) Youth Soccer Club - Mt.



- Vernon Elite Softball Club - Kendallville
- Ice All Stars Cheerleading - Westfield
- Trooper Patrick Bartram Christmas for Kids - Indianapolis

- Mount Vernon (Hancock) H.S. Jr. varsity volleyball - Fortville
- Pendleton Youth Basketball - Pendleton
- Wapahani Girls Soccer - Wapahani
- Crown Point Panthers Youth Football - Crown Point

The next round of grants will be given in March 2017 with applications being received in February of 2017. To make a donation to assist the

ISPA and its Cops for Kids program, contact the ISPA office by phone, 316-626-0929, by mail at 1415 Shelby St, Indianapolis, 46203, or by email at waynefflick@infianasfinest.com.

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## New Healthy Eating Classes Begin January 3

Healthy Eating is about much more than losing weight. It can help you:

- Meet your personal wellness goals
- Have more energy
- Lower your cholesterol
- Lower your blood pressure
- Manage your diabetes
- Save money as you may no longer need certain medications
- Even help you gain weight if you have no appetite

Our Healthy Eating Every Day (HEED) classes are designed for anyone who wants to make lifestyle changes to their eating habits. The class gives you the tools and support you need to make these changes and actually learn how to make them permanent.

Healthy Eating Every Day (HEED) is a behavior change program by Human Kinetics and The Cooper Institute that helps people improve their quality of life through better eating. This evidence-based course is built on the curriculum tested in The Cooper Institute's Lifestyle Nutrition Study.

Healthy Eating Every Day differs from other nutrition education programs because it does the following:

**Focuses on the underlying causes of unhealthy eating.** Participants focus on learning and practicing behavior change skills, such as goal setting, self-monitoring, social support, and relapse prevention, which support healthy eating habits.

**Allows participants to customize the program to their needs.** Participants choose which healthy eating goal or goals they want to address. They learn to apply HEED's behavior change skills to the particular aspects of their diets that they need to change.

### Enroll Today For Only \$30

The cost is \$30 for the 14-week class which includes one-on-one health coaching opportunities, a support group and the ability to retake the course as often they like. Members pay at the first class by either check or cash. You can enroll by calling Joy Hinshaw at 599.3576

### Class Schedule

Classes are held at Forest Ridge in the main level conference room by Rehabilitation Services.

#### Tuesdays: January 3 - April 4, 2017

- 1:00-2:30 pm
- 4:00-5:30 pm
- 6:00-7:30pm

#### Thursdays: January 5 - April 6, 2017

- 8:30-10:00 am
- 2:00-3:30 pm

#### Fridays: January 6 - April 7, 2017

- 7:30-9:00 am
- 10:30-12:00 pm
- 2:00-3:30 pm support group



## Upcoming

### Events

**Tuesday, Jan. 3 | 4:30 pm**  
**Freedom From Smoking**  
 Henry Community Health  
 Main Campus/Hospital  
 Delmar | 765.521.1176

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**Thursday, Jan. 5 | 6 pm**  
**Prenatal Class**  
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 Main Campus/Hospital  
 Melissa | 765.521.1116

**Saturday, Jan. 21 | 8 am - 4 pm**  
**Saturday Prenatal Class**  
 Henry Community Health  
 Main Campus/Hospital  
 Melissa | 765.521.1116

**Monday, Jan. 23 | 6 pm**  
**Infant Feeding Class**  
 Henry Community Health  
 Main Campus/Hospital  
 Melissa | 765.521.1116

**2nd Monday | 5 - 7 pm**  
**4th Thursday | 11 am - 1 pm**  
**Infant Feeding Support Group**  
 Henry Community Health  
 Main Campus/Hospital  
 Women & Children's Unit Classroom  
 765.521.1116

*For more information on these and other events, check online at [hchcares.org](http://hchcares.org).*

### Meet Your Facilitator Joy Hinshaw



*She lost 63 pounds and no longer needs her blood pressure medication.*

Joy actively practices the principles of the Healthy Eating Every Day program. Before she completed her facilitator training she weighed 210 pounds with high blood pressure controlled with medication.

She decided if she was going to teach this class she had to be able demonstrate that it works.

So, January 1, 2015 she began working the program session by session, practicing its principles with her main focus on controlling her blood pressure without the need of medication. She set goals, identified her triggers and barriers and worked through this all using the problem-solving skills the Healthy Eating program teaches. Now, two years since beginning her journey of lifestyle changes she no longer needs medication for her blood pressure and has maintained her loss of 63 lbs!

## UNITED AGAINST THE FLU

*This is the season of giving - Don't let your germs be an unwanted gift. Protect yourself and your family by getting vaccinated against the flu & practicing good hand washing hygiene.*

### PLAN TO STAY HEALTHY THIS FLU SEASON - GET VACCINATED TODAY!

Did you know that approximately 970,000 Americans were hospitalized due to the flu in 2014, and more than 40 million were affected by flu-related

illnesses, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). In addition to symptoms including sore throat, aches and fever, the flu can lead to serious health complications such as pneumonia.

One of the most important steps you can take to avoid serious, flu-related illnesses is to be vaccinated.

#### WHO NEEDS A FLU VACCINE?

Almost everyone. The CDC recommends that anyone 6 months of age and older get vaccinated, particularly people who are at a high risk for flu complications. This includes people 65 years and older, young children, pregnant women and

people with chronic conditions such as asthma or heart disease. Individuals who care for or live with these high-risk populations also should get vaccinated.

#### FLU SHOT OR NASAL SPRAY VACCINE?

There are several flu vaccine options for the 2016-2017 flu season, though the CDC does not recommend the nasal spray flu vaccine this season. Different flu vaccines are approved for use in different groups of people. Factors that can determine a person's suitability for vaccination, or vaccination with a particular vaccine, include a person's age, health (current and past) and any relevant allergies, including an egg allergy.

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Lewisville Masonic Lodge 72 recently donated money to Tri Elementary for their Tri Treasure Tree. Pictured (l-r) is Adam Thompson, treasurer; Justin Thompson, secretary; Terry Southerland, worshipful master; Natalie Fredenburg; and Principle Nick Kimmel.

**Carthage, from Page 3**

finished last year. More recently, Kieser Consulting was instrumental in the town obtaining an \$89,000 Rural Business Development grant earlier this year from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Rural Development that will help fund improvements to the downtown area. Combined with a \$6,000 grant the town received from the Rush County Community Foundation and another \$8,700 from the town, these grant funds will pay for 10 or 11 new street lights, six new handicap accessibility sidewalk ramps, six planters, six trash receptacles and six benches, and pay for restriping of road and sidewalk crossings and fees for engineering,

design and inspection. In a related matter, the council also voted Monday, on Kieser's recommendation, to hire the Schneider Corp., another Lawrence firm, to do a topographical survey of the downtown area for \$4,750. Once this work is done, Kieser said Duke Energy will finalize its design plans for the new streetlights that will be installed downtown.

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

**Banner, from Page 2**

me that removing the cross was the only resolution to this situation and that this person was not awarded money for googling how to make a quick buck based on crap. I have a strong feeling that beliefs have nothing to do with this rather how to make money off of a weakness in the system. Ask yourself why now is this such an irreparably offensive sight. Sincerely, Knightstown resident from '86-'99."

Tracey McDaniel: "He may have won, but his feelings of victory will only be temporary. We need to pray for this man's heart and show him what true love is through Christ."

Beth Turpin: "I'm sad to hear this. Very proud of the town I grew up in for covering the town with crosses and prayer and for reaching out to help the family."

Eric Winters: "Not surprised at all the town council didn't fight it. It would have been thousands of dollars in legal fees and there's not money in this town to fix potholes let alone saving the cross. The council needs to outsmart these atheist with creative local ordinances allowing such displays."

Adrian W Darling: "Sad! We must all remember the reason for the season. I will have a cross up this week. It's sad someone has taken the time to put such a mark on the Christmas season. A symbol that represents our Lord and savior Jesus Christ."

Kathy Adkins: "I am very disappointed in our council. This is more than a monetary issue!"

Janice Goings: "This is a Christian Nation. EVERY government building in the USA should have a giant cross on top. The idiots who worship false gods should just shut up. Jesus and his Father and the Holy Ghost are the only true Gods! ALL other gods are imaginary. God Bless America!"

Scott Lambert: "This is total BS. I understand the legal aspects but it's total BS. This jerk needs to be run out of town!!!!!!"

A small number of online posters, while not defending the lawsuit, took issue with some of the more mean-spirited attacks directed at the plaintiff.

Joe Shannon: "As Christians we should shower this man with the love of JESUS and not do and act as the world does or says, as followers of Christ we are an example of him, Ask yourself how JESUS would handle this situation, ANSWER, he would simply Love him, and Love never fails."

Krista Phipps: "I understand everyone is upset, but the people making comments about

beating this guy up or running him out of town are just as bad as he is. This man just wanted money, and the town has made a decision so that this man and the ACLU will not see a penny from Knightstown."

Jim Williams: "A cross on top of a tree in a public square has no bearing on anyone's faith or lack thereof. What has bearing is how each and every person treats this man and his family. You want to say you represent Christian Faith? Then show that. ... Be the hands and feet of your faith. No harsh word .. no threats ... no violence .. no revenge or retribution. Any one person who makes these attacking comments has no right to claim a faith based response to any event that occurs."

Kim Butcher: "Is name calling and using the cross for spite REALLY the way?"

There were also a few posting online comments who felt taking the cross down was the right thing to do.

Autumn Sloane Fairchild: "You should look up the real origin of Christmas and you will see that it is a pagan tradition and the Christians stole it and turn it into something its not. ... Not everyone in Knightstown is a Christian so no they should not have put up a cross out of respect for everyone. ... [i]f they put a different religious symbol say a Star of David for Judaism or a lotus flower for Buddhism or a pentagram for Wicca all of you would have freaked out and did what he did!"

Geoffrey Marks: "I'm proud of you Knightstown. It sucks that the law didn't support your tradition, but I think we can all agree that if we have to relocate one cross in order to remain lawful and supportive to the thousands of non-Christians it was worth it. The constitution applies, even when it sucks."

Valerie Chew: "I don't know why it was ever a cross. A cross is for Easter anyway... and a star is generic, yet has Biblical roots. It should have always been a star."

Kathy Horsman Copeland: "... I am a Christian, Catholic specifically, and I do not want a government office paid for by all taxpayers to endorse any religious symbols. ... Religious freedom is pretty important. Display to your hearts content all the crosses and manger scenes you wish on private property but you cannot cherry pick the 'rights' ensured to all of us as Americans. The ACLU's only job is to defend the Bill of Rights granted by our forefathers, they are not the enemy."

**Banner, from Page 2**

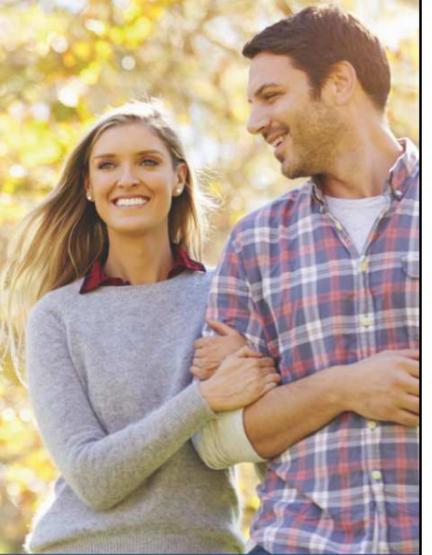
delivering the paper for a number of months since our longtime delivery man became unable to do so. We also purchased a couple of stories Tompkins submitted concerning local race car drivers a year or more ago. He has never served as a photog-

rapher for The Banner. While The Banner has in the past litigated over public records, the newspaper is not a party to this lawsuit nor do we ever encourage others to litigate on our behalf. - Eric and Stacy Cox, owners

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# Local Students' Santa Letters Published

Knights town Elementary School students recently penned letters to Santa Claus.

**Mrs. Evans - Grade 1**

I have been good. Did you watch me? Can you get me a pack of toothpaste? - Leah Amburgey

I have been good. Please bring me a German Shepard. - Sedda Dunaway

Please bring me a shirt. I have been great. I want a phone and some toys. - Kayden Foshee

Please bring me a red dirt bike and kick ball. I really want a phone. - Wyatt Halcomb

Dear Santa, Please bring some shopkins and legos and toys and a bunny and a deer shirt. - Chloe Johnson

Please bring me a pack of crayons. I have been kind of

naughty. I really want some toys. - Riley Logan

Please bring me a phone and I want some bells. - Emma Medlin

Please bring me an Iphone 7 and shoes and shirt. I have been good. I want earbuds too. - Josey Medlin

Dear Santa for Christmas I want shopkins, clothes, an American girl doll a makeup set and cookie maker with icing. - Jovie Renie

Please give me a baby stuffed cheetah, bike, clothes and please give me some cookies. - Lindsey Sanders

I have been good. Please can I have five nights of freddies? - Dylan Tompkins

Please get me a lamp and a baby. Thanks Santa. - Kiera Weidner

Please bring me pajamas and slippers also make up and a cat. - Sidney Worsham

Please bring me a babydoll. I have been good. - Karlie Mercer

I really want a dirt bike and xbox 360. My house number is 6436. - Ryan Murnan

**Mrs. Hamilton - Grade 1**  
My name is Gabriel. I want that video game pacman. I love Christmas. - Gabriel Swallers

My name is Gauge. I love Santa. I want Skylander and Plants vs Zombies game. A big giant marshmallow and gummy bear. - Gauge Sneed

My name Kiah. I want a computer and I want a new big real horse and I want an elf on the shelf. - Kiah McDonald

My name is Landon. I want a real magical flying pony. Thank you. Love Landon Gallien

My name is Hialie Maree Jett. I love Christmas. I want my dog to have puppies. I love Santa. Love Hailie Maree Jett

My name is Camren. I would like lots of hover boards. I also want a Blue Batman mask. Love Camren Theis

My name is Cotter. I would like a hover board. I would like an iPhone 7. I would also like a remote control car. Thank you! Love, Cotter Fletcher

My name is Catherine. I what bow and arrows and also a drone and paint and hair bow. Thank you! Love, Catherine Martin

My name is Toni. I would like shopkins and drones and an elf on the shelf iPhone and Baby Alive. I love you, Toni Ritchie

My name is Jaelynn. I would

like shopkins. I also want play dough. I also want a remote control car. Love, Jaelynn Ross

My name is Ryan. I want a lots of legos and a remote control car. You are the BEST!! Thank you Santa. Love, Ryan Specht

My name is Lexis. I want an iphone 7 and I want a puppy and I want the elf on the shelf and I want an American doll.-Alexis Whitfield

My name is Liam. I love Santa. I want a Furbee connect. I want minecraft. I want dog toys. I want goodies. Love, Liam Bowling

My name is Azlyn. I would like a lot of littlest pet shop. I would like a puppy. I would like some you tuber stuff. I would like some shopkins too. I would like littlest pet shop houses. -Azlyn Collins

My name is Ellie. I'd like a ball of yarn for my kitten, Leon. I want a new Barbie car. I really really want a new Christmas blanket and a book that shows me how reindeer can fly. I want a Christmas tree with ornaments, star and Christmas lights. Please bring matching Christmas sweaters for Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. King. Love, Ellie Boyer

My name is Caden Bonewits. I want a golf cart and a remote control monster truck. Love, Caden Bonewits

My name is Brody. I want a real car, a phone, a basketball, a baseball, a play station 4. I need a toothbrush, new socks, shirts and shoes. Love, Brody Mitchell

**Mrs. Lewman - Grade 1**

Dear Santa,  
I will leave you milk and cookies. I want a doll head that you can fix her hair. I want an American Girl Doll. I want some charm bracelets. I want a princess castle. I want a stuffed animal. I want a Hatchimal. Love, Bayleigh

Dear Santa,  
I want for Christmas a princess castle. Are you magic? Am I on the good list? Does Rudolph guide your sleigh? Can you give me a surprise? Can I have a Barbie camper? Love, Amelia

Dear Santa,  
How do you get around the entire world in one night? I want a Hatchimal. How do reindeer fly? What is your favorite animal? What do you do on Thanksgiving? I want a toy poodle. Love, Piper

Dear Santa,  
I want some surprises and a robot dog. I want some baby dolls. I want some charm bracelets and friendship bracelets. Love, Tessa

Dear Santa,  
It was funny when the reindeer left carrots on the porch. I want an Xbox One. Love, Braydon

Dear Santa,  
I want to sing carols. I want lots of surprises. I will leave you carrots and cookies. Love, Zayden

Dear Santa,  
I want a blue guitar. I wants lots of surprises. I will leave you milk and cookies. Love, Lena

Dear Santa,  
Am I on the good list? I want a pet dog. I want a new sleeping bag. I want a little live pet. Can I have a princess doll for my princess? I want a baby doll. I want a dolphin stuffed animal. Love, Lizzie

Dear Santa,  
Can you give me some Pokemon cards for Christmas? I want a Pokemon stuffed animal. I want candy! Love, Logan

Dear Santa,  
I want a pony and a horse. I want three new kittens. I want a little live pet. I want a Hatchimal. Love, Libby  
**See Santa, Page 14**

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# LOCAL SPORTS

## Area High School Sports Schedule for Dec. 14-28

### BOYS BASKETBALL - JV & Varsity

- ◆Dec. 15 - Knightstown (JV only) away at Eastern Hancock, 6 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 15 - Eastern Hancock at home vs. Knightstown for JV-only girls/boys doubleheader, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 16 - Knightstown (varsity only) at home vs. Eastern Hancock, 7:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 16 - Tri at home vs. Cowan, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 16 - Eastern Hancock away at Knightstown for varsity-only girls/boys doubleheader, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 17 - Knightstown away at Indianapolis Howe, 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 17 - Tri away at Union City, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 17 - Eastern Hancock at home vs. Cambridge City Lincoln, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 21 - Eastern Hancock at home vs. North Decatur, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 27 - Tri away at Anderson Preparatory Academy, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 27 - Eastern Hancock JV away at Frankton for girls/boys doubleheader, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 27 - Eastern Hancock varsity away at Frankton for varsity girls/boys doubleheader, 7:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 28 - Tri at home vs. Wes-Del, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL - JV & Varsity

- ◆Dec. 14 - Tri at home vs. Union County, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 15 - Knightstown at home vs. Eastern Hancock for JV only girls/boys doubleheader, 6 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 15 - Eastern Hancock at home vs. Knightstown for JV only girls/boys doubleheader, 6 p.m.

- ◆Dec. 16 - Knightstown at home vs. Eastern Hancock for varsity only girls/boys doubleheader, 6 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 16 - Eastern Hancock away at Knightstown for varsity-only girls/boys doubleheader, 6 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 17 - Knightstown away at Grosse Point South, 1:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 20 - Knightstown at home vs. Waldron, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 20 - Eastern Hancock away at Cambridge City Lincoln, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 21 - Tri at home vs. Union City, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 22 - Eastern Hancock away at Blue River Valley, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 27 - Knightstown away at South Decatur, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 27 - Eastern Hancock JV away at Frankton for girls/boys doubleheader, 3 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 27 - Eastern Hancock varsity away at Frankton for varsity girls/boys doubleheader, 6 p.m.

### SWIMMING - Varsity

- ◆Dec. 17 - Eastern Hancock at home vs. New Palestine, 10 a.m.
- ◆Dec. 27 - Eastern Hancock away at Mooresville Invite, 9 a.m.

### WRESTLING - Varsity

- ◆Dec. 15 - Tri away at Wapahani, 6 p.m.
- ◆Dec. 17 - Knightstown away at Wapahani Invite, 9 a.m.
- ◆Dec. 17 - Tri away at East Central Invite, 9 a.m.
- ◆Dec. 17 - Eastern Hancock away at Blackford Invite, 9 a.m.
- ◆Dec. 23 - Knightstown away at State Duals in Ft. Wayne, 9 a.m.
- ◆Dec. 27 - Tri away at Mooresville Invite, 9 a.m.
- ◆Dec. 28 - Tri away at Mooresville Invite, 9 a.m.

## KHS Boys Fall to Lincoln

Knightstown varsity boys basketball team suffered its fifth loss of the season Dec. 9 when they fell 51-68 on the road to Cambridge City Lincoln.

The Golden Eagles took the early lead and never looked back. Lincoln was up 13-7 after the first quarter then extended that lead to 29-20 by halftime.

The Panthers were outscored again in the third quarter, 13-18. KHS had its best quarter of the game in the final period, scoring 18. But the Eagles also had its best period with 21 points to get the 68-51 win.

Knightstown sophomore Dylan Hiner shot above 50% from the field to lead the Panthers' scoring effort.

Hiner hit five 3-pointers and finished with 34 points. He added seven rebounds, one assist and two steals.

Tucker Personett led the team in rebounding with 10 and scored seven points.

Daniel Rayburn finished with six points, two assists and three steals.

Jose Olivo drained two buckets and had eight rebounds, four assists and three steals.

Jack Fort pulled in three boards and Austin Campton had two rebounds.

Chase Burton also got two rebounds and one assist. Matt Kemerly made a steal.

The loss dropped the young Panther team to 0-5 on the season.

## Tri Boys Move to 3-2

Shenandoah varsity boys basketball team trounced the Tri Titans 63-37 on its home court Dec. 9.

Nick Wilson led Tri with 10 points, four rebounds and one steal.

Carson Cox finished with eight points, seven rebounds, two assists and one steal.

David O'Neill scored five points as did Austin Stroud, who also added five rebounds and two assists.

Masen Phelps had four points, three rebounds, four assists and two blocks.

Elijah Davis hit a bucket and got three rebounds, one assist and one deflection.

Alex Melton drained two free throws and had two rebounds and one deflection.

Seth Butler got two rebounds and one deflection while Jimmy Jeffries had one rebound, one block and one deflection.

Bradyn Ellis grabbed one rebound and one steal.

Eric Bilby also had a rebound and Kyler Burchett made a steal.

On Dec. 10, traveled to Modoc where they whipped the Union Rockets 64-50.

The Titans were down 15-18 after the first quarter but outscored the Rockets the next three quarters. By halftime, Tri was up one, 30-29.

After the third quarter, Tri had stretched its lead to 46-41.

The Titans finished strong with a 18-9 fourth quarter performance to give them the win.

Three Titans scored in double figures, led by Phelps with 21 points, six rebounds, three assists and two blocks.

Cox had 13 points, nine rebounds, one assist and one steal.

Davis finished with 10 points, four rebounds, two assists, one steal and one deflection.

Wilson had five points, four rebounds, four assists, one steal, one block and one deflection.

O'Neill got five points, one rebound, two assists, two steals and one deflection.

Stroud scored four points and had two rebounds, three assists, one steal and two deflections.

Bilby had four points, two assists and one block.

Butler hit two free throws and got one rebound.

Melton added two rebounds and one deflection.

Following the two games, the Titans' season record moved to 3-2.

## Royal Boys Lose Tough Game on the Road at Northeastern

The Eastern Hancock varsity boys basketball team were edged out 58-52 by Northeastern on the road Dec. 9.

A very sluggish first quarter doomed the Royals. Northeastern took a 12-3 lead after the first but EH bounced back, outscoring the Knights 17-10 in the second quarter to come within two points at the half.

But, the Eagles came out of halftime fired back up and extended their lead to 38-32. Both teams scored 20 points in the fourth quarter, allowing the Eagles to hold on for the win.

Three players scored in double figures for Eastern Hancock.

Addison True had his second double-double of the season. He finished with 18 points, 10

rebounds, four assists and four deflections.

A.J. Muegge had 13 points, two rebounds, one assist and three steals.

Brycen Napier posted 10 points, one assist and one charge.

Duncan Cherry had seven points, two assists and two steals.

Jacob Eischen hit a bucket and had three rebounds, three assists, two steals, one block and two deflections.

Peyton Gray also sank one shot from the field and added one rebound and one block.

Tyler Blattner had three rebounds, two assists and one deflection.

With the loss, the Royals' record dropped to 2-3 on the season.

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# LOCAL SPORTS

## Knightstown Wrestlers Win Panther Invite for Third Straight Year

Knightstown's varsity wrestling team is having another banner year.

After opening its season by winning the Batesville Invite, the Panthers have gone on to win the Union County Invitational, a dual match against Cambridge City Lincoln and, most recently, its own tourney.

Last Saturday, KHS wrestlers won its third straight Panther Invitational.

The Panthers defeated Sheridan 51-24 and Indiana Deaf School 69-12 and Cambridge City Lincoln 60-12. These victories put the Panthers in the championship match against Milan, who was also 3-0 against the other schools.

Knightstown defeated Milan 39-33 to retain the hometown trophy.

Individual results for the tourney were not yet available.

On Nov. 26, the 10-ranked Panthers edged out ninth-ranked Eastern Hancock to win the Union County Invitational.

Knightstown defeated Union County 70-9 and Randolph Souther 71-10. Then they beat Connersville 54-24 and Indianapolis Lutheran 84-0 before going on to defeat Eastern Hancock 48-36.

Going undefeated on the day for the Panthers were David Peck

(106-lbs), Nick Walsh (120-lbs), Jacob Hanna (126-lbs), Jon Simmon (170-lbs) and Connor Brockman (195-lbs). All were 5-0 on the day except for Walsh, who was 4-0.

Five Panthers went 4-1 at the invite including Thomas Sollars (113-lbs), Bruce Nichols (132-lbs), Zach Clark (182-lbs), Garrett Thomas (220-lbs) and Bruais Wisner (HWT).

Michael Weiland (138-lbs) and Alex Brading (160-lbs) were both 3-2 at the tourney.

Collin Ferree (145-lbs) and Evan Nolen (152-lbs) each finished at 2-3 on the day.

The following weekend on Nov. 30, the Panthers defeated Cambridge City Lincoln 69-3 at home.

All Panthers won their match except one wrestler who was defeated by one point.

KHS head coach Jared Evans is pleased with his team's performance so far this year.

"Overall we have had a great start to the year," said Evans. "Our boys work hard each and every day and know what is expected of them."

That attitude makes Evans enthusiastic for the future. "We have faced some great competition already and have been blessed to come out on the winning side."



The Knightstown Panthers varsity wrestling team poses after winning their third straight championship of the Panthers Invitational last Saturday. (Photo provided)

## Lady Panthers Whip IPA

Knightstown's varsity girls basketball team clobbered Irvington Preparatory Academy 77-30 at home Nov. 29.

The Lady Panthers were hot from the start, jumping out to a 17-6 lead after the first quarter. The outscored IPA 18-9 in the second, 22-13 in the third and whipped them 20-2 in the final period to get the big win.

Lori Thomas led the Lady Panthers with 16 points, five rebounds, three assists, six steals and three deflections.

Kaitlyn Jackson finished with 10 points, two rebounds, one assist, one block and five steals.

Silvia Panizzutti had 10 points, two rebounds, three assists, one block and five steals.

Jessica Butler posted 10 points, two rebounds, one assist, two steals and two deflections.

Sidney Vise had nine points, five rebounds, one assist, one block, three steals and three deflections.

Carmen Cleek got six points, two rebounds, two assists, one steal and nine deflections.

Emma Moore scored five points and had five rebounds, a steal and a deflection.

Maggie Smith also had five points along with two rebounds, one assist and two deflections.

Katie Clark, Allyson Hauk, and Makenna Leisure each added two points.

The win improved the Lady Panthers record to 3-4 on the season.

## Tri Girls Beat Cowan

The varsity Lady Titan basketball team bounced back from two straight losses on the road to defeat Cowan 46-35 at home Dec. 3.

Tri's offense took off at the start to end the first quarter with a 15-9 lead. But, once again, the Lady Titans lost their focus and scored just six points in the second quarter while giving up 13 points to go into halftime down one, 21-22.

Tri remained strong in the second half, outscoring Cowan 12-6 in the third and 13-7 in the fourth quarter to get the 46-35 victory.

Payton Moore had an incredible game, scoring 19 points and pulling down 20 rebounds with

five blocks and two steals.

Kennington Appleby had 10 points, two rebounds, three assists, two steals and one block.

Karlee Winkhart got six points, six rebounds and three steals.

Kaley Harrison finished with five points, one rebound, one assist and two steals.

Addy Edwards hit a 3-pointer and a free throw and grabbed eight rebounds. She also dished out two assists.

Lauren Bouslog was 2-for-2 from the charity line and had two rebounds and two steals.

Breanna Reece added five rebounds and two assists.

The win over Cowan improved the Lady Titans' record to 4-3.

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# Classifieds

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## WANTED

**WANTED** - 200 old bricks. 1-317-498-3715 (1-4)

### Santa, from Page 10

Dear Santa,  
I want a Hatchimal. I want a Little Live Pet. I want a baby doll. I want a pet hamster. I want a stuffed animal. I want a horse. Thank you for giving us toys. Can I have a pet kitty? Love, Lyla

Dear Santa,  
Why does Rudolph have a red nose? I want a remote control car. Love, Brayden

Dear Santa,  
How far is the North Pole from here? I want a cat! I want a cat stuffed animal. I want a kitten. Love, Rylee

Dear Santa,  
I want the American Girl doll named Leah. I want the outfit that Leah wear. I want Leah's charm bracelet. I also want more Shopkins. I want some friendship necklaces. Love, Amelia

Dear Santa,  
I want a pet snake. Is Rudolph real? I want 2 new controllers. I want lots of surprises. Love, Alex

Dear Santa,  
I want a dirt bike. I want a hover board. I want a radio. Love, Elijah

Dear Santa,  
I want an X Box One. I want a stuffed animal. Love, James

## YOGA CLASSES

**YOGA** - Yoga classes. All ages, all levels. See everyoneisayogi.com for schedule. Call 212-203-7588 or contact erinhaldrup@gmail.com. (tfn)

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## FOUND

**FOUND** - Small neutered male shepherd mix found on Goose Rd. just south of Henry-Rush County line. 565-6452.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Hatchimal. I want a Rudolph stuffed animal. I want a Little Live Pet. I want putty. I want a manicure set. Love, Ava

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas can I have a stuffed animal? And a doll? And a book? I want a star necklace. I love you Santa! Love, Sarah

Dear Santa,  
I want Pokemon cards. I want a jar of Pokemons. I want a stuffed animal. I want a new sleeping bag. Love, Jency

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for giving us toys. I like Legos. Love, Quinn

**Mrs. Lykens - Kindergarten**  
For Christmas, I would like: Shopkins, robot cat. I have been nice. Love, Laela

For Christmas, I would like: remote controlled mustang. I have been nice. Love, Landen

For Christmas, I would like: tablet, doll, stuffed animal Rudolph. I have been nice. Love, Makayla

For Christmas, I would like: Hatchima, doll, Shopkins. This year, I have been nice. Love, Addy

For Christmas, I would like:

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**FOR LEASE** - 3 bedroom house in Knightsown, 223 W. Brown. Steve and fridge, C/A furnished. \$625/month, \$500 deposit. No smokers. Service animals only. 317-462-9354. 2-year lease available. (TFN)

**FOR LEASE** - in Knightstown. Very nice, large 3 bedroom house w/garage - 335 W. Brown St. Dishwasher, stove, fridge and C/A included. \$750/month, \$500 deposit. No smokers. Service animals only. 317-462-9354. (TFN)  
**FOR RENT** - Nice 1 bedroom apartment in Knightstown.

Pokeman game, Pokeman cards, tablet. This year I have been nice. Love, Adeline

For Christmas, I would like: giant stuffed Harry Potter, a white bike, Harry Potter stuff. I have been nice. Love, Kasen

For Christmas, I would like: skate board, Lego dirt bike game, dirt bike toys. I have been nice. Love, Ayden

For Christmas, I would like: remote control dirt bike. I have been nice. Love, Jacob

For Christmas, I would like: make up stuff animal, chocolate pen, Barbie doll, Shopkins. I have been nice. Love, Emily

For Christmas, I would like: Magic tracks, remote control monster truck. I have been nice. Love, Bentley

For Christmas, I would like: sleigh, tablet, hatchimal, ice stakes, 2 stuffed penguins. Love, Emma

For Christmas, I would like:

## FOR RENT

**KNIGHTSTOWN ACADEMY PLACE APARTMENTS**  
1 & 2 bedroom apartments, 62 years or older, disabled (regardless of age). Rent based on income (if qualified), Barrier Free Available. Contact Dawn, 765-345-7789. Equal Housing Opportunity, This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. TDD 800-649-3777

## HELP WANTED

**HELP WANTED - Mason's helper for east central IN jobs. Reliable transportation, references required. \$10-\$15/hr to start. 765-345-5997 or 317-409-9355.**

**Mrs. McDonald - Kindergarten**  
For Christmas, I would like: big doll house. I have been nice. Love, Faith

For Christmas, I would like: Barbie house, talking teacher. I have been nice. Love, Miley

For Christmas, I would like: a big stuffed animal reindeer. I have been nice. Love, Jagger

For Christmas, I would like: a rock and roll guitar. I have been nice. Love, Kellyanne

For Christmas, I would like: race car, bow and arrow. I have been nice. Love, Ryder

For Christmas, I would like: game for Xbox 360, play doh. I have been nice. Love, Xavier

For Christmas, I would like: big stuffed reindeer, doggie, hamster, yellow baby kitty and baby puppy. I have been nice. Love, Baylor

For Christmas, I would like: car, Barbie house. I have been nice. Love, Madalea

For Christmas, I would like: doll house. I have been nice. Love, Olivia

For Christmas, I would like: bow and arrow, Barbie house. I have been nice. Love, Katie

For Christmas, I would like: cat, microphone, and guitar. I have been nice. Love, Aubrey

For Christmas, I would like: big stuffed reindeer, little life pet turtle, remote control jeep. I have been nice. Love, Bentley

For Christmas, I would like: a cat. I have been nice. Love, Makayla

For Christmas, I would like: pet owl, pet gold fish, chain saw, and robot. I have been nice. Love, Treyce

For Christmas, I would like: Little pet shop dog, Barbie, Little Pet Shop accessories. I have been nice. Love, Savannah

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froggy water squitter, Spiderman. I have been nice. Love, Ryder

For Christmas, I would like: scooter, chocolate pen, a surprise for Daisy. I have been nice. Love, Taylor

For Christmas, I would like: Harry Potter Legos, Minecraft, Crayola. I have been nice. Love, Josh

For Christmas, I would like: makeup, baby doll, doll house. I have been nice. Love, Allana

For Christmas, I would like: make up, princess doll. I have been nice. Love, Abby

For Christmas, I would like: Pokeman cards, tablet, Pokeman game. I have been nice. Love, Sam

For Christmas, I would like: Shopkins, Legos, Toy Story, Minecraft. I have been nice. Love, Serenity

For Christmas, I would like: toy airplane. I have been nice. Love, Carter

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## Letters, from Page 4

unfortunately participate in) post on Facebook, I get that same feeling of emptiness. A person I went to church with posted about how proud they were to be a Christian and in the same breath made fun of the person for being "butthurt." I certainly can't respect a person for wanting to damage our town, but the amount of horrible things being said back is equally as shameful. So how do we solve this nastiness?

That's an easy one to solve. Its because Christmas, regardless of your beliefs, is about love. Love your neighbor. Help your neighbors. Being more Christlike, or less of a Grinch in general, is what it's about. Working together despite everything to help people out is also what it's about.

Think about it like this: We share this experience together. Think how strange it is that we are all Americans, all Hoosiers, all proud Knightstownians. There are 7 billion people in the world - 319 million in the U.S.; 6.6 million live in Indiana; and 2,130 live in our town. We owe it to ourselves, to our town, our state, our country, our god and to each other to love and care for one another, regardless of all the other things we think are more important.

We also owe it to ourselves to eat lots of good food, too. I almost forgot that part.

**Ian Wilhite  
Knightstown**

been overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity from the community in regard to our annual hats and mittens drive. This is, by far, our most successful year to date, with a total of all items given amounting to around \$500 in merchandise. Just saying thank you doesn't seem like quite enough, but that is what we offer. Thank you so much! There will be lots of little people warmer because of your help.

**Elizabeth Thomas, Sharon Crawford, Kelly  
Ledly and Cynthia Lines  
MainSource Bank, Knightstown**

## Dear Editor,

Being 84 years old, sometimes I make some mistakes. Recently, I made what may be the biggest blunder of my life.

Without finding out the true facts of the proposed wind farm, I signed on to promote it.

What a mistake! Now that I have facts on both sides of the issue, certainly I am against any wind farm. Nobody in their right mind should support having a wind farm in their backyard.

All of Henry County should unite and condemn having taht on any adjoining county wind farm, regardless of how much money it would make us.

There is a lot more in life than making money, and for sure having a quiet home in the county ranks near the top.

**William O'Neal  
Shirley**

## Dear Editor,

Once again, here at MainSource Bank we have

## Dear Editor,

We would like to invite the community to a gathering on Knightstown's Public Square this Sunday, Dec. 18 at 1 p.m. "The Matthew 5:40 Movement" is in response to the recent controversy concerning the cross on the square's community Christmas tree.

The family at the center of this storm needs our unconditional love and compassion. The world's eyes right now are focused on this community and our response to this debate over the cross. We want to focus on an even greater need, and lift up this family in prayer and offer them help for all that they face right now. Joey Sr. and Judy Tompkins are valued life long residents of this community. Joey is facing terminal cancer. They and their family are all facing the despair and devastation this illness brings. Adding this latest controversy to the mix for them is overwhelming. They do not hold the same views as their son/stepson, who brought forward this lawsuit through the ACLU. Regardless, we love this son as well, and want to show him unconditional love, too.

We plan to try and lift this family up this Sunday through music, praise and prayer. Besides this vigil, a bank account has been set up at the local First Merchants Bank, under the "Matthew 5:40 Movement" name. It will give the community an opportunity to donate funds to this family to help with insurmountable medical and living expenses. We know we cannot end their suffering, but perhaps help ease their pain a little. We ask that you please donate what you can and generously.

Other community groups and individuals have rallied with us to join this movement. Please check out our Facebook page, "Matthew 5:40 Movement" for more info and updates.

Please join us this Sunday, so that we can begin to show the true power in the cross.

"And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles." - Matthew 5:40-41

Merry Christmas!

**Kevin Richey and Amanda Abbott,  
The Matthew 5:40 Movement**

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*Merry Christmas*  
*from our family to yours.*



From all of us here at Flat Rock Wind,  
have a safe and wonderful Christmas  
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