



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. XIX, Issue 14

July 12, 2017

Knightstown, IN

Jacob's Lemonade Sells This Weekend

Knightstown Elementary School student Jacob Specht will host his annual fundraising lemonade stand on Friday and Saturday, July 14-15, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Darling residence, located at 6028 W. CR 550-S., Knightstown. All proceeds help go to help Kenyans to build biosand water filters so that they can have safe water to drink. All proceeds directly benefit this Quaker/Friends mission project.

Church Hosting 'Devine Vision'

Knightstown Church of God, 205 North St., will host Devine Vision for its monthly singing on Saturday, July 15, at 6 p.m. For more information, call 317-936-5849 or 765-345-7442.

CAB Registration July 17-18 at KHS

The Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corp. will hold registration for the 2017-2018 school year at Knightstown High School, 8149 W. U.S. Hwy. 40, 1-7 p.m. on Monday, July 17, and 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 18. For more information, contact CAB's central office at 765-345-5101.

Wesleyan Church Kids Event July 29

Knightstown Wesleyan Church will host a back-to-school event for local children on Saturday, July 29. Aimed at helping local students get the supplies they need for school, a variety of school-related items will be available. Carnival games and surprises are also in store. The event will take place rain or shine. The church, which will serve hot dogs and popcorn, will also hold a pie sale in conjunction with the back-to-school event.

Markleville Jamboree Slated for Aug. 3-5

The Markleville Jamboree and town rummage sales in the park will take place Aug. 3-5. Vendors, parade participants and volunteer stage entertainers are being sought. For more information, call Dianna at 317-258-5438 or email dianna-adora@aol.com or call Betty at 765-623-3553.

Carthage Town Council President Stepping Down

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

Just over two weeks after the Knightstown Town Council learned one of its members was resigning, the Carthage Town Council has received similar news.

Bill Davis, president of the Carthage Town Council, announced at the end of Monday's monthly council meeting that he would be stepping down from the council at the end of this month. He explained that he and his wife, Bonnie, have sold their home and will be moving away from Carthage.

In January, when he was selected by his fellow council members to serve as president for a third year in a row, Davis said he there was a chance he may be moving before the end of the year. At Monday's meeting, he said his house sold two weeks ago, after having only been advertised online for about six hours, and that closing is expected to take place next month.

After having lived in Carthage for 40

years, Davis described moving as "a bitter-sweet thing," but said he and his wife had four big incentives for moving: their grandchildren, who live in McCordsville and Anderson. While they still have yet to find a new place, Davis said he and Bonnie hope to find a home in the Fortville or Pendleton areas.

Davis was appointed to the Carthage Town Council in the fall of 2012 to replace Lucas Calvert, who had resigned after less than a year on the council. While Davis is a Republican, his appointment to the council was made by the council's other members instead of the county GOP since Calvert had been an independent instead of a Republican.

In the fall of 2015, Davis was elected to a full four-year term on the council that runs through the end of 2019. The Rush County Republican Party will have 30 days from the day Davis' council seat becomes vacant to call a caucus to select a replacement. Should the

party fail to do that, the responsibility for filling the vacancy will again fall to the council's other four members, who will be free to select any eligible applicant, regardless of political affiliation.

"Thanks for teaching me stuff," fellow council member Ashley Davis (no relation) said to Davis at Monday's meeting.

"You'll be missed," Vice President Rachael Brown told Davis.

State statute requires council members who are resigning to submit a written notice of resignation to the office of the Rush County Clerk. Davis submitted his notice on June 30, and, according to personnel in the county clerk's office, it lists July 31 as the effective date.

Republicans interested in filling the vacancy that will be left by Davis' resignation should contact Phil Caviness, chairman of the county GOP. He may be reached by phone at 765-938-9511.

Plan Commission to Consider Zoning Code Revisions

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

The Knightstown Plan Commission will meet tonight to go over proposed revisions to the town's zoning code and zoning map one last time in advance of next Monday's public hearing.

Tonight's meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the back meeting room of Knightstown Town Hall, 26 S. Washington St., which is accessible from the building's west side. This meeting, like all Knightstown Plan Commission meetings, is open to the public.

At 6:30 p.m. Monday, the plan commission will hold a special meeting and public hearing at which comments and questions

about the proposed changes to the zoning code and zoning map will be received from local citizens. That proceeding will be held in the Knightstown Town Council's chambers at 28 S. Washington St.

Two separate legal notices published in last week's issue of The Banner by the plan commission and the Knightstown Town Council indicated that copies of the proposed revised zoning code and zoning map were available for inspection at Knightstown Town Hall and the Knightstown Public Library. That turned out not to be the case.

Last Thursday, a local citizen contacted The Banner to report that he had been to both town hall and

the library, and that copies of the revised zoning code and zoning map were not available. In fact, he said employees at both locations said they knew nothing about these documents.

The Banner reached out last Thursday to the town's legal counsel, Gregg Morelock, and Dan Lake, a planner with Kieser Consulting Group LLC, the Lawrence-based firm working with the town on revamping the zoning code and zoning map. Lake initially said that he didn't expect to have a draft of these materials ready for the public to review until at least tomorrow, after the plan commission had a chance for a final review at tonight's meeting.

State statute requires the plan commission to publish a legal notice advertising its public hearing on the revisions to the zoning code and zoning map at least 10 days in advance of the hearing. The notice must, among other things, list where these materials are available to be viewed prior to the hearing.

At Morelock's urging, Lake sent the most up-to-date draft of the revised zoning code and zoning map to the town on Monday. The citizen who went to town hall and the library last Thursday looking for these items stopped by The Banner on Monday afternoon and confirmed that a copy of the revised zoning code is now available at town hall.

Town Council Member Resignation Still Missing

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

Nearly three weeks after announcing her plans to resign, Knightstown Town Council member Valerie Trump still has not submitted an official written notice of resignation to the office of the Henry County Clerk, as state law requires.

As previously reported in The Banner, Trump announced her resignation at the conclusion of a special council meeting held June 22. She said that she had taken a job in Florida, where her daughter and daughter's family,

which includes Trump's two young grandchildren, live, and that she and her husband, Bruce, would be moving there.

To vacate her council seat, state statute requires Trump, a Republican, to submit her notice of resignation to the office of the Henry County Clerk. Once the clerk's office receives this, it will then forward it to county's GOP chairman, Todd Hiday, who will have 30 days to call a Republican caucus to select Trump's replacement.

As they prepared to take the unnecessary step of voting to accept Trump's resignation at

the June 22 meeting, The Banner reminded council members that state statute merely requires Trump to submit her written notice of resignation to the county clerk. In the absence of Trump doing this, another state statute authorizes the council to hold a special meeting at which it can vote to declare a vacancy on the council as the result of her moving outside town limits. If the council has to take that step, it would then forward notice of its vote to the county clerk, who would then notify the county GOP of the need for a caucus to fill the

See Missing, Page 2

State Says Town of Shirley Lacks Some Financial Controls

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

In a report issued last month, the state identified several areas of concern with respect to how the town of Shirley was conducting business from 2012 to 2015.

The Indiana State Board of Accounts issued a Supplemental Compliance Report for the town

June 29. This report, the agency says in an introductory section, is supplemental to the SBOA's Financial Statements Examination Report that was released in late April.

The first deficiency the SBOA noted in the latest report was its general observation that the town lacked adequate internal controls

related to financial transactions and reporting. For example, what internal controls the town did have for the preparation of its Annual Financial Report, the SBOA observed, "were not adequate to prevent or detect errors on the financial statements."

The SBOA said the town also did not have adequate controls in

place "to ensure the financial information reported" through the state's Gateway system "was accurate." The agency found "numerous instances" where the town's figures and those reported on financial statements and through the Gateway system did not agree.

The SBOA also took issue with
See Shirley, Page 11



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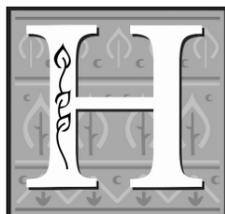
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OBITUARIES

David Lee Glenn

January 26, 1978 - June 29, 2017



David Lee Glenn, 39, of Indianapolis, passed away Thursday, June 29, 2017, at Community North Hospital in Indianapolis following a long illness. He was born during the Blizzard on Jan. 26, 1978, in Greenfield, a son of the late William "Fred" and Leeta Jane (Fox) Glenn.

David attended Knightstown High School and was a wonderful uncle. He enjoyed video games, thunderstorms and drawing comic characters in his earlier years and had worked in construction.

He is survived by three brothers, Dustin R. Glenn of Xenia, Ohio, William "Bill" (Cindy) Glenn of Titusville, Fla., and Dale (Connie) Glenn of Mt. Juliet, Tenn.; two sisters, Faith McAllister and Diane DeNauro, both of New Smyrna Beach, Fla.; an uncle and aunt, David W. and Linda S. Glenn of Knightstown; two cousins, John W. (Angie) Glenn of Knightstown and Melinda (David) Richardson of Knightstown; many nieces, nephews and cousins; and also a special nephew, Tyler D. (Elizabeth) Glenn of Winchester.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Kelley Jane Quarry, in 2016; his maternal grandparents, John and Mildred (Chew) Fox; and his paternal grandparents, Wm. Loren and Ethel R. (Walston) Glenn.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 18, at Glen Cove Cemetery in Knightstown. There will be no public viewing. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the David Glenn Memorial Fund, Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service, 7355 S. St. Rd. 109, Knightstown, IN 46148. Condolences and memories of David may be shared at www.hinsey-brown.com.

Thomas Marshall "Tom" Gorman Jr.

August 22, 1941 - June 16, 2017



Thomas Marshall "Tom" Gorman Jr., 75, of Adah, Pa., and former resident of Carthage, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, June 16, 2017, at his home. Tom was born Aug. 22, 1941, in New Castle, a son of the late Thomas M. Sr. and Elizabeth (Howard) Gorman.

In addition to his parents, Tom was preceded in death by his brother, James D. Gorman.

Tom was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Masontown. He was also very active in his former Churches, St. Albert's in Palmer and Our Lady of Perpetual Help St. Mary's in Leckrone, Pa.

Tom was a graduate of the Carthage High School Class of 1959. Following high school, Tom served his country proudly in the United States Marine Corps from 1959-1963. Tom and his family lived in Carthage from 1963-1975, where he worked as a meat cutter for Ruby's Market. Tom and his family moved to Adah, Pa., in 1975 and he worked as a coal miner, employed by Nemaocolin Mine and Emerald Mine, until his retiring in 2001. He and his wife, Elizabeth, owned and operated their own mine-related business from 1990-2007.

Tom was a member of the Adah Gun Club, the Carthage Volunteer Fire Dept., the Adah Volunteer Fire Dept. and American Legion Post 423 in Masontown.

Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife of 53 years, Elizabeth L. (Tomecheck) Gorman; his four daughters, Julia (husband, Kerry Sr.) Dugan, Christine (husband, Jay) Hundertmark, Tracy Gorman and Celeste (husband, Craig) Woods; five grandchildren, Kerry Dugan Jr., Amanda McKoy, Frank Magazine Jr., Justine Hundertmark and Jayce Hundertmark; two great-grandchildren, Greyson Miller and Gideon Dugan; his four siblings, Brenda Merrell of Rushville, Ramona (husband, Sam) Cooper of Spring Hill, Fla., Michael (wife, Marsha) Gorman of Carthage and Deanna (husband, Steve) Morgan of Milroy; and many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Funeral Services were held on June 19 in Haky Funeral Home and St. Francis of Assis RC Church with interment at St. Mary Cemetery in Leckrone, Pa., where military honors were accorded. Tom's family asks that memorial donations be made to the Masontown Emergency Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen. Personal written tributes and memories are welcomed and encouraged at www.hakyfuneralhome.com.



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Missing, from Page 1

vacancy on the council.

The office of the Henry County Clerk notified The Banner yesterday that it had still not received Trump's notice of resignation. The Banner notified Gregg Morelock, the town's attorney, of Trump's failure to submit a written notice of resignation to the county clerk, and he said he would look into the matter. Efforts to contact Trump to find out why she had not submitted her resignation notice yet were not successful.

Trump was elected in 2014 to her current term, which runs through the end of 2018. Persons interested in applying to replace her are urged to contact GOP Chairman Hiday at 765-521-3707.

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"We too often let the material things serve as indicators that we're doing well, even though something inside us tells us that were not doing our best. That we are avoiding that which is hard, but also necessary. That we are shrinking from rather than visting to the challenges of the age."

Barack Obama

Please visit
thebanneronline.com

OBITUARIES

Sharon Kay Rogers
December 21, 1948 - July 10, 2017



Sharon Kay Rogers, 68, of Shirley, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, July 10, 2017, at her home. She was born Dec. 21, 1948, in New Castle to the late Paul A. and Audrey A. (Richmond) LaVallee.

Sharon graduated from Eastern Hancock High School in 1967. She was a lifelong member of Shirley Christian Church, where she was involved in Grief Support Group. Sharon retired from Metals Technology in Shirley after approximately 27 years of service. She was a loving care giver for her family. She loved to cook, enjoyed family dinners, loved flower gardening and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She enjoyed trips to Lake Michigan and Kentucky.

She is survived by three daughters, Candy Rogers of Shirley, Angela (Brian) Tompkins of Markleville and Pam (Jason) Faucett of Wilkinson; four grandchildren, Amy and Jackson Tompkins of Markleville and Julia and Brenton Faucett of Wilkinson; a brother, Rickey (Joyce) LaVallee of New Castle; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Edward E. Rogers in 2010, and a grandson, Wyatt Edward Lee Tompkins.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, July 14, at Shirley Christian Church with Gary Sickel officiating. Burial will follow in Glen Cove Cemetery at Knightstown. Friends may call 4-8 p.m. Thursday, July 13, at Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service, Knightstown Chapel.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hancock County Cancer Society or Kenneth Butler's Soup Kitchen in Greenfield with envelopes available at the funeral home. Condolences and memories of Sharon may be shared at www.hinsey-brown.com.

Lola Brooks "Brooksie" Hamilton
April 14, 1929 - July 9, 2017

Lola Brooks "Brooksie" Hamilton, 88, of New Castle passed away Sunday, July 9, 2017, at her home. She was born April 14, 1929, in Nepton, Ky., to the late Edward and Blanche (Hawkins) Mitchell.

She was formerly employed at the sewing factory in Greenfield, and Fannin's Laundromat in Knightstown. Brooksie was a former member of the Red Hat Society in New Castle and Fort Meade, Fla., and formerly attended Knightstown Christian Church. She enjoyed shuffle board, bingo, reading, collecting green depression glass and going to garage sales.



She is survived by her daughter, JoAnn Hamilton of New Castle, who was with her when she passed away; a son, Jack (Jeana) Hamilton of Sumter, S.C.; two granddaughters, Lea Brooks (Chris) Thompson of Sumter, S.C. and Shelby Hamilton of Austin, Texas; two great-grandsons; two nieces, Carolyn (James) Avery of Crestview Hills, Ky., and Melissa (Brian) Jimison of Russellville, Ohio; a nephew, Mark (Julie) McCord of Georgetown, Ohio; and several nieces and nephews by marriage.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Roy Clayton Hamilton; three sisters, Ruby (Roy) Yazell, Etta Jo (Phil) McCord and infant Lydia C. Mitchell; and several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law including, Mamie (L.O.) Davis, Jay Hamilton, infant Arlie Hamilton, Orville Hamilton, Ora Hamilton, Elza (Lillian Mitchell) Hamilton, Pauline (Mitchell) Porter, Nancy (Russell) Hunt, Glen (Sarah) Hamilton, Myrt (Arthur) Logan, and Lona Mae (Orville) Porter.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, July 13, at Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service, Knightstown Chapel, with Pastor Mark Herbkersman officiating. Burial will follow in Glen Cove Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. prior to the service. Memorial contributions may be sent to Alzheimer's Association, 50 E. 91st St., Ste. 100, Indianapolis, IN 46209. You may express condolences or share a memory of Brooksie at www.hinsey-brown.com.

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The Banner

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Shirley Woman Accepts Settlement; Suit Dismissed

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

In exchange for a \$10,000 settlement, a former resident of Shirley has dismissed her federal civil rights lawsuit against the Shirley Town Marshal.

Cynthia Jackson-Watson sued the town of Shirley, Town Marshal Brian Pryor, the Shirley Police Department and Shirley Town Council President Dennis Denney last September. She alleged Pryor had sexually harassed, intimidated, stalked and slandered her, and provided false information about her to a state agency. She also claimed another Shirley officer had falsely arrested her on a charge of resisting arrest, and maintained that Denney and the town's attorney had not responded to a formal complaint she filed over these incidents.

Jackson-Watson specifically alleged in her lawsuit that Pryor's harassment began after she rejected his sexual overtures. She claimed Pryor told her the town "wasn't big enough for both of (them), and he wasn't going anywhere," and that he told her he had a place for her

and her family: the penitentiary or the cemetery.

In February, Judge Tanya Walton Pratt issued an order that granted a defense motion to dismiss Jackson-Watson's claims against the town, the police department and Denney. That ruling left Pryor as the only remaining defendant in the lawsuit.

Walton Pratt noted said the claim against the police department had to be dismissed because municipal police departments "are not suable entities" in Indiana in federal civil rights cases like Jackson-Watson's. She also said that since Jackson-Watson had not alleged the town had any official policy or custom "that was the 'moving force' behind or resulted in the alleged deprivation of her rights," the town also had to be dismissed from the lawsuit.

As for the claims against Denney in his official capacity, Walton Pratt said the claims had to be dismissed for the same reason they had to be dismissed against the town. She also said dismissal

See Settlement, Page 6

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Banner PERSPECTIVES

American Fireworks and False Patriotism

*"Breathes there the man,
with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land!"*
- William Wordsworth

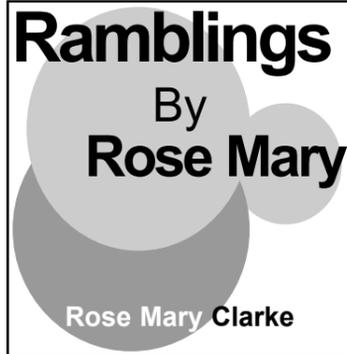
Oh dear! It seems as if Christmas were only a few weeks ago, and it's already July 5 as I write this.

There's a trunk in my mental attic that's labeled "July 4" from which I pull out memories: watching a fireworks display with my parents and brother's family out at the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home south of Knights-town. It culminated in a set piece of the American flag ... thousands of people picnicking at the American Legion Mall in downtown Indianapolis on July 4, 1976, watching fireworks shot from the top of a bank tower ... parking on East Michigan Street, where Vicki and her chum, Sheila Riley, lay on the hood of the car ... fireworks shot from a mountainside near Glenwood Springs, Colo. ... the sounds of children saying, "Ooh!--Agh!" ...

Then there was the night at the lakeside home of Bill's niece, Lynn, when a rocket from her huge hoard went backwards and stuck in and smoked up the siding of an expensive home next door whose owners were in Florida. Lynn's husband was not pleased to have to

call them and explain. After that Lynn was limited to setting off her pyrotechnics out on the frozen lake in wintertime.

My best Fourth was when we took our twin grandboys to Washington, D.C. the summer before their senior year and stayed at a hotel from which we could see



the Capitol. That morning we listened to a reading of the Declaration of Independence outside the archives performed by actors portraying Jefferson, Franklin and others.

Afterwards we went inside to view the Declaration and the Constitution.

That evening we sat on the steps of the Capitol to listen to the music and watch the fireworks with the Washington Monument in the background. Little Richard per-

formed even though he was so arthritic that they had to help him to the piano.

The huge mall was crammed with all kinds of people - young, old, people of every color and national origin, people in shorts and business suits, fathers dancing with children on their shoulders, lines of friends dancing together, the crowd singing patriotic songs ... Oh, it was grand to see thousands and thousands of my fellow Americans coming together, celebrating America and enjoying themselves! I unabashedly love this beautiful country and its people.

These days it's fashionable to say that the Constitution is outdated and brand those who wrote it as racists and chauvinists. By our standards, they probably were those things. What else would one have expected at that time? Is it fair to judge them? David McCullough, the author of the fine biography of John Adams, points out that they were different from us because their lives were different.

I think that what they accomplished was very special, indeed. McCullough said that by putting their signatures on the Declaration they were potentially signing their death warrants. I compare the life that they sought for people with

See Rose Mary, Page 6

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

(an open letter to Rose Mary Clarke regarding Ramblings, June 21)

Your column Flipping Through the Pages of Life was timely and reaffirming for many of us. Since January, I have been cleaning out my Mom's home following her December death. She, too, was a saver. Almost 91, she had accumulated lots of things. Like your scrapbooks, her saved items were a biography of her life, Dad's and mine. They were also a history of our town and its people as some of the items went back to the 1940s.

She saved receipts from the purchase of their stove and refrigerator in the 1940s, check stubs throughout the decades, insurance payment books, a church bulletin whose back page was full of mini-advertisements for local businesses. Unfortunately, the latter lacked a date. It did however show that Carthage had five grocery stores. Other long-since-forgotten businesses were also mentioned.

Her stash included many newspapers and magazines: Queen Elizabeth's marriage to Prince Phillip and the sudden death of her father ... another telling of Churchill's death. Others included stories of the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Princess Di, and other historical events. One had a lengthy story about the evils of the country's healthcare system. Reading quickly through the headlines brought to mind how things have changed while so many things stay the same.

Vietnam and the Beatles filled many pages, as did births, marriages and subsequent divorce headlines of Queen Elizabeth's children.

As in your column, there were boxes and bags of cards - Christmas, valentines, birthdays, Mothers Day, Fathers Day, get well. Some were homemade, some fancy, some funny. Some were for my first birthday! Many were from Mom's family in England. Among those were several cards from someone who must have bought a box of unique design cards and sent me one each over the first seven years of my life, as Mom had saved the cards. They were the same size, with shaped cutouts of various animals and words/numerals for one year old, two years old and so forth.

Many cards and letters were from people long since deceased. These brought smiles and occasionally a nostalgic tear. There were many letters from Mom's Aunt Edie in England who reared Mom after her own Mother died. Some were written to my Dad in response to letters he had written her. These were of special interest as my Dad was not a letter writer and because they contained comments about the financial hardships being faced on both sides of the Atlantic - both offering to help the other financially if some extra money should become available. Mom was from Liverpool - a hard hit area during WW II because it was a major seaport and shipbuilding center.

Hidden treasures in the form of pictures were everywhere - inside boxes, bags, magazines, purses and numerous other places. Unfortunately, Mom failed to properly identify some of those pictures - old ones that I don't recall having ever seen before. Now I'm in a quandary as to who these people may be. And some that she identified on the back simply said Aunt Alice, Granny Frought, and other names that mean nothing whatsoever to me. There are wedding pictures and baby pictures - whose identities are now lost to the ages.

School play tickets and event programs abound. There are *Carthage Citizen* newspapers with stories and pictures of important events and people from our past. There are stories about Dad's employer for 38 years - the Container Corporation of America - strikes, new equipment being brought in, a major fire.

I also have souvenirs from our travels and ones that other people shared of their adventures. There were driver's licenses, AARP and AAA cards, American Legion membership and military identification cards, and fishing licenses. Dad bought hunting and fishing licenses every year, but among the many cards was one issued to him when he returned from

See Letters, Page 11

Watch Out for Saturday's RAIN Riders!

Local motorists should be extra careful Saturday when hundreds of cyclists come through Knightstown on U.S. 40 as part of the annual Ride Across Indiana, or "RAIN" ride as it's commonly called.

Riders will start off near Terre Haute early Saturday morning and ride nearly 160 miles to Earlham College in Richmond. The day-long event won't reach Knightstown until around noon or 1 p.m. when the lead group comes through. The National Road will be busy the rest of the day as hundreds of other cyclists pass by.

Many of the nearly 2,000 RAIN participants will stop in Dunreith, where volunteers from the Dunreith Volunteer Fire Dept. will offer their annual array of support for weary cyclists trying to complete the statewide sojourn. They'll have cold water and other beverages, a variety of fresh fruit, cooling fans, and who knows what else - all aimed at offering tired cyclists some much-needed relief.

I've never had a desire to do the RAIN ride. For me, 60 or 70 miles at once is enough. I admire and respect those who do conquer it. Some local names are participating in it, Knightstown's Jay McDaniel among them.

A funny character with a kind heart, Jay has become a terrific cyclist. A fitness enthusiast and former Marine, he's always got a joke or a kind word. I don't know anyone who tries harder to be a powerful rider than this guy.

He'll be out there Saturday, riding across Indiana. And that's just one reason I want you all to be careful - not just Saturday, but every day when you are behind the wheel and cyclists or runners are on the road.

In the car vs. cyclist battle, the winner always has

four wheels. The two-wheeled vehicle is at a major disadvantage. The weight and speed of a car or truck will destroy a bicycle and its rider, leaving both crushed, broken, bleeding and, maybe, dead.

So give 'em plenty of room Saturday afternoon. Jay and others will be out there looking for no other injuries but sore legs and a tender butt. Courteous motorists are always appreciated by cyclists - especially really tired ones.

I wish Jay and all the other RAIN riders good luck Saturday. Pedaling 160 miles on a bicycle is a major undertaking. Watching professional cyclists in the Tour de France, which is ongoing through July 23, is one thing, but these amateurs who endure the RAIN ride are no less inspiring.

Having ridden a number of miles in the last several years, I know the rigors of cycling. So, believe me when I say that those who undertake such a long distance ride are equipped with a mettle not found in every mortal.

Some will of course wonder why anyone would subject themselves to such willful suffering - just as those who wonder why people endeavor to climb treacherous, snow-capped mountains.

Those who actually *do* these things never seem to question their reasoning. The mountain, and the RAIN ride, are merely there; apparently viewed as obstacles they feel they must overcome, never mind why.

I appreciate that kind of thinking. The pragmatist in me enjoys the economy of inner argument the decision represents. They look at a challenge and simply decide to try it, caution be damned.

Yet, I have no desire to undergo such a challenge. In this instance, I am much more happy to sit back and watch (and maybe photograph) others do it.



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Hubert H. Humphrey

Settlement, from Page 3

was again required for any claims against Denney individually as well since any inaction on Denney's part would be "insufficient to subject him to liability for the actions of Officer Pryor."

Court records reveal that at the conclusion of a settlement conference held at the federal courthouse in Indianapolis on May 23, the parties notified the court that a settlement had been reached. Jackson-Watson, who had no legal counsel and was representing herself, and Pryor's attorney filed a joint stipulation to dismiss the lawsuit on June 6, and Walton Pratt issued an order dismissing the case one week later.

After reviewing the online court docket early last week and learning a settlement had been reached, The Banner contacted Jackson-Watson, who had first reached out to The Banner last year when she was preparing to file her lawsuit. While she confirmed the case had settled and that she had dismissed the lawsuit, she declined to reveal how much the town - or, more precisely, the town's insurer - had paid her as a result of the settlement.

"I don't want you to print any of that," Jackson-Watson, told The Banner on July 3. "... I don't want my business, how much they paid and all, that put in the paper."

Later in the week, The Banner was able obtain a copy of the settlement agreement from the town of Shirley. The document, signed by

See Settlement, Page 10

Drew Crawford Returns to Knightstown as a United States Postal Service Mail Carrier

by Logan Cox

Drew Crawford recently became the new mail carrier in Knightstown. He is taking on the job after 17 years of experience working out of the post office in Greenfield.

He works five days a week, Monday through Friday, delivering mail and parcel post to the businesses and residents of Knightstown. It's a job he's grown very accustomed to over the years, no matter what town he's in.

"I enjoy my job, delivering the mail and servicing the customers on my route," said Crawford.

He decided to come work in Knightstown because it is where he lives with his family. Crawford wanted to be closer to his wife and children, and in his hometown.

"My kids and wife are here, and I'm invested in Knightstown," he said.

While family is a significant factor in his transition from Greenfield to Knightstown, Crawford is also happy to just be providing a service for the community he's always known. He is a Knightstown native as well as a resident.

"I really enjoy delivering mail in Knightstown," said Crawford. "I like helping people out in my community."

He appreciates having a job that requires him to make the rounds, traversing all of Knightstown on a daily basis, and allowing him to appreciate the sim-

pler things as he works.

"I love how every day is a new day, I guess you could say. With the changing weather elements and all of the above," he said, regarding the job.

Crawford's career in the United States Postal Service began in 2000, while he was still studying at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

He's stayed with it ever since.

However, his familiarity with this sort of work goes back even further than that. Both his mother, Sandy Crawford, and his grandmother, Pansy Perry, had served as postal workers while he was growing up.

"My mother worked for the postal service, and my grandmother was a rural carrier out of Spiceland," said Crawford.

Watching his mother and grandmother later inspired Crawford to find work as a mail carrier himself.

Crawford graduated from Knightstown High School in 1998. While attending school there, he played for the Knightstown Panthers on both the football and basketball teams.

He lives in Knightstown with his wife, Kristin Crawford, who is a third grade teacher at Knightstown Elementary School. They have three children, two boys and a girl: Jameson, Roman and Carmen J.

Crawford is also an avid fisherman.





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BACK TO SCHOOL KIDS PARTY!

Knightstown First Wesleyan Church
471 N. Franklin St., Knightstown
SATURDAY, JULY 29, 12-3 PM

Our church will be offering free basic school supplies to local children! We're also having a dunk tank and Carnival Games with lots of surprises for the kids! In addition to serving hot dogs and popcorn, we'll have a pie sale, proceeds from which will finance more school supplies. Cherry, Rhubarb, Apple, Blueberry and Hoosier Creme pies will be sold for \$10 each, while supplies last. This event will take place rain or shine!



MEETINGS CALENDAR

- Wed., July 12** – Knightstown Planning Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m., town hall annex, 26 S. Washington St. (purpose of meeting for final review of zoning ordinance)
- Wed., July 12** – Hancock Co. Council meeting, 8:30 a.m., courthouse annex room 101, Greenfield
- Wed., July 12** – Rush Co. Council meeting, 9 a.m., courthouse assembly room, Rushville
- Wed., July 12** – Henry Co. Commissioners meeting, 6 p.m., old circuit court room, New Castle
- Wed., July 12** – Rush Co. Area Plan Commission meeting, 6 p.m., courthouse assembly room, Rushville
- Wed., July 12** – Rush Co. Board of Zoning

- Appeals meeting, 7 p.m., courthouse assembly room, Rushville
- Thurs., July 13** – Hancock Co. Planning Commission technical committee meeting, 9 a.m., courthouse annex room 101, Greenfield
- Thurs., July 13** – Lewisville Town Council, 6 p.m., Houston Brick, 101 E. Main St.
- Tues., July 15** – Henry County 4-H Fair starts and runs through July 21
- Tues., July 18** – Hancock Co. Commissioners meeting, 8 a.m., courthouse annex room 101, Greenfield
- Tues., July 18** – Charles A. Beard Memorial School board meeting, 7 p.m., high school media center

Rose Mary, from Page 4

those that lived under the divine-right kings of England where they were tied to land owned by aristocrats and with France where they even taxed salt to pay for Marie Antoinette's diamonds worth millions.

Some sneer at patriotism, and quote Samuel Johnson who said that patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels. However, his biographer, Boswell, said that he referred to false patriotism, not patriotism in

general. Others say that tyrants wrap themselves up in the flag and blow the tinny trumpet of patriotism to fool the people.

Some of America's severest critics are those who've benefited the most - affluence, good educations, quality medical care, nice homes and wonderful vacations. Perhaps they should roll up their sleeves and do something tangible to help solve our problems. wclarke@comcast.net





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Andrew Hendrickson of Carthage Graduates from Space Academy



Andrew Hendrickson poses for a photo at Space Academy in Huntsville, Ala. (Photo submitted)

Andrew Hendrickson of Carthage recently attended Space Academy at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center's Official Visitor Center.

The weeklong educational program promotes science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), while training students and adults with hands-on activities and missions based on teamwork, leadership and problem solving.

Hendrickson was part of the Space Academy program, which is designed for trainees who have an interest in space exploration. He spent the week training with a team that flew a simulated space mission to Mars. The crew participated in experiments and suc-

cessfully completed an extra-vehicular activity (EVA), or spacewalk, and returned to Earth in time to graduate with honors.

Space Camp operates year-round in Huntsville, Ala., and uses astronaut training techniques to engage trainees in real-world applications of STEM subjects. Trainees sleep in quarters designed to resemble the International Space Station and train in NASA-inspired simulators.

More than 750,000 trainees have graduated from Space Camp since its inception in 1982, including STS-131 astronaut Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger, European Space Agency astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti and NASA Expedition 48 astronaut Dr. Kate Rubins.

Local Girls Attended Hoosier Girls State

Zoey Hunsinger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Hunsinger, Candice Wyatt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wyatt, Grace Muncy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Muncy, and Keayra Hamby, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brandon Hamby, were chosen by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 152 to attend the 76th annual session of American Legion Auxiliary, Hoosier Girls State. The event was held June 18-24 on the campus of Trine University in Angola.

Hunsinger, Wyatt and Muncy, who will all be seniors at

Knightstown High School, and Hamby, who will be a senior at Tri High School, joined approximately 500 other young women for this government program designed to educate our leaders of tomorrow in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

This session of government and practical politics is nonpartisan and nonpolitical. Participants began their weeklong adventure by registering to vote, where they received an assignment to a mythical political party which at registration time had no political organization or

party beliefs/platforms-all established by the delegates within three days into the session.

Delegates also filed for an elected office on the city, county or state level. They then conducted a political campaign complete with speeches and campaign materials.

Once elected to office, delegates were sworn in and performed the duties as described for that position. Nonelected delegates were given appointments as well as encouraged to visit the offices of those elected to communicate their needs as citizens.

Community Foundation Fall Grants Workshop Aug. 2

The Henry County Community Foundation (HCCF) will be hosting the Fall Grants Workshop on Wednesday, Aug. 2, at 4 p.m. It will be held in the New Castle-Henry County Public Library auditorium. The workshop is for Henry County nonprofit organizations wishing to submit an application for the fall 2017 community grant cycle. Attendance is mandatory for grant consideration. Application information and

deadlines will be provided at the workshop.

Seating is limited. Contact HCCF at 765-529-2235 to reserve a seat (one seat per organization).

Community Grants are awarded through the HCCF Unrestricted Fund for Community Grants. The purpose of these grants is to assist local groups to promote and support human services, arts and culture, health and recreation, civic affairs and educational needs.

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Donate On Match Day — July 19

1 Day and \$100,000

Match Day is a 24-hour event hosted by the Henry County Community Foundation (HCCF) for 10 of the county's nonprofit organizations. All donations made on Wednesday, July 19 from 12:00 AM — 11:59 PM will be proportionally matched from a pool of \$100,000 made possible from the HCCF's Unrestricted Fund for Community Grants!

Donate on Match Day

1. **ONLINE** at henrycountycf.org
2. **AT THE HCCF OFFICE**
700 S. Memorial Drive, New Castle, IN 47362
3. **MAIL**
P.O. Box 6006, New Castle, IN 47362
(gifts via mail will only be accepted if postmarked on July 19, 2017)

Checks made payable to HCCF. Nonprofit name(s) in memo

MATCH DAY DONATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED ON JULY 19, 2017!

Make a donation of \$10 or more and join us for breakfast or lunch!

700 S. Memorial Drive, New Castle

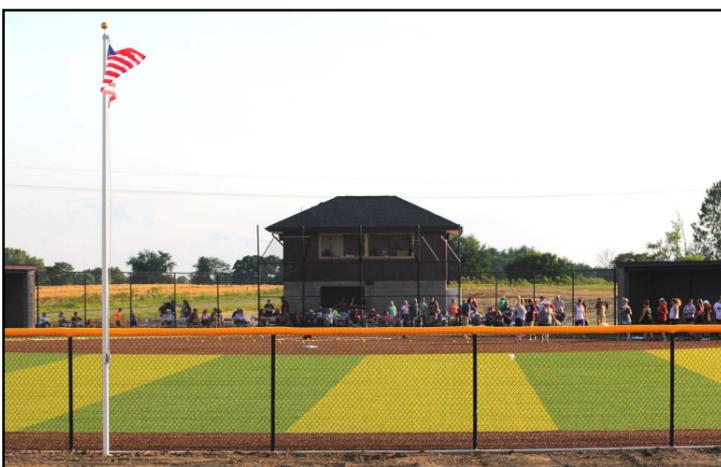
6:00 AM — 8:00 AM	DONUT DRIVE-THRU	>Make a donation in the HCCF drive-thru & receive a FREE Jack's Donut!
11:00 AM—1:00 PM	LUNCH	>Make a donation & receive a FREE sandwich provided by the Saddle Club!

LOCAL SPORTS

Lady Titan Softball Team Holds First Event on New Field



Titan left-fielder Lauren Bouslog led the team at the plate during the season and was given the award for highest batting average (.466) during the team's year-end banquet. (Stacy Cox photo)



The Lady Titans held their annual team awards ceremony and banquet at their brand new softball field June 29. Following the awards, an exhibition game was held with current and former players with coaches Bryan Peggs and Duke Falck pitching. (Stacy Cox photo)

by Stacy Cox
General Manager/Sports Editor

Tri High School softball coach Bryan Peggs and Duke Falck handed out awards to their state runner-up Lady Titan softball team June 29.

The girls brought chairs out onto the brand new softball field at the school for the awards ceremony. The new facility is a direct result of the success of the team in the past few years, Peggs and Falck have told the team repeatedly as the season came to an end. The

new field was incredible with spongy turf, a huge scorer's/press box and massive dugouts.

Lauren Bouslog was given an award for having the highest batting average (.466) during the 2017 season.

Kirsten Falck received an award for having the most RBIs with 28.

Payton Moore was presented with an award for having the most pitching wins with 19.

The Most Improved Player award was earned by Breanna Reece.

The Titan award was shared by Bailey Coffman and Destiny Taylor.

Kelsey-Ryan Donald and Jessie Spong shared the Mental Attitude award. Coach Peggs described the adversity the two girls faced early in the season following injuries that prevented them from playing during their senior year. He told the crowd how the two girls continued to provide leadership and support to their teammates.

Team captains, the four recently-graduated players, were acknowledged for their leadership throughout the season. Those captains were Coffman, Falck, Donald and Spong.

Following the awards presentation, some of the current players joined former Lady Titan players for the first non-official game.

Before the start of the game, Peggs told the crowd that though this was the first game on the new field, there had already been home runs hit there. He and his daughter, Mackenzie Peggs who was a team leader until her graduation in 2016, went to the field recently and pitched some balls to each other when Coach Peggs claimed to have hit six homers.

But, the crowd of parents and players laughed and joked with the coach that they needed proof. Peggs said, "Just bring me a bat!"

Later, Kierstyn Conyers, current starter for the Lady Titans, became the first player to hit a home run on the field when she smacked a pitch over the fence during the alumni game, nearly hitting the scoreboard.

Former players that participated included Natasha Hamilton (2004), Jessica Elliott (2005), Chelsea Eldridge (2006), Ariel Dawson (2009), Terri Seats, Courtney Hall (2011), Destiny Spera (2015), Abbi Coffman (2016) and Mackenzie Peggs (2016).



Kelsey-Ryan Donald (left) and Jessie Spong (right) were each named recipients of the Tri softball team's Mental Attitude award during the team's year-end banquet. (Stacy Cox photo)

KHS Girls Basketball Youth Camp Relocated

Knightstown varsity girls basketball coach Charity Smucker reported that the scheduled free youth basketball camp on July 17, 18 and 19.

The camp has been changed from Knightstown High School to Knightstown Intermediate School

due to the resurfacing of the high school gym.

The camp is for girls in grades kindergarten through eighth grade.

The three-day camp will run for two hours each day, 6-8 p.m.

For more questions, email charitysmucker@yahoo.com.

We're on Twitter - @ktownbanner

LADY PANTHERS

FREE

GIRLS YOUTH BASKETBALL CAMP

When: July 17, 18 and 19
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Where: Knightstown Intermediate School
Ages: Kindergarten-8th grade

Location change due to resurfacing of the KHS gym floor

Tri Football Holding Golf Outing Aug. 6

Tri High School varsity football program is holding a golf outing at Memorial Park Golf Course Sunday, Aug. 6, at 1 p.m.

Cost to participate is \$200 per four-man team for scramble with option to buy extra mulligans, skirts, string and more. All proceeds from the event go to the Titan football program.

To sign up, contact Lee Spurgin at 765-524-0699 or Dusty Neal at 765-524-4261.

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 Rita Wyatt: 765.571.0256

LOCAL SPORTS

Mt. Lawn Races Rained Out Again

Mt. Lawn Speedway officials were forced to cancel the races previously scheduled for Sunday, July 9. Heavy rains dumped over 1.5 inches of rain late Friday afternoon in a 35-minute time frame and already saturated grounds would not let any of the water escape, reported the officials.

Rick Sweigart, Mt. Lawn Speedway owner, said, "We [had] standing water on the track and in the pit area as of noon Saturday making it impossible to conduct the race this weekend. In 2016, we didn't have a

single rainout and already this year we have had two." The July 9 races have tentatively been rescheduled for Aug 27.

The next schedule event at Mt. Lawn will be Sunday, July 23, with the Vore's - CRA Late Model Sportsman, Van Hoy Oil Thunder Cars, Pro Compacts and Stock FWD Compacts in the rescheduled event from May 28.

Check the Mt. Lawn website (mtlawn.com), Twitter and Facebook for additional information.

Oakland A's Win 12U Championship

Corbin Deffinger hit a double and two singles to lead the Oakland A's 11-8 over the Expos in the Knightstown Youth Sports Inc. championship game in the 12U league.

Deffinger scored three of the A's runs. Braxton Carmichael hit two singles and scored three times for the A's. Keenan Reece also had

two hits while Keelan Walters and Zach Waltman each hit a single and scored two runs apiece for the A's.

Korbin Scheck scored the A's other run. Adam Moss, Colton Leisure and Jacob Hall also played for the A's.

For the Expos team, Mason Young, Ben Gandy and Jarred

Cole each hit single and scored once.

Owen Newkirk and Brennan McCorkle added base hits for the Expos. Tanner Ramsey, Everett Orr and Justin Swinehart each scored a run while Andy Swinehart scored twice.

Keegan Ellaby and Mason Davise also played for the Expos.

Barry Elzey Baseball Bash July 13-23

Knightstown Youth Sports Inc. will host the second annual Knightstown Barry Elzey Baseball Bash Recreational All-Star Tournament this month.

Register online at knightstownyouthsportsinc.com. Click on the link for Barry Elzey Registration Form.

The tournament for the 6U teams and for the 10U teams will take place from July 13-16.

The tournament for the 8U teams and for the 12U teams will take place from July 20-23.

There is a four-game guarantee with 12 teams maximum.

The tourney is for recreational all-star teams only. Cost is \$300 per team with discounts available for multiple teams in each age group.

In the event of weather delays, the following refund policy will apply:

*One game played - 70% refund of paid entry fee

*Two games played - 40% refund of paid entry fee

*Three or more games played - no refunds

Please contact coach John Walters through email kjhbb2016@gmail.com or cell 317-557-5739 if you have any questions.

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Girls Named to Knightstown Youth Sports Inc. All-Stars

Dozens of girls participating in the Knightstown Youth Sports Inc. softball leagues earned all-star recognition at the end of their seasons.

The 2017 KYSI girls 8U all-stars were Macey Ballard, Hadley Bramell, Jaycie Cole, Chyan Evans, Dylann Fausnaugh, Amelia Lykens, Peyton McDaniel, Bayleigh McMahel, Anza Milner, Aubrey Raglin, Megan Richardson, Isabella Sotelo and Lane Swindell.

Named to the 2017 KYSI girls 10U all-stars were Madelyn Case, Nevaeh Elliott, Brittany Grider, Kylee Hersberger, Hannah Mefford, Ayana Penn, Ally Piper, Aliviah Putnam, Baeli Renie, Emma Robinson, Stephanie Sotelo and Kiersten Whitfield.

The 2017 KYSI girls 12U all-stars included Kierra Ebbert, Brandi Enterkin, Sarah Good, Emily Hodges, Brooklyn Kieninger, Kennadi Knepley, Josie Koehler, Kiley Magee, Reese McDonald, Addie Ooten, Sydney Springman and Kaylin Whichard.

Following the end of the regular league play, the KYSI teams competed in a tourney. The Citizens State Bank team won the 8U girls championship. The Custom Exteriors team earned the 10U girls league title and McDonald Trucking LLC team was the 12U girls winner.

In the boys 6U tourney, the Georgia team claimed the league championship. The Grasshoppers won the 8U boys league title. The Thresher team won the 10U boys championship and the A's were the 12U boys league winner.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

at

FAITH CHAPEL

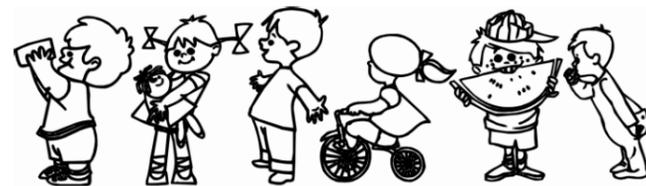
INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH

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Saturday, July 15

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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CLASSIFICATIONS

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FOR SALE

COUNTRY COTTAGE DREAMS - New Items Weekly - Booth 108 @ K-Town Flea Market & Antiques. 121 E. Main. Hammers, Saws, Screwdrivers, Hardware, Vintage Glassware, Feed Sacks, Many Vintage Items. Beautiful TV Armour \$25. Come on in & check us out on Etsy at countrycottage-dreams (one word)!
CHARLYNN DESIGNS online store now open. Visit charlynn-designs.com for more store information and to see our new items. Be sure to follow us on social media.

YARD SALES

YARD SALE - 402 North St. Thursday, Friday, Saturday. 1972 Honda 450, tools, riding mower, lots more.
GARAGE SALE - Friday, July 14, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. 6356 W. Heaton Dr. Household items, girls 2T and 3T, some men's XXL, toys
YARD SALE! July 13, 14, 15. Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon. 404 North Street, Knightstown. Lots of 25-cent clothes and misc.
MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE - 9 S. East St., Carthage. Friday, July 14, 8 a.m.-?, Saturday, July 15, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Rain or shine.

Settlement, from Page 6

Jackson-Watson on June 2, reveals she was paid \$10,000, and, in exchange for that payment, she agreed to dismiss the lawsuit against Pryor.

The settlement agreement states that Jackson-Watson understands and agrees "that the settlement is the compromise of a doubtful and disputed claim and that the payment is not to be construed as an admission of liability" by Pryor, who, the agreement says, expressly denies liability. Because her lawsuit was dismissed "with prejudice," Jackson-Watson will not be able to refile and relitigate these same civil claims against Pryor.

After obtaining the copy of the settlement agreement last Friday, The Banner contacted Jackson-Watson again to let her know the newspaper had this document. She was asked if she was satisfied with the amount of money she received.

"No," Jackson-Watson said. "It was way too low."

Despite not being happy with the \$10,000, Jackson-Watson told The Banner that her lawsuit had never been about trying to obtain a financial windfall. Rather, she said her goal from the beginning has been to see Pryor's law enforcement career ended and criminal charges brought against him.

"It wasn't about the money. It

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Letters, from Page 4

WW II stating that as a veteran he had a lifetime fishing and hunting license.

Postcards and brochures were too many to count; so were the books and magazines.

One item of interest to me was a floor model radio that had several bands on it. I remember as a child loving to tune in the shortwave stations and hear people speaking various foreign languages - none of which I could understand. A friend's son was able to provide some interesting information about this radio. It was a Fairbanks Morse; cost \$89.50 new and was made in Indianapolis in 1938. A year later the company had a fire that destroyed their building. The company still exists today, but following that fire they ceased production of radios. Apparently this model was a top-of-the-line item at the time of purchase.

In your column you said, "When I flipped through the pages onto which Bill has pasted various items I was swept back into our life together, whose places, people and events sprang into being." You also said this was a mixed blessing as it often leads us to mourn and long for "what once was and shall never be again."

Friends and relatives have chided my going through all the paperwork at Mom's - including pictures - saying that no one in the future will be interested in them anyway. I can't disagree more. I've worked on my genealogy since I was in my mid-teens and am thrilled to find old clippings or pictures of a distant relative.

One day I realized that as my husband's dementia worsens many memories are likewise disappearing. It struck me that if I don't remember something, it is gone forever. That makes me treasure even more the mementos from our 32-year marriage - places we went, people we met, recognition for accomplishments, letters, cards and photographs. Even obituaries remind me of relationships and family members whose names have slipped away from me.

Flipping through mementos means flipping through time and experiences - a type of time travel, if you will, not always to a happier time, but certainly to something worthy of our remembrance.

Of special interest to me were cards from our first landlady - the woman who started my going to church as soon as I was able to walk by myself. My parents didn't attend church at the time and Ruth White picked me up every week, took me to Sunday School and drove me home. Then she returned for worship services.

Our memories remind us of where we are and how we got here and who helped mold us along the way. Thank you, Rose Mary, for sharing the memories!

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Shirley, from Page 1

\$39,203 in money owed to the town's water and wastewater utilities that was written off in January 2016 in accordance with a resolution passed by the Shirley Town Council a month earlier. While the agency noted that the town had previously established policies and procedures regarding collection of past due utility balances, it said that these procedures "were not consistently followed prior to writing off" these past due amounts.

According to the SBOA, governmental units must document "all efforts made ... to collect amounts owed prior to any write-offs." Any write-offs or adjustments, the agency said, that are "not documented or warranted may be the personal obligation of the responsible official or employee."

The SBOA also issued a critical finding with respect to the town's use of credit cards to make purchases. According to the agency, the town did not have an approved credit card policy in place, as the SBOA requires.

The town was also cited for not properly maintaining a complete inventory of capital assets. The SBOA said that every governmental unit must keep a detailed list of all capital assets it owns, with a complete physical inventory taken at least every two years.

Finally, the SBOA reported that the town had purchased a vehicle from a family member of a town employee who had failed to file a Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement with the agency, as state statute requires. The agency's report does not reveal any details about this purchase, including the price, make and model of the vehicle, or identify the seller or the town employee related to the seller.

The SBOA's report indicates that an exit conference was held on April 12, at which time the contents of the report were discussed. Attending the meeting for the town were Teresa Hester, the town's clerk-treasurer since January 2016, Town Council President Dennis Denney and council member Rebecca Perkins.

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