



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 32

November 15, 2017

Knightstown, IN

Bluegrass Gospel Nov. 18 at Church

Knightstown Church of God, 405 North St., will host Russell Van Winkle and Friends for some bluegrass gospel on Saturday, Nov. 18, at 6 p.m. For more information, call 317-936-5849 or 345-7442.

Octagon House Tree Walk December 1-2

The Jane Ross Reeves Octagon House Foundation's annual Christmas Tree Walk is Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1-2, and Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 8-9, from 4-8 p.m. each night. The house is located at 400 S. Railroad St., Shirley. Tours are free, but there will be food for purchase. The menu for the first weekend will include soup, sandwiches and desserts, while the second weekend features a chicken noodle dinner and desserts. All food sale proceeds benefit continued restoration of the historic home. For information about how to sponsor a tree, call 765-738-6736.

Wesleyan Church Pie Sale Ongoing

First Wesleyan Church of Knightstown, 471 N. Franklin St., is again selling pies for Thanksgiving. Pecan pies are \$12. Hoosier creme, apple and rhubarb pies are \$10 each. Ordering deadline is Sunday, Nov. 12, with pie pick-up at the church on Sunday, Nov. 19, 12-2 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 20, 2-4 p.m. To order pies, call Amy Bell at 765-686-7063. Pies can also be ordered via email: fwc-newbeginnings16@yahoo.com.

Snowflake Princess Parade Sat., Dec. 2

Future of Carthage is hosting a Snowflake Princess Parade, which will also bring Santa Claus to Carthage on Saturday, Dec. 2, 4-8 p.m. Santa will arrive via fire truck. Kids will be able to write to Santa at a letter writing station.

Breakfast with Sheriff Saturday

The public is invited to a Breakfast with Rush County Sheriff Jim Cowan from 7-10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18, at Rushville Knights of Columbus, 227 E. 3rd Street.

KPD Chief Reprimanded; Council Won't Indicate Why

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

A sharply divided Knightstown Town Council voted last week to formally reprimand the town's chief of police, but released no details about the circumstances that prompted the rebuke.

The council's vote came last Thursday evening, as the only item of business during a brief special meeting that got started nearly an hour late.

The official meeting notice the council had issued earlier that week indicated Thursday's special meeting, called to deal with "personnel and other matters," was to start at 7:30 p.m. It was to follow a 6:30 p.m. private executive session at which the council planned, according to the official meeting notice, to discuss employee job performance evaluations.

Seven-thirty arrived and, in the council's chambers at 28 S. Washington St., there was no sign of any of the council's five members, the town's clerk-treasurer or the town's attorney. They were still meeting behind closed doors in the executive session that was being held in Knightstown Town Hall's back meeting room.

At 8 p.m., there had still been no word from the council as to how much longer they expected the executive session to take, or whether they would need to reschedule that night's special meeting. Finally, nearly half an hour later, the council had finished their executive session and Council President Sarah Ward called the special meeting to order at 8:25 p.m., 55 minutes past when it had been scheduled to start.

Before getting to the personnel matter that had prompted that night's meeting, Ward asked if any of the five people in attendance had any public comments. The Banner told the council it believed that starting the meeting nearly an hour late was a violation of the state's Open Door Law and that the meeting should be rescheduled, and asked the council for an explanation for the delay.

"We had a very difficult decision tonight," Ward said. "... We are trying to be responsible and we are trying to do the best for the community and for the individual."

Ward said the delay in starting the 7:30 p.m. special meeting "wasn't purposeful," and that the council had been engaged in "constant discussion and debate" during the executive session. What she didn't

See Reprimand, Page 12

Veterans Day



Mays Community Academy hosted its annual Veterans Day program last Friday in the school gymnasium. Veterans from Rush, Henry and other counties ate lunch with students and listened as they sang patriotic songs. More photos appear on Page 8. (Eric Cox photos)

Carthage Christmas Festival Saturday, Dec. 2

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

The Carthage Town Council received an update Monday evening on plans for an upcoming Christmas festival in town sponsored by the Future of Carthage, a local nonprofit group.

FOC President Kathy Gibson presented a preview of this year's festival, the group's third since 2015, at the town council's Nov. 13 monthly meeting. This year's festival will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, starting at 4 p.m., although some festival-related activities will take place prior to then.

Gibson said the deadline for the annual home-decorating contest will be midnight on Wednesday, Nov. 29, with judging taking place at dusk the following day. The winner, who will receive \$50, will be announced during the festival.

One of the festival's new features this year, Gibson

said, is a "Miss Snowflake Princess Pageant." She said application forms for this noncompetitive event are available at Pavey's Grocery and the Henry Henley Public Library, and must be returned to the library by 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 25, with the pageant being held at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Ercell Beaver Jr. Community Center.

Other festival-related events include a free soup supper at the community center, a tree-lighting ceremony, a visit from "Santa" and possible hay wagon rides around town. Gibson said FOC is also working to establish a Junior FOC for area youth and to create a directory of businesses in the community.

Council members also received a brief update at Monday's meeting from Dave Kieser, owner of Kieser Consulting Group LLC, a Lawrence-based firm working with the town on a variety of planning and

See Festival, Page 8

Body Found in Destroyed K-town Home Still Unidentified

The Henry County Coroner still has yet to identify the human remains found inside a building destroyed by fire in Knightstown last week.

The Knightstown-Wayne Township Fire Department was dispatched to a fire at 38 W. Warrick St. last Thursday morning. Upon finding the structure fully engulfed in flames, Spiceland, Greensboro, Kennard, Shirley, Wilkinson and Charlottesville fire departments were called for assistance.

According to a press release issued by Chief Eric McDaniel of the KWFD, the Indiana Fire Marshal's office was called to assist with the investigation into the fire. He said that specially-trained K-9s at the scene found evidence of potential accelerants that may have been used to start the fire.

McDaniel's press release indicated that, initially, the K-9s did not locate the human remains due to extensive heat, smoke and other conditions that made the dogs' work difficult. Early Saturday

afternoon, however, when the search was resumed, the body of a deceased individual was located.

The Banner attempted to contact the Henry County Coroner on Tuesday morning for an update. As of the news deadline for this week's issue, no response had been received, and the coroner's office had not issued any statement confirming the deceased's identity or the probable cause of death.

The building that burned was owned by Rick O'Neal, who has not been seen since the fire.



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OBITUARIES

Joshua Fulton White
December 28, 1958 - November 12, 2017



Joshua Fulton White, 58, of Knightstown, died Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017, at Hancock Regional Hospital in Greenfield.

Josh was born in Indianapolis on Dec. 28, 1958, the son of Sue Ann Smith of Knightstown and M. Joseph Smith of Petersburg. He moved to Knightstown in 1974 and graduated from Knightstown High School in 1978. Josh served in the United States Air Force for four years after graduation. He retired from the laborer's union.

Survivors include his parents; a son, Travis White of Indianapolis; three brothers, Taylor White, Jason (Lisa) Smith, and Jacob (Nina) Smith, all of Knightstown; a sister, Elizabeth (Carol) Smith of Mancos, Colo.; two nephews; and three nieces.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the nurses and staff at Hancock Regional Hospice for their excellent care and compassion. Visitation will be Monday, Nov. 27, from 2-3 p.m. at Wilkinson Church of Christ. A celebration of life service will take place at 3 p.m. at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hancock Regional Hospice or the American Cancer Society.

Betty L. Linch
December 23, 1924 - November 10, 2017



Betty L. Linch, age 92, a lifetime resident of Knightstown, passed away Friday, Nov. 10, at Community North Hospital in Indianapolis after a brief illness. She was born Dec. 23, 1924, in rural Henry County, the daughter of the late Gertrude (Gertie) and Lloyd Scovell.

Betty was a 1942 graduate of Knightstown High School and was secretary of her graduating class. She attended Butler University and later married William Judgement (Judge) Linch on Nov. 24, 1945, and was happily married for 71 years. She worked for a short time with the Indiana State Department of Revenue and attorney Wes Ratliff of Knightstown, but her greatest passion was being a farmer's wife and stay-at-home mom.

She was a very kind, loving, hard working woman who spent a lot of her time in the outdoors on the farm. She enjoyed reading a good book or the news of the day and working Sudoku and crossword puzzles. Betty was an avid Pacers and Purdue basketball fan.

She was a member of the First Christian Church of Knightstown, a longtime member of the active and associate chapters of Alpha Zeta Chapter of Kappa Kappa Kappa. Betty was also a 50-plus year member of the Order of Eastern Star, where she served as a worthy matron; charter member of Jolly Workers Extension Homemakers Club; and a member of the historic Fortnightly Club of Knightstown.

She leaves to cherish her memory a son, Jeffrey W. (Janet) Linch of Knightstown; a daughter, Karen K. (Charles R.) Vise of Knightstown; three grandsons, Scot (Loretta) Moore of Greenfield, Erich Moore of Knightstown and Justin (Lisa) Linch of McCordsville; three great-grandchildren, Hagan Moore, Austin Linch and Brody Linch; a great niece; and several cousins.

In addition to her parents, Betty is preceded in death by her husband, William Judgement Linch. Services will be 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 16, at Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service, Knightstown Chapel, with Rev. Richard Thayer and Anthony Darling officiating. Burial will follow in Glen Cove Cemetery. Visiting hours will be from 4-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15, at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the Knightstown First Christian Church, PO Box 37, Knightstown, IN 46148 or Knightstown High School Alumni Association, P.O. Box 121, Knightstown, IN 46148. 46148. Condolences and memories of Betty may be shared at www.hinsey-brown.com.

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K-town Council Meeting Likley Violated Law

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

The Knightstown Town Council's decision to convene last Thursday's special meeting nearly an hour past its scheduled 7:30 p.m. starting time likely violated the state's Open Door Law.

With its 6:30 p.m. closed-door executive session running nearly twice as long as anticipated, it was past 8:20 p.m. when council members, the town clerk-treasurer and the town's attorney finally entered the council's chambers for the 7:30 p.m. special meeting. The Banner objected to the late start and told the town's attorney, Gregg Morelock, it believed the council would be violating the ODL if it were to go ahead and hold the meeting instead of rescheduling it.

Morelock disagreed. When the council is holding a private executive session immediately prior to a public meeting, as had been the case that night, he said its OK for the council to start the public meeting late if the executive session ends up running long.

"We can start late," Morelock said of the follow-up public meeting. "... We just can't start early."

With Morelock giving no credence to The Banner's objection, the council proceeded to hold its special meeting. Council President Sarah Ward called the meeting to order at 8:25 p.m., 55 minutes past the starting time advertised in the council's official meeting notice.

The day after last week's meeting, The Banner reviewed several formal advisory opinions issued by the office of the state's Public Access Counselor that deal with delayed starts to meetings. While one opinion determined that a 23-

minute delay did not violate the ODL, two others found the law to be violated by meetings that were convened 55 minutes and one hour, respectively, after the advertised starting times for those meetings.

In a 2013 formal opinion, the PAC at that time, Joe Hoage, said his predecessors in that office had generally determined that starting a meeting more than 30 minutes past the advertised starting time violated the ODL. The current PAC, Luke Britt, told The Banner on Monday that he agrees with that position.

"I agree with Joe that 30 minutes is probably the very most I would consider a reasonable delay," Britt said in an email to The Banner. "In my opinion, 53 minutes certainly violates (the ODL) in that it unreasonably departs from the time stated in the notice."

Britt said that in a situation like this, the town council should have rescheduled the 7:30 p.m. special meeting instead of calling it to order nearly an hour late. One way to avoid problems like this in the future, he said, would be for the council to start its executive session earlier, allotting more time for it so that any public meeting sched-

uled to follow it can start on time.

In the days since last week's special meeting, The Banner has shared the information gleaned from past PAC advisory opinions and current PAC Britt's comments with Morelock and members of the town council. The Banner has been assured by the town's attorney, Ward and Clerk-Treasurer Beth Huffman that town officials now recognize their error in going forward with last week's special meeting.

"... I would hope you would know that now armed with this information, last night's situation will not be repeated," Morelock said in an email to The Banner.

Huffman thanked The Banner for the providing town officials with guidance on this issue.

"I appreciate the information and I am hopeful that we won't have any more situations like last week again," Huffman wrote in an email, "but, if so, we will certainly handle the start time of the public meeting according to law."

During a meeting at The Banner's office Monday afternoon, Ward also acknowledged the council's error in starting the special meeting nearly an hour late instead

of simply rescheduling it. She, too, said this mistake would not be repeated.

One of the reasons why the executive session that preceded last week's special meeting ran long was because two of the council's members were late to that closed-door meeting. According to

Huffman, council member Roger Hammer was about 15 minutes late, while council member Landon Dean didn't arrive until approximately 7:20 p.m., 50 minutes after the executive session started and only 10 minutes before the special meeting was scheduled to begin.

See Violation, Page 8

K-TOWN LEGION POST 152

DINNER SPECIALS: FRIDAY, NOV. 17

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T - Bone, Baked Potato, Salad Bar - \$17.99



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Banner PERSPECTIVES

Octagon House Great at Christmastime

Virginia Harrell from the Jane Ross Reeves Octagon House Foundation came in Tuesday with an ad and a news release for the annual Christmas Tree Walk at the historic home in Shirley.

I attended that event for the first time last year and I was astonished at just how beautiful that house is when adorned with Christmas decorations. The Octagon House is pretty spectacular any other time of year, but the holidays are special.

Harrell and other volunteers work very hard to make the Christmas Tree Walk a special event. It pays off with attendees touring the home, which features a Christmas tree and other decorations in each room.

This year will be particularly special since, thanks to a grant from the White Family Foundation, the structure's kitchen has been completed.

Some have compared the Octagon House's holiday interior to a sort of time machine, taking at least one attendee back to his childhood in Shirley. That's comparable to the Hoosier Gym, in which many a visitor has commented on the deep nostalgia they feel inside.

This year's event is Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1-2, and Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 8-9, from 4-8 p.m. each night. Located at 400 S. Railroad St. in Shirley, the Octagon House won't be hard to spot. Tours are free, but there will be food for purchase. The menu for the first weekend will include soup, sandwiches and desserts, while the second weekend features a chicken

noodle dinner and desserts. All food sale proceeds benefit continued restoration of the historic home.

A similar event takes place and is currently underway at the Wilbur Wright Birthplace. The Christmas Walk and Festival of Trees takes place Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16, from 5-7 p.m. at 1525 N. Henry County Rd. 750-E near Millville.

The event is free, but donations are accepted. This year, volunteers are collecting canned food items for a food pantry and any supplies for the Henry County Animal Shelter, including cat food, dog food, used towels, kitty litter, etc.

The Wilbur Wright Birthplace is a fascinating Henry County attraction featuring a wealth of items and information relating to the birth of aviation.

Of course, there are several other Christmas events going on locally, including school concerts, tree lighting ceremonies, parades and more. The people who organize these events - often volunteers - count on the public to come enjoy them and maybe make a little money in the process.

So, please, take my advice and attend some of these really cool and unique events. Shirley's Octagon House is truly spectacular at Christmas as great care and time are taken to thoughtfully decorate, cook and welcome guests.

Nothing will put you in the holiday spirit quite like attending one of these interesting Christmastime attractions in your area.



Revisiting Rose Mary: Thanksgiving

During dinner with friends, we talked about Thanksgiving plans. Each family has traditions that are set in concrete. The menu's very sameness, generation after generation, brings comfort. Jana said, "There's bread for my aunt's stuffing drying out all over our house. No other stuffing will do for our family." Jim told how he makes oyster dressing. We use Bill's mother's stuffing: bread toasted dry in the oven and rolled into crumbs, sauteed onions, sage, salt, pepper, hot water and juice from a roast ham or bacon grease. We cover our turkey with parchment paper rather than foil.

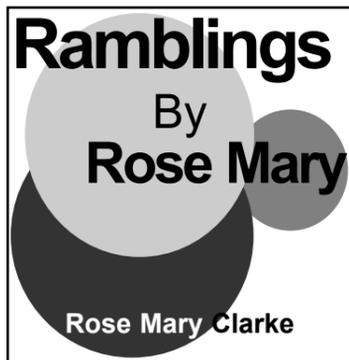
Dinner at Vicki's home was a typical American feast: turkey and stuffing, chicken and noodles, green beans, Mama's corn pudding, all the mashed potatoes the twins could hold, and pumpkin and pecan pie. My mother would also have had slaw, lime Jello with pineapple and cream cheese and cranberry sauce.

There is nothing better than food prepared from scratch by a good, old-time Hoosier cook, even if it does clog your arteries! Mother learned to cook from the lore passed down through several generations of Hoosier farm cooks. And, oh, the mouth-watering threshing dinners she described when farmers came from miles around to help at the Old Home Place near Michigantown!

I loved old Granny's stories about the olden days. She told how they'd dig a trench, line it with straw, put in root vegetables and

cabbages, add more straw and cover it with dirt to keep the vegetables for use during the winter. There being no electronic marvels, they entertained themselves in the evening with simple pleasures such as cracking walnuts on a flatiron held between the knees and making fudge by the light of oil lamps before going to bed early in order to rise while it was still dark to tend to the animals or cook breakfast.

Farm work - done with horses in



those days before modern machinery - burned a lot of calories. Women spent much time preserving and preparing food. Every day my great grandmothers and their daughters had huge breakfasts ready when the men and boys came in from the big round barn: fried side meat or ham, pancakes, fried potatoes, eggs, biscuits and gravy, assorted jellies, and apple butter. Think of it: They baked bread every day. On the other hand, they didn't work outside the home.

Then came noon dinner: meat, vegetables, homemade bread, cake

and pie. Domestic Diva Martha Stewart would have approved of them because they were always prepared for unexpected guests. After dinner, the table was reset with cake, pies and cookies, and fresh coffee was brewed in case a relative or neighbor dropped in. Then came supper.

And all of this was cooked - winter and summer - on a hot iron range! Quite a contrast to my glass-topped range with self-cleaning oven and all kinds of appliances and gizmos, not to mention super market delis and frozen food sections.

Is there anyone who doesn't adore the sassy, outspoken cartoon character Maxine? Here's her response to some of Martha's tips:

Martha: "To keep potatoes from budding, place an apple in the bag." Maxine: "Buy Hungry Jack. Keeps in the pantry for two years." Martha: "When baking cake, coat the pan with cake mix instead of flour to avoid a white mess on the cake." Maxine: "Go to the bakery. Hell, they'll even decorate it for you." Martha: "Brush beaten egg whites over pie crust before baking to yield a beautiful glossy finish." Maxine: "Mrs. Smith's frozen pie directions do not include this, so I don't do it." Martha: "Freeze leftover wine into ice cubes for future use in casseroles and sauces." Maxine: "Leftover wine????? Hello?" My personal favorite is Martha: "Wrap celery in aluminum foil, and it will keep for weeks." Maxine: "Celery? Never heard of it!"

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Purchasing a used vehicle and later learning it has been flood damaged can be very problematic and lead to costly issues down the road. Worst yet, these vehicles can be unhealthy to occupy because of mold and bacteria growing in the carpet and ventilation system. It is important for those considering the purchase of a used vehicle to check for signs of water intrusion or contamination.

Take the sniff test. Close all the windows and doors and let the car sit. Then crack open a door and sniff. Mildew and mold have very distinctive smells and it doesn't take long for that smell to present itself.

Try the touch test. Get some paper towels and press them against the low spots in the carpet. The paper towels will draw the moisture out and reveal if the carpet is wet under the surface. If the paper towel becomes wet it could mean water has gotten into the car.

Investigate the interior. Look under the seats and dash for corrosion and rust. Exposed metal that is untreated and rusted as well as mud and debris in places it does not belong, are signs of water infiltration.

Inspect the instrument panel. Turn on the key and perform a bulb test. Make sure every bulb lights up and has no active faults.

Take it to a professional. A professional technician can raise the car and look underneath to see if there is any mud, sticks or rocks in the suspension as well as check the oil in the differentials to make sure they contain no water.

Taking these steps can help you identify any issues and give you piece of mind. To learn more, visit www.carcare.org.

Rich White, executive director
Car Care Council

Dear Editor,

I read Sen. Karen Tallian's letter in the Oct. 25 issue of The Banner in which she discusses the drastic decrease in funding for navigators to assist people in signing up for health insurance under Affordable Care Act (Obamacare).

I believe that Sen. Tallian omitted mention of an important byproduct of the funding reduction by President Trump and Vice President Pence. Perhaps she was too kind to mention it, but I am not so kind.

The president will be killing people just as surely as if he had stood on Fifth Avenue, in front of Trump Tower, and shot them himself. Of course, had he done that, despite what he said, the NYPD would have promptly locked him up. He will not be locked up for these murders, but they are murders nonetheless. There is no other way to describe deliberately arranging things so that people are deprived of health care. And we all know that without health care people die.

Eugene Falik
Far Rockaway, NY

Dear Editor,

Veterinary care is one of the largest expenses that dog owners need to budget for. Many of us don't put a lot of thought into this expense because it doesn't come around very often. We're more focused on dog food, chew toys, treats and other products that we need to buy on a regular basis.

An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure - For Dogs According to the American Pet Products Association, Americans spent over \$15 billion in vet expenses in 2015. Most of these expenses were preventable by getting less expensive preventative care. Instead of

See Letters, Page 12

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

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THE Banner
a responsible community newspaper

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

Hubert H. Humphrey

BITS & PIECES

◆First Wesleyan Church of Knightstown, 471 N. Franklin St., is again **selling pies** for Thanksgiving. Pecan pies are \$12. Hoosier creme, apple and rhubarb pies are \$10 each. Ordering deadline is Sunday, Nov. 12, with pie pick-up at the church on Sunday, Nov. 19, 12-2 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 20, 2-4 p.m. To order pies, call Amy Bell at 765-686-7063. Pies can also be ordered via email: fwnewbeginnings16@yahoo.com.

◆The Jane Ross Reeves Octagon House Foundation's annual **Christmas Tree Walk** is Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1-2, and Saturday, Dec. 8-9, from 4-8 p.m. each night. The house is located at 400 S. Railroad St., Shirley. Tours are free, but there will be food for purchase. The menu for the first weekend will include soup, sandwiches and desserts, while the second weekend features a chicken noodle dinner and desserts. All food sale proceeds benefit continued restoration of the historic home. For information about how to sponsor a tree, call 765-738-6736.

◆Future of Carthage is hosting a **Snowflake Princess Parade**, which will also bring Santa Claus to Carthage on Saturday, Dec. 2, 4-8 p.m. Santa will arrive via fire truck. Kids will be able to write to Santa at a letter writing station.

◆**Knightstown Church of God**, 405 North St., will host Russell Van Winkle and Friends for some bluegrass gospel on Saturday, Nov. 18, at

6 p.m. For more information, call 317-936-5849 or 345-7442.

◆The public is invited to a Breakfast with **Rush County Sheriff Jim Cowan** from 7-10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18, at Rushville Knights of Columbus, 227 E. 3rd St.

◆Central Wrestling Federation presents **Thanksgiving Bash '17** on Saturday, Nov. 25, at Carthage Community Church, 511 E. 2nd St. Advance tickets can be purchased at Knightstown Toy's and Treasures or Pavey's Grocery. Advance tickets are \$7 and \$9 at the door. Bell time is 6 p.m.; doors open at 5 p.m. Donations for a local food pantry are being accepted.

◆Beginning Nov. 1 and continuing through March, **Historic Knightstown Inc.** will observe the following hours of service: 10 a.m.-12 p.m. each Friday and Saturday, or by appointment. The museum may be closed during major holiday weekends. For more information or to schedule a visit, call David Steele at 765-345-7585.

◆The Knightstown Public Library has a limited number of the **Henry County Reads** title for 2017, *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, by Jules Verne. The books are available on a first come first served basis, and are also available at The New Castle-Henry County Public Library.

◆Walnut Ridge Friends Church, 8956 W. CR 800-N, Carthage, will host A Country **Christmas Bazaar**

on Friday, Dec. 1, 2:30-8:30 p.m. A variety of homemade goods will be available, including jams, jellies, crafts, cookies, Christmas ornaments and holiday decor. A soup bar will be available for a freewill offering. A live nativity scene will take place 6:30-8:30 p.m. The public is invited.

◆The Shirley Octagon House is open for **free tours**, by chance or appointment. To get a free tour by appointment, call 765-738-6736 or 812-583-0030.

◆**MainSource Bank**, 120 E. Main St., Knightstown, is again hosting its annual drive for gloves, mittens, hats and socks for local children. Items may be dropped off in the bank lobby.

◆Items are needed for a **Beautify Knightstown**, Inc. fund raising project. Gently used items that can be donated are appreciated and pick-up can be arranged by calling 765-445-2328. They may also be dropped off at the Hoosiers Home Court Cafe, 12 E. Main St, Knightstown. Funds will be used to purchase additional Knightstown flags to line Main Street, support Little Free Libraries, distribute welcome baskets, and purchase trim for the gazebo.

◆Beautify Knightstown, Inc. offers a **welcome basket** to all new residents of Dunreith, Knightstown, Charlottesville, Carthage and Wilkinson. The baskets can be obtained at the Knightstown Utility Office. Any business, church or organization is encouraged to pro-

vide items for these baskets such as pens, cups, magnets, key chains, coupons, brochures and etc. For more info call 317-345-9660. Linda Lashbrook at lnlashbrook@gmail.com.

◆**Alcoholics Anonymous** meets weekly, on Tuesdays, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hoosier Gym (enter on East side). Meetings will continue each Tuesday at the same time and location. For more info, call 765-571-1662.

◆The **Parish Clothes Closet**, located in the basement of Bethel Presbyterian Church, 112 S. Franklin St., Knightstown, is open the last Thursday of each month

from 5-7 p.m.

◆The Knightstown **Head Start** program, located at the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy, still has openings for age-eligible children for this school year. The program is also taking applications for the 2017-2018 school year. Call 765-529-4403 for more info.

News items for Bits & Pieces may be submitted to thebanner@embarqmail.com. Articles may be edited for length and clarity.

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Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

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Carthage Citizens Can Give Input at Tonight's Planning Meeting

A steering committee formed to help the town of Carthage develop a comprehensive plan is hoping to find out what citizens see as the town's assets, liabilities and needs during a special public meeting tonight.

Members of the public who reside within town limits are encouraged to attend tonight's meeting, which starts at 6:30 p.m.

at Carthage Town Hall, 6 W. First St. Those in attendance will be asked to offer feedback on topics like land use, community facilities and services, community image and identity, economic development, transportation, parks and recreation, and environmental protection.

The steering committee's next See Planning, Page 12

Confessed Sports Junky Guy Louks Delights in Running K-town Youth Basketball Program

by Eric Cox
Publisher

"I've just always loved sports," said Guy Louks, head of the Knightstown Youth Basketball Program. "I've always liked working with kids and working with families. I'm a sports fan to begin with. And with kids of my own in the programs, it's just a natural fit to be involved."

Although this is his first season as head of the program in Knightstown, Louks is no novice. He has served similar programs in several different areas in the past.

"When I lived in West Lafayette," Louks said, "I was a student minister in a church. I also was an assistant girls varsity softball coach at Lafayette gym for 20 plus seasons. I've coached little league sports, youth sports, for six or seven years. I'm also on the board with the Knightstown Youth Baseball Program. And my wife and I actually run the concession stand down at the baseball park."

In addition to his experience coaching and leading, Louks participated in youth sports during his school years as well. He had been a baseball player, as well as a member of the wrestling team.

Louks and his family have lived in Knightstown for about two years.

However, the year before they moved there, he and his family were already getting involved with the school system and sports programs. They had split homes during this time, driving to and from Lafayette so as to not miss any sports or school functions their sons were involved in.

"And then when our youngest child, Alex, was born a couple years ago, we decided it was time for us to move here to be closer to Travis and Tony, so Alex wouldn't have to live the first couple years of his life in the car, driving back and forth," said Louks.

He and his wife considered a few different towns to settle in before finally moving, such as Pendleton, Greenfield and New Castle. But they had already fallen in love with Knightstown, a community they felt had welcomed them with open arms.

"So when it was time to move and we considered all of our options, Knightstown was where we wanted to be," he said. "We loved the community, we loved the people, we loved the atmosphere. And I think a little bit of why we're involved with the sports program also is because we just really want to be a part of the community."

Louks is from Lafayette originally, where he attended Lafayette South High School and graduated in 1991.

"I had lived my entire life in Lafayette until I moved here," said Louks. "I still have ties in Lafayette. I have a 21-year-old daughter who still lives in Benton County, which is just outside of Lafayette."

Louks and his family attend Knightstown Friends Church. His wife, Risa, is a school nurse at Knightstown Elementary School. His sons are Travis, Tony and Alex, and his daughter is named Shelby.

Outside of his work in youth sports, Louks works a full-time job at Sekoms Tobacco Inc. He's worked there for 19 years. He also is co-owner of a professional wrestling company called the Central Wrestling Federation. He sometimes holds wrestling shows at Carthage Community Church.

"There's a lot of great people in the basketball program," he said. "For Coach Magee and Mr. Martin at the high school, it's great that they gave me an opportunity to help lead the young kids. And Jim Newkirk down at the baseball park giving me the opportunity to be involved. Those three people, big credit to them."



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MEETINGS CALENDAR

Thurs., Nov. 16 – Hancock Co. Planning Commission technical committee meeting, 9 a.m., courthouse annex room 101, Greenfield

Thurs., Nov. 16 – Knightstown Town Council meeting, 7 p.m., town council chambers, 28 S. Washington St.

Thurs., Nov. 16 – Henry Co. Planning Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m., courthouse old circuit court room, New Castle

Tues., Nov. 21 – Hancock Co. Commissioners meeting, 8 a.m., courthouse annex room 101, Greenfield

Tues., Nov. 21 – Charles A. Beard Memorial School

board meeting, 7 p.m., high school media center

Tues., Nov. 21 – Rush Co. Health Dept. board meeting, 7 p.m., Health Dept. office at courthouse, Rushville

Wed., Nov. 22 – Hancock Co. Planning Commission plat committee meeting, 8:30 a.m., courthouse annex room 101, Greenfield

Wed., Nov. 22 – Henry Co. Council meeting, 3:30 p.m., courthouse old circuit court room, New Castle

Wed., Nov. 22 – Henry Co. Commissioners meeting, 6 p.m., courthouse old circuit court room, New Castle

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FOLKWAYS

Local DAR Chapter Meets in Greenfield

Ten members attended the Major Hugh Dinwiddie Chapter of DAR at the Ponderosa Restaurant in Greenfield on Saturday, Nov. 4, with Peg Queener as hostess.

Denise Akers, regent, thanked everyone for coming and opened the meeting in ritualized form, with the DAR Ritual repeated, pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, preamble to the constitution and the American's Creed.

Minutes of the previous meeting, Oct. 7, were read and approved.

Judy Martin, treasurer, gave the treasurer's report.

Sherrell Rigney gave the National Defense Report, reminding everyone of Veterans Day this month, the 11th day of the 11th hour of the 11th month. She read about the Col. Joshua Howard Chapter in southeast Michigan and the Rosie the Riveters Chapter from Willow Run and how as many as 90,000 women made the World War II B-24 bombers during the war. She stated we should never forget the women who have served, this being nearly 3 million women since the Revolutionary War.

For the "Health Minute," Katie Lewman gave an informative talk about hepatitis. There is a break out of hepatitis A currently. This break-out is prevalent in the homeless population. Usually people don't know when they have hepatitis B and C. Lewman said it was imperative for babies to get shots and, when older, to get booster shots. Also, she said it is imperative that facilities that give the vaccines to keep these at the proper temperature. She gave an informative discussion about shingles also.

President General Ann Turner Dillon's November message was passed around for all to read. Turner said a delegation of about 80 DAR members set out on the Celebrating the Franco-American Alliance Tour to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of World War I by visiting battle sites and Somme American Military Cemetery, which honors the sacrifice of 1,844 American military soldiers who lost their lives serving in World War I. This year will mark the 99th anniversary of the armistice signed between the Allies and Germany, ending World War I on Nov. 11, 1918.

The restoration of the Constitution Hall stage has been completed. The new DAR museum gallery renovation is underway and staff members are busy planning an upcoming exhibition that will feature many of the objects in chapter collections.

Akers passed around the thank you notes from District Director Kitty Ryerson for the get together on Oct. 14 and from the regent of the Sarah Winston Henry Chapter, Stacey Sobat, for the banner the local chapter gave her chapter on their 90th anniversary party.

Queener gave the program on women in the military. She stated there is a military monument at the entrance of Arlington National Cemetery in Manassas, Va., for the women that served in the military. People can register and document stories of women veterans. Website

is www.womensmemorial.org.

One of the ladies that served in the Revolution War was Sally St. Clair. St. Clair was a Creole girl who disguised herself as a soldier in a South Carolina regiment and she followed her lover into battle fighting beside him. One account says it was the famous Sgt. Jaspers of Marion's Brigade. She was killed in the Battle of Savannah reportedly protecting him. St. Clair was not discovered to be female until her death.

The only two requirements to join the militia at the time were to have your front teeth, and to have a
See DAR, Page 12

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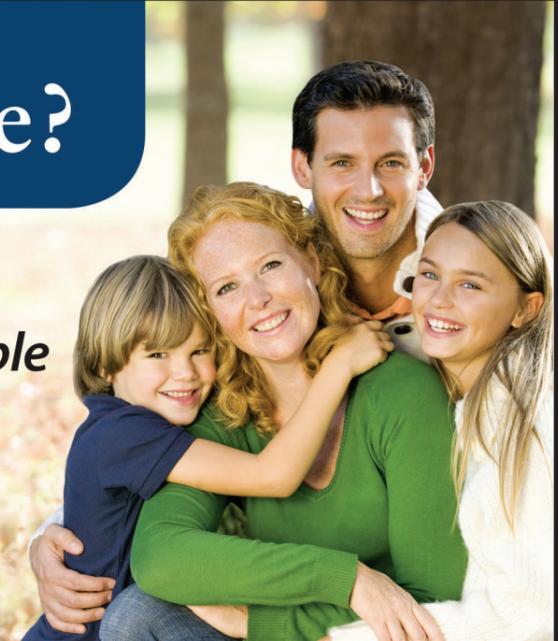


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- ▶ Additional information at healthcare.gov

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- ▶ Financial help based on family size and income.
- ▶ Medical expenses such as doctor visits, hospital care and prescriptions.
- ▶ Vision and dental care may be provided
- ▶ Additional information at HIP.IN.gov
- ▶ From November 1-December 15 HIP members have the opportunity to switch to another health plan for 2018.

Henry Community Health and Henry Community Health Medical Group physicians are accepting new HIP 2.0 patients and participate in all four plans: Anthem HIP, MHS HIP, CareSource HIP, and MDwise HIP.

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Mays Community Academy Rolls out the Red Carpet for Veterans Day Program



Mays Community Academy welcomed area veterans to their annual Veterans Day program last Friday afternoon. Vets had lunch with kids and listened as they sang patriotic songs and recited facts and history about past conflicts and the importance of veterans. (Eric Cox photos)

Violation, from Page 3

Despite his late arrival, Dean told The Banner last Friday that he'd "had no idea" that the executive session had run nearly an hour late.

When Ward met with The Banner on Monday, she indicated that the late arrival of one of the council members - she didn't specifically name Dean - had been one of the main reasons why the executive session was not concluded in time to start the special meeting at 7:30 p.m. She said that once this tardy council member arrived for the executive session, much of what had already been discussed had to be gone over again.

Festival, from Page 1

development issues. Kieser told the council that he would prepare legal notices to publish in newspapers in Richmond, Indianapolis and Rushville advertising for bids for paving work in town and for a downtown improvement project. He said the bids will be due at 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 11, and will be opened at that evening's town council meeting.

Kieser said the council may need to schedule a special meeting for December to further discuss the bids the town receives and decide to whom the work contracts will be awarded.

"I think we're going to get some really good prices bidding (this work) out now," Kieser said at Monday's meeting. At this time of the year, as the weather turns cold, he said firms that do road work are often eager to start lining up projects for next spring and summer.

Kieser also advised the council that one of the five mem-

bers of a steering committee helping the town with developing a comprehensive plan, Clare Mercer, had resigned, and that a replacement was needed. He said this committee would probably meet a couple of more times, with a special public meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. this evening at Carthage Town Hall, 6 W. First St., and the next committee meeting set for Dec. 6.

A proposed project to purchase a former bank building on South Main Street and relocate the town hall offices there, Kieser said, will be put on hold until after the first of the year. He said it would cost the town \$550 to get a prior appraisal on that property that was done a couple of years ago updated, and said a needed second appraisal could cost \$1,500.

With the town's clerk-treasurer, Linda McMahan, ill and not in attendance at Monday's meeting, the council did not have a monthly claims docket or minutes from prior meet-

ings to approve. The town's attorney, Adam Forrest, and building inspector Bob Bullock also did not attend Monday's meeting, so the council had no updates on legal issues or matters regarding problem properties in town that Bullock is supposed to be trying to get property owners to address.

Acting on a recommendation from Josh Douglas, the town's works manager, the council voted to OK spending up to \$2,980 for a new flow meter for use at the town's wastewater treatment plant. Douglas told the council that the vendor told him the town would get this discounted price as a result of a credit of about \$3,500 for exchanging its current meter.

More information about Monday's monthly meeting of the Carthage Town Council can be found in the memoranda and minutes of that proceeding. Those public records should be available for inspection and copying at Carthage Town Hall during normal business hours.

LOCAL SPORTS

Winchester Skies Over Knightstown Girls; Hagerstown Hands KHS Second Loss

Knightstown High School girls basketball team faced a Winchester team with two six-footers and a few other players nearly that tall in their opening game of the season Nov. 10.

The height difference was too much for the Lady Panthers. They fell 34-73.

The Lady Falcons were so strong, they had taken a 21-3 lead after the first quarter and scored another 21 in the second quarter to go up 42-15 by halftime.

The Lady Panthers had a better second half but still had no answer for the giants on Winchester. The Falcons finally took their starters out late in the fourth quarter, but their replacements were immediately hot from long range to help the Falcons to the 39-point win.

Knightstown was 13-for-57 from the field, shooting just 23% overall. The Lady Panthers also committed 21 turnovers in the season starter.

Lori Thomas topped KHS with five points, nine rebounds, two assists, three deflections and one steal.

Katie Clark had five points, three rebounds, two assists and two deflections.

Sidney Vise finished with five points, two rebounds and one assist. Jess Butler scored four points and grabbed four rebounds and two steals.

Emma Moore got four points and two rebounds. Dharma Holder had three points, four rebounds and one assist.

Kaitlyn Jackson finished with three points and two rebounds.

Allyson Hauk had three points, one rebound and one deflection.

Alexis Howard had two points, one rebound and one assist.

Maggie Smith added one rebound, one assist and two steals while Rena Witham came up with three rebounds.

After being dominated by 14th-ranked Winchester in their season

opener on Friday night, the Lady Panthers faced a more evenly-matched team in Hagerstown Saturday night for their second straight home game.

But, Knightstown's girls were still struggling to get the ball through the hoop against the Lady Tigers, picking up their second loss after falling 36-54.

A shaky start for the Lady Panthers resulted in several turnovers that quickly put them in catch-up position.

KHS were down 9-14 at the end of the first and by halftime were at an eight-point deficit. Down 19-28 to start the second half, the Lady Panthers still couldn't get anything going offensively, scoring only four points in the third while Hagerstown scored 16 to go up 44-23.

Knightstown has its best quarter to end the game, capped by a long three-pointer at the buzzer by Jackson. The Lady Tigers prevailed 54-36.

Jackson led the team with 13 points, seven rebounds, one assist and one steal.

Butler also scored 13 points, pulled down five rebounds and took a charge.

Hauk had three points and one block. Clark finished with two points, two rebounds, one assist and two steals. Vise had two points and one assist.

Thomas got one point, four rebounds, three assists and one deflection.

Kaitlynn McIntyre added one point and two rebounds while Smith had one point and one rebound.

Howard came up with two rebounds, one block and one deflection.

Witham had two rebounds and one deflection.

Holder pulled in two rebounds and Liz Moore got one rebound and one deflection.

The Lady Panthers are 0-2.



Knightstown's Jess Butler tries to get position and post up against Winchester Friday night. But, the 5'11 Butler and other Lady Panthers struggled inside against the 6'3 and 6'0 Falcons. (Stacy Cox photo)

Eastern Hancock Volleyball Club Tryouts Sunday

The Lady Royal Volleyball Club (LRVBC) tryouts and evaluations will be held this Sunday, Nov. 19 and again on Sunday, Dec. 3 at the Eastern Hancock High School gym.

LRVBC is open to all area volleyball players who love volleyball, want to extend their play, are interested in working

hard and improving their skills.

Evaluations for ages 10u, 12u and 14u will be from 1-3 p.m.

The 15u, 16u and 17u evaluations will be held from 3-5 p.m.

Players will be placed on teams based on age, skill level and experience, position, as well as IHSAA limitations (high school level teams may have no

more than three from same high school on the same team).

Please visit the following link: sites.google.com/a/ehancock.org/eastern-hancock-athletics/volleyball or contact Cory Rainbolt at coryrainbolt@easternhancock.org or 317-467-0095 ext. 214 for additional information.

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KHS Annual Girls Alumni Basketball Game & Can Food Drive



When: Saturday, December 2nd.

Bring 5 can foods & get in FREE!

Where: KHS

Time: immediately following the girls JV & Varsity games (11 am)

If you are interested in playing please email head coach Charity Smucker at:

charitysmucker@yahoo.com with your

t-shirt size & name. The cost this year will be \$15 & free admission to the girls JV & Varsity game!

Make checks payable to Knightstown Girls Basketball & mail to KHS by November 20th!

COME SUPPORT YOUR LADY PANTHERS!

LOCAL SPORTS

Tri Girls Start Season 2-0 with Wins Over Morristown, Blue River



Above, Tri senior Payton Moore grabs another rebound during the Lady Titans season opener on the road at Morristown. Moore led her team against the Jackets and in Tri's home opener against Blue River, finishing in double figures in both games. Below, Kaley Harrison takes one of her five steals against Morristown down the court for the bucket, drawing another foul to head to the line. (Stacy Cox photos)



Boys High School Basketball Scrimmages This Week

The 2017-2018 boys high school basketball season starts this week.

Knightstown will once again host a scrimmage with Connersville to kick off their year. The Spartans and Panthers will compete against each other starting at 1 p.m.

The Panthers will start this season with heavy hearts at the loss of Dylan Hiner, the team's top scorer, following a tragic fatal car accident in May 2016. Many of the Panther athletes in fall sports dedicated their seasons to Hiner and no doubt the boys basketball team will feel the loss of their friend and teammate most intensely.

KHS head coach Dusty Magee will be looking to put some wins on the record this year after a tough time last year that saw the Panthers finish 3-20 in Magee's debut season.

Panther fans will be surprised to see the addition of players on the team who haven't played basketball competitively in years. Tyler Burton, the school's quarterback and top baseball player, has decided to get back on the court for his senior year. Senior Garrett Thomas will also be joining the Panther basketball team after previously focusing on wrestling during the winter sports season. Another senior, Owen Wiles, has decided to play basketball this year as well. Wiles transferred to Knightstown prior to his junior year and had played a big part on the Panther baseball team last season.

Tri Titans will start their season with a scrimmage on the road at Oldenburg Academy Wednesday night, Nov. 15.

The first game for both the Panthers and the Titans will be against each other in the second part of a doubleheader with the varsity girls team next Wednesday, Nov. 22, at Knightstown High School.

by Stacy Cox

General Manager/Sports Editor

The 2017-2018 season for Tri's girls basketball teams kicked off on the road at Morristown Nov. 7, followed by the first home game against Blue River Valley Nov. 10.

The Lady Titans got off to a great start with a 51-44 win over Morristown and then dominated Blue River 60-36.

Tri senior Payton Moore, who averaged 16.6 points and 10.8 rebounds per game last season, picked up where she left off, leading the Lady Titans again with a double-double in both games last week.

The Lady Titans were enjoying a 14-point lead with five and a half minutes left in the first half against Morristown when Moore picked up her third foul trying to intercept a cross-court pass.

With Moore on the bench, the Yellow Jackets chipped away at Tri's lead and by halftime they had pulled within five points, 21-16.

The Lady Jackets kept their momentum going to start the second half and took a 23-21 lead at the six-minute mark of the third.

The score then stayed close or tied until about two minutes left in the game. Tri's players picked up their intensity on defense, forcing turnovers and making steals that resulted in trips to the line several times in those final two minutes.

With an often rushed offense, the Lady Titans committed 25 turnovers in the game. But, when it mattered most, Tri's girls got to the line and made it count, going 12-for-16 at the stripe to bring home the 51-44 victory in the season opener.

Moore finished with 22 points, 12 rebounds, two assists, two deflections and four blocks. She was 8-for-14 from the field and 6-for-6 from the line.

Senior Kaley Harrison came up big defensively, especially down the stretch, with five steals, two deflections and one rebound. She was 3-for-3 at the line and hit two 3-pointers and one shot from the field for 11 points.

Lauren Bouslog had a solid showing to start her senior year season, hitting two field goals and two free throws for six points and grabbing four rebounds with one deflection.

Freshman Maddie Burchett's yielded five points, one rebound, one assist, one steal and two deflections in her first varsity game.

Six-foot-two freshman Averi Phelps dropped in two buckets in the paint and pulled down three rebounds.

Senior Breanna Reece hit a three-pointer but got into foul trouble early and saw limited playing time.

Junior Auburn Harvey worked hard throughout the game, coming up with four defensive rebounds, two steals and two deflections. Sophomore Allison Kingery had two rebounds while Makenna Hawk, also a sophomore, added one rebound and an assist.

Lady Titans Dominate in First Home Game

Moore stayed out of foul trouble in the home opener against Blue River Valley and helped lead the Lady Titans to a 60-36 victory.

Tri had a 15-12 lead after the first quarter and never relented. By halftime, the Lady Titans had pushed their lead out to 31-21 and then they held the Lady Vikings to just four points in the third quarter to take a 42-25 lead going into the fourth.

In the fourth, Tri's girls would post their best quarter of the season, scoring 18 points.

The Lady Titans again struggled to control the ball, turning it over 21 times, but pounded the boards. Tri outrebounded BRV 37-25.

Moore posted 19 points, 12 rebounds, two assists, two steals, two deflections and two blocks in another stellar outing. After the game, she committed to continue her career after high school at Anderson University.

Harrison finished with 14 points, one rebound, one steal and two deflections.

Bouslog had nine points, five rebounds, four assists and one steal with one deflection.

Burchett also scored nine points and made four steals, one rebound and one assist with two deflections.

Phelps again scored four points and pulled down eight rebounds with one deflection.

Harvey hit one bucket and had two rebounds, one assist, two steals and one deflection.

Reece grabbed five rebounds and made one assist with one deflection.

Kingery had two points and two rebounds. Hawk dropped in a free throw and made one steal. Madeline Hoover added one rebound.

The Lady Titans take their 2-0 record on the road to Hagerstown Tuesday night.

Wyatt, Reed Named Academic All-State

Knightstown seniors Candice Wyatt and Kamryn Reed have been named to the 2017 Indiana High School Volleyball Coaches' Association Academic All-State Team for volleyball.

Wyatt and Reed, along Jacie Koontz and Cecily Jester from New Castle, were the only girls in this area to receive this award.

Wyatt has been a member of varsity Panther volleyball team for four years. She tallied 103 aces, 749 kills, 39 assists, 247 blocks and 653 digs in her career. She holds school records for the most assisted blocks and for most total blocks.

In addition to Academic All-State honors, Wyatt has also been awarded All-County, All-Conference, First Team All-Area and MVP during her career. Wyatt is second in her graduating class with a GPA of 4.189.

Wyatt has also been Hoosier Girls State Delegate and a Rising Star of Indiana. She was awarded the top student in many of her classes including business,

English, Spanish and Art. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, VOICE, Drama, Spanish Club, Art Club, and History Club.

Reed has been a member of Panther varsity volleyball team for three years. She tallied 1437 assists, 62 aces, 268 digs and 56 kills in her career.

Besides her Academic All-State honors, Reed has also been awarded All-County, All-Conference (HM), Second Team All-Area and the Mental Attitude Award during her career. Reed is 10th in her graduating class with a GPA of 3.83.

Reed is a member of the Student Council where she volunteers her time for such events as food drives, the blood drive, homecoming activities and the winter formal.

She is a member of the National Honor Society and VOICE and participates in Spanish Club, Art Club, and History Club. Reed is considering playing collegiate volleyball.



Candice Wyatt



Kamryn Reed

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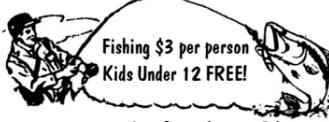


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Reprimand, from Page 1

explain was that two of the council's five members had arrived at the executive session late.

According to information Clerk-Treasurer Beth Huffman provided on Monday, council member Roger Hammer, who had been at Knightstown Chamber of Commerce function, was about 15 minutes to the executive session. Council member Landon Dean, Huffman noted, didn't arrive until about 7:20 p.m.

After Ward's comments, Council Vice President Kevin Knott also briefly addressed the delayed start at Thursday's meeting. He began by saying that serving on the council requires "due diligence and responsibility" by council members, with that sometimes entailing "taking the extra steps necessary to do the job." "If it would have taken me until 12 a.m. this morning to be in executive session, I would have done that," Knott said. "I have a job to go to tomorrow, and I have work to complete for my job when I go home tonight, but I will do that."

The Banner assured the council it had no problem with it meeting in executive session as long as needed

to fully discuss the issues being addressed. Rather, the newspaper's objection was to the council's decision to go ahead and hold the special meeting nearly an hour after it had been supposed to start.

Moving on to the personnel matter for which the meeting had been called, Knott then made a motion to have the town's attorney, Gregg Morelock, draft a written reprimand to be placed into the personnel file of Knightstown's chief of police, Duane Booth. The motion also called for Morelock to meet with Booth and go over the reprimand with him.

Council member Mitch Roland seconded Knott's motion, and with Ward joining them, it barely mustered the three votes needed to pass. Dean voted against the motion, and Hammer abstained.

With no explanation forthcoming as to the circumstances that had prompted the reprimand, Ward promptly adjourned the special meeting immediately after the council's vote. The meeting had lasted less than eight minutes.

The Banner filed an official request with the town the next day

seeking more details about the factual basis for the reprimand. The town, however, through its attorney, has declined to provide further details.

Under the state's Access to Public Records Act, public agencies must provide the factual basis for disciplinary action that results in a public employee being demoted, suspended or terminated. However, where an employee is simply being reprimanded, the APRA does not require the release of a factual basis - although the public agency is given the discretion to release that information, along with anything else in an employee's personnel file, should it choose to do so.

Morelock, over the nearly 10 years he has served as the town's attorney, has consistently urged town officials to withhold public records and information whenever they have the discretion not to release them. With respect to Booth's reprimand, council members are, so far, following this advice.

Dean told The Banner on Friday that Morelock and Ward had both asked council members not to disclose matters that had been discussed during the executive session. The

Banner asked Dean if he wanted to explain why he voted against the reprimand: Did he feel a reprimand was not justified? Or was he not convinced that Booth had done whatever it was at least three of the council's members believed he had done?

"I just didn't agree with the motion, so I voted against it," Dean said.

The Banner also contacted Hammer to find out why he had abstained, declining to vote either for or against the reprimand. In an email sent to The Banner on Friday, Hammer said he had "inappropriately abstained" during last Thursday's vote.

Hammer said that after the meeting had adjourned, Morelock told him he "should only abstain from voting (when he has) a personal conflict of interest." Morelock had given a similar admonition in the

past to Ward when she wanted to abstain on a vote, although he has not publicly cited any legal authority to the council for this position.

"I want to confirm that I did not have any personal conflict of interest in the motion presented and should have voted aye or nay," Hammer said. "In the end my vote would not have changed the outcome."

The Banner also contacted Booth, the town's chief of police since March 2015, last Friday to see if he wanted to comment on the reprimand or disclose any details about the circumstances that prompted the council's action. He declined to do either.

"I'm still waiting to see all of it," Booth said of the reprimand Morelock was asked to prepare. "... I'm going to see what's presented to me. ... I don't want to speak out of turn without having it in front of me."

Planning, from Page 6

meeting, which is also open to the public, is tentatively set for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 6, at town hall. Lake said he will have results that night from both the survey and the Nov. 15 public meeting for committee members to review before they start developing specific goals and objectives for the comprehensive plan.

Town residents are also being urged to complete a survey designed to provide citizen feedback to help with efforts to develop a comprehensive plan for the town. The survey can be taken online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/CarthageCitizenSurvey, or, for those without access to a computer, or who simply prefer not doing the survey online, hard copies can be found at the Carthage Post Office, Pavey's Grocery, 12 N. Main St, and at Carthage Town Hall, 6 W. First St.

The deadline for completing the survey is this Friday, Nov. 17, and hard copies of completed surveys should be returned to Pavey's or town hall by that date. Because the town's efforts to develop a comprehensive plan are being paid for with a grant the town obtained from the state, the survey should only be taken by those who live within the town of Carthage's municipal boundaries.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Filing of Petition to Vacate a Portion of a Public Way and Hearing Thereon Before the Board of Commissioners of Henry County, Indiana

Pursuant to the provisions of IC 36-7-3-12, Dennis and Cheryl Stillions have applied to vacate a certain portion of a public way, Ash Street, located in Knightstown, Wayne Township, Henry County, Indiana, described as: Roadway running north and south, lying between Lots 950 to 963, and 973 on the west side, and Lots 976 to 987, and 997 on the east side, Knightstown, Indiana. Petitioner owns the lots to the north, 952 to 963 and 973, and lots to the south, 979 to 987 and 997. Henry County Board of Commissioners owns Lots 950 and 951, northwest side. Jodie L. Brown owns Lots N1/2 976-978, northeast side. Pursuant to the provisions of the aforementioned statute, the Board of Commissioners of Henry County is providing you with this notice of the petition and the public hearing to be held on an ordinance regarding the same. If you are interested in this matter and wish to present testimony regarding this ordinance, please plan to appear at the meeting of the Henry County Board of Commissioners. The ordinance to vacate will be publicly hearing at the regular meeting of the Henry County Board of Commissioners on December 13, 2017, at 6 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room, Henry County Courthouse, 101 S. Main St., Second Floor, New Castle, Indiana.

In the event you wish to file a remonstrance or objection to the ordinance, you should consult the appropriate statutory provisions, IC 36-7-3-13. A copy of a map showing the portion of the streets and alleys to be vacated is available for public inspection, as is a copy of the proposed ordinance and the petition. Those documents may be viewed at the office of the Henry County Commissioners, 101 S. Main St., Second Floor, New Castle, Indiana, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Butch Baker, Board of Commissioners
Henry County, Indiana

Attest: Patricia A. French, Henry County Auditor

(11/15)

Letters, from Page 4

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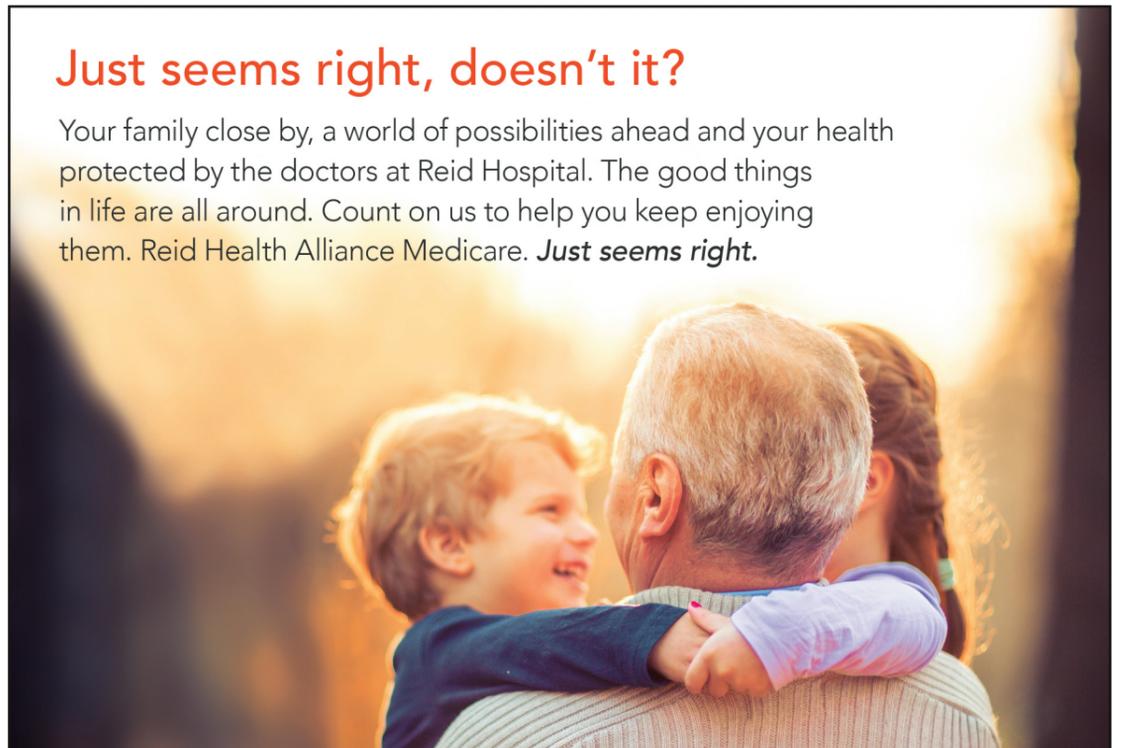
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