**The Banner**

Vol. XIX, Issue 36

December 13, 2017

Knightstown, IN

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**CARTHAGE RECEIVES BIDS FOR ROAD RESURFACING**

**THE EVENING MAIL**: K-TOWN’S OTHER COLORFUL MURAL

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**St. Rose Christmas Mass December 24**

The Christmas mass at St. Rose Church on U.S. 40 is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24. Music will begin at 3:30 p.m. The public is invited.

**Guitar Duo Set to Perform in K-town**

Knightstown Friends Church, 214 E. Brown St., will host a morning service featuring the Christian Guitar Duo “Better Days,” which performed during Fall Fest this year. Their performance is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 17, at 10:30 a.m. Special music and singalongs will also be included.

**Nameless Creek Literary Club Meeting**

The Nameless Creek Literary Club will meet at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the Bluebird in Morristown for a Christmas luncheon. The program will be led by Karen Campbell. Devotions will be led by Jane Dobbs. The response will be a good or bad gift received by those answering roll call. For information regarding the club, contact Judy Brown at 936-5704.

**Students Invited to Apply for Page Jobs**

State Sen. Jean Lesing (R-Oldenburg) announced the Indiana Senate is now accepting applications for the Senate Page Program. This full-day interactive program gives students in grades six through 12 the opportunity to tour the Indiana Statehouse, observe sessions debates on the Senate floor, and assist staff with age-appropriate tasks. For more information or to apply, visit www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/page-program.

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**Carthage Council Lays Down the Law**

by Jeff Eakins for The Banner

With Carthage Town Marshal Danny Baker agreeing to increased accountability measures, the Carthage Town Council has, for now, dropped plans to prohibit him from driving his town patrol car home after work.

Over the past several years, council members have periodically received complaints about Baker being seen driving a town police car outside town limits. While some of these incidents were work-related, there were concerns that Baker was also using the patrol car at times to tend to personal matters.

To address this and some other issues of concern, the council had asked the town’s attorney, Adam Forrest, to draft a Town Marshal Employment Addendum. During his monthly report to the council, Baker said only had one problem with the proposed addendum - the plan to keep him from driving a patrol car back and forth between his home and work.

Baker said that if he is not allowed to drive a patrol car home, it would greatly hinder his ability to respond to calls in a timely manner. If something happens while he’s off-duty that requires him to first drive to the Carthage Police Department to get a patrol car instead of driving directly to the scene, something he said he would not be able to do in his own personal vehicle.

“My insurance won’t cover that,” Baker told the council.

Baker told the council he believes not allowing him to drive a patrol car home will “punish the people of Carthage.” Instead of him being able to promptly respond to calls directly from his home, he said the town may instead find itself waiting a longer time for the Rush County Sheriff’s Department to respond.

“If that car is not sitting at my house, then you’re going to have to wait for the county to get here,” Baker said.

Council President Rachael Brown told Baker that she didn’t necessarily disagree with the points he was making, but reminded him that he is a part-time town marshal who is not supposed to be working more than 25 hours a week. Baker, who has routinely worked more than 25 hours a week during the

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**Hoosier Gym Roof Repairs Top List of Improvements Driving Grant Effort**

by Jeff Eakins for The Banner

Efforts to seek a $500,000 grant to help fund needed improvements at the Hoosier Gym could officially get underway next week with a vote from the Knightstown Town Council.

The town council is expected to consider approving payment of $5,000 to contract with Kieser Consulting Group LLC to conduct an environmental review. At a meeting last Wednesday, Dave Kieser, owner of KCG, told members of the Knightstown Forward Committee that this is the first step in applying for the Public Facilities Program grant through the state’s Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

Kevin Knott, vice president of the Knightstown Town Council, told Kieser he would bring this issue to the council’s Dec. 21 monthly meeting for its consideration. Kieser told Knott and the other KFC members at the meeting last Wednesday that his firm could delay billing for the environmental study until January, and said the study’s cost would count toward the town’s local match, which must equal 20 percent of the total grant awarded.

Should the town decide to pursue the grant, the other up-front cost would be $5,000 for a preliminary architecture feasibility report, which Kieser’s firm would also prepare. That expense, Kieser said, would also count toward the town’s local match.

Kieser provided the 13 people who attended last week’s KFC meeting with a time line for the grant application process. He said a letter of interest and description of the proposed project will needed to be submitted to OCRA by March 1, with a formal proposal submitted by May 25 and the final grant application due July 20. OCRA is expected to announce the grant recipients in August.

Members of the Hoosier Gym Community Center of Knightstown Inc., the local nonprofit that leases the gym from the town and oversees its operation, said at a KFC meeting in October that the gym needs tank-pointing work done to the building’s brick exterior and the roof needs to be replaced. At last week’s meeting, HGCC board member Bill Gorman said the gym also need to have windows and gutters replaced.

“Window replacement is a big deal,” Kieser told the group. “We would have to make sure that what goes in is historically accurate.”

The 20-percent match needed to qualify for a full $500,000 grant would be $100,000. While Gorman said at KFC’s October meeting that he thought HGCC should be able to shoulder that expense, Kieser said at last week’s meeting that he hopes to find other funding sources to help lessen that burden.

“I’m going to try to be as creative as possible on funding,” Kieser said.

One possible source of funding to help meet the town’s local match requirement, Kieser said, is the Henry County Community Foundation.

“We definitely want to keep (HCCF) as a partner,” Kieser said.

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**Eagle Scout Project**

Andrew Wehr

It was cold and snowing last Saturday, but that didn’t stop 17-year-old Boy Scout Andrew Wehr of Carthage and a trio of helpers that included his father, Tim, his brother Anthony, and a Scout leader Dean Harding, from spending most of the day on Knightstown’s Public Square, building a pergola, which is Wehr’s Eagle Scout project. The project is nearly complete and should be finished by Dec. 25.

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"I'm going to try to be as creative as possible on funding." - Dave Kieser

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"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
Jutta Fay McDonald

November 16, 1931 - December 9, 2017

Jutta Fay McDonald, age 86, of Lewisville, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017.

She was born in Knightsstown on Nov. 16, 1931, to Pierce and Florence (Frederick) Reeves. She is survived by her five children, Becky (Lowell) Denbo of Indianapolis, Timothy (Carboni) (Leslie) Allen of Wyomissing, Martiellen (Moore) Mathews of Knightsstown, Stephen (Tammy) Denney of Indianapolis and Joseph (Shelby) McDonald of Springport; a stepson, Bruce McDonald of Colorado; and a brother, Fred (Joyce) Reeves of Knightsstown. She also had 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Along with her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Charlie McDonald; two brothers, John Robert and William Joseph Reeves; and her sister, Linda Reeves Prater.

Jutta Fay was an accomplished pianist and organist and performed for various events. Along with her musical talent, she was a wonderful cook and loved dancing, which was a great source of enjoyment for Charlie and her. She also enjoyed gardening and there wasn’t a stray animal in Lewisville that didn’t benefit from her free meals left all over town. Those that knew Jutta Fay also knew that she was a fervent, old-school Democrat who had previously worked with the Henry County Democratic Party, especially for Birch and Evan Bayh.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at Sproles Family Funeral Home, 2400 S. Memorial Drive, New Castle, with Rev. Alan J. McCraine officiating. Burial will follow at Glen Cove Cemetery in Knightsstown. Friends may call from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. prior to the service at the funeral home. You may send the family a personal condolence at www.sprolesfamilycares.com.

David Wayne "Joe" Glenn

February 28, 1944 - December 8, 2017

David Wayne "Joe" Glenn, 73, passed away at St. Vincent Seton Specialty Hospital on Dec. 8, 2017, from complications of open heart surgery. He was born Feb. 28, 1944, in Rising Sun, to the late William Loren and Ethel Rose (Walton) Glenn.

David was first employed at Bob and Jack’s Texaco in Knightsstown and then worked in maintenance at the Knightsstown school system. One winter, David, helped build the nuclear power plant in Ft. Pierce, Fla.

He then went to work as a Henry County deputy sheriff and Knightsstown police officer. David then took a job with the Greenfield Department of Transportation in heavy equipment operations, where he worked in 17 counties chip sealing Indiana roads for 24 years. He retired in 2003 after requiring back surgery.

David had also served as a Knightsstown volunteer firefighter for many years and was on the Board of Zoning Appeals. David was asked to fill a term for the Knightsstown Town Council and served as president. During this time he helped to get the new fire department built, purchased police vehicles and brought two new businesses to town, which have since expanded (CFH Enterprises and Hoosier Feeders).

David loved old country music and was an avid John Wayne fan. He also loved older westerns. He liked to travel to Civil War battlefields, going on trips, family dinners and spending time with the family cat, “Squeaky,” and his granddogs, “Archie” and “Katie.” He also enjoyed mowing the yard, model cars and old tools.

Survivors include his wife, with whom he celebrated 50 years of marriage this past September, Linda (Fox) Glenn of Knightsstown. David and Linda raised two children who also survive, John Wayne (Angela) Glenn of Knightsstown and Melinda Sue (David) Richardson of Knightstown. Other survivors include three grandchildren, John Derick Graham of Knightstown; Glenn Benjamines, Ronald and Andrew Richardson; a stepson, Austin Moore; a great-granddaughter, Jazmyne Glenn; two sisters, Edith Landrum of Okeechobee, Fla., and Brenda (Leonard) Wright of Sumter, S.C.; a sister-in-law, Judy Glenn, of Delphi; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, David was preceded in death by his three brothers, Russell Walton, Robert and Wm. Fred Glenn; a sister, Geneva Courtney; a sister-in-law, Leeta Jane Fox Glenn; and a grandson, Christopher Richardson.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service, Knightsstown Chapel, with Rev. Mark Herbst officiating. Burial will follow in Glen Cove Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home. Conduelaces and memories of David may be shared at www.hinsey-brown.com.

RCCF Fund to Award $13,500

The CIRCLe Fund at the Rush County Community Foundation is ready to celebrate its fifth year of grantmaking by announcing that the 2018 grant award will be the largest yet. Cindy Taff, one of the six founders of the CIRCle (Chicks Impacting Rush County Life) Fund said that, because of the generosity of women passionate for making a difference in Rush County, contributions to the fund will allow a single grant award of $13,500 this year.

The CIRCle Fund representatives said they are eager to assist innovative programs or projects that are responsive to community needs, partnerships, and collaborative efforts. Preference for grant funding will be given to projects that specifically improve the lives of women and youth in Rush County. Nonprofit organizations interested in funding may submit an application to the Rush County Community Foundation office by Jan. 31, 2018. Grant applications are available at the Rush County Community Foundation office or on its website at www.rushcountyfoundation.org.

Those interested in contributing may contact or visit the Rush County Community Foundation at 117 N. Main St., Rushville, or call 765-938-1177.

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Carthage Town Council Moving Forward on Repaving of Nearly a Mile of Roads

by Jeff Eakins for The Banner

With bids for a downtown improvement project and the planned resurfacing of about three-quarters of a mile of local roads received, the Carthage Town Council could select vendors to do this work as early as this month.

The Carthage Town Council received bids for the downtown improvement project and road resurfacing Monday evening, at its regular monthly meeting. Dave Kieser, owner of Kiesser Consulting Group LLC, a Lawrence-based firm working with the town on a variety of planning and development-related issues, opened the bids and announced the dollar totals of each one.

There were five bids received for the downtown improvement project, which is expected to include new street lights, curb ramps, trash receptacles, planters, benches and bike racks. The amounts of the basic bids were: $1,600,000 (Floyd Crim & Sons Inc., Manilla); $955,330.80 (Dave O’Mara; Evans Development, Indianapolis); $178,000 (Dave O’Mara Contractor Inc., Whitestown); and $217,567 (HP Legacy, Indianapolis).

Vendors for the downtown improvement project were also asked to submit bids for two alternatives: installing a brick apron on Main Street; and installing the new sidewalks. The dollar totals of each one.

The town received seven bids for the road resurfacing work, which is expected to include the following sections of roadway: Fifth Street, from Main Street to the west (0.166 miles); First Street, from Market Street to Main Street (0.122 miles); Market Street, from First Street to Mill Street (0.128 miles); and Main Street, from town limits to County Road 800-North (0.36 miles).

The amounts of the road resurfacing bids were: $86,046 (Floyd Crim & Sons Inc., Manilla); $95,533.80 (Dave O’Mara; Evans Development, Indianapolis); $99,466.18 (Grady Brothers, Indianapolis); $99,982 (Smith Projects Inc., Indianapolis); $104,300 (Calumet Civil Contractors, Indianapolis); $106,537.05 (Midwest Paving, Noblesville).

Acting on a recommendation from Kieser, the council’s five members voted unanimously to take all of the bids under advisement. Kieser said his firm will review the complete bid packages submitted by the vendors to determine whether they complied with all of the bid submission requirements, with the council expected to revisit this matter and select vendors at a special meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 27.

Much of the cost of the downtown improvements and the road resurfacing will be paid for with the proceeds of grants that KCG helped the town obtain. The town received an $89,000 Rural Business Development Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Office of Rural Development that will be combined with a $6,000 grant from the Rush County Community Foundation and another $8,700 in town funds to pay for the downtown improvements. The town also received an $85,000 Rural Community Crossings Initiative grant from the Indiana Department of Transportation for $61,365, which will be combined with the town’s local match of $20,000 to cover almost $82,000 worth of road improvements.

Even the lowest bids the council

See Repaving, Page 8

Indiana State Parks Offering Variety of Stocking Stuffers

Indiana State Parks has stocking stuffers galore for the outdoors lovers on your shopping list this year.

From campers to kayakers and more, your loved ones are covered with passes, permits, gift cards and gift packages to help them make 2018 memorable. All of these gift ideas are available online at in.gov.

A $99 holiday gift pack includes a 2018 resident Annual Entrance Permit, a one-year subscription to Outdoor Indiana magazine, and your choice of a $65 inn or camping gift card. The buyer saves $31 over the regular price of the items purchased separately. The offer is available See Parks, Page 8

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Put a Little Love In Your Hearts, People

(This column was originally published Dec. 12, 2007)

I'm sorry for the bah-humbugger who can't wait for December to end because they stress themselves out with orgies of shopping and jam-packed calendars. I achieve a peaceful and merry Christmas spirit by starting preparations early in the fall. The week after Thanksgiving we got 200 Christmas cards ready to mail, and I knew what my Christmas cards would be. Christmas Diary: Last Monday the house is decorated, and tonight we'll do the tree.

Tuesday: Set up the manger scene that my parents gave me when I was 12. Not to worry about next week's column; am using a hoot of a story that a friend e-mailed. Dinner with friends where we told tree stories. One year we bought a lovely tree that reeked of incense, and it never fails to astonish me that our friends - including the one who dropped up their tree - arrive in half an hour to go out for a festive brunch followed by a trip down memory lane at a Brenda Lee concert. Bill, wearing only his underwear, vacuums up pine needles while I take a hairy shower. Next the grapevine wreath that Vicki made falls from its place above the fireplace.

Saturday: Early a.m., finish the grocery shopping for a couple of parties we're having. One of my friends has a shop early to avoid the crowds! Am becoming a tad concerned because I haven't found the storey for my column. Laboriously I search through masses of papers and notebooks... "It's Christmas! Christmas!..."

6 a.m. Sunday: I hunt through everything again. "Where is it? Where is it? It has to be here. It has to be here!" Still no luck.

10:45 a.m. standing next to the tree when it tips over again. I catch hold of it and shriek for Bill. He's in the shower and can't hear me. When he comes out we stand the disheveled tree up again. Our friends - including the one who dropped up their tree - arrive in half an hour to go out for a festive brunch followed by a trip down memory lane at a Brenda Lee concert. Bill, wearing only his underwear, vacuums up pine needles while I take a hairy shower. Next the grapevine wreath that Vicki made falls from its place above the fireplace.

5 a.m. Monday: While I'm getting my coffee a crash in the kitchen awakens Bill. The dust- buster has fallen off the top of the fridge - damnos how! No, I do not believe it is a gift from the anvil of discussion, dissent and debate."

Hubert H. Humphrey
Music will begin at 3:30 p.m. The public is invited.

Knightswood Friends Church, 214 E. Brown St., will host a morning service featuring the Christian Guitar Duo “Heter Days,” which performed during Fall Fest this year. Their performance is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. This traditional service will include readings, congregational singing and vocal solos, all accompanied by Robin Richey and Lynn Osteen. Lighting of Christmas candles at the end of the service, cookies and punch are also on the schedule. The public is invited.

The Shirley Octagon House is open for free tours throughout the year. For more information, call 765-345-9660. Linda Lashbrook at氅lalashbrook@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 5:30-7 p.m.

The Knightswood 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 offering pre-kindergarten 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.

Clear Thinking

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness. Nobody needs it so sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.”

Mark Twain

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**Kennard Resident Traci Peck Involvement with Donor Network Tied to Her Own Experience**

by Logan Cox

Kennard resident Traci Tracer Peck has been working with the Indiana Donor Network for eight years. She has been actively involved with them ever since her youngest son, David, became the first person in the state of Indiana to ever receive an intestinal transplant.

Peck is happy to note that David, a junior at Knightstown High School, is currently in his third season on the school wrestling team. However, neither she nor her son have forgotten that his future was once not so certain.

Their experience began when David was only a year old. Peck vividly detailed David’s struggle in an article she wrote for Donate Life Indiana. He was diagnosed with reflux after sustained periods of vomiting and dehydration. At age two, in June of 2003, his condition worsened and the Peck family’s pediatrician told them he needed to be transferred to either Riley Hospital for Children or St. Vincent’s Children’s Hospital to receive a higher level of care.

At St. Vincent’s, a team of doctors and nurses determined that David’s small intestine was “twisted, full of gangrene and dead.” Peck and her family were told he may only live another 48 hours. In a moment of profound clarity, Traci Peck asked if a transplant surgery was possible. Thanks to his health and weight, David was found to be a good candidate for such a transplant. Shortly after, they were introduced to Dr. Joe Tector.

The Pecks chose to have the transplant at Riley, and David returned to the operating room to have his small bowel and a third of his large bowel removed. He was placed on a central line to receive nutrition and kept in the ICU for one week, then in a regular unit for another week. The cause of David’s condition was diagnosed as short gut syndrome, in which the intestines do not adhere to the abdominal wall.

After weeks of testing, David was eventually approved and placed on the transplant waiting list. On a Monday evening, the weekend after receiving this good news, Peck and her family were called to the Riley emergency room so David could go in for surgery. After about seven hours in the hospital waiting room, they received the news that his surgery had been a success and he was in the recovery room.

“It was truly miraculous,” Peck wrote. “Our baby got his second chance at life!”

David remained in the organ transplant unit at University Hospital for two months, his condition was once not so certain.

What, me stressed during this jolly season?

MEETINGS CALENDAR

**Wednesday, Dec. 13**

**Hancock Co. Council meeting**, 7 p.m., high school media center.

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**Wednesday, Dec. 13**

**Hancock Co. Council meeting**, 9 a.m., courthouse assembly room, Rushville.

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**Wednesday, Dec. 13**

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

**Rose Mary, from Page 4**

some of the "command" keys last I lock this thing up or lose everything. I must not miss the final, sacrosanct deadline. What to do? What to do? Help! (There is no help.)

What, me stressed during this jolly season?

**Thursday, Dec. 14**

**Christmas break begins for students of the Eastern Hancock School Corp.** (students return Jan. 3, 2018)

**Tuesday, Dec. 19**

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

**Wednesday, Dec. 20**

**Henry Co. Commissioners meeting**, 6 p.m., old circuit court room, New Castle.

**Wednesday, Dec. 20**

**Christmas break starts for students of the Eastern Hancock School Corp.** (students return Jan. 3, 2018)
The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit health care ratings organization, has released new Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades for Fall 2017. Henry Community Health was one of only 18 Indiana hospitals awarded an “A” for its commitment to keeping patients safe and meeting the highest safety standards in the U.S. The Safety Grade assigns letter grades of A, B, C, D and F to hospitals nationwide based on their performance in preventing medical errors, infections and other harms.

“This award is a testament to our staff and their focus on patient safety which is at the forefront of everything we do,” explained Brian Ring, vice president and chief operations officer of Henry Community Health. “From daily Safety Huddles to an organization-wide patient safety program, we continually work on process improvement initiatives to reduce medical healthcare errors and other factors that contribute to un intend ed adverse patient outcomes,” Ring continued.

Henry Community Health has also been recognized in 2017 as a Top 100 Hospital by Truven Analytics, a Top 100 Rural and Community Hospital by Vantage Health Analytics, and as one of 100 Great Community Hospitals by Becker’s Hospital Review.

“It takes consistent, unwavering dedication to patients to achieve the highest standards of patient safety. An ‘A’ Safety Grade recognizes hospitals for this accomplishment,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “We congratulate the clinicians, board, management and staff of Henry Community Health for showing the country what it means to put patient safety first.”

Developed under the guidance of a Blue Ribbon National Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses 27 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign A, B, C, D and F grades to more than 2,600 U.S. hospitals twice per year. It is calculated by top patient safety experts, peer reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public.

To see Henry Community Health’s full grade, and to access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit www.hospitalsafety-grade.org and follow the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade on Twitter and Facebook.


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30-50% OFF Everything in the Store!

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Door Buster Sales! Free Gift for the first 20 customers!

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Saturday, Dec. 16th, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
30-50% OFF Everything in the Store!

Come to our Open House!

Door Buster Sales! Free Gift for the first 20 customers!

Unique Clothing - 501 S. Memorial Dr., New Castle - 765-575-8147
find and follow us on social media!
Dear Editor,

Thank you, thank you, thank you to Beautify Knightstown Inc., Kevin Richley, Linda Lashbrook, Jan McGuire and many others for doing what it took to get the Pamela Bliss mural on Main Street.

The City of Knightstown Donor Network has advocates that go to locations or events to promote donation and transplantation, said Peck, for anyone wanting to know more about this area of medicine. "Lindsey Johnson is the director of the Donate Life Indiana and she would be a great resource."

While he still had occasional testing done, David is in a place of normalcy 13 years after his transplant surgery. He is active in sports and lives a healthy life.

"That's the greatest thing," his mother said. "Although, he did break his arm in January during last season's sectional meet. He's fully recovered and back out on the mat. He's living his life as we've always prayed he would. He plans on becoming a nurse to one day care for other children."

David Peck, a member of the Knightstown wrestling team will go to the team state competition in Fort Wayne. Traci Peck graduated from Greenwood High School in 1993. She lives in Kennard with her family.

Letters, from Page 4

Our own system of beliefs. It is the Constitution that allows all of us, Democrats and Republicans, carnivores and vegetarians, Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and even Wiccans to live together peacefully and live in a civil society.

And so, "with a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own."

Eugene Falk

Far Rockaway, N.Y.

Dear Editor,

When the 2018 legislative session begins next month, Indiana students will have a unique opportunity - the chance to serve as a page for the Indiana State Senate.

Students interested in serving as pages for grades six through 12, and includes a full day of activities. Students meet with their state senator, hear about public policy, tour the Indiana Statehouse, observe session debates on the Senate floor, and assist staff with age-appropriate tasks.

In just one day, students are immersed in the legislative process and our state government, and many students find it to be an interesting and rewarding experience. It might even spark a life-long interest in government and public policy.

The Senate's Page Program will run mid-January through early March, and students begin their day at 8:30 a.m. and dismiss at 3:30 p.m. While individual students page on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, groups serve together on Wednesdays. Friends or siblings who wish to page on the same day will need to submit their applications together.

Applications can be found online at www.in.gov/legislature/pageseniors/page-program. Positions fill quickly, so I encourage all interested students to apply as soon as they can.

When filling out an application, students must include their name, school, grades, and phone number, along with their parent or guardian's contact information and emergency contact information.

Each year, I have the opportunity to meet and speak with a number of bright students in my community through the Page Program. I hope even more students will be interested in taking advantage of this exciting opportunity during the 2018 legislative session.

If you or your family have any questions, comments or concerns regarding the Page Program, contact me by email at Sen.Leising@iga.in.gov or by phone at 800-382-9647.

Sen. Jean Leising

(R-Oldenburg)

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 letter's authors. Letters to the editor may be edited, and, ideally, should be no more than 300 words in length.
Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein” Coming to County Library Via NEA

Henry County Public Library

In December 2017, the Henry County Public Library will host an exhibition to mark the 200th anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley’s classic novel “Frankenstein.” The exhibition will feature a display of items related to the novel, including copies of early editions, letters from the author, and contemporary illustrations. The purpose of this exhibit is to provide readers with a deeper understanding of Shelley’s influential work and its lasting impact on popular culture.

Library Director, Mrs. Janie Steffen, commented, “We are thrilled to bring this exhibit to the Henry County Public Library. Mary Shelley’s novel has captured the imagination of readers for two centuries, and we hope this exhibit will inspire our patrons to explore this fascinating work in greater depth.”

The exhibit will be open to the public from December 14, 2017, to January 14, 2018, and will be located in the lobby of the library. The library will also offer a series of programs, including book discussions and a screening of the 1931 classic film adaptation, to coincide with the exhibit.

“Frankenstein” was first published in 1818 and has since become one of the most widely read and influential works of literature. The novel tells the story of a young doctor, Dr. Victor Frankenstein, who creates a monster out of bits of dead human body parts. The creature, left to fend for itself in the world, becomes murderous and destructive, leading Frankenstein to question the ethics of his actions.

In addition to the exhibit and programs, the library will also host a reading group for those interested in discussing the novel. The group will meet weekly throughout the duration of the exhibit, and interested patrons are encouraged to contact the library for more information.

The Henry County Public Library is located at 101 N. Main St., Knightstown, IN 46148. For more information about the exhibit or programs, please contact the library at 765-778-4300 or visit their website at henrycountylibrary.org.
Knightstown Defeats Milan to Win Panther Invite

by Stacy Cox
General Manager/Sports Editor

After an exciting basketball game Friday night at Knightstown High School, the enthusiasm and cheers the following morning and afternoon in the KHS gym may have even exceeded the previous event. Knightstown's varsity wrestling team continued its winning streak Saturday with four more wins to claim the trophy of the Panther Wrestling Invitational.

The Panthers defeated Sheridan 63-14 then topped Indiana School for the Deaf 75-6. They finished off Cambridge City Lincoln 66-12 to move to the championship round against Milan. It was the match that the Panthers had expected. But, so had the Milan coaches and wrestlers. In the break room prior to the championship match, both Knightstown and Milan coaches discussed in the most non-competitive way how they had stressed to their team all week prior to the tournament about the importance of winning the match. They both agreed their wrestlers were very aware that how they performed in the final match would determine their seed in the state tournament. But, less than a half hour later, they were back in the gym and there were no signs of the friendly guys talking shop back over sandwiches. In the end, and it was most definitely the end, Knightstown prevailed over Milan 41-35.

The score in the championship round went back and forth until there were just two matches left. Knightstown was down 29-35 when freshman Liam Orcutt pinned his Milan opponent, causing the team, coaches and crowd to erupt in cheers. With the score now tied at 35, the championship was dropped on the shoulders of senior Jon Simmons. And, he was ready to rise to the challenge.

As his opponent tried to take him down, Simmons squeezed hard and got the advantage as the two wrestlers went to the mat. Simmons then got a position he wanted and flipped the Milan wrestler over, holding him down for the count. When the official's hand smacked the mat, Knightstown's coaches, team and fans went crazy. Simmons was still stoic as he met his opponent at the center of the mat before the official held his arm up to declare him the winner. It was a thrilling moment for the home crowd. And, no one in the gym was likely as excited as head coach Jared Evans.

"I am so proud of our boys," said Evans. "We had some matches and calls not go our way in the championship match, but the boys faced adversity head on. I cannot speak enough about the senior leadership and the character of these young men."

Going undefeated on the day were Thomas Sollars (113), Kaleb Buchanan (120), Nick Walsh (138), Jon Simmons (182) and Burias Wisner (HWT). Liam Orcutt (170) was also undefeated at 3-0 and Mason Muncy (170) competed once and also won.

Five Knightstown wrestlers were 3-1 in the tournament including David Peck (106), Jacob Hanna (126), Bruce Nichols (138), Ben Newby (160) and Aiden Orcutt (195). Evan Nolen (152) was 2-2 while Collin Ferree (145) and Connor Brockman (220) went 1-3.

Milan beat Greenfield Central’s junior varsity, Switzerland County and Indianapolis Northwest to reach the championship round.

If you weren’t at Knightstown High School Saturday afternoon for the championship match of the Panther Wrestling Invitational, you missed a tense and exciting local sporting event. The third-ranked Panthers put out an incredible effort to win the tournament over ninth-ranked Milan. (Stacy Cox photo)
Tyler Burton, Garrett Thomas Make All-State Football Team

Knightstown’s Tyler Burton and Garrett Thomas have been named to the Indiana Football Coaches Association’s 2017 Senior All-State Football Team for class 2A. Both Panther players were placed on the All-State offensive team with Burton named as the sole place kicker and Thomas as one of the eight players making up the offensive line.

Burton has played on Knightstown’s varsity football team all four years of high school. However, he did not see much action as a sophomore. During his senior year, Burton finished 15th overall in all class 2A teams for punting with 18 punts totaling 630 yards and averaging 35.0 yards per punt. Six of those punts were inside the 20-yard line. His longest punt was 47 yards. He also had 10 kickoffs for 361 total yards with his longest at 43 yards. As a junior, he punted 33 times, averaging 34.2 yards for a total of 1128 yards.

As a senior, he threw for 782 yards and led his team in rushing with 111 carries for 769 yards, near -

Arthur Thomas finished the 2017 season seventh for all of Indiana’s class 2A teams in total tackles with 138. He was second in the number of tackles per game with 13.8 and was fourth overall in solo tackles with 95. He added 43 assisted tackles to his records this past year and one sack.

Like Burton, Thomas also played all four years on Knightstown’s varsity football team. As a freshman, Thomas had five solo tackles and assisted in 12 other tackles for 17 total tackles. The next year, as a sophomore, he made 28 solo tackles with 35 assists. He had one tackle and one sack. Thomas continued to improve last year as a junior, making 69 solo tackles. He assisted on 52 other tackles for 121 total tackles. He also caused one fumble and recovered two fumbles.

In addition to the statistics posted previously about his senior year, Thomas also caused one fumble and added seven rushing yards and one pass deflection to his 2017 record.

Other area players named to the class 2A All-State team include Shenandoah’s Joe Huff (DB) and Josh Myers (OL), Eastern Hancock’s A J Margee (DB), Centerville’s Cole Cooper (TE), Eastern Hancock, Shenandoah and Centerville also had players making the Junior All-State Football Team. Both schools had two players named to the Junior All-State team.

2018 Men’s Silver Anniversary Team

Announced by Indiana Hall of Fame

Eighteen men have been named to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame’s 2018 Silver Anniversary Team, based on outstanding accomplishments as a senior basketball player 25 years ago.

The team includes 12 members named to the 1993 Indiana All-Star squad. Six other all-state players are included to recognize the top of Indiana’s high school class of 1993.

1992 Indiana All-Stars include Chad Austin, Ryan Bond, Tyson Britt,_timeline_1922 Chad Austin, R yan Bond, T yson Britt, Chad Austin, a four-year player at Xavier University, totaling 1,000 career points (career 13.6 ppg), he graduated as all-time leader in 3FG career games (10.6 ppg), he grad-

ated as all-time leader in 3FG made in a season. 2nd pick in 1998 Draft, had a 10-year career

As a freshman, Austin was named to ISU’s all-

as one of three players in Purdue history with 1,600+ points and 300+ career assists. Was a 2nd team all-conference and 2nd team MVP, earning 1997 and 1998 1st team all-Big Ten honors.

Boffo Thomas (above) and Tyler Burton (below) were named to the 2017 All-State team for class 1A.

From 1998 – 2008 he had a 10-year professional career for teams based in Turkey, Sweden, Greece, Germany, Crete, Israel, Russia, France and Dubai. Since 2010 he works for Forest City Realty Trust in Brooklyn, New York. Married with three children, he resides in Brooklyn.

RYAN BOND - FORT WAYNE SOUTH

1993 Indiana All-State. UPI 1st team all-state, AP 3rd team all-state, 3rd team All-State News 3rd team all-state. 21 Avile (Fort Wayne) Player of the Year, Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette and Fort Wayne News Sentinel Player of the Year after 1,094 career points.

Awarded 31 points and 13 rebounds per game as a senior, leading South to a 26-2 record. Summitt Conference champi-

onship and sectional and regional titles.

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onship and sectional and regional titles.
Panthers Use Tough Defense to Defeat Lincoln in Exciting Game

by Stacy Cox
General Manager/Sports Editor

Knightstown’s varsity boys basketball team picked up their second win of the season in a much-needed home game Dec. 8, beating Cambridge City Lincoln 51-43.

The Panthers had charged up their batteries for an energized defense and a constantly-driving offense against a Lincoln team that included a 6’8 center averaging a double-double this year.

Knightstown held the Eagles’ big guy Garrett Pumphrey to just 11 points and nine rebounds, below his average of 13.5 points and 11.8 rebounds per game.

And, it was a good thing the hustle and determination was in overdrive for the Panthers as Lincoln was shooting better, 46 percent to Knightstown’s 36 percent.

The Panthers made up for the lackluster shooting in other areas. They committed just five turnovers in the entire game while forcing Lincoln into 14 and made 10 steals.

The difference-maker was getting to the line. Though the Panthers again struggled at the stripe, they got to the line 15 more times than the Eagles did, converting 13 of their 25 attempts for 52 percent.

Sensors Jarred Porter and Tucker Personett led the Panthers in scoring.

Porter scored 15 points, hitting both of this three-point attempts. He grabbed three rebounds and four steals with two assists.

Personett finished with 12 points, three rebounds, three steals and an assist. Not showing in the stats though was Personett’s tenacious effort guarding Lincoln’s Pumphrey for much of the game. Despite at least half a foot difference in height, Personett, preventing easy passes and denying him a chance to get into any kind of rhythm.

Junior Treavor Cook came off the bench for some strong contributions on both ends of the floor, including some lower rebounds and free throws down the stretch. He had seven points and seven rebounds.

Though he didn’t score, senior Garrett Thomas was a major factor in the Panthers’ victory, coming up with nine rebounds and one steal and using his strength to frustrate Lincoln’s big man.

Senior Owen Wiles knocked down two three-pointers and spent much of his time on the floor pushing for position against Lincoln’s players to come up with three rebounds.

Tyler Burton did a great job of playing inside and outside of the line for two baskets from the field and two from the line for four points. He also recorded two rebounds, two assists and one steal.

Jose Olivo struggled from the floor and finished with one basket and seven points while contributing two rebounds, one assist and one steal.

Sophomore Chase Burton had three points and an assist.

The Panthers’ record went to 2-3 with the victory over Lincoln.

Titans Fall to Raiders, Demolish Union

Tri’s varsity boys basketball team put up a good fight but ultimately fell to Shenandoah 59-74 at home Dec. 7.

The first half stayed relatively close between the two Henry County schools. Shenandoah took the early lead, 17-12, after the first quarter. Tri pulled within two points by halftime, outsoring the Raiders 14-11 in the second quarter to put the score at 26-28 at the break.

But, the Raiders came out of the half pumped up and put the Titans back on their heels with 25 points while holding Tri to just 10 to take a 53-36.

The Titans once again rallied in the fourth quarter, scoring 23 points. But, Tri was unable to stop the Raiders, giving up 21 points to fall 59-74.

Seth Butler knocked down four shots from behind the arc and was 8-of-9 from the line to led the Titan scoring with 20 points. He also had a rebound, steal and an assist.

Elijah Davis scored 13 points, net four rebounds and three deflections with one assist.

Alex Melton finished with seven points, four rebounds, two steals and an assist.

Masen Phelps contributed seven points and three rebounds.

Drew Mondrush had five points, all from the free throw line, and two rebounds with two assists.

Nick Wilsob dished out four assists and had three points, one rebound and two steals.

Jimmy Jeffries dropped in one bucket and grabbed a rebound.

Kyler Burchett added one rebound and one assist.

The loss moved the Titans to 1-3 on the season.

Titans Beat Union 80-31

The following night, the Titans got back on track in a big way, dominating Modoc’s Union 80-31.

The Titans took a 22-4 lead after the first quarter and then stretched that giant lead out to 25 points while holding Tri to just 10 to take a 53-36.

Tri’s scoring dropped to just 14 points in the fourth quarter but the Titans held Union to only six points to get the 49-point victory.

Head coach Matt Lacy was able to get playing time for some of his younger players during the game, but junior Elijah Davis led the Titan scorers with 22 points. He also made four assists, three steals, two rebounds and a deflection.

Kyler Burchett had the best game of his high school career, finishing with 12 points, seven assists, five rebounds and two deflections.

Drew Mondrush scored 11 points and got four rebounds with one deflection.

Alex Melton posted 10 points, two rebounds and two steals.

Seth Butler scored six points from long range, and was 3-of-7 from the line.

Masen Phelps scored six points, yanked down three rebounds and made a steal.

Nick Wilson had five points, four assists, two steals, one rebound and one deflection.

Logan Stephens dropped in two buckets and pulled in two rebounds with one deflection.

Clayton Becker had one bucket, one deflection and a rebound.

Jimmy Jeffries hit one shot from the field and provided one assist.

Dillon Stevens pulled in six rebounds and made one deflection.

Kyle Falck made two assists, one deflection and a steal and Zach Smith handed out an assist.

The win improved the Titans’ season record to 2-3.

Pork Dinner at EH Friday to Boost Settergren, Hiner Memorial Funds

The Eastern Hancock Athletic Boosters will be holding a Pork Burger Dinner prior to and during the girls basketball game against Knightstown on Friday Dec. 15 from 5 p.m. until halftime of the boys’ game in the high school cafeteria. The cost is a free-will donation.

A portion of the proceeds from the dinner will go to the Dylan Hiner Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Riley Charles Settergren Foundation. Make plans to attend to help raise funds to the Knightstown and Eastern Hancock communities in establishing funds to remember these two young men who died in 2017 following injuries sustained in tragic accidents.
Lady Panthers Beat South Decatur by 15

Lori Thomas, Jess Butler Both Post Double-Doubles in the Win

Two Lady Panthers had double-doubles Monday night to carry Knightstown to a 56-41 victory over South Decatur at home.

Other than a poor performance in the third quarter, the Lady Panthers had so much to be proud of in the game. Knightstown were on fire to start, outscoring South Decatur 18-11 in the first quarter.

KHS put up 11 points in the second quarter and held the Lady Cougars to 10 points to take a 29-21 lead at the half.

The Lady Panthers’ focus fell off after they returned from the break. Knightstown scored just three points in the third quarter while giving up 11 points, and their lead, to South Decatur.

With the game now tied at 32, the Lady Panthers regained their composure and rallied in a huge way, scoring 24 points in the fourth quarter. The KHS girls held the Lady Cougars to nine points in the final period to get the 14-point win.

Senior Lori Thomas recorded the best game of her career. She had been struggling all season to get her shot to fall but on Monday, she drained 3-of-5 shots from long range and finished with 16 points. She also pulled in 10 rebounds and made three assists, one block, one deflection and a steal.

Jess Butler continued to provide the Lady Panthers with consistent play that resulted in her third double-double of the season with 14 points, 10 rebounds and one steal.

Kaylon Jackson tallied seven points, five rebounds, four assists, four steals and an assist.

Liz Moore contributed five points, three rebounds, two steals and one assist.

Allyson Hauk posted five points, one deflection and a steal.

Maggie Smith scored 17 points, four rebounds and one assist.

Kaitlyn Jackson was 5-for-7 from the field with one three-pointer and a steal.

Kaley Harrison knocked down a three-pointer and was a major factor on the boards with eight rebounds.

Lauren Bouslog finished with nine points, four rebounds, two deflections, two assists and two steals.

Kaley Harrison hit two free throws and posted one rebound, one assist and one steal.

Avery Phelps also scored two points at the charity line and pulled down three rebounds.

The win over Randolph Southern improved Tri’s varsity girls basketball career against South Decatur. She finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds for her first double-double.

Lorri Thomas, shown above from an earlier season game, had the best performance of her high school career against South Decatur.

The loss dropped the Lady Panthers’ season record to 2-8.

Jess Butler’s Double-Double Leads KHS Over Blue River Valley

On Dec. 7, the Lady Panthers had another intra-county game and traveled to Blue River Valley where they came away with a 56-41 victory.

Knightstown struggled to get anything going offensively with many of the Lady Vikings playing factor in their ability to put points on the board. Blue River’s girls had a decent first half but also had a hard time offensively.

The game started with a low-scoring first quarter, but after half time, the Lady Vikings out front 11-6. The scoring picked up in the second quarter, but mainly just for Blue River, who outscored KHS 18-9 to take a 29-15 halftime lead.

The Lady Vikings scoring was nearly non-existent in the second half as the Lady Panthers dug in defensively. Knightstown outpaced Blue River 14-7 in the third quarter, but despite having the Lady Vikings on the ropes, the Lady Panthers were unable to take advantage and only scored nine in the final period, coming up short of the win 38-43.

Jess Butler posted her second double-double of the year with 13 points and 10 rebounds, leading the way for KHS. She got to the line nine times where she scored five of her points and took one charge. She also made three steals and one defection.

Kayla Tomlin was 5-for-7 from the field with one three-pointer for 11 points and she grabbed eight rebounds.

Lori Thomas scored eight points with half of those at the free throw line.

Alyson Hauk drained both of her free throw attempts and had one rebound, a steal and a block.

Kayla Tomlin hit one bucket and got two rebounds and a steal.

One Lady Viqueen had two points, one rebound, a steal and a block.

Maggie Smith shot a career-high 13 points and had six rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Avery Phelps also scored two points at the charity line and pulled down three rebounds. She also made three assists, two deflections and one steal.

Avery Phelps had three rebounds, two assists, two deflections and one steal while Reece had one rebound, one steal and two deflections with four assists.

Lake Reymont and Madelyn Hoover each had one rebound.
year varsity record of 74-9 with three sectional titles, three regional championships and two state titles. After the final 10 games of state championship season, he averaged 17.6 points, 5.1 rebounds and 3.2 assists as a senior, before playing 93 games in three seasons at University of Louisville, where he was a part of three NCAA Tournament teams that reached the Elite Eight, reaching the 1996 Sweet 16 and 1997 Elite Eight. Was Conference USA 6th Man of the Year in his senior season, averaging 14.6 points and 3.2 assists per game. Married with four children, he resides in Prosper, Kentucky.

SCOTT GEORGE - BEN DAVIS
1993 AP 3rd team all-state and UPI 3rd team all-state selection. Named all-semi-state, all-regional, all-sectional, all-country, all-metro, all-Indiana All-American. He totaled 882 points in two seasons at Ben Davis, averaging 15 ppg and 2.3 FG% as a junior and 16 ppg and 2.6 FG% as a senior. Helped the team reach 1991 semi-state, two sectional championships, one regional title and two Blue Chip Conference titles. Graduated as the 5th all-time leading scorer in New Castle history (51) for teams that were 93-23. Volunteered as a board member for the Special Olympics. Married with three children and one grandchild, he resides in Pendleton, Indiana.

JASON HANSEN - ELKHART
1993 Indiana All-Star. AP 2nd team all-state, Bloomington Herald-Times and UPI 2nd team all-state selection. Totaled 1,800 career points in four-year career, averaging 20.5 ppg as junior and 20.0 ppg as senior. Led teams to 7-0-8 sectional titles, 13 region championships, three-time Greene County champions, three SWIAC conference titles (19 conference record), while being named conference player of the year three times, regional player of the year three times, 3x all-regional and 1x all-state. Married with two children, he resides in Mobile, Alabama.

JASON HOLSOM - NEW CASTLE
Graduate of New Castle High School in New castle with 1,157 points. Was three-year starter, leading teams to three sectional championships and regional title his senior year. Averaged 13.5 points per game as a senior. Graduated with 1,140 career points and 404 assists. A 4-star recruit, he was a committed member of team that reached 1991 semi-state, two sectional championships, one regional title and two Blue Chip Conference titles. Graduated as the 5th all-time leading scorer in New Castle history (51) for teams that were 93-23. Volunteered as a board member for the Special Olympics. Married with three children, he resides in Pendleton, Indiana.

JEFF LAYDEN - LAWRENCE NORTH
1993 Indiana All-Star. Marion County Player of the Year, 1993 Conference Player of the Year, North-South All-Star, 2x all-county, 2x all-conference, 2x all-sectional and 1x all-state. A three-time first team all-state selection as a junior and senior, and a second team all-state selection as a sophomore. Averaged 14.2 points per game, four assists and 2.8 rebounds as a senior. Helped the team reach 1991 semi-state, two sectional championships, one regional title and two Blue Chip Conference titles. Graduated as the 5th all-time leading scorer in New Castle history (51) for teams that were 93-23. Volunteered as a board member for the Special Olympics. Married with three children, he resides in Edwards, Illinois.

TOBY MADISON - WASHINGTON CATHOLIC
Year varsity record of 74-9 with three sectional titles, three regional championships and two state titles. After the final 10 games of state championship season, he averaged 17.6 points, 5.1 rebounds and 3.2 assists as a senior, before playing 93 games in three seasons at University of Louisville, where he was a part of three NCAA Tournament teams that reached the Elite Eight, reaching the 1996 Sweet 16 and 1997 Elite Eight. Was Conference USA 6th Man of the Year in his senior season, averaging 14.6 points and 3.2 assists per game. Married with four children, he resides in Prosper, Kentucky.

WILLIAM GRAVES - WHITE RIVER VALLEY
1993 Indiana All-Star. AP 1st team all-state, Bloomington Herald-Times and UPI 2nd team all-state selection. Totaled 1,800 career points in four-year career, averaging 20.5 ppg as junior and 20.0 ppg as senior. Led teams to 7-0-8 sectional titles, 13 region championships, three-time Greene County champions, three SWIAC conference titles (19 conference record), while being named conference player of the year three times, regional player of the year three times, 3x all-regional and 1x all-state. Married with two children, he resides in Mobile, Alabama.

SCOTT FOLLE - MUNCIE'S CATHOLIC
Graduate of Muncie's Catholic High School in Muncie, Indiana with an academic average of 3.6. Was a three-year starter for the university of Louisville basketball team. Helped the team reach 1991 semi-state, two sectional championships, one regional title and two Blue Chip Conference titles. Graduated as the 5th all-time leading scorer in New Castle history (51) for teams that were 93-23. Volunteered as a board member for the Special Olympics. Married with three children, he resides in Pendleton, Indiana.
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- Give "Calico"a home! This beautiful, petite 3-year-old calico girl has a kittenish look and would like a family of her own for Christmas. New Castle-Henry County Animal Shelter 11 Midway Dr., New Castle 765-529-8131

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HELP WANTED - Part-time press room help needed at MidCountry Media. Stop by 27 N. Jefferson St. for an application. (TFN)
Raymond L. Morris was an unknown artist in Depression-era Indiana. Usually a trove of data on such obscure people, the Internet contains virtually no information on Morris. He was an Indiana resident in 1937, when the U.S. Treasury Section of Fine Arts (TSFA) established as part of President Theodore Roosevelt’s New Deal commissioned him to paint a mural for Knightstown’s post office. The post office itself had only been built a year earlier. But, Roosevelt, trying to put people back to work in the throes of the nation’s darkest financial hour, knew America’s artists needed work, too.

Among many others, the TSFA was an offshoot of the Works Projects Administration (WPA) and was charged with employing artists who qualified under New Deal. The artists’ work was to decorate public buildings and spaces, benefiting citizens by exposing them to quality art. Morris had submitted examples of his work to the TSFA and was subsequently chosen to paint one of 37 post office murals - 36 of which still exist today.

Knightstown’s mural was commissioned on Oct. 14, 1937 - a contract which was to last 229 days. Morris met his deadline and was paid $560 for the 12-foot by 5-foot mural, entitled “The Evening Mail.”

Like many of the other muralists, Morris was encouraged to visit Knightstown to learn about the community and its people prior to finalizing his design. “According to the histories, and the stories told to me, Knightstown was settled by the Quakers, and was soon invaded by another element, which caused trouble there for many years,” Morris wrote in his explanation for the subject matter he chose. “It is located on the old National Road and the arrival of the stage coach was the biggest event of the day.”

Carlisle’s book, A Simple and Vital Design: the Story of the Indiana Post Office Murals, goes further, describing Morris’s work to the TSFA and was subsequently invited to submit sketches for the Knightstown mural. Throughout the mural’s completion, officials in Washington, D.C., made suggestions, some of them quite detailed. For example, one critique involved the scale of a horse. “The hindquarters of the central horse should also be studied further, supplemented by observation from nature.”

The biggest sticking point for officials, however, involved the background scene of two men fistfighting. In his original sketches, Morris had labeled the building behind them as “Jack’s Saloon.” According to Carlisle’s book, Washington suggested he omit the name or replace it with “Jack’s Place.” Officials explained their reasoning: “The word saloon appearing so prominently is apt to bring comments on the part of citizens of Knightstown and frankly we do not feel that the word saloon should be so prominent. Anyone looking at the building will recognize the establishment without benefit of the label.”

Carlisle quotes Morris as telling Washington, “Everyone who has seen this likes the man stopping the horses and the boy in front of them and the horses.”

Knightstown’s postmaster at that time was Rowland R. Morgan, who was apparently as satisfied with Morris’s mural as the artist himself. Morgan wrote to Washington officials, saying, “I think Mr. Morris is to be congratulated on this work and it has received much favorable local attention and comment. “The scene is characteristic of Knightstown,” Morgan continued, “as it might have well appeared 100 years ago on the arrival of the stage coach, which was at that time our only contact with the outside and for this reason is particularly appropriate to be hung in the post office.”

Worker relief programs spawned by the WPA enjoyed popularity until World War II, when most program budgets were slashed in favor of augmented defense spending. Though the Knightstown mural is approaching its 80th anniversary, Allen Stewart, a current Knightstown postal clerk, said people are still interested. “We get a visitor asking about the mural about once every six months,” he said. “Usually, they have (Carlisle’s book) and they want us to stamp it with a local postmark, which we do.”

Postmaster Sabrina Evans said the post office has no special requirements or protocols regarding the mural. She said local employees do not clean the mural or otherwise mess with it. “It’s just there,” said Evans.

While Indiana saw the installation of 37 murals, America, overall, enjoyed 1,400 murals in federal post offices in 1,300 American cities.
Knightstown's Kaleb Buchanan missed most of last season due to a shoulder injury but he whipped this Lincoln opponent as well as his Milan opponent in quick time during the Panther Wrestling Invitational. Buchanan went 4-0 on the day.

Varsity cheerleader Kayla Kimmerly works to keep the fans pumped up during the Panthers' game against Cambridge City Lincoln Friday night.

Barias Wisner was not concerned about his head gear as he's declared winner against the heavyweight opponent from Lincoln in Saturday's Panther Wrestling Invitational.

Seniors Kori Wright and Zoey Hunsinger, along with other students, worked during halftime of the Knightstown boys varsity game Friday night selling walking tacos to a hungry crowd. The proceeds they raised were being donated to Riley Hospital for Children.

Knightstown junior David Peck works to bring down his Cambridge City opponent during their match in the 106 lb. weight class of the Panther Wrestling Invitation Dec. 9. Peck went on to win this match.

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