



THE

Banner

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Knightstown, IN

McCray Cemetery Removing Items

McCray Cemetery in Wilkinson will begin moving and discarding grave decorations on March 10. This includes all Christmas decorations, except saddles. Those who wish to keep these items must remove them by March 10.

Dental Program Visiting in March

Healthy Smiles of Indiana, a school-based dental outreach program, will make stops in some CAB schools in March and April. The program consists of a licensed Indiana dentist and certified dental assistants. Healthy Smiles provides the following care on-site at local schools: oral examination, check-up X-rays, dental cleanings with tooth-strengthening fluoride; dental sealants, etc. The services are not free. Representatives from Healthy Smiles will be at Knightstown Elementary School on Wednesday, March 11, Knightstown Intermediate School on Monday, April 13 and Kennard and Carthage Elementary Schools on Tuesday, April 14. Information about the services, along with parent/guardian waivers, will be sent home with students in the coming weeks.

Tri Kappa Offering KHS Scholarships

Tri Kappa scholarships will once again be offered to seniors at Knightstown High School. A number of scholarships will be awarded to students planning to attend a four-year college. Also, the Margaret Keys Gordon Vocational Scholarship will be given to a student who plans to attend a vocational school or obtain an associates degree. Scholarship applications are available in the high school Guidance Office or on the high school's web site. Completed applications are due to the guidance office by April 24.

Panther Baseball Tryouts March 16

Knightstown High School will be holding tryouts for its high school baseball team beginning on March 16 for anyone in grades 9-12. Tryouts will be held at the intermediate school beginning at 3:45. All athletes must have a physical on file at the athletic director's office to be able to participate. For more information, call Coach Martin at 345-2452.

CAB Fuel Decision Costing Big Bucks

by Jeff Eakins
for The Banner

With gas and diesel on the rise, the Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation decided to gamble when it signed its new yearly fuel contract last summer.

The wager, it turned out, was not a good one for CAB, with estimated losses already exceeding \$44,000.

The new fuel contract with Van Hoy Oil, approved by the school board last June, set fixed prices of \$3.83 and \$4.60 a gallon for gas and diesel, respectively. Not expecting prices to drop, CAB opted not to use the fluctuating pricing options used in previous years' contracts. Those contracts resulted in costs more closely tied to actual pump prices.

"We haven't been very good at predicting the futures market on fuel, obviously."

David Bundy

The price of gas and diesel did drop, however, making CAB's decision to go with fixed prices an expensive one.

According to a spreadsheet prepared by CAB Business Manager David Bundy, CAB had paid \$102,724 as of Feb. 7 for 22,975 total gallons of gas and diesel under the new contract. Using average pump prices on dates CAB made its purchases, the spreadsheet shows that the higher, fixed prices in CAB's fuel contract resulted in CAB paying an estimated \$44,265 more than it would have if the fuel contract called for fluctuating prices.

"We haven't been very good at predicting the futures market on fuel, obviously," Bundy, one of CAB's highest-paid employees, told The Banner on Monday.

According to average daily pump prices compiled by AAA, the highest price in Indiana for unleaded gas and diesel since July 1 was \$4.17 a gallon on Sept. 16 and \$4.84 on July 16, respectively. As of Monday afternoon, AAA was reporting an average price for unleaded gas of \$1.88 a gallon in Indiana, and \$2.18 a gallon for

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Holland Lobster



Knightstown High School Band Director Chris Holland lost a bet with his students and had to pay up last Tuesday night at the band's annual "Dinner and a Show" event. Holland wowed the crowd by donning a bright red lobster costume. More photos from the event appear on Page 9. (Eric Cox photo)

T-shirt Sales to Benefit Carthage Park Fund

The sophomore class at Knightstown High School is selling T-shirts to help contribute money to the Rush County Community Foundation (RCCF) in honor of Crysten Butler and Jason Jett Williams. The mother and son were recently killed in an

I-70 car accident.

All money raised will be donated to RCCF and used to improve the park in Carthage. The deadline for ordering these T-shirts, designed by Jace Butler (brother of Crysten and uncle to Jett), is Thursday, March 5. The shirts fea-

ture the words "Just Dance" on the front, symbolizing Crysten Butler's zest and positive attitude toward life. A "Ghostbusters" logo appears on the shirt's back, a reminder of Jett Williams' favorite movie. The heather gray shirts are \$10 each. Knightstown High

New Bill Would Bring Penalties for Willful Access Law Violations

Senate lawmakers unanimously passed a bill today adding teeth to enforcement of the Open Door Law and Access to Public Records Act.

Sen. Beverly Gard's (R-Greenfield) bill would allow citizens to recover court costs if they are wrongfully denied access to public records. Gard said the only recourse for someone who has been denied access to a government meeting or public documents is a civil lawsuit where often paying court fees can be a deterrent.

Senate lawmakers passed Senate Bill 232 by a 49-0 vote.

Currently, a judge can only tell the agency to share the documents or declare invalid any action taken at an illegally closed public meeting. Senate Bill 232 allows government agencies or personnel to be fined if Indiana's public access laws are knowingly and intentionally violated. The first violation could result in a \$100 fine and \$500 for subsequent offenses.

In 1998, Indiana's response to public access com-

plaints was to create the office of the public access counselor. The counselor can take no punitive action against elected officials and government agencies, only issue a report on the complaint.

"Establishing these fines may help deter agency and government officials from wrongfully denying the peoples' right to know," Gard said. "This legislation has gained momentum and I am hopeful the measure will pass in the House of Representatives."

Gard said at least 17 states impose fines ranging from \$100 to \$5,000 and many include up to six months in jail for violations.

"Given the numerous and serious problems The Banner has had with local officials and access to public records, we are very happy to see this bill making progress," Banner Publisher Eric Cox said. "Hopefully, this bill will become law and we'll see fewer shenanigans. That'd be a nice change of pace."

SB 232 now moves to the House of Representatives for further consideration.



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