



January 11, 2018

## IHSAA to honor Eric & Stacy Cox of the Knightstown Banner

The owners and operators of one of Indiana's great hometown newspapers, Eric and Stacy Cox of the Knightstown Banner, will be honored with this year's Distinguished Media Service Award for District 2.

The couple's contributions to education-based athletics will be recognized this Saturday (Jan. 13) at Knightstown Community High School when the Panthers host Northeastern in a quadruple-header of varsity and junior varsity girls and boys basketball action. Commissioner Bobby Cox and Sports Information Director Jason Wille will make the presentation.

Located approximately 30 miles east of Indianapolis in Henry County, the Coxes have run the town's weekly newspaper since April 1999 covering community events, taking photographs and writing copy among many other tasks.

Eric is a graduate of Indianapolis' Perry Meridian High School and attended Vincennes University. He worked as a reporter during college and received his first full-time reporting position at the Hartford City News-Times at age 21. While he covered government meetings and wrote news features, opportunities arose to photograph the local Blackford County High School sporting events and he learned how to develop those photos in a dark room. Eric continued to work as a reporter and writer for the newspaper in Pontiac, Ill. and then the Connersville News Examiner until he was offered the job of editor of the Knightstown Banner in 1995.



In 1997, he left his Banner position to work at Knightstown's other publishing company at the time, Mayhill Publications. The Banner's previous owner was forced in 1998 to shut down the newspaper that had existed since 1867. With the encouragement of Knightstown residents and his wife, along with the help of the Mayhill family, Eric revived The Banner in April 1999 with just his camera and a borrowed computer. He sold ads, wrote all the copy, took all the photos and built the weekly paper on a lightboard for months while Stacy helped with the business operation aspect. Within a year, they were offering annual subscriptions, adding content from local correspondents and moving to digitize their operation. Eric continued to provide award-winning news and sports photos up until 2012. Due to the changing nature of the local economy and newspaper industry, the Coxes decided to cut the sports editor position. Stacy then took over the sports pages, writing up sports copy from whatever news and game results provided by local coaches.

Stacy is a graduate of Pleasant Valley High School in Iowa and attended the University of Iowa. Prior to her senior year of high school, she had lived in Connersville, Ind., her entire life where she began playing sports early on in grade school and played on the school's basketball team until she moved to Iowa following her junior year. When she was 12, she began working in the concession stand at the nearby softball and tee-ball fields in Connersville and the following summer was given the opportunity to maintain the game books, keeping the stats and announcing the batters.

After a stint managing an Indianapolis motel before their children were born, she started helping Eric with The Banner's business-related aspects and covering government meetings until 2006 when she taught herself how to write code and designed [The Banner's website](#). In the following years, she has worked to build up the newspaper's online presence. Her years of participating and being around sports and her desire to expand The Banner's audience on social media prompted her to start covering the local sporting events in person. After years of observing and admiring her husband's sports photos, she took what she learned from him and other sports photographers to begin shooting the high school, middle school and elementary school sporting events. These photos have helped build up The Banner's following on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), helping to keep The Banner's husband-and-wife operation relevant in the modern era.

The couple has been married for 25 years and are the parents of two adult sons, Hunter and Logan. Since graduating from high school in 2013, Logan has written a weekly feature story for The Banner about a current or previous Knightstown resident or Knightstown High School graduate. Eric is also an avid cyclist and commutes the 10-mile trip from home to office via his bike nearly every warm day of the year.

This is the 33rd year the IHSAA has recognized outstanding members of the Indiana news media from each of its three legislative districts for excellence in the coverage of high school sports. District 2 covers 28 counties across northern and central Indiana. Award recipients are selected by members of the IHSAA Executive Committee from nominations received from member school administrators. Eric and Stacy are the first individuals to be honored this school year.

[Previous Award Winners](#)

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***About the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (IHSAA)***

*The IHSAA is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization that is self-supporting without the use of tax monies. Since its founding in 1903, the Association's mission has been to provide wholesome, educational athletics for the secondary schools of Indiana. Its 410 member high schools - public, institutional, parochial and private - pay no annual membership fee or incur entry fees to play in the Association's tournaments. A state tournament series is conducted annually in 21 sports, 10 for girls, 10 for boys and one co-ed (unified track and field). A 19-person board of directors, elected by member school principals, governs the organization.*