



Dr. Bonutti, Wenthe speak at CEO Class

Dr. Peter Bonutti and Lucas Wenthe, an attorney that works with patents for Bonutti Technologies, spoke to the Effingham County CEO class on January 5.

Dr. Bonutti's presentation was "Education Is Key," while Wenthe spoke on "The Legal Side of Intellectual Property."

Dr. Bonutti challenged the students to "question what you're taught. Be self-educated. Look at problems as positives and try to find solutions."

These important lessons and perspectives were shared by Dr. Bonutti during the class.

Dr. Bonutti graduated from high school at 16 years old and began college. As a college student, he was inquisitive with the processes and procedures for surgery. His questions were not well received by the professors and removal from the program was threatened on several occasions.

This did not stop Dr. Bonutti. His willingness to challenge the status quo and think innovatively about problem solving provided the foundation for what Dr. Bonutti would work toward as he built his practice in Effingham County.

Dr. Bonutti holds patient care in high regard and balances his



Dr. Peter Bonutti (above), and Lucas Wenthe, an attorney with Bonutti Technologies, make a point during their presentations at the Effingham County CEO class on January 5. Wenthe spoke about the legalities of intellectual property. Dr. Peter Bonutti's presentation was about the importance of education.

Submitted Photos

surgical practice with developing new innovations. He holds over 550 patents for his innovations and continually looks for ways to improve orthopedic care.

Dr. Bonutti shared with students three qualities that he attributes to being successful – analytical, creativity, and practical skills. People who have combinations of all three of these qualities are found to be most successful.

Wenthe spoke with CEO students about four forms of intellectual property – trade secrets, copyrights, trademarks and patents.

The information on these forms of IP helped the CEO students understand ways to protect a business, product, service or idea.

Laatsch named Hall of Fame winner

A group of Effingham area business leaders recently presented Lily Laatsch, of Altamont High School, an award for Mathematic/Scientific scholastic achievement.

This program is called the Hall of FAME, which represents Fantastic Area Mathematicians (Scientists) Extraordinaire.

Lily was selected by her school based on preset standards. Lily hopes to continue her education in Engineering.

The leadership of these businesses knows that excellence in academics play an important part in the growth and vitality of our area and wish to encourage the scholastic endeavors of our leaders of tomorrow.



Lily Laatsch, of Altamont High School, was the winner of the monthly Hall of FAME Award for Mathematic/Scientific scholastic achievement. Pictured (left to right) are Dr. Joseph Spraul, of Effingham Ophthalmology; Lily Laatsch; and Dr. John Kay, of Effingham Ophthalmology. Other sponsors include Visionary Eyewear, Coldwell Banker/First Realty, Joe's Pizza, Merz Heating & Cooling, Country Financial – Jake Donsbach and Brad Meinhart, and Auto Glass Unlimited.

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Doehring, Winders & Co. announces merger

Doehring, Winders & Co. LLP has announced a merger with Hanks & Willenborg, CPAs of Effingham, effective Jan. 1, 2016.

The combined practice will operate under the name Doehring, Winders & Co. LLP and continue to offer all of the same tax, accounting, auditing and business consulting services.

Joining the staff will be Paul V. Willenborg, CPA, Eric J. Hanks,

CPA, and Sara B. Grubb. They bring valuable experience to the firm, but more importantly, they share a commitment to the ethics of our profession and dedication to providing client services of the highest quality.

This shared philosophy stems in large part from our common heritage as branch offices of the regional CPA firm Murphey, Jenne & Jones (MJ&J) from

1963 to 1983. When MJ&J was acquired by a national firm and began closing its offices in small towns, a strong desire to continue serving the local community and offer personalized services led the respective partners in Effingham and Mattoon to purchase their local offices.

This merger reunites accounting professionals who have known each other for decades and practiced under the same guiding principles.

Matthew D. Cekander, CPA, will continue as the partner heading the Effingham office. With the growth of the staff, Doehring,

Winders & Co. has moved to a larger office, located at 400 W. Jefferson Avenue.

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Park District Bridge Results

Effingham Park District winners from Duplicate Bridge (North-South) on Wednesday, Jan. 13:

- First – Sharon Sehy and Michael Sehy, 103 points
 - Second – Michael Ritchie and Charles Schafer, 88 points
 - Third – Stan Albin and Keith Wilhour, 84 points
 - Fourth – Randal Malone and David Stevens, 83.5 points
 - Fifth – William Morgan and Kate Dickens, 82.5 points
 - Sixth – Sandra Hoover and Donna Swick, 78.5 points
 - Seventh – John Coe and Karen Coe, 68.5 points
- Effingham Park District winners from Duplicate Bridge (East-West) on Wednesday, Jan. 13:

- First – Richard Brummer and Brian Poelker, 104.5 points
- Second (tie) – Lois Hartke and Paul Hartke; and Brenda Kettman and Anna Sparling, 89 points
- Fourth – Lou Buennemeyer and Daniel Hauk, 84 points
- Fifth – Gary Goeckner and Chris Sehy, 78.5 points
- Sixth – Eric Bizzell and Craig Hillyer, 75.5 points
- Seventh – C. Willenborg and Larry Willenborg, 67.5 points

"Valentine's Date Night"

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Letters to the Editor

Promises honored

Many readers have most likely heard about the program that penalizes hospitals for poor outcomes related to so-called HACs (Healthcare-Acquired Conditions).

HACs are items like blood clots and infections after surgeries that ideally should never happen. But this is just one piece of the Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Program (HVBP) that was introduced in 2010 as part of the Affordable Care Act.

In addition to the 1 percent penalty related to HACs, another 4.75 percent is at risk related to readmissions, clinical outcomes (death rates), responses on patient surveys, and efficiency in delivering care. This led to a financial penalty for 68 percent of hospitals in the program. The program can penalize, but also rewards hospitals for exceptional performance in their treatment of Medicare patients.

I am very proud to say that HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital not only avoided the HAC penalty, but avoided any financial penalty. In fact, for the second year, we will be receiving a bonus payment from Medicare related to our overall performance in the HVBP program.

But that's only the beginning. Throughout the year, we were recognized by the American College of Radiology and received the ACR Gold Seal of Accreditation for our Mammography Program, becoming the only ACR accredited facility in Effingham.

The Joint Commission again recognized St. Anthony's as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures in the treatment of Heart Failure, Pneumonia, Surgical Care, Venous Thromboembolism, and Stroke. For the first time ever, we sought and received The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for our Joint Replacement Program.

These Disease-Specific Care Certificates of Distinction for our presurgical preparation, surgical care, and postsurgical recovery and rehabilitation for those having joint replacements acknowledge our commitment to the delivery of exceptional, nationally-recognized health care.

Our most exceptional recognition was announced in December. After years of preparation, we submitted an application to Illinois Performance Excellence (ILPEX). ILPEX was founded in 1994 to nurture, develop and highlight excellence by bringing individuals and organizations together, to learn from each other, to share best practices for organizational change and process improvement.

It represents the first step toward national recognition as a center dedicated to performance excellence. Many applicants do not receive a visit, much less an award. We welcomed the examiners in October and our achievement of a Bronze Award was announced in December.

HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital promised to listen to your voice and to make you feel good about choosing our hospital. As we welcome a new year, we continue to promise to make a healthy difference each and every day.

Ryan Jennings, MD
Chief Medical Officer
HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital

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