

*Fishers  
Chamber*

magazine

Winter 2013

**SHARP Printing**  
Lifetime Achievement Winner

**Hearthstone  
coffee**

warms Fishers

**Schools propose plan  
for building expansions**

**IU Health  
Saxony**

Orthopedic surgeon  
offers health and hope

**GALLERY 116**

One-of-a-kind  
Fishers boutique

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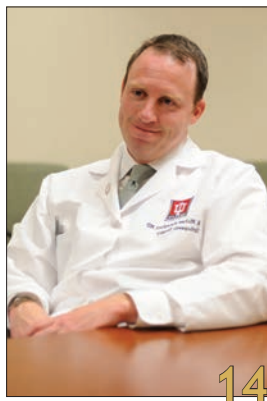
**Graphics and lists** Community statistics including population, employment, and education.



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**HSE Singers** Hamilton Southeastern choral groups deliver performances with high caliber and enthusiasm.



**Pillar Award winners** Meet this year's winners.

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### WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

Write a letter to the editor, give us a story idea or give us an update: Contact Carol Doerman at cdoehrmn@fisherschamber.com

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# IU HEALTH SAXONY'S MODERN DAY HEROES



Dr. R. Michael Meneghini and patient Mark Besse.

Mark and Patti Besse had prepared for the worst. After a series of failed attempts to treat a serious infection in Mark's right knee, his doctor in Porter County informed the couple Mark was likely going to lose his leg.

WRITTEN by Jill Jansen  
PHOTOS by Adam Sturm

The physician referred the retired mill worker to an orthopedic surgeon at Indiana University Health Saxony Hospital in Fishers.

The Besses talked, read up on prosthetics, and they prayed. They were as ready as two people facing something so devastating could be.

Dr. R. Michael Meneghini was ready too. He was ready to do everything possible to save Mark's leg. As the surgeon explains, a harsh, resilient bacterial organism had invaded Mark's knee. The exact cause of the chronic infection isn't known. Further complicating his condition, in September 2011 Mark fell, disrupting his quad tendon.

"In Mark's case, we had three options," says Dr. Meneghini, director of Joint Replacement for IU Health Saxony Hospital and assistant professor of Clinical Orthopaedic Surgery at Indiana University School of Medicine. "We could amputate the leg; fuse it, significantly restricting movement; or undertake more heroic measures to try and successfully treat the infection, place a new knee implant and repair the tendon."

see PAGE 16

THE JOURNEY TO WELLNESS: At right, Dr. R. Michael Meneghini and patient Mark Besse discuss and complete treatment for a successful knee implant procedure.



## INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH SAXONY HOSPITAL

Opened in December 2011, IU Health Saxony Hospital is a specialty hospital located at Exit 210 in Fishers. As part of the only healthcare system in Indiana to be named to the *U.S. News & World Report* National Honor Roll, IU Health Saxony Hospital offers the highest level of orthopedic, cardiovascular, spine and emergency care.


### CLINICAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Focus on cardiovascular, orthopedic and spine care
- Full service, 24/7 emergency department with adjacent LifeLine helicopter pad
- Women's Imaging Center - mammography (including 3-D Tomosynthesis), ultrasound and bone density studies
- Six technologically advanced surgical suites - two designated for cardiovascular and four for orthopedics and general surgery
- Cardiac catheterization lab
- Comprehensive imaging/radiology services
- Full service laboratory

### MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING:

- 120,000 square feet
- Physician offices
- Outpatient surgery center
- Cardiac rehabilitation
- Sleep Disorders Center
- Retail pharmacy
- Atrio at Crossings Cafe
- Rehabilitation - physical, occupational, speech therapies

Source: IU Health Saxony



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from PAGE 15

Mark, an avid fisherman and uncle to more than 20 active, fun-loving nieces and nephews, didn't hesitate in agreeing to the third option.

"Thinking that you're coming down to have your leg removed, and to hear the doctor say, 'No, Mark, I can save that leg,' it brings tears to your eyes," recalls Mark, who was confined to a wheelchair when he first met Dr. Meneghini in the fall of 2011. "(Dr. Meneghini's) like a hero to me."

#### Long road back to health

For more than six months, Mark and Patti traveled from their home in Crown Point, Ind., to Fishers for Mark's treatment. Dr. Meneghini performed three surgeries to eradicate the infection, including a procedure to place a spacer containing high-dose antibiotics in Mark's knee joint. During the fourth and final surgery in June 2012, Dr. Meneghini replaced the spacer with a knee implant and repaired the quad tendon. It was a long and arduous process for both patient and doctor, but today, Mark is walking again. As for the infection, Dr. Meneghini says it's either cured or dormant. Mark continues daily doses of antibiotics to prevent a recurrence.

"It's a tough thing for both patients and surgeons when the light at the end of the tunnel is so far away," says Dr. Meneghini, who admits he lost sleep over Mark's condition. "Surgeons become accustomed to instant satisfaction, but with a challenging situation like Mark's, the satisfaction comes much later."

#### From engineering to orthopedics

In practice for more than eight years, Dr. Meneghini graduated from IU School of Medicine. While most physicians major in biology or pre-medicine as undergraduates, Dr. Meneghini earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. The Terre Haute native knew he wanted to go to medical school, but planned ahead for engineering to be a second career option.

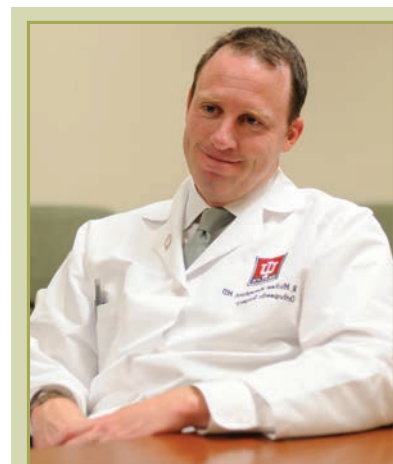
"My parents were actually the ones who encouraged me to major in something other than pre-med," says Dr. Meneghini. "I remember her saying to me, 'What if you get to medical school and don't like it?'"

His decision to specialize in orthopedics also was unconventional – born during a visit with his dad to Chicago's Wrigley Field.

"I noticed the man sitting next to us had prominent scars on his knees," recalls Dr. Meneghini of the moment when he first considered a career in orthopedic surgery. "We started talking, and the man said he had wanted to come see the Cubs play for years but couldn't because of his injuries. Those injuries had really impacted his quality of life, and that stuck with me."

Now more than 15 years later, Dr. Meneghini receives orthopedic referrals from across Indiana and the Midwest. And while the doctor is "a little uncomfortable" being called a hero, he has become increasingly well known for his expertise treating complex cases.

"Because of the oath we take as physicians, if we're trained and we're able, I believe we have an obligation to take care of every patient – even the most challenging cases," says Dr. Meneghini. "And as a leading-edge ortho-



#### R. Michael Meneghini, MD

**Director of Joint Replacement**  
Indiana University Health Saxony Hospital  
**Assistant Professor of Clinical Orthopaedic Surgery**  
Indiana University School of Medicine

- Orthopedic surgery, adult hip & knee reconstruction
- Bachelor's degree, civil engineering; Rose-Hulman Institute
- Doctor of medicine; Indiana University School of Medicine
- Residency in orthopedic surgery; Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, Ill.
- Fellowship in adult hip and knee reconstruction; Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.
- Member, Knee Society
- Member, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
- Member, American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons

pedic hospital, we're distinctively equipped to handle those difficult cases right here at Saxony."

#### Welcoming environment

For the Besses, IU Health Saxony Hospital is special – not only as the place where Mark's quality of life was restored, but because of the welcoming people and the personal care they received.

"We've been to a lot of hospitals during the past few years, but coming down here and not knowing anyone, we couldn't have asked for a more wonderful staff," says Patti Besse. "I wish in words we could adequately say how we feel about this place." ■

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