

The News - Banner

www.News-Banner.com

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

Werling joins Ossian Town Council

By a vote of 4-0 Monday night, Glen Werling was chosen to fill a vacancy on the Ossian Town Council.

Werling is no stranger to the council, having reported on its actions for several years for the News-Banner. Now he'll sit at the council members' table rather than alongside it.

In making his case for a seat on the council, he referred to a somewhat complicated presentation by Jim Breckler of Engineering Resources concerning a redesign of the town's wastewater collection system.

"I understood every word of that," he said.

Werling, 430 Shady Lane in Ossian, was one of four individuals to submit applications for the appointment.

The only other one to show up was Melissa Woodworth, who represents the town on the Wells County Area Plan Commission. She is employed by Allen County and was seeking to better serve the community.

The other two candidates were David Bass and Nathan Dennison.

Werling said he had covered the town of Ossian as a reporter for several years. "I'm pretty familiar with what is going on in the town," he told the council. "Now that I'm no longer employed by the Bluffton News-Banner, I'd like to continue to help Ossian."

He will take the oath of office at



Glen Werling shares a moment with Stephanie Tucker following Monday night's meeting of the Ossian Town Council. Werling was chosen to fill a vacancy on the council created by longtime member Brad Pursley's resignation. He will take the oath of office at the council's next meeting. (Photo by Dave Schultz)

the council's next meeting.

Werling will replace Brad Pursley on the council, who resigned effective March 31. To serve past Dec. 31, he must file to run for the office in the general election.

The four members active on the council — Josh Barkley, Stephanie

Tucker, Jason House, and Dennis Ealing — voted to accept Werling as Pursley's successor. Since Pursley did not declare a political affiliation when he ran for council, the council — rather than a political party caucus — chose the next council member.

— Dave Schultz

Ossian will seek state funding for wastewater plans

By DAVE SCHULTZ

The plans for improvements to Ossian's wastewater collection system will soon be on the way to the Indiana Finance Authority for potential funding through the State Revolving Loan Fund.

After a presentation by Jim Breckler of Engineering Resources, restating the need for the upgrade, the four council members present — Josh Barkley, Stephanie Tucker, Jason House, and Dennis Ealing — voted to allow Breckler to send the documentation to the IFA. According to a timeline Breckler displayed, he will have those documents to the state by next Monday, April 17.

A public hearing on the project was the first item of business during Monday night's meeting of the Ossian Town Council. No one spoke to Breckler or the council about it.

Six alternatives were considered, and a two-phase alternative was chosen. Key elements will be the replacement of the town's aging lift stations, one on Mill Street, which is in the right of way and forces traffic to go around it, and the other on Davis Road.

Breckler said that the town's projected growth will be 413 over the next five years. The IFA requires that the preliminary engineering report account for future growth.

Septic systems north of town are also contaminating waterways in the area, Breckler said, citing reports from the Wells County Health Department.

Because the State Revolving Fund puts a high priority on clearing up failing septic systems, Breckler said the town has a good chance of obtaining grants and forgivable loans in the \$2.5 million range. Since that's not a certainty, he gave two potential effects on rates — \$61.90 for typical customers if the town does not receive a grant and \$50.16, which is the current rate, if a grant is received.

The council members voted to send the PER on to the state.

In other business Monday night, Kurt Jack was formally (Continued on Page 2)

Council candidates agree city faces 'real challenges'

By CHET BAUMGARTNER

The four Republican candidates vying for the two at-large seats on the Bluffton Common Council agree: Bluffton will face "real challenges" in the days to come, as one said.

And on Monday night, the Wells County Chamber of Commerce invited them to address those challenges during an hour-long forum at the Wells County Commerce and Visitors Centre.

About 40 people attended as candidates Rick Elwell, Blake Fiechter, Ron Neuenschwander and Ethan Sommerfeld — all republicans — discussed their qualifications, their community commitments, and the infrastructure issues within and beneath the city, such as the aging wastewater treatment plant.

And all agreed that city residents will need to endure higher utility rates.

"To be blunt, there's no way around that," Neuenschwander said.

But the candidates also pledged to thoroughly review any major projects in the future to cut as many costs as possible without compromising those projects.

City officials will most likely address —

or at least begin addressing — those infrastructure needs before the two victors begin their terms. However, during the forum, the candidates also introduced other priorities they would pursue if they would be elected.

Sommerfeld said he wanted to prioritize housing growth.

"We're still needing to solve the housing issue," he said.

Elwell, the only incumbent running, said he wanted to pursue initiatives to help address drug addiction, citing the funding the city received as part of a lawsuit related to opioids.

Neuenschwander, who worked as an occupational health consultant for businesses through Parkview, said he wanted to pursue "more robust options" for healthcare.

"It pains me to see everyone drive past the hospital to go to Fort Wayne instead," he said.

Fiechter said he wanted to create a "more business-friendly" culture in Bluffton, and he hoped to encourage the council to create a five or 10-year vision to guide them.

Each candidate also touted his qualifications for the position, as well as his commitment to the community.



Candidates for the two at-large Bluffton Common Council seats met during a forum Monday to discuss their qualifications and priorities if elected. Those running are, from left to right, Rick Elwell, Blake Fiechter, Ron Neuenschwander and Ethan Sommerfeld. Pictured in the foreground are forum moderators Rick Johnloz and Erin Prible. (Photo by Chet Baumgartner)

Elwell and Fiechter, for instance, cited their work as members of the Board of the Bluffton Free Street Fair, as well as their experience as business owners. Elwell in particular said that because he owns his own business, his flexible schedule can accommodate council demands. Fiechter said his experience in development and real estate helps him "get a pulse" on the rea-

sons people come to — and leave — Bluffton.

Neuenschwander also cited his business background and political science background, which he said could help the council identify possible federal funding for infrastructure needs.

And as the only retired candidate, Neuenschwander (Continued on Page 2)

Louisville bank employee livestreamed attack that killed 5

By DYLAN LOVAN and CLAIRE GALOFARO Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A Louisville bank employee armed with a rifle opened fire at his workplace Monday morning, killing five people — including a close friend of Kentucky's governor — while livestreaming the attack on Instagram, authorities said.

Police arrived as shots were

still being fired inside Old National Bank and killed the shooter in an exchange of gunfire, Louisville Metro Police Department Chief Jacquelyn Gwinn-Villaroel said. The city's mayor, Craig Greenberg, called the attack "an evil act of targeted violence."

The shooting, the 15th mass killing in the country this year, comes just two weeks after a former student killed three children and three adults at a Christian

elementary school in Nashville, Tennessee, about 160 miles to the south. That state's governor and his wife also had friends killed in that shooting.

In Louisville, the chief identified the shooter as 25-year-old Connor Sturgeon, who she said was livestreaming during the attack.

"That's tragic to know that that incident was out there and captured," she said.

Meta, the company that owns Facebook and Instagram, said in a statement that it had "quickly removed the livestream of this tragic incident this morning."

Social media companies have imposed tougher rules over the past few years to prohibit violent and extremist content. They have set up systems to remove posts and streams that violate those restrictions, but shocking material like the Louisville shooting continues

to slip through the cracks, prompting lawmakers and other critics to lash out at the technology industry for slipshod safeguards and moderation policies.

Nine people, including two police officers, were treated for injuries from the Louisville shooting, University of Louisville Hospital spokeswoman Heather Fountain said in an email. One of the wounded, identified as 57-year-old

(Continued on Page 2)

Inside

Local/Area

- Obituaries 3
- Police Notebook . . . 3

Opinion

- Justin Peeper 4

Also...

- Sports 6-7
- Classifieds 9
- Diversions 8

Outside

Sunny and warm today, cool and breezy tonight

Today	Wed.	Thursday
High 74	High 75	High 75
Low 50	Low 51	Low 51

More Weather on Page 2

Online

Follow us on Facebook!
Go to www.facebook.com/newsbanner

Place Your Classified Ads 24/7

Vol. 94 No. 136

TUESDAY
April 11, 2023

Kemper Flooring Inc

Now offering **Best HOME FURNISHINGS** **RESTONIC** ComfortCare

1525 Hillcrest Drive, Ossian • 260-622-7465
www.kemperflooring.com

How to contact us:

Call us: 824-0224 or 1-800-579-7476

Fax us: 824-0700
email@news-banner.com

On the Web:
www.news-banner.com

Follow us at:
twitter.com/newsbanner

Ossian wastewater plans

(Continued from Page 1)
introduced during the meeting as the town's new police chief and received a round of applause from those present. Barkley, the council's president, affirmed that he wants to see the Ossian Police Department with a full roster, but he also acknowledged the challenges ahead.
"We want to get back to a

full police force. It's been a while since we've had one," Barkley said. He noted that the town's agreement with the Wells County Sheriff's Department for additional coverage in town has worked well, but the cost — \$45 an hour — is something he did not want to commit to.
Nevertheless, Barkley said, "We want to give the

police department everything we can."
Also, the board heard a request from Scott Lengrich, who wanted to reopen the council's decision to not allow chickens in the city limits. Lengrich said the chickens would help his mentally handicapped son; he said chickens could serve as therapy animals.
Lengrich said he would

come to the council next month with a petition, signed by as many town residents as he could contact, to ask the council to reopen the discussion.
The council also ratified the appointment of Gary Guenin, a member of the Parks Board, to the Wells County Tourism Commission.
daves@news-banner.com

Council candidates

(Continued from Page 1)
schwander said he can more readily "devote a lot of time" to the council.
Sommerfeld cited his volunteer work through the various ministries of Hope Missionary Church, such as Forgotten Children, and he too said he had sufficient "down time" to commit to the council's demands.

Finally, all of them agreed they wouldn't want to live anywhere else.
"I don't believe there are other communities as special as Bluffton," Fiechter said.
Neuenschwander said he moved to Bluffton 23 years ago, and "I've not regretted that decision at all."
"I love Bluffton," Sommerfeld said.

"I'm excited about the direction we're heading," Elwell said.
No Democrat has filed for one of the two open seats, and unless the county party's chair names a candidate, the two winners in the Republican May primary will win the election by default.
newsroom@news-banner.com

Louisville shooting

(Continued from Page 1)
Deana Eckert, later died, police said Monday night.
One of the wounded officers, 26-year-old Nickolas Wilt, graduated from the police academy on March 31. He was in critical condition after being shot in the head and having surgery, the police chief said. At least three patients had been discharged.
Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said he lost one of his closest friends in the shooting — Tommy Elliott — in the building not far from the minor league ballpark Louisville Slugger Field and Waterfront Park.
"Tommy Elliott helped me build my law career, helped me become governor, gave me advice on being a good dad," said Beshear, his voice shaking with emotion. "He's one of the people I talked to most in the world, and very rarely were we talking about my job. He was an incredible friend."
Also killed in the shooting were Josh Barrick, Jim Tutt and Juliana Farmer,

police said.
"These are irreplaceable, amazing individuals that a terrible act of violence tore from all of us," the governor said.
It was the second time that Beshear was personally touched by a mass tragedy since becoming governor.
In late 2021, one of the towns devastated by tornadoes that tore through Kentucky was Dawson Springs, the hometown of Beshear's father, former two-term Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear. Andy Beshear frequently visited Dawson Springs as a boy and has talked emotionally about his father's hometown.
Beshear spoke as the investigation in Louisville continued and police searched for a motive. Crime scene investigators could be seen marking and photographing numerous bullet holes in the windows near the bank's front door.
As part of the investigation, police descended on the neighborhood where the suspect lived, about 5 miles

south of the downtown shooting. The street was blocked as federal and local officers talked to residents. One home was cordoned off with caution tape. Kami Cooper, who lives in the neighborhood, said she didn't recall ever meeting the suspect but said it's an unnerving feeling to have lived on the same street as someone who could do such a thing.
"I'm almost speechless. You see it on the news but not at home," Cooper said. "It's unbelievable, it could happen here, somebody on my street."
A man who fled the building during the shooting told WHAS-TV that the shooter opened fire with a long rifle in a conference room in the back of the building's first floor.
"Whoever was next to me got shot — blood is on me from it," he told the news station, pointing to his shirt. He said he fled to a break room and shut the door.
Deputy Police Chief Paul Humphrey said the actions of responding police officers

undoubtedly saved lives.
"This is a tragic event," he said. "But it was the heroic response of officers that made sure that no more people were more seriously injured than what happened."
Just a few hours later and blocks away, an unrelated shooting killed one man and wounded a woman outside a community college, police said.
The 15 mass shootings this year are the most during the first 100 days of a calendar year since 2009, when 16 had occurred by April 10, according to a mass killings database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in partnership with Northeastern University.
Going back to 2006, the first year for which data has been compiled, the years with the most mass killings were 2019 and 2022, with 45 and 42 mass killings recorded during the entire calendar year. The pace in 2009 slowed later in the year, with 32 mass killings recorded that year.

Weather

Tuesday, April 11, 2023
(24-hour observations at 9:37 p.m. Monday)
High: 68; Low: 37; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.59 feet at 8:45 p.m. Monday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 74. West wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 50. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 75. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low around 51. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 75.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51.
Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 76.
Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.
Saturday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 76.
Saturday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51.
Sunday: A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 63. Breezy.
Sunday Night: A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41. Breezy.
Monday: A slight chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 53.

China military is 'ready to fight' after drills near Taiwan

By HUIZHONG WU
Associated Press
TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — China's military declared Monday it is "ready to fight" after completing three days of large-scale combat exercises around Taiwan that simulated sealing off the island in response to the Taiwanese president's trip to the U.S. last week.
The "combat readiness patrols" named Joint Sword were meant as a warning to self-governing Taiwan, which China claims as its own, China's military said earlier.
"The theater's troops are ready to fight at all times and can fight at any time to resolutely smash any form of 'Taiwan independence' and foreign interference attempts," it said Monday.
The exercises were similar to ones conducted by China last August, when it launched missile strikes on targets in the seas around Taiwan in retaliation for then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, but have been smaller and less disruptive.
Military experts say the exercises serve both as intimidation and as an opportunity for Chinese troops to practice sealing off Taiwan by blocking sea and air traffic, an important strategic option the Chinese military might pursue in the event it uses military force to take Taiwan.
The Chinese actions follow President Tsai Ingwen's delicate mission to shore up Taiwan's dwindling diplomatic alliances in Central America and boost its U.S. support, a trip capped with a sensitive meeting with U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in California. A U.S. congressional delegation also met with Tsai over the weekend in Taiwan after she returned.
White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby reiterated the position of President Joe Biden's administration that Tsai's transit through the U.S. and the congressional visit to Taiwan were not out of the norm. Tsai transited through the United States six times between 2016 and 2019.
"There was no reason to react in any way militarily," he said. "There's no reason for tensions across the Taiwan Strait to devolve into any kind of conflict."
China responded immediately to the McCarthy meeting by imposing a travel ban and financial sanctions against those associated with Tsai's U.S. trip and with increased military activity through the week-end.
"China wants to use any increase of diplomatic interactions between the U.S. and Taiwan as an excuse to train its military," said Kuo Yu-jen, a defense studies expert and director of the Institute for National Policy Research in Taiwan.
Beijing says contact between foreign officials and the island's democratic government encourages Taiwanese who want formal independence, a step China's ruling Communist Party says would lead to war. The sides split in 1949 after a civil war, and the Communist Party says the island is obliged to rejoin the mainland, by force if necessary.
After Pelosi visited Taiwan, China conducted missiles strikes on targets in the seas around Taiwan, while also sending warships and war planes over the median line of the Taiwan Strait. It also fired missiles over the island itself which landed in Japan's exclusive economic zone, in a significant escalation.

U.S., World News Roundup

Leaked documents may have origin in chatroom for gamers

WASHINGTON (AP) — A major leak of classified U.S. documents that's shaken Washington and exposed new details of its intelligence gathering may have started in a chatroom on a social media platform popular with gamers.
Held on the Discord platform, which hosts real-time voice, video and text chats, a discussion originally created to talk about a range of topics turned to the war in Ukraine. As part of debates about Ukraine, according to one member of the chat, an unidentified poster shared documents that were allegedly classified, first typing them out with the poster's own thoughts, then, as of a few months ago, beginning to post images of papers with folds in them.
The posts appear to have gone unnoticed outside of the chat until a few weeks ago, when they began to circulate more widely on social media and get picked up by major news outlets. The leaks have alarmed U.S. officials and sparked a Justice Department investigation.
The records have provided startling and surprisingly timely details of U.S. and NATO assistance to Ukraine. They also provided clues about efforts to assist Ukraine in its war with Russia, including an anticipated spring offensive.

The scale of the exposure has yet to be determined. Also unclear is whether any government worked to share the documents or manipulate them.

Money, power, sex: Attorney says slain kids' mom used all 3

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A mother accused in the triple murder of her two youngest children as well as her new husband's previous wife was willing to "remove any obstacle in her way to get what she wants," a prosecutor told jurors Monday morning.
"The defendant used money, power and sex to get what she wanted," Fremont County Prosecutor Lindsey Blake said. "It didn't matter what it was."
Prosecutors charged Lori Vallow Daybell and her husband, Chad Daybell, with multiple counts of conspiracy, murder and grand theft in connection with the deaths of Vallow Daybell's two youngest children: 7-year-old Joshua "JJ" Vallow and big sister Tylee Ryan, who was last seen a few days before her 17th birthday in 2019. Prosecutors also charged the couple in connection with the October 2019 death of Chad Daybell's late wife, Tammy Daybell.
Both defendants have pleaded not guilty, but are being tried separately. Chad Daybell's trial is still months away. Vallow Daybell faces up to life in prison if convicted.
The children were missing for

months before their remains were found buried in Chad Daybell's eastern Idaho yard, Blake told jurors.

Black lawmaker who was expelled reinstated to Tennessee seat

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — One of the two Black Democrats who were expelled last week from the GOP-led Tennessee House was reinstated Monday after Nashville's governing council voted to send him straight back to the Legislature.
The unanimous vote by the Nashville Metropolitan Council took only a few minutes to restore Rep. Justin Jones to office just four days after Republicans stripped him of his seat.
Moments later, Jones marched to the Capitol several blocks away. He took the oath of office on the steps and entered the building while supporters sang "This Little Light of Mine."
A loud round of applause erupted as Jones walked into the chamber with Democratic Rep. Gloria Johnson, who was also targeted for expulsion, but spared by one vote.
"To the people of Tennessee, I stand with you," Jones said in his first statement on the House floor. "We will continue to be your voice here. And no expulsion, no attempt to silence us will stop us, but it will only galvanize and strengthen our movement. And we will continue to show up in the people's house."

DIRECTV
THE MOST LOCAL
MLB GAMES
1-888-885-8931
DIRECTV DEALER

Consumer Cellular
EVERY
THING
YOU
NEED.
NOTHING
YOU
DON'T.
Switch & Save Up to
\$250/Year
On Your Talk, Text and Data Plan
CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 855-572-5165
© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. New service activation on approved credit. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations. All other products are trademarks of their respective manufacturers. Prices are limited to stock on hand. Savings calculator is based on a comparison of Consumer Cellular's average customer invoice to the average cost of single-line entry-level plans offered by the major U.S. wireless carriers as of May 2022.

KEEP YOUR CAR RUNNING IN TOP CONDITION!
Check out the Summer
SALES
REPAIR
INSURANCE
SERVICE
DETAILING
CAR CARE GUIDE
Preventive Maintenance is the Key to Top Auto Performance!
Publishing: Week of May 1 & June 5
Advertising Deadline: April 21
News-Banner, Sunrises News & Ossian Journal
260-824-0224

OBITUARIES

Margaret A. Baller, 87

Margaret A. Baller, 87 of Bluffton, passed away at 8:06 a.m. on Monday, April 10, 2023 at her residence. Mrs. Baller was born in Ohio City, Ohio on Nov. 23, 1935 to Joseph and Leona Fenton.



She married Jimmie T. Baller in New Mexico, Ind. on April 14, 1956. He preceded her in death. Mrs. Baller worked at Kitco, Inc. in Bluffton for over 20 years, before retiring.

Survivors include three daughters, Bobbi N. (Bruce) Zehner, Rhonda R. Blocker, and Mary K. (Norm) Coffield, all of Bluffton; along with 12 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Baller was the last survivor of her siblings. She is preceded in death by one daughter Diana K. Baller; one son Tony James Baller; four sisters, Kate Rush, Jenny LaFollette, Evelyn Fenton, and Sharon Truman; one grandchild and one great-grandchild.

As Margaret requested, there will be no services at this time. A family graveside service will take place at a later date at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton. Preferred memorials may be made to Stillwater Hospice.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the Baller family at www.thomarich.com.

Eugene M. Yeoman, 94

Eugene M. "Gene" Yeoman, 94, of Bluffton, died Saturday afternoon, Apr. 8, 2023, at Century Villa Health and Rehabilitation in Greentown.

Gene was born Jan. 6, 1929, in Jasper County, to Andrew M. Yeoman and Wanda J. Smith Yeoman. He married Joann A. Grindle April 22, 1950, in Rensselaer, Ind. His wife preceded him in death Feb. 13, 2023.

Survivors include a son, Michael (Angie) Yeoman of Bunker Hill, Ind.; a daughter, Dena (Bill) Byrd of Phil Campbell, Ala.; two grandsons, Jeremy (Tonya) Putt and Justin (Lindsey) Putt; five great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Nancy Wortley of Louisville, Ky., and Patty (Raymond) Murphy of Virgie, Ind.

In addition to his wife and parents, Gene was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Jennifer Yeoman; three brothers, Richard, Howard, and Jim Yeoman; and a sister, Betty Platt.

A private family graveside service will be held at the Hoverstock Cemetery in Zanesville. The Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Online condolences: www.goodwincaleharnish.com

Shirley L. Boxell, 72

Shirley L. Boxell, 72, of Bluffton, died Monday afternoon, Apr. 10, 2023, at the Bluffton Regional Medical Center.

Funeral arrangements are pending at the Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Thursday, 2:57 p.m., Bluffton Regional Medical Center. Rebar stuck in the front bumper of a vehicle.

Thursday, 4:04 p.m., Praxis. Mentally unstable individually walking in the area. Provided transport back to Praxis, who were going to arrange for a ride to a shelter in Fort Wayne.

Thursday, 8:23 p.m., 307 East Spring Street. Five young juveniles on the roof. Advised juveniles about safety and planned to follow-up with parents.

Thursday, 9:39 p.m., Budget Inn. Advised individual associated with an earlier incident about disorderly conduct.

Friday, 12:29 a.m., Bluffton Regional Medical Center. Invasion of privacy.

Friday, 2:59 a.m., 920 West Cherry St. Apparent sound of firework. Unable to locate.

Friday, 4:37 a.m., Spring Wayne Apartments. Report of domestic violence situation between partners. Male taken into custody. Dontrell Anderson, 46, Bluffton, arrested for domestic battery simple assault, a Class A misdemeanor, and disorderly conduct, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$26,000.

Friday, 9:16 a.m., 410 East Dustman Road. Report of fire. Identified as a contained burn.

Friday, 9:17 a.m., Easto 100N and North 100E. Citation issued for 67 in a 55 mph zone.

Friday, 10:34 a.m., Walmart. Truck hit parked vehicle and left the area. Report to follow.

Friday, 11:28 a.m., 20/20 Custom Molded Plastics. Male showed up for an interview under the influence. Officer identified no signs of impairment.

Friday, 11:56 a.m., Lions Park. Juveniles on motor bikes causing a disturbance.

Friday, 4:55 p.m., East Market Street and River Road. Connor William Hamilton, 20, Bluffton, was driving a 2016 Yamaha F09 motorcycle westbound on River Road and, seeing a vehicle rolling forward at the intersection's stop sign, hit the brakes and caused them to lock. The motorcycle slid out from underneath him. Hamilton received a minor injury to his ankle, but signed off not to go to the hospital. The motorcycle was able to be driven away from the scene.

Friday, 5:53 p.m., South Midway Street and West Cherry Street. Truck unoccupied. Towed.

Friday, 5:58 p.m., 520 South Jersey Street. Caller found a bag of marijuana in their drive while blowing leaves. Officer disposed of the drugs.

Friday, 6:10 p.m., 80 Sunset Drive. Juvenile fighting with mother using a stick. EMS requested. Juvenile detained.

Friday, 7:47 p.m., 20/20 Custom Molded Plastics. Report of an intoxicated man with a gun in his waistband. Officers transported the man to a gas station and warned him for trespassing.

Friday, 8:12 p.m., Whicker Park. Four adults in a car harassing two juveniles. Adults left in vehicle. Report to follow.

Friday, 10:21 p.m., 66 Westgate Road. Juveniles caught teepeeing the residence. Parents of the juveniles engaged in a verbal altercation with the caller.

Friday, 10:32 p.m., South Bond Street and West Central Avenue. Report of bonfire with large intoxicated group. Identified as a contained fire.

Saturday, 1:51 a.m., Praxis. Woman walking eastbound on Lancaster

Street. Refused a ride.

Saturday, 10:41 a.m., 20/20 Custom Molded Plastics. Individual making threats after being fired and removed from the property.

Saturday, 11:04 a.m., residence on South Williams Street. Report of theft. Report to follow.

Saturday, 4:54 p.m., Goodwin Memorial Chapel. Possible intoxicated driver. Blew 0.12 on a breath test.

Shane Allen Swartz, 46, Bloomington, Ind.; operating while intoxicated more than 0.08 percent and less than 0.15 percent blood alcohol, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,000.

Saturday, 7:34 p.m., residence Eastmoor Drive. Report of individual making threats. Advised to send officer screenshots of the incidents.

Saturday, 8:01 p.m., 1025 West Central Avenue. Loud music on the back of the property. Advised of noise ordinance and the residents turned down the music.

Saturday, 9:36 p.m., 910 West Washington Street. Report of juveniles throwing rocks at vehicles and driving by houses. Unable to locate.

Saturday, 9:48 p.m., 1025 West Central Avenue. Loud music still at this location. Informed to turn the music down.

Sunday, 12:40 a.m., 1211 Lancaster Street. Report of male entering this residence and going up into a bedroom. Presten Johnathan Thomas Hopkins, 25, Ponto, was found without a shirt or shoes and placed into custody. A pair of shoes, socks and a shirt were found. Hopkins was transported to Bluffton Regional Medical Center to be medically cleared. Hopkins was arrested for breaking and entering, a Level 6 felony, and resisting law enforcement, a Level 6 felony. Bond not set.

Sunday, 2:18 a.m., Taco Bell. Report of a vehicle driving erratically. Translator assisted in communication. Gerado Lain Rolbero Lopez, 26, Bluffton blew a .214 in a breath test. Vehicle towed by Pemberton's.

Lopez was arrested for operating a vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C misdemeanor, operating a vehicle with .15 PTR or higher, a Class A misdemeanor, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,000.

Sunday, 3:36 a.m., Praxis. Woman walked off within the last 30 minutes. Officer unable to locate.

Sunday, 3:42 a.m., 1562 South Wayne Street. Noise complaint for a vehicle backfiring or revving its engine. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 11:02 a.m., 210 Premier Ave. Vehicle parked in front of resident's garage. Pemberton's towed vehicle.

Sunday, 2:03 p.m., residence on North Oak Drive. Report of a juvenile missing for 24 hours.

Sunday, 6:08 p.m., 1025 South Scott St. Dog bite. Subject at Bluffton Regional Medical Hospital.

Sunday, 8:07 p.m., North Oak Street and West Miller Street. Drug paraphernalia found near railroad track.

Sunday, 10:45 p.m., Praxis. Assist with transport to Parkview Regional Medical Center.

Monday, 2:53 a.m., Westfield Drive and East Ind. 124. Joel Anthony Michael Huerta, 36, Bluffton wants to turn himself in for his warrant. Huerta arrested for invasion of privacy, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$25,000.

Monday, 9:12 a.m., 518 West Wabash St. Report of junk and rotting meat in the alley.

Monday, 11:21 a.m., 515 East Spring St. Truck pulled

down power lines in area. Vehicle tangled up in lines.

County:

Thursday, 2:43 p.m., West Ind. 218 and South 300W. The driver ran out of gas. A citizen assisted.

Friday, 3:22 p.m., West 700N and North 300W. Driver traveling 68 in a 55 mph zone.

Friday, 3:42 p.m., 9200 North Meridian Road, Uniondale. Report of two former employees making threats. Either individual was contacted and warned for trespassing.

Friday, 4:24 p.m., 80 Sunset Drive, Bluffton. Juvenile detained for fighting.

Friday, 5:49 p.m., South Meridian Road and East 700S. ATV racing.

Friday, 7:53 p.m., North Ind. 1 and East 500N. Report of a horse and colt running along the roadway. No one seen in the area.

Friday, 10:26 p.m., 5666W 400W, Warren. Report of juveniles out teepeeing a house.

Saturday, 1:18 a.m., North Main Street and East Jackson Street. Traffic stop for vehicle driving 70 in a 55 mph. Driver Nicolas Monk, 19, Bluffton, was determined to have an active arrest warrant. The deputy identified the smell of marijuana coming from the vehicle. The driver failed two of three exercises in a field sobriety test and refused an oral fluid test. Tobacco, vapes, and marijuana were located in the vehicle, and Monk was transported to Bluffton Regional Medical Center for a blood draw. Monk was issued a citation for driving 70 in a 55 mph zone and unlawful possession of tobacco products. Monk was also charged with possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor, and operating a motor vehicle with a Schedule I or II controlled substance, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,000.

Saturday, 10:44 a.m., East Logan Street and Countryside Drive, Markle. Citation issued for 79 in a 55 mph zone.

Saturday, 11:01 a.m., South 300W and West 1000S. Deer accident.

Saturday, 11:43 a.m., West Market Street and South Main Street. Possible vehicle stolen out of Chicago. Neighboring units were notified of the vehicle's direction of travel.

Saturday, 1:47 p.m., West Ind. 124 and North 500W. Citation issued for speeding.

Saturday, 4:43 p.m., West Maple Road and South Meridian Road. ATVs driving on the roadway and doing donuts.

Saturday, 9:58 p.m., 2858 Southwest Center St., Vera Cruz. Shane A. Midlam, 46, was found lying in the roadway with a contusion to the back of his head following an apparent ATV accident. Deputies identified the smell of alcohol on Midlam, who admitted to having several drinks. A portable breath test did not register. Midlam consented to a blood draw at Bluffton Regional Medical Center and results are pending.

Sunday, 12:43 a.m., East

900N and North 800E. Possible driver under the influence of meth.

Sunday, 1:38 a.m., Wells County 4-H Park, Bluffton. Southwest barn door open. Cleared building without issue.

Sunday, 3:42 a.m., Taco Bell, Bluffton. Bluffton Police Department requesting assistance with a breath test. Both tests blew at .204 g/210L.

Sunday, 3:37 a.m., North 800N and North 300W. Report of a juvenile getting into a verbal altercation and having left their uncle's premises excessively speeding. The caller observed the driver throwing beer cans out the vehicle window. In looking for the juvenile, deputies came across a broken down vehicle, and the driver and passenger said they would keep an eye out for the juvenile's vehicle. A deputy checked for the juvenile at their aunt's house, and the same couple from broken-down vehicle answered the door. They denied the juvenile was at the residence, but the deputy had identified the juvenile in the window upon arrival. The juvenile then came out to speak with the deputy. The deputy identified the smell of alcohol coming from the juvenile, who denied drinking. The juvenile refused to take a portable breath test and was transported back to their mother's house. The juvenile was observed as aggressive and disrespectful on return, and the mother yelled at the juvenile multiple times. The juvenile was referred to probation for consumption of alcohol, a Class C misdemeanor.

Sunday, 1:50 p.m., West 900N and North Marzane Road. Male was lying in the ditch. Subject was apparently picked up by a vehicle.

Sunday, 3:10 p.m., residence on Westfield Drive, Bluffton. Report of a person locked themselves in their house and threatening to kill themselves. Subject has an active warrant for their arrest. Attempted to contact property owner to unlock door. Property owner advised the subject had changed the locks two days prior. Request for Indiana State Police emergency response.

Indiana Senate backs bill on student names and pronoun changes

By ARLEIGH RODGERS

Associated Press/

Report for America

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)

— Indiana schools may soon be required to notify parents if their children request a name or pronoun change at school, after the state Senate on Monday advanced a House bill that some worry could out transgender kids to their families.

The Republican-dominated state Senate's 37-12 vote came after intense committee hearings where residents derided the measure as an attack on the state's LGBTQ+ students, especially trans youth.

Like Indiana, Republican-led legislatures around the country have been seeking to curb LGBTQ+ rights, especially in targeting transgender individuals' everyday life — including sports, health care, workplaces and schools.

Under the Indiana bill, which the House first sent to the Senate in February, a school would have to provide written notification to a child's parent or guardian within five business days of the child asking to be called a different "pronoun, title, or word." Supporters say this approach would empower parents to choose how their children are raised.

"We know parents' rights are important, and they need to know what's going on in their child's life at school," Republican state Sen. Stacey Donato, one of the bill's sponsors, said before Monday's vote.

Protesters against the legislation, which originally resembled Florida's so-called "Don't Say Gay" law enacted last year, often filled the Statehouse hallways this session with thunderous cheers of "No hate in our

state" and "Kill the bill."

"Growing up in an abusive home made it impossible for me to come out earlier, though I've known that I'm nonbinary since the age of 5," Quinn Mackenzie, a 30-year-old Indiana resident, testified during a Senate education committee hearing last month. "I know we all like to believe that every parent is. I believe the words were, competent and good-intentioned. But that hope does not reflect the sad reality."

The parental notification bill would also bar schools from from teaching "human sexuality" in pre-K through third grade. One of the bill's authors, Republican state Rep. Michelle Davis, said this would put parents in control of "introducing sensitive topics to their children."

But critics say the measure would inadvertently eliminate discussions about LGBTQ+ individuals in the classroom out of fear that such topics constitute "human sexuality," which is not defined in the bill.

The proposal now returns to the state House chamber for a concurrence vote. If approved, the measure would then go to Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb, who recently signed a ban on all gender-affirming care for transgender youth.

"I want you to know that this bill, in my opinion, does not protect children or parental rights," Democratic state Sen. J.D. Ford, the Legislature's only openly gay member, said Monday. "Our teachers care about our children, and it's insulting to the entire profession to think to think that there is a conspiracy ... of teachers trying to secretly teach our young children anything that is age inappropriate."

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

www.news-banner.com or www.facebook.com/newsbanner

STOCK UP YOUR FREEZER!

<p>Box A <i>Estimated Price \$85</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2- Pkg. Chuck Roast 1- Pkg. (4) Beef Cube Steaks 6- 1lb Ground Beef 2- Pkg. Beef Stew Meat 2- Pkg. (4) Hamburger Patties 1- Beef Sirloin Steak 	<p>Box B <i>Estimated Price \$120</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2- Beef Chuck Roast 4- 1lb Pkg. Ground Beef 2- Pkg. (4) Beef Cube Steaks 2- (2) T-Bone Steaks 2- Pkg. (2) Rib Eye Steaks 	<p>Box C <i>Estimated Price \$140</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 1lb Pkg. Ground Beef 1- Pkg. (4) Cubed Tenderloin 2- Pkg. Breakfast Link Sausage 1- Pkg. (4) Beef Cube Steaks 1- Beef Chuck Roast 2- Pkg. (2) Rib Eye Steaks 2- Pkg. (2) Pork Steaks 1- Pkg. (2) T-Bone Steaks 1- Beef Sirloin Steak 	<p>Box D <i>Estimated Price \$80</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2- Pkg. Breakfast Link Sausage 5- 1lb Pkg. Sausage 2- Pkg. (4) Beef Cube Steaks 5- 1lb Pkg. Ground Beef 2- Pkg. (2) Pork Steaks 2- Pkg. (4) Cubed Tenderloin 1- Pkg. Beef Stew Meat
---	---	--	---

MEAT BUNDLES

Summer Package
Estimated Price \$165

- 1- Pkg. (4) Pork Chops
- 2- Pkg. (2) Pork Steaks
- 2- Pkg. (2) Bratwursts
- 2- Pkg. (4) Pork Sausage Patties
- 5- 1lb Pkg. Sausage
- 5- 1lb Pkg. Ground Beef
- 2- Pkg. (2) T-Bone Steaks
- 5- 1lb Pkg. Ground Beef Patties
- 2- Pkg. (2) Rib Eye Steaks

Mixed Special Box
Estimated Price \$150

- 2- Pkg. (4) Pork Chops
- 2- Pork Roast
- 2- Beef Chuck Roast
- 2- Pkg. (4) Beef Cube Steaks
- 5- 1lb Pkg. Sausage
- 5- 1lb Pkg. Ground Beef
- 2- Pkg. (2) Pork Steaks
- 1- Pkg. (4) Cubed Tenderloin

Adair Processing

Custom Butchering / Wholesale & Retail Meats

260-731-3221
190 N Union, Pennville, IN

Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm
Sat. 9am-Noon

VISITATION & SERVICES

Catherine Ann Fisher

Calling: 3 - 7 p.m.
Tuesday, April 11 and one hour prior to the service.
Service: 11 a.m.
Wednesday, April 12 at the funeral home.

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 W. Washington St.
824-3850
www.thomarich.com

Jacklyn J. Reichard

Graveside Service: 1 p.m.
Wednesday, April 12
at the Elm Grove Cemetery Bluffton.

Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel
A Tradition of Caring
Locally Owned and Operated Since 1922
St. Rd. 124 East, Bluffton
824-3852

Committed to Serving You Better!

Expert
Transmission & Automotive
1979 - 2023

2883 E State Road 124, Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-4929

More Than Just Transmissions
Heating/AC - Tune-Ups - Brakes
Computer Diagnostics and More!

In Bluffton since 1979 www.experttrans.com

Warmer latitudes mean better attitudes for some of us

They say that when you change your latitude and venture to a warmer climate that you have a much better attitude and relaxed state of mind.

I have found that sentiment to be true every April when I'm lucky enough to venture to the Sunshine State for a few days to visit family on the Atlantic Coast.

My wife and I managed to squeeze in a short trip to south Florida last week to visit my uncle and enjoy four days of clear skies, sun and temperatures in the lower 80s.

Warmer latitudes certainly do bring better attitudes for those of us who have spent most of the past four to five months indoors.

I'm not too convinced, however, that the people who drive in south Florida have a relaxed and calm attitude most days, as we saw more road rage and heard more horns honking in four days than I have seen in the past year. I suppose that if I had to drive in that type of bumper-to-bumper traffic every day that my attitude wouldn't be as chipper, but I digress.

We tried to stay as close to home as possible while visiting my uncle in Delray Beach, but we have known for a couple of months that we needed to make a road trip to the airport in Miami while we were in Florida.

My wife signed up almost a year ago for Global Entry, a program that the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency has to allow expedited clearance at airports for travelers once they return to the United States from abroad. It also allows travelers to have TSA pre-check on domestic flights in the United States.

I enrolled in it a few years ago, made an appointment to get approved in Chicago and had my card within a few weeks. Piece of cake. And having a Global Entry card makes travel a breeze these days.

It hasn't been nearly as easy to get an appointment for Jen to get screened, as there are no screenings available any where around northeast Indiana — not even in Chicago.

When we knew we were going to Florida, however, we looked online and found a myriad of open slots at the Miami airport. That was the good news.

The bad news: We would have to drive down Interstate 95 to visit the airport on a Monday morning.

A trip that should have taken less than an hour took almost two because of a mix of heavy traffic, construction, accidents and more instances of road rage from other drivers than I can count on my hands and toes.

Warmer latitudes clearly do not bring better attitudes to these south Florida drivers who probably deal with such horrible traffic on a daily basis.

"I don't think I could do this every day," I said to Jen so much that she started to finish my sentences each time the word "I" came out of my mouth.

Eventually, however, we arrived at the airport, parked, and ran to the Global Entry room, arriving only one minute late.

Five minutes later, Jen exited the room to share she had been approved. A two-hour trip through horrible traffic resulted in a five-minute screening meeting and a stamp of approval.

Thank goodness that warmer latitudes bring better attitudes because we were both a bit irritated.

The day wasn't a total loss, however, as we drove five miles to spend the afternoon exploring one of my favorite spots in Miami: Little Havana.

Little Havana is home to a myriad of restaurants, stores and plazas that showcase Miami's lively and spirited Cuban culture. Within minutes of parking, we heard salsa music playing and quickly saw a man clad in white pants, white dress shoes, a white Guayabera shirt, and a tobacco colored straw fedora hat as he danced in front of a restaurant while holding a bright yellow maraca in each hand. Any trace of frustration we had was long gone as we watched.

Moments later, we walked by the busy Máximo Gómez Park where several people were playing dominoes as they talked with friends and enjoyed cups of coffee.

There are a plethora of restaurants around Little Havana, and we found one where we enjoyed Cuban sandwiches — roasted pork, ham, cheese, pickles and tangy mustard served on a pressed piece of bread. To say it was delicious would have been the understatement of the day.

Within 30 minutes of arriving, however, we started to see a couple of tour buses drop off other visitors who we think were on an excursion from a nearby cruise ship. The restaurant we had selected was soon full as we paid our bill and continued exploring the vibrant area.

It's a wonderful part of the city to visit if you are ever in south Florida.

We shared with my uncle later that night over dinner our adventure for the day and soon wished that we had spoken with him sooner.

"You left for Miami at probably the worst time of the day," he told us. "If you had waited an hour or two later, traffic would have been much better."

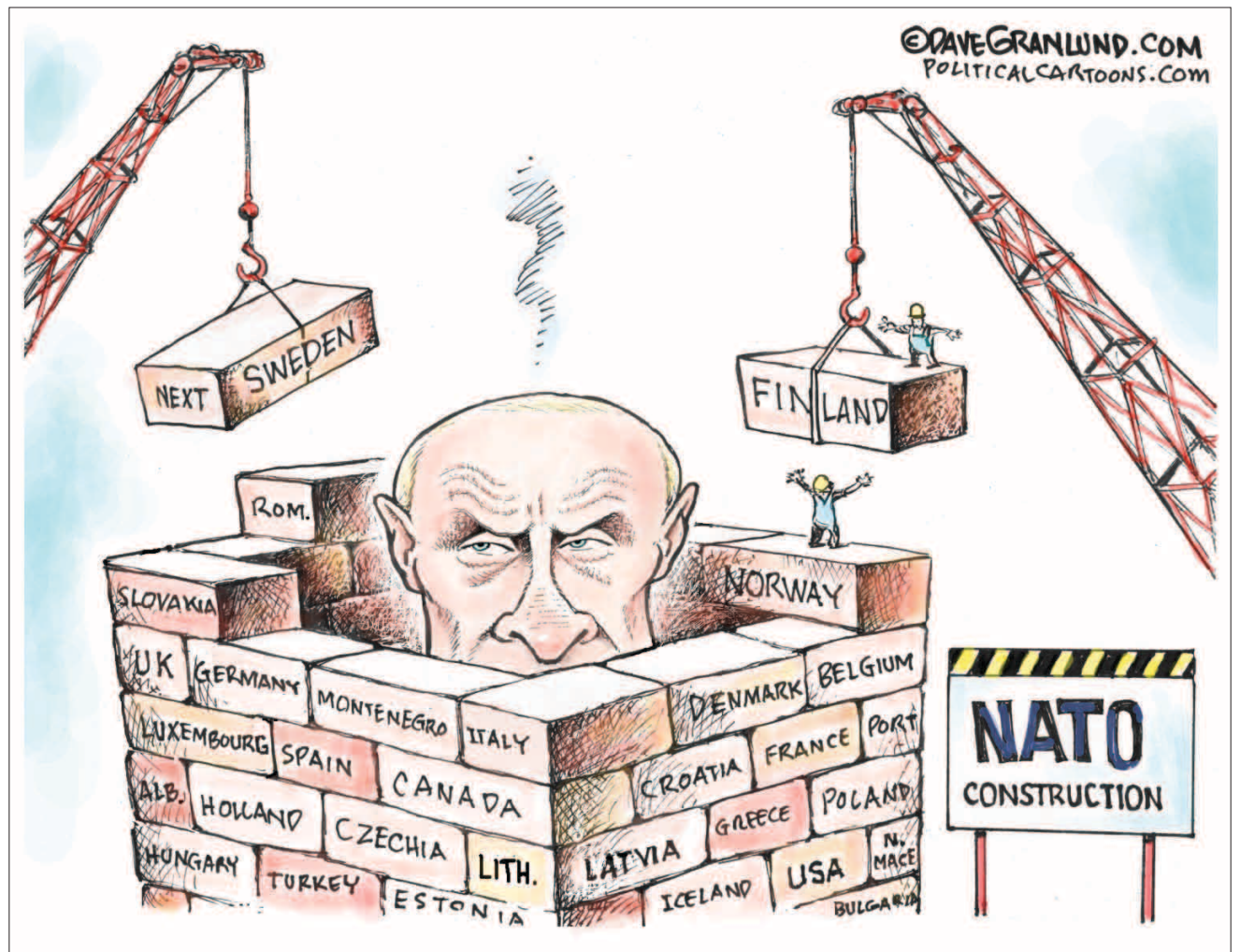
We have filed that piece of advice from a south Florida expert into our long-term memories so that next time we can avoid such mayhem.

And after four days in south Florida, I can reconfirm that warmer latitudes bring better attitudes ... as long as you don't spend too much time in nightmarish traffic.

jdpeeper2@hotmail.com



Justin Peeper



DeSantis voters support aid for Ukraine. So should he.

As a congressman in 2015, Florida Republican Ron DeSantis criticized the Obama-Biden administration for not providing lethal aid to Ukraine after Russia invaded and annexed Crimea. But today, as governor of Florida and a potential 2024 presidential candidate, DeSantis has walked back his Reaganite clarity and hawkish stance, apparently concerned that Donald Trump plans to use Ukraine as a cudgel against him with MAGA voters.

That is a mistake — both substantively and politically.

A Harvard CAPS-Harris poll shows that while some MAGA Republicans agree with Trump's soft stance on Ukraine, many more Republicans still support Ukraine. And the primary voters who back DeSantis — or say they are open to backing him in a two-way race — prefer his old, pro-Ukraine position.

Asked whether they had a favorable view of Ukraine, just 42 percent of Trump supporters said yes. But 51 percent of Republicans overall — and 55 percent of DeSantis supporters — have a favorable view, the poll found. That is a 13-point difference in pro-Ukraine sentiment among DeSantis supporters over Trump supporters.

Respondents were then asked whether they agreed that the United States should support Ukraine "until Russia pulls all invading forces from its territory or is defeated on the battlefield" — the most hawkish position possible. Sixty percent of all Republicans agreed that we should support Ukraine until Russia is defeated or driven out, a clear and strong majority. Meanwhile, 53 percent of Trump voters were in favor of supporting Ukraine — slightly below the GOP average but still a majority. DeSantis supporters? A decisive 63 percent said we should back Ukraine until it achieves complete victory.

When the field was narrowed to just Trump and DeSantis, the responses were even more stark: A whopping 69 percent of those who support DeSantis said we should back Ukraine until victory.

What does this tell us? First, many Republicans still support helping Ukraine. Second, DeSantis supporters are more hawkish than Trump supporters. Third, the voters DeSantis attracts away from other candidates if the field is narrowed are likely to be even more hawkish on Ukraine. Seven in 10 want to help drive Russia out of every inch of Ukrainian territory it has unlawfully seized.

Respondents were also asked whether the more than \$27.4 billion in security assistance the United States has provided Ukraine since Vladimir Putin invaded "is a justified investment in the protection of an ally and its people or an unjustified expenditure in a foreign war." On this, Republicans were almost

evenly split, 49 percent in favor to 51 percent opposed. When faced with a crowded field, 44 percent of Trump supporters and 48 percent of DeSantis supporters said our investment in Ukraine was justified. But in a hypothetical two-man race between Trump and DeSantis, 59 percent of those who back DeSantis said our security assistance to Ukraine is money well spent.

When asked if they would support giving Ukraine an additional \$10 billion, 48 percent of Republicans said yes. In a crowded field, 42 percent of Trump supporters and 48 percent of DeSantis supporters favored giving Ukraine the additional help. But in a two-man race, the share of DeSantis supporters who said they would give more to Ukraine rose to 58 percent. In other words, while the GOP is split on whether our aid to Ukraine is justified (and Trump supporters are slightly more likely to say we are giving Ukraine too much), Republican primary voters inclined toward DeSantis disproportionately favor more security assistance for Ukraine.

All of this suggests that DeSantis is taking the wrong approach when he tries to appeal to MAGA voters by dismissing the war in Ukraine as a "territorial dispute" and declaring that he cares "more about securing our own border in the United States than I do about the Russia-Ukraine border." While Trump's MAGA base is slightly more likely than most Republicans to oppose helping Ukraine, these voters are a minority of GOP primary voters — and they will never abandon the former president. DeSantis gains nothing by trying to appeal to them. He only looks weak, and he alienates pro-Ukraine voters who are open to supporting his candidacy.

Instead of trying to win over "hard" MAGA voters, DeSantis needs to consolidate the support of Republicans who want someone other than Trump to be the GOP nominee, while picking off "soft" MAGA voters who can be convinced it is time to move on from Trump. Those voters disproportionately support Ukraine.

Given these numbers, DeSantis should not be waffling on Ukraine. Doing so gains him little support from hard MAGA anti-Ukraine Republicans while alienating those MAGA and other GOP voters who share a Reaganite worldview. Rather, DeSantis should take a bold stance in support of the Ukrainian freedom fighters and back them until they defeat Russia and drive out Putin's army.

That's the smart move politically. It's also the right thing to do.

Marc A. Thiessen is on Twitter, @marcthiessen.



Marc Thiessen

Bragg is already losing

You don't know what's in the indictment.

That was the line that progressives repeatedly threw at conservatives dubious about Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's case over the last couple of weeks.

Well, we've seen the unsealed indictment, and we still don't know the other crime besides falsifying business records that's being alleged, because Bragg didn't specify it in a shocking prosecutorial failure and abuse of the process.

What will be the new talking point? *You don't know what Bragg might come up with between now and the next hearing on Dec. 4?*

To review, Donald Trump paid off porn star Stormy Daniels, with whom he had an alleged affair, prior to the 2016 election. Such hush payments may be sleazy, but they aren't illegal.

Still, the reimbursements from the Trump Organization to Trump fixer Michael Cohen, who paid off Daniels, were logged as legal expenses. This was deceptive and potentially a misdemeanor. Dragging a former president through the criminal justice process just to get him on such a minor offense, though, was unappealing even to Bragg.

How to make the misdemeanors into felonies? Well, if the misleading bookkeeping entries were in the service of another crime, then, presto, they become alleged felonies. Bragg, through the process known as stack-



Rich Lowry

ing, or amassing counts through sheer repetition, claims to have 34 of them.

That's a lot. But the linchpin of the whole endeavor is the other crime, and Bragg still won't tell us, or the accused, what it is.

He's writing an Agatha Christie mystery, except the unknown isn't who committed the crime but what law he or she might have violated. It's "Something or Other, We'll Let You Know as Soon as We Figure It Out, on the Orient Express."

This is a flaw, not in the handling of some low stakes case no one will ever know about, but an unprecedented, historic case. This prosecution has drawn massive media attention, has rocketed Trump back to a large lead in the polls for the Republican nomination, and will surely further derange our politics, with unforeseeable consequences.

And Bragg couldn't even dot his i's. Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of this sorry episode so far is that Bragg has demonstrated that it's possible to behave so egregiously in the pursuit of Donald Trump that even left-of-center pundits won't line up in support.

This might not be enormously confidence-inducing, but at a time of deep divisions, it shows that a disgracefully weak and contrived prosecution is a source of at least a measure of agreement among commentators usually wholly opposed to

one another.

Who knew that Alvin Bragg would become a unifying force in the nation's political debate?

The online publication Slate, a reliable source of some of the worst legal analysis on the internet, has run two doubtful pieces about the indictment. Mark Joseph Stern notes that "Bragg's legal theory is, if not convoluted, a fairly confusing effort to patch together disparate offenses into one alleged crime, carried out over 34 illegal payments."

Over at Vox, Ian Millhiser, usually a taker on any adventurous progressive legal theory, can't get on board the Bragg Train on this one: "It is unclear that the felony statute that Trump is accused of violating actually applies to him."

Ruth Marcus of The Washington Post warned about the potential weakness of the case prior to the unsealing of the indictment and is now decidedly unimpressed. She calls it "disturbingly unilluminating, and the theory on which it rests is debatable at best, unnervingly flimsy at worst."

Former FBI deputy director Andrew McCabe, a top Trump villain, said the indictment "landed like a dud ... an unimpressive document."

Pundits won't determine the course of the Bragg prosecution, but the climate around it matters, if nothing else, as a barometer of its strength and merits. It is telling that Bragg has managed to create a loose right-left consensus about the shoddiness of his handiwork.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

The News-Banner

(USPS 059-200)

Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929

News-Banner Publications, Inc.

George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board
Doug Brown, President, Publisher
Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714. Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

David Schultz, Editor
Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

11th annual LiGHTen Up! event will be April 21



Brenda Jank
Run Hard, Rest Wells EO

LiGHTen UP!, a fellowship and networking opportunity for women, will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, April 21, at Lighted Gardens north of Ossian. The social hour will begin at 6 p.m.

The special guest will be Brenda Jank, the founder and CEO of Run Hard, Rest Wells.

There is no charge to attend the event; however, reservations are required, and can be made by call-

ing the Wells County Foundation office or emailing light@wellscountyfound.org

Membership is not required to attend.

This special evening will include fellowship, LiGHt desserts (wine will be available for purchase) and remarks from Jank. She's been described as high energy and story driven, equipping women to explore transformative rhythms of work and

rest for themselves, and those they lead, love and serve. Strategic stops empower women to reconnect with the people and priorities held near and dear.

Women are asked to invite a friend to LiGHTen UP! to "catch your breath." Resource tables will provide guests with information about nutrition, massage and yoga.

The reservation deadline is Friday, April 14.

Now entering into its 12th year, 258 members strong, LiGHt is effectively improving the quality of life for women and children in Wells County.

For more information about LiGHt, or how to become involved, contact the Wells County Foundation at 260-824-8620 or visit the Foundation's website at <http://www.wellscountyfound.org>

Area Things to See and Do

ALL FOR ONE PRODUCTIONS, FORT WAYNE

"A Peculiar People," April 21-23 and 28-30. www.allforonelfw.org

ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM

Elevation Nights, April 26; Shine-down, April 27; Alice Cooper, May 2. www.memorialcoliseum.com

ARENA DINNER THEATER, FORT WAYNE

"Agatha Christie's And Then There Were None," April 28-May 13. Info: www.arenadinnertheatre.org

CLYDE THEATER, FORT WAYNE

Heather Land, April 14; Face 2 Face: A tribute to Elton John and Billy Joel, April 15; Rukey Green, April 21; Robt Cray Band, April 22; The Wallflowers, April 23. ClydeTheatre.com or at 1-800-514-3849.

EMBASSY THEATER, FORT WAYNE

"Jesus Christ Superstar," April 15; Zach Williams, April 26; 2023 Marquee Gala (fundraiser), May 4; FW Philharmonic (Broadway concert), May 6. Box office hours 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Info at www.fwembassytheatre.org

FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS

"Brigadoon," May 11-13. University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center. Tickets at fireandlightproductions.com

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN THEATER, FORT WAYNE

No shows until August. www.first-presbyteriantheater.com

FOELLINGER-FREIMANN BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY

"California Dreamin'," focusing on the sun, sand, and surf of a vacation in the Golden State, is on display through Sunday, April 16. 1100 S. Calhoun St. in Fort Wayne. www.botanicalconservatory.org

FOELLINGER OUTDOOR THEATER, FORT WAYNE

No shows until June. Info: (260) 427-6715 or FortWayneParks.org

FORT WAYNE ARTLINK

www.artlinkfw.com

FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATER

"Into the Woods," May 6-14. Arts United Center box office 260-424-5220; info at www.fwcivic.org

FORT WAYNE MUSEUM OF ART

Tuesday through Saturday and until 8 p.m. on Thursday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. www.fwmoa.org

FORT WAYNE YOUTH THEATRE

"Aesop's Fables," April 2023; "Jenny Thatcher, Dragon Hunter," April 2023. artstix.org

FURTH CENTER - ANGOLA

"1964 The Tribute," April 21. Info at trine.edu/furth

HONEYWELL CENTER and EAGLES THEATRE, WABASH

Honeywell: Cheap Trick, April 19; Cory Asbury, April 23. Eagles: BoDeans, April 20; Sweetwater All-Stars, April 21; Westbound Situation, May 18. www.honeywellcenter.org

NISWONGER PERFORMING

ARTS CENTER, VAN WERT, OHIO

Info: NPACVW.org

PURDUE-FORT WAYNE THEATER

"Little Women, the Musical," April 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22. Productions at Williams Theatre on the Purdue-FW campus; tickets at Purdue box office, 260-481-6555.

SCIENCE CENTRAL, FORT WAYNE

1950 N. Clinton St. in Fort Wayne. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Info at 260-424-2400 or at www.science-central.org

SWEETWATER SOUND, FORT WAYNE

No shows until June. Tickets: 800-514-3849 or eTix

WAGON WHEEL, WARSAW

Community Theater, "The Phantom of the Wagon Wheel," April 27-30. Tickets 866-923-2618 or wagonwheel-center.org

ABCINEMA, DECATUR

130 W. Monroe St., Decatur. Information: www.abcinemainc.com or 260-724-SHOW

BAKER STREET CENTER, FORT WAYNE

"Neil Diamond Superstar - Jack Wright's Live Concert Experience," April 16; Fleetwood Gold, May 20. www.bakerstreetcenter.com



Tri Kappas provided a dinner

Members of Beta Phi chapter of Tri Kappa provided the recent dinner for the A Better Life-Brianna's Hope at their addiction recovery group Monday meeting. Shown at the serving table left to right are Tri Kappas Jen Whicker, Pam Blessing and Lisa Mann. The event was held at the Sonlight Wesleyan Church and preparing a serving the dinner was part of the Tri Kappa's outreach program. (Photo provided)

'Orphan Train' making a stop at Pulse Opera House

"The Orphan Train will be on stage at the Pulse Opera House in Warren on the weekends of April 21-23, 29-30 and May 5-7 with Friday and Saturday shows to begin at 8 p.m. and Sunday's at 4 p.m.

The lobby opens one hour before showtimes and features a local artist pop-up shops. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and younger. Reservations are available online at pulseoperahouse.org or by calling 260-375-7017.

In the mid 1810s, New York was overrun with homeless children. Some were orphaned, some were lost, and all were living on the streets. In an attempt to find homes for these children, they were rounded up and put on trains heading for the Midwest. Orphan trains ran through 1929 and placed approximately 250,000 homeless children.

Warren and the surrounding area was a stop for the orphan trains. At the depot, children were lined up and

townspeople came to pick which ones they wanted to take home. Some were adopted and many were taken on to help around the farm or the house.

The Huntington Evening Herald printed a story in 1909 about one such stop. "For Huntington there were seven in the consignment today. They were called by number and seven little fellows, in age from two to ten or eleven, were handed out. One little fellow came from the car carrying, possibly sad to leave his nurse and the kind care those with whom he had become acquainted. Or possibly he was being separated from a brother or sister or close companion."

"The Orphan Train," by Aurand Harris, tells the story of nine orphans on an orphan train that left New York City May 28, 1914, and traveled to Midwestern towns in search of homes for the children. A cast of local and area children and adults will tell their stories



Cast members Tanner Crawford, at left, and Hanson Hensley are shown during a recent rehearsal. (Photo provided)

at the Pulse.

The Warren Public Library has partnered with the pulse to provide free tickets to children who read books about orphan trains. Those who read one book can earn a ticket for any performance. If they read two or more books, they can treat their mom or dad to the show, too.

There is seating available for the morning school show performance on May 4. Homeschoolers are welcome. Tickets are \$5 per student or adult. Reservations are available online only at pulseoperahouse.org

Moser will speak to Ossian Rotary

Ked Moser, Norwell's Campus Life director, will be the speaker for Thursday morning's meeting of the Ossian Rotary Club.

The club meets at 7:30 a.m. each Thursday at the Ossian Baptist Church- 1001 Dehner Drive in Norwell.

Moser has held his position at Norwell since the fall of 2012, after stepping away from 15 years of teaching elementary students, and this year has taken on interim role as Bluffton High School's Campus Life Director to help sustain the outreach there.

He is passionate about building community awareness and partnership with YFC, while investing in the lives of teens on their turf, helping students discover Jesus and



Ked Moser

also grow in their faith. However, he continues to come alongside any teenager regardless of what they believe or lifestyle lived.

He and his wife of 27 years have four children. Their three girls are all married. Arissa (Piercen) Harnish have three children, while Cierra (Tyler) Kuntz and Tianna (Jonas) Smith are both expecting their new arrivals this fall. Their son, Trace, is a junior at Norwell.

Visitors are always welcome to join Ossian Rotary meetings and learn about our community and those who make this a better place to live.

The speaker on April 20 will be Norwell Middle School Principal Andrew Enderly.

Mushroom hike at Ouabache set for Saturday

Mushroom lovers may want to join the Mushroom Hike to be held at Ouabache State Park at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 15.

The campground shelter is where the hike will start, led by park naturalist Rose Nevil. After the hike, the Friends of Ouabache will serve mushroom coffee.

Check out our NEW Cappuccino machine!
5 FLAVORS now available!
Get 1/2 off a donut with any size Cappuccino purchase
Through the end of February

HANDI SPOT Convenience Store and Laundry Mat
616 W Lancaster Street • Bluffton

Follow us at ... twitter.com/newsbanner

Julie Myers
Jerry Flack & Associates
101 N. Main St. Bluffton, IN Corner of Main & Market
"We are Senior Citizens working with Senior Citizens" **260.824.1618**
MARKET PLACE (UNDER 65) PLANS
TIME FOR ANY PLAN CHANGES?

Foudy CPA Group, P.C.
Certified Public Accountant
2401 N Main Street, Bluffton 5730 Falls Drive, Fort Wayne
260-824-1040 260-432-4565
Full-Service Firm: Tax Preparation
Bookkeeping & Payroll • Financial Planning
College Planning • Financial Statement Audits
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Call for evening appointments. **e-file**
Email: info@foudycpa.com • www.foudycpa.com

SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight
SUPPORT *Local* BUSINESSES

LIN'S LOCK & KEY, INC.
Commercial - Business - Home - Industrial
Electronic Locks - Keypads • Safes
Handicap openers • Camera Surveillance
1132 S. Clark Ave. - Bluffton
Lin Harrold, CML • (260)824-3533 Cell 827-7632
CERTIFIED MASTER LOCKSMITH

Thanks for voting me #1 Travel Agency!
Let me help you plan your next adventure!

MVP
MAGICAL VACATION PLANNER
Specializing in:
• Theme Parks • All Inclusive
• Cruise Lines • Resorts
Complimentary concierge services for all of your travel planning needs.
Stephanie Hiday - Travel Specialist
260-417-7656
s.hiday@magicalvacationplanner.com

Put your business in the SPOTLIGHT
Call 824-0224

Tigers defeat Jets on boys' golf opening day

By RYAN WALKER

The Bluffton boys' golf team opened up its season with a win over conference foe Adams Central Monday on a beautiful, yet unusual, early April afternoon at Timber Ridge Golf Course.

"I honestly can't remember a better first match weather-wise," head coach Steve Abbett said after the match, now entering his 18th season with the Tigers. "Normally, the entire month of April is hit or miss. I hope the temperatures can stay somewhat close to what we're seeing this week."

The Tigers shot a 167 on opening day, while the Jets shot a 178.

Abbett was happy with what he saw from his team after some pregame jitters went away.

"I felt like the guys settled in after the nerves went away, and they got through the first few holes," he said. "I was pleased as a whole for our first match."

This could be just the start of a highly anticipated season. Last year, the team qualified for the regional after a third-place finish in the sectional. Of the returning golfers in the main lineup, Bluffton returns everyone except graduate Alec Reiff. Two all-conference members, Ephraim Frauhiger and Keegan Schwartz, are expected to

lead the squad again this year, and the first scoresheet proved that.

Schwartz was the medalist of the match, shooting a 38 in the nine-hole outing. Frauhiger shot a second-best 40. Conner Klopfenstein and Kade Abbett shot a 45.

Keaton Bush and Jayden Sharpe were the top for Adams Central with scores of 44.

Though it did not count for the team score. Anthony Hartman shot a 44, and Declan Grieser shot a 48 were fifth and sixth on the team. The two have been making some noise in practice, and it has been noticed by Abbett.

"After the returning four from last year, we've got freshman Declan Grieser and sophomore Anthony Hartman, who have been stepping it up in practice and tonight's match," Abbett said.

The two junior varsity teams teed off, with the Tigers falling 219-233 to the Jets.

Kyler Potter and Ethan Hunt led the way with scores of 56, followed by Hudson Werich (60), Logan Reifsteck (61), Isaac Wheeler (65), and Braden Lemler (69).

Bluffton will host Blackford and Marion at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 13, at Timber Ridge.

sports@news-banner.com



Bluffton's Ephraim Frauhiger (right) putts on hole No. 4 at Timber Ridge Golf Course Monday afternoon with teammate Keegan Schwartz (right) watching in the background. Both were first-team all conference last season. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Tigers' Schwartz takes a shot during a match against Adams Central Monday afternoon.



Norwell senior Brody Bolyn, center, is greeted at home plate by Cade Shelton (10) and Curtis Ellis (6) following a 2-run home run in the 2nd inning of Monday's game against Marion. Norwell improved to 5-0 with the 16-0 five-inning win. (Photo by Chad Kline)

Sports Roundup

Knights remain unbeaten with win over Giants

Norwell continued its hot start to the season with another big victory on the baseball diamond. The Knights (5-0) defeated Marion at home 16-0 in the nonconference match Monday afternoon.

Brody Bolyn had a monster day at the plate, going three-for-three that, included a double and a home run to add to his six RBI day.

Drew Graft, Curtis Ellis, and Lleyton Bailey all had multi-hit games and two RBIs apiece.

Lane Lewis got the win on the mound, tossing four innings of scoreless baseball on a pair of hits and walks while striking out eight.

Graham Gaier shut the door in the fifth, striking out two in the scoreless frame. The fifth inning ended up being the final one due to mercy rules.

Norwell will play at Mississinewa starting at 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 11.

Tigers, Golden Eagles end softball game in tie

The Bluffton and Oak Hill softball teams took nine innings to still end up without a winner on Monday. The score was 10-10 at Bluffton High School before the game was deemed too dark to complete, with a runner on first in the bottom of the ninth inning, and nobody out. The game results in a tie.

The Tigers move to 0-4-1 on the season.

Lily King was the star of the night for the Tigers, throwing all nine innings and allowing three earned runs, striking out seven, and hitting her first career home run. She finished the night going three-for-five with 5 RBIs.

Averi Petty went four-for-five with 2 RBIs. Tressa Renner, Tyrah Shaw, and Isabella Stout added two hits.

Bluffton will host Manchester starting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 11.

Raiders lose in rout to Indians in baseball

Southern Wells fell to 2-4 on the baseball season, losing to Mississinewa 18-2 on Monday.

The Raiders tallied five hits distributed equally among by five different players.

Cody Perdue drove in two runs with a single that gave the Raiders their two for the game.

Southern Wells will be at Eastbrook starting at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 12.

Knights score 10 in 6th frame, defeat Chargers

The Norwell junior varsity softball team overcame a six-run deficit before scoring 10 in the sixth frame to beat Carroll 10-6 at home Monday afternoon.

The Knights only drove in three runs in the game, but four Charger errors helped for a big sixth inning in the comeback.

Two Knights had two-hit games to lead the team, Kara Brown and Leah Werling. Werling had a double in the game, the only extra-base knock the team had.

Alyssa Krinn, Abby Wagner, and Makayla Young tallied RBIs.

Brown got the win on the mound, tossing 2 1/3 innings and allowing zero runs or hits with three strikeouts.

Norwell hosts Concordia at 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 11.

White Sox lose Anderson but hold on to beat Twins

By BRIAN HALL
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Hanser Alberto hit a three-run homer, Dylan Cease had another strong outing against the Twins and the Chicago White Sox held on to beat Minnesota 4-3 on Monday.

Yasmani Grandal had two hits and drove in the other run for Chicago, which had to remove shortstop Tim Anderson in the sixth inning with left knee soreness after he collided with a baserunner.

Cease, the American League Cy Young runner-up last season, gave up three runs but only one was earned after three errors by the White Sox. Cease (2-0) allowed three hits with six strikeouts in five innings.

The Twins hit just 2 for 48 and were scoreless in 16 innings in two games against Cease last season.

Reynaldo López entered with the tying run on third base with two outs in the eighth and struck out Michael Taylor before pitching a perfect ninth for his second save of the season.

"We've been playing good defense all year long," Chicago manager Pedro Grifol said. "We're going to continue to do that. It's just one of those games where we just had a few mistakes, but our pitching picked us up. Alberto picked himself up."

Alberto committed one of the errors by the White Sox, and allowing the Twins to score their first run in the third

inning. But he answered in the next inning with his first homer of the season.

"Got a hanging slider and I put on my best swing," Alberto said. "I think after that error, that's the best feeling. Obviously, we don't play the best defense and if we can help in other ways, it will be good."

Kenta Maeda (0-2) surrendered four runs on eight hits in six innings for Minnesota, making his second start since Aug. 21, 2021, after recovering from Tommy John surgery.

"Obviously, it wasn't the best outing today, and it's nice to be able to come back from surgery and be on a big league mound," Maeda said through an interpreter. "However, I can't quite say I'm 100% there yet. There's still some work that needs to be done."

Trevor Larnach, who has reached base safely in all 10 of his games this season, had an RBI single in the fourth after a separate defensive miscue by the White Sox allowed a runner to reach third, although no error was charged.

MORE IN THE TANK

Cease owns a 1.65 ERA through his first three starts and has 24 strikeouts in 16 1/3 innings, but he feels there's room for improvement, particularly with his command.

"I think I've got another gear I need to take it to and I can take it to," Cease said. "It's been good enough, but

I think I can definitely be more consistent."

TRAINER'S ROOM

White Sox: Grifol said Yoán Moncada, who was out of the lineup, is dealing with the same back issue that bothered him during spring training. Grifol said Moncada is day to day. ... Eloy Jiménez (hamstring) took batting practice on the field before the game. He has been on the injured list since April 4. ... RHP Joe Kelly was placed on the 15-day IL with a right groin strain. RHP Keynan Middleton's contract was selected from Triple-A Charlotte and RHP Jonathan Stiever was outrighted to Charlotte.

Twins: Carlos Correa missed his second straight game with back spasms. Correa said he was feeling better Monday and hopes to return in the "next couple days." ... Joey Gallo (right side soreness) was going to do "rotational movement" before the game, according to Minnesota manager Rocco Baldelli, to determine his progress. He has missed three games in a row.

UP NEXT

RHP Pablo López (1-0, 0.73 ERA) will make his third start for Minnesota, and Chicago counters with RHP Lance Lynn (0-1, 9.00). López has allowed one run through his first 12 1/3 innings. Lynn has given up 10 runs in 10 innings this season and has surrendered 15 runs in 15 innings in his last three starts against Minnesota.

High School Calendar

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

BASEBALL: Norwell at Mississinewa, 5 p.m.; Manchester at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.

BOYS GOLF: Norwell, Belmont at Wayne, 5 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: Columbia City at Norwell, 5 p.m.; Mississinewa at Bluffton, 5 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Norwell at New Haven, 5 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Norwell at Concordia, 5 p.m.; Manchester at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

BASEBALL: Southern Wells at Eastbrook, 5 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: Blackford at Bluffton, 5 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Wayne, 5:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Eastbrook, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

BASEBALL: Heritage at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.

BOYS GOLF: Columbia City at Norwell, 5 p.m.; Blackford/Marion at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Mississinewa at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at South Adams, 4:30 p.m.; Jay County at Bluffton, 5 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Norwell at Yorktown, 5:30 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Norwell, Southern Wells, at Bluffton, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

BASEBALL: Southern Wells at Blackford, 5 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at Snider, 5:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Norwell at Jay County, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

BASEBALL: Norwell at Crawfordsville High School Athenian Invitational, 12 p.m.; Bluffton at Oak Hill, 9 a.m.

SOFTBALL: South Adams at Norwell, 10:30 a.m. & 12 p.m.; Southern Wells at Wabash, 11 a.m.

TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Norwell at Heritage High School IPT Relays, 10 a.m.; Bluffton at Oak Hill Invitational, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 17

BASEBALL: Norwell at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Bluffton at Belmont, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at South Adams, 5:30 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at Adams Central, 4:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Wabash, 5 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Adams Central at Norwell, 5 p.m.; Southwood at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Wayne at Southern Wells, 5:30 p.m.

UNIFIED TRACK & FIELD: Norwell at Carroll, 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

BASEBALL: Jay County at Norwell, 5 p.m.; Southwood at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.

BOYS GOLF: Leo at Norwell, 4:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Southern Wells, 4:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Bishop Luers at Norwell, 5 p.m.; Wabash at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at Northfield, 5 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Norwell at Belmont, 5 p.m.; Jay County at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.; Adams Central/Heritage at Southern Wells, 5:30 p.m.

Follow us at ... twitter.com/newsbanner

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Boston	57	25	.695	—
x-Philadelphia	54	28	.659	3
x-New York	47	35	.573	10
x-Brooklyn	45	37	.549	12
Toronto	41	41	.500	16

Southeast Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Miami	44	38	.537	—
Atlanta	41	41	.500	3
Washington	35	47	.427	9
Orlando	34	48	.415	10
Charlotte	27	55	.329	17

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
z-Milwaukee	58	24	.707	—
x-Cleveland	51	31	.622	7
Chicago	40	42	.488	18
Indiana	35	47	.427	23
Detroit	17	65	.207	41

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
z-Denver	53	29	.646	—
Atlanta	42	40	.512	11
Oklahoma City	40	42	.488	13
Portland	37	45	.451	16
Portland	33	49	.402	20

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Sacramento	48	34	.585	—
x-Phoenix	45	37	.549	3
x-L.A. Clippers	44	38	.537	4
x-Golden State	44	38	.537	4
L.A. Lakers	43	39	.524	5

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Memphis	51	31	.622	—
New Orleans	42	40	.512	9
Dallas	38	44	.463	13
Houston	22	60	.268	29
San Antonio	22	60	.268	29

Pacific Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
y-Memphis	51		

The Classifieds

Place Your Ad 24/7: GO TO www.news-banner.com AND CLICK ON "Classifieds"

OR CALL 824-0224 MON-FRI 8-5 • TOLLFREE 800-579-7476 • FAX 824-0700

WE ACCEPT



SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

King Classic Sudoku

		8		6				5
3	9		4			8		1
1				8	3			4
9		7		3	5			
	8	3		1		6	5	
6	5	2	7	4		9	1	
			3					2
7			1		6			8
5			8	2				

Difficulty: ★★

4-11

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

MAINTENANCE POSITION
Town of Zanesville, Indiana
17736 Wayne St.
P.O. Box 476
Zanesville, IN 46799
260-638-0051
townofzanesville@frontier.com
Must be over 18 and have a valid driver's license. Duties include: Mowing, maintaining town hall and barn, tree trimming, snow plowing, signs, etc. Must be able to lift 50 pounds and have basic maintenance knowledge. Hours are flexible, but must be available to snow plow when needed. Submit resume by mail or email by April 30, 2023

Help Wanted



LENGERICH MEATS IS looking for a motivated and reliable individual with great attention to detail to join our team. The position is for general labor starting at \$15.00/hr. Send your resume to Lengerich@frontier.com or stop in and fill out an application.

THE CITY OF Bluffton is accepting applications for a Stormwater Coordinator. Associate of Science Degree and CPESC certification are required. The City utilizes E-Verify and follows EEOC guidelines. Applications may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's office, 128 East Market St-Bluffton from 8:00 am-4:30 pm Mon-Fri or at www.blufftonindiana.net.

HELOISE HINT: Use your smartphone to help you find work. There are several job-search apps available. You can also utilize social media networking apps for potential job opportunities. Email HELOISE@Helloise.com.



WE ARE HIRING

1ST SHIFT
COMPETITIVE WAGES
FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT

APPLY ONLINE AT
[HTTPS://ALH-BUILDING.COM](https://alhbldg.com)

MUST PASS
DRUG SCREEN

MARKLE, IN

AT FERRELL IS currently in need of an Assembly Technician. Must be proficient with tape measure, level, misc. hand tools, and cordless drills. Involves a high proficiency in reading assembly blueprints. Hourly rate \$16-18/hour depending on experience.

CNC Machinist needed, experience in machine set up, along with general operations. Programming experience not required, but helpful. Manual Machining experience a plus. HAAS and Fryer CNC machines are currently in use. Starting rate \$17/hr. or more depending on experience.

Apply online at jobs@atferrell.com or stop in at 1440 S. Adams St. Bluffton, to fill out an application.

Lottery Numbers

Monday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 20-29-34-36-43
Cash4Life — 29-30-35-48-55, Cash Ball: 02
Quick Draw Midday — 01-04-07-08-16-20-21-23-27-32-35-36-39-41-51-58-65-68-70-76, BE: 04
Daily Three-Midday — 03-00-05, SB: 00
Daily Three-Evening — 09-02-09, SB: 06
Daily Four-Midday — 01-01-01-09, SB: 00
Daily Four-Evening — 04-03-07-07, SB: 06
Quick Draw Evening — 05-08-10-17-19-28-40-42-44-46-49-52-53-58-61-62-64-69-72-74, BE: 05
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$14.4 million
MEGA MILLIONS
Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$441 million
POWERBALL
Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$192 million

This Week's Garage Sales

8770 N 200 W HUNTINGTON, IN 46750 HUGE GARAGE/ESTATE SALE Something for everyone! Tons of tools, gardening supplies, small kitchen appliances, household goods, Christmas decorations, and so much for Apr. 14 8:00 AM-6:00 PM, Apr. 15 8:00 AM-4:00 PM Rain or Shine

SEVERAL FAMILIES, HUGE garage/bake sale, April 13-15, 8am-?, 1533 Bell Brook Blvd. Name brand clothing (adult, kids), shoes, Coach, Michal Kors, Vera Bradley, maternity, small appliances, Legos, Precious Moment, some antiques, toys, golf clubs, decor, movies. Fresh pies, cookies, more.

ATTENTION! PLACE A THREE day, garage sale, line classified ad and receive a free garage sale kit. Place ads at the Bluffton News-Banner office, 125 N. Johnson St., 824-0224, or www.news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

HELOISE HINT: To attract customers to your garage sale. Get a bunch of colorful balloons and tie them to a chair, table or large sales item at the entrance of your sales location. People will easily remember where you are! Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

SUDOKU ANSWER

9	4	1	2	7	8	6	5	3
8	5	9	6	1	3	7	2	4
6	7	3	9	5	1	9	8	4
5	1	6	8	7	2	9	3	4
2	9	6	1	7	5	8	3	4
7	8	7	9	5	9	1	1	6
4	6	7	5	8	9	9	1	1
1	9	8	7	1	7	9	6	5
9	7	5	1	9	6	8	7	2

Help Wanted

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL If you are seeking a rewarding career where you have the opportunity to make an impact on someone's life, JOIN OUR TEAM! www.bicountydirectsupport.com

FOR SALE

Pets



FRENCH BULLDOG PUPPIES 3females, 3 males. Colors - blue Merle, black brindle, blue brindle and blue. Facebook-Perfect French bulldogs 260-307-3490
angela46992@yahoo.com
<https://m.facebook.com/groups/281436650673060/?ref=share&mibextid=S66gvF>

HELOISE HINT: If your cat stops purring suddenly. It might be connected to your cat's respiratory system. So, take your cat to the vet to get checked out. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

SERVICES

Learning Tree Academy

Located in Ossian United Methodist Church 201 W Mill Street Ossian, Indiana. Offering both 3 day and 5 day classes with either an a.m.9:00-11:30 or p.m.1:00-3:30 option. We have over 20 years experience. Classes are filling up fast so don't delay. Either stop in and pickup your registration paperwork or give us a call. 260-622-0194
learningtree123@yahoo.com

Public Notice

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF HEARING ON PROPOSED FIRE PROTECTION TERRITORY EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND FOR THE BLUFFTON FIRE PROTECTION TERRITORY
Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the City of Bluffton, Harrison Township and Lancaster Township, Wells County, Indiana, that the Bluffton City Council, Lancaster Township Board and Harrison Township Board will consider at the Bluffton City Hall, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana 46714 on April 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. the establishment of a Fire Protection Territory Equipment Replacement Fund on behalf of the Bluffton Fire Protection Territory under the provisions of Indiana Code IC 36-8-19-8.5 for the purposes as follows: For all uses as set out in IC 36-8-19-8.5.

The establishment of an Equipment Replacement Fund is occurring in connection with the creation of the Bluffton Fire Protection Territory. The Provider Unit in the Territory shall be the City of Bluffton. The Participating Units in the Territory shall be the City of Bluffton, Harrison Township and Lancaster Township.

The tax will be levied on all taxable real and personal property within the taxing district and will not exceed \$0.0333 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The proposed fund will be levied beginning with taxes due and payable in the year 2024. Taxpayers appearing at such hearing shall have the right to be heard thereon. The proposed tax rate for the Equipment Replacement Fund is subject to certification by the Department of Local Government Finance.

Within 30 days after the date of adoption of the Equipment Replacement Fund by the Common Council of the City of Bluffton, Lancaster Township Board and Harrison Township Board, the City of Bluffton, Harrison Township and Lancaster Township, Wells County, Indiana will publish a Notice of Adoption.

Twenty-five (25) or more taxpayers with taxable property located in the City of Bluffton, Harrison Township and Lancaster Township in Wells County, Indiana may file a petition with the Wells County Auditor no later than noon 30 days after the publication of this Notice setting forth their objections to the proposed cumulative fund. Upon the filing of the petition, the County Auditor shall immediately certify the same to the Department of Local Government Finance, at which point the Department will fix a date for and conduct a public hearing on the proposed cumulative fund before issuing its approval, disapproval, or modification thereof.

Dated: March 23, 2023
Common Council of the City of Bluffton
Harrison Township Board
Lancaster Township Board
nb 4/4, 4/11
hspaxlp

Services

MARV'S CONSTRUCTION
Room additions, fix old saggy floors, all types remodeling. Redo bathrooms, old foundation repairs. Marv Schwartz: 260-525-8877.

DISH NETWORK. \$64.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-855-551-9764 (I)

SERIOUSLY INJURED IN an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! Our network has recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 844-517-6414 (I)

Services

AMISH LADY looking for house cleaning jobs. Please leave a message at 260-849-0475.

DIRECTV. NEW 2-YEAR Price Guarantee. The most live MLB games this season, 200+ channels and over 45,000 on-demand titles. \$84.99/mo for 24 months with CHOICE Package. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-888-885-8931 (I)

LIVE PAIN FREE with CBD products from AceWellness. We guarantee highest quality, most competitive pricing on CBD products. Softgels, Oils, Skincare, Vape & more. Coupon Code: PRINT20 Call Now 833-226-3105 (I)

VEHICLES

Auto/Trucks

1994 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN, 2500, 184,000 miles, white/blue, 4x2, 6.5 turbo diesel, new paint, loaded, Reese hitch, trailer brakes, original, 260-450-2432.

HELOISE HINT: Want to protect your car's value? Auto experts say to do these two basic things: Maintain it well and keep it very clean. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

Autos Wanted

WANTED: DEPENDABLE, AFFORDABLE, used car for young lady with child, (260) 438-7341.

April GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY

Zap Electric, Inc.
260-824-2927
Commercial-Industrial-Residential
24 Hr. Emergency Service
Charles Miller-Electrician
1233 W. Cherry St., Bluffton FREE Estimates

YOUR LOCAL AGENTS, HERE FOR YOU.

INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
BLUFFTON OFFICE: (260) 824-2234
1307 Baker Place • Bluffton, IN
Mike Lampton | Michael Towne | Jacob Duncan

Jerry Flack & Associates
Jerry Flack & Julie Myers
Retirement Advisors
A Senior Citizen Answers Our Phone!
OFFICE 260-824-1618 • Corner of Main & Market • Bluffton, IN

ASSISTING IN:
• FREE Medicare Supplement Comparison
• Life Planning
• Safe Money Ideas
• Dental - Vision - Hearing

STOR-N-GO STORAGE UNITS
2740 E. 200 N. • Bluffton, IN • 260.273.8345
with Security Cameras

Locally Raised Meats
Wells County 100% Grass-Fed Beef
Adams County Pasture Raised Pork
Steuben County Organic Chicken
HOOSIER CREEK FARMS
Locally Owned & Operated
By David & Cara Teeple & Family
260-824-3255
2035 Commerce Dr. Suite 207, Bluffton
www.hoosiercreekfarmsilc.com

Primary Contracting, LLC
260-223-4276 Free Estimates
Decks • Garages • Pole Barns • Siding • Remodeling
Metal and Shingle Roofing • Storm Damage • Trim Wood Working and more!
Owner - Edwin Wickey COMPETITIVE RATES!

Midstates ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Solar
*Agriculture
*Commercial
Darin Johnson
260.249.4446

Home Standby Generators
(Sales & Installation)
*Briggs & Stratton
*Generac
Brandon Glasgow
260.228.1832

A-1 U-Stor
Safe & Secure Self Storage
824-1846
• Safety Lighting • Clean Units
• 24 Hr. Access
• Video Cameras
www.a1-ustor.com
After hours & Saturdays
Call 273-9678 or 824-4782
In Monroe at corner of U.S. 27 and S.R. 124
Office at 1180 N. Main, Bluffton

As a resident of the Wells County community for decades, Attorney, Gerret J. Swearingin, has devoted his legal practice to assisting clients in preserving the family assets from the high cost of Nursing Home and In-Home Healthcare.
As your guide through the "Medicaid Planning" process, Swearingin Elder Law will provide the right path to both protect your life savings and receive the quality of care we all deserve.
-OSSIAN-
1645 Hillcrest Dr., Suite 2A
Ossian, IN 46777
Attorney Gerret J. Swearingin
SWEARINGIN ELDER LAW
• Medicaid Planning
• Durable Power of Attorney
• Estate Planning & Deeds
• Special Needs Trusts
• Long Term Care Planning
• In-Home Healthcare Planning
• Wills, Living Wills, & Advance Healthcare Directives
(260) 888-9256
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION!

AMISH CREW
will do roofing, siding, remodeling, pole barns. Specializing in redoing old barns. Free estimates. Call 260-438-2508

Sure-Flo Seamless Gutters
5" & 6" Continuous Gutters
Leaf Protection Systems
Large Color Selection - FREE Estimates
260-888-5062
www.seamlessgutter.net

Home Remodel and Repair
Locally Owned
Repair Bowed Basement Walls
Foundations repaired
Floor joist repair or replaced
Concrete • Doors
Windows • Painting
Tile • Small Jobs Welcome
Text me at 260-301-1269
Jim Baker

The HIDEAWAY BEER & BOURBON
THURSDAY - Dollar Off Drinks (Excludes Pop)
WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE
FRI. & SAT. - Live Music
Follow us on Facebook for our Events.
123 S JOHNSON ST. • 824-0455

Rx Warren Pharmacy
(260)375-2135
Nature's Sunshine Distributor
222 N. Wayne St., Warren • 1-800-895-7035
Terry Daniels, Pharmacist • Melinda Daniels, RN

Ag Panel and Standing Seam SWISS METALS LLC
Complete Line of Sliding Door Accessories
Roofing Accessories • Roof Boot
Outside Closures • Flovent • EM Seal
Clear Skylight • Clear Ridge
MANUFACTURER OF METAL ROOFING, SIDING & TRIM
20 Colors In Stock
40 Year Warranty
260-251-4366
7877 S. US HW 27, Berne IN 46711

LANCASTER Senior Apartments
1800 S. Wayne St. | Bluffton
• 1 & 2 Bedrooms
• Maintenance Free
• All Ground-level
• Private Entrances
• Water Included
260 824-5280
TDD: 7-1-1
For those 62+ or disabled, regardless of age.

JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE
All makes & models • broken springs & cables
Owner: James Fisher • Sales: Carl Fisher
"50 Years of Combined Experience"
Call us at 824-3262

Wickey Construction
Free Estimate on Metal Roofing & More
260-273-9776

D's Landscaping
918.370.3593
193 North Oak Street ext, Bluffton
• Full Lawn Care • Tree Removal
• Demo/Junk • Tree Trimming Removal
All Surrounding Areas
24-hour service
For as little as... \$123 PER ISSUE
YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEWS-BANNER Every Day!
Call 824-0224 or 622-4108
May deadline is Tues, Apr. 25!

USDA: state to plant more corn acres, four percent fewer soybean

**By C.J. MILLER
Hoosier Ag Today**
Indiana farmers are projected to plant 5.5 million acres of corn, which is up five percent from 2022, and 5.6 million acres of soybeans, which is down four percent lower than a year ago. That's according to the USDA's Prospective Plantings report, which was released on Friday.

Acres by Crop – Indiana and United States: 2021 - 2023

Commodity	Indiana			United States		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Corn, all						
Planted1,000 acres	5,400	5,250	5,500	93,252	88,579	91,996
Hay, all						
Harvested1,000 acres	540	520	520	50,736	49,546	50,645
Soybeans						
Planted1,000 acres	5,650	5,850	5,600	87,195	87,450	87,505
Winter Wheat						
Planted1,000 acres	340	290	440	33,678	33,271	37,505

Graphic retrieved from the United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service Great Lakes Region

to plant 87.5 million acres of soybeans, a 55 thousand-acre increase.

The all-wheat planted area is estimated at 49.9 million acres, up nine percent from 2022. Winter wheat planted estimates are 37.5 million acres, 13 percent higher than in 2022. Spring wheat acres are expected to reach 11.3 million, 18

percent below last year. All-cotton planted acres are expected to total 11.3 million acres, 18 percent lower than in 2022.

USDA also released the Quarterly Grain Stocks report on Friday. As of March 1, 2023, Indiana corn stocks totaled 588 million bushels, seven percent above a year earlier. About

60 percent of the corn was stored on farms. The second quarter disappearance was 255 million bushels, compared with 338 million bushels a year earlier.

Indiana soybean stocks on March 1, 2023, were 147 million bushels. That was 11 percent lower than stocks a year earlier. Farm stocks of soybeans were 68.0 million

bushels. The second quarter indicated disappearance was 133 million bushels, compared with 106 million bushels during the same period a year ago.

Indiana wheat stocks on March 1, 2023, were 14.0 million bushels, 23 percent below a year ago. Third quarter indicated disappearance was 4.67 million bush-

els, compared with 4.06 million bushels last year.

Across the U.S., Corn stocks totaled 7.4 billion bushels, five percent lower than March 2022. Soybeans stored totaled 1.69 billion bushels, 13 percent lower than last year. All-wheat storage totaled 946 million bushels, eight percent lower than March 2022.

Huntington University will offer Agbioscience Academy

Huntington University will be offering a new program for high school students. The Agbioscience Academy will start in July 2023.

This is a week-long experience that focuses on all the elements of agriculture, including: agronomy, precision agriculture, animal science, plant biology, technology, and agricultural business.

Those attending will participate in projects involving Hunting University's labs that hold livestock and crops. They will learn from university faculty, students, and expert special guests. These experts will lead workshops and sessions throughout the week students are present.

The academy also includes off-campus learning to area ag-related industries

and a morning session at a local ropes challenge course.

Attendees will be provided meals and an academy t-shirt, as well as other items to take home. The students will be staying in on-campus residence halls in a single-occupancy room.

The academy will be July 10-14 and cost \$300. Sign-up is until May 31. There are scholarships, including full scholarships, which will be awarded to qualifying students.

Contact Matt Gerlach, Director of Academic Camping, mgerlach@huntington.edu to register.

Huntington University's Agbioscience Academy is sponsored by the Avis Foundation and the Dr. Harry Brickley Farm Foundation.

CaseIH celebrates 100 Years of Farmall Tractors in Indiana

**By C.J. MILLER
Hoosier Ag Today**

For a century now, red Farmall tractors have been all over the landscape of farms across Indiana. That's why CaseIH is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Farmall brand.

Joe Miller, Tractor Product Marketing Manager with CaseIH, knows the important role that Farmall tractors has played in Indiana's farm history and legacy. He grew up on a farm near Rochester in Fulton County, Indiana where the first tractor he drove as a boy was his grandfather's 1953 Farmall Super M.

Miller says the very first Farmall tractors were produced by International Harvester in 1923. They were the first tractors that were maneuverable and had enough ground clearance to cultivate row crops.

"Twenty-five Farmall tractors were built that first year," according to Miller. But you have to remember, when we think of an older tractor, we think of a tricycle configuration with tall rear tires and narrow front end. That was revolutionary in 1923. That was an extreme look that was a lot different style of tractor than anything that had been in the industry before that time."

In 1931, Farmall introduced the "F-Series" for farmers who were handling a larger amount of acreage. By 1939, Farmall introduced its second generation of tractors, which were known as the "Letter Series" of tractors. The smallest sized tractors available were the Farmall A, B, C—followed by the H and M, which grew larger with each subsequent letter, and provided more power and plowing capacity.

In 1954, the "Hundred



A row of fully-restored Farmall tractors on display during the 2022 Johnson County Antique Farm Machinery Show at Johnson County Park near Edinburgh, Indiana. (Photo by C.J. Miller, Hoosier Ag Today)

Series" replaced the "Letter Series" by using numbers instead of letters to identify the different sizes of models.

Miller says that many new innovations were developed across several generations of the Farmall brand.

"We had the first diesel tractor in 1941—the Farmall MD—which started on gas and flipped over to diesel. We also had the first tractor that was over 100 horsepower—the Farmall 1026. Then, the Farmall 1206 was the first turbocharged diesel tractor. The Farmall MTA, which had the torque amplifier, which was a very early power shift that allowed shifting under load, so again the Farmall innovation has been storied right along."

International Harvester continued to use the Farmall name badges with their new tractor models until 1975.

In late 1984, Tenneco purchased International Harvester and merged it with Case to become CaseIH in 1985 to keep the legacies of both names intact.

CaseIH brought back the Farmall name and brand in 2003 as a line of compact tractors. There are currently over 30 models of Farmall tractors that have between 30 and 140 horsepower.

Miller adds that farm

families for many generations have been brand loyal to its corporate owner today, CaseIH. There are also many antique tractor collectors who buy and restore the classic Farmall tractors to show them off at antique farm machinery shows across Indiana and the Midwest.

That loyalty for the Farmall brand all started because dad, grandpa—maybe even great grandpa—owned and used one of those beautiful red Farmall tractors on their farms.

"There were times when the industry was challenging. It was not easy to make a living farming, and that tractor was required to feed the cows, do all the row crop work, the auger work, and the planter work. The families depended on that for their livelihood. That Farmall tractor became a member of the family and that's what people remember, and they still have that tie."

"A lot of customers are still loyal because they had that Farmall M or 56 series and that was what helped them get them through some tough times in farming," says Miller. "They're going to remain loyal because they remember that they could depend on that iron and that iron pull them through some challenging times."

USDA says U.S. lost nearly two million acres of farmland in 2022

**By C.J. MILLER
Hoosier Ag Today**

The U.S. lost a total of 1.9 million acres of farmland in 2022 according to the USDA. "Historically, we've always lost acres to residential development. And that's still the case," says Eric Sarff, the President of Murray Wise Associates, which handles auctions and sales for farmland.

He says new housing additions are continuing to pop up on what used to be farmland, which was a trend that started before interest rates started climbing.

"Coming out of COVID, a lot of people had a lot more freedom to move around and work remotely, and that combined with low interest rates at the time really fueled a lot of builders putting up new housing developments and that does continue to take out farmland," says Sarff.

He also says renewable energy companies are also buying up significant amounts of farmland.

"Solar and wind development has, at least in the Midwest, really increased their footprint," according to Sarff. "The wind development taking up a smaller footprint for each turbine, but they are spread out over a larger region, where the solar is a much tighter footprint, but it takes out typically entire field."

He adds that more farmland is being sold off today as younger generations are decid-

ing to not keep their family farms.

"Typically, farmland gets passed down from one generation to the next and doesn't ever come up for sale," says Sarff. "As we see more land continuing to get taken out of production, that just puts more of a premium on the ground that comes to the market. Even when we were maybe a little bit of a softer market in 2017 through 2019, demand was still strong just because the supply was still so low. When something comes on the market, we still see a lot of demand for those properties."

Sarff says the higher values that are being paid for farmland has been a huge motivating factor for those wishing to sell.

"Values are holding strong despite raising interest rates," says Sarff. "We've had multiple sales where we've had 30-plus bidders registered for a sale, and that's, to be honest, stronger than we've probably ever seen, and we've had up to 50 vendors in a room. And some of that's due to offering online bidding now, which makes a lot more convenient for bidders. The result is the same. The demand is extremely strong still for farmland. In the Midwest, we've had good sales, and in other parts of the U.S. as well, and demand is really strong across the board."

Since the year 2000, 50 million acres of farmland have been lost across the U.S. That works out to 4.3 acres of farmland lost every minute of every day.

Public Sale Calendar

APRIL 13 - 6 p.m. - Adams County Commissioners, owner. Adams County 4H Park dining hall, 160 W. Washington St., Monroe. Land located on N 200E between US Hwy. 33 & 300N (both sides of road). 132+/- acres offered in multiple tracts, Washington Township, Section 13, Adams County, Decatur. Tract 1: 9.96+/- tillable. Tract 2: 29.96+/- tillable. Tract 3: 29.94+/- tillable. Tract 4: 61.42+/- tillable. Land sold as individual tracts or any combination! Possession to be taken immediately! *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

APRIL 14-APRIL 21 - (Online Only Auction) - Harkelroad Buildings, LLC, seller. 8,142 SF multi tenant office building that has been well maintained. This building perfect for an owner occupant or as a multi tenant investment property. Zoned R-3 with variance, paved parking, prime NE Allen County location. Open house: April 11 and 18 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., 3705 Rupp Dr., Fort Wayne, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, steffengrp.com, 260-426-0633.

APRIL 15 - Ian Freds, Auction Mgr. 260.227.1121. D & B Storage Rental Inc. will be offering at Live Public Auction the contents of the following storage units to satisfy the lien against their units. The following units are: Unit 25 B.A. Schollaert, Unit 64 Clyde Estep Jr., Unit 95 & 166, Daniel Hippensteele Unit 138 Tony Nunley, Unit 139 Ora Ducey, Units 162, 163, & 164 Jordan Gerardot. Auction Located at 820 North Clark St. Markle, IN. *Ness Bros. Realtors & Auctioneers*, 260-356-3911, www.NessBros.com.

BIDDING ENDS APRIL 16 - (Online Only Auction) - Various consignors, seller. Large collection of antique console and table top radios, railroad items including early 1900's map cabinet, antique and primitive furniture, coins, vintage jewelry, Fenton, Lesney Matchbox cars. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, Steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

ING APRIL 16 STARTING AT 2 P.M. EST - Owners name on file, owner. Online only large estate auction! 750 lots including antiques, collectibles, furniture, primitives, costume jewelry, household, pellet guns, tools, lots of new gloves, hats, towels, linens & much more! Preview April 12, 3-5 p.m., 815 Adams St., Decatur. Pick up April 17, 1-5 p.m. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

BIDDING CLOSING APRIL 16 - 6 p.m. EST - Robert Shutt Estate, Brian & Andy Shutt, owners. Real estate sells at 6 p.m. 1,506 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, 26'x22' detached garage, 10'x10' shed, .27 acre lot, Fort Wayne Community Schools, Wayne Township, Section 74, Allen County. Personal property sells at 6:30. Furniture, household, collectibles, tools, kitchen appliances & more. Pick up April 18, 3-6 p.m. 6717 Fernwood Ave., Fort Wayne. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

BIDDING CLOSING APRIL 19 - 6 p.m. EST - Estate of Leonard G. Edwards, owner, Leonard G. Edwards II Executor. Large amount of Craftsman & various hand tools, Craftsman tool box, lawn & garden items, tiller, snowblower, mower, neon signs & bar advertisements, fishing & outdoor items, household, collectibles, antiques, furniture, cast iron banks & much more! Auction preview April 18, 5-6 p.m. Pick up April 20, 3-6 p.m. & April 21, 9 a.m.-noon. 417 Homestead Court, Bluffton. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

APRIL 29- MAY 6 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Dick and Jim Thompson, seller. 5416 W 200 S., Liberty Center. Antiques, rare 1992 Olympic Dream Team life size cardboard poster, farm related items, sports memorabilia, vehicles, glassware, primitives, tools, vintage oil cans, vintage Christmas décor. Preview: May 4 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Sale Manager, Nick Huffman, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006.

Agricultural Services Guide

JOHN DEERE
TTG
EQUIPMENT
Sales - Parts - Service

- BLUFFTON
- LAFAYETTE
- FLORA
- LOGANSPORT
- FRANKFORT
- SWAYZEE
- HUNTINGTON
- WABASH

www.ttgequipment.com

Do you have a service or product for area farmers?

Call 824-0224 or 622-4108 and find out how affordable our **AG SERVICES DIRECTORY** can be!

Prompt Delivery ...
To Your Home - Farm - Business

Gasolines • Heating Oils • Pure 1-K Kerosene • Super Diesel Fuel • Oils

Bio - Soy Diesel - Ethanol • Competitive Prices!

NATIONAL OIL & GAS, INC.
409 North Main Street Bluffton Indiana 46714
260-824-2220

Follow us on Twitter at... twitter.com/newsbanner