

The News - Banner

www.News-Banner.com

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

County to explore incentive options for firefighters

By HOLLY GASKILL
Wells County fire departments are continuing to fight against understaffing. In their latest move, Jon Gray and Mike Grant from the Markle fire department approached the commissioners with several possible incentive proposals to attract volunteers. "If we don't do any-

thing, we've decided we're part of the problem as well," Gray said. According to Gray, the training process for new volunteers takes approximately a year to complete, which is often a large barrier to entry. Commissioner Mike Vanover asked if the training requirements seemed excessive, but Gray said it was necessary for

the role. Gray also said people seem increasingly unwilling to give their time and labor without compensation, even if the role serves the common good of the public. Consequently, they asked the commissioners to consider incentives to get volunteers through the training process and honor their continued

help. This model, however, would be a completely new endeavor — Gray stated he and Grant were unable to find a similar model in the state. Because of this, the commissioners asked County Attorney Ted Storer, as well as Gray and Grant, to investigate precedent for similar incentives.

"I agree with you guys," Vanover said. "If we keep doing the same thing over and over again, we're going to get the same results." Vanover and Commissioner Blake Gerber were present; Commissioner Jeff Stringer was absent. Other updates were:
(Continued on Page 2)



It's a bird, it's a plane, it's ... an egg!

Participants put their engineering skills to the test in the Bluffton Parks and Recreation Department's annual egg drop contest Wednesday afternoon. The children were given a variety of materials to create a contraption to protect an egg, then put their invention to the test by dropping it from the second story of City Hall. Above, Isaac Smith launches his egg from the second-story window. Much to everyone's excitement, many of the eggs survived through the journey. Right above, Maci Williams untangles her egg from its packaging following the drop, and right below, Aaron Smith celebrates with his intact egg. **More photos on Page 6.** (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



Highway garage project is back on track

By HOLLY GASKILL
Construction of the new Wells County highway garage is back on track following a series of setbacks. According to Project Manager Conor Jackson, construction encountered its first obstacle in April when the site experienced over 100 mph winds. This force bent some of the base plates, significantly damaged the four concrete piers, and stretched or bent some anchor bolts. Since then, all four piers have been replaced. In evaluating this damage, Jackson also discovered workmanship issues, including the use of improperly-sized bolts and unlevel concrete. Jackson emphasized that the building would've withstood these winds if completed. Additionally, Jackson said there should have been temporary bracing in the structure to prevent damage. "Would we have avoided it completely (with the temporary bracing)?" Jackson said. "I can't say, but I think it certainly would have helped." Jackson stated the contractors have been "phenomenal" in fixing these issues and that the project is in good standing. He expects all issues to be resolved by next week. Construction is on schedule to finish in February 2024.
holly@news-banner.com

Pence opens presidential bid with denunciation of Trump

By JILL COLVIN and THOMAS BEAUMONT
Associated Press
ANKENY, Iowa (AP) — Former Vice President Mike Pence opened his bid for the Republican nomination for president Wednesday with a firm denunciation of former President Donald Trump, accusing his two-time running mate of abandoning conservative

principles and being guilty of dereliction of duty on Jan. 6, 2021. On that perilous day, Pence said, as Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol after the president falsely insisted his vice president could overturn the election results, Trump "demanded I choose between him and our Constitution. Now voters will be faced with the same choice."

Pence is the first vice president in modern history to challenge the president under whom he served. While he spent much of his speech, delivered at a community college in a suburb of Des Moines, criticizing Democratic President Joe Biden and the direction he has taken the country, he also addressed Jan. 6 head-on, saying Trump had disqualified him-

self when he declared falsely that Pence had the power to keep him in office. Trump's statements about mass voting fraud led a mob of his supporters to storm the U.S. Capitol, sending Pence and his family scrambling for safety as some in the crowd chanted, "Hang Mike Pence!" "I believe anyone that puts

themselves over the Constitution should never be president of the United States, and anyone who asks someone else to put them over the Constitution should never be president of the United States again," the former vice president said. Pence has spent much of the past two-and-a-half-years grap-
(Continued on Page 2)

Dam break leaves thousands with no drinking water in Ukraine

By VASILISA STEPANENKO
Associated Press
KHERSON, Ukraine (AP) — Authorities rushed to rescue hundreds of people stranded on rooftops and supply drinking water to areas flooded by a collapsed dam in southern Ukraine on Wednesday, in a growing humanitarian and ecological disaster along

a river that forms part of the front line in the 15-month war. The collapse of the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam and emptying of its reservoir on the Dnieper River added to the misery the region has suffered for more than a year from artillery and missile attacks. With humanitarian and eco-

logical disasters still unfolding, it's already clear that tens of thousands of people have been deprived of drinking water, many are homeless, crops are ruined, land mines have been displaced, and the stage is set for long-term electricity shortages. Some residents of Russia-occupied areas hit by high water

complained that help was slow in arriving, with some stranded on roofs and streets passable only by boat in scenes more like natural disasters than wars. Others refused to leave. The first report of casualties from the disaster emerged, with a mayor reporting three dead. At least 4,000 people have been evac-

uated from both the Russian and Ukrainian-controlled sides of the river, officials said, with the true scale of the disaster yet to emerge in an affected area that was home to more than 60,000 people. Russia-appointed authorities in the occupied parts of the Kherson region reported 15,000 flooded
(Continued on Page 2)

Inside
Local/Area
Pets of the Week ... 3
Police Notebook ... 3
Opinion
Angelkeep ... 4
Also...
Sports ... 6-7
Classifieds ... 9
Diversions ... 8

Outside
Mild and breezy today,
cool nights ahead
Today Friday Saturday
High 76 High 78 High 85
Low 49 Low 52 Low 60
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. 185
THURSDAY
June 8, 2023

Don't miss out!
2023
Huntington
Heritage
Days
Today in
New-Banner!

How to contact us:
Call us: 824-0224
or 1-800-579-7476
email@news-banner.com
On the Web:
www.news-banner.com
Follow us at:
twitter.com/newsbanner

Incentive options

(Continued from Page 1)

• The commissioners agreed to form a committee to research and discuss adding a county building inspector. Vanover stated he wanted the committee to have people with area expertise and interest to discover the possibilities, benefits and costs of adding the role.

• The commissioners approved a \$4,000 increase in funding for Bi-County Services. Tim Ramsey stated this increase was needed due to various factors, including their need to offer competitive rates to employees. The Wells County Council approved the

increase on Tuesday, and Adams County matched the increase.

• County Engineer Nate Rumschlag stated he would present an updated road conversion petition document in July.

• Highway Department Supervisor Shawn Bonar advised his crews are currently mowing side ditches, patching and leveling roads on the 2023 chip seal list, and repairing broken tiles.

• The commissioners approved the request to vacate a 20 ft. wide alley in Banner City. A public hearing was held before approval, and there were no public comments outside of one of

the petitioners, David Driscoll, and his attorney, Matthew Hayes.

• As of Monday, Sheriff Scott Holliday 60 inmates were being housed in the Wells County Jail. Of this amount, 23 were pre-trial holds for the Circuit Court, 18 for the Superior Court, seven were Level 6 felons and 10 were from the Department of Correction. Sheriff Scott Holliday reported the final repairs to the renovation project are expected to be finished by July 4.

• The commissioners approved the use of the courthouse plaza for the Bluffton Street Fair, Sept. 17-Sept. 23.

holly@news-banner.com

Pence's presidential bid

(Continued from Page 1)

pling with fallout from that day as he has tried to chart a political future in a party that remains deeply loyal to Trump and is filled with many who still believe Trump's lies that the 2020 election was stolen and that Pence somehow could reject the results.

While Pence has criticized Trump as he has worked to forge an identity of his own outside the former president's shadow, he has generally done so obliquely, reflecting Trump's continued popularity in the party. But Wednesday, as Pence made his pitch to voters for the first time as a declared candidate, he did not hold his tongue.

He accused the former president of abandoning the conservative values he ran on, including on abortion.

Pence, who supports a national ban on the procedure, said, "After leading the most pro-life administration in American history, Donald Trump and others in

this race are retreating from the cause of the unborn. The sanctity of life has been our party's calling for half a century — long before Donald Trump was a part of it. Now he treats it as an inconvenience, even blaming our election losses in 2022 on overturning Roe v. Wade."

Trump has declined to say what limits he supports nationally and has blamed some midterm candidates' strong rhetoric for their losses last November.

Pence also bemoaned the current politics of "grudges and grievances," saying the country needs leaders who know the difference between the "politics of outrage and standing firm."

"We will restore a threshold of civility in public life," he pledged.

Nonetheless, Pence did not rule out supporting Trump if the former president wins the GOP nomination.

"I will absolutely support the Republican nominee in 2024, especially if it's me," Pence said on Fox News

Channel after his announcement.

Trump did not immediately respond to the speech, but his supporters shot back.

"The question most GOP voters are asking themselves about Pence's candidacy is 'Why?'" said Karoline Leavitt, a spokeswoman for a Trump-backing super PAC.

With Pence's entry into the race, on his 64th birthday, the GOP field is largely set. It includes Trump, who's leading in early polls, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who remains in second, former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott and former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

Pence's campaign will test the party's appetite for a socially conservative, mild-mannered and deeply religious candidate who has criticized the populist tide that has swept through his party under Trump. Pence, in many ways, represents a throwback to a party from days past. Unlike Trump and

DeSantis, he argues cuts to Social Security and Medicare must be on the table and has blasted those who have questioned why the U.S. should continue to send aid to Ukraine to counter Russian aggression.

Pence and his advisers see Iowa — the state that will cast the first votes of the GOP nominating calendar — as key to his pathway to the nomination. Its caucus-goers include a large portion of evangelical Christian voters, whom they see as a natural constituency for Pence, a social conservative who often talks about his faith.

But Pence faces steep challenges. Despite being one of the best-known Republican candidates in the crowded field, he is viewed skeptically by voters on both the left and the right. Trump critics consider him complicit in the former president's most indefensible actions, while many Trump loyalists have maligned him as a traitor, partly to blame for denying the president a second term.

Weather

Thursday, June 8, 2023

(24-hour observations at 9:13 p.m. Wednesday)
High: 75; **Low:** 53; **Precipitation:** None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.35 feet at 8:45 p.m. Wednesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 76. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 49. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 78. North wind around 5 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 52. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 85.

Saturday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers, mainly after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.

Sunday: Showers likely, with thunderstorms also possible after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 78. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

Sunday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56.

Monday: A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 73.

Monday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Tuesday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 77.

Tuesday Night: A slight chance of thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 56.

Wednesday: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 82.

Ukraine dam

(Continued from Page 1)

homes.

The dam and reservoir, essential for fresh water and irrigation for southern Ukraine, lies in the Kherson region that Moscow illegally annexed in September and has occupied for the past year. The reservoir is also critical for water supplies to the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed in 2014.

Ukraine holds the Dnieper's western bank, while Russia controls the low-lying eastern side, which is more vulnerable to flooding.

The high water could wash away this season's crops, while the depleted Kakhovka reservoir would deny adequate irrigation for years. The reservoir's loss also complicates any efforts to rebuild and restart the destroyed hydroelectric power station and ensure cooling water for any future attempts to restart the shutdown Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

A day after the dam's collapse, the cause remained unclear, with both sides

blaming each other. Some experts cited wartime damage and neglect, although others argued that Russia might have destroyed it for military reasons. Either way, concluded analyst Michael Kofman, "Russia is responsible, either by virtue of action or by virtue of the fact that it controlled the dam."

"It's going to lead to lasting damage to agriculture, provision of drinkable water. And it's going to wipe out entire communities," Kofman — who is with the Center for Naval Analyses, a U.S. research group — told "PBS NewsHour."

Many residents had fled the region because of the fighting, but clear estimates of those remaining weren't available.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with officials on how to provide drinking water to residents, as well as assess damage to wetlands, farms and other property from what he called "a crime of ecocide" and "a man-made strike on the environment, after which nature will have to recover for decades."

U.S., World News Roundup

Feud ends with a Black mom dead, her white neighbor arrested

OCALA, Fla. (AP) — A woman accused of shooting and killing a mother in front of her kids last week in a shocking end to an ongoing feud between neighbors was arrested Tuesday.

Susan Louise Lorincz, 58, who is white, was charged with manslaughter with a firearm, culpable negligence, battery and two counts of assault in the death of Ajike Owens, a Black mother of four, Sheriff Billy Woods said in a statement.

Authorities came under pressure Tuesday to arrest and charge Lorincz, who fired the gun and killed Owens in a case that has put Florida's divisive stand your ground law back into the spotlight.

In a video posted on Facebook late Tuesday night, the sheriff said this was not a stand your ground case but "simply a killing."

"Now many of you were struggling to understand why there was not an immediate arrest," the sheriff said. "The laws here in the state of Florida are clear. Now I may not like them. I may not agree with them. But however, those laws I will follow."

DeSantis defends flying migrants to California as he meets with sheriffs

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. (AP) — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday defended his state's decision to fly migrants from the U.S.-Mexico border to California, arguing that the state had essentially invited the migrants with its welcoming policies toward immigrants.

DeSantis, a Republican presidential candidate, spoke at a meeting with sheriffs near Arizona's border with Mexico, pledging to get control of the border and flexing his muscles on a signature issue for Donald Trump, his chief rival for the 2024 nomination.

"I think the border should be closed. I don't think we should have any of this," DeSantis said. "But if there's a policy to have an open border, then I think the sanctuary jurisdictions should be the ones that have to bear that."

DeSantis' administration said this week that the three dozen migrants whom the state recently flew from El Paso, Texas, to Sacramento at taxpayer expense all went willingly, disputing allegations that the individuals were coerced to travel under false pretenses. California officials are investigating whether any violations of criminal or civil law occurred.

For DeSantis, the focus on immigration is a chance to boost his credibility on a top issue for GOP primary voters. He sees political upside in picking a high-profile fight with liberal California and its Democratic governor, Gavin Newsom, who has become a bogeyman for many on the right.

Utah district's Bible ban spurs protest by parents, Republicans

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Republican lawmakers rallied with more than one hundred Bible-toting parents and children at Utah's Capitol on Wednesday to protest a school district's decision to remove the Bible from middle and elementary school libraries in the wake of a GOP-backed "sensitive materials" law passed two years ago.

Concerned parents and children holding signs that read "The Bible is the original textbook" and "Remove porn, not the Bible," said they were outraged after the Davis School District announced that a review committee concluded the Bible was too "violent or vulgar" for young children. The committee ruled that it did not qualify as obscene or pornographic under the sensitive materials law, but used its own discretion to remove it from libraries below the high school level.

Karlee Vincent, a Davis County mother of three kids carrying children's Bibles to the demonstration, said districts could weigh banning certain titles with controversial material, but not religious texts like the Bible.

The anonymously made challenge to the Bible appears to have been submitted as a statement to undermine the two-year-old law, noting the sacred text contains instances of incest, prostitution and rape. It derided the review procedures as a "bad faith process" and attacked groups that have pushed to remove certain titles from schools, including Parents United and its Utah-based affiliate.

GOP conservatives shutter House to protest debt ceiling deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — In fallout from the debt ceiling deal, Speaker Kevin McCarthy is suddenly confronting a new threat to his power as angry hard-right conservatives bring the House chamber to a halt, reviving their displeasure over the compromise struck with President Joe Biden and demanding deeper spending cuts ahead.

Barely a dozen Republicans, mainly members of the House Freedom Caucus, shuttered House business for a second day Thursday in protest of McCarthy's leadership. Routine votes could not be taken, and a pair of pro-gas stove bills important to GOP activists stalled out. Some lawmakers asked if they could simply go home.

McCarthy brushed off the disruption as healthy political debate, part of his "risk taker" way of being a leader — not too different, he said, from the 15-vote spectacle it took in January for him to finally convince his colleagues to elect him as speaker. With a paper-thin GOP majority, any few Republicans have outsized sway.

But the aftermath of the debt ceiling deal is coming into focus: The hard-

right flank that helped put the speaker in power five months ago is not done with McCarthy yet.

Newer heart transplant method could allow more patients a chance

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most transplanted hearts are from donors who are brain dead, but new research shows a different approach can be just as successful and boost the number of available organs.

It's called donation after circulatory death, a method long used to recover kidneys and other organs but not more fragile hearts. Duke Health researchers said Wednesday that using those long-shunned hearts could allow possibly thousands more patients a chance at a lifesaving transplant — expanding the number of donor hearts by 30 percent.

"Honestly if we could snap our fingers and just get people to use this, I think it probably would go up even more than that," said transplant surgeon Dr. Jacob Schroder of Duke University School of Medicine, who led the research. "This really should be standard of care."

The usual method of organ donation occurs when doctors, through careful testing, determine someone has no brain function after a catastrophic injury — meaning they're brain-dead. The body is left on a ventilator that keeps the heart beating and organs oxygenated until they're recovered and put on ice.

In contrast, donation after circulatory death occurs when someone has a nonsurvivable brain injury but, because all brain function hasn't yet ceased, the family decides to withdraw life support and the heart stops. That means organs go without oxygen for a while before they can be recovered — and surgeons, worried the heart would be damaged, left it behind.

Migrants rescued from overcrowded boats off southern Italy

ROME (AP) — More than 1,400 migrants have been rescued from overcrowded vessels, including a sailboat, in four separate operations in the Mediterranean Sea off southern Italy, the Italian coast guard said Wednesday.

There were 47 migrants, including two children in immediate need of medical care, aboard the sailboat in distress off the region of Calabria, in the "toe" of the Italian peninsula, a coast guard statement said. They were rescued by a coast guard motorboat early Tuesday.

The statement said the rescues began late Monday night and ended in the early hours of Wednesday in the Ionian Sea off Calabria's east coast. One coast guard vessel took on around 590 migrants from aboard a fishing boat, and then later brought on around 650 migrants from another fishing boat, the statement said.

Right coverage.
Right price.
Right here in town.



Ben Burman, Agent
1796 S Main Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
Bus: 260-824-1928
ben.burman.vab7@statefarm.com

Here's the deal. The right insurance should help you feel confident and comfortable. I'm the right good neighbor for that. Call me today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

State Farm
Bloomington, IL
2001290

State Farm®

FORT WAYNE
Box Drop
Mattress & Furniture
260-227-2145

No Credit Needed Financing

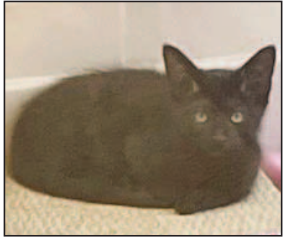


Amy & Tracy Houtz
260-227-2145

7824 Bluffton Rd.
Fort Wayne, IN

By Appointment:
Tues - Wed - Thurs
Showroom Open:
Fri & Sat 11am - 4pm

A Talk with Tego



Mickey is an eight-week-old, black, domestic short hair male.



Miles is an eight-week-old, black, domestic short hair male.



Tigger is a five-year-old, tiger/white, domestic short hair, neutered male.



Tego

These are just a few pets available for adoption at the Wells County Animal Shelter, 1613 W. Cherry St., Bluffton. For more information call 824-6063.

Tego's Tips: Play relaxing music or turn on the TV to calm anxious pets during fireworks.

Report: most eligible Indiana schools hesitant to sign up for federal free meal program

The CEP program provides free breakfasts and lunches to students at schools with high poverty rates.

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The lion's share of Hoosier schools that qualify for a federal free meal service program don't take advantage of it, according to a new national report.

Across the country, 6,419 school districts — 67.5 percent of those eligible — adopted the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Community Eligibility Provision in one or more schools for the 2022–2023 school year, the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) reported in a new analysis.

To qualify for CEP, 40 percent of an individual school's enrolled population (ISP) must be:

- Students certified through food assistance programs like SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, or Medicaid
- Homeless children or "runaways"
- Migrant youth
- Children participating in early childhood Head Start programs
- Children already receiving free or reduced lunches through the National School Lunch Program

But in Indiana, only 40.6 percent of eligible school districts — and 51.7 percent of eligible schools overall — adopted CEP in the most recent academic year.

Although Indiana was among the 39 states that saw an increase in the number of schools adopting community eligibility, the Hoosier state still ranks 47th in the nation for CEP participation.

The program allows schools with high poverty rates to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students, regardless of their economic status. Child health advocates and education experts laud the federal provision as a benefit to both students and school administrators.

No Kid Hungry, a non-profit organization that focuses on increasing access to healthy meals for children and alleviating childhood hunger, emphasized that kids are more attentive in class, have better attendance and are less likely to have disciplinary problems when their nutritional needs are met.

With CEP, families with tight food budgets are also ensured that their child is getting two balanced meals at school, reducing financial strain at home.

The program works for schools, as well, by eliminating school meals applications and unpaid meal charges that often create administrative burdens.

Some schools have recently adopted CEP as a way to continue offering healthy meals to all students — free of charge — after the expiration of the pandemic child nutrition waivers last year, according to FRAC.

But researchers said that many schools, including some in Indiana, choose not to participate out of fear that losing data from school meal applications may also result in the loss of Title I funding.

Indiana schools and districts have until June 30 to submit a CEP application for the 2023-24 school year. It's not clear how many new applications have been submitted so far.

By the numbers
During the 2022–23 school year, there was a significant increase in the number of schools and districts nationwide participating in community eligibility, according to FRAC's latest report.

While the number of participating schools in Indiana increased, too, the take-

up rate among eligible schools overall decreased slightly.

Of the 1,148 schools eligible for CEP in the last school year, 593 participated, according to federal data collected by FARC. That's up from 506 participating schools in the 2021-22 academic year, when 957 schools qualified.

Among those to join were Pike Township schools in Indianapolis, which serves nearly 11,000 students.

Of the 469 eligible Indiana schools where more than 60 percent of students qualify as high-need under CEP guidelines, 311 participated in the federal program in the 2022-23 school year — a 66.3 percent adoption rate.

About 52 percent of Hoosier schools with 50-60 percent high-need students — 200 of the 356 eligible schools — signed up. Participation dropped to 24.5 percent for those schools with high-need student enrollment at or below 50 percent; of the 323 schools that were eligible, only 77 took advantage of the program.

The Indiana Department of Education estimates that at least 1,100 schools will qualify for CEP in the 2023-24 academic year.

How CEP works — and why it helps
Families are not required to submit an application for the community provision like they would for the free and reduced meals program. That guarantees free breakfast and lunch for any student at a participating school.

Indianapolis Public Schools, as well as the surrounding Perry, Warren and Wayne school districts, are continuing to offer free meals — both lunches and breakfasts — to students through CEP for the 2023-24 school year. Certain MSD of Lawrence Township schools are also participating in CEP to provide free meals.

Thousands of students at other Indianapolis-area schools — in the Decatur, Franklin, Speedway and Washington school districts — will not automatically get free food, though.

Some district officials previously told the Indiana Capital Chronicle they do not participate in CEP because of the federal program's "complexity," while others noted that their schools do not qualify for complete meal reimbursement, meaning districts have to pay out-of-pocket to cover the rest.

For a school to qualify for the CEP, at least 40 percent of the individual school's enrolled population must already participate in another means-tested program or are part of a protected group, such as students experiencing homelessness, in foster care, or migrant students.

Schools that meet the minimum threshold to qualify for the community provision receive reimbursement for 62.5 percent of meals served, according to federal guidelines. Schools with enrolled populations over 62.5 percent, where nearly two-thirds of students fall into the above categories, get fully reimbursed for students' meals.

Schools with higher numbers of students in need receive a near or total reimbursement for meals, which makes community eligibility a more financially viable option. That also makes them more likely to participate in community eligibility, according to FRAC.

While any school with an enrolled population of 40 percent or more can participate, many schools on the lower end of the scale "fear participating" because the level of reimbursement from the federal government would not fully cover the cost of all meals served to students, said Allyson Pérez, a child nutrition policy analyst with FRAC.

Indiana middle school shooter who wounded teacher, student in 2018 will remain in custody

ANDERSON, Ind. (AP) — A judge has ordered a former student who opened fire at an Indiana middle school in 2018, wounding another student and a teacher, to remain in custody until an investigation of a separate assault allegation is completed. The Indianapolis Star reports that Madison County

Circuit Court Judge Stephen Koester on Wednesday cited the youth's "flippant attitude" about a corrections employee's allegation that the boy "fist-bumped" her breasts. The former student, who was 13 at the time of the shooting, had been detained since shortly after he opened fire at Noblesville

West Middle School in May 2018, wounding a seventh-grade science teacher and another 13-year-old student.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Tuesday, 2:01 p.m., North Oak and West Perry streets. Report of motorcycle and van blocking the alley.

Tuesday, 2:11 p.m., Pine Grove Court. Report of suspicious smell coming from apartment.

Tuesday, 2:18 p.m., Comfort Inn and Suites. Caller believes they received a suspicious package.

Tuesday, 3:14 p.m., Pines Mobile Homes. Report of a solicitor attempting to see resident gas bill.

Tuesday, 3:42 p.m., 400 block of West Wabash Street. A woman reported finding a blue tent in her yard and seeing a report in the paper about a tent being stolen. The tent was returned to the owner.

Tuesday, 4:18 p.m., 1400 block of West Central Avenue. Report of solicitor attempting to view utility bill. Advised to obtain business permit.

Tuesday, 4:32 p.m., 300 block of South Main Street. Man reported break in to his house from previously evicted son. Son broke screen door in process and showed before leaving.

Tuesday, 10:38 p.m., 300 block of South Main Street. Previously evicted son ran into the house. Arrested for domestic battery and criminal mischief. Further details to follow.

Tuesday, 11:08 p.m., Bluffton Police Department. Subject gave out information over Instagram and gave money to unknown subject

to avoid them sharing photos.

Wednesday, 10:16 a.m., Kroger. Multiple keys and cell phones found at Kroger.

Wednesday, 12:54 p.m., Walmart. Report of ten thefts committed by same person.

County:
Tuesday, 2:04 p.m., west Ind. 124 and north 300W. Driver traveling northbound on 300W failed to yield the right of way at the intersection, colliding with another vehicle. Neither vehicle was towed.

Tuesday, 2:15 p.m., residence on 400S, Liberty Center. Caller wanted an individual cited for trespassing.

Wednesday, 4:05 a.m., north Main Street and east 300N. Traffic stop for a vehicle without tail lights. Driver advised he had recently purchased the vehicle and hadn't gotten it registered. Deputy allowed the driver to continue to its designation, permitting the hazard lights remained on. The same vehicle was pulled over a half-mile down the road and reminded to keep the hazard lights on.

Wednesday, 10:03 a.m., north 100E and east 800N. Citation issued for speeding.

Ossian:
Tuesday, 7:24 p.m., residence on 1200N. Physical altercation between two women. One of the women had left the scene when deputies arrived.

Tuesday, 8:26 p.m., residence on 900N. Caller reported her neighbor's dog

had crossed into her property and was acting aggressive. The dog owner showed the deputy that the dog was friendly, but the battery in the dog's electric collar had died.

Tuesday, 10:19 p.m., Ossian BP. Report of suspicious activity. One taken into custody.

ACCIDENTS

County:
Wednesday, 5:55 a.m., CR 300N near Ind. 116, Bluffton. Mohammad Faisal, 23, Fort Wayne, was driving a 2014 Toyota Scion tC westbound and swerved to avoid striking a deer in the roadway. The vehicle still struck the deer, and the direction of travel was over-corrected into the ditch and striking a utility pole, small tree and a yard. Pemberton's towed the vehicle. Damage exceeded \$10,000.

FIRES

Tuesday, 5:00 p.m., near 3500 West, 800 South. Report of a repeat barn fire. Fire under control approximately 30 minutes later, advised the remaining structure would be a controlled burn.

ARRESTS

Brian Randy Vanauken, 41, Fort Wayne; human trafficking, a Level 3 felony, child molesting, a Level 1 felony, child solicitation, a Level 5 felony, sexual misconduct with a minor, a Level 4 felony. No bond set.

Trevor Leo Hunnicutt, 35, Bluffton; possession of controlled paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$500.

John Fuller to speak at LSM fund raiser

Loving Shepherd Ministries is hosting a fund-raising dinner Tuesday, June 20 with guest speaker John Fuller, co-host of the "Focus on the Family Broadcast" radio program.



John Fuller

"John uses biblical principles to offer encouragement on marriage, parenting and faith in today's world," said Joe Gerber, Director of Domestic Operation for Bluffton-based LSM.

Fuller and his wife are parents to six children and, as adoptive parents, are advocates for adoption.

"Through heartfelt stories, humor and scripture, John will encourage each of us to

faithfully follow God and create a ripple effect for Christ from our home that will eternally impact others," Gerber continued.

Tickets for the dinner are priced at \$50 per individual ticket; "table sponsors" can host a table of eight for \$350. A freewill offering will be taken to further LSM's impact around the world.

The dinner will be held at the LSM Event Center, 1935 N. Main St., from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tickets, which must be purchased by Wed., June 14, are available by calling Rebecca Webb at 824-9000 or email: rebecca@loving-shepherd.org

Saturday at the parlor city plaza

Greeting folks at the Parlor City Plaza Saturday morning will be representations of the Wells County Public Library as they promote summer reading and encourage folks to sign up to participate.

Vendors to be open for business, beginning at 9 a.m., will be Sunny Vibes Soaps, RL Woodworks, Brooke's Bow Boutique, Pressed IN, Country Homestead Baking, The One & Local, Divine Shine Jewelry, Two Sixty Home Goods and Nancy's Crafts.

Fort Wayne man charged with felony harassment of Jim Banks

By Whitney Downard
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Allen County prosecutors charged a Fort Wayne man with intimidation and harassment of Congressman Jim Banks after he allegedly threatened the elected representative and his family.

Aaron L. Thompson, born in 1989, called Banks' congressional office at least eight times — once on April 6 and seven times on April 11 — and left several threatening messages, according to a probable cause filing obtained by the Indiana Capital Chronicle.

Intimidation is a Level 6 felony in Indiana, carrying a possible sentence of between six months and 2 1/2 years in prison. Harassment is a Class B misdemeanor.

In an interview with the United States Capitol Police, Thompson admitted to being intoxicated and calling Banks because he disagreed with his political views. In his mes-

sages, Thompson said he owned a gun as allowed by the Constitution and told Banks to choose between himself or his daughters, according to the June 2 filing.

"Here's the choice. Your daughters grow up without their dad or you grow old without your daughters," Thompson allegedly said. "... boom, boom you pick ..."

To Banks specifically, Thompson said he hoped the representative died in a car crash or "(got) his brains blown out," in an expletive-filled series of messages.

He was arrested Friday after Allen County Prosecutor Mike McAlexander filed charges. The Allen County Superior Court held an initial hearing Tuesday morning and issued five "no contact" orders in the case — presumably for each member of the Banks family. Thompson's next court date is Aug. 2.

In a statement, Banks said, "The safety of my family is my top priority. I've been instructed to refer all questions about the ongoing criminal investigation to the Allen County Prosecutor's Office."

Wells County HazMat Day 2023

SAT., JUNE 10 • 8am – 1pm

Bluffton Middle School Parking Lot • 824-6470

Rid your property of

Household Items: Paints, flammable liquids, old gasoline, kerosene, pesticides, herbicides, motor oil, antifreeze, cleaners, aerosols, corrosive liquids/acids, mercury, fluorescent lamp and PCB ballasts, auto & household batteries.

Pharmaceuticals: Prescription drugs (in original labeled prescription container), sharps/needles (all sharps must be in sealed containers such as a milk jug or original packaging container).

Appliances: Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, stoves, washers, dryers, water heaters, dishwashers, microwaves.

Electronics: Monitors, CPU, keyboards, printers, fax machines, VCR/DVD, cell phones, cables.

The following charges will apply to these items:

Televisions: Standard \$200 • Large or Console: \$250

Tires: Auto Tires: up to 4 – FREE; \$200 for each additional, limit 12

Truck Tires: up to 4 – FREE; \$500 for each additional, limit 6

Tractor (or tires over 54" tall): \$750 ea. (Tires on rims will be accepted, additional charge \$100)

RESIDENTIAL ONLY – NO BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION DROP OFF

www.wellscounty.org

HIPAA rules confuse Hoosiers

Recent cases in Indiana have revealed the inconsistent and hard-to-decipher rules protecting patient records under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, known as HIPAA.

Hoosier Opinions

Since its inception in 1996, HIPAA has been politicized, weaponized and misunderstood by the health care industry, litigators and the general public.

Since 2000, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has updated HIPAA provisions repeatedly to offer guidance, simplify rules, define confidentiality and clarify enforcement. The advent of health records electronically accessibility has added to the challenges.

In Indiana, the most egregious and best example of the confusion has been the case of Dr. Caitlin Bernard, who was accused by Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita of violating HIPAA rules.

In 2022, Bernard treated a 10-year-old rape victim who was referred to her by an Ohio doctor. When questioned by a reporter, Bernard provided the age and home state of the victim but not the girl's name. In May, the Indiana Medical Licensing Board found Bernard liable for violating privacy laws and fined her \$3,000 but did not pull her medical license.

Granted, the attorney general's office has been vital in shutting down unscrupulous practices. But no case has been used as blatantly as the 10-year-old's plight to further a political agenda.

Indiana court cases related to HIPAA have involved a third party's ability to access a hospital paging system that contained patient information and another where a medical assistant accessed a woman's records to disclose them to the woman's husband. In yet another, an Indiana software company paid \$100,000 in 2019 to the HHS's Office of Civil Rights after hackers accessed protected health information for about 3.5 million people.

In April, the U.S. Government Accountability Office, exploring electronic health information, underscored the variations in state privacy laws.

First, there's misapplication of HIPAA, hindered by variations in state privacy laws.

Second, there's the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, which provided \$23.4 billion to participating states to improve electronic health information exchanges.

Under the latter, the accountability office found that electronic exchanges had increased for large hospitals. Yet small and rural providers had difficulty in obtaining technology. An accountability officer survey found that smaller acute-care hospitals (with 100 beds or fewer) on average received mail or faxes 54.5 percent of the time, compared to larger hospitals at 38.5 percent. About 28 percent of small hospitals used a vendor's network to store records; large hospitals were at 45 percent.

Lastly, the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement is intended to establish a countrywide medical records sharing system. However, the act requires participants to adhere to rules that are substantially similar to HIPAA, including participants who are not HIPAA-covered entities.

Talk about confusion. We live in an era when HIPAA forces a reevaluation of trust and respect between patient and doctor.

We don't want politicians to nudge their way into the patient-physician partnership. All we want is for licensed medical professionals to do their best to protect our health — and our privacy.

ANDERSON HERALD BULLETIN.



California's reparations debate adds to a plague of solemn silliness

San Franciscans step gingerly around the detritus of homelessness (feces, discarded drug paraphernalia), past volatile mentally ill derelicts and shuttered stores that are casualties of crime, especially all-but-legalized shoplifting. Residents of their picturesque but dystopian city know, however, that government is worrying about one problem: slavery. Which the state of California never had.

A 15-person city task force has made 111 recommendations, including \$5 million payments to certain eligible individuals. Because many disadvantages downstream from slavery, such as housing discrimination, are ascribed to it, degrees of victimhood must be negotiated. Particularly now that racial identities ("I identify as . . .") are even more fluid than genders, and multiply faster than pronouns.

Japanese Americans and Chinese Americans, who had many generations of terrible treatment in California, need not apply. But then, Soledad Ursúa, writing in City Journal, notes that Japanese American households lead the Los Angeles metro area in median net worth (\$592,000), and Chinese American households (median \$408,200) also lead White households (median \$355,000).

What is owed to African Americans who identify as multiracial (nationwide, more than 3 million)? Should descendants of the hundreds of thousands of White Union soldiers killed (by battle or disease) or maimed in the Civil War be exempt from paying reparations? Solomonic decisions must be made.

Some San Francisco politicians are disappointed by their constituents (although *not* the 7 percent of the city's residents who are registered Republicans). Many vociferous progressives are unenthusiastic about a reparations bill estimated (by Stanford's Hoover Institution) to cost \$200 billion, almost 30 times the city's 2022-2023 general fund budget of \$6.8 billion.

A relatively parsimonious California task force, whose final report is due this month, last year initially suggested \$223,200 (the \$200 was a whimsical touch) as recompense just for housing discrimination. A more recent figure is \$360,000 for all the state's Black residents who had enslaved ancestors. Although the total cost might be about three times the state's budget, a task force member who mints novel verbs is disappointed that the news media has focused on dollars and is "not able to nuance better."

Nationally, the reparations bidding has reached \$14 trillion (more than half the nation's GDP), that being the calculation by Rep. Cori Bush (D-Mo.) of the nation's bill for "reparatory justice" regarding slavery "and its



George Will

lasting harm." Evanston, Ill. — a college town, naturally: Northwestern University — has its own reparations program. Other progressive cities might practice what they preach, although the fun is the preaching part.

The Goldwater Institute's Matt Beienburg, writing in National Review, reports that thanks to the National Education Association, the largest teachers union, a school near you might soon teach "reparations math." Seventy-four percent of eighth-graders are not proficient in math, but first things first. The Pulitzer Center, which Beienburg says is "a curriculum partner of the New York Times' 1619 project," says

"two essential questions" are: "How does white rage fuel the racial wealth gap?" and "What are ways that the United States could begin to repair the harm of enslavement, Jim Crow, and other forms of wealth theft from Black Americans?" Among the "guiding questions" for teachers is this: "What patterns do we notice about violence and terrorism by White Americans against the Black middle class?"

Reparations are another example of a metastasizing phenomenon: solemn silliness. All calculations of costs are fanciful, depending as they do on capricious inclusions and exclusions of categories of people from access to the trough. The multibillion-dollar race industry ("diversity, equity, inclusion" consultants, governments' spoils systems of racial set-asides, etc.) involves some awkwardness. A piquant New York Times headline announces on page one: "Reparations Put Democrats in a Quandary." Do tell.

Progressives bandying the idea that the nation was born racist and remains so cannot tiptoe away from reparations without seeming insincere. Advocacy of reparations involves, however, the culminating denial of Blacks people's agency: Crippled by history, they necessarily have the status of permanent wards of government. The progressive vocabulary of "equity" says disparate social outcomes are definitionally the results of racism that is "systemic," therefore it is incurable until a new social system arrives. Meaning: never.

Some San Francisco officials hope that \$5 million payments to eligible individuals will slow the exodus of the city's Black residents. (The flight is part of the multihued flow from California: Between April 2020 and July 2022, the state's population declined by more than 500,000.) The payments might, however, subsidize Black flight to, say, Texas, a former Confederate state where taxes, housing costs and homeless rates are lower, job creation is higher and slavery ended a while ago.

georgewill@washpost.com.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, June 8, the 159th day of 2023. There are 206 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 8, 1864, Abraham Lincoln was nominated for another term as president during the National Union (Republican) Party's convention in Baltimore.

On this date:

In A.D. 632, the prophet Muhammad died in Medina.

In 1867, modern American architect Frank Lloyd Wright was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin.

In 1953, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that restaurants in the District of Columbia could not refuse to serve Blacks.

In 1966, a merger was announced between the National and American Football Leagues, to take effect in 1970.

In 1967, during the six-day Middle East war, 34 American servicemen were killed when Israel attacked the USS Liberty, a Navy intelligence-gathering ship in the Mediterranean Sea. (Israel later said the Liberty had been mistaken for an Egyptian vessel.)

In 1968, authorities announced the capture in London of James Earl Ray, the suspected assassin of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1978, a jury in Clark County, Nevada, ruled the so-called "Mormon will," purportedly written by the late billionaire Howard Hughes, was a forgery.

In 1995, U.S. Marines rescued Capt. Scott O'Grady, whose F-16C fighter jet had been shot down by Bosnian Serbs on June 2.

Surprise-Surprise! Iris!

"Surprise" was analogous to Angelkeep. The word and name go hand-in-hand as appropriately as peanut butter and jelly, ham and eggs, or yin and yang.

In the beginning, Angelkeep's forestry, shrubs and floral starts were hand-me-downs. Some were salvaged, near-dead (inexpensively reduced price) starts from the nursery. Family and friends offered opportunities to dig starts, each greatly appreciated and accepted.

Then God began to assist and unknown flora began popping up. Much of the unidentifiable had been allowed to grow for two to three years before identification could be made. By that time, regardless of the type of volunteer, they were allowed to remain. They were considered native. Plantings inspired by The Creator's perfect plan. Who was Angelkeep to become a destroyer of what God hath put asunder?

Oh, there were a few fruitless eradication attempts. When poison ivy first appeared, every powder and spray available was commandeered in the frontline attack. After a season or two, the sheer ridiculousness of combativeness against Mother Nature and God's chosen flora became apparent. Some things just had to be lived with. That's why God put glove manufacturing in the mind of mankind. Gloves were once mass produced by the millions in downtown Bluffton, Indiana. Perhaps Bluffton was God's chosen.

Now that would be identified by Opinion Page Editor Mark Miller as a digression.

A double surprise came to Angelkeep over the past year or so. While

Angelkeep Journals

hiking a nearly dry creek bed in a country setting, a patch of new growth suddenly appeared on rough ground that normally would have been covered with water. The young blade-like leaves were reminiscent of Angelkeep's small bed of bearded iris hybridized by E. B. Williamson, his daughter Mary, and comrade, local mail carrier, and self-made botanist Paul Cook. That local trio put Bluffton on the iris world stage. They were the genius hybridization minds behind the local Longfield Iris Farm.

On the creek hike, in an attempt to identify what appeared to be iris, some were dug. This required improvising a digging tool. A stick became a shovel, almost, with some success, some failure.

Surprise! What looked like iris leaves had small oval bulbs underground, not rhizomes like Angelkeep's iris. If they had grown, not bloomed, under shade of trees, in hard soil often flooded, would they grow at Angelkeep? Angelkeep relocated the hard-dug handful.

Surprise! One bloomed soon after planting. A very small flower resembled an iris variety known but not previously existent at Angelkeep. Surprise! They survived winter and continue to thrive in a sunny Angelkeep location.

In an attempt to learn more about the bloom believed to be Dutch iris, the



Alan Daugherty

name was googled. Surprise-Surprise! The No. 1 go-to website offered by Google was "Longfield." In disbelief the site had to be investigated. It turned out not to be a modern revisit of the deceased experts from Longfield Iris Farm, but instead it was Longfield Gardens of New Jersey.

With an email and phone number listed, it proved quite tempting to make contact with the question, "Where did you come by that name Longfield?" No need, it seemed surprisingly obvious.

Dutch iris are not as showy as bearded iris, but continue to be one of the world's popular blooms for florists. They have long stems, are easy to arrange, with longlivity. Don't Google longlivity, it's an Angelkeep-coined word that just caused Webster to turn over in his grave. With nobody owning a dictionary any longer Angelkeep felt it could make up any word desirable.

I know, Mr. Editor Miller, I digress, no surprise.

Surprise! Angelkeep followed Longfield Garden's directions long before reading them. "Dutch iris require well-drained soil. If you want to encourage the bulbs to perennialize, choose a planting location where the soil will be hot and dry during the summer months." New Jersey's Longfield called them orchid-like. What would Williamson's have said?

Surprise! "Perennialize" was Webster's word, not Angelkeep's.

Many consider Dutch iris an annual, only under ideal conditions will they return for a second year.

Surprise-Surprise!

Mr. Daugherty is a Wells County resident who, along with his wife Gwen, enjoy their backyard and have named it "Angelkeep."

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.

Learning and fellowship with their Maryland hosts

I awoke and glanced around the room. The soft purple nightlight glowed over the sleeping children. We were in Maryland staying at the home of the Imran Razvi family, where we had come to spend a couple days to learn more about caring for little hearts who have gone through adoption.

I crept out of bed and carefully pulled back the shade. The scene meeting my eyes brought even a deeper sense of tranquility. Dozens of sheep contentedly grazed in the fields, horses munched their breakfast, and beyond were amazing mountains. I soaked in the day-break beauty.

Austin, my morning bird, was the first to be awake. It didn't take him long to get dressed and out to the kitchen. He was back in no time with a glowing report. "Mom, they've got waffles!"

"Did they know how much we enjoyed their waffles last time we were here?"

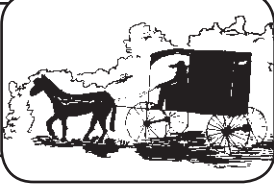
"No, but when I saw them making it, I told them I had been hoping we'll have waffles again at their house!"

By 8:30 all six children were ready for the day with their beds made.

I stepped into the kitchen to an amazing treat- A wholesome breakfast was prepared and ready for all of us.

After breakfast the children

The Amish Cook
by Gloria Yoder



were off to play. Us adults usually didn't make it away from the table for an hour or two as we asked questions and enjoyed many good discussions. My natural concept is that children have lots to learn, but then, aren't we the ones to learn first?

I was amazed how most questions pertaining to children and relationships were answered with simple Bible passages and things they as a family have faced. I sorted, prayed, and stored the tidbits as we went throughout the day.

The children romped in the barn, watched the peacock display its feathers, gathered eggs, and helped with the sheep. There was not a dull moment in sight. Joshua loved the two litters of baby kittens and kept asking to hold a duckling. Hosanna, who loves taking care of baby animals, was impressed with the vast variety of animals. Then the moment she found out about their youngest daughter's doll collection, she was occupied for hours.

I felt myself relaxing on even deeper levels, the children were happy and thriving in this new surrounding and I wasn't the only

adult in the house.

Butchering animals is the norm at our house, but processing a goat was something I had never done. I watched with fascination as one of the girls skinned a goat from their herd, wondering how it might taste.

We only had a day to find out. The next evening the meat had gone through a cooling and marinating process, then baked. Believe it or not, it was delicious; I went for my second helping.

Each night at 8:30 everyone gathered in the living room for family worship. Imran led in prayer and read a passage of Scripture then we sung a hymn together. It reminded me so much of the times Daniel would lead out in our home before his passing. Heading for bed that first night it dawned on me that I was actually eager to wake up the next morning; something I have not felt so much since Daniel went to be with Jesus.

Learning how to walk on a grief journey has many dimensions. When the subject came up, I was spellbound, soaking in what was being shared. The importance of facing the pain and being sad was mentioned, right along with the depth of God's deep provision IF we surrender to it.

"Knowing that Jesus loves you will be the biggest key," Tammi encouraged.

Imran's statement grabbed my full attention. "You needed Daniel,

but you need God more." Those words stuck like glue. That was it. While Daniel was here, I needed him beyond measure. Now I need God even more; God is here and he will never die!

Day 3 sped upon us and we were soon heading back to the airport. I was ready to face life at home and continue caring for the children God has given us.

Whether we are born or adopted into a family, the One who created us will care for us no matter what. This fruit smoothie is similar to what the Razvi children made to eat on top of their pancakes. It was something new for us, which we found tasty and refreshing. Use your imagination in tweaking fruits to suit your taste.



The Amish Cook column will celebrate 32 years this summer. In celebration, order five of our favorite Amish cookbooks through the years: The Original Amish Cookbook, The Best of the Amish Cook, Vol 1, The Best of the Amish Cook, Vol 2, The Amish Recipe Project, and The Amish Cook's Everything But the Kitchen Sink Book. All books are softcover and approx. 200 pages.

Order the 5 book bundle in June for \$75. Price for all five books is usually \$125. The \$75 includes shipping. Additional sets can be ordered for \$30 per set. Orders accepted by check at: Oasis News-features, P.O. Box 157, Middletown, Ohio 45042 or visit rhw www.amish365.com/books website. Allow 3 weeks for delivery.

Delicious Summer Smoothies

- 16 ounces vanilla yogurt
 - 3 cups frozen strawberries
 - 1 1/4 cup frozen blueberries
 - 2 peaches frozen, diced
 - 1 1/2 cups grape juice concentrate
 - 1/4 cup sugar optional
- Put frozen fruit in a blender. Add yogurt. Add optional honey or maple syrup. Add grape juice concentrate. Blend at highest setting for 3-5 minutes. Serve cold.

Editor's Note: In case you missed it, there is one more week to order the five cookbook book bundle anniversary special.

59th Annual 2023 Huntington Heritage Days

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS:
\$1.50 EACH OR 20 FOR \$25

WRISTBAND DAYS
FRIDAY, JUNE 16, \$25
SATURDAY, JUNE 17, \$25
SUNDAY, JUNE 18, \$17



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

- 7 P.M. - Little Miss & Junior Miss Heritage Days Pageant
- 5 P.M. - 10 P.M. - Poor Jack Amusements

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

- 8 A.M. - 54th Chief of the Flint Springs Tribe Breakfast
- 5 P.M. - 7 P.M. - Rotary Strawberry Feed
- 7 P.M. - Huntington Erie Community Band Concert
- 5 P.M. - 10 P.M. - Poor Jack Amusements

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

- 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. - Quilt Show
- 4 P.M. - 11 P.M. - Poor Jack Amusements
- 5 P.M. - 9 P.M. - Heritage Days Car, Truck & Bike Show
- 5:15 P.M. - Junior Achievement (JA) 4th Annual Duck Race

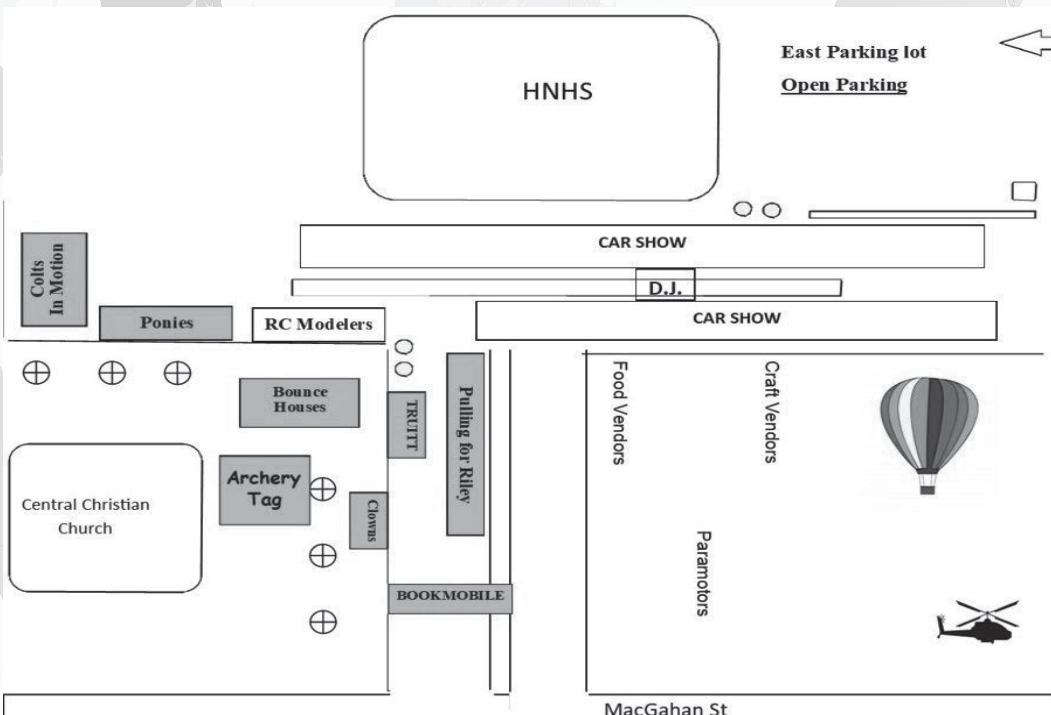
SATURDAY, JUNE 17

- 7 A.M. - 10 A.M. - Annual Biscuit, Sausage and Gravy Breakfast
- 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. - Ranch Horse and Pleasure Show
- 9:30 A.M. - Running Towards Great Futures 5K
- 10 A.M. - 12 Noon - 59th Annual Heritage Days Parade
- 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. - Quilt Show
- 11 A.M. - 2 P.M. - Nelson's Chicken
- 12 NOON - 11 P.M. - Poor Jack Amusements
- 3 P.M. - 8 P.M. - 18th Annual Huntington County Disaster Team Car & Truck Show
- 4 P.M. - 4th Annual Cornhole for Cancer Tournament
- 5 P.M. - Pulling for Riley - Kiddie Tractor Pull
- 5 P.M. - 8 P.M. - Bicycle Helmet Giveaway
- 5 P.M. - 8 P.M. - 'Colts in Motion'
- 5 P.M. - 10 P.M. - Hot Air Balloon Festival
- 5 P.M. - 8 P.M. - Kids Zone - FREE
- Dusk - Balloon Glow

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

- 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. - Ranch Horse and Pleasure Show
- 12 NOON - 4 P.M. - Quilt Show
- 12 NOON - 5 P.M. - Poor Jack Amusements
- 1 P.M. - 5 P.M. - "Bear Hunt"
- 5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. - JeFFest
- 6:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. - S'mores & Chores

WHERE TO FIND THINGS!



HERITAGE POINT OF WARREN

It's All About Living

Rehabilitation (outpatient & inpatient) • Healthcare Independent Living • Assisted Living • Memory Care

www.LifeAtHeritage.org

WAYNE METALS

400 East Logan St., Markle, IN

260-758-3121

Come See Us for Your CBD Oil Needs

R Warren Pharmacy

(260)375-2135

Nature's Sunshine Distributor

222 N. Wayne St., Warren • 1-800-895-7035

Terry Daniels, Pharmacist • Melinda Daniels, RN

TROUBLED? TRY PRAYER!

deweeseappliance.com

DeWeese

SOFTWATER & APPLIANCES

We Service All Appliances

1-800-356-4440 • 231 N. Wayne St., Warren

50 Myers FUNERAL HOMES

Markle • 758-2121 | Huntington • 356-2400

www.myersfuneralhomes.com

www.NessBros.com

NESS BROS. REALTORS & AUCTIONEERS

3344 Mallard Cove Ln., Fort Wayne (260) 459-3911

519 N. Jefferson St., Huntington (260) 356-3911

3095 Van Horn St., Zanesville

(West on 224 to 300 W., Turn right (heading north) 6 miles)

(260)638-4123

Lengerich MEATS

LOCALLY SUPPLIED
LOCALLY OWNED

Mon-Wed 9-5pm
Thurs-Fri 9-6pm
Sat 8-1pm

Forbes 2023 America's Best Temporary Staffing Firms

Pro Resources Staffing Services

Affordable Living Surrounded by Elegance

La Fontaine Center An RHF Community

208 W. State St. Huntington, IN

260.356.9099

TDD: 1.800.545.1833

The person below has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations implementing section 504 (24 CFR, part 8) dated June 2, 1988) Nari Escandon, 504 Coordinator, Long Beach, CA 90815 / 562-257-5100 / TDD (800)545-1833 ext. 359



Egg drop kids

Top left, are Wednesday's egg drop engineers with their contraptions. Each child was given the opportunity to test two different methods to protect their eggs from a two-story drop. Above, Zeke Smith smiles with his egg, which made it through the drop in one piece. At left, Lane McClure (left) and Korbin Fritts (right) work on their egg drop devices with assorted recycled materials.

NYC goes after Hyundai, Kia after security flaw leads to wave of social media fueled theft

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN**
AP Business Writer

New York City has filed a lawsuit against Hyundai and Kia, joining a host of other cities beset by a social media fueled wave of car thefts due to a flaw that made some car models highly susceptible to theft.

Viral how-to videos on TikTok and other sites show how to start the cars using only USB cables and a screwdriver. The reason is that some models sold by Hyundai and Kia in the U.S. came without engine immobilizers, a standard feature on most cars since the 1990s that prevent the engine from starting unless the key is present.

The lawsuit, which was filed with the U.S. District Court in the Southern District of New York late Tuesday, alleges that Hyundai Motor America and Kia America Inc. failed to keep up with other automakers by not adopting immobilizer technology that ensured cars could not be started without their keys.

"Hyundai's and Kia's business decisions to reduce costs, and thereby boost profits, by foregoing common anti-theft technology have resulted in an epidemic of thefts," the lawsuit states.

The city claims the vehicle thefts are straining the resources of its police department, as well as negatively impacting public safety and emergency services.

The New York City police department reports that about 287 Kias were stolen last year, compared

with approximately 119 in 2021. Approximately 415 Hyundais were reported stolen in 2022, compared with 232 a year earlier. And the problem has continued, with an estimated 977 Hyundai and Kia vehicles reported stolen in the first four months of this year. There were only 148 such thefts in the same months last year.

New York, the nation's biggest city by population, joins a growing list of cities going after the carmakers following a raft of thefts, including Baltimore, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Milwaukee, San Diego and Seattle.

New York City, which is seeking a trial by jury, is requesting an order providing for abatement of the public nuisance Hyundai and Kia have created or contributed to, compensation for the economic losses suffered as a result of the nuisance and injunctive relief.

Hyundai says it's committed to ensuring the quality and integrity of its products.

"A subset of Hyundai vehicles on the road in the U.S. today — primarily "base trim" or entry-level models — are not equipped with push-button ignitions and immobilizing anti-theft devices. It is important to clarify that an engine immobilizer is an anti-theft device and these vehicles are fully compliant with federal anti-theft requirements," the automaker said in a written statement.

Hyundai made engine immobilizers standard on all of its vehicles made from November 2021 onward.

The company also said that it's speaking with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on the actions it is taking to assist its customers.

"Lawsuits filed by municipalities against Kia are without merit. Like all Kia vehicles, these specific models are subject to and comply fully with the requirements outlined in applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, including FMVSS 114 that governs theft protection measures," Kia said in a prepared statement.

The company said it has been working with law enforcement agencies in New York City to combat car theft and the role social media has played in encouraging it.

"We remain committed to supporting our customers and to vehicle security," Kia said.

Last month Hyundai and Kia reached a settlement to resolve a class-action lawsuit prompted by a surge in vehicle thefts.

The settlement could be valued at \$200 million and covers about 9 million 2011-2022 model year Hyundai and Kia vehicles in the U.S., the companies said at the time.

The settlement will provide cash compensation to customers who suffered theft-related losses or damage not covered by insurance — as well as reimbursement for insurance deductibles, increased insurance premiums and other losses, Kia and Hyundai said.

Online Directory

Check out these websites of local & area companies and businesses.

DAZEY'S SUPPLY dazeys.com/bluffton-in	ABOVE & BEYOND Vehicle Reconditioning abovebeyondrecon.com	Goodwin Cole & Harvick MEMORIAL CHAPEL A Tradition of Caring thegmcfamily.com
JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE jcsgaragedoor.com	Daniel's JEWELERS daniels-jewelers.net	KELLY'S COLLISION CENTER, INC. Over 20 Years of Quality 820 W. Washington Street, Bluffton kellysautocollision.com
FISHER'S GARAGE DOORS fishersgaragedoors.com	3RIVERS 3riversfcu.org	Myers FUNERAL HOMES A Friend of the Family myersfuneralhomes.com
STEFFEN GROUP REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS steffengroup.com	STEFFEN Financial Group steffinancial.com	MOSER & SON Heating & Air Conditioning 219 E. Perry St. Bluffton Find Us On Facebook
Riverstone DENTAL riverstonedental.net	Bluffton Tire blufftontire.com	HERITAGE POINTE COMMUNITIES www.lifeheritage.org
INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING icav.us	HIDAY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP hidaymotors.com	Edward Jones EdwardJones.com
State Farm Erin Daugherty 260.827.0527 www.MyBlufftonSFAgent.com myblufftonsfagent.com	Lengerich MEATS lengerichmeats.com	Jerry Flack & Associates jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com
La Fontaine Center A RHF Community lafontainecenter.org	HOME COURT HOME CARE homecourthomecare.com	Still Waters FAMILY DENTISTRY stillwatersfamilydentistry.com
Bi-County Services of Adams & Wells County bi-countyservices.com	Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home thomarich.com	NBDigital nb-digital.com

Have a Website? Tell the World!

Ask for our latest Website visitor statistics!
The power of print and the Internet, working for you! Call 824-0224 for more information.

LSM
Loving Shepherd Ministries

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

JOHN FULLER

RIPPLES FROM HOME

Join us for a banquet dinner with guest speaker, **John Fuller, Vice President of Audio for Focus on the Family** and co-host of "Focus on the Family Broadcast" with President, **Jim Daly**, which reaches millions of weekly listeners. Through heartfelt stories and Scripture, John will encourage you to faithfully follow God and create a ripple effect for Christ that will eternally impact others!

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023

Event & Dinner 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Purchase Tickets by June 14th

LSM EVENT CENTER

1935 N. Main Street / Bluffton, IN

PURCHASE TICKETS AT: loving-shepherd.org/johnfuller or 260.824.9000

MLB, WNBA postpone games due to smoke from Canadian wildfires

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With the stench of smoke permeating Yankee Stadium and wafting through its walkways, Major League Baseball postponed games in New York and Philadelphia on Wednesday night because of poor air quality caused by Canadian wildfires.



A National Women's Soccer League game in New Jersey and an indoor WNBA game set for Brooklyn were also called off Wednesday amid hazy conditions that have raised alarms from health authorities.

The New York Yankees' game against the Chicago White Sox was rescheduled as part of a doubleheader starting at 4:05 p.m. on Thursday, and the Philadelphia Phillies' game against the Detroit Tigers was reset for 6:05 p.m. on Thursday, originally a day off for both teams.

"These postponements were determined following conversations throughout the day with medical and weather experts and all of the impacted clubs regarding clearly hazardous air quality conditions in both cities," MLB said in a statement.

The National Weather Service issued an air quality alert for New York City, saying: "the New York State Department of Health recommends that individuals consider limiting strenuous outdoor physical activity to reduce the risk of

adverse health effects." In Philadelphia, the NWS issued a Code Red.

The Yankees and White Sox played through a lesser haze on Tuesday night. A day later, stadium workers and fans arriving early to the ballpark wore face masks for protection in a scene reminiscent of the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It was business as usual for me coming in. I got in around 12, 12:30, and didn't really think too much of it," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "I actually walked outside about 2 o'clock and was like — like everyone else, like — whoa."

White Sox manager Pedro Grifol thought MLB made the right decision postponing the game.

"These are health issues, right? So this has got to be it. We've been through everything — snow, rain, hail. I don't think I've been through something like this," he said. "Today at one point, it was pretty bad out there. We walked out of the dugout and it was kind of orange. They did the right thing. They got all the information."

"I'm assuming if Major League Baseball is comfortable setting up a doubleheader tomorrow, they have some type of information that it should be better than what it is today, or at least safe."

In Philadelphia, the Phillies beat the Tigers 1-0 on Tuesday

night in a game played in hazy conditions with the smell of smoke in the air. Afterward, manager Rob Thomson and his Phillies players said the conditions didn't affect them.

About a half-hour before Wednesday's postponement, Thomson said he thought the game would be played. But the Philadelphia skyline could not be seen from the ballpark in the afternoon, and the smoky smell remained.

Minor league teams nearby also changed plans. The Yankees' Triple-A affiliate at Scranton/Wilkes-Barre in Pennsylvania, and the Mets' top farm club in Syracuse, New York, postponed their games for the second consecutive night.

The Mets' High-A affiliate in Brooklyn completed a game Wednesday against Greenville that began at 11 a.m.

The WNBA called off a game between the Minnesota Lynx and New York Liberty, saying the decision was made to "protect the health and safety of our fans, teams and community." A makeup date wasn't immediately announced.

Even inside Barclays Center at the morning shootaround, reporters could smell smoke in the arena.

The NWSL postponed Orlando's match at Gotham in Harrison, New Jersey, from Wednesday night to Aug. 9.

"The match could not be safely conducted based on the projected air quality index," the NWSL said.

At nearby Belmont Park, the New York Racing Association said training went on as planned Wednesday ahead of Saturday's Triple Crown horse race. However, NYRA canceled training Thursday morning at Belmont and Saratoga Race Course upstate "due to poor air quality conditions forecast to impact New York State overnight and into Thursday morning."

NYRA said a decision about Thursday's live racing program, scheduled to begin at 3:05 p.m., will be made Thursday morning "following a review of the air quality conditions and forecast."

"NYRA utilizes external weather services and advanced on-site equipment to monitor weather conditions and air quality in and around Belmont Park," spokesman Patrick McKenna said Wednesday. "Training was conducted normally today, and NYRA will continue to assess the overall environment to ensure the safety of training and racing throughout the Belmont Stakes Racing Festival."

New York's NFL teams, the Giants and Jets, both had Wednesday off from offseason workouts. The Giants had been planning to practice inside Thursday, and the Jets said they are also likely to

work out indoors Thursday.

Youth sports in the area were also affected, with parents quick to voice concern about their children's safety outdoors.

In a statement Wednesday, the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association said schools should understand that all schedules were subject to change.

"NJSIAA is closely monitoring air quality data across New Jersey and local/state health advisories. As start times for athletic events draw near, we will make decisions for each venue and sport based on currently available information," the organization said.

It's not the first time in recent years that wildfires forced changes to the MLB schedule. A two-game series in Seattle between the Mariners and Giants was moved to San Francisco in September 2020 because of poor air quality caused by West Coast wildfires.

About an hour after Wednesday night's game at Yankee Stadium was postponed, two fans visiting on vacation from Vancouver, British Columbia, were still lingering.

"It's just circumstances. What do I say? It makes me disappointed because this is one of the highlights of the trip," said Malcolm, who was in town with his daughter and didn't want to give his last name.

"I have a heart condition. That's the only reason I'm wearing two masks and whatever. And my personal thought is that, why wasn't it canceled two days ago? Because we knew about all this two days ago. But having said that, I don't want the players running around and putting out in this, too. It can't be good for them."

Colts keep Rodgers out of practice as NFL investigates gambling allegations

By The Associated Press
Indianapolis Colts cornerback Isaiah Rodgers Sr. did not practice with his teammates Wednesday.

It's also unclear when — or if — he'll return.

Two days after team officials acknowledged they were aware of an NFL investigation into gambling allegations about a player, Rodgers was held out.

Neither the Colts nor the league have publicly identified Rodgers as the target of the investigation though Rodgers posted a statement on Twitter saying he made an "error in judgment" — hours after media reports linked him to the investigation.

"Like I said, it's an ongoing investigation," first-year head coach Shane Steichen said when asked whether Rodgers will continue to sit out until there's a ruling. "I think anytime something like this comes up, you've got to push it aside and move on. The players have done good so far."

The 25-year-old Rodgers was a sixth-round draft pick out of UMass in 2020. He was entering the final year of his rookie contract and the Florida native was expected to compete for a starting job after Indy traded Stephon Gilmore to Dallas during the offseason.

Rodgers started nine times in 15 games last season and had 34 tackles. His best season came in 2021 when he had 49 tackles, three interceptions and seven passes defended — all career bests. He has generally been regarded as the Colts' fastest player.

While it's unknown whether addi-

tional Colts players may come under scrutiny, the NFL sent a team to Indianapolis this week to reiterate the league's gambling policy. Steichen said the meeting was part of an annual visit that was arranged before details of the investigation went public.

The Indiana Gaming Commission has a regularly scheduled meeting next Thursday, but a spokeswoman for the commission said the NFL investigation is not on the agenda.

"We have received information pertaining to this matter and are following developments," a statement from the agency read. "The IGC is not the lead agency on this matter, as it involves alleged violations of a league policy. We will, however, continue to review information as it emerges to determine what, if any, regulatory actions are necessary."

Clearly, it's the NFL and officials from other sports will wrestle with this issue now that legalized sports betting has become prevalent in so many states.

In April, five NFL players were suspended for violating the league's gambling policy. Four were on the Detroit Lions roster and three — receivers Quintez Cephus and Stanley Berryhill and safety C.J. Moore — have been released. Cephus and Moore were suspended indefinitely for betting on NFL games while Berryhill drew a six-game suspension. Lions receiver Jameson Williams, the No. 12 overall pick in the 2022 draft, remains with the Lions despite drawing a six-game suspension for his gambling activity.

The other player involved, Washington Commanders defensive end Shaka Toney, also was suspended indefinitely.

Those suspensions came in the wake of last year's season-long suspension for former Atlanta Falcons receiver Calvin Ridley. He was reinstated in March and now plays for Jacksonville Jaguars.

It's also not the first major gambling issue for Indiana or the Colts.

Last month, Bert Eugene Neff, the father of a Cincinnati Bearcats baseball player, allegedly placed large bets on an Alabama-LSU baseball game. It resulted in the firing of Crimson Tide coach Brad Bohannon. Neff lives in Mooresville, Indiana, on the southern side of Indianapolis.

In 1985, the Colts released quarterback Art Schlichter amid rumors he had continued gambling following a previous 13-month suspension. Schlichter was the No. 4 overall draft pick in 1982 and never played in another NFL game.

And if the news, the investigation, the NFL meeting or the absence of a teammate from practice didn't send the proper message to Colts players, Rodgers' apology might.

"I know I have made mistakes and I am willing to do whatever it takes to repair the situation," he wrote Monday. "The last thing I ever wanted to do was to be a distraction to the Colts organization, my coaches, and my teammates. I've let people down that I care about."

"I made an error in judgment and I am going to work hard to make sure that those mistakes are rectified through this process. It's an honor to play in the NFL and I have never taken that lightly. I am very sorry for all of this."



Isaiah Rodgers

High School Calendar

THURSDAY, JUNE 7
BOYS GOLF: (regional) Norwell at The Players Club at Woodland Trails, 8 a.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8
No events scheduled.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10
BASEBALL: (semi-state semi-final) Norwell vs. Andean at Oak Hill High School, 2 p.m. (semi-state final at 8 p.m.)

Swiss Days Race now open for registration

The Swiss Days Race will take place in downtown Berne at 8:15 a.m. Saturday, July 29. People interested in the 5K race can sign up now at RunSignUp.com and search for "Swiss Days Race."

If registered by July 19, members will get a commemorative shirt.

Following the race will be a one-mile race for kids 11 and under and is set to start around 9:15. The top 10 runners in each age group will receive awards.

Refreshments will be available to all racers after they finish.

Reds' De La Cruz hits 1st homer, Dodgers' skid at 4 with loss

CINCINNATI (AP) — Elly De La Cruz hit a 458-foot drive for his first major league homer and Will Benson hit a game-ending home run in the ninth that lifted the Cincinnati Reds over Los Angeles 8-6 on Wednesday night and extended the Dodgers' losing streak to a season-high four.

De La Cruz hit an 0-1 fastball from Noah Syndergaard in the first inning that left the bat at 114.8 mph and landed into the last rows of the right-field stands at Great American Ball Park. The two-run homer tied the score 2-2.

A day after making his big league debut, the 21-year-old switch-hitter had the second-hardest-hit home run by a player 21 or younger since Statcast started tracking in 2015, behind only Toronto's Vladimir Guerrero Jr. at 115.9 mph on Aug. 21, 2020.

De La Cruz played shortstop a day after manning third. He tripled on a curveball in the third as part of a 2 for 4 night, a drive that went to the wall in right-center on four hops. He reached third in 10.83 seconds, the fastest time in the major leagues this season, according to Statcast. It was the second-fastest since the start of the 2020 season behind 10.75 seconds for Arizona's Corbin Carroll last Oct. 3.

Cincinnati overcame a 6-2 deficit in a four-run third on Jonathan India's sacrifice fly, Spencer Steer's RBI single and Tyler Stephenson's two-run homer.

TJ Hopkins reached on an infield single in the ninth and Benson homered off Evan Phillips (1-2), giving Cincinnati its second straight walk-off win and a three-game winning streak. Benson became the third Cincinnati player with a walk-off for his first home run after Jay Bruce on May 31, 2008, and Drew Stubbs on Aug. 20, 2009.

Alexis Diaz (2-1) struck out two in a perfect ninth. Cincinnati helped itself with four stolen bases.

Mookie Betts hit his 42nd leadoff homer, his sixth this season, and Muncy added an RBI single against Brandon Williamson in a two-run first. Betts has 16 home runs this season.

Miguel Vargas' second-inning homer put the Dodgers ahead 3-2 and Will Smith added a two-run homer in a three-run third that included Vargas' RBI double.

Syndergaard allowed six runs and seven hits in three innings, raising his ERA to 7.16. He has given up five runs or more in three straight starts.

Players at Women's World Cup to get at least \$30,000 in prize money; winners get \$270,000

By GRAHAM DUNBAR
AP Sports Writer

GENEVA (AP) — Every player at the Women's World Cup will be paid at least \$30,000 by FIFA, and the 23 players in the title-winning team will each get \$270,000.

The details confirmed Wednesday by FIFA fulfills a promise made in March to financially reward the 732 players taking part in the July 20-Aug. 20 tournament hosted by Australia and New Zealand.

It means more than half of FIFA's total prize money fund of \$110 million must be paid to the players in the 32 team squads.

Players from the 16 teams which do not advance from the group stage are still

guaranteed to get \$30,000 — more than the annual salary many get from their clubs.

FIFA said it is making "a huge investment in women's football and, for the first time ever, we are guaranteeing prize money for players."

The \$110 million pool is more than three times the \$30 million prize fund FIFA paid out at the 2019 Women's World Cup in France.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said at its annual congress in Rwanda that money should go directly to players.

The players' union FIFPRO had challenged FIFA to secure a "global guarantee" that 30% of the prize money would go to players.

"Players are united

behind simple yet concrete demands for greater professionalization of the FIFA Women's World Cup," FIFPRO said in March.

The 16 nations exiting in the group stage will get a total of \$2.25 million from FIFA — \$690,000 to shares among the players and \$1,560,000 for the federation.

FIFA will pay \$10.5 million to the title-winning nation. The majority of that, \$6.21 million, will be distributed among the players with the remaining \$4.29 million going to the federation.

FIFA previously allocated \$30.7 million in total to help the 32 teams prepare for the tournament. The players' clubs will also get

daily-rate payments from a \$11.5 million fund for releasing them to national-team duty.

It adds up to \$152 million in FIFA payments compared to \$50 million for the tournament four years ago.

Infantino has set a target of equal prize money for men and women at their next World Cups in 2026 and 2027, respectively. The 32 national federations whose teams played at the men's 2022 World Cup in Qatar shared \$440 million in FIFA prize money.

Infantino has cited getting a better commercial deal for women's soccer as the reason for publicly pushing broadcasters in key European markets to raise their offers for tournament rights.

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

FINALS
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
Denver 1, Miami 1
Thursday, June 1: Denver 104, Miami 93
Sunday, June 4: Miami 111, Denver 108
Denver 109, Miami 94
Friday, June 9: Denver at Miami, 8:30 p.m.
Monday, June 12: Miami at Denver, 8:30 p.m.
x-Thursday, June 15: Denver at Miami, TBA
x-Sunday, June 18: Miami at Denver, TBA

Oakland 11, Pittsburgh 2	35	28	.556	3
Boston 5, Cleveland 4	30	32	.484	7½
Texas 6, St. Louis 4	29	32	.475	8
Milwaukee 4, Baltimore 3, 10	25	36	.410	12
innings				
Seattle 4, San Diego 1	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Angels 7, Chicago Cubs 4	34	28	.548	
Wednesday's Games	32	29	.525	1½
Oakland 9, Pittsburgh 5	29	33	.468	5
San Diego 10, Seattle 3	26	34	.433	7
Miami 6, Kansas City 1	26	37	.413	8½
Tampa Bay 2, Minnesota 1	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto 3, Houston 2	37	25	.597	
Cleveland 5, Boston 2	35	27	.565	2
Milwaukee 10, Baltimore 2	30	30	.500	6
St. Louis 1, Texas 0	29	33	.468	8
Chicago Cubs at L.A. Angels, late	26	36	.419	11
Detroit at Philadelphia, p.p.d.	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago White Sox at N.Y. Yankees, p.p.d.	37	25	.597	
Thursday's Games	35	27	.565	2
Minnesota (Ober 3-2) at Tampa Bay	30	30	.500	6
(Glasnow 0-0), 1:10 p.m.	29	33	.468	8
Baltimore (Bradish 2-2) at Milwaukee	26	36	.419	11
(Rea 3-3), 2:10 p.m.	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago White Sox (Lynn 4-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Severino 0-1), 4:05 p.m., 1st game	37	25	.597	
Detroit (Holton 0-0) at Philadelphia	35	27	.565	2
(Wheeler 4-4), 6:05 p.m.	30	30	.500	6
Chicago White Sox (Clevinger 3-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Vásquez 0-1), 7:05 p.m., 2nd game	29	33	.468	8
Houston (Valdez 6-4) at Toronto	26	34	.433	7
(Berríos 5-4), 7:07 p.m.	26	37	.413	8½
Boston (Dermody 0-0) at Cleveland	W	L	Pct	GB
(Civale 1-1), 7:10 p.m.	37	25	.597	
Chicago Cubs (Smyly 5-3) at L.A. Angels (Detmers 0-5), 9:38 p.m.	35	27	.565	2
Friday's Games	30	30	.500	6
Arizona at Detroit, 6:40 p.m.	29	33	.468	8
Texas at Tampa Bay, 6:40 p.m.	26	34	.433	7
Boston at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.	26	37	.413	8½
Kansas City at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.	37	25	.597	
Houston at Cleveland, 7:10 p.m.	35	27	.565	2
Miami at Chicago White Sox, 8:10 p.m.	30	30	.500	6
Oakland at Milwaukee, 8:10 p.m.	29	33	.468	8
Seattle at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.	26	34	.433	7

Miami 35, 28 .556 3	Chicago Cubs (Smyly 5-3) at L.A. Angels (Detmers 0-5), 9:38 p.m.	
New York 30, 32 .484 7½	Friday's Games	
Philadelphia 29, 32 .475 8	Arizona at Detroit, 6:40 p.m.	
Washington 25, 36 .410 12	L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 7:05 p.m.	
Central Division		
W L Pct GB	N.Y. Mets at Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.	
Milwaukee 34, 28 .548	Washington at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.	
Pittsburgh 32, 29 .525 1½	Miami at Chicago White Sox, 8:10 p.m.	
Cincinnati 29, 33 .468	Oakland at Milwaukee, 8:10 p.m.	
Chicago 26, 34 .433 7	Cincinnati at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.	
St. Louis 26, 37 .413 8½	San Diego at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.	
West Division		Chicago Cubs at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.
W L Pct GB	National League	
Arizona 37, 25 .597	MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Sent L. Jesse Winker to Nashville (IL) on a rehab assignment. Reinstated SS Willy Adames from the 7-day IL. Optioned INF Bryce Turang to Nashville.	
Los Angeles 35, 27 .565	PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Sent OF Cal Stevenson outright to Lehigh Valley (IL).	
San Francisco 30, 30 .500	SAN DIEGO PADRES — Designated OF David Dahl for assignment. Sent DH Nelson Cruz to El Paso (PCL) on a rehab assignment. Optioned LHP Adrian Morejon to El Paso (PCL).	
San Diego 29, 33 .468	WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Recalled RHP Cory Abbott from Rochester (IL). Designated RHP Erasmo Ramirez for assignment. Assigned RHP Andres Machado to Rochester.	
Colorado 26, 36 .419	Minor League Baseball	
Tuesday's Games		
Philadelphia 1, Detroit 0	Atlantic League	
Miami 6, Kansas City 1	LONG ISLAND DUCKS — Signed OF Alejandro De Aza. Placed LHP Stephen Tarpley on the disabled list.	
Oakland 11, Pittsburgh 2	Frontier League	
Atlanta 6, N.Y. Mets 4	GATEWAY GRIZZLIES — Signed RHP Ben Krizan.	
Arizona 10, Washington 5	SCHAUMBURG BOOMERS — Released RHP Ben Strahm.	
Cincinnati 9, L.A. Dodgers 8	BASKETBALL	
Texas 6, St. Louis 4	Women's National Basketball Association	
Milwaukee 4, Baltimore 3, 10	DALLAS WINGS — Signed G Odyssej Sims to a rest-of-season hardship contract.	
innings		
San Francisco 10, Colorado 4	FOOTBALL	
Seattle 4, San Diego 1	National Football League	
L.A. Angels 7, Chicago Cubs 4		
Wednesday's Games		
Oakland 9, Pittsburgh 5		
San Diego 10, Seattle 3		
Miami 6, Kansas City 1		
Arizona 6, Washington 2		
Cincinnati 8, L.A. Dodgers 6		
Milwaukee 10, Baltimore 2		
Atlanta 7, N.Y. Mets 5		
St. Louis 1, Texas 0		
San Francisco at Colorado, late		
Chicago Cubs at L.A. Angels, late		
Detroit at Philadelphia, p.p.d.		
Thursday's Games		
L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 7-4) at Cincinnati (Ashcraft 3-4), 12:35 p.m.		
San Francisco (Cobb 5-2) at Colorado (Anderson 0-0), 3:10 p.m.		
Detroit (Holton 0-0) at Philadelphia (Wheeler 4-4), 6:05 p.m.		
N.Y. Mets (Verlander 2-3) at Atlanta (Strider 6-2), 7:20 p.m.		

BASEBALL

American League

East Division				
Tampa Bay	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	45	19	.703	
New York	37	24	.607	6½
Toronto	36	26	.581	8
Los Angeles	35	28	.556	9½
Boston	31	31	.500	13
Central Division				
Minnesota	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	31	31	.500	
Detroit	28	33	.459	2½
Chicago	26	33	.441	3½
Kansas City	27	35	.435	4
West Division	18	44	.290	13
Texas	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	40	21	.656	
Los Angeles	36	26	.581	4½
Seattle	32	30	.516	8½
Oakland	30	31	.492	10
Philadelphia 1, Detroit 0	14	50	.219	27½
Tampa Bay 7, Minnesota 0	Tuesday's Games			
Miami 6, Kansas City 1	Philadelphia 1, Detroit 0			
Toronto 5, Houston 1	Tampa Bay 7, Minnesota 0			
Chicago White Sox 3, N.Y. Yankees 2	Miami 6, Kansas City 1			
	Toronto 5, Houston 1			
	Chicago White Sox 3, N.Y. Yankees 2			

National League				
East Division				
Atlanta	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	37	24	.607	

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

FINALS
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
Vegas 1, Florida 0
Saturday, June 3: Vegas 5, Florida 2
Monday, June 5: Vegas 7, Florida 2
Thursday, June 8: Vegas at Florida, 8 p.m.
Saturday, June 10: Vegas at Florida, 8 p.m.
x-Tuesday, June 13: Florida at Vegas, TBA
x-Friday, June 16: Vegas at Florida, TBA
x-Monday, June 19: Florida at Vegas, TBA

TRANSACTIONS

Wednesday's Transactions
BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Sent RHP Jimmy Lambert to Charlotte (IL) on a rehab assignment.
DETROIT TIGERS — Sent RHP Beau Brieske to West Michigan (ML) on a rehab assignment.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Placed RHP Josh Staumont on the 15-day IL, retroactive to June 6. Recalled LHP Austin Cox from Omaha (IL).
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Recalled OF Jo Adell from Salt Lake (PCL). Placed OF Hunter Renfroe on the paternity list.
NEW YORK YANKEES — Placed OF Aaron Judge on the 10-day IL, retroactive to June 4. Transferred RHP Ryan Weber from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL. Selected the contract of OF Billy McKinney from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Placed RHP Calvin Faucher on the 15-day IL, retroactive to June 6. Recalled RHP Luis Patino from Durham (IL).
National League
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Sent L. Jesse Winker to Nashville (IL) on a rehab assignment. Reinstated SS Willy Adames from the 7-day IL. Optioned INF Bryce Turang to Nashville.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Sent OF Cal Stevenson outright to Lehigh Valley (IL).
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Designated OF David Dahl for assignment. Sent DH Nelson Cruz to El Paso (PCL) on a rehab assignment. Optioned LHP Adrian Morejon to El Paso (PCL).
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Recalled RHP Cory Abbott from Rochester (IL). Designated RHP Erasmo Ramirez for assignment. Assigned RHP Andres Machado to Rochester.
Minor League Baseball
Atlantic League
LONG ISLAND DUCKS — Signed OF Alejandro De Aza. Placed LHP Stephen Tarpley on the disabled list.
Frontier League
GATEWAY GRIZZLIES — Signed RHP Ben Krizan.
SCHAUMBURG BOOMERS — Released RHP Ben Strahm.

Browns' Deshaun Watson feeling confident, less burdened a year after NFL suspension

By TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer
BEREA, Ohio (AP) — The uncertainty shrouding Deshaun Watson has lifted along with the intense scrutiny about his personal life.
There's a tightness and velocity to his passes these days, and a noticeable change in his demeanor — on and off the field. There's an ease about him.
Nearly one year removed from his NFL suspension, Cleveland's quarterback looks different.
"I feel really good," Watson said Wednesday after the Browns completed their second minicamp practice. "The biggest thing is the confidence level, knowing who I am, trusting what I do, trusting the work that I put in these past couple years to get back to this position I'm in."
His confidence is back and football seems fun again for Watson, who was forced to sit out 11 games last season

for violating the league's personal-conduct policy for sexual misconduct after two dozen women accused him of inappropriate behavior during massage therapy sessions.
Now that most of his legal troubles are past — two civil lawsuits against him remain active — Watson is focused on trying to shake off any lingering rust, get back among the top passers in the AFC and move the Browns into contention.
If the past two days were any indication, Watson is gaining momentum on all those fronts.
The three-time Pro Bowler dazzled during 7-on-7 drills, firing precision passes while spreading the ball around and connecting with some of the new offensive targets the Browns added during the offseason to complement Watson's varied skillset.
It would be easy to dismiss his accuracy due to the absence of a pass

rush and the Browns playing in shorts and not pads, but Watson made throws only a handful of QBs around the league could possibly match.
There is good. And then there is elite. "My boy's slinging that (stuff)," said tight end David Njoku, who was on the end of a Watson laser for a TD during red zone drills. "He looks great. He's locked in. The energy's there. Every single ball he's thrown is precise on the money, so that excites me as well as the rest of the team. We're all excited."
Last week, offensive coordinator Alex Van Pelt said on one of Watson's throws he "literally got goosebumps."
Watson's performance in the final six games following his suspension raised some concern the Browns overreached with their \$230 million investment in him. He went 3-3, but Watson didn't make many of the jaw-dropping plays that defined much of his stay with Houston.



NASCAR CUP SERIES
Toyota / Save Mart 350
Site: Sonoma, California.
Schedule: Saturday, practice, 5 p.m., and qualifying, 6 p.m.; Sunday, race, 3:30 p.m. (FOX).
Last race: Pole-sitter Kyle Busch held off former teammate Denny Hamlin in a two-lap dash to the finish at World Wide Technology Raceway for his third victory of the season.
Next race: June 25, Nashville, Tennessee.
NASCAR XFINITY SERIES
DoorDash 250
Site: Sonoma, California.
Schedule: Friday, practice, 4:05 p.m.; Saturday, qualifying, 3 p.m., and race, 8 p.m. (FS1).
Last race: Cole Custer took the lead on an overtime restart on the road course at Portland and won for the first time this season, edging Justin Allgaier.
Next race: June 24, Nashville, Tennessee.
NASCAR TRUCK SERIES
Last race: Grant Enfinger outran Christian Eckes in a two-lap overtime at World Wide Technology Raceway to become the third multiple race-winner of the season.
Next race: June 23, Nashville, Tennessee.
FORMULA ONE
Last race: Two-time defending series champion Max Verstappen started from the pole position and was never challenged in Spain, his fifth win of the season and the seventh for Red Bull in as many races. Seven-time series champion Lewis Hamilton matched his best finish of the season, running second, and his Mercedes teammate, George Russell, was third.
Next race: June 18, Montreal, Canada.
INDYCAR
Last race: Alex Palou led 74 of the 100 laps, took the lead for keeps on Lap 77 and won in the series' return to the streets of Detroit, his second victory in less than a month. The 2021 series champion also expanded his points lead to 51 ahead of Marcus Ericsson.
Next race: June 18, Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin.
NHRA DRAG RACING
Last event: Not completed because of weather; to be completed as part of event in Bristol, Tennessee on June 9 and 10.
Next event: June 9-11, Bristol Tennessee.
WORLD OF OUTLAWS
Next events: June 9-10, Knoxville, Iowa.

INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS
AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING

UTV

Marine

Motorcycle Sound Systems

Rockford Fosgate

(260) 724-2276
1421 Manchester St., Decatur
1/2 block west of U.S. 27 North
www.icav.us

PRECISION SERVICE
Family, Farm and Fleet Vehicle Repair
FLEET ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE
0520 S. Decker Dr.
Bluffton

"The Quality Service You Deserve!"
260-824-9149

Bluffton Tire Inc.
1308 S. Main St.
Bluffton

10% OFF Discontinued Closeout Tires
1-260-824-0418

Don't Gamble When It Comes To Your Car's Maintenance!

You're always a winner with our service professionals.

HIDAY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP
CHRYSLER-DODGE-JEEP-RAM CHEVROLET
1791 N. Main St., Bluffton 1743 N. Main St., Bluffton
260-824-1931 • 888-824-0901 260-824-0900 • 800-824-0901
www.hidaymotors.com

Service with a Smile!

Barry Scott Service Manager
Mark Foreman Service Consultant
Marion Wells Service Consultant

Hiday Motors
1743 N. Main St., Bluffton • 824-0900

Public Notices

Town of Ossian, Indiana
Notice of Receipt of Bids
Project: Town of Ossian CCMG 2023-1 Street Improvements ("Project").
Summary: On segments of Hickory Lane, Homestead Avenue, Lavefer Street, Young Street and Brook Court in Ossian, Indiana, the Project shall generally consist of pavement milling and resurfacing, curb ramp replacement, sidewalk construction, erosion control, and surface restoration. All qualified Contractors are invited to bid the work.
General Plans and Specifications: Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.questcdn.com. Quest CDN will serve as the Issuing Office and maintain the plan holder list. Digital Bidding Documents may be downloaded for a non-refundable fee of \$22 by inputting Quest project number QuestCDN eBidDoc #8510740 on the website's projects search page. Please contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952.233.1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in membership registration, downloading, and working with digital project information. No paper copies will be provided by the Owner.
Pre-Bid Meeting: Beginning at 1:00 p.m., on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, a pre-bid meeting will be held at the Ossian Town Hall, 507 N. Jefferson Street, Ossian, Indiana 46777. Prospective bidders are strongly encouraged to attend.
Bids: All bids must be submitted to the Town of Ossian by 11:00 a.m., Thursday, June 29, 2023, to be considered for the work. Bids submitted prior to 10:45 a.m. on June 29, 2023, shall be submitted at the Ossian Town Hall, 507 N. Jefferson Street, Ossian, IN 46777. Bids submitted after 10:45 a.m. on June 29, 2023, must be delivered to the Ossian Town Council meeting location at Collier's Comfort, 215 N. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN. Bidders are responsible for the timely delivery of their bids. All bids shall be in sealed envelopes bearing the Project title, "Town of Ossian CCMG 2023-1 Street Improvements", and include the name and address of the bidder. All bids shall include fully completed and executed Contractor's Bid for Public Work- Form 96 and E-Verify and Iran Investment Certification. Bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond or certified check equal to 5% of the bid amount. Bids arriving after the time set will be returned unopened and only complete bids with all required materials will be considered.
Review and Consideration: All bids timely received shall be publicly opened and read aloud at Collier's Comfort, 215 N. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN at 11:00 a.m., June 29, 2023. The Town of Ossian, Indiana, reserves the right to reject all bids, waive defects and amend the Project's scope. It is anticipated that the Ossian Town Council will take bids received under advisement and that a determination may be made by July 10, 2023.
By: Crystal Chapman, Town Manager
Town of Ossian, Indiana
oj, nb 6/1, 6/8 hspaxlp

CITY OF BLUFFTON, INDIANA

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Project: Interurban Trail – Phase 2, NLT 3-12
Summary: The City of Bluffton intends to construct a 10' wide asphalt pedestrian trail from Monroe Street to Lancaster Park. The work includes, but not limited to, clearing right of way, asphalt trail construction, driveway improvements, signal improvements, erosion control and site restoration as specified in the Contract Documents. All applicable laws, ordinances, and the rules and regulations of all authorities having jurisdiction over the project shall apply to the project throughout.
General Plans and Specifications: Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.questcdn.com. Quest CDN will serve as the Issuing Office and maintain the plan holder list. Digital Bidding Documents may be downloaded for a non-refundable fee of \$22 by inputting Quest project number QuestCDN eBidDoc #8555064 on the website's projects search page. Please contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952.233.1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in membership registration, downloading, and working with digital project information. No paper copies will be provided by the Owner.
Pre-Bid Meeting: Will be held at 10:30 am local time on Tuesday June 20, 2023 at 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana in the Parks Department Room. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.
Bids: Sealed bids for Interurban Trail – Phase 2 will be received by the City of Bluffton, Indiana at the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana, until 4:30 p.m., on the 27th day of June 2023. The Clerk will not accept any late filing regardless of reason, including delays in the mail or delivery.
Bidders are responsible for the timely delivery of their bids. All bids shall be in sealed envelopes bearing the Project title, "Interurban Trail – Phase 2, NLT 3-12", and include the name and address of the bidder. Each Bidder is responsible for inspecting the Project site and for reading and being thoroughly familiar with the Contract Documents and Specifications. The failure or omission of any Bidder to do any of the foregoing shall in no way relieve any Bidder from any obligation with respect to its Bid.
Bids not accompanied by certified check or bidder's bond, signed Form 96 Non-Collusion Affidavit, E-Verify and No Iran Investment, Hold Harmless Agreement, Employee Drug testing program, public works projects certification of Qualifications, and any other documents requested to be included in the Notice to Bidders will not be considered.
Each Bid shall be accompanied by a certified check or acceptable bidder's bond made payable to the city, in a sum of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount of the proposal, which check or bond will be held by the city as evidence that the bidder will, if awarded a contract or contracts, enter into the same with the city notification to him to do so within ten (10) days of said notification. COPIES OF CHECKS, BONDS OR ANY DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
No bid shall be withdrawn after the bid opening date without the consent of the City for a period of thirty days.
Review and Consideration: The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at a regular meeting of the Board of Works on June 27, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. local time. The City of Bluffton, Indiana reserves the right to reject all bids, waive defects and amend the Project's scope. The Bidder shall furnish to the Owner all such information and data for this purpose as the Owner may request. The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such Bidder fails to satisfy the Owner that such Bidder is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the Agreement and to 00 11 13-2 construct the project. It is anticipated that the City of Bluffton will take bids received under advisement and that a recommendation of award may be made at the Board of Works July 11, 2023, meeting.
By: Brandy Fiechter, Bluffton Parks Department
City of Bluffton, Indiana
nb 6/8, 6/15 hspaxlp

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF WELLS)
) IN THE WELLS
) CIRCUIT COURT
) CAUSE NUMBER:
) 90C01-2305-GU-000012
IN THE MATTER OF)
THE GUARDIANSHIP OF:)
XAVIER LUCAS AYERS,)
An Incapacitated Adult)
NOTICE OF FILING OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT
OF GUARDIAN AND
HEARING THEREON
TO: Neil Ayers
On July 7, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Circuit Court of Wells County, 102 West Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana, the Court will hold a hearing to determine whether a guardian should be appointed or a protective order should be issued for Xavier Lucas Ayers. The purpose of this proceeding is to protect Xavier Lucas Ayers. A copy of the petition requesting appointment of a guardian or for the issuance of a protective order is attached to this notice. At the hearing the court will determine whether Xavier Lucas Ayers is an incapacitated person or minor under Indiana law.
If the Court finds that Xavier Lucas Ayers is an incapacitated person or minor, the Court at the hearing shall also consider whether Amber N. Ayers should be appointed as guardian of Xavier Lucas Ayers. The Court may, in its discretion, limit the powers and duties of the guardian to allow Xavier Lucas Ayers to retain control over certain property and activities. The Court may also determine whether a protective order should be entered on behalf of Xavier Lucas Ayers.
Xavier Lucas Ayers may attend the hearing and be represented by an attorney. The petition may be heard and determined in the absence of Xavier Lucas Ayers if the Court determines that the presence of Xavier Lucas Ayers is not required. If Xavier Lucas Ayers attends the hearing, opposes the petition, and is not represented by an attorney, the Court may appoint an attorney to represent the alleged incapacitated person or minor. The Court may, where required, appoint a guardian ad litem to represent Xavier Lucas Ayers at the hearing.
The Court may, on its own motion or on request of any interested person, postpone the hearing to another date and time.
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court
Distribution:
David G. Crell nb 6/1, 6/8, 6/15 hspaxlp

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF WELLS)
) IN THE WELLS
) CIRCUIT COURT
) CAUSE NUMBER:
) 90C01-2305-GU-000012
IN THE MATTER OF)
THE GUARDIANSHIP OF:)
XAVIER LUCAS AYERS,)
An Incapacitated Adult)
NOTICE OF FILING OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT
OF GUARDIAN AND
HEARING THEREON
TO: Tawny Boyd
On July 7, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Circuit Court of Wells County, 102 West Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana, the Court will hold a hearing to determine whether a guardian should be appointed or a protective order should be issued for Xavier Lucas Ayers. The purpose of this proceeding is to protect Xavier Lucas Ayers. A copy of the petition requesting appointment of a guardian or for the issuance of a protective order is attached to this notice. At the hearing the court will determine whether Xavier Lucas Ayers is an incapacitated person or minor under Indiana law.
If the Court finds that Xavier Lucas Ayers is an incapacitated person or minor, the Court at the hearing shall also consider whether Amber N. Ayers should be appointed as guardian of Xavier Lucas Ayers. The Court may, in its discretion, limit the powers and duties of the guardian to allow Xavier Lucas Ayers to retain control over certain property and activities. The Court may also determine whether a protective order should be entered on behalf of Xavier Lucas Ayers.
Xavier Lucas Ayers may attend the hearing and be represented by an attorney. The petition may be heard and determined in the absence of Xavier Lucas Ayers if the Court determines that the presence of Xavier Lucas Ayers is not required. If Xavier Lucas Ayers attends the hearing, opposes the petition, and is not represented by an attorney, the Court may appoint an attorney to represent the alleged incapacitated person or minor. The Court may, where required, appoint a guardian ad litem to represent Xavier Lucas Ayers at the hearing.
The Court may, on its own motion or on request of any interested person, postpone the hearing to another date and time.
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court
Distribution:
David G. Crell nb 6/1, 6/8, 6/15 hspaxlp

Follow us at...
twitter.com/newsbanner

Companies clueless on need for bereavement time

Dear Annie: My daughter was 14 weeks pregnant when the baby died. The nurse midwives, who were wonderful, sent her home to have the miscarriage and told her it could take up to two weeks to "be complete."

I was surprised and extremely saddened by how she was treated by her supervisor at work. She is a professional engineer, and when she called her supervisor to explain why she would not be coming into work, she was told she could have three sick days, but after that, she would need to take vacation time. REALLY? And this was another woman.

After my daughter and I discussed the situation, she applied, and was approved, for benefits from the Family and Medical Leave Act, but the mental damage had been done. To all of us, this was a child. My daughter had known she was pregnant for more than three months, and, as a mother, was devastated when her baby died.

As the grandmother, I also called my office to explain the situation — that I would be staying with my daughter, and I was told by my supervisor that she would put me down for vacation/sick time, and, if need be, for me to call back and she would change it to bereavement. Again, REALLY? When I called back several days later to say the baby had come and we were planning a funeral and burial, my time off was changed. But again, why did it take two phone calls and a second extended explanation?

What is wrong with people? Shouldn't we both just have been told how sorry they were and what, if any, paperwork would need to be filled out? How can the death of a baby be a vacation? — Surprised and Saddened Grandmother

Dear Grandmother: I am so sorry for the loss of your grandchild. I can feel how much you and your daughter loved this baby. You are 100 percent

correct that her employer and your supervisor should have been much more sensitive to both of you. Try not to allow their insensitivities to further your pain. Clearly they have not experienced such a loss and don't know the depths of your sorrow.

Now is the time for you and your daughter to surround yourselves with warrior women — women who have experienced a similar loss and know what it feels like to live in a world where you lost a baby or a grandchild. This child would want you both to feel loved and comforted. Heal for the baby.

There are readers who are reading this letter with tears in their eyes, sharing your grief. Go and hug your own daughter a little tighter today. Tell her that she, too, is strong and will survive this terrible loss.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Educated by Others." I'm a retired teacher with 31 years of being in a wonderful profession. I used to tell my classes at the start of each school year that when you talk, you teach. When you listen, you learn. Just another view. — Always a Teacher

Dear Teacher: Thank you for your insightful tip for not only students but also those of us who are students of life.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

© 2023 CREATORS.COM

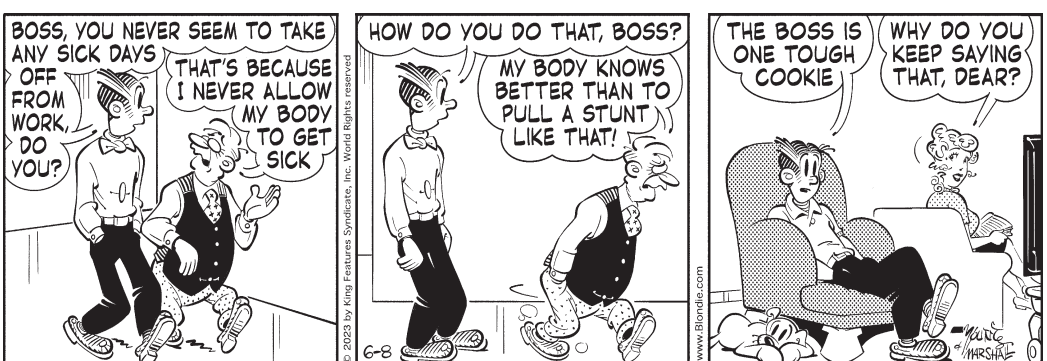
Dear Annie by Annie Lane



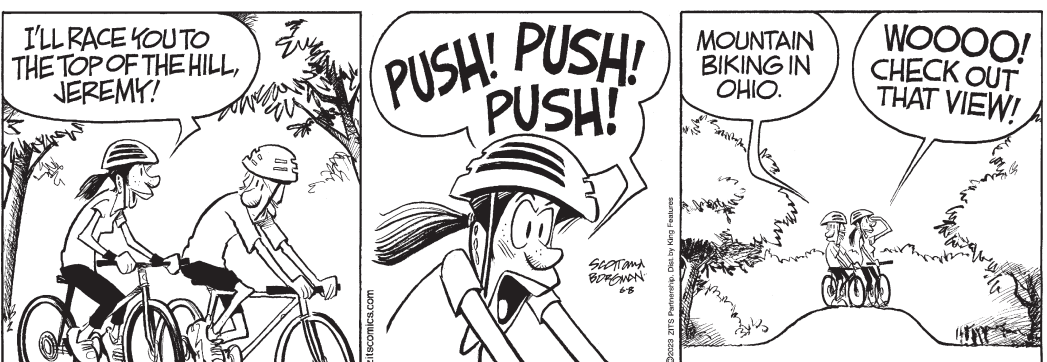
BEETLE BAILEY



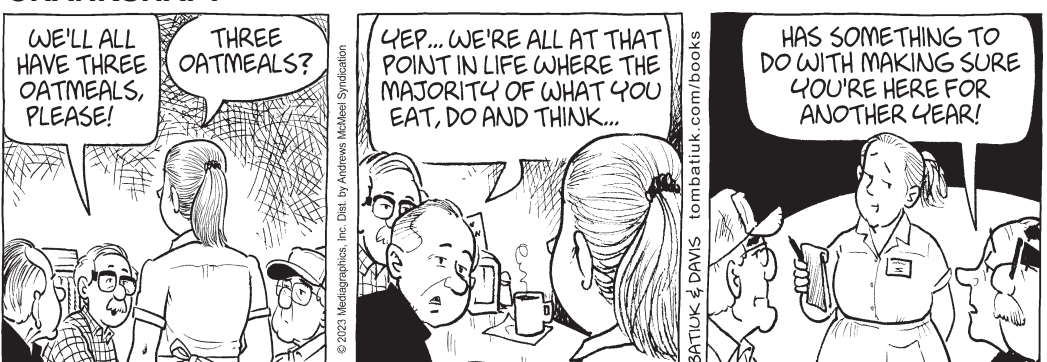
BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



God knows our need for rest and relaxation

We may well have fallen into the trap of empty, meaningless activity. God entrusts to us each day to use for His glory. This is true for working years, and is equally true for retirement years.

What, then, is the key to a successful retirement? Retirement isn't something that just happens if we live long enough; it's a gift from God. Understanding this helps us have a more fulfilling approach to this season of life.

As Christians, we should never retire from doing the work of the Lord. The Bible says, "That those who live should not live for themselves, but for Him who died for them" (2 Corinthians 5:15). God knows

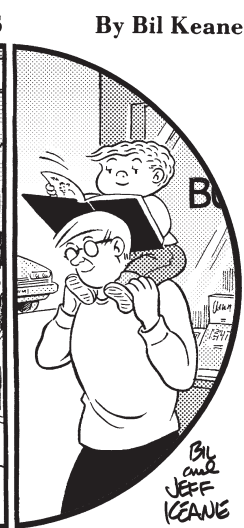
how each person is gifted. He knows each person's needs and limitations and He brings opportunities to serve Him in various ways. If we don't seek God's will for how to spend retirement, we can drift aimlessly along, assuming our usefulness is over and running after every whim, to squeeze as much enjoyment out of remaining years of life. "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10).

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

©2023 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.



BUY IT SELL IT RENT IT FIND IT FILL IT GET IT DO IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS! Place Your Ad 24/7/365! www.news-banner.com



BUY IT SELL IT RENT IT FIND IT FILL IT GET IT DO IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS! Place Your Ad 24/7/365! www.news-banner.com

"IF YOU WANT THE LATEST GOSSIP, LORETTA'S BEEN VERIFIED."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-8 crossword puzzle grid with clues.

Table with 24 columns (chapters) and 24 rows (programs). Columns include 06:08, M, A, D1, D2, 5 PM, 5:30, 6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30, 12 AM, 12:30. Rows list various TV programs and their corresponding channels.

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

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

Difficulty: ★★★

6/8

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Help Wanted



CONSTRUCTION CAREERS- ALL SKILL LEVELS AT JACKSON CONSTRUCTION With our continued growth, we're seeking to hire hard-working local team members for several commercial & industrial construction-related roles. These include skilled carpenters and laborers in masonry, carpentry and steel erection. All skill and experience levels will be considered with a good work ethic and an interest to work in the field at our various construction sites around the region. These are full time positions with paid benefits, competitive wages, tool allowance and matching 401k. All with a company where we recently celebrated our 75th anniversary. Come join our team! Please send resume to hireme@jjacksonco.com, or call our office in town at (260) 824-0918 to get a job application. www.jjacksonco.com

PART-TIME LANDSCAPER, HOUSE cleaner, odd jobs, 260-565-3780.

NEED MORE EMPLOYEES?

Place a 20 word, six day line classified ad for \$24.50. Add a graphic or photo for an additional \$5. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner, 260-824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., submit online at www.news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 01-09-21-27-28
Lotto Plus — 01-17-22-25-34-44
Cash4Life — 09-10-18-24-37, Cash Ball: 02
Quick Draw Midday — 01-03-12-14-15-16-18-20-27-39-45-47-48-59-62-68-69-71-75, BE: 03
Daily Three-Midday — 04-06-08, SB: 05
Daily Three-Evening — 05-04-02, SB: 05
Daily Four-Midday — 05-06-01-05, SB: 05
Daily Four-Evening — 01-08-03-03, SB: 05
Quick Draw Evening — 05-08-11-17-25-28-31-35-37-42-46-53-56-66-67-68-72-73-76-80, BE: 53
Hoosier Lotto — 01-05-08-19-38-39
MEGA MILLIONS
 Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$240 million
POWERBALL
 16-21-29-53-66 Powerball: 02; Power Play: 5X

Help Wanted



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

WANTED: A DEPENDABLE driver to work and haul Amish crew. Company will furnish van. Call 260-450-3649.

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.

AMERICA'S BEST VALUE Inn & Suites, 100 Charles Deam Court, Bluffton, has immediate openings for front desk & housekeeping, full & part-time positions available, hourly rate of \$10+. Apply in person.

Help Wanted

OFFICE CLEANING, PART-TIME, 3 nights a week in Bluffton. Extra income job. Perfect for retirees or couples. Call 260-749-6532.

HELOISE HINT: Attending a job interview? Be thoroughly prepared and ready to describe your skills and history in a focused and concise way. Have several effective lines that are short and powerful. Send your job-success story to Heloise, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001

REAL ESTATE

Home For Sale

5 BEDROOM, 2 bath, Peneto home, 2+ acres, several out-buildings, many updates, Southern Wells School District, \$325,000, 260-273-1607.

Read & recycle

June GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY



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

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.

Motorcycles



2019 CAN AM Ryker Rally 900 Ace. 4,900 miles. Garage kept. Fully Automatic. Reverse, One owner. No trades please. \$9,000. Call 1(260) 827-7491. Bluffton.

FOR SALE

Pets

MINI DACHSHUND PUPPIES 2 chocolate and tan males and 2 chocolate tan females will be ready on 1st week june 1st shots worming vet checked due claws removed playful \$450 mom and dad on site 260-701-0666 andryyan121@hotmail.com



FRENCH BULLDOG PUPPIES 14 weeks- full AKC, all shots etc Facebook- Perfect French bulldogs 260-307-3490 angela46992@yahoo.com <https://m.facebook.com/groups/281436650673060/?ref=share&mbextid=S66gvF>

HELOISE HINT: If you hear your kitty meowing loudly, pay attention. Check to see if your cat got accidentally locked in a room or if they need water, food or access to a litter box. If the meowing is urgent, it could be an emergency. Write to Heloise, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001.

EMPLOYMENT Help Wanted

THE TOWN OF Ossian is taking application for a General Maintenance Worker. Employee is to perform a variety of custodial and maintenance duties in order to maintain and repair Town facilities, equipment, property, streets, parks, water & sewer utilities. Employee reports to the Town Manager. Please pick up application: Ossian Town Hall, 507 N Jefferson, Ossian, IN 46777, 7 am to 3:30 pm.



BIDDING STARTS CLOSING JUNE 9 - 10 a.m. EST - Secured creditors and various consignors, owners. Online only truck & equipment auction! Offering 300+ lots! 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, dump trucks, day cabs, utility trucks, utility trailers, SUV's, pickup, 100+ various skid steer attachments, 40' shipping container, tents, work benches/tool boxes & more! Truck & equipment preview: Contact our office to set up appointment. Pick up: June 12 & 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 815 Adams Street, Decatur, IN. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.
BIDDING NOW OPEN & STARTS CLOSING JULY 11 - 6 p.m. EST - Brittany & Ryan Kemp, owners. 317 W. Wabash, Bluffton. Online only real estate auction! 1,744+- sq. feet, 3 bed, 2 full bath, slab, 16'x17' detached garage, .15 acre lot, Zoned: Residential, M.S.D. Bluffton-Harrison Schools, Harrison Township, Section 4, Wells County, Indiana. Open house: June 20, 5-6 p.m. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.
JUNE 18-JUNE 25 - (ONLINE ONLY AUCTION) - Various consignors, seller. Outstanding line of machinist tooling, lathes, 1st Edition Machinery's Hand Book, 5-ton presses, metal cutting saw, vintage and handmade fishing lures, collection of vintage rod & reels, vintage toys, wooden boat, canoe, 1950's Massey Harris 44 gas tractor, lawn roller, heavy duty engine hoist, antiques, collectibles, glassware, modern furniture. Preview: June 15 and June 22 from 3-6 p.m. 102 S. Jefferson St. Ossian, IN. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.
JUNE 19-JUNE 23 - (Online Only Auction) - Golfo Di Napoli Realty, LLC, seller's. 7916 South Warren Road, Warren, IN. "State of the Art Organic Cheese Manufacturing Facility." Tract 1: Modern 31,000 SF manufacturing building with retail area on 40+- acres. Tract 2: Complete line of Italian cheese processing equipment. Tract 3: Combination of Tract 1 and 2. Brandon Steffen, sale manager, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, (260) 824-3006.
BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING JUNE 25 STARTING AT 4 PM EST - Multiple Consignors, owner. Online only consignment auction! 1,000+ lots! Featuring furniture, household items, glassware, collectibles, antiques, TV's, silver coins, tools, guns, Amazon return items, (18) 20.00 gold pieces & much more! Auction Preview: June 22, 3-5 p.m., 815 Adams Street, Decatur, IN. Pick Up times: June 26, 1-6 p.m. & June 27, 9 a.m.-noon. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

SERVICES

Services

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

This Week's Garage Sales

Clip & Save

5753 S GRAPE ST. PONETO Power Wood Tools, L&G Tools, Miscellaneous Tools, All Major Kitchen Appliances, Serving Dishes & Various Kitchen Items, Golf Cart, Gas Grill Jun. 08 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, Jun. 09 9:00 AM-3:00 PM 9:00 AM- Rain or Shine

755 MAPLE ST (RIVERVIEW ADDITION) GARAGE SALE Friday June 9th 8-4 and Saturday June 10th 8-12. Kids items: books, toys, clothing, some movies, women's clothing, house decor, misc items. Jun. 09 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Jun. 10 8:00 AM-12:00 PM Rain or Shine

MOVING SALE, 312 W. Wabash, June 9 and 10, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Cabinets, chairs, DVDs, Legos, toys, men's clothes, pans, craft materials, aquarium and much more.

2385 N SHADY LN NORTH OAKS ADDITION. PAPER CRAFTING SALE Scrapbooking, card making, paper, stamping up, ribbons, embellishments, inks, storage, greeting cards, 31, vera & more Jun. 09 9:00 AM-5:30 PM Rain or Shine

HELOISE HINT: When you drive by garage sales taking place in your community. Look for the one with the most customers and cars. This is the one where you'll most likely find the best deals. Email HELOISE@Heloise.com.

SUDOKU ANSWER

9	8	7	2	9	1	8	7	6
1	2	9	1	6	8	7	8	9
1	6	8	9	7	8	9	2	1
2	9	1	8	1	9	6	8	7
8	7	1	8	7	6	1	9	9
8	9	6	7	1	9	8	1	2
9	1	2	1	8	7	9	6	8
7	1	9	6	8	1	2	9	8
6	8	8	9	2	1	7	1	1

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

YOUR LOCAL AGENTS, HERE FOR YOU.



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

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

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

As a resident of the Wells County community for decades, Attorney, Gerret J. Swearingen, 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, Swearingen 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

SWEARINGEN 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!

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

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!

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

The Golden Dog training & boarding
 "MAKING DOGS GOLDEN SINCE 2019"
 260-273-9973
Pupslovethedog.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

J&F Wood Working
 Custom Cabinet New Construction Remodel
 Custom Wood Working of Any Kind.
 260-223-4243

YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEWS-BANNER Every Day!
 For as little as ... **\$123** PER ISSUE
 Plus The Ossian Journal Every Week!
 ... you can keep your name in the public eye!
 Increase your business with regular advertising!
 Call 824-0224 or 622-4108
 July deadline is Tues., June 27!