

# The News - Banner

www.News-Banner.com

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

## Library board fields comments on display policy



Erin Butcher speaks with the Wells County Public Library board regarding potential changes to their book display policy. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
Recent discussions about book displays in the Wells County Public Library brought a full crowd of spectators to the WCPL regular board meeting Tuesday.  
The board is considering amendments to its policy regarding book displays to create a clear guidelines about appropriate themes and materials for display. Namely, this discussion has included LGBTQ materials and Pride Month themes.  
Multiple attendants expressed that this action was being interpreted as an attack against many diverse communities within the county, not limited to LGBTQ individuals. Public comments were heard from 12 individuals for roughly 40 minutes.  
"I believe it's important to see yourself reflected in your own community, and that an inclusive and functional community would not work to alienate any group within it," said Jennifer Kirnec.  
"A revision like this would do just that to library patrons that are LGBTQ, myself included. It sends a message of indifference and exclusion on the surface, but also touches on a broader message of prejudice and hatred towards any individual that does not fall into a very narrow category of Christian fundamentalism."  
Similarly, Marin Reinhard, a 12-year-old student at Norwell Middle School, said she wanted the library to continue to feel like a safe environment for people from all backgrounds.  
"My family is a multiracial family and we want the library to be a safe place for everyone," Reinhard said. "We love the library — and especially me because I love reading. We just want it to be a safe place, and we want everybody to feel loved and heard and seen."  
Bob Johnson was the only person who spoke in favor of restriction.  
(Continued on Page 2)

## Common Council gets report on firefighting fleet

**By DAVE SCHULTZ**  
Mike Wilbur of Emergency Vehicle Response wasn't sure how he would be received at Tuesday night's special meeting of the Bluffton Common Council.  
After all, when he first made contact with the Bluffton Fire Department in January, he sidelined four of the department's newest vehicles for being overweight.  
While the situation has been somewhat rectified — two of the vehicles were still under warranty and were returned to the manufacturer — Wilbur understands that the department is struggling with the vehicles in its fleet.  
Tower 1, the department's aerial truck, is now down for maintenance as tires and hydraulic cylinders are replaced.  
Wilbur prides himself in being blunt, being quick to quote the signature statement by the Joe Friday character in the old "Dragnet" TV show — "just the facts" — he knew a lot of what he was bringing to Tuesday night's meeting wasn't exactly what anybody wanted to hear.  
For instance, the standard age that a fire truck should be retired is 20. The average age of the BFD's fleet is 15.5.  
When the newer vehicles that have since been removed



Mike Wilbur of Emergency Vehicle Response, right, speaks during Tuesday night's special meeting of the Bluffton Common Council. Also pictured are Fire Chief Don Craig, foreground; Mayor John Whicker; and council member Josh Hunt. (Photo by Dave Schultz)

from the fleet are omitted from the calculation, the average age of the fleet is more than 20.  
Wilbur, who heads up EVR, found some silver linings in what otherwise would have been a dark cloud.  
First, he said, the problems with the overweight vehicles were found before there was a crash — which could have had disastrous consequences, for firefighters in the vehicles and for anyone sharing the road with them. "If you drive an overweight truck," he said, "eventually the dice are going to"  
(Continued on Page 2)

## Norwell High School board hears updates on sports season and resignations

**By SYDNEY KENT**  
Norwell High School Athletic Director Kelby Weybright gave a proud update on Norwell's recent accomplishments at the school board meeting Tuesday evening.  
"We had a really good spring," Weybright said. "With the help of our senior class, we won, for the first time ever, all-conference all-sports award. We won the boys, we won the girls, and we won the overall. Eleven out of the 19 teams we had this year finished first or second in conference."  
"For us it was an incredibly successful year," Weybright added. "This group of seniors helped us succeed and we are very honored they were part of our program."  
Norwell boys' track coach, Adam Prater, highlighted the accomplishments of Trevon Stoppenhagen, Winston Frauhiger, and Jake Parker at the Northern Wells School board meeting Tuesday evening. The three students competed in four separate events at the boys' track and field state meet earlier this month at Indiana University Bloomington.  
"It was a great season," Prater said, "As"  
(Continued on Page 2)

## Indiana budget regulators requiring state agencies to hold back 2 percent reserve

**By CASEY SMITH**  
**Indiana Capital Chronicle**  
Despite recent optimism about Indiana's financial footing, budget regulators want all state agencies to hold back a "management reserve" of 2 percent in their next annual spending plans, according to a memo obtained by the Indiana Capital Chronicle.  
The memo issued by the State Budget Agency last week says — despite "our strong financial position" — the state needs "to be mindful of unknown factors" that could impact "operations or financial success."  
The new memo applies to fiscal year 2024, which begins July 1.  
The notice seems to run contrary to the latest, rosier economic forecast released in mid-April. A new revenue report for May showed the state on target for the 2023 fiscal year with one month left.  
(Continued on Page 2)

## Former President Trump pleads not guilty to federal charges

**By ERIC TUCKER, ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON**  
**Associated Press**  
MIAMI (AP) — Donald Trump became the first former president to face a judge on federal charges as he pleaded not guilty in a Miami courtroom Tuesday to dozens of felony counts accusing him of hoarding classified documents and refusing government demands to give them back.  
The history-making court date, centered on charges that Trump mishandled government secrets that as commander-in-chief he was entrusted to protect, kickstarts a legal process that will unfold at the height of the 2024 presidential campaign and carry profound consequences not only for his political future but also for his own personal liberty.  
Trump approached his arraignment with characteristic bravado, posting social media broadsides against the prosecution from inside his motorcade en route to the courthouse and insisting — as he has through years of legal woes — that he has done nothing wrong and was being persecuted  
(Continued on Page 6)

<p><b>Inside</b></p> <p>Local/Area</p> <p>Obituaries . . . . . 3</p> <p>Police Notebook . . . 3</p> <p>Opinion</p> <p>Tom Purcell . . . . . 4</p> <p>Also...</p> <p>Sports . . . . . 1a-2a</p> <p>Classifieds . . . . . 4a</p> <p>Diversions . . . . . 3a</p>	<p><b>Outside</b></p> <p>Mostly cloudy today, rain and storms tomorrow</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Today</th> <th>Thursday</th> <th>Friday</th> </tr> <tr> <td>High 74</td> <td>High 82</td> <td>High 77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Low 52</td> <td>Low 54</td> <td>Low 52</td> </tr> </table> <p>More Weather on Page 2</p>	Today	Thursday	Friday	High 74	High 82	High 77	Low 52	Low 54	Low 52	<p><b>Online</b></p> <p>Follow us on Facebook! Go to <a href="http://www.facebook.com/newsbanner">www.facebook.com/newsbanner</a></p> <p>Place Your Classified Ads 24/7</p> <p>Vol. 94 No. 190</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY</b> June 14, 2023</p>	<p><b>THE MATTRESS + FURNITURE STORE</b></p> <p>915 N. Main St., Ste. D, Bluffton, IN 46714 260.353.1099 • <a href="http://www.themandfstore.com">www.themandfstore.com</a></p> <p><b>THERAPEDIC</b> Adjustable Beds!</p> <p>Lift Chairs Redliners</p> <p>Home Stretch catnapper</p> <p>&amp; More!!!</p>	<p><b>How to contact us:</b></p> <p>Call us: <b>824-0224</b> or <b>1-800-579-7476</b> email@news-banner.com</p> <p>On the Web: <a href="http://www.news-banner.com">www.news-banner.com</a></p> <p>Follow us at: <a href="https://twitter.com/newsbanner">twitter.com/newsbanner</a></p> <p>8 04879 07558 5</p>
Today	Thursday	Friday											
High 74	High 82	High 77											
Low 52	Low 54	Low 52											

# Library board

(Continued from Page 1)

ing the display policy, saying he didn't want LGBTQ topics to be "advertised" to children.

"I'm all for kids learning everything, but they should learn it from their parents, not from the library (displays)," Johnson said.

Board member Matt Yergler brought this item to the board's attention ahead of its routine review. Yergler stated the action was unintended to make any patrons feel unwelcome in the library, but he felt the library should consider how they were elevating particular ideologies within their displays.

Yergler noted that the library isn't permitted to display religious materials either. However, Library Director Sarah MacNeill later clarified the library is restricted from religious ornamentation, not book displays.

Ultimately, two policies were considered Tuesday — the original policy, which pertains to book displays organized by third parties, and another policy for displays organized by library staff. Neither policy was approved and will be revised considering the board's feedback.

The first policy has been expanded from its original version to include specific topics deemed inappropriate. This section of the display policy reads: "Displays, postings, bulletin boards, and exhibits; when not related to library materials, programs, events, or activities; must not present one side or one view of a controversial subject. Displays, postings, bulletin boards, and exhibits on such issues as political views, gender identification, racial issues, or religious views should be avoided unless more than one view is represented. Questionable material is referred to the library director for final approval."

To this, board member Dustin Brown stated there should be a mechanism for determining what items were considered "controversial."

The second policy, drafted by board member John Stauffer, addresses materials featured by the library. It declares all library materials are suitable for display under an appropriate theme



Board members John Stauffer, Matt Yergler, and Dustin Brown pictured fielding comments from the public to inform their policymaking. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

for awareness, education or entertainment. It also grants permission to library staff to manage these displays and adjust them as needed.

Regarding specific topics, the policy reads: "The topics should be appropriate for the section of the library they are to be displayed in. Examples of appropriate themes include but are not limited to: Federal Holidays, historical events and periods, life long learning interests, and various fiction themes. Examples of themes which should be avoided: singular positions political in nature, singular positions on scientific theory, representation of a single religion, representation of a single political party, topics which by nature exist to promote an idea."

Stauffer expanded by stating he wants to create a welcoming environment for everyone in the community, but the library should consider a suitable way to display its materials. Rather than display categories of Pride Month or Black Lives Matter, which culturally contain political implications, Stauffer stated the library should consider categories of historical relevancy, like Juneteenth.

Brown agreed all materials were appropriate to display under a relevant category, but questioned how they should determine these categories. He suggested the library display materials similarly to their categorization within the library — a display for biographies, a display for fiction, and so

on. Board member Steve Tabor said this system would become muddled with the larger categories, like fiction.

"Perhaps we could go back to trusting our directors and department heads that are educated in the principles of libraries and allow them to do what they've been trained to do," Tabor said.

Yergler, however, disagreed with the basis that every book in the library could be displayed.

"If every book in our library collection is worthy of display, then we can just display the same themes," Yergler said.

The board then discussed reviewing previous displays to gain insight into how they might create the policy, which is where the board ended its discussion. The policy committee, composed of Yergler, Tabor and board member Kim Gentis, will continue revising the language.

Many of the other public comments echoed the sentiments shared by Kirnec and Reinhard, asking the board to shape the policy to recognize the diverse backgrounds of those within the community.

The library, said Kyra Stroud, saved her life at 13 years old. Stroud said she had come to the library to draft a letter before harming herself, but ultimately, knowing she was welcome in that environment allowed her to confide in a staff member.

Because of this story

and others, John Huseman asked the board to consider its phrasing regarding where displays with certain information should be allowed. Huseman said it was clear young people were struggling with difficult topics, and should know that resources are available.

Rebecca Brown also recognized the hard work of the library staff amidst this conversation.

"(The staff's) excitement and sharing the love of reading with others is never dampened by the appearance education or socioeconomic communities are situations in which those that they serve," Brown said. "These librarians bring their A-game every day. They have no alternative — and shame on us for assuming that they do."

Other comments were heard from Haley Ashman, Mellanie Hollingsworth, Carla Castro, Matthew Morales, Erin Butcher and Deb Barrick.

In closing, Stauffer thanked everyone for sharing their thoughts and experiences.

"I appreciate that everyone who came to share tonight was going to do so," Stauffer said. "I know these are really difficult topics to talk about, and I'm thankful for the library staff that makes you all feel like you could come and do this. We as a board, want to make sure we continue to have the library be a place where you and your kids, my kids, my parents can all come in."

holly@news-banner.com

# Weather

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

(24-hour observations at 10:14 p.m. Tuesday)

High: 61; Low: 51; Precipitation: 0.50 inches of rain

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.79 feet at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 74. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 52. West wind around 5 mph.

**Thursday:** A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Thursday Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11 p.m., then a slight chance of showers between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 54. North wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 77.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 52.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 82.

**Saturday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers after 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 58.

**Sunday:** A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

**Sunday Night:** A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.

**Juneteenth:** A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 82.

**Monday Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.

**Tuesday:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.

# Common Council

(Continued from Page 1)

come up snake eyes."

Also, the equipment problems have shown the determination of the Bluffton firefighters to maintain what they have to the best of their ability. Wilbur had high words of praise for what he saw.

"They have taken excellent care of the equipment," he said. "I assure you, without that care, your 30-year-old tower and your 25-year-old engine would not have made it this far."

Wilbur said a second fire station was a requirement. He even said a bay in a new fire station could be used for vehicle repair, and that the city should hire a mechanic for that purpose.

Wilbur's presentation Tuesday night was attended by representatives of the city and Harrison and Lancaster townships — the three entities that comprise the new fire district served by the Bluffton Fire Department. He was rather forthright about getting good equipment from good manufacturers going forward.

To be sure, one of the

three trucks the department had to keep out of service was built by a local vendor — and it was considered an error. The other two, however, were built by a company that Wilbur didn't have high praise for. He said there were vendors that take advantage of fire departments, such as Bluffton's.

He referred to them in terms relating to the snake-oil salesmen of years gone by. Paying for high-quality equipment will pay off down the road, lowering maintenance costs, Wilbur said.

Wilbur's report was the only topic of discussion during the special council meeting Tuesday night.

During the meeting of the city's Board of Works Tuesday, the board members — Mayor John Whicker, Scott Mentzer, and Josh Hunt — heard the results of a study conducted by Brad Adler about the city's transformer capacities. Adler has been a consultant to the city on electrical matters. He will advise the board further, particularly on the Cherry Street substation.

daves@news-banner.com

# NHS board

(Continued from Page 1)

coach Weybright said, great season for the boys and a heck of a run."

Area 18 coordinator Brittany Kloer gave the board an update on the \$480,000 grant recently received from the Don Wood Foundation that will fund new programming at the high school.

Board member Chad Kline expressed his gratitude to Kloer for the years of hard work and dedication she has contributed that has led to receiving the grant. Kloer recognized and thanked Kline as well as Assistant Superintendent Anna Murphy, and Norwell High School Principal Kam Meyer for participating as stakeholders.

The board approved a number of new recommendations for positions in the district as well as four resignations.

One of the resignations was Coach Dave Goodmiller.

"I want to acknowledge Coach Goodmiller," Superintendent Mike Springer commented. "I got to know him a little bit during my time here. He is a really good example for our kids, and a good leader of the program. He will be missed. He's leaving the program in really good shape."

Additional updates from the meeting included:

- Jim Elizondo of Stifel Financial gave updates on the Ossian Elementary interior refresh project, which includes updates to flooring, paint, visual displays, and lockers. He also gave a presentation on debt service that showed the district would maintain a steady tax rate, allowing for more flexibility in

meeting the needs of the district.

- There will be a special meeting on June 26, specifically for the Ossian interior refresh project.

- The 2023-2024 Norwell staff handbook was approved.

- A motion to send a resolution to the DOE to officially change the name to "Norwell Community Schools" was approved.

- A motion for 2023-2025 administrative contracts was approved

- A motion for central office support staff salary agreements was approved. Superintendent Mike Springer reported that the district wants to be comparable to neighboring districts regarding salaries and offer staff advanced notice of rates.

sydney@news-banner.com

# Indiana budget

(Continued from Page 1)

Office of Management and Budget Director Cris Johnston told the Indiana Capital Chronicle that the management reserve "has been a long running practice." Its purpose, he continued, "is to be able to fund unanticipated expenses that appear from time to time no matter how well the state agency plans."

Johnston added that spending plans are reviewed, monitored and adjusted throughout the fiscal year in response to "economic conditions" and "shifts in programming pri-

orities," among other factors.

He said in an interview with Indy Politics last week that Indiana is "in pretty good shape."

"We have adequate reserves, we have a budget that spends less than we anticipate taking in. We have low debt, and we're able to fund our critical services," Johnston said, although he expressed some concern about "speed bumps down the road."

"We always have the uncertainty about whether there's going to be a recession or not," he continued. "I'm also concerned about the level of federal funds that we're able to use right now — what happens in the next budget cycle when some of those federal funds expire?"

**Indiana's economic forecast**

State fiscal analysts had earlier predicted a mild recession for the first quarter of 2023.

But during the April forecast announcement, Indiana's economic leaders said the state was performing better than expected this year as inflation

slowed, consumer spending remained high and home sales rebounded slightly.

State general fund revenue in fiscal year 2023 was expected to be 1.9 percent higher than December estimates, 2.7 percent higher in 2024 and 2.5 percent higher in 2025.

Better-than-expected tax collections, specifically corporate tax returns, gave budget writers an extra \$1.5 billion to incorporate into the next two-year state budget. Lawmakers approved the \$44 billion spending plan at the end of the 2023 legislative session in April.

- Replace Broken Springs and Cables on All Makes
- Replace or Repair Doors and Openers on All Makes
- Residential & Commercial

James Fisher - Owner  
Carl Fisher - Sales  
Serving Surrounding Counties  
**Bluffton**  
**824-3262**

OBITUARIES

**Karen J. Kaehr, 83**

Karen J. Kaehr, 83, of rural Decatur, passed away Tuesday morning, June 13, 2023, at Christian Care Retirement Community.



Karen was born in Berne on Dec. 5, 1939, to Ellison and Elfrieda (Habegger) Neuenschwander. She married Richard Kaehr in Adams County on Sept. 11, 1960. He preceded her in death on Dec. 26, 2021.

A 1957 graduate of Berne-French High School, Karen later received her nursing degree from Lutheran School of Nursing in 1960. She worked as a registered nurse for over 25 years, working for Adams Memorial Hospital, a private family physician's office and Adams Central Community Schools as the school nurse.

Karen was a member of the Apostolic Christian Church. She was also a homemaker and assisted her husband with the family farm. She and Richard enjoyed traveling to Florida for many years and also wintered in Florida later in life. She also enjoyed reading, baking and hosting family get-togethers. Karen loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Survivors include a daughter, Sandy (John) Lichtle of Fishers; two sons, Doug (Tami) Kaehr of Ossian and Greg (Amy) Kaehr of Decatur; nine grandchildren, Stacey Lichtle, Justin (Olivia) Lichtle, Preston (Wendy) Kaehr, Cecily Kaehr, Natalie Kaehr, Ellison (Alyssa) Kaehr, Gavin (Hannah) Kaehr, Morgan Kaehr and Jake Kaehr; nine great-grandchildren (and one on the way); two brothers, Stan (Becky) Neuenschwander of Montgomery, Ala., and Ted (Deb) Neuenschwander of Fort Wayne; three sisters, Virginia Rauch of Bluffton, Anita (Keith) Butler of Fort Wayne and Gretchen (Keith) Kingsley of Elkhart; along with a stepbrother-in-law, Richard Frantz.

In addition to her husband and parents, Karen was preceded in death by her stepmother, Dorothy Neuenschwander; a stepsister, Vicki Frantz; and brother-in-law, Jerome Rauch.

Visitation will be from 2-8 p.m. on Monday, June 19, 2023, at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton. Services will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at the Bluffton North Apostolic Christian Church, with Preston Kaehr and Brent Kaehr officiating. There will be additional visitation at the church prior to the service, from 9-9:45 a.m. Burial will follow at the Apostolic Christian Cemetery in Adams County.

Memorial contributions may be made to Christian Care Retirement Community.

Online condolences may be made at [www.goodwincaleharnish.com](http://www.goodwincaleharnish.com).

# No legislative discipline in sight for Indiana Rep. Lucas

By TOM DAVIES  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An Indiana state lawmaker isn't facing any immediate legislative discipline after pleading guilty to drunken driving charges for crashing his pickup truck through an interstate highway guardrail and driving away.

Republican Rep. Jim Lucas of Seymour signed an agreement Monday with the prosecutor in southern Indiana's Jackson County in which he pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges of driving while intoxicated and leaving the scene of the accident.

Lucas said in a statement after Monday's court hearing that he took "full responsibility" for his actions surrounding the May 31 crash and would continue in his legislative position.

Republican House Speaker Todd Huston said Tuesday he had not yet reviewed the plea agreement and wanted to see that Lucas gets "the help that he needs and make sure that situation doesn't happen again."

When asked whether Lucas would face any disciplinary action by the Legislature, Huston said he was "obviously disappointed" by Lucas' actions.

"I haven't had really a chance to talk to him," Huston said. "I'll take a look at it and see what we do moving forward."

This year's legislative session ended in April and lawmakers won't return for another full-time session until January.

The plea agreement calls for no additional jail time for Lucas, 58, as long as he completes at least 180 days of supervised probation, including alcohol or drug abuse treatment if mandated by the county probation department, and pays about \$4,000 in restitution to the state highway department to repair damage from the crash.

Lucas, who was first elected to the Legislature in 2012, is allowed to keep his position as state law only prohibits those with felony convictions from holding elected office. Lucas is a prominent supporter of legalizing marijuana and loosening state gun laws. He has faced controversy several times over social media posts decried as "sickening" by Democrats and "unacceptable" by Republicans.

Jackson County Prosecutor Jeff Chalfant said the plea agreement with Lucas was standard for a first-time drunken driving charge.

# Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Monday, 3:59 p.m., Pine Grove Apartments. Caller requesting assistance with transportation for child.

Monday, 4:06 p.m., corner of North Main and East Market streets. Assisted with pushing broken down vehicle to space where Welches could assess the issue.

Monday, 5:12 p.m., corner of South Williams and West Arnold streets. Report of a dog biting another dog.

Monday, 9:34 p.m., 800 block of Lancaster Street. Report of noise complaint. No music heard.

Tuesday, 2:19 a.m., Praxis. Woman discharged at 8 p.m. refusing to leave. She ultimately accepted a ride from Praxis to Fort Wayne.

Tuesday, 9:54 a.m., 800 block of Cari Drive. Report of woman yelling at man that wouldn't get out of her car.

County:

Monday, 3:03 p.m., northwest Ind. 116 and north 100W. Assisted semi who made a wrong turn. Deputy

shut down the road so the driver could back through the intersection.

Monday, 6:01 p.m., residence on Main Street, Liberty Center. Caller reported their dog was attacked by their neighbor's dog. The neighbor stated both dogs have gone back and forth between the properties. Both parties advised to keep their dogs in their respective yards and seek an attorney for any damages.

Monday, 7:39 p.m., west 525N and north 300W. Citation issued for 90 in a 55 mph zone.

Monday, 9:44 p.m., west Ind. 218 and south 200W. Vehicle observed travelling 75 in a 55 mph zone. The juvenile driver advised they were driving to their parent's house just down the road. The smell of alcohol was immediately identified on the driver, but the driver stated they hadn't had anything to drink. The driver later admitted to having one alcoholic beverage before he got in the car, and another about 1.5 hours before then.

A preliminary breath test returned at 0.015 percent. The deputy also located two vapes on the juvenile. The juvenile was referred to probation for illegal consumption of alcohol by a minor, a Class C misdemeanor, and speeding and possession of electronic cigarettes by a minor, both infractions. The juvenile was released to their mother.

Monday, 11:21 p.m., Wells County 4-H Park. K9 deployed to help search for a watch. K9 unable to find the watch.

Monday, 11:54 p.m., Bluffton. Man reported his stepfather had grabbed him by the throat and made threats. The man punched his stepfather and the two were separated. Several people witnessed the incident and gave similar accounts. Neither party wanted to press charges.

Tuesday, 4:11 a.m., west Railroad Street and west U.S. 224. Two men seen driving house-to-house and reportedly delivering packages. Vehicle was later

located and then men were actually delivering packages. They men were warned for their driving.

Tuesday, 11:19 a.m., residence on south Hoosier Highway, Bluffton. Man reported his wife had stolen items from his vehicle. Deputy advised it was a civil matter since the two are legally married.

ACCIDENTS

Monday, 8:39 p.m., Walmart. Ralph San Juan was stopped at the light at the Walmart parking lot and North Main Street. He noticed the light turn green, looked away, and then proceeded forward thinking the vehicle in front of him had proceeded. He collided with the rear end of Jeffrey Chauvin's Altima. No injuries were reported. Damages estimated at \$2,501-\$5,000.

ARRESTS

Aung Lay, 47, Fort Wayne; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.



Pictured in the photo from left, Piercen Harnish of Shelton Financial, Heather Morgan of National Oil & Gas, Jayde Ketring of First Bank of Berne, Keith Muhlenkamp of First Merchants Bank, Luke Zurcher of Minnich's Lawn Care and Excavating, Doug Fear of Edward Jones, Scott Minnich and Corbin Minnich of Minnich's Lawn Care and Excavating, Wells County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Erin Prible, and Erin Daugherty of State Farm Insurance. (Photo submitted)

# Minnich's receives monthly recognition

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassadors surprised Scott Minnich with Minnich's Lawn Care and Excavating as the June Member of the Month. Minnich's Lawn Care is located at 815 West Cherry Street in Bluffton.

A small company, with a big heart. Minnich started working at the age of 12 mowing lawns for family and neighbors. "Those neighbors had friends across town so I would rollerblade or ride my bicycle to their homes," explained Minnich. "When I was 14 years old, I bought a riding mower from Steve Gerber. I had saved up some money to pay him \$100 as a down payment. Steve told me to pay him the rest at the end of the year and I did."

The business continued to grow for Minnich, purchasing a truck and a dump truck by the age of 16. Thirty years later, Minnich is still working for himself. "I have one employee, Luke Zurcher, and I involve my son Corbin, age 12, helping in the business as much as possible. We get to spend a lot of time together in the summer and it is great."

Minnich said instilling a good work ethic in his son is important, whether he decides to work for his business or for someone else, he will understand the value of work. Corbin said he is trying to get bigger around town and has three customers so far. Corbin's goal is to take over the business someday when his dad retires.

"I am very fortunate to have an employee such as Luke," stated Minnich. "He started working on a Dairy Farm when he was 12 years old and understands the value of hard work. His life experiences have brought many skills to this job that I don't have to worry about the quality of work. He understands what needs to be done and does it."

Minnich's Lawn Care and Excavating offers a variety of services such as repairing sewer and water lines, grating driveways, installing new landscape designs, plowing snow, cutting trees, taking out bushes, and maintaining outside lawn care. "We have skid loaders, excavators, bucket trucks, and dump trucks, so every project is an adventure and something different every day," explained Min-

nich. Minnich enjoys the challenges in the job such as fixing people's problems. "It might sound strange, but fixing a sewer line is enjoyable for me. Figuring out a problem and making it better for a customer is what this job is about. I have some very loyal customers and have been serving them for 20 to 30 years. Our goal is to provide excellent customer service."

Most of the work Minnich does is in Wells County. "We really don't have to

travel far because we stay very busy in our community," said Minnich. "This is a great community and has everything we need right here. I don't think I could have built this business and be where I am at today without the support of our small town."

"This has been a good job and a good life," said Minnich. "I've got great customers and a great employee. Things have changed and evolved over the years, but I am the luckiest guy in the world."

**★ Flash Sale ★**

**60% Off**

**60 Minutes Only**

**Saturday, June 17th • 10 - 11 am**

(Excludes Bereavement and Bijou)

Don't miss out on this Huge Savings Flash Sale

**COUNTRY ROAD PRIMITIVES**

**Gifts, Home Decor & Bereavement**

2446 E 350 N, Bluffton, IN • 260-273-0222

**WE HELP YOU GET SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE AND MEDICAID READY!**

**Jerry Flack & Associates**

WE REPRESENT MANY - MANY - MANY INSURANCE COMPANIES

WE HAVE ALL THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID OPTIONS AVAILABLE

**WE HAVE THE MARKETPLACE UNDER 65 PRODUCTS**

**The Price Tag is the Same Everywhere Consider Local for Better Service**

**FREE INFORMATION - FREE EDUCATION ON ALL OUR PRODUCTS WE ARE FORMER TEACHERS**

**WHEN YOU HAVE PROBLEMS AND YOU WILL HAVE PROBLEMS YOU WILL HAVE US TO COUNT ON**

**MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS - MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS - PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS.**

**Life Insurance - Long Term Care Insurance - Investments - Individual and Small Group Health - Dental - Vision - Hearing - Cancer Insurance**

**Folks on Medicare A and B and Diabetic can get FREE Nice Looking Diabetic Shoes Every Year from Us**

**We Do FREE Information/ Education Seminars In Your Business (Again Former Teachers)**

**WE CAN MEET: IN OUR OFFICE - IN YOUR HOME - IN A FAVORED LOCATION**

**In the 1882 Building at Main & Market with the mural on the outside wall • 260-824-1618**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

*"For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him."*

~ John 6:55-56 ~

The Holy Eucharist is recognized as one of the seven Sacraments. It is unique among the other Sacraments, however, due to the understanding of the doctrine of the Real Presence. This is the belief that Jesus Christ is literally, not symbolically, present in the Holy Eucharist—Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. This belief takes to heart the words of the Savior from the Sacred Scriptures (cf. John 6) and holds to the same Faith held by the early Church Fathers.

Throughout the ages, the Eucharist is that Sacrament by which Catholics receive the Body and Blood of Jesus

Christ. Bread and wine, the outward signs of this Sacrament, are offered in the Mass and transformed in all but appearance into the Body and Blood of Jesus. This transformation occurs through the words instituted by Jesus Himself at the Last Supper on Holy Thursday and passed down through His priests with His command to "do this in remembrance of me" (cf. Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:18-20, 1 Cor. 11:23-25).

In receiving the Eucharist, we are nourished by and more closely united to the Lord. This union with Christ strengthens the bond of charity which makes us one with our neighbor. When we grow in our love of God through union with Jesus, we also grow in our love for all men who are united to the Body of Christ, as described by St. Paul in 1 Cor. 10:17.

Ask a ? at [www.StJosephChurchBluffton.org/ask](http://www.StJosephChurchBluffton.org/ask)

## A personal salute to Flag Day

It's long past time for me to put a flagpole in the center of my front yard — one that holds a large American flag that dances proudly in the summer breeze.

We bought such a flagpole for my father on his 70th birthday, shortly after he and my mother moved into a new house with a stately front yard.

He was proud of his flag — with good reason.

He was born during the Great Depression. As a boy, he was immersed in our country's great unified effort to defeat mighty foes during World War II.

He was drafted at the tail end of the Korean War and served for two years. When he returned home, America was an optimistic place to raise a family.

He and my mother would have six children. He would work very hard and watch his country, and his family, thrive and prosper beyond his wildest dreams.

Despite his modest Bell Telephone income, he was able to retire just shy of his 60th birthday.

He enjoyed retirement for 30 years — and enjoyed the flagpole we got him for 20 years — before God took him home last year.

Thanks to a uniquely blessed nation that offered unlimited opportunities for individuals to pursue life, liberty and happiness, my father was able to see his children become successful writers, artists, teachers and businesspeople.

Our country has never been perfect and our government requires constant monitoring, improvement and correction.

As we grow older and wiser we begin to understand how easy it is for the young to see only our country's imperfections and not the many things it has got incredibly right.

The freedom to speak our minds openly is one huge thing we got right — despite recent examples of people admitting they are afraid to express what they think publicly for fear of public retribution.

The first amendment to our Constitution guarantees us the free exercise of religion, a free press, the right to peaceably assemble and express grievances to our government and petition for change — and prevents the government from abridging our right to free speech, even unpleasant speech.

Until 1989, for instance, 48 state governments, as well as the federal government, forbid the desecration or burning of the U.S. flag by protesters, reports Smithsonian Magazine.

These laws were overturned by the Supreme Court in *Texas v. Johnson*, in which the court agreed that Gregory Lee Johnson's burning of the flag constituted "symbolic speech" protected under the First Amendment.

More from Smithsonian Magazine:

"If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that the government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable," wrote Justice William Brennan in the majority opinion.

"The majority, which also included Justices Marshall, Blackmun, Kennedy and Scalia, found that the conviction was inconsistent with Johnson's First Amendment right to verbal and nonverbal expression."

A flourishing representative republic continually reexamines itself and corrects its imperfections, and on that score, our country has got more right than wrong.

That is why my father became prouder of his flag — and the great country it represents — with every passing year.

And that is why, this Flag Day, it's time for me to place my own majestic symbol of America in the center of my stately front yard.

Tom Purcell is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. [tom@TomPurcell.com](mailto:tom@TomPurcell.com).



Tom Purcell



## Sununu's good move and bad advice

Gov. Chris Sununu (R-N.H.) is not running for president. In his state's first-in-the-nation primary, "I can be more effective for the Republican Party in ways few other leaders can," he wrote in the Washington Post. He plans to endorse a candidate and obviously hopes to defeat former President Donald Trump, who, he argues, is a sure loser in November.

But his advice for candidates may not be helpful beyond New Hampshire. In a cheap shot at Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.), currently Trump's strongest opponent, Sununu says Republicans "must abandon the issues that are solely made for social media headlines, such as banning books or issuing curriculum fiats to local school districts" and "should re-embrace local control."

That makes sense in Sununu's state, where the largest school district, Manchester, has 12,400 students and 52,000 voters. But DeSantis' Florida and many other states have countywide school districts.

Florida's second-largest district, Broward County, has 260,000 students and 959,000 voters. Those voters couldn't prevent the school board and administrators from refusing to remove the Parkland mass shooter or to get the police to enter the building and stop the killing. DeSantis had to take over and fire those responsible and is now backing school board candidates around the state.

Another difference: Some 54 percent of Sununu's New Hampshire's Republican primary electorate in 2016 were college graduates, wary of proposals that liberal media cast as intolerant. But the state isn't typical in this regard. According to 2020 and 2022 exit polls, some 62 percent of Republican voters aren't college graduates.

And as The New York Times' ace election analyst Nate Cohn has argued persuasively, exit polls seem to overstate the percentage of college-educated voters.

The other reason to embrace issues Sununu dismisses as "solely made for social media headlines" is that, properly articulated, Republican positions are in line with the broad spectrum of public opinion while only handfuls embrace many Biden administration positions.

Should pornographic books be available in kindergarten through third grade classrooms or libraries? That's what DeSantis' bill, mislabeled as "Don't Say Gay," requires. How many voters disagree?

Should teenagers under 18 get government aid for irreversible surgeries such as breast removal without parental consent? That's what the Biden administration is encouraging as "gender-affirming care." How many voters back that?

And what about gas stoves? Last February, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) scoffed that "nobody is taking away your gas stove." Then,

in May, New York's legislature and Gov. Kathy Hochul passed a bill banning gas stoves in new construction. The law is based on an environmentalist study that the Washington Post's Megan McArdle labeled as "less-than-rock-solid evidence," including, as National Review's Noah Rothman writes, testing gas cooking in an "airtight" room sealed by "clear plastic sheets."

As Rothman notes, liberal Democrats are going after affordable conveniences many rely on, including gas furnaces and hot water heaters, air conditioners, dishwashers and gas-powered lawn mowers. And don't get them started on washer-dryer units that leave clothes soggy as European units do.

Then there are the Biden administration policies intended to force people into electric cars. Little attention is given to vast amounts of exotic minerals such as lithium produced in China or other faraway countries.

Green New Deal enthusiasts in and out of the Biden administration blithely assume that thousands of electric charging stations will spring up and charge your e-vehicle in minutes and that we'll be able to produce the near-doubling of electricity production needed for a mostly electric car fleet. It won't be easy with environmentalists bringing lawsuits to stop transmission lines from bringing electricity from high-wind areas to high-population areas.

Harder heads are dubious. In 2022, Warren Buffett, a Biden supporter, expressed doubts the United States was close to moving away from dependency on oil. "If we were to try and change over, in three years, or five years, nobody knows what would happen, but the odds that it would work well are extremely low, it seems to me." He's putting his money lately into oil and fossil fuels.

Similarly, Vaclav Smil, the premier historian and analyst of technology, writes in his 2022 book "How the World Really Works," "Complete decarbonization of the global economy by 2050 is now conceivable only at the cost of unthinkable global economic retreat, or as a result of extraordinarily rapid transformations relying on near-miraculous technical advances."

As Smil notes, the "four material pillars" of our civilization — cement, steel, plastics and ammonia (for fertilizers necessary to feed 8 billion people) — all require huge inputs of fossil fuels, and there are no substitutes for them on the horizon.

College graduate voters, in New Hampshire and elsewhere, may not like hearing that their green dreams are just dreams. But most people can be convinced they are nightmares to be avoided.



Michael Barone

© 2023 CREATORS.COM

## Today in History

Today is Wednesday, June 14, the 165th day of 2023. There are 200 days left in the year. This is Flag Day.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 14, 1775, the Continental Army, forerunner of the United States Army, was created.

On this date: In 1777, the Second Continental Congress approved the design of the original American flag.

In 1846, a group of U.S. settlers in Sonoma proclaimed the Republic of California.

In 1911, the British ocean liner RMS Olympic set out on its maiden voyage for New York, arriving one week later. (The ship's captain was Edward John Smith, who went on to com-

mand the ill-fated RMS Titanic the following year.)

In 1919, John Alcock and Arthur Whitten Brown embarked on the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

In 1940, German troops entered Paris during World War II; the same day, the Nazis began transporting prisoners to the Auschwitz concentration camp in German-occupied Poland.

In 1943, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*, ruled 6-3 that public school students could not be forced to salute the flag of the United States.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure adding the phrase "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Don't erase the Anglo-Saxons

It's official. The Anglo-Saxons are getting canceled.

The move comes more than 1,000 years too late for the previously ascendant Romano-British who couldn't resist these Germanic peoples who showed up on the shores of England beginning in the fifth century, but surely, they would appreciate the gesture.

As part of an effort to make its instruction more "anti-racist," Cambridge University is going to teach students that identities such as Anglo-Saxon are "constructed and contingent." The school's Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic is hoping to "dismantle the basis of myths of nationalism," and also is keenly aware of "recent concerns over use of the term 'Anglo-Saxon' and its perceived connection to ethnic/racial English identity."

To be honest, the Anglo-Saxons have been living on borrowed time for a while now.

In 2019, the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists — worried about their association with, yes, the Anglo-Saxons — changed their name to the International Society for the Study of Early Medieval England.

The change came after Mary Rambaran-Olm, the group's second vice president, resigned and denounced the organization for allegedly encouraging white supremacy. As The Washington Post put it, the group effectively conceded that "'Anglo Saxon' is code for whiteness."

There is no doubt that the term has been used by malicious and ignorant people over the years to make racist



Rich Lowry

arguments and promote a simplified or outright false version of early English history. But that doesn't mean the Anglo-Saxons didn't exist or the term must be banished.

For all that the "woke" scholars warn against anachronisms, they should be careful not to imply that the Anglo-Saxons came to England wearing white hoods.

To simplify, the island's defenses weakened after the Romans exited and tribes of Angles, Saxons and Jutes arrived and established dominance, although they'd subsequently be involved in desperate struggles for survival against Viking invaders.

The term Anglo-Saxon isn't exactly a neologism. The authoritative book by Nicholas J. Higham and Martin J. Ryan, "The Anglo-Saxon World," notes that it was in use by the eighth century, when writers on the continent apparently used it to distinguish between Saxons in England and those back on the continent. King Alfred the Great, one of the important figures in English history, called himself the "king of the Anglo-Saxons."

The opponents of the term argue that it was nonetheless used infrequently by the Anglo-Saxons. Okay, but how often did the Anglo-Saxons refer to themselves as "insular Saxons," a term that is proffered as more accurate and less problematic? (The terms "Saxons" and "Angles," by the way, were used quite a lot at the time.) And if "Anglo-Saxon" is allegedly too white, does "early Medieval

English," another allegedly better phrase, evoke a kaleidoscopic multi-racialism?

The Anglo-Saxon ascendancy ended in 1066, when the last Anglo-Saxon king, Harold, suffered a devastating defeat at the hands of the Normans, who were notably brutal and, one must say, as white as the Anglo-Saxons — but "Anglo-Norman" hasn't become politically incorrect.

The Anglo-Saxon contribution to English history isn't merely incidental, as Higham and Ryan write.

The name England means "land of the Angles."

The Anglo-Saxons gave us the most foremost language in the world, English, which derives from Old English or Anglo-Saxon.

They unified what came to be England as we know it, while the English monarchy dates to the Anglo-Saxon period.

The same is true of English Christianity, with the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons beginning in the sixth and seventh century.

The Anglo-Saxons set out the shires that were the units of local government until the lines were redrawn in the late 20th century.

What the academics hostile to their own field of study want to do is take a term that is readily recognized, broadly understood, and generates public interest, and replace it with something more obscure for no good reason.

It doesn't require a gauzily romantic view of the Anglo-Saxons to conclude that they deserve better than today's self-loathing Anglo-Saxonists.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

## The News-Banner

(USPS 059-200)

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

### News-Banner Publications, Inc.

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

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

David Schultz, Editor  
Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

# Thoughts I have encountered en route during my travels

While I find that I do not physically travel to the extent that I once did, I do manage to “travel” extensively in my head. Most of the time I am quite able to contain many of my thoughts; however, on occasion I feel high on compelled to share some of them. Not for anyone’s edification, for sure, but just to “throw it onto the wall and see what sticks” kind of activity. Not much that I love more, in the realm of social interactions, than a great discussion and exchange of ideas, thoughts, observations with my fellow planet-mates. Most especially enjoyable is when those involved in said discussion/debate hold varying opinions and beliefs. Seriously, what is to be gained for me by only conversing with those who think exactly like I do?

**Billy Kreigh**

In light of such profundity, join me and let’s have a real discussion. Ok, I will go first – but trust me when I say, please, please tell me what you are thinking also.

1. Americans relish being Number One, I began a preliminary research about areas in which we excel. A much abbreviated list includes: biggest economy, most natural gas output, military

spending, medical research, Olympic sports, dog/cat ownership, number of billionaires (in 2020 we had 614, of which I am not one), cheese production, and fast food eateries.

Other areas where we rank first in include the following: obesity, divorce, cosmetic surgery, incarceration rate, most hours of TV watched per-person per week (we tied the UK in this one), estimate of firearms in civilian possession (393,347,000 vs 334,233,854 actual people), most police, and the highest rate of drug abuse. All of life requires that we look for some sense of balance.

2. June is LGBTQ+ month and for some this is quite the controversy. I’ll refrain from saying all that is on my mind about this, but I ask you to consider this: 15 countries do not support LGBTQ+ rights. This list includes Russia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Brunei, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, and Saudi Arabia. Punishments range from public floggings to death. What thoughts or questions surface here for you in this controversy?

3. The earliest book banning originated BCE when ancient Rome and China specifically attempted to suppress specific



the most stringent and persistent censorship are India, China, Singapore, Ireland, Australia, United States, Germany, Russian and the UK. Most banned books are works of fiction, children’s books, religious texts, some biographies, poetry, and even some comic books.

I know not, as yet, where you stand with this. I do, though, know exactly where I stand. Do not ever even think about telling me what I can or cannot read. If you want to monitor your own child’s reading material, no problem. Do not think it is ok to ban what another’s children might read. If you do not want to read certain books about certain topics or issues, then don’t. But when has shedding light on any topic or issue not been more productive and worthwhile than keeping it in the dark? Reading equals thinking. Reading does not equal the reader being forced to accept or believe all that is read. However, a thinking population needs to be aware of much more than one idea, thought, belief and be able to discern for themselves

what has value and what may not.

Before one slams the American Library Association, one might want to check the facts. Just saying.

4. Public schools are a foundation of democracy. Denying tax money for public schools to fund private schools or home schooled students with vouchers is not acceptable. If a parent wants to send his/her children to a private school or chooses to home school for whatever reason, then do it. Make the choice, make the arrangements, and make the payments. I am not buying the argument that “My taxes pay for public education and if I choose not to send my children to public school, then those taxes should pay for my choice.” Public schools are held to a much different set of rules and regulations; they are public, inclusive, diverse, open to all, and the end result is students who are critical thinking citizens who are not easily indoctrinated by others.

5. Is it the best plan for students to be released from public school classes and transported to another location during the school day to receive religious instruction? Let me ask this, if I may – if an imam, rabbi, or a Buddhist leader asked to take children from school for religious instruction, would that be equally acceptable to you? Again, I will refrain from sharing all that I think about this topic because of space and time.

Consider this: If you want your

child to learn more about your religious beliefs, that is great. Here’s a thought – you teach your child about your religion at home, in your place of worship, at the dinner table, at the park, family game night, or maybe, don’t teach it at all. Instead let them witness your faith, your beliefs, your values every day by observing how you live your life. That cliché “actions speak louder than words” perhaps holds more than a scintilla of truth.

**Here’s the Thing:** Five is a good place to end for today. There is so very much more for us to discuss together. As always, I will never attempt to tell you what to think. I have absolutely no expectations that you and I will or even should think identically. That diversity in thinking is just one of the truths that makes life so interesting. But it goes without saying (and yet, here I am saying it), I would appreciate and enjoy hearing what you do think. Conversing and thinking together is a perfect method for us to learn more about and from each other.

bkreigh@adamswells.com

*Editor’s Note: This is one of a series of articles written by a group of retired and current teachers – LaNae Abnet, Ken Ballinger, Billy Kreigh, Kathy Schwartz, Anna Spalding. Their intent is to spur discussions at the dinner table and elsewhere. You may also voice your thoughts and reactions via The News-Banner’s letters to editor.*



Members of the Beta Associate chapter of Tri Kappa (Norma Sweeten and Michelle Sodervick), at left, and Kent Shady, center, were visitors to The Garage Youth Center in Bluffton on a recent afternoon. They came to present a \$500 check to Connie and Arley Higginbotham, at right, the managers of the site for the Moose Lodge, in memory of Shady’s mother, Phyllis, who was a devoted Tri Kappa member. The Shady family has entrusted the Tri Kappa’s with the selection of the group to be gifted each year. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

## The Garage welcomes youth age 12 and up as volunteers & donations keep doors open

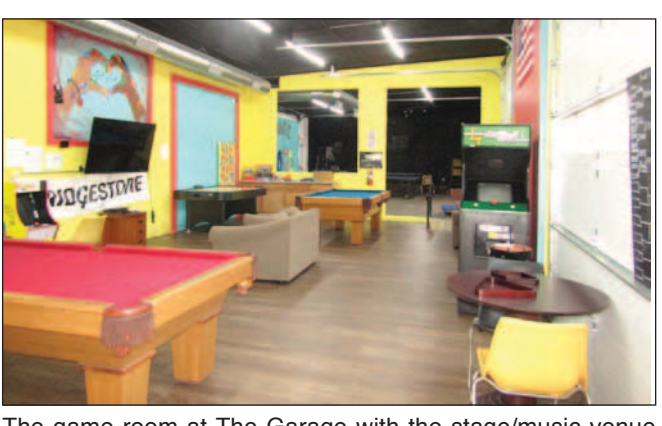
By BARBARA BARBIERI

The Garage Youth Center, operated under the auspices of Bluffton’s Moose Lodge 242, was presented a check for \$500 recently from the Beta Phi chapter of Tri Kappa and the Phyllis Shady family as a memorial for devoted Tri Kappa member Phyllis Shady.

On hand to accept the check were Connie and Arley Higginbotham, who operate The Garage for the Moose Lodge with the help of adult volunteers. The site at the corner of Main and Wabash streets was the former home to Deck’s Service Station; a sign over the snack bar pays homage to that business.

The Garage’s mission statement, as stated on its website, is “to reach out to young people in the city of Bluffton to provide them with a safe place to play, socialize and attend concerts with a decidedly Christian atmosphere.”

Young people ages 12 years of age through high school are invited to visit six days a week, with the hours being 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. The visitors are asked to sign in and are given points that in



The game room at The Garage with the stage/music venue area through the archway at the back of the photo. There also is a cafe area where the boys and girls can enjoy snacks. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

turn allow them to select food items including hot dogs, chips and beverages.

In addition to snacks there are places to just chill out, play games (two billiard tables, board games and several arcade games) or be entertainers or entertained at a stage area. On Wednesdays a Bible Study is offered by Arley from 3:30 to 4:30 with pizza included.

During the summer months the average day’s attendance is 20 while during the school year it is more often 30 to 40, the Higginbothams said. The site always has at least two adult volunteers to greet the

young visitors.

The Garage is a 501(c)3 organization and has a Go Fund Me page with the web site of Gogarage.org

The phone number is 260-273-0600.

Note: In past years the Tri Kappa/Shady memorial check has been presented to: the Creative Arts Council in 2021 and to the Boys & Girls Club and Family Centered Services in 2022.

barb@news-banner.com

**Arnold Lumber Co.**  
425 S. Winchester St., Decatur, IN  
Hours: Mon-Thurs 7AM-5PM  
Fri 7AM-4:30PM • Sat 7AM-11:30AM  
260-724-3108 • Fax 260-724-4505

**FABRAL**  
METAL WALL AND ROOF SYSTEMS  
1-800-903-4206 | Check Us Out on Facebook

**ABCINEMA**  
130 W. Monroe St. Decatur, IN • 260-724-SHOW

**The Flash**  
Thursday, June 15th 6pm  
Friday, June 16th 5:45pm & 8:45pm  
Saturday, June 17th 2:40pm, 5:40pm, & 8:40pm  
Sunday, June 18th 2pm & 5pm

**Transformers: Rise of the Beasts**  
Thursday, June 15th 6:20pm  
Friday, June 16th 6pm & 9pm  
Saturday, June 17th 3:20pm, 6:10pm, & 9pm  
Sunday, June 18th 2:20pm & 5:20pm

www.abcinemainc.com

## Campers are now Master Naturalists

By BARBARA BARBIERI

Ouabache State Park has been the school-room for 21 youth enrolled in the Junior and Teen Indiana Master Naturalist classes this past week, under the leadership of Jody Heaston, Indiana Master Naturalist Coordinator.

With the assistance of volunteers from the Friends of Ouabache State Park the participants have had a variety of experiences including fishing and boating on Kunkel Lake, hiking on the trails and learning about native plants and animals in the park. The campers also served as hosts for the June Lunch & Learn gathering at the Lodge by the Lake.

Eight campers were registered for the Junior program and 13 in the Teens program. The campers included Samuel Burfiend, Keren Ding, Ben Ding, Ethan Disbro, Jace Draper, Gabriel Fischer, Giovanni Fischer, Clayton Gentis, Cora Gentis, Laken Heaston, Amelia Heer, Landon Heer, Cid Hyder, Ben Hyder, Adali Hyder, Milo Kensell, Brigitte Kern, Violet Larr, Harrison Larr, Braden Lemler, Veronica Lincoln, Arabella Lincoln, Coltin Lincoln, Klay Markley, Anna McBride, Wiley Rice, Kaitlyn Stafford, Everlee Stronczek, Jarie Stronczek and Raelynn Yardley.

This was the ninth time the experience has been offered at Ouabache State Park.



Junior and Teen Indiana Master Naturalist campers

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

<b>DAZEY'S SUPPLY</b> dazeys.com/bluffton-in	<b>ABOVE &amp; BEYOND</b> Vehicle Reconditioning abovebeyondrecon.com	<b>Goodwin Cole &amp; Horvick</b> MEMORIAL CHAPEL A Tradition of Caring thegmcfamily.com
<b>JC'S GARAGE DOOR</b> SALES & SERVICE jcsgaragedoor.com	<b>Daniel's</b> JEWELERS daniels-jewelers.net	<b>KELLY'S</b> COLLISION CENTER, INC. Owners: Dorian Kelly 820 W. Washington Street, Bluffton kellysautocollision.com
<b>3RIVERS</b> 3riversfcu.org	<b>Myers</b> FUNERAL HOMES myersfuneralhomes.com	<b>STEFFEN GROUP</b> REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS steffengroup.com
<b>Riverstone</b> DENTAL riverstonedental.net	<b>Bluffton Tire</b> blufftontire.com	<b>HERITAGE POINTE</b> COMMUNITIES www.lifeheritage.org
<b>INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS</b> AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING icav.us	<b>HIDAY</b> AUTOMOTIVE GROUP hidaymotors.com	<b>Edward Jones</b> EdwardJones.com
<b>Lengerich</b> MEATS lengerichmeats.com	<b>Jerry Flack &amp; Associates</b> jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com	<b>LaFontaine Center</b> ARHF Community lafontainecenter.org
<b>Still Waters</b> FAMILY DENTISTRY stillwatersfamilydentistry.com	<b>bi-countyservices.com</b> of Adams & Wells County	<b>Thoma/Rich, Lemler</b> Funeral Home thomarich.com
<b>MOSER &amp; SON</b> Heating & Air Conditioning 2198 Hwy 52, Bluffton Find Us On Facebook	<b>State Farm</b> Erin Daugherty 260.827.0527 www.MyStateFarmAgent.com	<b>HOME COURT</b> HOME CARE homecourthomecare.com
<b>NBDigital</b> 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.

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!**  
www.news-banner.com or www.facebook.com/news-banner

# Trump pleads not guilty

(Continued from Page 1)

for political purposes. But inside the courtroom, he sat silently, scowling and arms crossed, as a lawyer entered a not guilty plea on his behalf in a brief arraignment that ended without him having to surrender his passport or otherwise restrict his travel.

The arraignment, though largely procedural in nature, was the latest in an unprecedented reckoning this year for Trump, who faces charges in New York arising from hush money payments during his 2016 presidential campaign as well as ongoing investigations in Washington and Atlanta into efforts to undo the results of the 2020 race.

Always in campaign mode, he swiftly pivoted from the solemn courtroom to a festive restaurant, stopping on his way out of Miami at Versailles, an iconic Cuban spot in the city's Little Havana neighborhood where supporters serenaded Trump, who turns 77 on

Wednesday, with "Happy Birthday." The back-to-back events highlight the tension for Trump in the months ahead as he balances the pageantry of campaigning with courtroom stops accompanying his status as a twice-indicted criminal defendant.

Yet the gravity of the moment was unmistakable.

Until last week, no former president had ever been charged by the Justice Department, let alone accused of mishandling top-secret information. The indictment unsealed last week charged Trump with 37 felony counts — many under the Espionage Act — that accuse him of illegally storing classified documents in his bedroom, bathroom, shower and other locations at Mar-a-Lago and trying to hide them from the Justice Department as investigators demanded them back. The charges carry a yearslong prison sentence in the event of a conviction.

Trump has relied on a familiar

playbook of painting himself as a victim of political persecution. He attacked the Justice Department special counsel who filed the case as a "thug" and "deranged," pledged to remain in the race no matter what and addressed supporters Tuesday night at his Bedminster, New Jersey, golf club, where he delivered a roughly half-hour speech full of repeated falsehoods and incendiary rhetoric and threatened to go after President Joe Biden and his family if elected.

"The seal is broken by what they've done. They should never have done this," Trump said of the indictment.

But Attorney General Merrick Garland, an appointee of President Joe Biden, sought to insulate the department from political attacks by handing ownership of the case last November to a special counsel, Jack Smith, who on Friday declared, "We have one set of laws in this country, and they apply to

everyone."

Smith attended Tuesday's arraignment, sitting in the front row behind his team of prosecutors.

The court appearance unfolded against angst over potential protests, with some high-profile backers using barbed rhetoric to voice support. Though city officials said they prepared for possible unrest, there were few signs of significant disruption.

Trump didn't say a word during the court appearance, other than to occasionally turn and whisper to his attorneys who were seated on either side of him. He fiddled with a pen and clasped his hands on the table in front of him as the lawyers and the judge debated the conditions of his release.

While he was not required to surrender a passport — prosecutors said he was not considered a flight risk — the magistrate judge presiding over the arraignment directed Trump to not discuss the

case with certain witnesses. That includes Walt Nauta, his valet who was indicted last week on charges that he moved boxes of documents at Trump's direction and misled the FBI about it.

Nauta did not enter a plea Tuesday because he did not have a local lawyer with him.

Trump attorney Todd Blanche objected to the idea of imposing restrictions on the former president's contact with possible witnesses, noting they include many people close to Trump, including staff and members of his protection detail.

"Many of the people he interacts with on a daily basis — including the men and women who protect him — are potential witnesses in this case," Blanche said.

Trump, who has repeatedly insisted that he did nothing wrong, showed no emotion as he was led by law enforcement out of the courtroom through a side door.

# German curator seeks to return heirlooms stolen from Jewish families

By **KIRSTEN GRIESHABER**  
Associated Press

MUNICH (AP) — Matthias Weniger put on a pair of white cloth gloves and carefully lifted a tarnished silver candleholder, looking for a yellowed sticker on the bottom of it.

The candlestick is one of 111 silver objects at the Bavarian National Museum that the Nazis stole from Jewish families during the Third Reich in 1939. That's when they ordered all German Jews to bring their personal silver objects to pawn shops across the Reich — one of many laws created to humiliate, punish and exclude Jews.

What started with anti-Jewish discrimination and persecution in 1933, after the Nazis were voted to power in Germany, led to the murder of 6 million European Jews and others in the Holocaust before World War II ended with Germany's surrender in 1945.

Weniger, who is a curator at the Munich museum and oversees its restitution

efforts, has made it his mission to return as many of the silver objects as possible to the descendants of the original owners.

"These silver objects handed in at the pawn shops are often the only material things that remain from an existence wiped out in the Holocaust," Weniger told The Associated Press in an interview last week at the museum's workshop where he displayed some silver items that have yet to be restituted.

"Therefore it's really important to try to find the families and give back the objects to them," he added.

Thousands of the pieces taken from Jewish families were melted into around 135 tons of silver, and used to help Germany's war efforts. But several museums ended up with hundreds of silver pieces such as candlesticks used to light candles on the eve of Shabbat, Kiddush cups to bless the wine, silver spoons and cake servers.

Some of the items were returned to Holocaust sur-

vivors in the 1950s and 1960s, if they came forward and actively tried to retrieve their stolen possessions. But many owners were murdered in the Holocaust or, if they succeeded to flee from the Nazis, ended up in far-flung corners of the globe.

"Two thirds of the last owners did not survive the Shoah," Weniger said.

Despite these odds, and with a combination of thorough detective work, dedication and deep knowledge of history, Weniger has so far managed to return about 50 objects to the family members and relatives of the original owners.

He's convinced that he may be able to return almost all remaining objects by the end of this year.

First, he searches for the identity of the original owners. The little yellowed paper stickers on some of the pieces often help his efforts. They were put on the objects by the pawn shops — a testament to Germans' obsessive bureaucracy even in times of dictator-

ship and war. The numbers on the stickers are also listed on more than 80-year-old documents naming the people who had to give away their silver — sometimes beloved heirlooms that had been passed down in families for many generations.

Once Weniger discovers the names of the original owners, he starts looking up Jewish obituary and genealogy databases, in hopes that direct descendants or more distant relatives may have posted their names online.

"And so you get from one generation to the next generation and you end up with telephone books ... with LinkedIn, with Facebook, with Instagram or email addresses that correspond to a member of the younger generation of that family," the researcher explained.

In most of the cases, Weniger says he gets lucky and is able to track down the right relatives.

The majority of descendants live in the United States and Israel, but the

museum has already or is in the process of also returning silver pieces to France, the United Kingdom, Australia and Mexico.

Weniger makes a point of personally delivering the pieces to the families. He traveled to the U.S. earlier this year, and last week, he returned 19 pieces to families in Israel.

There, Weniger met up with Hila Gutmann, 53, and her father Benjamin Gutmann, 86, at his home in Kfar Shmaryahu north of Tel Aviv, and gave them a small silver cup.

Weniger had managed to track down the family with the help of the tracing service of Magen David Adom — Israel's version of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The cup was likely used for Kiddush to bless the wine on the eve of Shabbat — but nobody knows for sure because the original owners, Bavarian cattle dealer Salomon Gutmann and his wife, Karolina, who were the grandparents of

Benjamin, were murdered by the Nazis in the Treblinka extermination camp.

"It was a mixed feeling for us to get back the cup," Hila Gutmann said. "Because you understand it's the only thing that's left of them."

While the grandparents of Benjamin Gutmann were murdered in the Holocaust, their son Max — Benjamin's father — survived because he fled from the Nazis to the British-mandated territory of Palestine, in what is now Israel.

Despite the pain triggered by the loss and return of the silver cup, the Gutmanns say they're happy to have it back and plan to use it in a ceremony with all their other relatives on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, in September.

As for Weniger, the Gutmanns have nothing but praise for him and his work.

"He's really dedicated to it," Hila Gutmann said. "He treats these little objects with so much care — like they are holy."

# 'Smartphones' for sharks: Scientists upgrade sensors to keep track of Cape Cod's sharks

By **MARK PRATT**  
Associated Press

Scientists monitoring the white shark population in the waters off Massachusetts' Cape Cod are attaching improved sensors, including cameras, to the predators to help scientists keep track of their whereabouts and to keep beachgoers informed and safe, researchers said Tuesday.

The program comes just as tourists are filling up hotels and rental properties on the Cape for the summer — and white sharks are returning in greater numbers to feed on the region's abundant seals.

Interactions between white sharks and humans are rare. But the risk is still there. There have been five in Massachusetts since 2012 — three of them classified as bites, one of which was fatal, said Greg Skomal, the state Division of Marine Fisheries shark expert.

"So as a result, we've intensified our research off the Cape to study various aspects of white shark behavior," Skomal said.

For more than a decade, the fisheries division and the nonprofit Atlantic White Shark Conservancy have tagged about 300 sharks

with acoustic sensors that emit a high-frequency sound to an array of receivers along the coast. Public safety officials and lifeguards are notified when a shark swims within range of an acoustic receiver.

This year, researchers are attaching more camera sensors to the predators.

They capture more than just video. The sensors can detect a shark's depth, direction, surrounding water temperature and whether it's accelerating or slowing down. The technology allows scientists to monitor the sharks on a second-by-second basis, Skomal said.

Megan Winton, a staff scientist at the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy, calls it giving smartphones to sharks.

"They're outfitted with an incredible array of sensors that tell us about the animal's movements and their environment," she said, adding that it's "essentially just riding on the back of a white shark."

The information is downloaded to a free app available to the public to reduce encounters and promote safety.

One video captured by a camera tag clamped to a

shark's dorsal fin shows the predator moving into water about 4 feet deep close to shore to go after a seal, stirring up a storm of sand from the bottom. The seal ultimately escaped.

Sharks are patient hunters.

"They slowly patrol the shoreline very methodically until they essentially have a chance to make their move," Winton said.

The technology also has provided insight into how curious sharks are. They have been seen coming to the surface to nibble a lobster buoy or check out a bird or some other piece of flotsam, she said.

Researchers also have started using drones to help spot sharks from above, a method that has been used in other parts of the world, including Australia, Skomal said.

The drawback of the sensor system is that if a shark has not been tagged, it won't be detected. But the program does its best to provide information to the public so they can make informed decisions while at the beach.

"We want them to understand these animals and their habits the way we do," Winton said.

# Amazon says AWS is operating normally after outage that left publishers unable to operate web sites

Amazon's cloud computing unit Amazon Web Services experienced an outage on Tuesday, affecting publishers that suddenly found themselves unable to operate their sites.

The company said on its website that the root cause of the issue was tied to a service called AWS Lambda, which lets customers run code for different types of applications.

Roughly two hours after customers began experiencing errors, the company posted on its AWS status page that many of the affected AWS services were "fully recovered" and it was continuing to recover the rest. Soon after 6:30 pm E.T., the company announced all AWS services were operating normally.

Amazon said it had experienced multiple

error rates for AWS services in the Northern Virginia region where it clusters data centers. The company said customers may be dealing with authentication or sign-in errors when using some AWS services, and experiencing challenges when attempting to connect with AWS Support. The issue with Lambda also indirectly affected other AWS services.


Patrick Neighorn, a company spokesperson, declined to provide additional details about the outage.

AWS is the market leader in the cloud arena, and its customers include some of the world's biggest businesses and organizations, such as Netflix, Coca-Cola and government agencies.


# You. Renewed.

**We make convenience part of your treatment.**


Your "road to recovery" isn't a 45-minute drive up State Road 1. That's why Fort Wayne Orthopedics has locations close to home—like Bluffton—so you can focus on healing, not a commute. Our personalized treatment plans, specialist doctors, and clean, safe surroundings will help you feel renewed, refreshed and ready to take on the world. Plus, you'll still have a full tank of gas.




**Adam Hall, MD**  
Hand, Elbow & Shoulder




**Lakai R. Enterline, DO**  
Sports Medicine & General



**Brandon S. Huggins, MD**  
Spine



**John Paul M. Manalo, MD**  
Total Joint Replacement



**fort wayne ORTHOPEDICS**

(800) 566-5659 | [fwortho.com](http://fwortho.com)

Bluffton Regional Medical Center  
303 S. Main St., Suite 404 A  
Bluffton, IN 46714

## ACAC announces its baseball season awards

The ACAC released its award selections from the 2023 baseball season.

Bluffton's Braxton Betancourt was named a first-team infielder, Drew Pressler was named first-team in the outfield, and

Andrew Onuegbu was second-team infielder.

Southern Wells's lone selection was Kedrik Sonnigsen, receiving honors as a first-team infielder.

Heritage, the conference champions with a 6-0

ACAC record, had the most honors with five. The Patriots fell in the semi-state final against No. 2 Andean.

The Tigers finished the season in third place with a record of 4-2, while the Raiders were last at 0-6.

## Bengals' QB Joe Burrow quiet on contract talks as minicamp begins

By KEITH JENKINS

Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — The question isn't if Joe Burrow will be among the NFL's highest-paid players.

The question is when.



Joe Burrow

The 2022 Pro Bowler and 2021 AP NFL Comeback Player of the Year is in negotiations with the Cincinnati Bengals on a long-term contract extension. After the Bengals ended their first practice of mandatory minicamp Tuesday, the franchise's quarterback had no desire to provide an update to reporters on those contract talks.

"I think I've given you guys all the information that I'm comfortable with sharing about that process," he said. "As far as questions go about that, probably save that for another time."

Cincinnati picked up Burrow's fifth-year option in April. So, at the very least, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2020 draft is under contract through the 2024 season.

In the meantime, Burrow said his goals are simple. He wants to win the Super Bowl and he wants to supplant Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes as the "best in the world."

"I don't think there's any argument right now. It's Pat," Burrow said of who is the game's best. "Until someone has a better year than he's had, he's the one to knock off."

Mahomes won his second league MVP last season before winning his second Super Bowl in four years. He also won his second Super Bowl MVP. Mahomes' Chiefs defeated Burrow's Bengals in the AFC title game.

The Bengals are still in search of the franchise's first Super Bowl victory. Burrow said the urgency to finally win it this season is high.

"We've been there, done that," said Burrow, whose Bengals defeated Mahomes and the Chiefs two seasons ago for the AFC title before losing to the Los Angeles Rams in the Super Bowl.

"Now, it's time to take that next step. I wouldn't say there's extra motivation because we're motivated every game, every day, every year. But I would say the urgency has risen in that locker room."

Cincinnati finished 12-4 last season, win-

ning the AFC North for the second straight year. Burrow, who set franchise single-season records for completions, pass attempts and passing touchdowns in 2022, said the Bengals are already further along than they were at this point last offseason.

"All of our guys on offense have been in the system except for two or three guys," he said. "They're learning it, but we're not really slowing down for anybody. Those guys have done a great job of getting up to our speed for guys that are brand new."

"There's just little things here and there. But when you've been in the system for four years now, you can talk with some guys about things that are very unique. Minor details that maybe you haven't been able to talk about in years past."

One of those players who has been around a while is Jonah Williams. The offensive tackle returned to the facility for mandatory minicamp after undergoing off-season knee surgery and spending time with his newborn daughter.

"It's good to have him back," Burrow said. "Whenever someone has business going on, it's always nice to get them back around the guys and see their face."

Williams did not attend the team's voluntary off-season workouts. Williams requested a trade earlier in the offseason after the Bengals signed left tackle Orlando Brown Jr. in free agency.

Williams lined up at left tackle for the Bengals in all of his 47 career starts (42 in the regular season).

"The main issue for me was the way that I found out, the way that the communication happened," Williams said. "Because I was sitting on my couch, my fiancée's 40 weeks pregnant, her due date was in — I want to say — three days, I'm rehabbing my knee and I find out that we signed Orlando on my phone."

Williams said he still hasn't had any communication with Bengals Director of Player Personnel Duke Tobin or anyone else in the front office about the team's decision to replace him at left tackle.

"It was never left tackle, right tackle," Williams said. "I know a lot of people made it out to be that. It wasn't that. There's 64 tackle spots in the league. To have any of them is a crazy, amazing opportunity, and I'm super grateful for the chance. So if the plan is to play me at right tackle, I'm fired up to do it. Let's go. I'm working (out) my knee. I think I'm going to be cleared soon."



## Rumors swirl around Craig Teagle as lead candidate for Tigers' boys' basketball coach

By RYAN WALKER

The Bluffton boys' basketball team has had quite a busy week in its head coaching carousel.

Last Thursday, Bluffton announced the resignation of newly hired head coach Adam Gray due to "personal reasons." Gray was formally the head coach at Heritage over the past five seasons and was officially hired as the new head man for Bluffton Monday, April 10th, at the school board meeting.

Monday afternoon, both the News and Tribune, a newspaper in Clark and Floyd counties, and Outside The Huddle, an online website covering northeast Indiana high school sports, reported that former Huntington North head coach Craig Teagle would be the new head basketball coach at Bluffton.

Despite the reports, Athletic Director Steve Thompson said that the state-

ments were just rumors and that nothing had been confirmed.

Thompson said in a phone interview Sunday night that since Gray's departure, the Tigers' athletic staff has been searching for his replacement and would have someone hired "as soon as possible."

Teagle has spent his 31 seasons at Huntington North, Jay County, and Caston, compiling 443 wins (.624 winning percentage).

Teagle recently finished up his eighth season with the Vikings, posting a 117-77 record (.658 winning percentage), stepping down and taking the head coaching job at New Albany High School.

But as of a few days ago, reports that Teagle has left the New Albany program have swirled around after two months on the job. The reason for the departure from New Albany is unknown at this time.

## Golden Knights blast Panthers in Game 5 to capture their first ever Stanley Cup championship

By MARK ANDERSON

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Golden Knights delivered their city a true Vegas-style party from dazzling passes to Mark Stone's hat trick to all-out goal celebrations, capturing the young organization's first Stanley Cup with a 9-3 romp over the beaten up and exhausted Florida Panthers on Tuesday night.

Coach Bruce Cassidy, in a nod to the Knights' brief history, started five of the original Vegas players known as the Misfits and put the sixth on the second shift. Cassidy sounded confident the day before the game that his team would play well, and it certainly did, blowing open a one-goal game in the second period to lead 6-1.

Vegas closed out the series in five games to win the cup before a delirious franchise-record crowd of 19,058 at T-Mobile Arena that drowned out the pregame introductions of forward Jonathan Marchessault and goalie Adin Hill and cheered all the way through the final buzzer.

Stone's hat trick — with the third into an empty net with 5:54 left — was the first in a Stanley Cup Final since Colorado's Peter Forsberg in 1996, also against the Panthers.

The Knights got the rest of their scoring from Nic Hague, Alec Martinez, Reilly Smith, Michael Amadio, Ivan Barbashev and Nicolas Roy. Martinez's goal in the second period came nine years to the day after he delivered the double-overtime goal in Game 5 to give the Los Angeles Kings' the cup.

Hill came through with another strong performance that has quickly made him a Knights fan favorite, even earning "MVP! MVP!" chants in the third period. Jack Eichel, the eight-year pro playing in his first postseason, had three assists.

Aaron Ekblad, Sam Reinhart and Sam

Bennett scored for Florida, and Sergei Bobrovsky was overwhelmed in another tough performance against Vegas after carrying Florida to the final. Missing from the lineup was Matthew Tkachuk, the king of game-winning shots during the playoffs but never the same after crushing blow to his shoulder by Vegas' Keegan Kolesar in Game 3.

The Knights have set the standard of what an expansion franchise should look like, making the Cup Final in their first season and the playoffs in every year but one. Six players remain from the initial 2017-18 team that lost in five games to the Washington Capitals in the final.


Those players watched the Capitals skate with the Stanley Cup that night, and then they got the chance to do the same Tuesday to fulfill owner Bill Foley's quest to win the championship in the sixth year.

By creating such a lofty standard at the outset, the Knights played with high expectations, but repeatedly fell short despite four runs to at least the NHL semifinals — until Game 5 against the Panthers.

This is Las Vegas' second pro title in nine months — the Aces claimed the WNBA championship in September — and continues the stunning growth of a sports market that was limited largely to prize fights, UNLV athletics, NASCAR and lots of golf before the Golden Knights took the city by storm. The Raiders began playing here in 2020, the Oakland Athletics appear headed to the desert, Las Vegas will host a Formula One race this year and the Super Bowl will be at Allegiant Stadium in February.

As for the Knights, their connection to Las Vegas was sealed ever since the shooting Oct. 1, 2017 that took 60 lives. They played an integral role in helping the city heal, reaching out to the community off the ice and winning big on it.





**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

**LSM EVENT CENTER**

1935 N. Main Street / Bluffton, IN


**PURCHASE TICKETS BY JUNE 14th AT:**  
[loving-shepherd.org/johnfuller](http://loving-shepherd.org/johnfuller) or 260.824.9000

Special thank you to Family Ford of Bluffton for being our Business Underwriter



Family Ford of Bluffton

Special thank you to Bott Radio Network for being our Media Partner



Quality Christian Talk Radio  
1090 AM | 100.1 FM  
93.7 FM





Drama at the gym

Dear Annie: I love the gym. It has really helped me gain confidence and strength. I have been going to the same gym in our small town for roughly 10 years. I know all the people there and enjoy my time there — until lately.

There is a woman who just started going to the gym who is toxic. She really hurt a dear friend of mine, whose child was in the same class as her child, by spreading vicious rumors that she was having an affair with a tennis instructor. This was not true. She is the typical mean girl from middle school who we all choose to forget — the girl who never grew up.

Aside from comforting my hurt friend, I never came into contact with this woman until she joined my gym. Now I have to see her daily, and it bothers me. It seems like every time I sign up for a class, she is also in the same class. — Took Away My Happy Place

Dear Took Away: Don't let her take away your happy place. So long as she does not try to engage you in conversation, just ignore her. The gym is a big place with lots of people, so don't let one bad apple spoil the bunch. Focus on your exercises and on the kind people, the friends you have made at the gym over the years, and you won't have time to focus on her negativity. If you consciously choose to focus your attention on all the wonderful people and experiences you have at the moment, she will become like white noise in the background, and you won't even notice her.

Dear Annie: I was hanging out with my closest friend, "Alice," and her friend, "Jane," and they started talking about Alice's ex-boyfriend.

They asked me to leave for a minute so they could talk privately, but then they avoided me for the rest of the day.

Once Alice and I both got home, she sent a message saying our friendship wasn't working and how we shouldn't be friends anymore. I agreed with her, considering the fact that she couldn't trust me.

But then, without explanation, for the next few days, Alice was friendly and nice. At that point, I was broken. I've been crying over this. What should I do? — Confused Girl

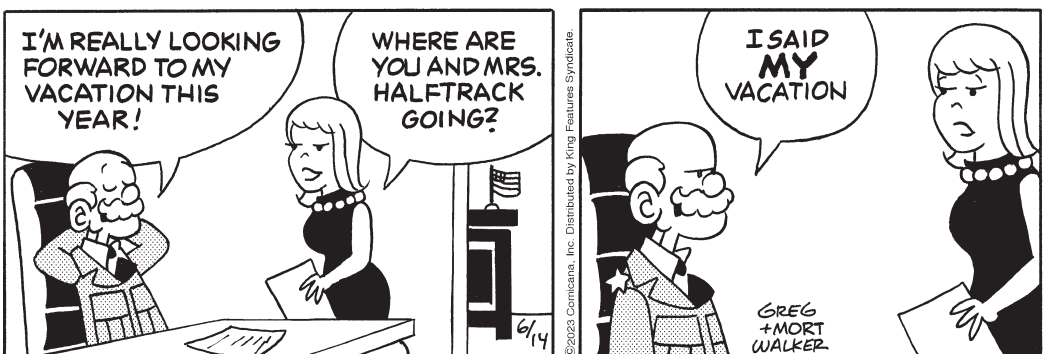
Dear Confused Girl: Her behavior is certainly confusing; it makes no sense. One day she is nice, and the next day she is mean, and then she is nice again. If you want this friendship to continue, you have to find out why she doesn't trust you. If she makes up a reason, or if you don't agree with her, then I might pull away and find a new friend, one who is consistently kind. She might also be suffering from a mental illness. If her behavior continues to be erratic, encourage her to seek help.

"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



BEEBLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ZITS



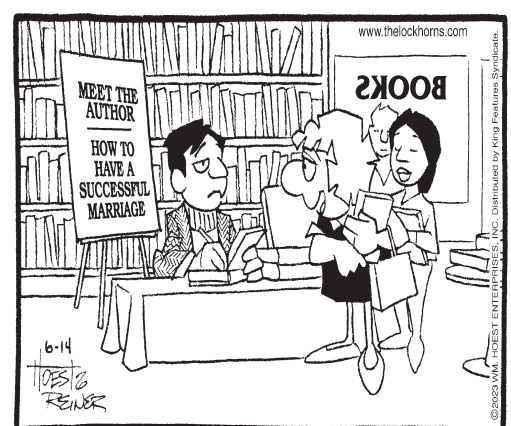
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



The Old Testament is still relevant

Q: There's much said these days about "unhitching from the Old Testament." Does the Old Testament have authority today? — T.T.

A: The Old Testament may not seem relevant to many today, but it is, because it's God's Holy Word, and He has much to teach us through its pages. The message of Jesus Christ is the story of the Bible — it is the story of salvation. Students of the Bible have traced the story of Jesus from the beginning of the Old Testament, for He is the true theme of the Old as well as the New Testament. Jesus is seen in the Old Testament as the angel of the

Lord, but in the New Testament Jesus came in the flesh, and He manifests Himself as the Risen Christ, the Son of the Living God, who says, "Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35).

Jesus quoted from the Old Testament. The apostles quoted from the Old Testament. "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Joel 2:32; Romans 10:13). The book of Isaiah says, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (7:14). The same is said in Matthew 1:23.

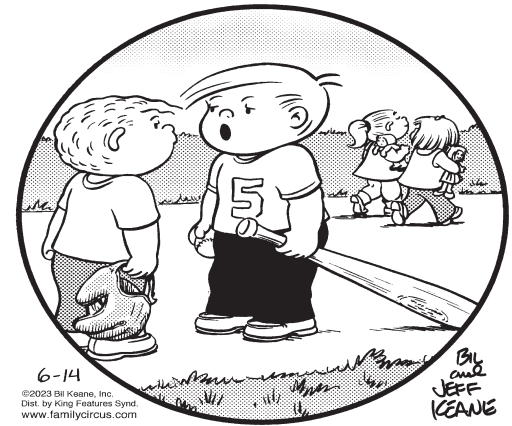
The Old Testament predicted Christ's birth, death, and resurrection. Every important event in Jesus' life was described

many centuries before He came in the flesh, and when Jesus came, He fulfilled every prophecy. The New Testament documents the fulfillment of these prophecies, yet many people still reject its truth.

Is there any authority left? Is there a path we can follow? Can we find a codebook that will give us the answers to life? Yes on all accounts. The answers are found in the ancient and historic book called the Bible. It is the Living Word of God still today.

(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.



"Girls are called the opposite sex 'cause they always want to do the opposite of what we want to do."

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

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solution time: 23 mins. Includes a 'Yesterday's answer' section.

Table with columns for date (06/14), time slots (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), and various TV channels and programs.

