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THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2023

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County health board works through staffing woes

By HOLLY GASKILL
 The Wells County Health Board held a special meeting Wednesday after two full-time employees resigned this month. These resignations included the Health Department adminis-

trator, Trica Ross, who had filled the position following Marlene Hoag's retirement last fall. Ryan Bennett, the environmental health specialist, also resigned. Amidst these vacancies, the board unanimously approved hir-

ing Hoag as an interim administrator. They also approved member Chris Esterling to work with the County Council and County Attorney Ted Storer to determine a contract for the position. Commissioner Jeff Stringer,

who was in attendance, stated Hoag should return to assess and address the Health Department's issues. Hoag had 37 years of experience with the department before her retirement. With this, the board decided to

let Hoag determine how to fill the current staffing needs and restructure as needed. The environmental specialist position is currently vacant and, according to Dr. Kay Johnson, the department needs a
 (Continued on Page 2)

Four injured in Adams County crash

A two-vehicle accident in rural Adams County left four people injured Tuesday morning. Preliminary investigation indicated that at approximately 7:53 a.m., Stacy Mowery, Decatur, crossed the center line on Covered Bridge Road in Toyota Scion, striking a Ford Escort driven by Yvette Weiland, Geneva.

In a press release, Sheriff Dan Mawhorr stated Mowery and her two passengers were transported for medical attention. Passenger Dakota Burrow, Bluffton, was transported to a hospital in Fort Wayne in critical condition; Mowery and passenger Dylan Franks, Bluffton, were both in stable condition.

Mawhorr stated Weiland was also transported to a
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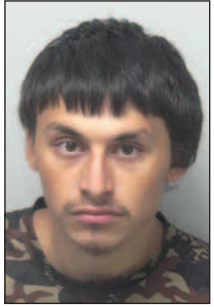
Above, an officer investigates the scene of the crash. At left, Weiland's Ford Escort sits in the tree line. (Photos courtesy of the Adams County Sheriff's Office.)

Man arrested for failure to report human remains

By SYDNEY KENT
 Raymond Castillo III, 19, Portland, was arrested Friday for failure to report human remains, a criminal misdemeanor.

The charge follows the death of a Bluffton minor last November who, according to a toxicology report from the Wells County Coroners' office, overdosed on fentanyl. Castillo failed to call for help after finding the minor's body.

According to the probable cause affidavit, Castillo and several minors were spending time at the victim's grandparents' home for several days. Castillo told police that on the night of the victim's death, the group watched a movie and fell asleep on the couch. Castillo reported he did not know the minor had consumed pills or where the pills were acquired. Castillo also reported that by the time he found the body, the victim was not moving, and he and others left because they were scared.
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Raymond Castillo III

Man sentenced in trafficking, molestation case

By SYDNEY KENT
 Brian Randy Vanauken, 41, Fort Wayne, was sentenced to 69 years in prison in the Wells Circuit Court Wednesday morning.

A jury found Vanauken guilty earlier this month on three counts of child molesting, all Level 1 felonies, one count of promotion of sexual trafficking, a Level 3 felony, one count of sexual misconduct with a minor, a Level 4 felony, six counts of child solicitation, all Level 4 felonies, and five counts of child solicitation, all Level 5 felonies.

A traffic stop in July 2021 in which the victim was driving Vanauken prompted the investigation. Officers then discovered Vanauken's crimes began seven months prior when he met a 13-year-old child on a dating app called Grindr.

"This was a 7-month-long relationship where the defendant would solicit, via text message, sexual relations with the victim," Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Timothy Sipe began his opening statement. "Not only would he solicit sexual relations, they would actually meet up, and these sexual relations were performed on at least four separate occasions. The defendant traveled from Fort Wayne to Bluffton, Indiana to conduct these sexual relations. The State would like to ask the court to take into consideration that he was willing to travel to such great lengths."

Sipe then referenced Vanauken's prior charges regarding possession of marijuana and the connection with this case. Vanauken traded the victim marijuana for sexual relations both with Vanauken and other men. On one

occasion, Vanauken asked the juvenile to travel with him to Roanoke, and on another occasion, asked the juvenile to travel to a hotel for sex.

"The victim came in and testified," Sipe continued. "He is now 16 years old, and this is something he has to live with for the rest of his life. There is no telling what kind of impact that might have on him. Hopefully, the State prays, that the impact on him will be minimized. The State does not have much confidence that it will. The State
 (Continued on Page 2)

Warren festival, area July 4th celebrations set for this weekend

Warren's Salamonie Summer Festival kicks off three days of celebration Friday with the annual Samuel Jones breakfast in the morning and the festival's parade in the evening.

The breakfast, where the Samuel Jones Award for civic service is presented each year, is at 8 a.m. at the Knight-Bergman Center. A full day of events includes the parade at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, several events — a flea market, sidewalk chalk contest, antique tractor show, and a waterfall fight, among others — will be held during the day with a concert by the Bulldogs at Riverside Park from 7 to 9 p.m.

On Sunday, a worship service will be held in the morning at Riverside Park, sponsored by the Warren Area Ministerial Association. Sunday evening, the Mountain Dewe Boys will present a concert at Tower Park with a fireworks show at dusk.

Other area celebrations are scheduled during the weekend and on Tuesday, July 4. They include:

Bluffton — Fireworks at Park Field, the football stadium at Bluffton High School, at 10 p.m. Tuesday, July 4.

Markle — The OK Boomer Band will perform from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 4, followed by a fireworks show.

Ossian — The Fireworks on the Hill event, sponsored by Ossian Parks and Recreation, will be presented from 6 to
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Indiana man confessed to Delphi murders in phone call to wife

By ARLEIGH RODGERS and TOM DAVIES
 Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An Indiana man charged with killing two teenage girls confessed multiple times to the murders in a phone call to his wife while in prison, according to court documents released Wednesday.

Richard Matthew Allen allegedly told his wife, Kathy Allen, in an April 3 phone call that he killed Abigail Williams, 13, and Liberty German, 14. The two teenagers'

bodies were found Feb. 14, 2017, just outside of their hometown of Delphi, Indiana — about 60 miles northwest of Indianapolis, in Carroll County.

"Investigators had the phone call transcribed and the transcription confirms that Richard Allen admits that he committed the murders of Abigail Williams and Liberty German," reads a motion filed April 20 by Carroll County prosecutor Nicholas McLeland. "He admits several times within the phone call that he committed

the offenses as charged. His wife, Kathy Allen, ends the phone call abruptly."

Allen County Judge Fran Gull, assigned to the case after the original judge recused himself, allowed public access to more than 100 filings in the case for the first time on Wednesday.

The documents were under seal from a gag order Gull issued in December 2022, prohibiting attorneys, law enforcement officials, court personnel, the coroner and family members from comment-

ing on the case.

Gull's order stated she withheld releasing the unredacted probable cause affidavit filed by prosecutors outlining the allegations against Allen because it includes the names of juvenile witnesses.

The redacted probable cause affidavit released in November 2022 states an unspent bullet, which "had been cycled through" a pistol Allen owned, was discovered between the girls' bodies. In an October 2022 search of Allen's home, investigators seized his

.40-caliber pistol that he purchased in 2001.

The girls' injuries were "caused by a sharp object," according to another unsealed document released Wednesday. Also included in the list of items police seized from Allen's home in the October 2022 search were about a dozen knives, some described as double-edged or folding knives.

Allen was arrested in October 2022 on two counts of murder. A relative had dropped the girls
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Outside

 Slight chance of rain,
 Air Quality Alert in effect

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 88	High 87	High 85
Low 67	Low 68	Low 66

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THURSDAY
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County health board

(Continued from Page 1) full-time vital records position. According to Stringer, Hoag expressed interest in having Bennett return to his previous role with the intention of moving into more administrative duties. Johnson also recommended this solution. Additionally, Johnson stated that the current part-time vital records employee, Kylie Rolston, has been serving full-time without the same benefits.

Board member Steven Bales wanted Hoag to assess the position before making changes since Hoag had previously filled that role, and the other board members agreed. To this, Stringer noted that Hoag had absorbed other responsibilities because of her years of experience, but this wasn't always the right approach. "I think we did her a disservice in the long run — she was the lowest-paid person in the department," Stringer said.

The board also discussed leadership and support as the core issue within the department. Subsequently, Stringer said they should have patience as Hoag assesses where the Health Department's position. The board approved her interim position for no less than 90 days, possibly extending to six months. All board members were present for the special meeting. holly@news-banner.com

Trafficking, molestation case

(Continued from Page 1) does not hold against Mr. Vanauken that he had a trial — that is his right. The concern is that still, to this day, Vanauken has not admitted any wrongdoing."

trade-off situation. Whether he liked it or not, in reality, that is what happened. He was willing to step into that and be okay to do that." Sipes noted that while he feels sympathy for the Vanauken family in the passing of his mother, the State does not believe his response to the death is appropriate or normal. He also acknowledged the defense's argument that Vanauken's intentions were not initially predatory.

fact, he questions him about it at one point." Kiracofe referenced screenshots of Vanauken's account of "very, very young men" that he pursued through the website. Kiracofe referenced a statement Vanauken made during the trial in which he told the court he has a "type" and is attracted to young, adolescent and effeminate boys.

The mother of the victim nodded her head as Sipes spoke. Emily Kutsenok, Vanauken's lawyer, then argued her defense. "I recognize the victim was 13-years-old at the time that this relationship began; however, I ask the court to disregard any impact that it might consider having upon the victim, in this case, coming to trial and having his sexual exploits broadcasted to a jury," Kutsenok said. "As a 13-year-old in the state of Indiana, there should not have been any sexual exploits by that individual. This is not a situation that any sexual activity should have been occurring by that minor, so I would ask that the argument be disregarded by the court."

"The victim's Grindr account did have him listed as 19 years old," Sipe said. "However, about a week or so after this relationship had started, it became readily apparent to the defendant that the victim was much younger than he initially said he was. He was aware he was having sexual relations with a minor, and for the rest of this relationship, he simply did not care. Whether this was initially predatory in nature, it turned into that. He simply did not care because the victim was giving him exactly what he was wanting. The State will ask the court to disregard that as a factor."

"Not to excuse any misconduct before this, but when Mr. Vanauken met the victim in person, he should have known," Kiracofe said. "The court saw the victim in this case — two years after the fact — and he still looked like a very young person." "This is a molest that occurred over a seven-month span," Kiracofe continued. "Certainly there were times when Mr. Vanauken could have ended the relationship. As the State pointed out, for him to facilitate this crime, it required him to travel. There is a reference to him trading drugs for sexual favors, and that was a component of the relationship between the two. The court also notes that the defendant has not admitted to any wrongdoing. He was adamant during the trial that he was convinced the child was 17 years of age. The court finds that to be disingenuous."

"It's clear that Vanauken recognized that the relationship was becoming sort of a bartering situation as was indicated by the state," Kutsenok continued. "The text messages state, 'I don't want you to have to perform sexual acts for things. It didn't start like that, at least I didn't think it did. You were performing sexual acts because you wanted to.' I believe that directly contradicts the State's comments that it was Mr. Vanauken's intention to create a bartering type of relationship."

Judge Kenton Kiracofe offered Vanauken the opportunity to make a statement to the court. Vanauken declined. Kiracofe then called for a short recess to deliberate before issuing his sentence.

"I think you well knew the child was underage," Kiracofe said to Vanauken. "I don't see that he would benefit from probation in this matter and I think to suspend a portion of the sentence would minimize the seriousness of this offense." Some of Vanauken's charges will be served consecutively and others concurrently. Vanauken told the court that he plans to appeal the ruling and sentencing. sydney@news-banner.com

She also stated Vanauken struggled with the death of his mother shortly before the crimes in this case began. Sipe rebutted: "Miss Kutsenok made reference to the text message between Mr. Vanauken and the victim where he was basically acknowledging the relationship had turned into a

July 4th celebrations

(Continued from Page 1) 10:30 p.m. at Archbold-Wilson Park. Food and drinks, music, and a fireworks show are planned. The Norwell marching band will be selling glow sticks, glasses, and other items.

Fort Wayne — The Fort Wayne Philharmonic Orchestra will present its annual free Patriotic Pops concert at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, July 1, at Parkview Field. The concert's finale will feature a fireworks show. Then, on Tuesday, July 4, the Fort Wayne TinCaps will have a home game at Parkview Field starting at 6:05 p.m. Fans can stay in their seats after the game for a view of the city's Fourth of July fireworks at 10 p.m.

Roanoke — The town will host a series of events the evening of Saturday, July 1. Kids' games are scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. and the Lions Club will host a food tent starting at 6 p.m. The Roanoke Volunteer Fire Department will offer to soak kids and adults alike in a "cool down" at 7 p.m., followed by a fireworks show at dusk.

Decatur — Music by Nightrain, a Guns 'n' Roses tribute band, opens the evening at 7 p.m. At 9 p.m., the American Legion will present a salute to fallen veterans. Fireworks are scheduled for 10 p.m. at Riverside Park. Food will be available from 5 to 10 p.m. at Riverside Center.

Huntington — A community fireworks show will be held at dusk Fri-

Delphi murders

(Continued from Page 1) off at a hiking trail near the Monon High Bridge on Feb. 13, 2017, and their bodies were found the next day in a rugged, heavily wooded area near the trail. Their deaths were ruled a homicide.

2022, attributed the admissions to his declining mental state.

Allen's attorney Brad Rozzi said at the hearing that since Allen's incarceration in the Westville Correctional Facility in Westville, Indiana, Allen has been treated more stringently than other inmates. Allen's lawyers filed an emergency motion in April requesting he be relocated, citing in court filings a "dramatic change in Mr. Allen's con-

dition, including his change in demeanor, change in appearance and change in his overall mental status."

They said his "incriminating" statements were the result of this stressful environment.

McLeland questioned whether changing facilities would benefit Allen, as he said it may not be "any different" than his treatment at the Westville Correctional Facility.

Law enforcement officers and the warden of the facility testified that the constant surveillance and physical restraints they use are for Allen's safety. They said they believe he could be a target of other inmates because the case involves children.

"The allegations in the Defendant's motion, while colorful and dramatic, are not entirely correct," states a court filing from McLeland on April 14, unsealed on Wednesday.

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Weather

Thursday, June 29, 2023 (24-hour observations at 9:39 p.m. Wednesday) High: 78; Low: 55; Precipitation: None Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.66 feet at 9:45 p.m. Wednesday

Wells County forecast

Today: A slight chance of showers before 1 p.m., then a slight chance of showers after 5 p.m. Widespread haze before 1 p.m. Areas of smoke between 11 a.m. and noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 88. South wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent. Tonight: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. South wind around 10 mph. Friday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 87. West wind 5 to 10 mph. Friday Night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 68. West wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms. Saturday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 2 p.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., then showers and thunderstorms likely after 5 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 85. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible. Saturday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely before 8 p.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent. Sunday: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 80. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent. Sunday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. Monday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 82. Monday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. Tuesday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. Tuesday Night: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. Wednesday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 86.



Adams crash

(Continued from Page 1) Fort Wayne hospital with several injuries and is currently in stable condition. The Indiana State Police were called in for accident reconstruction and are currently investigating the cause of the accident. The accident is still under

investigation by the Adams County Sheriff's Office and the Indiana State Police. The Geneva, Berne and Bluffton Police Departments, Geneva Fire Department, and Adams Memorial Paramedics also assisted at the scene.

Man arrested

(Continued from Page 1) Multiple witness statements included screenshots of conversations about the incident on Snapchat.

that weekend. Statements also report that Castillo and another minor realized the victim had overdosed; however, they did not contact authorities for help and left the residence. A status hearing is scheduled for 9 a.m. on July 20 in the Wells Circuit Court.

According to two statements, Castillo reportedly took the pills and gave them to the victim and other minors in the group

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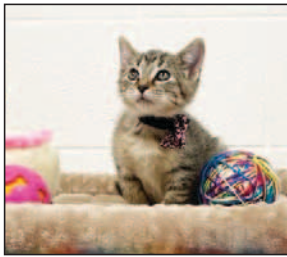
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A Talk with Tego



Autumn is a 10-week-old, dilute calico female.



Dixie is a 10-week-old, tiger striped female.



Daisey is a 10-month-old, yellow/white female.



Tego

Tego's Tips: The Friends of the Shelter are sponsoring half price on all adoption fees starting July 1 and ending Aug. 31.

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

Pregnant workers receive federal protections under a new law

Indiana's previous attempts to pass similar protections failed repeatedly.

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle
Pregnant workers employed in Indiana now have access to guaranteed accommodations after the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA), a federal law that Indiana repeatedly failed to enact in previous years, went into effect Tuesday.

More than half of states already had similar protections enshrined into law, specifying that businesses with more than 15 employees must accommodate pregnant workers by assigning light duty, allowing more bathroom and rest breaks, as well as anything else recommended by a medical provider — so long as it doesn't create an "undue burden."

Rep. Maureen Bauer, D-South Bend, noted that Indiana has one of the worst maternal mortality rates in a country with the worst maternal mortality rate among wealthy countries. For women of color, particularly Black women, mortality rates are nearly double.

"In Indiana, you can ask but you can be denied. So there's nothing that ensures a healthy pregnancy or a healthy mom and a healthy baby," Bauer said. "We couldn't get this done at the state level. We're hopefully going to see major changes in including women in the workforce and having healthier outcomes (in) pregnancy and childbirth."

Why advocates say protections are needed

Though the Americans with Disabilities Act and Pregnancy Discrimination Act both offer legal protections to workers, neither guarantees accommodations for a pregnant employee. Rather, hundreds of thousands of women lost their jobs — and often their health insurance — when seeking accommodations to protect themselves or their fetus, as documented by A Better Balance, which pushed for such protections for a decade.

"A pregnant worker, often a low-wage woman of color, would seek a modest job modification — refraining from heavy lifting, carrying a water bottle, using a stool as a cashier or taking extra bathroom breaks, as needed," an organization report detailing the passage of PWFA said. "The worker's manager would refuse the worker's request, forcing them to choose between their health and their livelihood."

New York City was the first to codify protections in 2014 and A Better Balance reported working to pass similar laws in 26 other states before the 2022 passage of the Congressional bill. According to Bloomberg

Law, at least 30 states had stronger protections than the federal standard pre-PWFA. "The ability to maintain employment during pregnancy is critical for the health and wellbeing of a pregnant worker and her developing child. Income provides for food, housing, and access to healthcare," the Kentucky Department of Public Health and Wellness said in a 2019 Pregnant Workers Health Impact Assessment.

The Kentucky agency reported that allowing pregnant workers to sit during their shift reduced the risk of a preterm birth. Additionally, limiting the amount of weight lifted regularly reduced the risk of miscarriage but working in loud workplaces could contribute to infant hearing loss.

Kentucky has a maternal mortality rate is higher than Indiana's, according to numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but passed state-level pregnancy protections in 2019.

Indiana's 2022 Maternal Mortality Review Committee reported that 92 Hoosier women died during or shortly after childbirth in 2020. Nearly two-thirds, or 62 percent, were employed. The report didn't analyze whether work or the lack of workplace accommodations played any role in their deaths and made no workplace-specific recommendations.

Governor spearheads Indiana efforts with limited success

Gov. Eric Holcomb included pregnancy accommodations in his legislative agenda in both 2020 and 2021, emphasizing the need to improve Indiana's infant mortality rate. In 2021, Holcomb signed an executive order acknowledging the shortcomings of federal protections and directed state agencies to provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant workers.

"Whereas, the benefits of providing reasonable pregnancy accommodations to women in the workforce can include, for example, reducing the chance of preterm births, promoting worker retention and productivity, and increasing workforce morale," Holcomb wrote in the formal language of an executive order. "Whereas, the most commonly requested pregnancy accommodations do not place an undue hardship on employers, are fairly limited in scope and are often at no cost or a one-time low cost..."

But state legislators didn't agree with Holcomb, declining to create such protections for all pregnant workers. Instead, lawmakers required that businesses respond to a pregnant

employee's request for an accommodation within "a reasonable timeframe," swayed by the Indiana Chamber's intense lobbying effort against stronger requirements.

"During my administration we have taken steps to ensure protections for pregnant women in the workforce and help more moms and their babies get off to a healthier start. I'll always be looking for ways to continue making progress on this and every other front when it comes to removing barriers in the workplace," Holcomb told the Indiana Capital Chronicle in a statement.

Several other Republican lawmakers pushed to make 2021's House Enrolled Act 1309 stronger, but two subsequent Senate bills died in the Pensions and Labor Committee, led by Granger Republican Linda Rogers, without a hearing.

Bauer offered an amendment to the 2021 bill with some penalties and requirements for employers to comply with "reasonable" requests but it failed on a 68-30 vote, with just one Republican — Rep. Cindy Ziemke of Batesville — voting for the measure.

Businesses hesitant to support protections

As detailed by A Better Balance, business groups like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce hedged codifying protections because its members feared it would be burdensome and increase litigation.

Passing state-level guarantees to accommodations in Massachusetts and Kentucky relied heavily on getting buy-in from these groups, and opposition from the Indiana Chamber limited the Hoosier State's version.

Ashton Eller, the Indiana chamber's vice president of health care policy and employment law, said businesses needed "regulatory certainty."

"Some of the concerns with previous parts of state legislation is how that regulatory environment would intersect with federal legislation that's already on the books," he said. "(PWFA) kind of clears up some regulatory uncertainty whereas previous proposed state legislation would kind of muddy the waters by providing different accommodations or different levels of bureaucratic work for employers by having different state standards (than) federal standards."

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Tuesday, 8:12 p.m., Gerber Bridge. Report of a vehicle off the road with spiderwebbed rear window and an ice cream cone thrown at it. It is assumed the driver was fishing due to fishing poles around the vehicle.

Tuesday, 8:14 p.m., Fairview Cemetery. Report of four children playing and did not leave when told.

Tuesday, 9:39 p.m., 100 block of North Oak Street. Report of tree cut down in yard and was unsure who did it.

Tuesday, 11:19 p.m., corner of South Oak and West Townley streets. Caller reported five juveniles took his sons bike.

Wednesday, 1:02 a.m., Napa Auto Parts. Caller requested to speak to an officer. He reportedly found a compartment in his car that people could hide things in and wanted officers to know.

Wednesday, 4:14 a.m., 600 block of Westfield Drive. Caller requesting information and was advised.

Wednesday, 11:41 a.m., 100 block of West Wabash Street. Report of woman in WOW parking lot screaming and cussing at caller.

Wednesday, 12:36 p.m.,

Walmart. Report of couple in Walmart fighting, one person appeared to be under the influence.

County:
Tuesday, 3:14 p.m., 1723E 350N, Bluffton. Solicitor complaint. The solicitor did not have a permit and was advised he and anyone from his company would be cited without a permit. The man stopped and contacted his transportation for pick-up.
Tuesday, 4:08 p.m., west U.S. 224 and north 300W. Vehicle off the roadway. Waiting for AAA towing service.
Tuesday, 5:17 p.m., residence on 200W, Bluffton. Report of threatening messages from family members.
Wednesday, 2:22 a.m., north Ind. 1 and east 350N. Vehicle with a flat tire off the roadway.
Wednesday, 8:42 a.m., west Ind. 218 and south 300W. Report of a motorcycle traveling at a high rate of speed.

Ossian:
Tuesday, 10:31 p.m., Morton Lane and north Jefferson Street. Minivan dragging a large tarp underneath and behind it. Driver advised it fell off a tow truck and the deputy helped him remove the tarp.

Wednesday, 12:01 a.m.,

north Ind. 1 and east 900N. Vehicle stopped for having a headlight out. The vehicle smelled of marijuana, but a search of the vehicle was negative. The driver admitted to smoking marijuana, but that he hadn't in several days.

ACCIDENTS

City:
Tuesday, 5:26 p.m., Ind. 1 and Lamar Street. Wesley Shane was driving and stated he was distracted by looking at a nearby business. The front of his Fort F-250 collided with the rear end of Larry Cook's Chevy Silverado, which was stopped in traffic. Both vehicles sustained non-disabling damage at the points of impact. Damages not exceeding \$1,001.

Wednesday, 11:45 a.m., West Washing Street. Amy Frauhiger was driving straight in a Toyota Sienna when she struck a parked Chevy Traverse. Damages not exceeding \$1,001.

ARRESTS

Joshua Isaac Lutz, 19, Fort Wayne; domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$25,000.

Hunter Logan Clark, 23, Bluffton; probation violation, a Class A misdemeanor, and probation violation, a Level 6 felony. No bond set.

State's Attorney General's Office investigates health care fraud

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita's office, through its Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, joined more than a dozen states and the federal government Wednesday in a nationwide enforcement action against 78 individuals charged with \$2.5 billion in Medicaid Fraud.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, defendants allegedly defrauded Medicaid and Medicare programs and some used those proceeds to purchase exotic automobiles, jewelry and yachts. The Justice Department seized millions in cash, automobiles and real estate related to the schemes.

"These enforcement actions, including against one of the largest health care fraud schemes ever prosecuted by the Justice Department, represent our intensified efforts to combat fraud and prosecute the individuals who profit from it," said U.S. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland in a release. "The Justice Department will find and bring to justice criminals who seek to defraud Americans and steal from taxpayer-funded programs."

The Indiana Attorney General's Office investigated eight cases against licensed health care professionals and medical offices. Department attorneys, with the assent of local prosecutors, will pursue charges against the accused.

"In Indiana, Medicaid benefits are intended to help provide needed medical care for disabled and low-income Hoosiers," Rokita said in a statement. "Unfortunately, unscrupulous providers all too often try to divert these resources to serve their own

selfish desires. In the process, they scam their fellow taxpayers whose hard-earned money supports these programs. Our team of lawyers and investigators will continue to hold accountable all those who illegally try to defraud the system."

Level 6 felony charges, as described by the Attorney General's Office, include:

Columbus LPN Erin McMillan, 44. McMillan faces charges for obtaining a controlled substance by fraud; furnishing false or fraudulent information; and failure to make, keep or furnish a record. Complaint filings include video footage of McMillan obtaining narcotic medications but not administering them and staff alleged that she put items into her personal bags at work.

Indianapolis RN Wendy Hahn, 52. Hahn is charged with obtaining a controlled substance by fraud and furnishing false or fraudulent information as well as a class A misdemeanor for theft. A Rush County officer arrested Hahn on an unrelated charge and found controlled substances packaged for Hancock County patients while searching her vehicle, according to the complaint.

Plainfield's Heather Heugel, 37. Heugel is charged with obtaining a controlled substance by fraud; furnishing false or fraudulent information; and failure to make, keep, or furnish a record.

Merrillville LPN Kandice Duke, 43. Duke faces charges for obtaining a controlled substance by fraud/deceit or subterfuge. Alleg-

edly, Duke stole narcotic pain medication prescribed for residents at a Crown Point facility.

Michigan City's Traci Lindfors, 50. Lindfors is charged with obtaining a controlled substance by fraud; furnishing false or fraudulent information; and failure to make, keep, or furnish a record. According to the complaint, Lindfors, who worked at a residential facility, allegedly withheld medications from patients to keep them for herself.

Michigan City RN Victoria Lee Bell, 57. Bell faces charges for obtaining a controlled substance by fraud and failure to make, keep or furnish a record. Bell admitted to stealing medication, allegedly.

Hartford City RN Melissa Lou Fannin, 43. Fannin is charged with obtained a controlled substance by fraud; furnishing false or fraudulent information; and possession of a narcotic drug. Allegedly Fannin, while working at a hospital, dispensed hydromorphone at a rate 155 percent higher than a coworker and took the controlled substance for her own use.

VISITATION & SERVICES

Mary "Jeannine" Stinson

Calling: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, July 1.

Service: 2 p.m., Saturday, July 1 at the funeral home.

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
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www.thomarich.com

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Carrion brings visitors to Angelkeep

Robinson Crusoe killed a bird for dinner only to call it flesh carrion and “fit for nothing.” Shakespeare wrote “That this foul deed shall smell above the earth with carrion men, groaning for burial.” God created creatures devoted to the eradication of the decaying, fowl-smelling, carrion of deceased wildlife. These critters loved their job. They survived on the extinguished existence of fellow wildlife. Sometimes called the cycle of life, the process reached back to creation itself.



Alan Daugherty

Angelkeep Journals

Angelkeep’s habitat supported a huge range of animal visitors. A few of which lived here full-time. Some were born, thrived, and then eventually died. Their death literally supported the livelihood of other visiting animals. In death, those no longer among the living, become carrion, or a life-sustaining food source. Some considered that gross. Literally, nature’s survival depended on those carrion lovers.

So who visited Angelkeep to dine on the lost? To nobody’s surprise, turkey buzzards head the list. Flies were also commonly known as carrion processors. Larvae of some flies, unscientifically called maggots, helped clear the earth of decaying matter including deceased animals. In return a good and fat maggot helped many a fisherman catch a fish. A fisherman determining a catch too small for the skillet, and discarding it into the brush rather than back to the water, produced a choice piece of carrion which offered the maggot clan the last laugh.

Locally, coyotes assisted nature in cleaning the land of unburied death. Other regular scavengers might have come as a surprise. Local crows, hawks, eagles, and opossum’s appeared on this list. Though not the primary food source, a blue jay had been seen in the past carrying off a dead mouse with intent for dining. Carry out carrion, so to speak.

Not too long ago a major source of carrion surfaced after a Norfolk Southern locomotive won the life-and-death contact sport with two deer ending life on Angelkeep soil. Opinion Page Editor Mark Miller had been contacted for his opinion as to the delicacy of such a story appearing in Angelkeep Journals. He answered the issue with news and photo appearing on page one as the daily’s lead story.

Two phone calls resulted in an NS personage promising to notify a maintenance crew. The NS maintenance crew apparently opted to send in the reserve winged teams, NS buzzards and flies. To be Angelkeep-fare, NS at that time also had a continuing raft of derailments, deservingly of a higher priority.

Who knew that a bird, granted buzzards are among the largest birds of Angelkeep, could turn over an adult deer? Buzzards relocated a deer’s dead weight a distance of 15 feet...uphill. This happened after Angelkeep’s human dweller determined it excessive weight to attempt moving the carcasses due to personal heart health concerns.

Another pair of interesting creatures ate carrion, but Tasmanian devils and Komodo dragons had yet to visit Angelkeep, thus not listed among local nature visitors with undertaking duty.

Similarly, foxes dined on the occasional road-kill, but so far a fox has not been captured in any Angelkeep photography. Angelpond contained freshwater, not conducive to another aquatic animal willing to dine on dead flesh, that being a shark.

Angelkeep’s past identified the occasional carrion beetle. Their larvae partially thrive on the food source that their namesake implied.

A possum, with Indiana DNR correction to opossum, had never been observed dining on carrion at Angelkeep. Instead they have always been seen clawing up and devouring oil sunflower seeds dropped from feeders by the birds. This strange large rat-looking animal ate a variety. They might kill small animals for a meal as well as the happenstance discovery of carrion.

Mice caught in traps inside Angelkeep’s garage were typically disposed of in a flower bed for natural composting. Invariably they disappeared. Blue jays, mentioned previously, have carried them off. The internet said other mice would devour the dead of its kind. Angelkeep’s primary dead mouse carrion lover came in the form of several neighborhood roving, tame, well-nourished cats, pursuing instinctive behaviors at Angelkeep. If they couldn’t catch a fresh songbird, a dead mouse did nicely.

Gotta go, pizza delivery arrived. Why are baked, dead, meats never called carrion?

A Postscript

On New Year’s Day, 1907, a News-Banner predecessor, the Bluffton Chronicle, reported two stories on page five that have a shallow but interesting association with today’s Angelkeep Journals.

Interurban railroad conductors and motormen used train cars in place of rifles to hunt rabbits on the way into town. They discovered rabbits played along the tracks at night. They learned, if they spotted it while bearing down on a bunny, 2-3 short blasts of the car’s horn bewildered them to pricking up its ears and staring into the approaching light. Deer struck. The head-to-head impact tossed the hare to the side, “deader than a nit.” On the return trip, leaving town, the crew stopped and picked up the rabbits to provide a fine meal the next day. As many as three were killed in one night.

Two columns over, a Bluffton’s men’s club known as “The Buzzards” enjoyed a New Year’s Eve celebration in their “roost” on North Main Street, “and a swell banquet was served with three large turkeys as the central dish.”

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

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, June 29, the 180th day of 2023. There are 185 days left in the year.

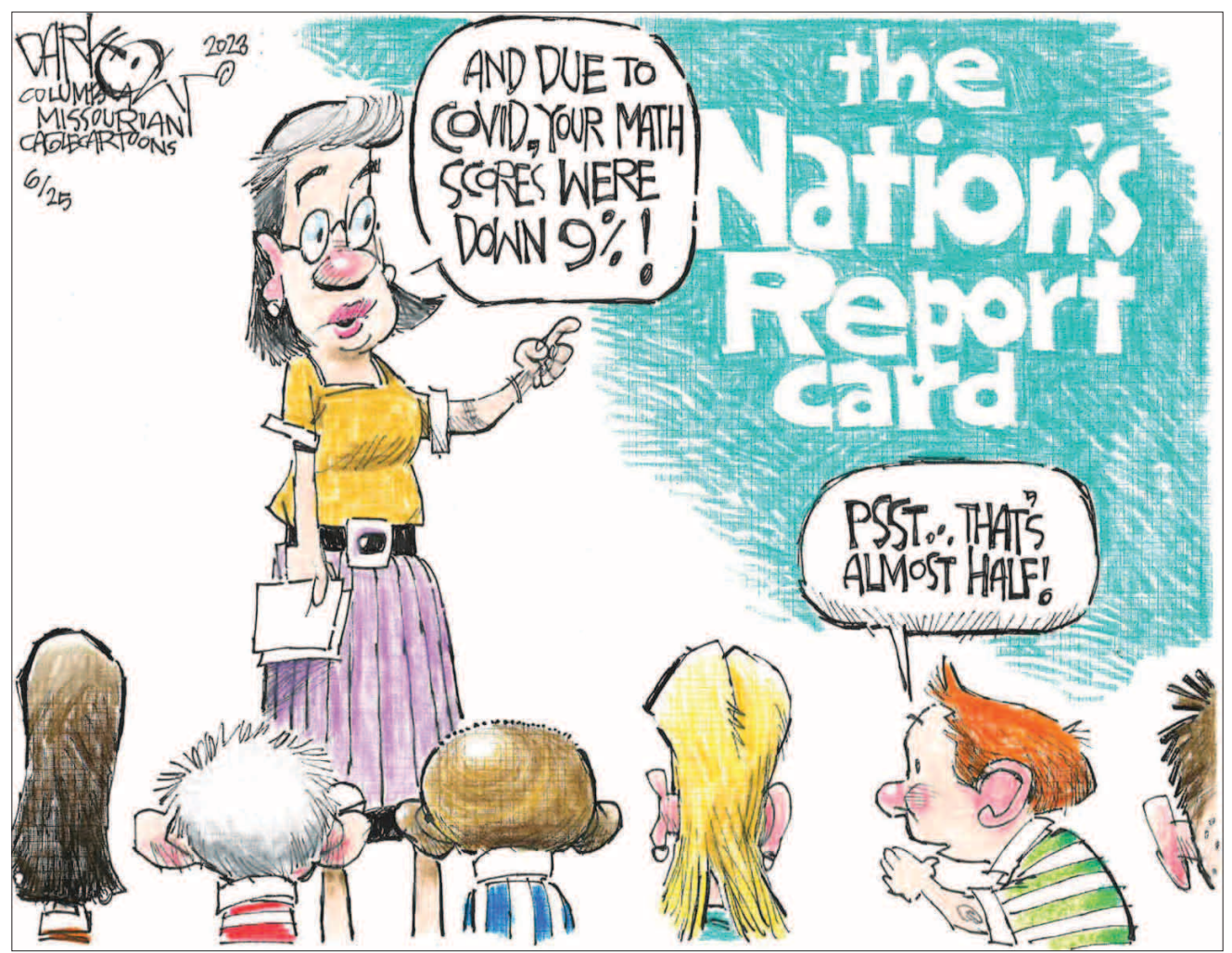
Today’s Highlight in History: On June 29, 1613, London’s original Globe Theatre, where many of Shakespeare’s plays were performed, was destroyed by a fire sparked by a can-

non shot during a performance of “Henry VIII.”

On this date:

In 1776, the Virginia state constitution was adopted, and Patrick Henry was made governor.

In 1967, Jerusalem was reunified as Israel removed barricades separating the Old City from the Israeli sector.



Why K-12 education’s alarming decline could be a dominant 2024 issue

Time was, when the school year ended, parents worried about “summer learning loss.” Nowadays, there is less learning to worry about losing.

This is the 40th anniversary of a blue-ribbon commission’s “A Nation at Risk” report that decry a “rising tide of mediocrity” in K-12 education, and said if “an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war.” Two generations on, mediocrity might be an aspiration.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress, a.k.a. “the nation’s report card,” for 2022 shows that a decline that started in 2014 (do not blame the pandemic) continues: Just 13 percent and 20 percent of eighth-graders met U.S. history and civics proficiency standards, the lowest rates ever recorded, erasing gains made since the 1990s.

Only 33 percent and 36 percent of fourth-graders were proficient in reading and math, respectively. Eighth-graders were worse: 31 percent were proficient in reading, 26 percent in math. Four more years of schooling, less proficiency. Perhaps summer should be considered a season for recuperating from schools’ subtractions from learning.

Ian Rowe, a charter school advocate, notes that since the “nation’s report card” was first issued in 1992, in no year “has a majority of white students been reading at grade level. The sad irony is that closing the black-white achievement gap would guarantee only educational mediocrity for all students.”

Mysteriously (or perhaps not), California’s most recent standardized test revealed declines in math and English language arts — yet rising grades. Larry Sand, writing in City Journal, reports that 73 percent of 11th-graders received A’s, B’s and C’s in math, while the test showed that only 19 percent met grade-level standards. Among eighth-graders, the disparity was 79 percent and 23 percent. Among sixth-graders’ English scores, it was 85 percent and 40 percent. Amazingly (or perhaps not), the high school graduation rate has risen as students’ proficiencies have fallen.

Grade inflation, sometimes called “equity grading,” and “social promotions,” which combat meritocracy as a residue of white supremacy, leave a wake of wreckage. “According to World Population Review,” Sand says, “California now leads the country in illiteracy. In fact, 23.1 percent of Californians over age 15 cannot read this sentence.”

As alarming as what students are not learning is what they are being taught. Robert Pondiscio and

Tracey Schirra of the American Enterprise Institute, writing in National Affairs (summer 2022), say “public education has drifted toward an oppositional relationship with its founding purpose of forming citizens, facilitating social cohesion, and transmitting our culture from one generation to the next.” The result is the emergence of what might be a dominant political issue in 2024: parental rights concerning educational content and curriculum transparency.

Remote learning during the pandemic, say Pondiscio and Schirra, “pried open the black box of America’s classrooms.” Progressives, anxious to slam it shut again, portray any public involvement in public education, other than paying for it, as an infringement of the hitherto unannounced right of teachers to unabridged sovereignty over other peoples’ children. But as UCLA law professor Eugene Volokh has said, “Someone’s got to decide what is going to be taught in K-12 schools.” Teachers, principals, legislatures, school boards — the First Amendment does not say whom.

Progressives and their most muscular allies, the teachers unions, stand athwart parents shouting, “Mind your own business!” This is a political argument conservatives can link to the issues of school choice and charter schools, each of which polls well. As North Carolina’s Republican-controlled legislature has noticed.

That state’s Democratic governor, Roy Cooper, is following the example of the federal government, which currently is operating under 41 declared “emergencies.” And he is emulating the executive grandeur exuded by presidents of both parties who acquire special powers with such declarations. Cooper has declared a “state of emergency for public education.”

His *cri de coeur*, which enlarged his power not a whit, was occasioned by the state legislature moving to expand the state’s school choice program beyond low-income families. He says that expanding the ability of parents to choose between public and private schools will “choke the life out of public education.” From this prediction, we can infer Cooper’s bleak assessment of many public schools’ inability to compete when parents have choices.

Trust in public schools is probably lower today than at any point in U.S. history. If conservative politicians cannot make this a salient issue, they should find another vocation.

georgewill@washpost.com



George Will

Public looking for clarity from Republicans on all social issues

With one year since the Dobbs decision, in which the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, how should we be thinking, as a nation, about this crucial issue?

Commentary in the press is conveying that Dobbs was an unpopular decision and that it has strengthened sentiment in the country for legal abortion. Per Gallup, 61 percent say overturning *Roe v. Wade* was a “bad thing,” and 38 percent say it was a “good thing.”

In the latest abortion polling from Gallup, percentages saying abortion should be legal has climbed to high points for each trimester — 69 percent in the first three months, 37 percent in the second three months and 22 percent in the last three months.

Conventional wisdom reported after the last congressional elections is that the anticipated strong gains for Republicans did not materialize because of Dobbs. And that Democrats certainly plan to build on this sentiment and focus on abortion in the 2024 elections.

Republican candidates are jockeying to define themselves regarding protection of life. Greatest clarity has come from Mike Pence, who has challenged Republicans to support a federal ban on abortion at 15 weeks. Former President Donald Trump, speaking to the Faith and Freedom Coalition, finally noted that the federal government has a role in protecting



Star Parker

life, but did not spell out details regarding how.

My advice to Republican candidates is to look to the wisdom of the very first Republican president, Abraham Lincoln.

“In this age, in this country,” observed Lincoln, “public sentiment is everything. With it, nothing can fail; against it, nothing can succeed. Whoever moulds public sentiment, goes deeper than

he who enacts statutes, or pronounces judicial decisions.”

Certainly, there is no issue more relevant for applying Lincoln’s wisdom than abortion. Well known, for instance, is how responses in polls can vary depending on how questions are asked. Despite what appears to be polling showing strong sentiment for legal abortion, there is plenty other polling showing that Americans are not at all happy with the moral and social state of affairs in the country.

According to recent Gallup polling, 54 percent say the state of “moral values” in the country is “poor.” This is 20 points higher than where this stood 20 years ago. Only 11 percent say the state of moral values is “excellent/good.” This is half where this stood 20 years ago.

We expect businesses to have great expertise regarding public sentiment in markets where they sell. But we just saw the marketing disasters of Bud Light and Target in

assessing incorrectly openness of the public to accept LGBTQ values as mainstream.

In Gallup’s recent annual poll asking about “moral acceptability” regarding a list of morally sensitive issues, 11 of the 19 show a lower percentage now saying they are morally acceptable compared to last year. The biggest drop was in “gay and lesbian relations,” with a seven-point drop in 2023 saying this is morally acceptable compared to 2022.

The percentage of Americans now self-identifying as socially conservative, per Gallup, is at 38 percent, up from 30 percent two years ago, and highest in 10 years. This compared to 29 percent who self-identify as socially liberal. Let’s also note the new report from the Census Bureau about the ageing of the country. The median age now, the oldest ever, is 38.9. In 2000, it was 35. In 1980, it was 30.

The breakdown in values in which marriage, family and children flourish does not bode well for our future. Republican candidates need to provide clarity to primary voters on where they stand on the full range of social issues — not just specifics on abortion. All these issues together comprise the culture of life.

The upcoming Republican debates, to be hosted by Fox, should be used as a platform to get clarity from candidates on all these issues, and all candidates, including Trump should participate.

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Peace amid the storm, and a unique baby carriage

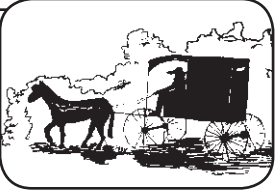
We were all huddled in the downstairs bedroom, a storm was brewing. At that moment I felt suction from the east window which was partially opened. I knew this must be it, a tornado for real. In an instant, it was all over.

I gazed over the north window and there, above the treeline in the clouds, was what I have for years dreamed of seeing. Three angels floated around the blue clouds. As I took it in, an unspeakable peace and tranquility swept over me. My being relaxed from the inside out. I knew nothing. Absolutely nothing outside the will of God could possibly hurt us. Life was fully complete.

I awoke.
“Could that only have been a dream?” I wondered; why was it as real as day. I relaxed and fell back asleep. But soon: “Ring, ring, ring!” It was the telephone—and yes, in the middle of the night. Stumbling to the kitchen I over and over told myself, “It’s nothing bad, it’s almost morning, someone just needs something simple.”

Picking up the phone, I realized someone, whom I did not even know, had dialed the wrong number. I checked the time. 3 a.m.

The Amish Cook
by Gloria Yoder



Flopping back in bed, I felt shakier than I cared to admit. My adrenals were running in high gear the moment I awakened. By now a storm really was gathering, I wondered how much longer the children would sleep. Another clap of thunder, my mind returned to the dream I just had. “Well at least I know there are angels watching over us,” I assured myself. (On that last thunderstorm before Daniel passed, I distinctly and fondly recall how I just didn’t care about the high winds and raging storm as I told myself, “I have Daniel and God, why be concerned?”) Now I missed Daniel’s leadership and practical way of knowing how severe the storm was, or when it was time to head for the basement. Nonetheless, I was comforted.

After a blinding strike of lightning followed by a thunder to match its severity, cries for Mama erupted.
My two arms reached around as

many children as they possibly could.
“Mom, shouldn’t we go for the basement?”

I debated. I really felt like it would all be OK, yet I knew how comforting it would be for them.

When I gave my approval to go to the basement, it was only a matter of moments until we were in the spare room where I fixed up a corner with Daniel keepsakes, my baskets of cards from you dear ones, and perhaps the most special of all, a chair for Jesus. Since we cannot see Jesus in person I chose to place a chair, draped with a blanket from a church in California, in that room to remind us of Jesus’ presence.

In the stillness of the night, amid the rumbling thunder, we thanked God for the rain and prayed for protection and for all out there who could be hurt from the storm.

It wasn’t long until the storm system moved on. We piled into our little bedroom upstairs and as dawn was breaking we fell asleep, thankful for some rest before getting everyone ready for church at 9 a.m.

This afternoon when the children went out to the pony they

discovered a dead skunk on the concrete pad right in front of the shop. No one knows for sure, but it chances are, it was hit by lightning, and yes, the shop is safe.

No matter where you are at, God knows your story, no bit of it is hidden from sight, not even the most severe storm of life.

On the flip side of all this stormy stuff, we are grateful for fruits and veggies produced by rain and the simple touch of God. If you have the time and energy, you may want to try this fruit basket.

Last week in a baby shower, my cousin cut a watermelon in carriage shape and even made the “baby” to go with it. Of course you also have the option of cutting the watermelon in half, with a scalloped edge if you like, then filling it with fruits of your choice for any occasion.

Watermelon Baby Carriage

- 1 cup large watermelon
- 1 cup of strawberries
- 1 cup of blueberries
- 1 cup of melon chunks
- 1 cup of raspberries
- 1 cup banana slices
- 1 cup apple chunks
- 1 large orange or grapefruit

Instructions

Using a marker or sharpie, cut



the outline of a carriage on the outside of the melon.

Cut a small slice off the bottom of the melon so you have a stable base.

Cut melon into a “carriage” and using an ice cream scoop, scoop out all of the melon and put into a bowl.

Then fill the “carriage” with fresh fruit include balls of watermelon.

Stir. Put excess fruit into a bowl so you can refill “carriage” as needed.

Take an orange or a grapefruit and put on top of fruit, make “eyes” out of blueberries inserted into the orange or grapefruit with toothpicks.

Upcoming Shows at Area Concert Venues

Bluffton Kehoe

Concerts are held on either Friday or Sunday nights at Kehoe Park, which is on the banks of the Wabash River behind the Dutch Mill Plaza off of Main Street in Bluffton. Upcoming concerts include:

- Dave Matthews Tribute Band, 8 p.m. Friday, July 7.
- Crush: The Bon Jovi Experience, 8 p.m. Friday, July 14
- Cornfield Mafia, 7 p.m. Sunday, July 16.
- The 38th Infantry Division Band, 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 19.

Bluffton Plaza

Shows are held on the Parlor City Plaza off of West Market Street west of the Wells County Courthouse. Scheduled shows include:

- Jennie DeVoe, 7 p.m. Friday, July 21
- Whoa, Man! 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 18
- Riley Lynn Band, 7 p.m. Friday, Sept 15.

Markle

Shows are held at the Community Stage at the Markle Fish and Game Club Park. Upcoming shows include:

- Rylie Lynn Band, 7 p.m. Friday, July 14.
- Y’s Guys, 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11
- Backwoods Bluegrass Band, 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8

Ossian

Concerts will be held at 7 p.m. at the Archbold-Wilson Park. The Bulldogs will perform July 8, with additional shows Aug. 12, Sept. 9, and Oct. 14.

Decatur

These concerts are held on Madison Street in downtown Decatur under the title of Music on Madison Street. All are held on Thursday evenings with food vendors and 2 Pour Guys to be at all concerts. The scheduled concerts include:

- Section Ate: June 29, 7-9 p.m., sponsors Monroe Street Trophy & West End Restaurant
- Jump (Van Halen): July 6, 7-9 p.m.
- Red NOT Chili Peppers: July 13, 7-9 p.m.
- ESC4P3 (Journey Tribute Band): July 20, 7-9:30 p.m.
- Thunderstruck (AC/DC): July 27, 7-9 p.m., sponsors ProFed Credit Union & Fleming Properties
- The Bulldogs: Aug. 10, 7-9 p.m.
- Avalon Bay: Aug. 17, 6-9 p.m., sponsor 3 Rivers Federal Credit Union
- Hubie Ashcraft: Aug. 24, 6-9 p.m., sponsor Custom Car Care
- Sweetwater All Star Band Aug. 31, 6-9 p.m. sponsor Custom Car Care

DeKalb

All of these concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday evenings at the DeKalb Out-



door Theater, near Auburn.

- The schedule includes:
- June 30: Fort Wayne Philharmonic
- July 14: Whoa, Man!
- July 21: The Bulldogs
- July 28: Heaven Bound 2.0, Main Street Porch Band
- Aug. 4: Audie Blaylock & Redline
- Aug. 11: Chris Worth & Co.
- Aug. 18: Cook & Belle

More concert information at DeKalbOut-doorTheatr.org

FW Embassy

Summer night concerts at Fort Wayne’s Embassy Theatre will begin on July 12, with the Dead Pickers Society playing from 6 to 8:45 p.m. at the ballroom with access to the rooftop patio. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Individual tickets are \$5 and flex passes of eight admissions are priced at \$30. (Flex passes will be available through July 19, at the Embassy box office a 260-424-5665 or Ticketmaster.)

- The schedule will include:
- July 12: The Dead Pickers Society
- July 19: Basketcase
- July 26: Ty Causey
- Aug. 2: Alicia Pyle and he Locals
- Aug. 9: Todd Harold Band
- Aug. 16: Sunset Musica
- Aug. 23: Chris Worth
- Aug. 30: Hubie Ashcraft

FW Downtown

Part of Calhoun Street will be closed off on Friday evenings in Fort Wayne for free concerts by local groups from 6 to 8 p.m.

Concerts will be presented at the Tri-Core Porch Off Calhoun and the 800 block of South Calhoun St. Street parking will be available after 5 p.m. and garage parking will be available in the City Center Garage next to The TriCore Porch.

- Groups scheduled include:
- June 30: We Are Checkmark
- July 7: Whoa Man!
- July 14: 2 & The Cold Fusion
- July 21: Wallen Road Band
- July 28: Shannon Persinger Band
- Aug. 14: Sunset Musica
- Aug. 11: Wade’s World

- Aug. 18: Alicia Pyle & the Locals
- Aug. 20: Jen & The Foggy Creek Band
- Sept. 1: Night to Remember

More info at DTFWLIVE.com

- July 21: Willow Hill
- July 28: Sweet Diezel
- Aug. 4: Reverend Peyton’s Big Damn Band

FW on the Square

Fort Wayne’s Downtown Improvement District sponsors the weekly noontime concerts held Thursdays at Freimann Square at Clinton and Main streets from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Food trucks will be on-site for the purchase of food with 15 percent of sales to be donated to a non-profit organization.

- Scheduled performers include:
- June 29: Sunny Taylor
- July 8: Todd Harold Band
- July 13: Mike Conley
- July 20: Jen & the Foggy Creek Band
- July 27: Basketcase
- Aug. 3: Uncle Musele
- Aug. 10: Lisa McDavid Band
- Aug. 17: Pavey & Co.
- Aug. 24: Annie Marquardt
- Aug. 31: Ross Kinsey

Van Wert, Ohio

The Niswonger Performing Arts Center is hosting a series of Friday evening concerts in Fountain Park in Van Wert, Ohio. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

- On the schedule are:
- June 30: Adam Calvert
- July 7: Crush
- July 14: The Little Mermen

Warren

These concerts will all take place on the last Friday evenings of the month at the Riverside Park (rainsite is the Knight Bergman Center).

- Scheduled are:
- June 30: Attaboy
- July 28: Sweetwater All Stars
- Aug. 25: Whoa, Man!
- Sept. 29: Cook & Belle

FW Children’s Zoo

Fort Wayne’s Children’s Zoo is presenting a summer music series for adults 21+, featuring bands from the local scene from 6 to 9 p.m.

Those attending will be offered a craft beverage from Hop River Brewing Company as they stroll portions of the zoo. Rides will be free, with paid admission, on Crocodile Creek Adventure ride, Z.O. & O. Railroad and Endangered Species Carousel.

The music will be provided by Casual Friday, Friday, June 29; Decade Divide, Thursday, July 13; The Debutants, Thursday, July 27; and Jackson Vibe, Thursday, Aug. 10

The series is being sponsored by Rohrman Automotive Group. Admission is \$20 with tickets available online.

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

 dazeys.com/bluffton-in	 abovebeyondrecon.com	 thegmfamily.com
 jcsgaragedoor.com	 daniels-jewelers.net	 kellysautocollision.com
 3riversfcu.org	 myersfuneralhomes.com	 steffengroup.com
 riverstonedental.net	 blufftontire.com	 www.lifeheritage.org
 icav.us	 hidaymotors.com	 www.moserandson.com
 lengerichmeats.com	 jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com	 EdwardJones.com
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Vendors listed for Parlor City Market Saturday

On Saturday, July 1, the Wells County Trails organization will have representatives at the Parlor City Plaza from 9 a.m. until noon offering information trails in the area and the Poka-bache extension to come.

Vendors planning to be set up by 9 a.m. include Shoup Pallet Design, Leah Crochets Studio, The One & Local, Two Sixty Home Goods, Tranquil Roots, Olive and Couper Co., Cousin Creations!, RL Woodworks, Sunny Vibes Soaps, Redneck Oasis and Nancy’s Crafts.

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News-Banner Scoreboard

BASEBALL

American League

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for East and Central Divisions.

Tampa Bay at Arizona, late Thursday's Games

Detroit (Olson 1-2) at Texas (Gray 6-3), 2:05 p.m. Cleveland (Bieber 5-5) at Kansas City (Greinke 1-8), 2:10 p.m.

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Arizona, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Colorado.

Tuesday's Games Miami 10, Boston 1 Cincinnati 3, Baltimore 1 Pittsburgh 9, San Diego 4

Wednesday's Games Atlanta 3, Minnesota 0 Washington 4, Seattle 1

Friday's Games

Cleveland at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m. Minnesota at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.

National League

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for East and Central Divisions.

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Eastern Conference teams.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Western Conference teams.

San Diego at Cincinnati, 5:10 p.m. Washington at Philadelphia, 6:05 p.m.

Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m. San Francisco at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.

Los Angeles at Las Vegas, 3 p.m. Minnesota at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Wednesday's Transactions BASEBALL Major League Baseball American League

Recalled 3B Jared Triolo from Indianapolis (IL). Placed 3B Ke Bryan Hayes on the 10-day IL.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL Association MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES

Thomas enters weekend hoping to boost postseason positioning

By LARRY LAGE AP Sports Writer DETROIT (AP) — Justin Thomas may have skipped the Rocket Mortgage Classic once again if this was just another usual year in his career.

ago, I reached out to my team and I was like I think this could be a good add. And then the next month or so kind of took its place and it worked out that I needed to play here more than I thought.

jae Im (No. 34) and Hideki Matsuyama (No. 52) are among the notable names hoping to play well and move closer to securing a spot in the playoffs.

a menu item," said Finau, who is of Tongan and Samoan descent. "For them to do something that special is really cool, definitely something I'll always remember.

avoid any changes to the schedule this week. "When we were here Monday, it was a little scary," Homa said.

Guardians slam Royals to move into 1st in AL Central

By MARC BOWMAN Associated Press KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — José Ramírez hit his fifth career grand slam and the Cleveland Guardians beat the Kansas City Royals 14-1 on Wednesday night, moving into first place in the AL Central despite a losing record.

made his major league debut. Cleveland (39-40) played its second straight game without manager Terry Francona, who was hospitalized overnight and told by doctors to rest after he felt lightheaded before Tuesday's game.

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Bedard

(Continued from Page 6) everyone will see the wait was worth it." As for Bedard, he has been envisioning this moment since he was a child spending hours in his driveway and backyard in North Vancouver, British Columbia, where he took between 500 to 1,000 shots a day.

League's youngest player to reach 50. Last year, his 71 goals in 57 games last season were the most by a WHL player in 24 years, and his 143 points were the most since 1995-96.

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Francona

(Continued from Page 6) expired after last season, he has an agreement with the Guardians to stay in place as long as he wants. Francona has dealt with some major health issues the past three years.

ing good this season, and true to form has often poked fun at his sometimes frail state with his customary self-deprecating humor.

Before taking over as Cleveland's manager in 2013, Francona spent eight seasons with the Boston Red Sox. He helped end the team's 86-year World Series drought with a title in 2004 and won a second championship in 2007.

The Blackhawks have already begun refitting their roster to help Bedard's development by acquiring veterans Taylor Hall (the first pick in the 2010 draft) and Nick Foligno in a trade with Boston this week.

ing good this season, and true to form has often poked fun at his sometimes frail state with his customary self-deprecating humor.



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Record shattered

The Wells County Swim Team won its meet against South Adams Swim Club Tuesday by a final score of 880-174. Ellie Coyne (pictured) broke a record that night in the 13/14 age group in the 50-meter breast stroke with a time of 41.96 in her exhibition round. (Photo provided)

Connor Bedard taken first in the NHL draft by Blackhawks

By **JOHN WAWROW**
AP Hockey Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Connor Bedard can finally appreciate looking forward to playing for the Chicago Blackhawks after spending the past few months avoiding the subject.

And the Blackhawks — and their fans who began chanting “Let’s go, Hawks!” in Music City after Bedard was selected with the first pick in the NHL draft on Wednesday night — can begin looking forward to a new era with a highly skilled offensive forward who’s drawn comparisons to Connor McDavid and Sidney Crosby.

Bedard became the second No. 1 pick in Blackhawks history, joining Patrick Kane, who went first overall in 2007 and helped form the core of a team that won three Stanley Cups from 2010 to 2015. Kane’s tenure in Chicago ended in February when he was traded to the New York Rangers.

“I can’t put into words growing up and obviously, that’s when they were going on their runs winning Cups,” said Bedard, who turns 18 on July 17. “You watched a lot of them and you see the United Center going crazy and all of Chicago getting behind them and you know (the) Original Six and so much history here.”

As for why he spent the past two months deflecting questions about the Blackhawks? Bedard smiled and said: “I didn’t want to jinx myself.”

Impressive as Bedard’s resume has been, Blackhawks GM Kyle Davidson was careful not to put too much on his new player’s shoulders right away.

“We’ll see. We’ll let him figure that out,” Davidson said when asked about his expectations for Bedard. “He’s a pretty special player, a very special person. We’ll let him determine how special that first season is.”

While Bedard’s selection by Chicago was a near certainty, the first round of the draft featured several twists.

Sweden’s Leo Carlsson went second overall, chosen by the Anaheim Ducks over Michigan freshman Adam Fantilli. Ducks general manager Pat Verbeek had declined to speak to reporters in the weeks leading up to the draft but believes the sturdy, 6-foot-3 forward can become a dominant two-way

player.

“There was a lot of really healthy debate on which player to take,” Verbeek said.

Carlsson got an inkling of the Ducks’ interest after a follow-up meeting with team officials on Tuesday. That was a day after he and his family had to rent a van to drive from Newark, New Jersey, to Music City because their flight was canceled.

Fantilli, the third freshman to win college hockey’s top award, the Hobey Baker Trophy, went third to Columbus.

The first American player off the board went fourth when the San Jose Sharks selected USA Hockey Development Program forward Will Smith, who is from Boston and has committed to playing at Boston College next season.

Defenseman David Reinbacher, from Austria, went to Montreal at No. 5, but had to wait a few extra seconds to hear his name called. Announcing the pick, Canadiens goalie Carey Price stopped after saying “David,” apparently forgetting the player’s last name. General manager Kent Hughes came to the rescue and said: “We planned it that way. It’s David Reinbacher.”

The Arizona Coyotes went with what was considered an off-the-board pick by selecting Russian defenseman Dmitriy Simashev a year after drafting five defensemen. They passed over forward Matvei Michkov, who has captivated draft watchers because the offensively skilled player is under contract to play in his native Russia through the 2025-26 season.

The Philadelphia Flyers ended Michkov’s wait with the seventh pick. The Flyers are undergoing a major overhaul by first-time general manager Danny Briere, putting them in position to be patient while the 18-year-old Michkov finishes out his contract in Russia.

A translator spoke to reporters about Michkov and said the player is motivated Speaking through a translator, Michkov said he’s motivated after falling to seventh.

“He’ll do his best to play against them, win against them, so he will have double motivation to prove that he’s the best player,” the translator said. “The ice will show everything. So maybe everyone has to wait a bit, but when Matvei comes to the ice,

(Continued on Page 7)

Guardians’ Terry Francona told to rest before returning to team

• **Related story on page 7**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Cleveland Guardians manager Terry Francona has been advised by doctors to stay away from the ballpark and rest for a few days after he was hospitalized following an episode of lightheadedness before a game.

Francona, who has had significant health issues in recent years, spent Tuesday night at The University of Kansas Health System and was released Wednesday. The team said tests on the 64-year-old Francona all “came back within normal ranges.”

Francona began feeling ill Tuesday shortly before the series opener against the

Royals. He was checked by medical personnel at Kauffman Stadium before being transported to the hospital. The team said his status will be determined daily.

“He’s doing a whole lot better,” said general manager Mike Chernoff, who flew to Kansas City following Francona’s episode. “He got a ton of tests last night and this morning, and everything checked out normally. So, we’re very happy to hear that.”

“He’s now resting at the hotel. He’s chomping at the bit to get back. But, he’s doing OK. Also, just a huge thank to Royals medical staff and the KU hospital team that was helping him. They were just tremen-

dous.”

Guardians bench coach DeMarlo Hale will again handle managerial duties in Francona’s absence. Hale served as Cleveland’s acting manager for the final 63 games in 2021 when Francona had to step away.

The Guardians, who rallied to win Tuesday’s game 2-1 after Francona fell ill, are on a six-game trip. After facing the Royals again Thursday, they’ll open a three-game series in Chicago against the Cubs before returning home for their final homestand before the All-Star break.

Francona is in his 11th season with Cleveland. Although his contract

(Continued on Page 7)

NFL to suspend several players linked to gambling violations, Colts DB is among those listed

By **MICHAEL MAROT**
AP Sports Writer

The NFL is finalizing disciplinary action against more players for gambling violations, including Indianapolis Colts defensive back Isaiah Rodgers Sr., two people familiar with the plans told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because an official announcement won’t be made until later this week.

A year-long suspension would be consistent with other punishments handed down for similar violations.

A spokesman for the Colts declined comment. Rodgers’ agent didn’t respond to a message seeking comment Wednesday.

The first indication Rodgers was involved came when a website that covers sports wagering, sportshandle.com, reported in early June that an unidentified Colts player had been involved with “pervasive” betting. The report said the player placed “hundreds” of bets, some on the Colts.

Rodgers later responded to the report on Twitter.

“Addressing the current reports, I want to take full responsibility for my actions,” he wrote. “I know I have made mistakes and I am willing to do whatever it takes to repair the situation. The last thing I ever wanted to do was to be a distraction to the Colts organization, my coaches and my teammates. I’ve let people down that I care about.”

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

But Rodgers isn’t the only player being punished for violating the league’s gambling policy, which bars players, coaches, league and team officials from betting on NFL games, placing bets at team facilities or team hotels or having someone else place a bet for them, among other restrictions.

The other players have not yet been iden-

tified.

With many states legalizing sports books specifically and gambling in general, leagues such as the NFL must increasingly contend with gambling infractions.

In April, the NFL suspended five players, four of them with the Detroit Lions, for gambling infractions. The Lions released three players — receivers Quincey Cephus and Stanley Berryhill and safety C.J. Moore. Cephus and Moore were suspended indefinitely for betting on NFL games while Berryhill and receiver Jameson Williams each drew six-game suspensions for betting on



non-NFL games. Williams, the No. 12 overall pick in the 2022 draft, remains on Detroit’s roster.

Washington Commanders defensive end Shaka Toney also received an indefinite suspension in April for betting on NFL games, and in 2022 the NFL gave then-Atlanta Falcons receiver Calvin Ridley a season-long suspension for betting. He was reinstated in March and now plays for Jacksonville.

Losing Rodgers would be a big blow to a Colts secondary already under reconstruction. He was projected to be a starter this season, his fourth in the NFL, and the former UMass star was expected to add a veteran voice in a young position room.

Indy lost veteran safety Rodney McLeod in free agency, traded cornerback Stephon Gilmore to Dallas and moved Julian Blackmon from free safety to strong safety this offseason. The Colts also took four defensive backs in the draft. Fifth-round pick Daniel Scott, a safety, will miss the entire season after tearing his anterior cruciate ligament this month in practice.

But Rodgers still has the support of his friends and teammates.

“I have just given him words of encouragement,” starting cornerback Kenny Moore II said. “I mean it’s the same thing you would tell a brother who was going through something — you would give him a hand, you would tell him you’ll be there for him, so stay strong. You would do all you can to make sure he perseveres.”

Bulls agree to extend Nikola Vucevic to 3-year, \$60 M deal

By **ANDREW SELIGMAN**
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Bulls and center Nikola Vucevic agreed Wednesday to a \$60 million, three-year extension, keeping the two-time All-Star off the free agent market.

The move was hardly a surprise considering executive vice president of basketball operations Arturas Karnisovas and Vucevic had expressed a desire to get a deal done. The consistently productive 6-foot-10 center averaged 17.6 points and 11 rebounds — both identical to his averages a season earlier — while playing in all 82 games for the first time in his career.

“I’m excited to continue

my journey as a Chicago Bull,” Vucevic said in a statement. “Since I have arrived in Chicago, everyone in the organization has been incredibly welcoming to my family and me. I am motivated more than ever to achieve our mutual goals as a team.”

Vucevic, who turns 33 in October, has averaged 17 points and 10.5 rebounds over 12 seasons with Philadelphia, Orlando and Chicago. The Bulls signaled they were serious about becoming contenders and attracting top free agents when they acquired him from the Magic in March 2021 for Wendell Carter Jr. and two first-round picks — their first major move under Karnisovas.

Chicago added DeMar

DeRozan, Lonzo Ball and Alex Caruso prior to the 2021-22 season and reached the playoffs at 46-36 after four straight losing seasons. But last season they regressed to 40-42 and lost in the play-in tournament.

Ball hasn’t played since Jan. 14, 2022 because of a left knee injury that is expected to sideline him all of next season. The Bulls will need to address the point guard position. But they settled one issue by locking in Vucevic.

“He has produced at an elite level since we acquired him and will remain an integral part of our foundation moving forward,” Karnisovas said in a statement. “Nikola’s willingness to do whatever is asked of him to help us win, while also being an established veteran leader for our group, makes him a valuable component of the culture of our organization.”



Nikola Vucevic

Reds beat Orioles in 10 innings to win series at Camden Yards

By **TODD KARPOVICH**
Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Will Benson hit a go-ahead triple and TJ Friedl followed with a two-run homer in a four-run 10th inning to give the Cincinnati Reds an 11-7 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday night.

The first-place Reds won two of three games at Camden Yards, where they had not played since 2014.

Orioles rookie Jordan Westburg went 2 for 5 with an RBI double in the eighth and has five hits in his first three major league games. Adam Frazer followed with a two-run homer with two outs off Buck Farmer that tied it 7-all.

Baltimore closer Félix Bautista allowed runners to reach first and third in the ninth but then struck out the next two batters and induced a grounder to get out of the jam.

After Benson tripled and

Friedl homered, Keegan Akin (2-2) threw a wild pitch that allowed another Cincinnati runner to score in the 10th.

Alexis Díaz (3-1) pitched a scoreless ninth and Fernando Cruz closed it out.

The Orioles were trying to win their fourth straight home series, but fell short.

The Reds took a 3-0 lead in the first on RBI singles by Elly De La Cruz, who snapped an 0-for-14 skid, and Jake Fraley, and a fielder’s choice by Joey Votto off Kyle Gibson.

The Orioles answered with four runs in the first off Luke Weaver on an RBI single by Ryan O’Hearn and a bases-loaded triple by Gunnar Henderson.

Weaver settled down after the first and retired 10 straight batters before Adley Rutschman singled in the fifth. Weaver has allowed 27 runs over his last seven starts (33 innings).

The Reds retook the lead

6-4 in the second on RBI singles by Friedl and Fraley and a fielder’s choice by Jonathan India.

Gibson allowed six runs and nine hits over 4 2/3 innings as he struggled for the second straight outing. In his previous start against the Mariners, Gibson lasted just three innings and gave up five runs and seven hits in a 13-1 loss.

THEIVERY

The Reds stole five bases against Rutschman, who is 9 for 51 throwing out runners on the year.

TRAINER’S ROOM

Reds: RHP Derek Law (right elbow flexor mass strain) continued his rehab assignment for Triple-A Louisville. He allowed two hits in one scoreless inning.

UP NEXT

Reds: RHP Graham Ashcraft (3-6, 7.17 ERA) will pitch the series opener against the Padres, who will start Yu Darvish (5-6, 4.84).

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Noteworthy July Fourth Celebrations Across the United States

July Fourth is a day of celebration across the United States. The Fourth of July commemorates American independence and millions of people throughout the country celebrate the day with family and friends. ★

Communities host their own celebrations on July Fourth. Some celebrations are relatively simple, while others are must-see events for any patriot. The following are some of the more noteworthy Fourth of July celebrations that will entertain millions in person or on television this year.

- Washington, D.C.: It should come as no surprise that the capital of the United States hosts an especially awe-inspiring Fourth of July celebration. In addition to a concert featuring well-known musical acts on the National Mall, the festivities in the nation's capital are marked by a fireworks extravaganza that will impress anyone seeking a unique way to celebrate the holiday.

- Boston: Estimates suggest roughly half a million individuals take in the Fourth of July festivities in Boston. A hotbed of patriotism during the American Revolutionary War, Boston embraces that spirit each July with a celebration on the city's Charles River. The Boston celebration spans two days and includes a popular performance by the Boston Pops.

- Philadelphia: Another city with deep ties to the American Revolutionary War, Philadelphia celebrates the nation's independence against the backdrop of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, which is one of the city's more notable and recognizable buildings. Individuals along both sides of the Delaware River can view the impressive fireworks display.

- San Diego: Notable celebrations of American independence are not exclusive to the eastern portion of the country. The Big Bay Boom fireworks over San Diego Bay can inspire any patriot, while across the bay on the island of Coronado celebrants can enjoy a parade and family-friendly concert before settling in for a fireworks show in the evening.

- New York, NY: Perhaps no Fourth of July fireworks celebration is as well-known as the one hosted by the Big Apple. Typically taking place on the East River, the New York City fireworks display can be viewed from various points throughout the city. Individuals looking for a unique way to take in the show can book a spot on a boat sailing in New York harbor.

There's no shortage of Fourth of July celebrations. In addition to these noteworthy spots to celebrate American independence, the cities of Portland, Ore.; Chicago; San Antonio, Tex.; and Atlantic City, N.J. host their own unique celebrations.

9 facts about the Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence is a document that indicates the founding principles of the United States of America. The declaration was issued by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, and announced the separation of the 13 British colonies in North America from the United Kingdom.

That significance means the public may want to learn more about the Declaration of Independence. Here are some key facts.

1. While Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, it was carefully reviewed and modified by other members of the Continental Congress, notably John Adams and Benjamin Franklin.
2. The Continental Congress actually voted for independence on July 2, 1776. The written Declaration was dated July 4, 1776, but it wasn't actually signed until August 2nd of that year. John Adams thought July 2nd would be marked as the national holiday.
3. Fifty-six delegates signed the Declaration of Independence, but not all were present on that day in August.
4. While many know that John Hancock signed first, with his prominent signature readily visible, it is believed that Thomas McKean of Delaware was the last person to sign.
5. Others signed according to state delegation and in columns, starting with the northernmost state (New Hampshire) to the southernmost (Georgia).
6. About 200 copies of the Dunlap Broadside were printed. Today, 26 copies remain.
7. The original rough draft of the Declaration of Independence has been lost.
8. The Declaration of Independence was not universally accepted, and many people in the colonies remained loyal to the British monarchy and opposed American independence.
9. The Declaration of Independence has a message written on the back of it. It reads, "Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776."

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Heat wave blamed for 13 deaths in Texas so far spreads eastward

By KEVIN MCGILL and KEN MILLER
Associated Press

Scorching heat blamed for at least 13 deaths in Texas and another in Louisiana blanketed more of the Southeast on Wednesday, stretching government warnings of dangerous, triple-digit temperatures eastward into Mississippi and Tennessee.

California, meanwhile, was facing its first major heat wave of the year. The National Weather Service warned that the dry, hot, windy conditions were ripe for dangerous fires in parts of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Utah.

Mid-week temperatures were forecast to surpass 100 degrees in much of the Southeast and high humidity was expected to push heat index values above 115

degrees in some areas.

Lingering power outages after weekend storms compounded the heat-related misery in Arkansas. More than 10,000 residents were still without power in the central part of the state. In Cabot, northeast of Little Rock, a local senior center provided cool air and a place to charge cellphones and tablets for those without electricity.

"Usually I just come at noon for the meal," Clint Hickman, still waiting for his power to come back on, said in a phone interview Wednesday. "It's kind of nice to have a little cool air, so I came a little earlier."

A park in Pearl River, Louisiana, featuring water fountains and overhead sprinklers for children to play in was a welcome

respite for Victoria Lee, who was there with her small children.

"I have outdoor kids," she said. "They don't like being inside. So, when we're at home and they're outside and they're sweaty, they're just miserable all the time. So this just makes it a lot easier."

Among the heat's casualties was a man who died late Sunday in Shreveport, Louisiana, the second heat-related death in the state in an unusually warm June. The 49-year-old from neighboring Bossier City had been found lying on a sidewalk in Shreveport, where Sunday's temperature hit 97 degrees — 10 degrees Fahrenheit higher than the average for the date.

The death of a 62-year-old woman on June 21 in Keithville also was blamed

on heat. Relatives found her after she had spent several days without electricity because of earlier severe storms, the Caddo Parish Coroner's Office said.

In southeast Louisiana, the National Weather Service office in Slidell issued an excessive heat warning on June 16, the earliest in the year it's ever done so for that area, a meteorologist said.

Eleven of the Texas heat-related deaths occurred in Webb County, which includes Laredo. The dead ranged in age from 60 to 80 years old and many had underlying health conditions, according to Webb County Medical Examiner Dr. Corinne Stern, who said the level of heat in the county was unprecedented.

The area has a higher poverty rate than the state

average and that compounds the suffering, Stern said.

"The vast majority do not have air conditioning in their homes. They either have the fans off, or they have fans on but not proper ventilation," Stern said. "There has been at least one or two that have air conditioning but don't want to run it due to the bill."

Two Florida hikers also died while hiking in extreme heat at Big Bend National Park.

The heat has prompted the U.S. Postal Service to allow earlier starting times for letter carriers, according to the National Association of Letter Carriers LoneStar Branch. This comes after the death of a letter carrier who died June 20 in near triple-digit heat. The cause of the carrier's death was still under investigation Wednesday.

day.

The unusually high temperatures were brought on by a heat dome that has taxed the Texas power grid and brought record highs to parts of the state, according to meteorologists.

That dome is spreading eastward and by the weekend is expected to be centered over the mid-South, said meteorologist Bryan Jackson with the National Weather Service in College Park, Maryland.

Texas temperatures should then begin to drop from highs above 100 degrees to daily temperatures in the 90s, Jackson said.

"It's relief from the extreme heat," Jackson said. "It's not really an end to a heat wave; it's just an end to the extreme part of the heat wave."

Arizona's Oak Flat, sacred land to Native Americans, is endangered

The land is under threat after a copper mine proposal

By DEEPA BHARATH
Associated Press and ALEJANDRA MOLINA
Religion News Service

OAK FLAT, Ariz. (AP) — Azeke Romero climbed barefoot on the wrinkled trunk of the massive Emory oak tree at the center of the Oak Flat Campground.

The 5-year-old in his black dinosaur t-shirt with hair tied under a backwards baseball cap scaled higher and higher until he found the perfect seat. There, cradled by the sturdy trunk, the boy flashed a gap-toothed smile and rested comfortably as if he'd just climbed onto the lap of a grandparent.

In fact, that centuries-old oak tree and the ground

below it — the sacred, ancestral flats that stretch for miles east of Phoenix — are like kin to Azee's family.

"My little guy, his umbilical cord is buried here," said Azee's mother, Lian Bighorse. She said the connection to Oak Flat is physical as well as spiritual.

The family is Chiricahua Apache and Oak Flat, or Ch'ichil Bildagoteel, is a consecrated place used for prayer and ritual by them and many other Native Americans in the region. Elders say the land was blessed by Usen, their Creator, and inhabited by Ga'an, the mountain spirits or angels who provide spiritual succor and guidance to seekers.

But they fear for its future, seeing plans to carve a huge copper mine into the heart of Oak Flat as if it were a threat to their own flesh and blood — an obliteration of a piece of their spiritual heritage.

The 6.7-square-mile Oak Flat is a verdant oasis in an arid landscape dotted with towering saguaro cacti, majestic rock spires and sweeping canyons.

Here, sage and other plants used for medicinal and ritual purposes sprout along streams and wetlands that provide sanctuary for birds and other animals. It's where Native people gather acorns that drop from the oak trees before crushing them into an edible powder, and pick red sumac berries for a refreshing, scarlet drink

that Bighorse described as "Native Kool-Aid."

It is also here that Resolution Copper Mining, a joint subsidiary of British and Australian mining giants, Rio Tinto and BHP, wants to remove layers of rock to extract copper from deep underground. The in-demand metal is used for electric vehicle and cell phone manufacturing. In the works for nearly a decade, the project has stalled amid a legal fight between U.S. agencies and those trying to protect Oak Flat on religious grounds.

Resolution Copper President Vicky Peacey said the mine will be a "massive investment in rural Arizona" — creating 3,700 jobs over the course of the project and boosting state and local tax revenues by \$88 million to \$113 million a year. The

company continues to "seek dialogue, to come to a collaboration and partnership," said Tyson Nansel, a company spokesperson.

"We need the copper. The town and the tribe need jobs," Nansel said.

But removing the ore from underground would eventually cause the ground surface to collapse into a 1.8-mile crater. Resolution says that other parts of the Oak Flat parcel would remain intact, including Devil's Canyon and Queen Creek. Apache Leap, where local legend says a group of Apaches leapt to their death rather than surrender to the U.S. cavalry, has been placed under permanent protection.

That is little consolation for Native people who believe the mine will desecrate Oak Flat, a site for

coming-of-age rituals for Apache women, healing sweat lodge ceremonies, and other big and small moments in the lives of Natives.

Bighorse's 12-year-old daughter, Soleil Davignon, is preparing for her upcoming Sunrise Dance. The four-day ritual occurs within a year of a woman's first menstrual period and Soleil's ceremony is set for October. When the time comes, Soleil will don dresses and jewelry gifted by family members and perform more than 100 dances, using a curved staff to keep time with the music.

"I've always wanted my dance," said Soleil on a recent day at Oak Flat as she picked sumac berries in a flowing skirt and sweatshirt. "I've been waiting for this. I'm ready."

Student loan payments to resume soon, not doing so could cost you

NEW YORK (AP) — After three years, the pandemic-era freeze on federal student loan payments will end this fall.

It might seem tempting to just keep not making payments, but the consequences can be severe, including a hit to your credit score and exclusion from future aid and benefits.

More than 40 million Americans will have to start making payments again under the terms of a debt ceiling deal approved by Congress, though many could see their balances reduced or erased if the Supreme Court allows President Joe Biden's student loan forgiveness plan to go ahead. A decision is expected this week, though the court appeared ready to

reject the plan.

Student loan interest will start accruing on September 1 and payments will restart in October. That means tough decisions for many borrowers, especially those in already-difficult financial situations.

Experts say that delinquency and bankruptcy should be options of last resort, and that deferment and forbearance — which pause payments, though interest may continue to accrue — are often better in the short term.

What happens if I don't make student loan payments?

Once the moratorium ends, borrowers who can't or don't pay risk delinquency and eventually default. That can badly hurt your

credit rating and make you ineligible for additional aid and government benefits.

If you're struggling to pay, advisers first encourage you to check if you qualify for an income-driven repayment plan, which determines your payments by looking at your expenses. You can determine this by visiting the Federal Student Aid website. If you've

worked for a government agency or a non-profit organization, you could also be eligible for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, which forgives student debt after 10 years.

Carolina Rodriguez, Director of the Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program at the Community Service Society of New York, emphasizes that any-

one temporarily unemployed should be able to qualify for a \$0 payment plan. And many others qualify based on income and family size.

"The repercussions of falling into delinquency can be pretty severe," Rodriguez said. "The federal government can administratively intercept tax refunds and garnish wages. And it can affect Social Security, retire-

ment, and disability benefits. Does it make financial sense at that point? Probably not."

Rodriguez says her organization always advises against deferment or forbearance except once a borrower has exhausted all other options. In the long term, those financial choices offer little benefit, as some loans will continue to accrue interest while deferred.

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Russian missile kills 11, Ukraine arrests man accused of directing strike

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian authorities on Wednesday arrested a man they accused of helping Russia direct a missile strike that killed at least 11 people, including three teenagers, at a popular pizza restaurant in eastern Ukraine.

The Tuesday evening attack on Kramatorsk wounded 61 other people, Ukraine's National Police said. It was the latest bombardment of a Ukrainian city, a tactic Russia has used heavily in the 16-month-old war.

The strike, and others across Ukraine late Tuesday and early Wednesday, indicated that the Kremlin is not easing its aerial onslaught, despite political and military turmoil at home after a short-lived armed uprising in Russia last weekend.

There has been no apparent military push by Ukraine to exploit that turmoil,

though the government has been tight-lipped about recent battlefield developments as it seeks to gain momentum in its recently launched counteroffensive.

The Kremlin reeled from the weekend mutiny led by Yevgeny Prigozhin, owner of the Wagner private army of prison recruits and other mercenaries. Wagner has played a key combat role for Russia in Ukraine. The rebellion posed the most serious threat so far to Russian President Vladimir Putin's grip on power.

Trying to repair the damage to his authority, Putin met with military staff in the Kremlin on Tuesday and flew to the Caspian city of Derbent, in the mostly Muslim region of Dagestan, on the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Adha on Wednesday. He visited an ancient citadel and a historic mosque, met

with officials, and walked to cheering crowds next to a fountain, talking to people and shaking hands — rare behavior for the secretive and reserved Russian leader.

Prigozhin went into exile in neighboring Belarus on Tuesday, according to Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, after Russia said he wouldn't face charges for the revolt. Prigozhin's whereabouts could not be independently confirmed.

Lukashenko has said his country would allow Wagner to set up a temporary camp in Belarus, but it remained unclear how many mercenaries would move there.

Wagner's impending deployment to Belarus has rattled its neighbors. Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the leader of Poland's ruling party, announced plans to strengthen the country's eastern border, saying about 8,000

Wagner troops are expected to arrive in Belarus.

And Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis noted Tuesday that the mutiny "shows how fast detachments from within Russia mobilize and move within its territory," underlining "a more volatile, more unpredictable environment for our region."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy played down concerns that Wagner would pose a threat from Belarus. He said the group's mercenaries probably wouldn't go there in significant numbers, and added that Ukraine's military believes security along the Belarusian border will remain "unchanged and controllable."

U.S. President Joe Biden said Wednesday that the unrest had weakened Putin, though he added that it's

"hard to tell" to what extent.

"He's clearly losing the war in (Ukraine)," Biden said of Putin before departing Washington for Chicago. "He's losing the war at home and he has become a bit of a pariah around the world."

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz also said Putin has been weakened by the rebellion, which showed "the autocratic structures, the structures of power have cracks." Speaking to German public broadcaster ARD, he acknowledged that Germany's foreign intelligence agency had been surprised by the rebellion.

In Kramatorsk, two sisters, both age 14, died in the attack, the city council's educational department said. "Russian missiles stopped the beating of the hearts of two angels," it said in a Telegram post. The other dead teenager

was 17, according to Prosecutor General Andrii Kostin.

The attack also damaged 18 multistory buildings, 65 houses, five schools, two kindergartens, a shopping center, an administrative building and a recreational building, regional Governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

Rescuers were still searching the rubble for bodies and more survivors in a city where last year, about six weeks after the start of war, 52 civilians were killed in a Russian missile strike on a train station.

Officials initially blamed Tuesday's strike in Kramatorsk on an S-300 missile, a surface-to-air weapon that Russia's forces have repurposed for loosely targeted strikes on cities, but the National Police later said Iskander short-range ballistic missiles were used.

U.S. Coast Guard: Human remains likely recovered from Titan submersible

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Human remains have likely been recovered from the wreckage of the submersible that imploded on a voyage to view the wreckage of the Titanic, the U.S. Coast Guard said Wednesday.

The announcement came hours after the announcement that debris from the Titan, collected from the seafloor more than 12,000 feet below the surface of the North Atlantic, had arrived in St. John's, Newfoundland. Twisted chunks of the submersible were unloaded at a Canadian Coast Guard pier.

Recovering and scrutinizing the wreckage is a key part of the investigation into why the Titan imploded

last week, killing all five people on board. The multiday search and eventual recovery of debris from the 22-foot vessel captured the world's attention.

"There is still a substantial amount of work to be done to understand the factors that led to the catastrophic loss of the Titan and help ensure a similar tragedy does not occur again," Coast Guard Chief Capt. Jason Neubauer said in a statement released late Wednesday afternoon.

The "presumed remains" will be brought to the United States, where medical professionals will conduct a formal analysis, and the Coast Guard has convened an investigation of the implosion at the

highest level, Neubauer said, noting that the Marine Board of Investigation will analyze and test evidence, including pieces of debris, at a port in the U.S.

He said the evidence will provide "critical insights" into the cause of the implosion.

Debris from the Titan, which is believed to have imploded on June 18 as it made its descent, was located about 12,500 feet underwater and roughly 1,600 feet from the Titanic on the ocean floor. The Coast Guard is leading the investigation, in conjunction with several other government agencies in the U.S. and Canada.

Authorities have not disclosed details of the debris

recovery, which could have followed several approaches, according to Carl Hartsfield, who directs a lab at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution that designs and operates autonomous underwater vehicles and has been serving as a consultant to the Coast Guard.

"If the pieces are small, you can collect them together and put them in a basket or some kind of collection device," Hartsfield said Monday. Bigger pieces could be retrieved with a remote-operated vehicle, or ROV, such as the one brought to the wreck site by the Canadian ship Horizon Arctic to search the ocean floor. For extremely big pieces a heavy lift can be used to pull the pieces

up with a tow line, he said. Representatives for Horizon Arctic did not respond to requests for comment.

Pelagic Research Services, a company with offices in Massachusetts and New York that owns the ROV, said on Wednesday that it is "still on mission" and cannot comment on the investigation, said company spokesperson Jeff Mahoney.

"They have been working around the clock now for 10 days, through the physical and mental challenges of this operation," Mahoney said.

Analyzing the physical material of recovered debris could reveal important clues about what happened to the Titan, and there could be

electronic data recorded by the submersible's instruments, Hartsfield said.

OceanGate CEO and pilot Stockton Rush was killed in the implosion along with two members of a prominent Pakistani family, Shahzada Dawood and his son Suleman Dawood; British adventurer Hamish Harding; and Titanic expert Paul-Henri Nargeolet.

OceanGate Expeditions, the company that owned and operated the Titan, is based in the U.S. but the submersible was registered in the Bahamas. The OceanGate company in Everett, Washington, closed when the Titan was found. The Titan's mother ship, the Polar Prince, is based in Canada.

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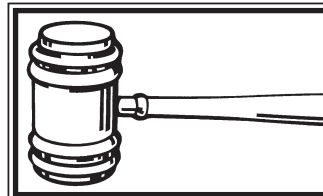
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Public Sale Calendar

JULY 2-9 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Jeffery C. Hill, seller. 8303 Cha Ca Peta Pass, Fort Wayne, IN. John Deere E100 hydrostatic lawn mower, Toro SS-4225 zero turn hydrostatic lawn mower, single axle utility trailer, lawn & garden items, Craftsman lg. & sm. power tools, Coleman 4-HP/20 gal. air compressor, modern furniture, Frigidaire refrigerator freezer, Whirlpool Cabrio washer, Whirlpool electric Cabrio dryer, Fine Arts Sterling Crown Princess flatware, unique divided relish serving tray, glassware, collectibles. Preview: June 29 and July 6 from 3-6 p.m. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com. **BIDDING NOW OPEN & STARTS CLOSING JULY 11 - 6 p.m. EST - Brittany & Ryan Kemp, owners.** 327 W. Wabash, Bluffton. Online only real estate auction! 1,744+/- sq. feet, 3 bed, 2 full bath,

slab, 16'x17' detached garage, .15 acre lot, Zoned: Residential, M.S.D. Bluffton-Harrison Schools, Harrison Township, Section 4, Wells County, Indiana. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com. **BIDDING NOW OPEN & STARTS CLOSING JULY 11 - 7 p.m. EST - Randy McKean, owner.** Online only real estate auction! 604+/- sq. feet, 1 bed, 1 bath, slab, 20'x22' detached garage, .15 acre lot, Zoned: Residential, North Adams Community Schools, Root Township, Section 34, Adams County, Indiana. Perfect investment property! Open house by appointment only, 827 Dierkes Street, Decatur. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com. **BIDDING STARTS CLOSING JULY 12 - 6 p.m. EST - Beverly Schindler, owner.** Online only! Real estate at 6 p.m. 1,044 sf, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 car attached garage, 8'x12' utility shed, 1.27 acre lot, South Adams Community Schools, Wabash Township, Section 21, Adams County. Personal property at 6:30 p.m. Household, collectibles, antiques, tools, 2017 Chevy Trax, 31,240 miles, automatic, & more! Preview: June 29, 5-6 p.m., 835 Rainbow Road, Geneva. Pick up: July 13, noon-6 p.m. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com. **FOR SALE** 40± total acre turnkey family farm, Whitley County, IN, southwest of South Whit-

ley. Property consists of level tillable, pasture with shade trees, land. Approx. 2,500± sq. ft., 2-story home with full basement. Recently built, 325 head baby calf barn, very nice set-up. Two-story barn for horses and hay storage, multi-purpose barn. Property also includes shop/meeting room, orchard and large gardens. Move in ready! Call 800-451-2709 for showing! Sale manager: Ritter Cox, 260-609-3306, *Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.*, SchraderAuction.com/listings. **JULY 25 - 6 p.m. EST - Ark Electric Inc., owner.** 3979 W 200 N, Decatur, IN. ARK Electric Business Liquidation! Cat 4160 backhoe, 1988 Chevrolet C70 dump truck, 1991 Ford F700 bucket truck, 1993 Chevy G30 boxtruck, 2016 Chevrolet Express 2500 cargo van, 2004 Chevrolet Express 3500 cargo van, equipment, enclosed bumper pull trailers, JLG & Skyjack scissor lifts, Dewalt power & hand tools, new & used surplus electrical & plumbing inventory & more! Online bidding available! *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

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

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

NOTICE

In accordance with Indiana Code 5-15-6-3 requiring prior notification to individuals when records will be destroyed:

Notice to any individuals born in the year 2001, who received special education services in Adams and/or Wells Counties. Please contact Adams Wells Special Services no later than August 4, 2023 if you wish to receive copies of your special education records. All records requested for pick-up and not picked up and non-requested records for persons born in the year 2001 will be permanently destroyed after August 14, 2023. If you wish to request records, you must call (260)824-5880 to do so. Records must be picked up by the person who received services unless otherwise legally designated.

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Monday editions: Friday by 4 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday editions: day-before by 4 p.m.
Saturdays: Friday by noon

Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 03-10-21-29-38
Lotto Plus — 10-15-23-30-37-45
Cash4Life — 08-15-19-29-36, Cash Ball: 03
Quick Draw Midday — 01-03-07-08-10-12-17-23-25-29-35-51-52-54-59-60-62-64-69-73, BE: 25
Daily Three-Midday — 06-06-06, SB: 03
Daily Three-Evening — 03-01-03, SB: 03
Daily Four-Midday — 09-00-09-01, SB: 03
Daily Four-Evening — 07-06-06-01, SB: 03
Quick Draw Evening — 01-02-05-12-20-26-28-29-35-40-41-44-53-59-61-70-73-76-77-80, BE: 28
Hoosier Lotto — 08-10-12-13-41-43
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19-25-34-57-68 Powerball: 04; Power Play: 5X

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NORWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AS CONSTRUCTOR

Response Due: July 14, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. (local time)
Norwell Community Schools is requesting proposals for the services of a Construction Manager as Constructor in accordance with Indiana Code 5-32. The purpose of this Request for Proposals ("RFP") is to identify those firms most capable of delivering the preconstruction and construction services required for the successful delivery of interior renovations to Ossian Elementary, Construction of a Norwell High School Baseball Concession and Restroom Building, Norwell High School Weight Room Expansion, Construction of a Norwell High School Football Stadium Concession and Restroom Building and Stadium Entrance, and Construction of a New Administration Building ("Project").

PROJECT INFORMATION: The work at the Project includes Ossian Elementary, Construction of a Norwell High School Baseball Concession and Restroom Building, Norwell High School Weight Room Expansion, Construction of a Norwell High School Football Stadium Concession and Restroom Building and Stadium Entrance, and Construction of a New Administration Building. Project work will be completed in phases with an anticipated start date in Fall 2023 and Fall 2025 completion date. The total estimated Project cost is approximately \$6,000,000.

CMC CONTRACT AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Norwell Community Schools intends to establish a guaranteed maximum price ("GMP") on this Project. Norwell Community Schools currently anticipates that the GMP will be established after bids have been received from the first-tier subcontractors and prior to construction commencing. The GMP will also identify the required date(s) of substantial completion of the Project.

The selected Construction Manager as Constructor shall maintain the following minimum insurance:
• Commercial General Liability - \$1M per occurrence and \$2M in the aggregate
• Umbrella/excess insurance - \$5M
• Automobile Liability - \$1M combined single limit
• Workers Compensation - statutory

The response to this RFP shall be based on the modified AIA A133 - 2019 Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Construction Manager as Constructor where the basis of payment is the Cost of the Work Plus a Fee with a Guaranteed Maximum Price, the modified AIA A201 - 2017 General Conditions of the Contract for Construction and the modified AIA A133 - 2019 Exhibit B (Insurance and Bonds), which contract documents are attached to this RFP.

RFP RESPONSE OUTLINE

Identify the following questions outlined below:
Name of Firm and Year Established:
Address:
Phone:
Website Address:
1. Business Organization
A. Business structure: Individual, Partnership, Corporation, Limited Liability Company
B. Provide number of years your firm has provided Construction Manager as Constructor services.
C. Provide number of full-time employees in your firm.
D. Provide a brief history of your firm.
E. Identify principals/officers of your firm.
2. Staffing

A. Provide a corporate organizational chart.
B. Provide a proposed project team chart for this Project.
C. Provide resumes of team members highlighting relevant project experience.
D. Provide K-12 owner references for each team member within the resume.

3. Relevant Project Experience

A. List the Indiana K-12 projects completed for which your firm served as a Construction Manager as Constructor within the last three years.
B. List similar projects involving renovations and additions to an occupied K-12 school building over the last five years. For each project listed above for experience, list the key people from your firm who were involved in the project and the owner's main representative with their contact information.

4. Project Approach

A. Briefly describe your project approach to Pre-Construction Services including estimating, value management, and bidding.
B. What is your project approach to managing communications?
C. Describe your approach and processes that keep all persons on and adjacent to the job site safe during the construction process of an occupied school building.
D. How do you minimize interruptions to students and staff during the construction process?
E. What is your approach to involving Norwell in the decision-making process?
F. How would you manage and staff this Project during the pre-construction phase?
G. How would you manage and staff this Project during the construction phase?
H. For this Project, Norwell intends to compensate the selected Construction Manager as Constructor on a Cost of the Work plus a Fee basis with a GMP as described in the attached modified AIA A133 contract. Identify when you would recommend establishing the GMP and why.
I. If the GMP will be established after bids have been received from the first-tier subcontractors and prior to construction commencing, identify what percentage of the GMP will be used for your contingency that is to be included as part of the GMP?
J. Do you intend to establish a prequalification program for first-tier subcontractors on this Project? If so, describe your process for working with NWCS in establishing a prequalifying program for first-tier subcontractors as allowed under the CMCs statute.
K. Would your firm seek to self-perform any of the work? If so, describe your process for this.
L. Describe your project approach to punch lists and project completions.
M. Please describe your approach to contracting with minority, women and veteran business enterprises, and using good faith efforts to fulfill the state's goals for contracting with minority, women and veteran business enterprises. Describe your contracting practices and programs that your firm would use on this Project to ensure involvement opportunities for minority, women, and veteran business enterprises.

5. Fees

A. Pre-Construction Phase Services: Pre-construction services will be invoiced at hourly rates for the pre-construction services performed but the total costs shall not exceed the not-to-exceed amount. Identify in your response to this RFP a not-to-exceed amount for the pre-construction services. In addition, include in your response the hourly rates for each personnel providing pre-construction services.

B. Construction Phase Services: Provide a fee percentage for overhead and profit that will be multiplied by the Cost of the Work.

6. References

A. Provide a list of three K-12 educational client references, with contact names and information, with whom your firm has worked within the past three years.
B. Provide a list of three architectural partners with contact names and information, with whom your firm has worked on public K-12 projects within the past three years.

7. Bonds & Insurance

A. Provide documentation from your surety or bonding agent regarding your firm's bonding capacity. The selected Construction Manager as Constructor will be required to provide a payment and performance bond in the amount of the GMP.
B. Provide a current certificate of insurance showing your firm's insurance policies and corresponding policy limits.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation committee established by Norwell Community Schools shall review the responses to this RFP that are timely received and will use the following criteria in its review:
1. General qualifications;
2. Relevant experience;
3. Project Approach;
4. History of contracting with or hiring minority, women, and veteran business enterprises, and good faith efforts to fulfill the state's goals for contracting with or hiring minority, women, and veteran business enterprises; and
5. Fee.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RESPONSE TO THIS RFP

Norwell Community Schools will receive responses to the RFP until July 14, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. (local time). Proposals received after this date and time will be returned unopened. Any postal/courier service is the agent of the responder. Responses should be prepared as standard 8.5" X 11" paper size and should be limited to 25 pages, exclusive of required attachments. Provide six (6) hard copies and one (1) digital copy on flash drive of your responses to this RFP as follows:
VIA HAND-DELIVERY AT:
Norwell Community Schools
ATTN: Mr. Michael Springer
312 N. Jefferson St.
Ossian, IN 46777
OR VIA MAIL AT:
Norwell Community Schools
ATTN: Mr. Michael Springer
312 N. Jefferson St.
Ossian, IN 46777
All questions shall be addressed in email to:
Mr. Mike Springer at mike.springer@NWCS.k12.in.us
Only answers issued in writing by Mr. Springer will be considered valid. Norwell Community Schools reserves the right to terminate the RFP process for any reason, to be the sole judge of the value and merit of the responses submitted, to reject all responders and to waive any informalities or irregularities in any of the responses.
Norwell Community Schools creates no obligation, expressed or implied, of any kind or description in issuing this RFP or receiving a response. Neither this RFP nor the response shall be construed as a legal offer. Norwell Community Schools assumes no responsibility or liability for any expenses incurred by the selected or prospective Construction Managers as Constructors, in connection with the preparation or delivery of a response or any action related to the process of completing and submitting a response to this RFP.

oJ, nb 6/29 hspaxlp

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Cut out by the in-laws

Dear Annie: I am engaged to a very loving man who is quite the lone wolf. Former issues in his past kept him at arm's length (at best) with his family. His children communicate with him when they need something or see him when he makes the trip to them, but they do not visit us. When I came into his life, I was thanked for bringing him back into his extended family's life by some, and by others, I was told they loved his ex-wife like family and I was not welcome.

It seems that you were, at one point, very close to his sister-in-law and to his mother, and that you are invested in his children's lives. Instead of making assumptions regarding how the whole family might feel about you, why don't you reach out individually to those you were close to and explain how much you miss them? Communication is the necessary first step.



Dear Annie by Annie Lane

I did, however, start a friendship with his sister-in-law and invited his mother on family trips. But earlier this year, I was accused of putting words in my sister-in-law's mouth in a very passive-aggressive way, and now no one will speak to me. Now I obviously did something wrong, but with a vague accusation and refusal on their side to communicate, I honestly have no clue what it was. I have reached out with no response.

Dear Annie: I have a suggestion for "Frustrated," whose mother-in-law is "incredibly loud" at her grandchildren's athletic events:

Record the game(s) -- including Grandma's contributions -- and then play the video back "for the athlete" in Gram's presence, allowing her to hear what she sounds like. I was a vocal fan of our children at their games until I began recording them. Not wanting my "cheering" to be saved for posterity, I kept my mouth shut most of the time. Perhaps it will work for her as well. Unless she WANTS her comments to be kept for the future! -- Been There

Dear Been There: Thanks for the clever tip. I suspect Grandma will quiet down once she hears herself on video!

"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 dearnie@creators.com.

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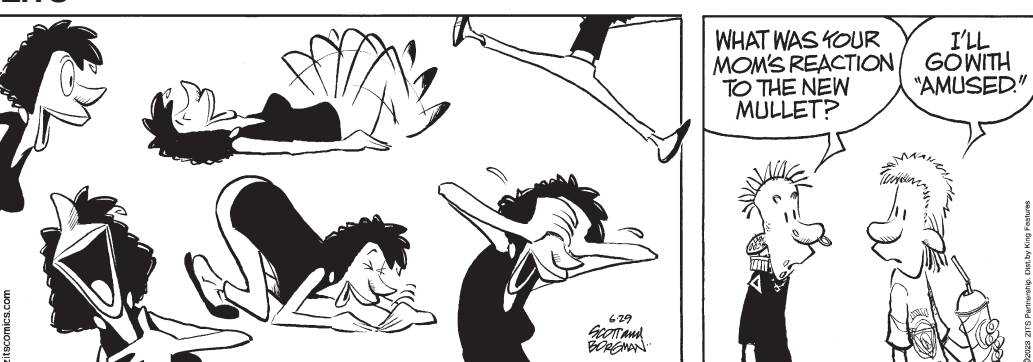
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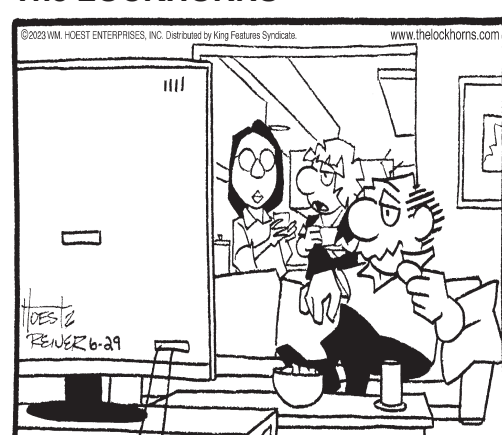
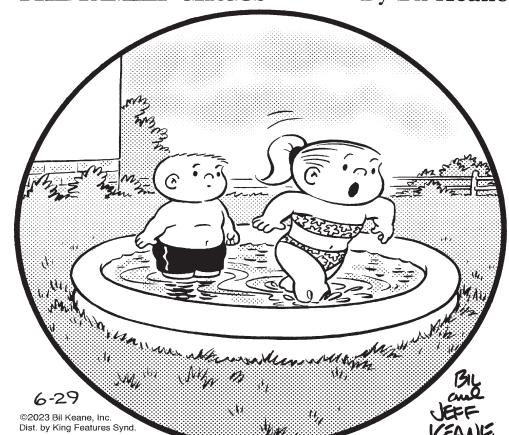
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Only God can re-create us

Q: Why does God sit in the heavens and watch the demise of the world He created? It seems He could do something to straighten up this messed-up planet. -- M.W.

hunt for renewal at the psychiatrist's office. Others search for spiritual renewal in exotic religions or processes of inward meditation that eventually come to a dead-end. Why? Simply because man cannot renew himself. God created us. Only God can re-create us. Only God can give us the new birth we search for.

it were) and simply watch the human race wallow in misery and destruction. He "came down from Heaven" in the Person of Jesus Christ the Lord to save lost souls steeped in sin. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). This life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ -- responding to the Gospel and receiving His salvation -- is the beginning of a whole new path in life under His loving control.

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

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A: A lot is said about recycling, reconstruction, and reshaping. We tear down old buildings and raise new ones. Millions of dollars are spent every year on health spas, resorts, and exotic cosmetics -- all by people hoping to reshape their faces or renew their bodies.

In like manner, people frantically pursue all sorts of "promise cures" for the renewal of their inner lives. Some people

Governments may be elected or may topple. Military machines may advance and retreat. Men may explore outer space or probe the ocean depths. These events are part of the grand plan for humans on this planet. But the central theme of the universe is the purpose and destiny of every individual important in the eyes of God. This is why He did not stand with His arms folded (as

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions for 'CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer'. Includes clues like '1 - Wilson, whose alter ego is the title character in 2018's "Deadpool 2"', '38 Division word', '2 Body lotion ingredient', etc.

TV schedule table for 06:29 to 12:30, listing channels, programs, and times.

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