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Library board approves new display policy

By HOLLY GASKILL

A new policy adopted by the Wells County Public Library's board Tuesday night aims to outline expectations, not limitations, for library displays.

The display policy has been an item of discussion for several months among the board members. The board routinely reviews its policies, but new board member Matt Yergler initiated an earlier discussion regarding displays, specifically in light of topics considered controversial.

On Tuesday evening, the board unanimously approved a policy providing further guidance in organizing information displays, featured library material displays and a process for reconsidering displays. Board members John Stauffer, Steve Tabor, Deb Johnson, Yergler and Kim Gentis voted in favor of the policy; Dawn Ulfig and Dustin Brown were absent.

The policy outlines that displays containing controversial subjects may not provide only one viewpoint. It also gives a protocol for branch or department managers to remove postings or displayed materials and for community members to appeal for displays to be reconsidered.

A policy regarding information displays, organized by community groups, reads: "Displays, postings, bulletin boards and exhibits on such issues as political views,

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Electrical short is suspected cause of Thursday fire

By HOLLY GASKILL

An electrical malfunction is the likely source of the downtown Bluffton fire last Thursday.

David Hostick, public information officer for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, spoke on behalf of the fire investigator, Mike Vogely.

"It was determined the fire originated in the northeast area of the basement, where there was evidence of electrical arcing on some of the wiring," Hosick said. "There is no evidence to suspect foul play."

However, Hosick stated electrical malfunction could not be ruled as the official cause of the fire, as the damage was too extensive for a definitive ruling. Bluffton Fire Department Chief Don Craig said they were "90 percent certain" an electrical issue was the source.

More details are expected to be available when the official report is filed.

The building was constructed in 1880, according to Wells County GIS data. The property was most recently purchased in January by James Thompson, who intended to renovate the building into a mental health care facility and office

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Painting the town

Local muralists teamed up with some friends from Bi-County Tuesday morning to bring some color to downtown Bluffton. The flower-adorned mural is located on the side of the Toppings building. (Left to right) Ryan Quinn, Cecilia Dunifon with Art by Cecilia, Jeff Dohrman, and Olivia Perez with Side Hustle.

At left, Jeff asked Cecilia "will you marry me?" to which she giggled and said she was already married. (Photos by Sydney Kent)

City receives single bid on server from Reliance IO group

By DAVE SCHULTZ

The city may be set to purchase a new server from the company that is now providing it with information technology services.

Reliance IO Technology Group was the only bidder to provide a server to the city, at a price of more than \$198,000. The bid, which was opened during Tuesday's meeting of the Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety, was taken under advisement for review.

Kaleb Dienelt of Reliance IO said the server will be central to all city functions.

Reliance IO was chosen to provide IT leadership for the city in 2021 and Dienelt has been central to the company's presence in the city since then. The company has an office just off of the Council Chambers in the second floor of City Hall.

The two members of the Board of Works present Tuesday, Mayor John Whicker and Josh Hunt (Scott Mentzer was absent), also approved the purchase of three other big-ticket

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Ossian council hears resignation of Ossian Elementary School Principal

By SYDNEY KENT

The resignation of Ossian Elementary School Principal Andrea Larkey was announced at the Northern Wells Community School board meeting Tuesday evening.

"We really appreciate the work that Didi has done over the last

four years," Superintendent Mike Springer said warmly. "There have been some major changes and a lot of positive, positive work. Part of the good work Mrs. Larkey has done is having a really good right hand with her as well. Theresa has been very good. As we look at Mrs. Larkey leaving this position,

I'm really excited to recommend Theresa Casto for the Ossian Principal. I think she's in the right seat at the right time."

Board member Corey Krug was excited to be the first to make a motion to accept the recommendation. The board unanimously

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County Council OKs rework of coroner's budget to buy van

By DAVE SCHULTZ

Wells County Coroner Hilarie Gaskill received permission from the County Council Tuesday night to rework her budget and purchase a van.

Gaskill said she was planning

to put a new vehicle into her budget for next year, but she found this vehicle — a 2010 Ford E350 with 82,000 miles on it — in Huntington with a price of \$16,900. The seller also offered to make the price \$16,000 "out the door," she

said.

The coroner said she wanted the van to transport a body to a funeral home or for an inquest herself rather than wait for a funeral home to send a vehicle out. Area

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Outside



Isolated showers and storms today, tonight

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 82	High 83	High 87
Low 68	Low 65	Low 68

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Library board

(Continued from Page 1)

gender identification, racial issues, or religious views should be avoided unless more than one view is represented."

Similarly, the featured library material displays states: "The topics should be appropriate for the section of the library where they are to be displayed. The department creating the display will select themes presented in the displays from materials within their department and avoid singular views of themes where there multiple views for the theme."

The second policy also affirms that all materials within the library are appropriate for featured or thematic feature displays. Sarah MacNeill, library director, said she had reviewed these ideas with department directors, who affirmed they could continue making helpful displays with these expectations.

"It seems to me that it's very clear if we trust our people that work here," Johnson said. "They're qualified, and they know how to do this job."

The board also discussed adding a paragraph to clarify the controversial topics but ultimately decided it was unnecessary. Johnson noted that leaving some broadness allows the policy flexibility for interpretation to new and changing situations.

"We're basically saying in a differ-

ent way what we've always allowed them to do — to share the books in the library without exclusion and without promoting," Gents said.

"I think we're clearly stating out the things that we have maybe not written out as expectation," Stauffer responded. "So, from my perspective, that was one of the really valuable parts to come up here."

Subsequently, the board approved a form request for reconsideration of a library display, which allows community members to raise any concerns with display materials. The form asks four questions:

- Why do you object to the display?
- What do you see as the negative impact of the display?
- What do you feel might be the result of reading, viewing, or listening to this work?
- Do you have a proposal on how the display might be adjusted to resolve your objection?

The library will provide, review, and revise the display as needed and provide a written reply within four weeks.

While a full audience was in attendance, only Melanie Hollingsworth gave public comment. By and large, Hollingsworth asked the board to support the library staff and the open environment of the library.

"In our community, the library is

clearly loved," Hollingsworth said. "I just want to make sure that it remains a beacon for everyone, regardless of their lifestyle ... It is a very short step from banning certain books from being displayed to banning them entirely."

Yergler responded that he was not trying to restrict information or promote a hidden agenda. "This policy doesn't do that (ban books), but it also doesn't elevate certain ideologies or agendas above any other either," he said.

Johnson also expressed her commitment to protecting the library's resources.

"I am an avid reader, but I imagine some of the books I checked out, some of you might really turn your nose up," Johnson quipped. "And the same for the rest of you. There are lots of books in this library that I personally probably would not want to check out — but there may be somebody else in this room that does. I think we really have to protect that. We are a public library. We have to serve the public. I just want to make sure (that) when we make these changes, they're all for the good."

In closing, Stauffer stressed that the board reviews policies routinely, and these new policies — just like any others — can be amended if there are any unexpected adverse effects.

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Weather

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

(24-hour observations at 9:00 p.m. Tuesday)

High: 84; Low: 64; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.30 feet at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 8 a.m., then a chance of showers between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 82. South wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

Tonight: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 2 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 68. South wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Thursday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 83. West wind around 10 mph.

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 87.

Friday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 68.

Saturday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 83. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

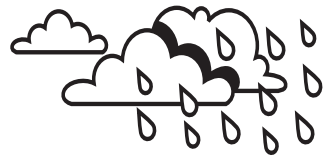
Saturday Night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 8 p.m., then a slight chance of showers between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 85.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 65.

Monday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 82.

Monday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 62.



City receives bid

(Continued from Page 1)

items — three 2024 Dodge Durangos with V-6 engines. The vehicles will be purchased from Bluffton dealer Hiday Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram at a cost of \$40,371 per vehicle.

The bid was apparently not the low bid but it was within \$200 of a dealership in northwest Indiana. The cost in time and money of driving three vehicles three hours from the other dealership also factored in the board's decision — and

in the recommendation of Bluffton Police Chief Kyle Randall to purchase the Durangos from Hiday.

"I prefer to buy local," Hunt said.

The vehicles' build date will be in November and the department expects to receive them in January or February of next year. There is one car purchased last year that is still being detailed for the department.

In other business Tuesday:

- The board approved

a request from Tony Fey, superintendent of the city's wastewater plant, to keep Greg Castilow on his staff for as long as necessary. Castilow is a former superintendent of the plant. Fey said Plant 1 was taken offline permanently Monday as construction on its replacement began.

• Fire Chief Don Craig submitted the names of three firefighters — Ryan Stahly, Jim Platt, and Taylor Elzey — as shift lieutenants. Dane Zoda has been promoted to

be the department's training officer, succeeding Platt in that position, while Platt will take on Zoda's former responsibilities as the department's quartermaster.

• The Bluffton Fire Department's aerial truck could be delivered by the end of the week, Craig told the board. The truck — referred to by the department as Tower 1 — was sidelined for repair to its hydraulics and replacement of its towers.

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Ossian Town Council

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approved.

"I've been a part of this corporation for a long time," Casto began. "I was being a little reflective over all of this. We moved here a long time ago and we knew one person in this county. We moved here in a season when there weren't jobs for teachers. I subbed for years in a lot of districts and I knew in a very short amount of time this is where I wanted to be. I've gotten to do a lot of things I'm grateful for. There have been a lot of tears, laughter, successes, and failures. My son went to school here, I went through cancer here. Through all of these things, this became family. When the opportunity came up, I didn't take it lightly. I'll promise you three things: to support our amazing staff, to be inclusive with our families, and help them feel like they're a part of things, and I will love our students. The most important job we all do. I want to thank you for this opportunity."

Additional resignations, retirements, and recommendations were approved at the meeting. Springer expressed gratitude to Kristen Wall, the Alternative Education Director, for her work during her time with the district. Springer also highlighted one particular recommendation for a speech pathologist, Katie Isbell, who will be the fourth in the district. He noted that Northern Wells Community Schools believes the position has a lot to offer students and the district is committed to ensuring quality speech pathologists are available.

Motions to approve the administrative benefits manual and amendments to district handbooks were also accepted, with the elementary handbooks now being congruent. Latchkey hours will now remain open full-time for parents who struggled on days where hours ended early, according to Springer. In the high school handbook, board president Angie Topp questioned the change for students who previously

lost driving privileges when they tested positive for tobacco.

Assistant superintendent Anna Murphy explained that tobacco and vape products are readily available at gas stations for students and the change mirrors policies neighboring school districts have implemented. Springer suggested revisiting the policy if concerns arise during the school year.

Other items included were:

- NHS teachers and students told the board about their experiences on their trip to Japan. More info to come.
- The board accepted a donation for \$650 from Park Community Church for "Food Fight Lunches"
- The board accepted a donation for \$1300 from Farmers and Merchants State Bank to Norwell High School.
- A wood sander and wood planer were declared items of no value due to wear and tear. The items are still useful for homes or businesses and will be sold.

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Ossian Town Council

(Continued from Page 1)

funeral homes have been generous with their assistance to her office, she said, but she didn't really want that to continue.

"If I had a van, I could go there myself rather than wait for a funeral home," she said.

She said of 25 calls she's had this year, she could have used the van on 13 of them. To make this happen, she wanted to transfer \$17,000 from her office's Autopsy Services line item and another \$1,000 from the Toxicology line item to Repairs and Maintenance for the vehicle.

She admitted she did not know how much she would need throughout the remainder of 2023 in the two line items she was taking money from. That was something County Council members wondered about as well.

In the end, however, six of the seven council members — Seth Whicker, Todd Mahnensmith, Steve Huggins, Brian Lambert, Vicki Andrews, and Scott Elzey — approved the purchase. The seventh member, Brandon Harnish, abstained. He said Gaskill mentioned a relative of his in the discussion on the purchase and he felt he should not record a vote.

Among other items considered Tuesday night:

- Sheriff Scott Holliday had a request for an

additional appropriation approved for overtime. The Wells County Police have been providing coverage for Ossian and the additional appropriation is how the reimbursement money from Ossian goes into the Sheriff's Department coffers.

• Holliday said the jail had 56 total inmates and that the jail was "sitting at very good numbers."

• Holliday also promoted the new sheriff's app for smartphones. Citizens can look up information on jail prisoners, get weather updates, and activate a "where are you now" feature that would let drivers and passengers know their location if assistance is needed.

• Audry Dudley asked for the permission to appropriate \$50,000 for the Wells County Tourism Commission even through the innkeeper's tax has only generated \$31,000 since it went into effect in February.

Based on that, and based on historical data that hotels are busier during the summer and fall, she expected the amount to be raised this year to exceed \$50,000. Her request was approved.

• Ginny Vogel, program director for Wells County's first-ever court appointed special advocate, requested permission to add \$2,019 into her budget that was provided to the county by a grant. That request was approved.

• Vogel also said she was looking for a new office as her former office in Bluffton's City Hall was needed for a new employee. Karen Morris will be the city's information systems director. The city did not charge the CASA program for use of the office. Vogel moved out of City Hall Monday.

• Mike Lautzenheiser, executive director of the Wells County Area Plan Commission, asked the council for an additional

\$4,300 for rural cleanup. The program has expanded and grown and went over its budget in Petroleum earlier this year. The additional funds were approved. Although no date has been set, it is likely the next cleanup effort would use the campus of Southern Wells schools as its dropoff point.

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Recent fire

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rental space. Thompson, his wife, and their four young children had moved from Iowa to pursue the venture.

The building was uninsured, Craig said.

At the time of the fire, the family of six was sleeping on the second floor of the building. They were able to evacuate uninjured and temporarily moved into a motel. On Tuesday, they moved into a temporary apartment.

A GoFundMe has been started to help support their

current living costs, in addition to individual donations and assistance from local churches, businesses and individuals. Specifically, Thompson thanked Carly Castro, Jeff Lemler and Clint Fiechter.

"The community support has been phenomenal," Thompson said. "If I could thank every single person individually, I would."

Thompson said the family currently plans to stay in Bluffton.

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OBITUARIES

Caroline J. Rush, 93

Caroline J. Rush, 93, of Poneto, passed peacefully on Monday morning, July 10, 2023, at Enville Healthcare of Hartford City.

She was born Aug. 26, 1929, in Poneto to Howard & Mary (Roof) Smith. Caroline graduated from Liberty Center High School in 1947.

She was a longtime member of the Poneto United Methodist Church, where she served with her husband, Cliff, as the custodian for 33 years, and was a current member of Living Water United Church.

On Nov. 28, 1947 in Poneto, Caroline and Clifford "Cliff" Rush were married. They shared 70+ years of marriage together, before he preceded her in death April 8, 2018.

She is survived by her children; Steven (Kelli) Rush of Poneto, Rev. Dennis (Lana) Rush of Farmland, and Gisele (Daniel) Schmit of Uniondale; and 10 grandchildren: Adam Rush, Aaron (Katie) Rush, Lucinda (Curt) Reinhard, Andrea (David) Shepherd, Stacy (Andrew) Bush, Katie (Greg) Hinshaw, Kristin (Sean) Chamberlain, David Rush, Rebecca (Brian) Hunt, and Matthew Schmit; and 24 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a sister-in-law, Mary Smith Sprunger of Poneto.

She is preceded in death by her parent; and three brothers, Jack Smith, Robert Smith, and W. Allen Smith.

Funeral Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, July 14, 2023, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with Pastor Clark Stoller officiating. Calling Hours will take place from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, July 13, 2023, at the funeral home and for one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Grove Cemetery in Poneto.

Memorials may be made to Living Water United Church.

The family would like to thank the staff of Enville Healthcare of Hartford City for their kind and compassionate care.

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



Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County:

Monday, 2:49 p.m., 10025S 200W, Keystone. Complaint of barking dog. Deputy made contact with a woman on the residence's porch who advised she was just visiting and would pass along the complaint to the residents.

Monday, 4:51 p.m., north 600W and west 1100N, Markle. Report of missing stop sign. Deputy found the sign still there.

Monday, 5:12 p.m., west 300N and north 100W, Bluffton. Caller reported a semi with tanker parked with no hazards and no cones. Owner advised they were in the fields working.

Monday, 7:27 p.m., residence in Keystone. Report of an intoxicated male being belligerent and causing problems. Man advised he was there to collect his daughter, but the deputy found the man had lost his rights to his daughter. The daughter had run away from her guardian's home several days prior and was found at this location. The daughter stated she had run away because she was tired of being treated like a child. It was decided that the property owner would return the juvenile to her guardian's house.

Monday, 4:19 p.m., Bluffton Police Department. Report of a stolen bike, black, possible stickers on it.

Monday, 6:33 p.m., West Lancaster and North Bond streets. Officer provided traffic control while driver waited for tow truck and transportation.

Monday, 8:18 p.m., West Hale Street and North Wausau Court. Report of truck and trailer blocking alley.

Monday, 8:56 p.m., 300 block of East Horton Street. Caller reported unwanted subject on property. Subject retrieved belongings to stay elsewhere.

Monday, 9:22 p.m., 500 block of South Indiana Street. Report of fighting between two women, one woman arrested for domestic battery.

Monday, 10:23 p.m., West Central Avenue and Beth Avenue. Caller reported two juveniles being suspicious. Officers were unable to locate.

Tuesday, 8:32 a.m., All Store. Report of couple sleeping in their car. Owner stated they were told multiple times to leave as they are not paid up on unit and don't have a reason to be there.

Tuesday, 11:13 a.m., 500 block of Beth Avenue. Caller requested a person be removed from their property.

Ossian:

Monday, 1:17 p.m., 2325E 1050N. Property damage accident. Deputy observed a Dodge Charger parked facing eastbound in the westbound lane. The driver advised he was braking for the railroad tracks and his back brakes skidded and he went into the ditch on the north side of the road. His friend stopped to help the driver and provided translation through a language barrier. The driver's license returned as suspended, and the driver claimed

he had paid the fines and his license was no longer suspended. The deputy gave the driver one week to provide documentation of this.

Monday, 5:08 p.m., Silo Farms. Parking issue.

Monday, 11:07 p.m., north Ind. 1 and Hillcrest Drive. Individual on a bicycle dropped a bag with his drinks. The deputy gave a paper bag to carry the drinks.

Friday, 1:44 p.m., north 100E and east U.S. 224. Bryce A. Morrow, 29, Ossian reported his side mirror had been clipped earlier, and the other driver, Ronnie W. Holbrook, 57, Yoder had not stopped. Morrow advised he followed Holbrook to a what appeared to be a construction job site and Holbrook offered him \$50 but did not accept responsibility for the accident. When the deputy accompanied Morrow back to the construction site, they were unable to locate the vehicle and a man at the location called Holbrook. The man called Holbrook, who gave his account of the accident but said he was not available to come in to the Ossian Police Department. The report stated that at approximately 1:24 p.m., Holbrook was driving a 2002 GMC Sierra pick-up truck southbound on 100E and, as the vehicle crested on a hill, struck the side mirror of a northbound 2007 GMC Yukon SUV driven by Morrow. Holbrook alleged Morrow's vehicle crossed the center line, but Morrow stated his vehicle was in his lane. Morrow said after the collision he swerved and had to regain control of the vehicle, then turned around to catch up with Holbrook, who did not stop after the collision. The investigating officer observed road marks on the roadway, which appeared to show Holbrook's vehicle left of center. Damage did not exceed \$1,000. Later, the deputy received a video showing Holbrook offering money for the accident.

Saturday, 10:03 p.m., residence on Sandalwood Drive. Caller reported individuals lighting fireworks in the roadway. Deputy advised this wasn't allowed and told the individuals to clean up the mess in the roadway.

Saturday, 10:27 p.m., east Mill Street and north Bunn Street. Multiple fireworks in the area.

Saturday, 10:37 p.m., east Settlers Trace and south Little River Truce. Multiple fireworks in the area.

Sunday, 7:17 p.m., residence on Heatherwood Lane. Woman reported a man was ringing her doorbell and knocking on her door several times. The woman was able to see the incident through a doorbell camera but was not home.

Sunday, 8:30 p.m., residence on Lynfield Court. Caller reported neighbor children had thrown rocks at their vehicle and caused damage.

Sunday, 11:30 p.m. 6391 S Ind. 1, Bluffton. Deer accident. Wyatt's towed the vehicle.

Monday, 12:39 a.m., east LaFever Street and south Metts Street. Traffic stop conducted on a vehicle with

its passenger side headlight out. The driver advised it was a wiring issue. As the driver was looking for the car's paperwork, he recognized a male passenger and ran a records check on the driver and the man. The driver returned with a non-extraditable active warrant from another state and the man had an active warrant out of Huntington County. The man was arrested and transported to Huntington County. The woman was cited for the headlight.

ACCIDENTS

City:

Wednesday, 7:45 a.m., Walmart. Robert Maidens was pulling into a parking spot and collided with Linda Cale's parked vehicle before driving away and parking in a different spot, according to video footage. Maidens denied hitting the vehicle and advised he wanted to use the South entrance rather than the North entrance. Damages estimated at a minimum of \$1,001.

Sunday, 5:19 p.m., Walmart. David Meadows was driving through the parking lot in his black Ford F150 when he collided with Polanco Nunez, who was reversing from his parking spot in his 2010 Toyota. Damages estimated at a minimum of \$1,001.

County:

Sunday, 12:09 p.m., Ind. 224 at the intersection of North Main Street, Uniondale. Tabatha M. Owen, 32, Gas City, was driving a 2006 Ford Freestyle SUV westbound on Ind. 224 when the truck's load, a mattress and box spring, became loose and hit a 2014 Jeep Cherokee SUV driven by Ellen R. Pullen, 57, Decatur. Damage exceeded \$1,000.

Sunday, 2:28 p.m., Ind. 3, Jackson Township. Ty A. Neuenschwander, 37, Hartford City, was driving a 2006 Chevrolet Uplander van southbound on Ind. 3 and lost control of the vehicle while messing with lotto tickets and a Subway sandwich. The vehicle left the west side of the roadway, hit the ditch and rolled over into a cornfield. The vehicle damaged roughly 35 feet of the cornfield. The vehicle was towed by Wyatt's. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Sunday, 1:29 p.m., CR 300W at the intersection of

700N, Uniondale. Dallas T. Moser, 61, Bluffton, was driving a 2016 Ford F350 pick-up truck northbound on 300W when an item fell off the truck and hit a 2023 Honda Ridgeline pick-up truck driven by Gregory L. Keesling, 65, Roanoke. Damage exceeded \$5,000.

ARRESTS

Dominga Tzita Ramos De Vicente, 26, Huntington; operating a vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Darrin Linn Runkel, 52, Wells County; criminal trespassing, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500. Bonded.

Gideon Michael Williams, 18, Bluffton; theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$3,000.

Jerron Mickle Jackson, 29, Bluffton; possession of meth, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

Thomas Michael Kumberger, 34, Bluffton; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Jose Antonio Merlin Chagala, 21, Fort Wayne; operating a vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Ashlyn Nicholle Graham, 27, Bluffton; contempt of court. Bond set at \$500. Bonded.

Timothy Michael Larson, 23, Bluffton; domestic battery on a person less than 14 years old, a Class A misdemeanor, strangulation, a Level 6 felony, confinement, a Level 6 felony, and interfering with the reporting of a crime, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$36,500.

Stephanie Lynn Jarrett, 29, Bluffton; domestic battery, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$25,000.

Inmate used chain from handcuffs to strangle deputy

Marion County Sheriff's Deputy John Durm died at the hospital following the attack

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A jail inmate accused of killing a sheriff's deputy who was transporting him in a van used the chain of his handcuffs to choke the officer during an escape attempt in Indianapolis, according to court documents released Tuesday.

Marion County Sheriff's Deputy John Durm, 61, died Monday at a hospital following the attack, which Indianapolis police are investigating as an "intentional act of homicide," Officer Shane Foley said.

Durm's cause of death was "ligature strangulation" and has been ruled a homicide, the county coroner's office announced Tuesday. Durm, a 38-year veteran of the sheriff's department, was married with four children.

Police said inmate Orlando Mitchell, 34, assaulted Durm on Monday while the van was inside the sally port, or fortified entrance, of the Adult Detention Center on the city's south side.

Mitchell has not been charged in Durm's death, and the Marion County Prosecutor's Office said Tuesday that a charging decision was not expected "prior to Thursday afternoon at the very earliest."

But a probable cause affidavit released Tuesday states that video shows Durm arriving at the deten-

tion center about 11:30 a.m. Monday in a Marion County Sheriff's Office van after returning from taking Mitchell to a hospital visit.

The video shows Durm exit the van and open its rear door, at which point Mitchell opened the van's inner door and is seen raising his hands above Durm's head and placing them around Durm's neck, according to the affidavit.

"Mitchell then uses the chain linking his handcuffs to choke Deputy Durm," it states, adding that while Durm tried to get the chain off of his neck, both he and Mitchell fell to the ground.

"Mitchell stays on top of Durm, continuing to choke him until Durm quits moving," the affidavit states.

Mitchell then found Durm's handcuff key, unlocked his handcuffs, got into the van, backed it up and exited the sally port of the detention center while smashing into a gate, officials said. He then drove the van a short distance and crashed into a wooden pole before other deputies returned him to custody.

Mitchell has been jailed since September 2022 awaiting trial for the killing of his ex-girlfriend, Krystal Walton. A telephone message seeking comment was left Tuesday for an attorney representing Mitchell in that case.

VISITATION & SERVICES
Karyn Jo Gilly
 Calling: 3 - 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, July 12 and one hour prior to the service.
Service: 10:30 a.m. Thursday, July 13 at the funeral home.
Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
 308 W. Washington St.
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www.thomarich.com

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Saturday, July 15, 2023
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Petroleum Community Church
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WELLS COUNTY 4-H FAIR
JULY 15-20
 Look for the complete 4-H Schedule in the Bluffton News-Banner Tuesday, July 12th.

Parade - July 15 • 5pm

Music:

Austin City Saturday, July 15 Starting at 12pm	Hubie Ashcraft Tuesday, July 18 Starting at 7pm	Grace Scott Band Wednesday, July 19 Starting at 7pm
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Truck Pull
 Come Join the Fun!
 Friday, July 21 at 7pm

Kroozin' the Fair
 "Roads to Success"
 Thursday, July 20 at 4-8pm

Full Schedule: www.extension.purdue.edu/wells

DID YOU KNOW?

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."
 ~ John 20:21-23 ~

The Sacrament of Confession is one of the most unique and beautiful aspects of the Church. Jesus Christ, in His abundant love and mercy, has established this Sacrament so that we, as sinners, can obtain forgiveness for our sins committed after Baptism and be reconciled with God and the Church. Through this Sacrament, we are restored to God's grace as our sins are forgiven.

This Sacrament is the way in which God has chosen to administer His forgiveness. As Jesus exercised the power to forgive sins (Matthew 8:6), so He bestowed this power upon His Apostles (John 20:21-23) and, as a way to continue His presence with us, to their successors (Matthew 28:19-20).

In this Sacrament, the penitent goes and confesses their sin to a priest. The priest serves as an agent of the one Mediator, Jesus Christ, and has been assigned and empowered by Him to be able to forgive sins. It is important to note that the priest does not forgive sins by his own authority or in his own name but in the name of Jesus Christ.

Contrition is the primary and most essential condition for forgiveness. Without sorrow for sin there can be no possibility of pardon. Sorrow must be genuine & joined by sincere humility.

"A heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn." (Ps. 51:19).

Ask a ? at www.StJosephChurchBluffton.org/ask

Major League Baseball, if you can afford it

Now that the patriotic observances are past, it's time to turn to another pillar of Americanism — baseball.

Despite the combined efforts of the Commissioner, the club owners and the players union to price Major League Baseball (MLB) games beyond the financial wherewithal of middle-class Americans, there are those idealists like me who just won't give up on our national game.

I grew up with baseball, its being the only sport in those halcyon days that had organized competition in the summer.

That was important only because my love of baseball had been nurtured every weekend by the Saturday Game of the Week with Buddy Blattner, Pee Wee Reese and Dizzy Dean. Even more important was my weekly trip, 25 cents allowance in hand, to the neighborhood convenience store to buy several pieces of the worst bubblegum ever but each coming with a handful of player cards. Collecting baseball cards was a young boy's *raison d'être*.

My son has taken over the baseball collecting franchise in our family, having started as a teenager. My collecting has been limited to cards of the Fort Wayne TinCaps, a High A level team that sees me in the stands for nearly every home game. Fortunately I can buy that season's complete set in the team store at the stadium, sans bubblegum.

I am not quite ready to give up on the major leagues but they are certainly trying my patience. Even though I pay an annual fee in excess of \$100 to watch every MLB game, I find it frustrating with all the special deals they are making with streaming services for exclusive broadcast rights that include blacking those games out.

I don't begrudge someone's maximizing income if the market bears, but part of that market is my pocketbook which is under increasing strain. A friend, who sits across the aisle from me at the TinCaps, is a diehard Cincinnati Reds fan. Some games are not televised locally due to these special deals. Fort Wayne is considered a "local" market for the Reds (and Tigers and White Sox and Cubs) so we are blacked out on MLB and now occasionally on the local cable channel as well.

And so I get most of my baseball fix in downtown Fort Wayne watching young players pursuing their dreams. It is pleasing to watch these players develop over the season. The bittersweet part of watching a talented young player perform well is that eventually he will be promoted to AA. But that is the point of the minor leagues.

What is especially irritating about my hometown team is its affiliation with the San Diego Padres, a team I have absolutely no interest in following. Maybe that is OK for me as the Padres use talented minor leaguers primarily as trade fodder as they pursue an elusive World Series championship by dumping hundreds of millions on superstars. How is that working out for them? Check the standings.

We, the season ticket holders, try to follow TinCaps alumni even though very few play for the Padres. One local favorite, nicknamed "Goldilocks" by a beer vendor for his long hair, is a starting outfielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates. The publicity department of the TinCaps used to show a pre-game video about former TinCaps now playing in the major leagues called "From the 260 (the telephone area code) to the Show." They don't do that anymore, perhaps because there are so few Padres to highlight?

I will confess to a strong bias on this. First, I am an American League fan. Second, I don't acknowledge the legitimacy of any team that did not exist in 1951 or that has changed cities since 1959. Don't ask me why those dates but note that they bookend the greatest decade in my lifetime.

To affirm me in my prejudice, I just read six books about baseball in the 1950s. Roger Kahn's "The Boys of Summer" was not one of them but it probably deserves a reread. Baseball then was almost exclusively a New York City affair, with nine of 10 World Series boasting one or both teams from there. I became a Yankees fan back then due to the TV and newspaper coverage they received and remain stubbornly loyal to this day.

Regardless of what MLB is doing to baseball to make it unaffordable, I can still go to my hometown minor league ballpark 60-plus times every summer. I arrive at least 30 minutes before game time and walk the concourse. I know most of the ushers and other game day staff, and it is interesting to hear what gossip is going around. And that is what it is — gossip — the ushers having no better insight than I. I guess none of us has a seat in the boardroom ... probably because the only boardroom that matters these days is at MLB HQ in Manhattan.

Mark Franke, an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review, is formerly an associate vice chancellor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.



Mark Franke

Hoosier Opinions

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Vice President Harris' unknown language

If President Biden is serious about seeking a second term, he must fix the problem of his vice president, Kamala Harris.

Though Biden's poll numbers are currently not much better than Harris', latest polling by the Los Angeles Times finds as of this month "41% of registered voters had a favorable opinion of Harris and 53% had an unfavorable opinion -- a net rating of -12 percentage points." One wonders what those 41 percent see as Harris' accomplishments, because there have been none, as far as I can tell.

Republicans will likely make Biden's age an issue in the coming campaign and whether Harris is qualified and smart enough to become president should something happen to him. That has always been important in choosing any vice president.

Harris may be unique among modern vice presidents because in addition to what would look like a weak resume if she were applying for a second term, she has the additional baggage of being inarticulate.

Earlier this month at an event sponsored by Essence magazine in New Orleans, Harris said things I defy anyone to translate:

"Culture is (pause) It is a reflection of our moment in our time, right? And, and present culture is the way we express our feeling about the moment. And, and we should always find time to express how we feel about the moment that is a reflection of joy 'cause, eeh, you know, it comes in the morning (cackles). We also have to find ways to also express the way we feel about the moment in terms of just having language and, and and, a connection to how people are experiencing life and I think about it in that way, too."

I tried reading her comments backward, thinking she might be speaking in code, but that wasn't any clearer.

Two women on stage with Harris are seen nod-

ding as if they understand what she is saying. They should tell us.

Critics have called her verbiage a "word salad." She seems to be picking words at random from a dictionary without connecting verbs, thoughts, or relevance.

I never thought anyone could make President Biden seem more articulate. She does, with or without a teleprompter.

Effective politicians need to be able to communicate with voters and the larger public. Not all our presidents and vice presidents have the gift of speaking well like Daniel Webster, Winston Churchill or in recent times, Ronald Reagan, Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, but at least most could speak "the king's English" and be understood.

Imagine a presidential speech from Kamala Harris that begins "Good evening, my fellow Americans" and quickly descends to the level of her remarks in New Orleans. Worse, does she understand and can she articulate the administration's foreign and domestic policies? She was tasked with doing something about the border, but has done nothing, chiefly because in some fairness to her, President Biden appears to want it kept open.

There is not a single accomplishment any of those 41 percenters who have a favorable opinion of Harris can point to.

It is why President Biden must replace her as his running mate. He would face a backlash from groups that have hailed her as the first female and person of color vice president and who appear more interested in diversity than in real accomplishments. A stronger, more accomplished and articulate vice president would be the best insurance policy for Democrats should Biden win and not be able to finish a second term.



Cal Thomas

icaeditors@tribpub.com

Amid promising signs in Ukraine, uncertainties abound

President Biden on Monday headed to a NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, in what seemed an enviable position: The alliance is stronger than ever before; its ally Ukraine is slowly advancing on the battlefield and receiving more weapons every week; and Russia is in disarray at home.

Yet if the Ukraine war is going so well for Biden and the West, why does it still feel so fraught with danger — and why is its eventual outcome still so uncertain? That's the paradox that should haunt the allies as they gather in the Lithuanian capital: Can they move from a strategy of sustaining Kyiv to one for victory?

Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser, discussed these issues with a small group of journalists Friday as he prepared for the Vilnius trip. What struck me, listening to Sullivan, was that even with America's unmatched and often astonishing intelligence supremacy, there's so much that the United States still doesn't know about the dynamics that shape this war.

Let's start with the fundamental question that Biden and his advisers have weighed since the invasion was launched in February 2022: How can the United States and its NATO partners help Ukraine repel Russia's invasion without triggering a direct NATO-Russia conflict that might lead to use of nuclear weapons?

Sullivan said Biden tries to steer U.S. policy between what he called "two caricatures" about the Russian nuclear threat. The first is "that the Biden administration is paralyzed by the nuclear threat and therefore won't support Ukraine sufficiently," Sullivan said. "I think that is nonsense." He cited the "extraordinary quantity and quality" of U.S. weapons deliveries — the latest being Biden's decision, announced Friday, to ship U.S. cluster munitions to sustain Kyiv's counteroffensive and extend its timetable for success.

Sullivan sharply rejected the idea,



David Ignatius

voiced increasingly by some Washington strategists, that Biden is overplaying the Russian nuclear threat and deterring NATO from all-in support for Kyiv. The hawks, he said, argue: "This nuclear threat is complete nonsense. Don't worry about it at all. It's to be completely discounted."

Sullivan rebuffed the no-worry approach: "It is a threat. It is a real threat. It's one we need to take seriously.

And it's one that does evolve with changing conditions on the ground." As the philosophers say, this issue of nuclear risk is "contingent." It's neither inevitable nor impossible.

The national security adviser said that in weighing nuclear risks, the administration has done "a tremendous amount of consultation . . . about all of the possible contingencies in this conflict," which presumably would center on a Russian tactical nuclear attack if Ukraine breaks through and Russian conventional forces are collapsing. He noted that China and India "see it similarly" and are "trying to indicate to Russia that it would be a terrible move for Russia . . . to actually deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine."

The disarray in Russia complicates nuclear assessments, and here, again, what was fascinating was how much Sullivan said the intelligence community *doesn't* know about the June 24 revolt by Wagner militia leader Yevgeniy Prigozhin. "We don't know exactly where Prigozhin is. We know he's moving around. So, he's not holed up somewhere. He's at liberty so far as we know. Why, under what conditions, based on what assurances — that's all a mystery to us," he said.

The bottom line of the Prigozhin affair, Sullivan said, is that Russian President Vladimir Putin "is clearly not coming out of this thing stronger." The fact that Putin quelled what he called an "armed mutiny" with a negotiated compromise indicates weakness in his command and control. Sullivan listed some puzzles for Putin: "How far beyond Prigozhin

did this go? How much of the underlying drivers of Prigozhin's conduct remain embedded in other parts of the Russian security apparatus?"

The Prigozhin affair hasn't yet had a "substantial impact" on Russian forces inside Ukraine, Sullivan said. But he noted that it does seem to have rattled China, Putin's most important supporter.

Beijing "has been repeatedly surprised by events," Sullivan said. "They misjudged the scope of Russia's initial invasion, they didn't expect the relatively poor quality and capacity of the Russian forces" and then "they were surprised by the events relative to Prigozhin." Beijing keeps encountering unexpected events on the "downside."

Putin's shaky handling of the Prigozhin affair "probably . . . strengthened the hands of those [in Beijing] who say, 'Let's end this war sooner' or, 'Help get this war over sooner,'" Sullivan explained.

Sullivan conceded that Ukraine's counteroffensive has been "hard going" and that "Russian defense in depth has been considerable" in terms of men, mines and munitions. But he cautioned that the Ukrainians haven't yet deployed the bulk of their forces. They're "probing the chess game" of this battlefield and testing points of Russian weakness that might allow a rapid advance by the maneuver forces NATO allies have supplied over the past year. Thanks to U.S. shipment of cluster bombs, Ukraine will have enough ammunition for this waiting game and a "wider window" for success, he said.

Sullivan, preternaturally young for a national security adviser, spoke in what's known as the "Secretary of War Suite" in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, decorated with portraits of venerable strategists who once occupied this space, such as Henry Stimson in World War II. Many of them faced the same question that weighs on Sullivan now: How to achieve victory in war when the parameters are uncertain and some of the risks cannot be known.

David Ignatius is on Twitter @IgnatiusPost

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Really. I'm not homeless. More on our kayak journey

Note: The following is based on my April 9, 2015, journal entry from our Wabash River to the Gulf of Mexico (source-to-sea) kayak trip.

A storm chased us to the tent, resulting in a few hours napping and journaling — forced relaxation.

Without realizing the change, the world appeared brighter. Here comes the sun! (That should be a song.) Even though I was enjoying my forced relaxation, I was ready to leave our quaint little dwelling and venture into the wet out-of-doors. I unpacked a Grand Trunk compact stool from the back hold of Work. I unfolded it, placed it on the stones, and continued journaling. I relish my time journaling because, as I capture the moments of our trips and my life, my writing grants me the opportunity to reflect. These reflections and memories provide a record of special times in my life. Since John and I have been married, we have embarked upon a variety of adventures, ranging from Italy to the Arctic Ocean.

I continued writing and reflecting until John woke up and joined

me. “I think I will shave.” (Who doesn’t shave outside after a thunderstorm?) He gathered his razor and shaving cream. He had started lathering his face with shaving cream when he realized he was missing a crucial shaving basic — a mirror. Picture this ... John standing outside wearing his long johns tucked in his black, knee-high paddling boots, lather on his face, looking bewildered about his predicament. Imagine his astonishment when tires crunched on the stone path. Embarrassed to be caught in such a state, John ducked behind the tent. The driver of the vehicle honked the horn, causing John to duck his 6-foot-1 frame farther behind our small, two-man, 4-foot tent. His face said it all: “Seriously?!” When I realized our intruders were Tom and Candy, friends of ours from Fort Wayne, I blurted, “It’s Tom and Candy.” John came out of hiding.

Tom parked their gold minivan next to our stools. John moved to the vehicle and checked out the reflective surfaces. I could almost hear his mind working: Hmm... Which surface would give the best reflection for shaving — the outside mirror or the smoked back windows? He chose the back windows and began shaving. Hav-



ing overcome the embarrassment of his state of undress, John chatted with our friends while he shaved. As John finished wiping the shaving cream remnants from his cheek, Tom lowered the window. Candy smiled, motioned to the back seat, and announced, “By the way, I’d like you to meet our son-in-law and grandson.”

I wish I had a picture capturing the wide-eyed look on John’s face. “Nice ... to ... meet ... you.” John greeted them and was secretly glad Tom and Candy’s daughter wasn’t present.

After the four visitors climbed out of the minivan, we explained our trip to the younger guys and relayed some events of the past five days. As the group prepared to leave, Tom and Candy’s son-in-law confessed, “Yeah, when we pulled up, I couldn’t figure out why Tom and Candy were bringing us to see some homeless people.”

If homeless is defined as having no home or permanent place of residence, then living out of a tent in a different location each night could indeed be considered homeless. If Tom and Candy hadn’t told him otherwise, how would their son-in-law have treated us? With pity? With judgment? Would he

have ignored us? For the next few months, I will not look, smell, dress, or live like the rest of civilized society. Will others assume we are homeless? How will they receive us? If I met us, how would I react?

As I mused about how I would regard us if we were homeless, I remembered an event a few years ago when John and I visited Seattle. Instead of taking public transportation, we walked everywhere. While we explored the city, we stumbled upon many homeless people sleeping under heavy blankets, sitting on the sidewalk, or leaning against the buildings. Since I grew up and still live in a rural community, I have not encountered many homeless people. John often says, “We are all one crisis from being homeless.”

One evening a brown-haired woman in her 40s approached us as we were waiting outside a Seattle restaurant for an available table inside. She peered at us with desperation in her eyes and pled, “I’m not a typical homeless woman. Honest. Could you give me some money for ... ?”

I don’t remember why she said she needed the money. I do remember, however, the conflicting thoughts in my head. She didn’t look homeless. Was she lying? What if she was telling the truth? Should we give her money? Should we invite her to eat with us? Could I ever be her? Was I judging?

She walked away. **Here’s the Thing:** By the loose definition I created, I experienced homelessness for three and a half months. But, I haven’t come close to undergoing the hunger, lack of money, nor discrimination this group faces. Even though I wasn’t truly homeless, I looked the part.

The lady I encountered in Seattle didn’t look the part, but swore she was. My fear of being taken advantage of kept me from feeling and acting.

If one crisis could cause me to become homeless, how would I convince someone I was in need and not a scammer? If I met this woman today, would I help her? I hope so. I hang my head in shame when I remember her drooping shoulders as she walked away.

Since I don’t come across many homeless people in my part of the world, who can I help and not simply watch walk away? How can I avoid becoming, as the Pink Floyd song says, “the turning away”?

Follow us at *Separate Boats* on Instagram, Facebook, or on our webpage: www.separateboats.com jabnet@gmail.com

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

Quitting opioids without agony; finding care for rare diseases

Question: I have been on opioids for about five months for chronic back pain and I’m afraid I’m addicted. I want to get off — permanently — without going through terrible agony. What’s the right approach? — Lisa D., Birmingham, Alabama

Answer: Around 50 million Americans contend with chronic pain, and about 22 percent of those folks regularly take opioids. So, there are lots of people in your position -- they want to stop taking opioids but are terrified that their pain will get worse, and they find it difficult to do it successfully.

Stopping opioids once you are dependent on them is not something to try to do on your own. You may need help from groups like Narcotics Anonymous and local and state programs (do your research) that offer counseling. Also, you and your doctor need to develop a tapering program that very gradually lowers the dose you take. You may also opt for medically assisted treatments such as lofexidine, a non-opioid medicine designed to reduce opioid withdrawal symptoms. With the right support, it can work.

A study called I-WOTCH (Improving the Wellbeing of people with Opioid Treated CHronic pain) not only helped people come off the addictive medications in a year or less, but it did so without substituting another medication and without making their pain worse. The folks in the study’s intervention program had



Mehmet Oz and Mike Roizen

regular sessions that taught them coping techniques, stress management, goal setting, and mindfulness, and they received posture and movement advice, and learned how to control withdrawal symptoms and pain. After one year, almost a third of them were completely off opioids, compared to just 7 percent of study participants in the control treatment group.

Now, that might not seem like overwhelming success, but it is -- these medications are hard to shed. And, Lisa, your determination to get off them gives you a great opportunity to be successful. So, talk to your doctor about tapering and medical support options and access the resources and support you need.

Question: I’ve been diagnosed with a rare disease, Multiple System Atrophy. Can you help me find out who might offer treatment or who is working on that? -- Frank J., Evanston, Illinois

Answer: Close to one in 10 Americans has been diagnosed with a “rare disease” — meaning that their condition affects fewer than 200,000 people. There

are over 7,000 diseases that meet this definition and 95 percent of them currently have no available treatment.

That may be changing. The Cleveland Clinic is one of 40 U.S. academic medical centers designated as Rare Disease Centers of Excellence by the National Organization for Rare Disorders. They are all working together to increase research, diagnosis, and treatment of rare diseases. You can find out more about all rare diseases and locate the Centers of Excellence near you (they are in 27 states) on NORD’s website at <https://rarediseases.org>.

These Centers offer excellent opportunities to

improve treatment and care. At the Cleveland Clinic, for example, physicians, medical geneticists, pharmacists and genetic counselors from the Center for Personalized Genetic Healthcare all work together. The center also includes the recently launched Undiagnosed Disease Clinic, which uses whole genome sequencing to help patients impacted by a rare, undiagnosed disease find a clinical diagnosis. These teams collaborate with scientists in Lerner Research Institute’s Genomic Medicine Institute to drive rare disease research with the goal of better understanding multiple rare diseases.

As for your condition specifically, MSA is a degenerative neurological disease that has symptoms similar to Parkinson’s, such as tremors and impaired posture. If identified early, the symptoms can be controlled. Blood pressure medications are frequently prescribed. You can find more information and get support from Defeat MSA Alliance (phone: 855-542-5672). Their website (<https://defeatMSA.org>) also lists the world’s experts in MSA. The Multiple System Atrophy Coalition (phone: 866-737-5999) lists clinical trials you may participate in at <https://multiplesystematrophy.org>. Similar organizations exist

for most of the rare diseases listed by NORD.

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Simple strategies to protect kids’ vision over the long haul

Parents recognize there’s no aspect of kids’ health that can be taken for granted. Common colds can appear overnight, and injuries on the playground can occur in the blink of an eye. Such issues may be hard to see coming, but the risk for colds, playground injuries and other health-related conditions, including childhood vision problems, can be mitigated with various preventive measures.

Vision issues that affect children can lead to a host of unwanted outcomes, including physical injuries and decreased academic performance. Though kids may ultimately need vision problems to be corrected with the help of an eye doctor, the following are some steps parents can take to protect their children’s vision over the long haul.

- Schedule routine eye exams. The American Academy of Ophthalmology notes that children’s vision can be screened by various medical professionals, including eye doctors but also pediatricians, family physicians or other properly trained health care providers. The AAO recommends children at all age levels receive eye examinations. Newborns will need eye exams so doctors can check for various indicators of eye health, while a second eye exam conducted during a well visit before the child’s first birthday can confirm healthy eye alignment and movement. Exam intervals can be discussed with a physician as children age, but it’s important that kids receive routine eye exams to confirm their vision is healthy and to identify any issues that could be compromising their vision.

- Feed children a healthy diet. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, which have the vitamins and minerals necessary to maintain healthy vision.

- Monitor screen time. The CDC notes that excessive screen time can exacerbate uncorrected vision problems. Daily screen time limits can help protect kids’ vision, and parents should ensure kids take frequent breaks when using digital devices. Frequent breaks from additional activities like reading, writing and drawing also can protect kids’ vision.

- Squeeze in time outdoors. Access and exposure to nature pays a host of health-related dividends, including some linked to eye health. The CDC notes that going outdoors affords kids’ eyes the opportunity to look at distant objects, which can provide a respite from the eye strain and fatigue that can develop when looking at screens or books.

- Provide protective eyewear, including sunglasses. Exposure to UV rays from the sun can harm children’s eyes, so kids should wear sunglasses with 100 percent UV



protection when spending time outside. The CDC also urges children to wear protective eyewear when engaging in activities such as sports that can increase their risk for eye injury and vision loss.

Taking steps to protect long-term vision is a vital component of childhood preventive health care.

Drew is director of production of ‘Music Man’ in Fort Wayne

Fort Wayne’s Summit City Music Theatre’s production of “The Music Man” is this weekend and Gavin Drew is the director of the show.

Drew, a graduate of Norwell High School, has performed in and directed Wells Community Theatre productions.

Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 15, and 2 p.m. Sunday, July 16, at the Auer Performance Hall on the Purdue-Fort Wayne campus.

The production also will include a live community orchestra as well as a cast of 60 area cast members. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$21 for children and seniors.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 260-481-6555 or go to www.pfw.edu/tickets

The role of Harold Hill in the show is performed by Elvie Ellis, who has been in touring companies of “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Waitress.”

Storytime at the FW Children’s Zoo

On Tuesdays and Wednesdays through October, the Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo offers animal-themed story hours at 10:30 a.m. at the Central Zoo’s Discovery Garden.

The programs are designed for children age

5 and under and an adult friend. Storytime is free with regular zoo admission.

The zoo is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$10 for children 2 through 12 and seniors, and free to children 1 and under.

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Elias Díaz hits late 2-run blast to lead NL to All-Star Game win

By **TIM BOOTH**
AP Sports Writer
SEATTLE (AP) — Elias Díaz hit a two-run homer off Félix Bautista in the eighth inning, and the National League snapped a nine-game losing streak in the All-Star Game with a 3-2 win over the American League on Tuesday night.

The NL won for the first time since an 8-0 victory in 2012 in Kansas City thanks to Díaz, a catcher who became the first Rockies player to win the All-Star MVP award.

Díaz, who was non-tendered by the Pirates at the end of 2019, drove a 2-2 pitch from Baltimore's hard-throwing closer deep to left to put the NL in front. Díaz was the lone representative for Colorado in his first All-Star Game appearance.

He has nine homers this season, but hadn't hit a long ball since June 23 against the Los Angeles Angels.

"This means a lot to me, to my family," he said. "Being in the ASG for me is

amazing."

For most of the night, the All-Star Game was a pitchers' duel highlighted by a couple big hits and some excellent defense.

It got nervous for the NL in the ninth. Wander Franco fled out to the warning track leading off against Philadelphia closer Craig Kimbrel, who issued two-out walks to Kyle Tucker and Seattle star Julio Rodríguez.

Kimbrel recovered to strike out José Ramírez to end it. Kimbrel also pitched in the previous NL win, recording two outs in 2012.

Yandy Díaz hit a solo homer in the second inning and Bo Bichette's sacrifice fly in the sixth inning gave the AL a 2-1 lead.

J.D. Martinez doubled and scored on Luis Arraez's single in the fourth against Seattle's George Kirby, tying it at 1. Lourdes Gurriel Jr. appeared to tie the game again in the seventh when his shot down the left-field line was originally ruled a homer but was overturned as a foul ball on replay.



The All-Star Game returned to the Emerald City for the first time since 2001 when the Mariners were in the middle of their magical 116-win regular season, Cal Ripken Jr. said goodbye to the All-Star stage and Tommy Lasorda took a tumble.

Gerrit Cole became the first New York Yankees pitcher to start the All-Star Game since Roger Clemens in that 2001 game. He needed a pair of spectacular leaping catches from Adolis García and Randy Arozarena near the wall to escape the first inning unscathed.

Pitching was the story of the night. Only nine balls were hit over 100 mph.

when he was at the plate.

The hometown crowd is well aware of his pending free agency this offseason.

"Never experienced anything like that, but I definitely heard it," Ohtani said through his interpreter. "But I was trying to focus on my at-bat."

INJURIES

Toronto reliever Jordan Romano left in the seventh after throwing the pitch that Gurriel hit foul and was originally ruled fair. He threw five pitches before leaving the game with tightness in his back.

Chicago White Sox slugger Luis Robert Jr. did not play after feeling tightness in his right calf during the Home Run Derby. The White Sox said Robert underwent an MRI in Seattle and is listed as day to day.

SIX PACK

The Rangers made All-Star history when Nathan Eovaldi took the mound in the second. That marked the third time in an All-Star Game when there were six

players from the same team on the field at the same time. It also occurred with the 1939 Yankees and 1951 Dodgers.

SKIPPED OVER

The Tampa Bay duo of Shane McClellan and Wander Franco were inadvertently skipped over during pregame introductions. The pair jogged in on their own and left it to the Rays' social media staff to give them a proper announcement.

MARINERS HONORED

Six of the eight members of Seattle's All-Star contingent from the 2001 game were recognized pregame. John Olerud, Bret Boone, Freddy García, Jeff Nelson, Kazuhiro Sasaki, Edgar Martínez and manager Lou Piniella were honored. Ichiro Suzuki and Mike Cameron were also on the All-Star team that season.

Baseball Hall of Famers Martínez and Ken Griffey Jr. threw out the ceremonial first pitches to former teammates Dan Wilson and Jay Buhner.

Hopkins, Cook lead a list of remaining NFL free agents

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

DeAndre Hopkins and Dalvin Cook lead a list of accomplished players who are still available a week before several NFL teams open training camp.

Hopkins, the three-time All-Pro wide receiver, became a free agent when Arizona released him in May. He visited the Tennessee Titans and has talked to the New England Patriots.

The 31-year-old Hopkins, a five-time Pro Bowl pick, could be waiting for a Super Bowl contender to make an offer. He'd fit in nicely with Patrick Mahomes and the defending champion Kansas City Chiefs if they could find a way to pay him.

Cook, a four-time Pro Bowl running back Dalvin Cook, was released by the Minnesota Vikings in June after six seasons. He has plenty of suitors, including his hometown Miami Dolphins. The New York Jets and Denver Broncos are among other teams with strong interest in the 27-year-old Cook.

Here are 10 more free agents who previously have had plenty of success in the NFL:

EZEKIEL ELLIOTT: The three-time Pro Bowl running back ran for 876 yards and 12 touchdowns while averaging a career-low 3.8 yards per carry for Dallas last season. Elliott still could return to the Cowboys, who got 1,007 yards rushing from Tony Pollard last season.

JADEVEON CLOWNEY: The former No. 1 overall pick is seeking his fifth team in six years. A three-time Pro Bowl defensive end, Clowney had two sacks last season in Cleveland after getting nine in 2021.

YANNICK NGAKOUE: The 28-year-

old defensive end is an ideal fit for any team that needs a pass rush specialist. Ngakoue has had at least eight sacks in each of his seven seasons in the NFL. He had 9 1/2 last season for the Colts after tallying 10 in 2021 with Las Vegas.

MARCUS PETERS: Peters, a ball-hawking, two-time All-Pro cornerback, is coming off a subpar season in Baltimore, but he's two years removed from an ACL injury and provides an experienced playmaker for a team that needs help in pass coverage.

JUSTIN HOUSTON: At 34, Houston may be past his prime, but he had 9 1/2 sacks last season for the Ravens. The four-time Pro Bowl edge could spark a defense as a rotational player.

CARSON WENTZ: His MVP-caliber 2017 season in Philadelphia is a distant memory, and he's looking for his fourth team in four years. Wentz got booted out of Indianapolis after a 2021 season in which he threw 27 TD passes and had just seven interceptions. He struggled in an injury-shortened year with Washington in 2022 and has run out of opportunities as a starter.

JOHN JOHNSON: The veteran safety has started 80 games in his six-year career, missing only two games over the past three seasons. He had 101 tackles last season for Cleveland. The versatile Johnson has filled several roles in the defensive backfield and should find a new home, perhaps Green Bay, before the season starts.

LEONARD FOURNETTE: "Playoff Lenny" helped Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers win the Super Bowl a few years ago, but he averaged just 3.5 yards per carry behind a mediocre offensive line last season.

Saudi investment in PGA Tour will top \$1 billion; Norman will exit as LIV's CEO, tour exec says

By **BEN NUCKOLS**
AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund has agreed to invest more than \$1 billion in a new commercial entity controlled by the PGA Tour, and Greg Norman will be ousted as the CEO of LIV Golf if the business deal between the Saudis and the tour is finalized, a tour executive told Congress on Tuesday.

The agreement between the Saudi Public Investment Fund, the primary funder of LIV Golf, and the PGA Tour shocked the golf world when it was announced last month and led to probes by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which summoned tour officials to the Capitol to testify under oath, and the Justice Department, which is looking into potential antitrust violations.

Among the subcommittee's findings were that representatives of the tour and the Saudis discussed giving Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy their own LIV Golf teams, a proposal that apparently never reached either player. There was no indication during Tuesday's hearing that Congress would block the tour from going into business with the Saudis.

The subcommittee chairman, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said he was troubled by the geopolitical implications of Saudi investment in American sports and efforts by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Saudi leader, to whitewash the kingdom's human rights abuses. However, Republicans on the committee were more sympathetic to the PGA Tour and the existential threat it faced from the PIF, which controls \$600 billion in assets — roughly 500 times what the tour is worth.

"We're here because we're concerned about what it means for an authoritarian government to use its wealth to capture an American institution," Blumenthal said.

The PGA Tour and the Saudis announced on June 6 that they agreed to drop all lawsuits against each other and combine their commercial interests into a new for-profit company while maintaining the tour's non-profit status. Asked by Blumenthal how much money the Saudis have committed to the new venture, Ron Price, the PGA Tour's chief operating officer, testified the amount was "north of \$1 billion."

Blumenthal repeatedly pressed Price and Jimmy Dunne, a PGA Tour board member and a key negotiator of the Saudi deal, on why the tour did not seek alternative sources of funding to compete with the PIF. Price and Dunne said going into business with outside investors would not prevent LIV Golf and the PIF from continuing to compete with the tour and use its vast resources to sign top players.

"My entire concern here is to put this divisive period behind us, and for the sake of players, fans, sponsors and charities, unite the game of golf again," said Dunne, a New York investment banker who is well connected with the sport's leaders.

Critics of the Saudi investment in golf have pointed to the kingdom's poor human rights record and the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, which U.S. intelligence concluded was likely approved by the crown prince, an allegation he denies. The PIF has bought its way into other sports including soccer — it owns Newcastle United of the English Premier League — and Formula One racing.

"There is something that stinks about this path that you're on right now because it is a surrender, and it is all about the money, and that is the reason for the backlash that you're seeing, Mr. Price," Blumenthal said. "The equity ownership interest that the Saudis will have ... gives them financial dominance. They control the purse strings."

(Continued on Page 7)

Manfred has no intention of altering Rose's lifetime ban

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred has no intention of altering Pete Rose's lifetime ban from baseball, and said the sport's commercial deals with gambling companies have no impact on the status of the career hits leader.

Rose agreed to a lifetime ban in 1989 after an investigation for Major League Baseball by lawyer John Dowd found Rose placed numerous bets on the Cincinnati Reds to win from 1985-87 while playing for and managing the team.

The Hall of Fame's board decided in 1991 that players on the permanently ineligible list also may not appear on the Hall ballot. Rose asked the Hall in 2016 to change the rule.



Rob Manfred

Rose applied for reinstatement in 1997 and met with Commissioner Bud Selig in 2002, but Selig never ruled on Rose's application. Manfred succeeded Selig in 2015 and rejected Rose's application.

"We've always approached the issue of gambling from the proposition that players and other people who are in a position to influence the outcome of the game are going to be subject to a different set of rules than everyone else in the world," Manfred told the Baseball Writers' Association of America on Tuesday.

"Pete Rose violated what is sort of rule one in baseball, and the consequences of that are clear in the rule, and we've continued to abide by our own rules," Manfred added. "It's just the rules are different for players. It's part of the responsibility that comes with the privilege of being a major league player."

Manfred minimized MLB's revenue from gaming companies.

"I think people believe we make more money off gambling than we actually do," he said.

MLB looking to find solutions for the game's "sticky" problem

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Pristine white baseballs that would not require rubbing are under consideration by Major League Baseball as a way to solve the issue of pitchers using sticky substances for better grip.

"We continue to work with the people at Dow Chemical on developing a tacky ball," Commissioner Ron Manfred told the Baseball Writers' Association of America on Tuesday. "It would literally eliminate all — well, not all — but many of the variables in the current process. It would come out of a sealed foil pouch at the ballpark. No individual mudding."

MLB executive vice president Morgan Sword said the balls were tested in the first half of this season in the Double-A Southern League. The balls would retain colored stitches.

"Like everything in baseball, when you inch towards a solution, you figure out another problem," Manfred said. "The baseball, if we get there with the Dow people, would be a pearl, right? A pure white baseball. I think if you take hitters and pitchers out front here and ask 'em what they think of a pure white baseball, you're going to find out that it's a pretty controversial topic. So not only do we have the science that we're continuing to work on but we're going to have to get over that sort of policy issue of: Is a pure white baseball a good thing?"

A minimum 13 dozen baseballs are prepared for each game. Humidors have been used for storage by all teams since 2022.

"The only issue guys are having now is that whatever park you go to, every stadium is different," Minnesota

All-Star pitcher Sonny Gray said. "The elements are different everywhere. Like when you're pitching in Minnesota when it's 30 degrees outside for the first month of the season, the balls

are going to be hard, cold and dry, rather than when you're pitching in Cincinnati in the middle of the summer it's sticky and humid."

Tampa Bay pitcher Shane McClellan prefers a pre-tacked ball, such as Nippon Professional Baseball uses.

"We've seen that it's had success in Japan with consistent balls," he said. "Once we agree upon it as players and whatnot, I'm excited to see what happens."

Five pitchers have been suspended for 10 games each since MLB began its crackdown on banned grip substances in June 2021 by instituting regular inspections by umpires.

Seattle's Hector Santiago and Arizona's Caleb Smith served suspensions in 2021 and three were disciplined this season: the Mets' Max Scherzer, the Yankees' Domingo Germán on May 17 and the Mets' Drew Smith on June 14.

"The suspensions that we have had would fall into the category of clear-to-egregious violations," Manfred said. "I understand that feeling someone's hand is inherently subjective. I think this is an area where umpires, again, with a difficult topic, have shown great judgment and discretion. I think gray areas, players have definitely been given the benefit of the doubt."

Baseballs currently are rubbed with mud to make them less slick. MLB standardized rubbing procedures among the 30 teams last year.



Green Valley Tuesday Golf results

This week was the Florida Scramble for the Green Valley Tuesday Senior Golf League.

Mike Bennett was the closest to pin while

Arley Higginbotham has the longest putt.

The winning team was Steve Folk, Rick Oatess, Jim Zimmer, and Joe Bauer with a score of minus 5.

Ricciardo replaces De Vries at AlphaTauri in surprise return to F1 and will race at Hungarian GP

MILTON KEYNES, England (AP) — Australian driver Daniel Ricciardo will make a shock return to Formula One at the upcoming Hungarian Grand Prix.

The eight-time Grand Prix winner, who was axed by McLaren at the end of last year, will replace Nyck de Vries at Red Bull's junior team AlphaTauri for the rest of the year.

The Hungarian GP is on July 23.

"I am stoked to be back on track with the Red Bull family," Ricciardo said in a statement released by Red Bull Racing on Tuesday.

Rookie De Vries was hired by AlphaTauri at the beginning of this season but he has been dropped after only 10 races, paving the way for Ricciardo's sudden comeback.

The 34-year-old Ricciardo's career looked to be all but over after he was

deemed surplus to requirements by McLaren following two underwhelming seasons with the British team.

Ricciardo failed to land a seat for the 2023 season and instead chose to return to Red Bull — the team at which he won seven Grands Prix — as a reserve driver.

"I'm very pleased to welcome Daniel back into the team," AlphaTauri team principal Franz Tost said. "There's no doubt about his driving skill, and he already knows many of us, so his integration will be easy and straightforward ... I would like to thank Nyck for his valuable contribution during his time with Scuderia AlphaTauri, and I wish him all the best for the future."

Ricciardo got his first taste of this season's Red Bull during a tire test at Silverstone on Tuesday — 48 hours after the British Grand Prix in which De Vries fin-

ished 17th.

Given Sergio Perez's torrid run of form, which has seen him fall 99 points adrift of teammate Max Verstappen in the world championship standings, AlphaTauri's move to hire Ricciardo will fuel speculation that the Australian could land a seat back at Red Bull.

Red Bull team principal Christian Horner said "we are excited to see what the rest of the season brings for Daniel on loan" at AlphaTauri.

For the 28-year-old De Vries, the writing appeared to be on the wall after Red Bull motorsport adviser Helmut Marko recently said Horner was right to have questioned why he was signed.

The Dutch driver crashed on multiple occasions and failed to score a single point with a best finish of 12th at the Monaco Grand Prix in May.

Saudi investment

(Continued from Page 6)

But Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., a harsh critic of the Saudi regime, said Congress should not interfere with a private enterprise doing business with the Saudis. He proposed instead that the U.S. reduce arms sales to Saudi Arabia. And the committee's ranking member, Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., suggested that Saudi involvement in sports ultimately could improve human rights in the kingdom.

"If the kingdom's involvement in golf and other sports helps it to modernize or offer rights to women, wouldn't that be a good thing?" Johnson said.

Blumenthal pressed Dunne and Price to pledge that PGA Tour players would be free to criticize the Saudi regime if the deal is completed. Both said they would not recommend that the tour's policy board approve any deal that includes such restrictions on speech.

Before the hearing, the subcommittee released documents detailing the secretive and hasty negotiations that led to last month's framework agreement. Dunne conceded that the tour botched the announcement of the deal, leading many to mistakenly conclude that the tour and LIV Golf had completed a merger.

"The rollout was very misleading and inaccurate, which

is everyone's fault. There is no merger," Dunne said. "There is merely an agreement to try and get to an agreement instead of a lawsuit."

The documents released by the subcommittee detail the roles of people on the Saudi side of the negotiations, notably Amanda Staveley, a British investment banker who helped broker the Newcastle deal and now sits on the team's board, and Roger Devlin, a British businessman.

Devlin was the first to approach Dunne about the prospect of a deal between the tour and LIV, the documents show, although Dunne said Tuesday he never met Devlin in person and reached out to Yasir Al-Rumayyan, the governor of the PIF, on his own. Dunne initially contacted Al-Rumayyan via WhatsApp, the documents show.

"My attitude was all of the people other than the guy with the money, we shouldn't talk to," Dunne said.

A memo from Staveley's firm titled "The Best of Both Worlds" includes the proposal that Woods and McIlroy take ownership of LIV teams and that each of them play in 10 LIV events per year. There is no indication in the documents that either Woods or McIlroy, both of whom remained loyal to the PGA Tour, were ever

informed of the idea.

Among the other proposals included in the memo are a mixed-gender, LIV-style team event with qualifying in Saudi Arabia and concluding in Dubai; awarding world ranking points to LIV events, including retroactively; and PIF sponsorship of two elevated PGA Tour events, including one in Saudi Arabia.

None of those proposals was included in the framework agreement signed by Al-Rumayyan and PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan. The PGA Tour sent a letter to players after Tuesday's hearing saying the PIF made "a series of suggestions" that "were rejected immediately."

The parties also negotiated but did not sign a side agreement that called for ousting Norman as LIV's CEO. Asked by Blumenthal whether Norman was out of a job, Price said that if the tour and the PIF complete their business deal, the tour would control LIV and Norman's job would be eliminated.

"We would no longer have a requirement for that type of position," Price said.

Norman remains in the CEO role, although he has been largely sidelined as the public face of LIV since the deal was announced. He was invited to testify Tuesday along with Al-Rumayyan; both declined.

Djokovic

(Continued from Page 6)

championship and eighth overall there — which would pull him even with Federer on both counts.

"I feel," Rublev said about Djokovic, "like he's playing better and better."

Djokovic, a 36-year-old from Serbia, is also pursuing a 24th career major trophy. He already set the men's mark in that category by collecting No. 23 at the French Open last month, pulling ahead of Rafael Nadal. Federer is next on the list with 20.

The only real blip for Djokovic came when the No. 7-seeded Rublev broke him with a forehand winner to lead 5-4 at the outset, then served out the opening set.

From there, Djokovic saved all seven break points he faced and pulled away, dropping Rublev to 0-8 in Grand Slam quarterfinals.

"Every time when he had a chance, this little chance," Rublev said, "he (made) them. All of them."

Well, not quite. Djokovic failed to convert any of his three break points in the opening set. After that? He went 5 for 9.

Next up for Djokovic is a matchup against No. 8 seed Jannik Sinner, who made it to the semifinals at a major tournament for the first time by beating Roman Safiullin 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 earlier Tuesday.

Djokovic has won both previous head-to-head meetings against Sinner, a 21-year-old from Italy. That includes in last year's Wimbledon quarterfinals, when Djokovic dropped the first two sets before coming through in five.

"It's for sure one of the toughest — if not the toughest — challenge," Sinner said about playing Djokovic.

The other two men's quarterfinals are Wednesday: No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz vs. No. 6 Holger Rune, and No. 3 Daniil Medvedev vs. unseeded Chris Eubanks.

On Friday, Sinner will be the latest to attempt to stop Djokovic, who is two wins away from heading to the U.S. Open in August with his sights on the first calendar-year Grand Slam for a man since Rod Laver accomplished the feat in 1969.

"Any tennis player wants to be in a position where everyone wants to win against you on the court. ... Pressure is part of what we do. It's part of our sport. It's never going to go away, regardless of how many Grand Slams you win or how many matches you won or how many years you are playing professionally on the tour," Djokovic said.

Northwestern retains assistants after firing coach Pat Fitzgerald

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP) — Northwestern has decided to retain its assistant coaches and support staff for the 2023 season after it fired head coach Pat Fitzgerald amid a hazing scandal.

Athletic director Derrick Gragg informed the coaches and staff of the decision during a meeting on Tuesday. There was no announcement by the school when it comes to the leadership of the program after Fitzgerald's dismissal.

The first game of the season is Sept. 3 at Rutgers.

The 48-year-old Fitzgerald was fired on Monday by Northwestern President Michael Schill, who wrote in an open letter to the university community that an investigation by an outside law firm detailed hazing that "was widespread and clearly not a secret within the program."

"The culture in Northwestern Football, while

incredible in some ways, was broken in others," Schill wrote.

Fitzgerald was originally suspended for two weeks after the school said Friday that an investigation led by attorney Maggie Hickey of law firm ArentFox Schiff did not find "sufficient" evidence that the coaching staff knew about ongoing hazing — though there were "significant opportunities" to find out about it.

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

WNBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	13	4	.765	—
Connecticut	14	5	.737	—
Washington	11	8	.579	3
Atlanta	10	8	.556	3½
Chicago	8	11	.421	6
Indiana	5	14	.263	9
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Las Vegas	17	2	.895	—
Dallas	10	9	.526	7
Minnesota	9	10	.474	8
Los Angeles	7	12	.368	10
Phoenix	4	14	.222	12½
Seattle	4	15	.211	13

BASEBALL

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	58	35	.624	—
Baltimore	54	35	.607	2
Toronto	50	41	.549	7

New York	49	42	.538	8
Boston	48	43	.527	9
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	45	45	.500	—
Minnesota	45	46	.495	½
Detroit	39	50	.438	5½
Chicago	38	54	.413	8
Kansas City	26	65	.286	19½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	52	39	.571	—
Houston	50	41	.549	2
Seattle	45	44	.506	6
Los Angeles	45	46	.495	7
Oakland	25	67	.272	27½

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	60	29	.674	—
Miami	53	39	.576	8½
Philadelphia	48	41	.539	12
New York	42	48	.467	18½
Washington	36	54	.400	24½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	50	41	.549	—
Milwaukee	49	42	.538	1
Chicago	42	47	.472	7
Pittsburgh	41	49	.456	8½
St. Louis	38	52	.422	11½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	51	38	.573	—
Arizona	52	39	.571	—

San Francisco	49	41	.544	2½
San Diego	43	47	.478	8½
Colorado	34	57	.374	18
Monday's Games				
No games scheduled				
Tuesday's Games				
All-Star Game: AL vs NL at Seattle, 8 p.m.				
Wednesday's Games				
No games scheduled				
Thursday's Games				
No games scheduled				

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL	
Major League Baseball American League	TAMPA BAY RAYS — Reinstated 3B Josh Lowe. Optioned 2B Jonathan Aranda to Durham (IL).
National League	CINCINNATI REDS — Sent RHP Michael Mariot outright to Louisville (IL).
BASKETBALL	
National Basketball Association	DETROIT PISTONS — Re-signed F Isaiah Stewart to a rookie contract extension.
PHOENIX SUNS	— Traded F Isaiah Todd and two future first-round draft picks to Memphis in exchange for three future second-round draft picks. Re-signed G/F Josh Okogie.
HOCKEY	
National Hockey League	ANAHEIM DUCKS — Named Brent Thompson assistant coach.
ARIZONA COYOTES	— Signed D Montana Onyebuchi to a two-year, entry-level contract.
BOSTON BRUINS	— Signed C Marc McLaughlin to a one-year,

MONTREAL CANADIENS	— Signed C Alex Newhook to a four-year contract.
NASHVILLE PREDATORS	— Signed F Denis Gurianov to a one-year contract.
NEW YORK RANGERS	— Signed D K'Andre Miller to a two-year contract.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer	MLS DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE — Found FC Cincinnati D Ian Murphy guilty of failing to leave the field in a timely manner in the 75th minute of Cincinnati's match against Charlotte FC on July 8. Found New England Revolution M Latif Blessing guilty of failing to leave the field in a timely manner in the 61st minute of New England's match against the New York Red Bulls on July 8. Found Minnesota United FC F Bongokuhle Hlongwane guilty of simulation-embellishment in the 68th minute of Minnesota's match against Austin FC on July 8. Found San Jose Earthquakes G Daniel guilty of failing to leave the field in a timely manner in the 56th minute of San Jose's match against the Los Angeles Football Club on July 8. Found Columbus Crew head coach Wilfried Nancy guilty of failing to leave the field in a timely and orderly manner in the 87th minute of Columbus's match against New York City FC on July 8. Suspended Houston Dynamo FC F Sebastián Ferreira for one match and fined Ferreira an undisclosed amount for violent conduct in the 90th minute of Houston's match against Sporting Kansas City on July 8. Suspended Columbus Crew head coach Wilfried Nancy for one
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additional match (two matches total) and fined Nancy an undisclosed amount for irresponsible behavior in the 87th minute of Columbus's match against New York City FC on July 8. Suspended Columbus Crew technical staff member Federico

Pizzuto for two additional matches (three matches total) and fined Pizzuto an undisclosed amount for violent conduct — throwing liquid at and on a match official in the 88th minute of Columbus's match against New York City FC on July 8.

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Indiana drought conditions improve slightly

51 percent of state remains under 'moderate drought'

By C.J. MILLER
Hoosier Ag Today

Indiana's drought conditions have improved slightly as anywhere between four-tenths to six inches of rain fell across the state last week. However, more than half of the state still remains under a drought.

"Even though we are seeing some rain coming in, it's going to take a while to fix the problem," says Dr. Beth Hall, Director of the Indiana State Climate Office at Purdue University.

According to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor map, 51 percent of the state is under a "moderate drought"— which is a drop from 80 percent last week. Also, 27 percent of Indiana is experiencing a "severe drought"— a drop from 33 percent from a week ago.

Dr. Beth Hall, Director of the Indiana State Climate Office at Purdue University. Photo courtesy of Purdue University.

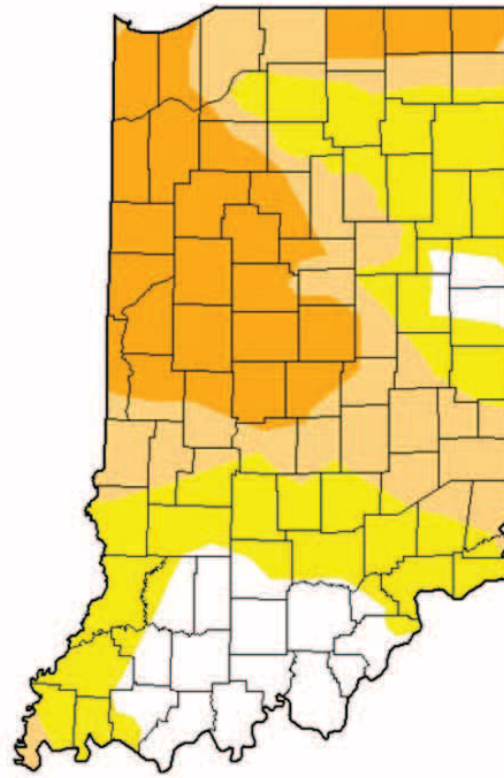
Hall says the recent rainfall has helped, but the lack of moisture for May and June has still set us behind for the growing season.

"That explains why we're holding steady and that we're not seeing conditions worsen at the moment," says Hall. "Climate outlooks are forecasting this continual pattern, so I'm hoping that things will stay steady if not gradually improve."

She says the climate forecast from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the rest of July shows an improvement in weather conditions.

U.S. Drought Monitor Indiana

July 4, 2023
(Released Thursday, Jul. 6, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



Above, the graphic shows Wells County in D0 Abnormally Dry, as of July 4. (Graphic courtesy of the U.S. Drought Monitor)

"What their models are suggesting is cooler than normal temperatures are favored over the next several weeks. We're talking temperatures that could be a little bit more tolerable," according to Hall. "The better news is these models are also favoring above normal precipitation and the confidence in that is relatively high."

However, Hall adds that the climate forecasts projected

by NOAA for August and September may go the other way. "We don't have that confidence in precipitation for the full season. The temperature outlook also looks to be above normal. The confidence of above normal temperatures is fairly strong, so that tells me that perhaps for August and September, we should expect warmer and drier conditions," says Hall.



2013 Indianapolis 500 winner Tony Kanaan showing support for Indiana's dairy producers. Kanaan served as a celebrity "scooper" during American Dairy Association Indiana's Ice Cream Social fundraiser on Monument Circle in downtown Indianapolis in July 2022. (Photo courtesy of C.J. Miller)

ADAI to celebrate importance of ice cream to Indiana agriculture with 'ice cream social' in Indy

By C.J. MILLER
Hoosier Ag Today

July is "National Ice Cream Month" and American Dairy Association Indiana is hosting a big event to not only celebrate, but also bring awareness to the important role that ice cream plays in Indiana agriculture.

"So much of the ice cream that we are consuming day-to-day in our households comes right here from the state of Indiana," according to Brooke Williams, Director of Communications with American Dairy Association Indiana.

Indiana is ranked second in the U.S. in ice cream production, which is one reason why hundreds of ice cream sundaes are being served between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 13.

"It's our 34th annual Ice Cream Social on Monument Circle in downtown Indianapolis," says Williams. "For many years, it has become a very beloved tradition for many Hoosiers and we're excited to celebrate ice cream another year."

American Dairy Association Indiana will be selling ice cream sundaes for \$5 each to raise money for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Indianapolis.

In addition, some "special guests" will be

at the event to help spread the word about Indiana's dairy industry.

"Purdue Dairy Club will bring a couple of calves this year. It's not something people see everyday, especially being downtown in the middle of the city. The calves will help people learn more about the dairy industry in the state of Indiana," says Williams.

Most of all, she says it's about reminding fellow Hoosiers about Indiana's dairy businesses and showing support for local dairy producers.

"We love telling that story that food is local and we're seeing more and more ice cream processors pop up all around the state," says Williams. "Whether it's a mom-and-pop shop in your small town or if it's a bigger production like Prairie Farms, which is helping us supply the ice cream for our Ice Cream Social, the fact that it's being made with milk that comes from the state of Indiana means you're supporting local family farms. We're always proud to throw these events to share with the community why it's so important to support your farmers."

Across Indiana, there are nearly 700 dairy farms which help provide milk for much of ice cream and other dairy products produced throughout the U.S.

National 4-H Council appoints Jill Bramble as new president

By AGDAILY

Jill Bramble, a National 4-H Council executive and alumna, has been selected as the new president and CEO of the youth organization. She replaces Jennifer Sirangelo, who has served in those roles for the past decade.

"This is a bittersweet moment for me," Sirangelo said. "It has truly been an honor to serve alongside National 4-H Council Associates and thousands of Cooperative Extension 4-H leaders and educators, preparing America's young people to thrive through the life-changing impact of the

4-H program. I am so proud of all that the 4-H Movement has accomplished in creating opportunity for all young people."

With the mission of expanding opportunities for all of America's youth through 4-H programming, it's integral that the National 4-H Council has a strong leadership team at the forefront of the youth development charge.

Bramble is a fourth-generation 4-H alumna whose roots run deep in agriculture. Her family's dairy farm allowed her to witness her grandfather's hard work and

generosity.

"He was an idol in my life: a hard worker who was very generous; he gave back to our community," Bramble told AGDAILY in an interview.

Bramble has served as executive vice president and chief growth officer with 4-H prior to being chosen for the top job. She received a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from the University of Colorado and a Master of Science in Non-profit Administration from the University of Maryland. She lives in Bluffton, South Carolina.

Republican lawmakers introduce bills to eviscerate Proposition 12

By AGDAILY

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision on Proposition 12 was one of the most anticipated agricultural rulings in recent memory, and after both right- and left-leaning justices sided with California and dealt a blow to states rights, several U.S. lawmakers have begun work to undercut Prop 12 at the federal level.

Prop 12 was originally approved in California in 2018. It bans the sale of pork, veal, and eggs in California from livestock that wasn't raised according to the state's production standards, no matter which state in the U.S. the animals were actually raised in. Challenges were brought by several agricultural organizations, including the National Pork Producers Council, noting how the legislation would wrongly impact interstate commerce and impede national markets.

SCOTUS announced its decision rejecting those challenges on May 11.

In the past month, both the U.S. House and Senate have introduced bills that would "prevent states and local jurisdictions from interfering with the production and distribution of agricultural products in interstate commerce, and for other purposes." All co-sponsors are Republicans, and many come from agricultural-heavy states, like Texas, Illinois, Nebraska, and North Carolina.

While the specific text of the bills have not yet been made public, activist organizations are already planting the seeds of their rebuttal. Due in part to major pork producer Smithfield Foods being owned by a Chinese company, despite having its headquarters in Virginia, groups such as Animal Wellness Action are calling this legislation "a thinly veiled maneuver by a foreign-influenced industry to overturn American elections."

"It is an outrageous thought for Congress to nullify ballot measures that are

expressions of popular will. In this case, it's even more glaring and galling than that. It's the pork industry trade association, with a Des Moines address but with the support of the Chinese government, seeking to undo American elections," said Animal Wellness Action's Wayne Pacelle, referencing the National Pork Producers Council's offices in Des Moines, Iowa.

The Senate version of the bill is titled "Ending Agriculture Trade Suppression" and was introduced by Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS).

According to Food Safety News, Marshall said soon after he announced his bill, "The United States is constantly faced with non-tariff trade barriers from protectionist countries, hurting American agriculture access to new markets. The last thing we need is a big state like California imposing its will on ag-heavy states like Kansas with regulations that will restrict our ability to trade among states."

Agricultural Services Guide

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A message from:

The News-Banner

Honking neighbor disturbs the peace

Dear Annie: My neighbor has started to honk her horn upon leaving for work each morning (prior to 7:30), and her husband and her children leave 10 to 20 minutes later. When I worked, we hugged our children and maybe waved to them.

When she honks, she does not take into consideration that the neighbors across the street have a newborn and the other neighbors are a retired couple who are in their late 80s. This is so annoying, and no one has approached her due to fear that she will honk even longer and more often.

Why do people not realize that to be a good neighbor, you must be respectful? Not quite sure how to handle this. — Loving a Quiet Morning

Dear Loving a Quiet Morning: Honking anytime except to prevent an accident or ward off danger is very rude. But honking prior to 7:30 a.m. in a quiet neighborhood is especially rude. Next time you see her, you might let her know there is a newborn asleep and other people are sleeping. Maybe she is just so overwhelmed with getting her children to school on time that she doesn't realize how bad her behavior is. If she gets angry about your request and continues honking, you can call the police. There are fines for disturbing the peace.

Dear Annie: I painfully watch our daughter-in-law tease and belittle her pre-teen children, especially the older boy. She is very loving and generous with them, but also strict; she thinks she's being funny. Her isolated, difficult upbringing by a single mom with no parenting skills left her with a tough "I'm fine" armor and the need to appear to be the perfect mom with perfect kids.

Our gentle son counteracts her actions by being very nurturing and

supportive of the children, but I've never heard him cue her to tone it down. Even as she looks to me as a role model, she doesn't ask for or take suggestions well, so I've always cringed rather than speak to her, and worked to be a supportive, accepting person in the children's lives.

Do you have suggestions for things I could say or do to help her see how her behavior affects her children? Thank you for your insight. — Concerned Grammy

Dear Concerned Grammy: There is nothing funny about belittling or teasing someone. You sound very psychologically aware, especially to notice that her behavior comes from a place of insecurity based on her own upbringing. But that does not make it right. When people know better, they do better. So my guess is that she doesn't know how damaging her teasing is. Continue to lead by example, but also, talk to your son about your concerns. And in the meantime, continue to praise and support your grandchildren without the putdowns.

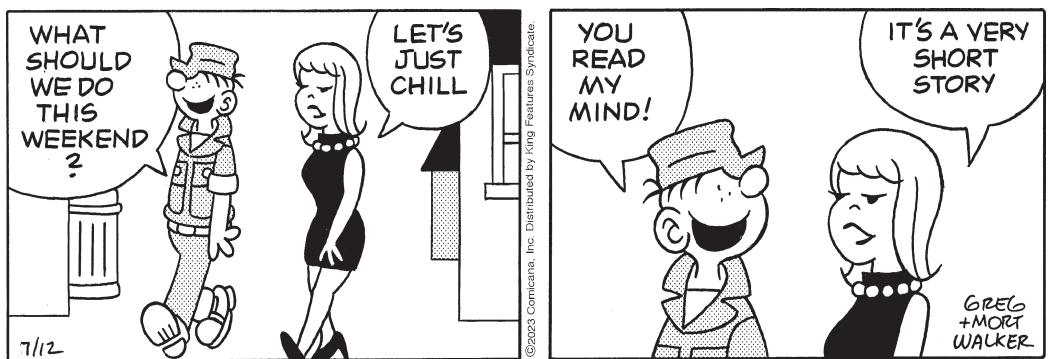
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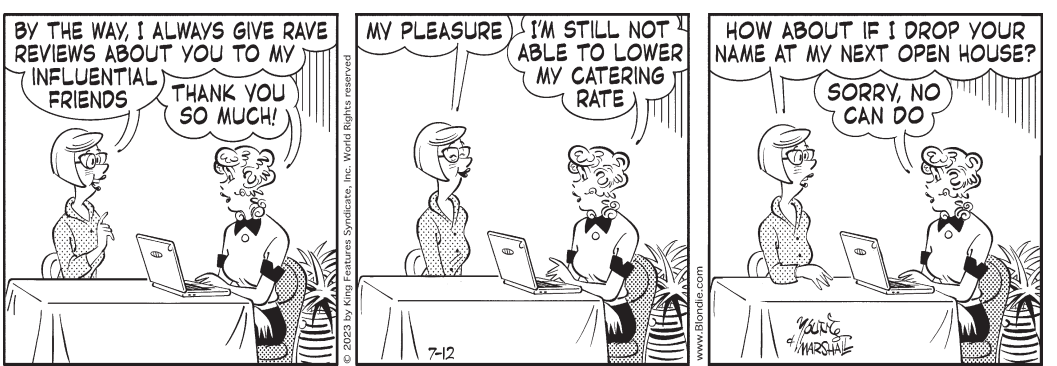
Dear Annie by Annie Lane



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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



God created the heavens and the earth

scopes. Scientists who lack belief in God must be completely baffled to survey the smallness of man on Earth — part of an estimated 100 billion galaxies, and Almighty God rules over all (see 1 Chronicles 29:11-12).

Look up on a starry night, and you will see the majesty and power of an infinite Creator. "Give thanks to the Lord ... who made the great lights ... the sun to rule over the day ... the moon and stars to rule over the night" (Psalm 136:1, 7-9, ESV).

Stars and planets move in a consistent pattern, cooperating ingeniously with one another and it's evident that they achieve their movements not by accident but by design. Ask astronomers and they will admit that every star

moves with precision in its celestial path. What ever lacks intelligence cannot move intelligently. What gives direction and design to these inanimate objects is God.

Imagine the wisdom it took to develop the complex laws that govern creation and give it order, from the smallest subatomic particle to the swirling galaxies of outer space. No wonder the Bible says, "Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen" (Romans 1:20, NIV).

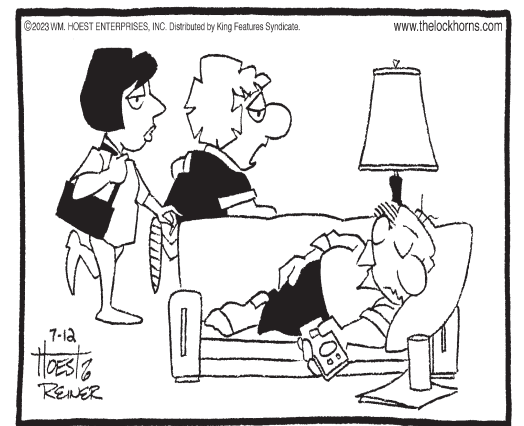
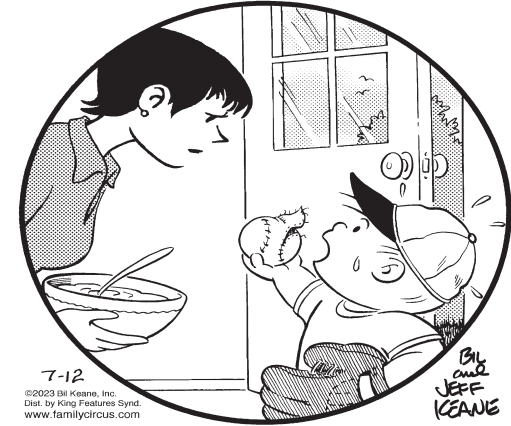
(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



"Could you sew our ball right away, Mommy? The bases are loaded!"

"That's one of the seven habits of unsuccessful people."

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Yesterday's answer 7-12 crossword puzzle grid.

Television schedule table with columns for time slots (5 PM, 5:30, 6 PM, etc.) and program titles.

NATO chief says no timetable set for Ukraine's membership

Zelenskyy calls it 'absurd'

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP) — NATO leaders said Tuesday that they would allow Ukraine to join the alliance "when allies agree and conditions are met" — a pronouncement that came just hours after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy blasted the organization's failure to set a timetable for his country as "absurd."

Instead, alliance leaders decided to remove obstacles on Ukraine's membership path so that it can join more quickly once the war with Russia is over.

"We reaffirmed Ukraine will become a member of NATO and agreed to remove the requirement for a membership action plan," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters, referring to a key step in the process that involves

advice and assistance for countries seeking to join.

"This will change Ukraine's membership path from a two-step path to a one-step path," Stoltenberg said.

Although many NATO members have funneled arms and ammunition to Zelenskyy's forces, there is no consensus among the 31 allies for admitting Ukraine into NATO's ranks.

Zelenskyy pushed back sharply against the decision as he headed to the annual NATO summit in Vilnius.

"It's unprecedented and absurd when a time frame is set neither for the invitation nor for Ukraine's membership," Zelenskyy tweeted. "While at the same time, vague wording about 'conditions' is added even for inviting Ukraine. It seems

there is no readiness to invite Ukraine to NATO or to make it a member of the Alliance."

NATO membership would afford Ukraine protection against a giant neighbor that annexed its Crimean Peninsula almost a decade ago and more recently seized vast swaths of land in the east and south. Joining NATO would also oblige Kyiv to reform its security institutions, improve governance and curb corruption — work that would also ease the country's path into the European Union.

Asked about Zelenskyy's concerns, Stoltenberg said the most important thing now is to ensure that his country wins the war, because "unless Ukraine prevails there is no membership to be discussed at all."

The broadside from Zelenskyy could renew tensions at the summit shortly after it saw a burst of goodwill following an agreement by Turkey to advance Sweden's bid to join NATO.

Allies hope to resolve the seesawing negotiations and create a clear plan for the alliance and its support for Ukraine.

The Ukrainian president, who was to meet Wednesday with U.S. President Joe Biden and other NATO leaders, expressed deep frustration in an emotional speech in downtown Vilnius.

"Today I started my journey with faith in solutions, with faith in strong partners, with faith in NATO ... in a NATO that does not hesitate, that does not waste time and does not look over their backs at any aggressor," Zelenskyy said.

"I would like this faith to

become confidence, confidence in the decisions that we deserve, all of us — every soldier, every citizen, every mother, every child," he said. "Is that too much to ask?"

Sharp divisions have emerged within the alliance over Ukraine's desire to join NATO, which was promised back in 2008 even though few steps were taken toward that goal.

In addition, the Baltic states — including Lithuania, which is hosting the summit — have pushed for a strong show of support and a clear pathway toward membership for Ukraine.

However, the United States and Germany urged caution. Biden said last week that Ukraine was not ready to join. Members of NATO, he told CNN, need to "meet all the qualifica-

tions, from democratization to a whole range of other issues," a nod toward long-standing concerns about governance and corruption in Kyiv.

In addition, some fear that bringing Ukraine into NATO would serve more as a provocation to Russia than as a deterrence against aggression.

Concretely, NATO leaders decided to launch a series of multiyear programs to bring Ukraine's Soviet-era military equipment and doctrines up to modern standards so the country can operate fully with the alliance.

On Wednesday, the leaders and Zelenskyy are set to launch a new, upgraded forum for their cooperation: a NATO-Ukraine Council, where all parties can convene crisis talks if their security is threatened.

Pendants made from giant sloths suggest earlier arrival of people in the Americas

By CHRISTINA LARSON
AP Science Writer

New research suggests humans lived in South America at the same time as now extinct giant sloths, bolstering evidence that people arrived in the Americas earlier than once thought.

Scientists analyzed triangular and teardrop-shaped pendants made of bony material from the sloths. They concluded that the carved and polished shapes and drilled holes were the work of deliberate craftsmanship.

Dating of the ornaments and sediment at the Brazil site where they were found point to an age of 25,000

to 27,000 years ago, the researchers reported. That's several thousand years before some earlier theories had suggested the first people arrived in the Americas, after migrating out from Africa and then Eurasia.

"We now have good evidence — together with other sites from South and North America — that we have to rethink our ideas about the migration of humans to the Americas," said Mirian Liza Alves Forancelli Pacheco, a study co-author and archaeologist at the Federal University of Sao Carlos in Brazil.

In the past decade, other research has challenged the conventional wisdom that people didn't reach the

Americas until a few thousand years before rising sea levels covered the Bering land bridge between Russia and Alaska, perhaps around 15,000 years ago.

The ornaments were discovered about 30 years ago at a rock shelter called Santa Elina in central Brazil. The new study is the first to analyze them extensively and rule out the possibility that humans had found and carved them thousands of years after the animals perished.

The team of researchers from Brazil, France and the United States said their analysis shows this handiwork was done within days to a few years after the animals had died, and

before the materials had fossilized. The researchers also ruled out natural abrasion and other things that might explain the shapes and holes. They reported their findings Wednesday in Britain's Proceedings of the Royal Society B journal.

"We think they were personal objects, possibly for personal adornment," said Thais Rabito Pansani, a co-author and paleontologist at the Federal University of Sao Carlos in Brazil.

Once among the largest creatures in South America, giant ground sloths were 10 to 13 feet in length and usually walked on all four legs, using their sharp claws to dig burrows. They

weighed more than a thousand pounds and their skin included bony structures under their fur — somewhat similar to the bony plates of modern armadillos.

Two years ago, another team of researchers reported that fossilized human footprints found near White Sands, New Mexico, dated back to 21,000 to 23,000 years ago — though some researchers dispute these dates. Other evidence from Mexico suggests human presence around 26,000 years ago, and findings from Uruguay may suggest human occupation as much as 30,000 years ago.

Jennifer Raff, an anthropological geneticist at the University of Kansas, who

was not involved in the study, said the new paper was "an important addition" to the conversation, but like any findings on the topic, it may also draw pushback.

Still, the evidence from multiple sites forces scientists to rethink old assumptions that people arrived only in one great wave of migration over the Bering land bridge, said Briana Pobiner, a co-author and paleoanthropologist at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington.

Some may have died out, "but it's very likely that multiple waves of people came to Americas," she said.

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BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING JULY 16 STARTING AT 6 P.M. EST - Ron Selking, owner. Online only personal property auction! Household, furniture, washer & dryer, antiques, collectibles, Christmas items, hand tools, yard tools, 2019 Lincoln Nautilus, 21,202 miles. Auction preview July 13, 4-5 p.m., 2432 Tigers Trail, Decatur. Auction pick up July 17, 2-5 p.m. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

JULY 16-23 - (Online Only Auction) - Isch, seller. Complete Liquidation. Vehicles, trailers, mower, tools, furniture, household. Preview: July 19 from 4-6 p.m., 5505 E 200 N, Craigville, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, The Steffen Group Inc., 260-413-3515, www.steffengrp.com.

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JULY 25 - 9 a.m. EST - Ark Electric Inc., owner. 3979 W 200 N, Decatur, IN. Real estate auction! Auction live onsite! 8,322 sq. feet building, 408 sq. feet office, kitchen & bath area, 2,030 sq. feet heated shop area w/concrete floors, 14'x20' overhead door, 5,884 sq. feet cooled storage w/partial concrete floors, (1) 12'x10', (2) 14'x12' & (1) 14'x20' overhead doors, pond, 1,000 gallon LP tank sitting on 3.985 acres. [Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC](http://KrueckebergAuction.com), Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

JULY 29 - 9 a.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](http://KrueckebergAuction.com), 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

BIDDING STARTS CLOSING AUG. 6 STARTING AT 4 P.M. EST - Timothy Kraus Estate, Theresa A. Roe-Kraus, owner. 16709 Aboite Road Roanoke. Online only! 2007 Lincoln Mark LT pickup, Kioti CS2510 utility tractor w/loader & belly mower, Simplicity 48" zero turn mower, snowblower, step & extension ladders, 6'x12' utility trailer, power & hand tools, yard & garden tools, shotgun, household, collectibles, antiques, furniture, more! Preview: Aug. 3, 5-6 p.m. Pick up: Aug. 7, 2-6 p.m., Aug. 9-11 a.m. [Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC](http://KrueckebergAuction.com), 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

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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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	3				2		7	
4			1	7		2		

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Lottery Numbers

Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 12-22-32-35-38
Cash4Life — 05-10-16-46-53, Cash Ball: 02

Quick Draw Midday — 09-11-15-19-24-28-32-33-40-41-43-48-50-52-54-57-61-64-68-73, BE: 64
Daily Three-Midday — 04-06-02, SB: 07
Daily Three-Evening — 09-07-04, SB: 04
Daily Four-Midday — 04-09-09-02, SB: 07
Daily Four-Evening — 07-04-02-02, SB: 04

Quick Draw Evening — 01-06-07-18-20-21-22-25-33-34-35-36-43-46-48-49-57-69-70-80, BE: 34
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$23 million
MEGA MILLIONS 10-17-33-51-64; Mega Ball: 05; Megaplier: 2X.
POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$725 million

LINE CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINES

Monday editions: Friday by 4 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday editions: day-before by 4 p.m.
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PLACING ADS

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JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE jcsgaragedoor.com	Daniel's JEWELERS daniels-jewelers.net	KELLY'S COLLISION CENTER, INC. 820 W. Washington Street, Bluffton kellysautocollision.com
3 RIVERS 3riversfcu.org	Myers FUNERAL HOMES myersfuneralhomes.com	STEFFEN GROUP REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS steffengroup.com
Riverstone DENTAL riverstonedental.net	Bluffton Tire blufftontire.com	HERITAGE POINTE COMMUNITIES www.lifeheritage.org
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Lengerich MEATS lengerichmeats.com	Jerry Flack & Associates jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com	La Fontaine Center A RHF Community lafontainecenter.org
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July

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Pictured in the photo, surrounded by Rick, are family members, Chamber Ambassadors and Board Members. (Photo submitted)

Rick Johnloz of Halderman Farm Management honored as July Member of the Month

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce staff and ambassadors surprised Rick Johnloz, a dedicated professional at Halderman Farm Management, by awarding him the prestigious title of July Member of the Month. Rick has devoted 40 years to the management of land, farms, and real estate, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to the agricultural industry.

Rick's journey began with a strong passion for farming. After studying Ag Econ at Purdue University, he aspired to return to his hometown of Bluffton to work alongside his grandfather and uncle. However, the challenging economic climate of the 1980s discouraged him from pursuing farming during that period. Recognizing Rick's potential, one of his professors suggested exploring a career in Farm Management. Following their recommendation, Rick interviewed with Halderman Farm Management but initially accepted a position with a company in Ohio due to a lack of openings. Determined to return to Bluffton, Rick eagerly awaited an opportunity.

In September 1982, Rick received a call from Halderman Farm Management, informing him of a retiring staff member and the chance to open an office in Bluffton. Embracing the opportunity, he accepted the position and has remained with the company for an impressive 40 years.

Rick's responsibilities at Halderman Farm Management have grown significantly since his early days with the company. Initially managing 3,500 acres, he now oversees approximately 25,000 acres, showcasing steady growth throughout his career. In addition to farm management, Rick dedicates a substantial portion of his time to real estate sales, which he considers a retirement plan and a means to build a nest egg. His expertise extends to assisting clients with inherited farms, helping them navigate the complexities of managing and maximizing the potential of their properties. Rick's knowledge and guidance have also proved

invaluable to clients seeking to invest in farmland for long-term gains.

As a farm manager, Rick approaches each client's property as if it were his own. He prioritizes the maintenance and optimization of farmland, ensuring it yields the best possible crops. Rick firmly believes in fair returns for owners and investors while fostering strong partnerships with farmers and landowners. His extensive territory spans from Fort Wayne to Muncie, and Marion to the Ohio border, with some clients owning farms across the state. Despite the broad reach of his responsibilities, Rick's commitment to Wells County and the surrounding counties remains unwavering.

Rick's dedication to his work and the agricultural community extends to his family. His youngest son, Jason, plans to join him in the business upon graduating next year from Purdue. Rick is excited to mentor Jason, who has been actively involved in the industry since a young age and shares his passion for farm management. This mentorship brings reassurance to Rick's clients, who have long wondered about the future of their partnership once he retires. The integration of new accounts has already begun, ensuring a smooth transition for the next generation.

Halderman Farm Management, a family-owned business established in 1929, holds a special place in Rick's heart. He appreciates the values upheld by the company and its commitment to serving clients with integrity. Rick remains dedicated to problem-solving and providing exceptional service to the community. His primary goal is to assist individuals in achieving their goals, whether they choose to work with him or not.

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce proudly recognizes Rick Johnloz as the July Member of the Month, honoring his outstanding contributions to the agricultural industry and his dedication to the community. They extend their congratulations and appreciation for his invaluable service.

Charles Manson follower Leslie Van Houten released from prison a half-century after grisly killings

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Charles Manson follower Leslie Van Houten, a former homecoming princess who at 19 helped carry out the shocking killings of a wealthy Los Angeles couple at the direction of the violent and manipulative cult leader, walked out of a California prison Tuesday after serving more than 50 years of a life sentence.

Van Houten, now 73, "was released to parole supervision," the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation said in a statement.

She left the California Institution for Women in Corona, east of Los Angeles, in the early morning hours and was driven to transitional housing, her attorney Nancy Tetreault said.

Days earlier Gov. Gavin Newsom announced he would not fight a state appeals court ruling that Van Houten should be granted parole. He said it was unlikely the state Supreme Court would consider an appeal.

The 1969 slayings and subsequent trials captivated the nation during an era of strife marked by the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement and the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy.

At a parole hearing in 2016, Van Houten said the

murders were the start of what Manson believed was a coming race war he called "Helter Skelter," after the Beatles song. He had his followers prepare to fight and learn to can food so they could go underground and live in a hole in the desert, she added.

Van Houten was sentenced to death in 1971 for helping Manson's group carry out the killings of Leno LaBianca, a grocer in Los Angeles, and his wife, Rosemary. Her sentence was later commuted to life in prison when the California Supreme Court overturned the state's death penalty law in 1972. Voters and state lawmakers eventually rein-

stated the death penalty, but it did not apply retroactively.

The LaBiancas were killed in their home, and their blood was smeared on the walls afterward. Van Houten later described holding Rosemary LaBianca down with a pillowcase over her head as others stabbed her. Then, ordered by Manson follower Charles "Tex" Watson to "do something," Van Houten said, she picked up a knife and stabbed the woman more than a dozen times.

The slayings happened the day after Manson followers killed actress Sharon Tate and four others. Van Houten did not participate in the Tate killings.



The sounds of summer

The Bulldogs, above, brought out over 300 people on Saturday. The band is the second in the lineup for the Archbold Summer Concert Series, hosted by the Ossian Parks Department and Horizon Events. Left, Kenzie from Kenzie's Coney's and Broderick Esparza enjoy the Bulldogs concert (Photos submitted)

Bank of America is hit with \$250M fines, refunds for 'double-dipping' overdraft fees and fake accounts

NEW YORK (AP) — Bank of America will reimburse customers more than \$100 million and pay \$150 million in fines for "double-dipping" on overdraft fees, withholding reward bonuses on credit cards and opening accounts without customer consent.

Combined, it is one of the highest financial penalties in years against Bank of America, which has largely spent the last 15 years trying to clean up its reputation and market itself to the public as a bank focused on financial health and not on overdraft fee income and financial trickery.

BofA must refund \$100 million to customers, pay \$90 million in penalties to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and \$60 million to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. "Bank of America wrongfully withheld credit card rewards, double-dipped on fees, and opened accounts without consent," said CFPB Director Rohit Chopra, in a statement. "These practices are illegal and undermine customer trust."

Empowered by a broad mandate from the White House, Chopra and the bureau have focused heavily in the past year on the issue of "junk fees" — fees charged to Americans that are often seen as unnecessary or exploitative by banks, debt collectors, airlines and concert venues. Banks such as BofA, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo

and others have been a target for the bureau under the Biden administration.

Part of the fines and penalties come because Bank of America had a policy of charging customers \$35 after the bank declined a transaction because the customer did not have enough funds in their account, the CFPB said. The agency determined that the bank double-dipped by allowing fees to be repeatedly charged for the same trans-

action.

The fees often came when customers had routine monthly transactions, like a gym membership. If a customer had too low of a balance to cover the transaction, it would be declined and BofA would charge the customer a \$35 fee. The business, who hasn't been paid, often would recharge the customer's account, resulting in another \$35 non-sufficient funds fee.

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4-H Fair Pork Chop Dinner

Sponsored by:
Bluffton Optimist Club

When: Tuesday July 18, 2023
Time: 4:00 to 7:00 PM
Where: Wells County 4-H Park
Price: \$12.00

Includes: Fisher's Smoked Pork Chop, Cheesy Potato, Apple Sauce, & Drink. (Eat in or carry out)

Advanced tickets available at:

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