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SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2023

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00



Concert on the plaza

Native Hoosier Jennie DeVoe, who's now based in Indianapolis, brought her mix of blues and pop music to the Parlor City Plaza Friday night, part of the "Music on the Plaza" series. The series continues Aug. 18 with Whoa Man! and concludes Sept. 15 with the Rylie Lynn Band. (Photo by Dave Schultz)

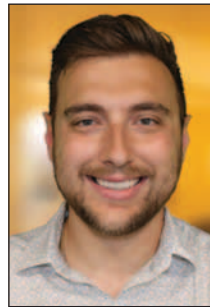
Paddlefish Solar opens local office

By HOLLY GASKILL

A local office for Paddlefish Solar will soon open in downtown Bluffton.

Paddlefish Solar is a subsidiary owned by EDF Renewables, a global renewable energy company, and Geenex Solar, a solar company based out of North Carolina. The two companies have renewable energy ventures throughout North America and decided to establish a local office as a contact point for Wells County community members.

While the solar farm is set to be developed in Chester and Liberty townships, its office will reside in Bluffton at 201 W. Market St. in Suite 3.



Quinn Kumfer

In correction to the initial reporting, Quinn Kumfer will act as the local project representative for the office. Kumfer owns and operates Treeboy Productions, a videography business based in Bluffton.

Paddlefish Solar will host an open house Wednesday, July 26 from 4-6 p.m. where Kumfer and other representatives will be present to answer questions about the project. This event will be the first of multiple opportunities to visit the office and team, Kumfer said.

As the local project representative, Kumfer will serve as a point person for inquiries about the Paddlefish Solar development and solar energy at large. Kumfer, who has long been interested in renewable energy, said he's looking forward to providing accurate information as a familiar face in the community.

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Man receives 6 years for child molestation

By SYDNEY KENT

A man who raped a six-year-old has been sentenced to six years at the Indiana Department of Corrections by the Wells Circuit Court.

Daniel Gonzalez, 39, Hudson, pleaded guilty to child molestation, a Class C felony, in early May. As part of the plea agreement, the court dismissed a Level 1, Class A felony charge for intercourse with a victim younger than 14 years old. Gonzalez will also receive 72 days of jail credit.

A Level 1 felony carries a maximum sentence of 40 years, but under the plea agreement, the maximum sentence Gonzalez could have received was eight years in prison. The State, as well as representatives of the victim, asked for the full sentence.

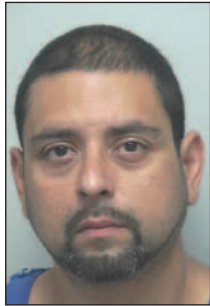
The rape was reported in Oct. during a counseling session. The now 14-year-old victim stated she had been the care of Gonzalez, who was her stepfather at the time, when she was six years old and he had raped her.

Gonzalez denied the allegations during the investigation, specifically stating he did not touch the victim "as far as he knows." He then offered to take a polygraph and results indicated Gonzalez was lying about his answers.

The victims' mother denied any knowledge of the abuse, but admitted to leaving the marriage after learning Gonzalez was allegedly "beating" her son.

While the victim decided she was unable to testify, she was present with her grandmother and a group of supporters for the sentencing. Among the group, multiple individuals wore the identifying leather vests of the "Guardians of the Children," a nonprofit biker group that advocates

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Daniel Gonzalez



The littlest farmer

Easton Gerber, 2, tries out the stationary tractor at the 4-H fairgrounds. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)



A royal rabbit

Grace Meeks, the newly crowned Miss Wells County, walks her rabbit through the annual 4-H auction. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

Multiple tech firms agree to AI safeguards set by White House

By MATT O'BRIEN and ZEKE MILLER
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden said Friday that new commitments by Amazon, Google, Meta, Microsoft and other companies that are leading the development of artificial intelligence technology to meet a set of AI safeguards brokered by his White House are an important step toward managing the "enormous" promise and risks posed by the technology.

Biden announced that his administration has secured voluntary commitments from seven U.S. companies meant to ensure that their AI products are safe before they release them. Some of the commitments call for third-party oversight of the workings of the next generation of AI systems, though they don't detail who will audit the technology or hold the companies accountable.

"We must be clear eyed and vigilant

about the threats emerging technologies can pose," Biden said, adding that the companies have a "fundamental obligation" to ensure their products are safe.

"Social media has shown us the harm that powerful technology can do without the right safeguards in place," Biden added. "These commitments are a promising step, but we have a lot more work to do together."

A surge of commercial investment in generative AI tools that can write convincingly human-like text and churn out new images and other media has brought public fascination as well as concern about their ability to trick people and spread disinformation, among other dangers.

The four tech giants, along with ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and startups Anthropic and Inflection, have committed to security testing "carried out in part by independent experts" to guard against major risks, such

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Outside

Sunny and hot today, chance of storms Sunday

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 81	High 82	High 85
Low 60	Low 62	Low 64

More Weather on Page 2

Online

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SATURDAY
 July 22, 2023

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Child molestation

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for and offers support to abused children.

Ultimately, Judge Kenton Kiracofe noted the significant factors of the case were the victim's age and her home life at the time of the crime.

Defense attorney Larry Mock asked the court to consider Gonzalez's clean criminal record and his decision to plead guilty as mitigating factors. He also requested a suspended sentence and probation.

In response, Kiracofe stated child sexual crime cases typically involve law-abiding citizens and it would not be considered a mitigating factor. Kiracofe also expressed concern about Gonzalez's sincerity.

"The statement made in the presentencing investigation report doesn't acknowledge any true remorse to the victim," Kiracofe said. "He made a practical decision (to plead guilty) and received a substantial benefit for that decision."

Gonzalez sat two rows behind the victim while other cases were heard on Wednesday. One of the "guardians" stood most of the morning where the victim was seated. The guardian quickly shook her head and blocked Gonzalez when he attempted to walk in front of the child.

During his statement, which did not address the victim or the crime, Gonzalez pleaded with the judge to have mercy on him.

"You're taking me away from my fiancée, my one-year-old grandson, my five-year-old niece," Gonzalez said. "I love her so much, she is my best friend. Please, I beg you — I've never done anything wrong."

The victim's grandmother spoke on the victim's behalf.

"For nine years this has put her through hell," The victim's grandmother continued. "He broke the innocence of a six-year-old child."

In addition to his sentence, Gonzalez is required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. He is also required to pay court fees, a \$500 sexual assault victims fee, and a \$100 child abuse prevention fee.

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AI safeguards

(Continued from Page 1)

as to biosecurity and cybersecurity, the White House said in a statement.

That testing will also examine the potential for societal harms, such as bias and discrimination, and more theoretical dangers about advanced AI systems that could gain control of physical systems or "self-replicate" by making copies of themselves.

The companies have also committed to methods for reporting vulnerabilities to their systems and to using digital watermarking to help distinguish between real and AI-generated images or audio known as deepfakes.

Executives from the seven companies met behind closed doors with Biden and other officials Friday as they pledged to follow the standards.

"He was very firm and clear" that he wanted the companies to continue to be innovative, but at the same time "felt that this needed a lot of attention," Inflection CEO Mustafa Suleyman said in an interview after the White House gathering.

"It's a big deal to bring all the labs together, all the companies," said Suleyman, whose Palo Alto, California-based startup is the youngest and smallest of the firms. "This is supercompetitive and we wouldn't come together under other circumstances."

The companies will also publicly report flaws and risks in their technology, including effects on fairness and bias, according to the pledge.

The voluntary commitments are meant to be an immediate way of addressing risks ahead of a longer-term push to get Congress to pass laws regulating the technology.

Some advocates for AI regulations said Biden's move is a start but more needs to be done to hold the companies and their products accountable.

"A closed-door deliberation with corporate actors resulting in voluntary safeguards isn't enough," said Amba Kak, executive director of the AI Now Institute. "We need a much more wide-ranging public deliberation, and that's going to bring up issues that companies almost certainly won't voluntarily commit to because it would lead to substantively different results, ones that may more directly impact their business models."

While voluntary, agreeing to submit to "red team" tests that poke at their AI systems is not an easy promise, said Suleyman.

"The commitment we've made to have red-teamers basically try to break our models, identify weaknesses and then share those methods with the other large language model developers is

a pretty significant commitment," Suleyman said.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has said he will introduce legislation to regulate AI and is working closely with the Biden administration "and our bipartisan colleagues" to build upon the pledges made Friday.

A number of technology executives have called for regulation, and several attended an earlier White House summit in May.

Microsoft President Brad Smith said in a blog post Friday that his company is making some commitments that go beyond the White House pledge, including support for regulation that would create a "licensing regime for highly capable models."

Some experts and upstart competitors worry that the type of regulation being floated could be a boon for deep-pocketed first-movers led by OpenAI, Google and Microsoft as smaller players are elbowed out by the high cost of making their AI systems adhere to regulatory strictures.

The White House pledge notes that it mostly only applies to models that "are overall more powerful than the current industry frontier," set by recent models such as OpenAI's GPT-4 and image generator DALL-E 2 and similar releases from Anthropic, Google and Amazon.

A number of countries have been looking at ways to regulate AI, including European Union lawmakers negotiating sweeping AI rules for the 27-nation bloc that could restrict applications deemed to have the highest risks.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently said the United Nations is "the ideal place" to adopt global standards and appointed a board that will report back on options for global AI governance by the end of the year.

Guterres also said he welcomed calls from some countries for the creation of a new U.N. body to support global efforts to govern AI, inspired by such models as the International Atomic Energy Agency or the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The White House said Friday that it has consulted on the voluntary commitments with a number of countries.

The pledge is heavily focused on safety risks but doesn't address other worries about the latest AI technology, including the effect on jobs and market competition, the environmental resources required to build the models, and copyright concerns about the writings, art and other human handiwork being used to teach AI systems how to produce human-like content.

Weather

Saturday, July 22, 2023

(24-hour observations at 10:05 p.m. Friday)

High: 77; Low: 59; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.31 feet at 8:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 81. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 60. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming south in the evening.

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

Sunday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 8 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

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

Monday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Tuesday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 8 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 85.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 66.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 88.

Wednesday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 69.

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 90.

Thursday Night: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 71.

Russia comes under pressure at UN to avoid global food crisis

By EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Russia came under pressure at the U.N. Security Council on Friday from its ally China and developing countries as well as Western nations to avert a global food crisis and quickly revive Ukrainian grain shipments.

Moscow was also criticized by the U.N. and council members for attacking Ukrainian ports after pulling out of the year-old grain deal and destroying port infrastructure — a violation of international humanitarian law banning attacks on civilian infrastructure.

In response to Russia declaring wide areas in the Black Sea dangerous for shipping, the U.N. warned that a military incident in the sea could have "catastrophic consequences."

Russia said it suspended the Black Sea Grain Initiative because the U.N. had failed to overcome obstacles to shipping its food and fertilizer to global markets, the other half of the Ukraine grain deal. The Kremlin said it would consider resuming Ukrainian shipments if progress is made in overcoming the obstacles, including in banking arrangements.

China's deputy U.N. ambassador Geng Shuang noted U.N. Secretary-

General Antonio Guterres' commitment to make every effort to ensure that both Ukrainian grain and Russian food and fertilizer get to world markets. He expressed hope that Russia and the U.N. will work together to resume exports from both countries "at an early date" in the interest of "maintaining international food security and alleviating the food crisis in developing countries in particular."

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield accused Russia of using the Black Sea as "blackmail" and playing political games, pointing to Moscow's export of more grain than ever before at higher prices. She called on the Security Council and all 193 U.N. member nations to come together and urge Russia to resume negotiations in good faith.

Several developing countries warned of the impact of the cutoff in Ukrainian grain shipments, which has already led to a rise in wheat prices.

Gabon's U.N. Ambassador Michel Biang said the grain deal had avoided a spark in grain prices and calmed the risk of food insecurity in the drought-affected Horn of Africa and other regions. He urged talks "to break the current deadlock" and avoid a humanitarian crisis.

U.S., World News Roundup

Tony Bennett, masterful stylist of musical standards, dies at 96

NEW YORK (AP) — Tony Bennett, the eminent and timeless stylist whose devotion to classic American songs and knack for creating new standards such as "I Left My Heart In San Francisco" graced a decadeslong career that brought him admirers from Frank Sinatra to Lady Gaga, died Friday. He was 96, just two weeks short of his birthday.

Publicist Sylvia Weiner confirmed Bennett's death to The Associated Press, saying he died in his hometown of New York. There was no specific cause, but Bennett had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2016.

The last of the great saloon singers of the mid-20th century, Bennett often said his lifelong ambition was to create "a hit catalog rather than hit records." He released more than 70 albums, bringing him 19 competitive Grammys — all but two after he reached his 60s — and enjoyed deep and lasting affection from fans and fellow artists.

Bennett didn't tell his own story when performing; he let the music speak instead — the Gershwins and Cole Porter, Irving Berlin and Jerome Kern. Unlike his friend and mentor Sinatra, he would interpret a song rather than embody it. If his singing and public life lacked the high drama of Sinatra's, Bennett appealed with an easy, courtly manner and an uncommonly rich and durable voice — "A tenor who sings like a baritone," he called himself — that made him a master of caressing a ballad or brightening an up-tempo number.

"I enjoy entertaining the audience, making them forget their problems," he told The Associated Press in 2006. "I think people ... are touched if they hear something that's sincere and honest and maybe has a little sense of humor. ... I just like to make people feel good when I perform."

Alabama lawmakers refuse to create 2nd Black congressional district

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Alabama on Friday refused to create a second majority-Black congressio-

nal district, a move that could defy a recent order from the U.S. Supreme Court to give minority voters a greater voice and trigger a renewed battle over the state's political map.

Lawmakers in the Republican-dominated House and Senate instead passed a plan that would increase the percentage of Black voters from about 31 percent to 40 percent in the state's 2nd District. The map was a compromise between plans that had percentages of 42 percent and 38 percent for the southeast Alabama district. GOP Gov. Kay Ivey quickly signed it.

State lawmakers faced a deadline to adopt new district lines after the Supreme Court in June upheld a three-judge panel's finding that the current state map — with one majority-Black district out of seven in a state that is 27 percent Black — likely violates the federal Voting Rights Act.

Voting rights advocates and Black lawmakers said the plan invoked the state's Jim Crow history of treating Black voters unfairly.

Former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, chairman of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, said the map, "and the Republican politicians who supported it, would make George Wallace proud," referring to the segregationist former Alabama governor.

Biden picks female admiral to lead Navy. She'd be the first woman

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden has chosen Adm. Lisa Franchetti to lead the Navy, an unprecedented choice that, if she is confirmed, will make her the first woman to be a Pentagon service chief and the first female member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Biden's decision goes against the recommendation of his Pentagon chief. But Franchetti, the current vice chief of operations for the Navy, has broad command and executive experience and was considered by insiders to be the top choice for the job.

In a statement Friday, Biden noted the historical significance of her selection and said "throughout her career, Admiral Franchetti has demonstrated extensive expertise in both the opera-

tional and policy arenas."

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin recommended that Biden select Adm. Samuel Paparo, the current commander of the Navy's Pacific Fleet, several U.S. officials said last month. But instead, Biden is nominating Paparo to lead U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

A senior administration official said Biden chose Franchetti based on the broad scope of her experience at sea and ashore, including a number of high-level policy and administrative jobs that give her deep knowledge in budgeting and running the department.

Man who ambushed Fargo officers likely had bigger attack in mind

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — The heavily armed man who ambushed Fargo police officers investigating a fender bender last week likely had a bigger and bloodier attack in mind, with at least two fairs taking place at the time in and around North Dakota's largest city, authorities said Friday.

Mohamad Barakat killed one officer and wounded two others and a bystander before a fourth officer shot and killed him, ending the July 14 attack.

Over the past five years, Barakat, 37, searched the internet for terms including "kill fast," "explosive ammo," "incendiary rounds," and "mass shooting events," state Attorney General Drew Wrigley said Friday during a news conference in Fargo, a city of about 125,000 people. But perhaps the most chilling search was for "area events where there are crowds," which on July 13 brought up a news article with the headline, "Thousands enjoy first day of Downtown Fargo Street Fair."

Had Officer Zach Robinson not killed Barakat, authorities said they shudder to think how much worse the attack might have been. All evidence suggests that Barakat came upon the traffic crash by "happenstance" and that his ensuing ambush was a diversion from his much bigger intended target, Wrigley said.

"The horrible winds of fate sometimes," he said. "Those events fell into place and fell into his path."

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OBITUARIES

Reba Jean McAfee, 79

Reba Jean Shell McAfee, 79, of Ossian, passed away at home Wednesday, July 19, 2023.

She was born June 4, 1944, in Coxtown, Ky. She was the daughter of Virgil and Christine Curry Shell.

She retired from Lutheran Hospital. The joys of her life were her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Her hobbies were spending time with her family, mowing the yard, and dancing with all of her kids. She knew no stranger, had a heart of gold, and would help anyone in need. She was a loving, remarkable, and amazing woman. She will be deeply missed.

Surviving are her sons, Tony (Bridget) McAfee, Kyle McAfee, Leland McAfee, and Leon (Jana) Wanner; her daughters, Bettye (Nick) George, Katie McAfee, Kristene McAfee, and Khloe Caron; her grandchildren, Jamie (Megan), Austin, Bailey, and Logan McAfee; her great-grandchildren, Renegade, Elijah, Jayden,



Addison, Grayson, Hudson, and James Anthony; and her sister, Sue Harter. She is also survived by several nephews and many friends.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Donald; a son, Jerry; a daughter, Angel, and a grandson, Tony Jr.

We would like to thank Stillwater Hospice and a special nurse Tina.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 26, at the Elzey-Patterson-Rodak Funeral Home, 120 W. Mill St. in Ossian, with visitation one hour prior. Visitation for Reba will also be held from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 25, at the funeral home. Burial will be at Oak Lawn Cemetery.

Contributions in Reba's memory may be made to Bettye George in care of the children, Kyle, Leland, and Khloe.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.elzey-patterson-rodak.com for the McAfee family.

Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

I hope you got your fill of fair food this week, so it will tide you over until Street Fair comes. I can't believe that we are nearing the end of July already. As school gets closer, our summer events start winding down. Next week is the last week for **Picnic in the Park**. Children aged 18 and under can still receive a free lunch every weekday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Roush Park (925 W. Silver) until July 31. Special thanks to the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan schools for feeding kids this summer!

Once school starts, we lose all our life-guards, so be sure to squeeze in the last few days of the Wells Community Pool. Pool hours are 1- 6 p.m. daily, weather permitting. Lap Swim is offered Mon., Wed., Fri. (12:00 to 12:50 p.m.) for only \$2. We still have a few opportunities to rent the pool for a private party before we open from 10-noon. Call the pool at 824-1550 to schedule. The splash pads will remain open through Labor Day.

Bluffton High School tennis will start picking up practices once school begins, and while their courts are being installed, you may see an increase in use at both sets of our tennis courts. Their schedule will have them at Lions Park on Aug. 2 and 4 from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. They will be at Washington Park on July 31, Aug. 3, 5, from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. and have evening practices at Washington Park July 31 to Aug. 5 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Beginning Aug. 7 to Sept. 29, they will have practice on weekday afternoons at Washington Park from 3:15 to 5:30 p.m.

During last Friday's concert, we honored our **volunteer of the year**, Tammy Shaffer. The Eugene Edington Memorial Award started back in 2001 to honor the dedicated men and women who generously give their time to serve our community. Two plaques are hanging on the

walls of City Hall that include the names of individuals who have given their time and talents to volunteer for the Parks Department.

Tammy has handed out food every Tuesday for years at the Farm Wagon, and she and the Friends of the Shelter group come to all the special events for pets. Not only has Tammy been a blessing to our department, but she has also served 8 years on the Wells County Foundation Board and chaired their marketing committee. She is a board member of the Caylor-Nickel Foundation and is approaching 20 years of service with the Friends of the Shelter.

She served our community with her career as a police officer for 15 years and as Police Chief for 11 years before retiring in 2014. During that time, Tammy was honored with Indiana's Outstanding Officer of the Year Against Domestic Violence for chairing the Wells County Domestic Violence Task Force; she received the DARE Agency Head Award for the State of Indiana for over 20 years of teaching and supporting Drug abuse resistance education. The Center for Non-Violence also recognized her commitment to ending domestic violence; she was also the first woman to serve as President of the Indiana Association of Chiefs.

Our community is blessed with the number of volunteers who help us out each week with special events, teaching classes, assisting races, and park maintenance. We are also fortunate to live in a town with generous donors who contribute to capital projects and events that keep our concerts and programs free for everyone to enjoy. I know we say it all the time, but Bluffton is a great place to live because of the kind-hearted people in this community. If you see Tammy this week, be sure to give her an extra thanks for all she does.

Have a great week!

Local Roundup

Solid Waste District board to meet Monday afternoon

The board of the Wells County Solid Waste District will meet at 4 p.m. Monday, July 24, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Financial matters.
- Supervisor's report.
- Investment options.
- 2024 budget.
- Amended 2023 salary contract.

County Commissioners will meet Monday afternoon

The Wells County Commissioners will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, July 24, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Financial matters.
- Appointments with Wells County Sheriff Scott Holliday, Wells County Highway Department Shawn Bonar, and Wells County Engineer Nate Rumschlag.
- Library update, brought to the commissioners by Sarah MacNeill, Matt Yergler, and John Stauffer.
- Monthly reports, miscellaneous business, and right-of-way or utility agreements.
- AEP easement request.

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 25, in the meeting room on the first floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Managed services proposal.
- Server bid.
- Discussion of water leaks on Williams and South streets, brought to the board by Brandon Gerber of BCG Capital.
- Consideration of an encroachment request, brought to the board by Nathanael Reinhard.
- Personnel matters, brought to the board by Street Commissioner Tim Simpson, Police Chief Kyle Randall, and Fire Chief Don Craig.
- Consideration of an agreement with K&A Farms for the lime at the old water treatment plant.

Norwell school board will meet Tuesday afternoon

The board of the Northern Wells Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 25, at the school district's central office, 312 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Public comments on agenda items.
- Superintendent's report, including an update on the Norwell Middle School project from Dylan Markley of Weigand Construction and a discussion of textbook fees, iPads, and school supplies.
- Personnel matters — Two retirements, four resignations, and 19 hiring recommendations.
- Discussion of an middle school/high school administrative position and a request to post the vacancy.
- Ossian Elementary School assistant principal recommendation.
- NMS assistant principal recommendation.
- Consideration to approve contract with Weigand Construction.
- Announcement of upcoming calendar events (nine in all).

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Thursday, 7:13 p.m., residence on Horton Street. Drug paraphernalia found.

Thursday, 8:28 p.m., Budget Inn. Report of harassment.

Friday, 5:49 a.m., north Main Street. Citation issued for speeding.

Friday, 6:59 a.m., Inteva Products. Report of battery.

Friday, 7:07 a.m., Walmart. Two semis parked in lot. One moved after the officer made contact, and the other driver was not present.

Friday, 8:48 a.m., north Main Street and Premier Avenue. Gravel in the roadway from a trailer.

Friday, 12:08 p.m., Autozone. Report of harassment.

County:

Friday, 6:53 a.m., east 1000S and south 500E, Keystone. Vehicle rollover. Blood was found at the scene but the driver did not appear nearby. Driver located and transported to Bluffton Regional Medical Center for a blood draw. Transported to the jail for a breath test. Full report to follow.

Friday, 7:26 a.m., 6768S 100W, Poneto. Injured fox on the roadway and put down due to injuries.

ACCIDENTS

City:

Friday, 9:40 a.m., south Main Street at the intersection of east Central Avenue.

Joshua P. Kennedy, 21, Bluffton, was backing a Chevrolet Impala through the alley between the 500 block of south Main Street and the 500 block of south Scott Street and struck the passenger side of a parked and unattended 2016 Chevrolet Silverado pick-up truck. A witness attempted to stop Kennedy's vehicle, but he continued 2-3 blocks where the vehicle owner's spouse found Kennedy. Kennedy said he was scared and didn't know what to do. An officer advised Kennedy that he must remain at the scene of the crash until information has been exchanged with the other vehicle owner or law enforcement arrives. Kennedy apologized to the vehicle owner and officer. Damage exceeded \$1,000.

Thursday, 10:15 p.m., CR 200S at the intersection of CR 200W, Bluffton. Benjamin N. Ramseyer, 18, Bluffton, was driving a 2011 Kia Optima westbound on CR 200S and struck a deer in the roadway. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

into a turn lane, but began to turn too quickly. Williams then struck the driver's side of a 2009 Pontiac Vibe driven by Mary E. Spaulding, 62, Bluffton. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

County:

Thursday, 10:15 p.m., CR 200S at the intersection of CR 200W, Bluffton. Benjamin N. Ramseyer, 18, Bluffton, was driving a 2011 Kia Optima westbound on CR 200S and struck a deer in the roadway. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Betty Jean Murphy Rathbun

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Saturday, July 22
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Judge sets 2024 trial date for man charged in fatal shooting of eastern Indiana police officer

RICHMOND, Ind. (AP) — A judge has set a 2024 trial date for a man charged in the killing of an eastern Indiana police officer who was shot during a traffic stop last year.

Phillip Matthew Lee, 48, whose trial is set to start in Wayne County on Feb. 10, 2024, could face the death penalty if he's convicted in the death of Richmond Police Department Officer Seara Burton.

Burton was shot in the head on Aug. 10, 2022, after officers stopped Lee's moped and Burton was called to assist with her police dog, which indicated the possible presence of narcotics. The officer died Sept. 18, more than two weeks after being taken off life support.

Lee, of Richmond, is charged with murder, attempted murder, unlawful possession of a firearm by

a serious violent felon and drug-related charges.

Attorneys have told the judge the trial could take four to five weeks in Richmond the (Richmond) Palladium-Item reported.

Lee's lead defense attorney, Denise Turner, recently filed a motion seeking access to all Richmond Police Department text messages, emails and voicemail recordings which mention her client since the shooting.

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The lost freedom of bike hikes



Tom Purcell

I dream of recreating some of the epic bike hikes I enjoyed as a kid back in the 1970s.

My used Murray five-speed spyder-bike with the high handlebars only cost 25 bucks but it was one of the coolest bikes of the age. Man, I loved that bike.

During the long summer days, I rode with a group of kids. We'd ride for two or three hours in the county park, then make our way to McDonald's for an orange drink and apple pie, which I paid for by borrowing a handful of coins out of my dad's penny jar.

It's funny how I can still taste that hot apple pie some 50 years later, but such is the power of nostalgia.

Most older people — and I'm getting to be one of them — are nostalgic for their childhoods. Most think their growing-up era was the very best time to be a kid. But truthfully, the best time ever to be a kid should be right now.

Today's kids have instant, on-demand access to any electronic entertainment they could possibly want.

They carry around \$1,000 smartphones that allow them to instantly access any information or entertainment on any subject under the sun — or purchase any product or service they could possibly want.

But whereas kids today are overwhelmed by the entertainment choices they have — and in some ways are imprisoned by their smartphones — the kids of my era had very few choices and not much money.

We went on long bike hikes because there wasn't much else to do.

We could play ball, and we did a lot of that. And we could go swimming — but only if we knew a rich kid whose parents let us swim in their pool.

One thing we could never do was stay in the house all day and watch TV. Our mothers tossed us out of the house every summer morning and told us we'd better not be late for dinner!

Daytime TV in the 1970s wasn't much of a temptation anyway. There were only three channels and nothing was on that appealed to us — especially the soap operas.

Today we live in a time of so many choices and modern conveniences that our kids are being robbed of passion, ambition and independence — robbed of their childhoods.

The great writer G.K. Chesterton once explained how our limitations are what bring us happiness. Could you imagine being an artist, he said, who was trying to paint a canvas that was as large as the Moon? Where do you start painting? You couldn't, Chesterton explained, because if you are an artist you need to have a frame to work with.

By being boxed into a small rectangular area, you are given a point of reference and perspective. Paradoxically, it is the frame that sets the artist free.

Our kids today are not free. The truth is, as Psychologist Peter Graves reports in *Psychology Today*, kids learn and flourish best when they are free to roam with other kids. But today's kids, monitored and guided by adults every waking hour, no longer know what it is like to roam freely with other kids.

So, yeah, I'm nostalgic for the bike hikes of my childhood. But it's mostly because back then we were free to just be kids — which is a freedom today's kids need most of all.

Tom Purcell is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. tom@TomPurcell.com.

Letters to the Editor

New approach to fireworks laws needed

Thank you for printing the recent "Hoosier Opinions" regarding the current fireworks laws.

It is past time for our elected state officials to address the current approach to fireworks. My family lives in downtown Bluffton near the post office and this year we endured six days of fireworks by a neighbor. As city residents, we need more restrictions on the number of days and types of fireworks allowed. Multiple days of listening to large mortars that rattled our windows, disturbing our children and pets for far too long, and littered our house and yard with fireworks debris.

Our local officials need to have the opportunity to institute common-sense, local approaches to fireworks which are allowed under the current state laws because unfortunately, a few folks lack common sense when it comes to fireworks and are allowed to disturb entire neighborhoods.

JOSH MILLER
Bluffton

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, July 22, the 203rd day of 2023. There are 162 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 22, 1937, the U.S. Senate rejected President Franklin D. Roosevelt's proposal to add more justices to the Supreme Court.

On this date: In 1934, bank robber John Dillinger was shot to death by federal agents outside Chicago's Biograph Theater, where he had just seen the Clark Gable movie "Manhattan Melodrama."

The News-Banner

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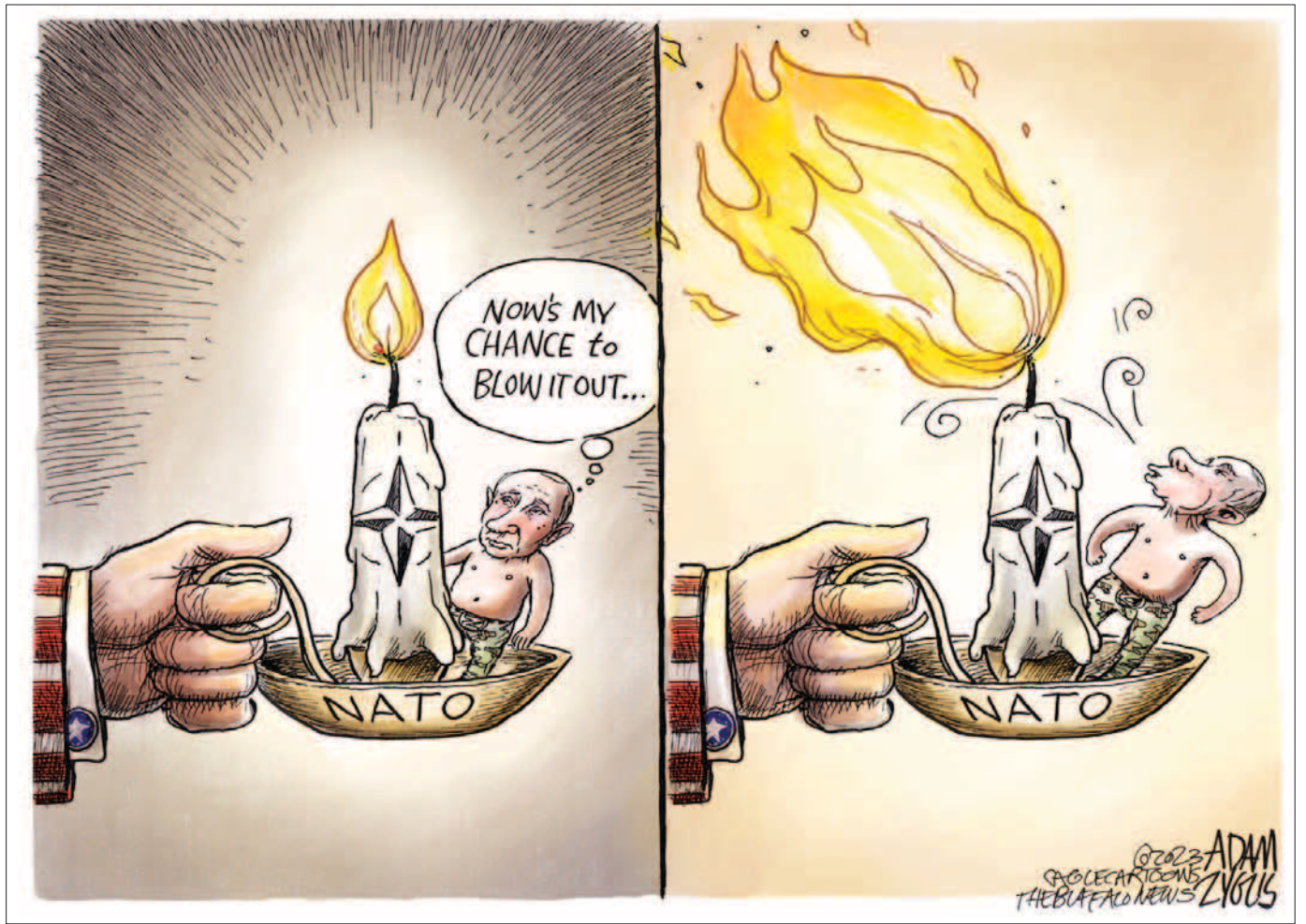
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The West feels gloomy about Ukraine. Here's why it shouldn't.

An Israeli friend remarked the other day that optimists and pessimists die the same way, but optimists live better. In that spirit, let's take a look at the situation in Ukraine.

A gloomy mood has been gathering this summer about the war. Partly, it's a matter of perceptions: The Ukrainian counteroffensive has been advancing more slowly than many in the West had hoped, even though Ukraine is maintaining its deliberate strategy of patience; and the NATO summit in Vilnius was contentious, despite a pro-Ukraine commitment by the alliance that continues to deepen.

The discontent is understandable, but wrong. The middle of a conflict always tests people's nerves. It feels like a tunnel; there's a sense of fatigue and frustration; confidence sags, and combatants start blaming one another. This war-weariness might afflict Ukraine and its allies, but it's vastly more evident in Russia. Ukraine might not be winning this war yet, but Russia is losing — and its leaders and people know it.

A midsummer accounting shows the severe price President Vladimir Putin has paid for his misadventure in Ukraine. Public anger in Russia spawned what Putin called an "armed mutiny" by renegade warlord Yevgeniy Prigozhin. Yet Putin is apparently afraid to punish Prigozhin and his Wagner Group militia, which has outperformed Russia's battered regular army.

Putin's army holds its defensive positions in Ukraine, hiding behind a blanket of mines. But the Russian army's command and control is disintegrating. It is a mess that Putin seems unable to admit, let alone fix.

Russia is preparing a major new offensive of its own east of Kharkiv, according to a Ukrainian defense official. That could disrupt Ukrainian plans in the south, but given past Russian performance, it isn't likely to alter the balance of the war.

Given the failure of Russia's conventional forces, there's an obvious danger that Putin might turn to the domain in which Russia remains a superpower: nuclear weapons. But that would be even riskier for Russia than for the West. Any demonstration of Russia's battlefield nuclear weapons would draw a devastating U.S. conventional military response — and probably cause the loss of China as an ally.

Meanwhile, for the United States and its NATO allies, these 18 months of war have been a strategic windfall, at relatively low cost (other than for the Ukrainians). The West's most reckless antagonist has been rocked. NATO has grown much stronger with the additions of Sweden and Finland. Germany has weaned itself from dependence on Russian energy and, in many ways, rediscovered its sense of values. NATO squabbles make headlines, but overall, this has been a triumphal summer for the alliance.

The Ukraine battlefield is hard to assess from a distance. Reporting from the front lines offers searing evidence that the offensive has been a bloody slog against entrenched Russian forces. But Ukraine continues to

advance slowly in the south and much of the east. Kyiv hasn't achieved its goal of splitting the swath of Russian-occupied territory along the coast and putting Russian forces in Crimea at risk. But operations such as Monday's strike on the Kerch Strait Bridge show that Russia's hold is vulnerable.

How can Ukraine advance further, to a position from which it could bargain for a peace deal from strength? Pentagon officials keep reminding me that for all the angst about the slow pace of the offensive, Ukraine still hasn't committed the bulk of its mobile forces. It's watching for weak points in Russian lines where it can punch through.

A measure of the difficult battle ahead came Tuesday from Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: "I think there's a lot of fighting left to go, and I'll stay with what we said before: This is going to be long. It's going to be hard. It's going to be bloody."

Ukrainian commanders say they need two more things to succeed. Given the stakes in this war, it's a mistake not to provide them. The first is longer-range missiles, known as ATACMs, that can strike at Russian command and logistical centers deep in the rear. Ukraine's strategy is to disrupt this Russian command and logistical network, and we should give them more tools — with the proviso that the missiles shouldn't hit targets in Russia (or, for now, occupied Crimea).

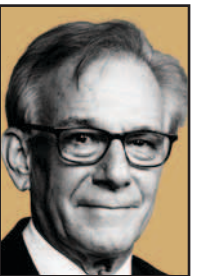
Ukraine's second requirement is better air defense and protection from Russian air attacks. F16s won't be much help this year, but there's other equipment in the NATO arsenal that Ukraine could use, perhaps including helicopters and ground-attack planes. U.S. commanders will know the right mix of weapons, but Washington's rule of thumb should be to provide every weapon now that we would wish we had sent if the offensive fails.

President Biden has always said this war should eventually be settled through negotiations, and as Ukraine advances, the administration should be working with partners to explore diplomatic options. It's a measure of Russia's weakness that some of Moscow's erstwhile friends, such as Turkey and China, seem increasingly interested in a negotiated settlement.

As the West helps Ukraine push forward, it should also begin to explore the terms under which a just settlement of this war might be possible. Ukraine will need security guarantees, but so will a radically weakened Russia. The United Nations must be involved, perhaps with peacekeeping forces that can stabilize borders after Russia withdraws from occupied territory.

On the other side of this war is a better future for every party to the conflict, including an eventual post-Putin Russia. The thing about tunnels is that if you keep moving through them, darkness eventually gives way to light.

David Ignatius is on Twitter @IgnatiusPost



David Ignatius

More thoughts on affirmative action

Following the Supreme Court decision finding preferential treatment, i.e., affirmative action, in college admissions unconstitutional, the president of Harvard issued a statement to "Members of the Harvard Community." This statement tells us how those managing one of the nation's most prestigious universities understand justice, knowledge and learning.

First, let's consider what Harvard's president does not say, which is to recognize the importance of "equal protection." The unconstitutionality of affirmative action, per the court, follows from the 14th Amendment requiring "equal protection of the laws."

Where does this idea of "equal protection" come from? If we look in our Bible, in the book of Exodus, judges are directed to apply the law equally to all, and not give special treatment to the poor.

We know this is not because the Bible, which emphasizes the importance of charity and sensitivity to others, is indifferent to the unfortunate. It is because it is not the job of the judge to determine outcomes — that the world reflect his personal preferences — but to apply the law. But at Harvard, everyone is so smart that they feel they know what the world should look like. Good and evil are defined in the president's office at Harvard.

So, there is less interest in "equal



Star Parker

protection" than achieving social outcomes that reflect how the president of Harvard thinks the world should be. Per the president, "diversity and difference are essential to academic excellence." And "Harvard must be a place of opportunity." But "diversity and difference," per Harvard's president, is about race and ethnicity, not about differences among unique individual human beings.

Back to the Bible, standing before the judge is a unique human being with personal responsibility to follow the law. The person's color, gender or bank account is not the issue. Personal behavior is.

Let's consider two areas of ethnic differences.

The Brookings Institution looked at math scores of high school students in the SAT. The average score in 2020 was 523 out of 800. Average scores by race/ethnicity were: Black, 454; Hispanic, 478; White, 547; and Asian, 632.

Around each average score is a distribution of individuals above and below that score. There may be Black students with a score way above the 454 average. However, for Harvard, most important is a student's "blackness" rather than his or her individuality.

Pew Research reports that the percentage of 40-year-old Americans that have never been married is now 25%, an all-time high. In 1980, this stood at 6%.

Clearly, marriage is breaking down.

But here are the ethnic/racial differences among the percentage of never-married 40-year-olds: White, 20%; Black, 46%; Hispanic, 27%; and Asian, 17%.

Is there meaning in the fact that the order of the percentages of never married 40-year-olds by race/ethnicity is the same as the order of the math scores? Does it say anything that Asians, where marriage is most intact, have the highest math scores? And that Blacks, where marriage is least intact, have the worst?

Marriage, family and children flow out of a worldview that everything is not about me — that there is right and wrong, that there is a future, that there are eternal values, that there is personal responsibility, that there is love. As these values have broken down in America, marriage has broken down.

It is these same values that establish a legal system that demands "equal treatment" under the law — that judges do not decide what the world should look like, but instead apply equally God's law.

In other words, knowledge, truth, learning and justice emerge from a world of unique individuals that recognize there is truth and personal responsibility. The Harvard take on things — politics and moral relativism — has hurt Black Americans, not helped. It is the problem rather than the solution.

The court's decision is a victory for American individual freedom and achievement and a defeat for the plantation managers at Harvard.

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1970 S.-800E., Bluffton
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NORTH
630 E. Dustman Rd.
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
8013 W.-1100S.-90, Montpelier
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

BETHEL
(Independent Bible)
4500E-300S, Bluffton
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS
6114E-750N, Ossian
bethlehemossian.org
9 a.m. - Divine Service. 10:15 - Adult Bible Class, Youth Bible Class & Sunday School. 11:30 - Voice of Bethlehem on 92.7 FM.

BLUFFTON CHURCH OF GOD
327 W. Cherry St.
10 a.m. - Sunday School. 11 a.m. - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL
(Independent Holiness Church)
1309 W. Washington St.
blufftonwesleyan.net
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6:30 p.m. - Worship.

BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST
3467 S 600 W, Liberty Center
boehmerumc.org
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

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CALVARY LUTHERAN, ELCA
1532 N. Main St.
9 a.m. - Worship.

CHESTER CENTER
900S-300W, Poneto
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

CHRISTIAN NEW LIGHT
1011 W. Washington St.
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Praise & worship.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
735 S. Marion St.
10 a.m. - Bible Study. 10:45 - Worship.

COVENANT CHAPEL
3550 S. SR 1
mycovenantchapel.org
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:15 - Worship. (Children's Church for ages 6-12).

DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN
8888S-1100W-90, Warren
9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Sunday School.

DOMESTIC CHURCH OF CHRIST
9 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Church service.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST
1204 W. Cherry St.
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:40 a.m. - Sunday School.

FAIRVIEW CHURCH OF GOD
5511 W. Yoder Rd., Yoder
fairviewlife.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST
210 W. Townley
fbc-bluffton.com
10 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Discipleship.

FIRST BAPTIST
202 W. Cherry St.
fbcbuffton.com
10:15 - Worship.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OSSIAN
1001 Dehner Dr.
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. - Worship. 6:30 - Service.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST
909 W. Spring St.
FCCfamily.com
9:30 & 11 a.m. - Worship.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1515 Clark Ave.
blufftonnazarene.org
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9-10 a.m. - Free ESL classes. 10:15 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
215 E. Dustman Rd.
firstpcbuffton.org
9:30 a.m. - Children/youth & Adult Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL)
123 S. Jefferson St., Ossian
www.OssianChurch.com
8:45 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Worship.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF BLUFFTON
301 W. Cherry St.
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
325 W. Washington St.
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

FORGIVEN CHURCH
1409 S. Main St.
forgivenonline.org
9 a.m. - Worship.

GRACE BAPTIST
1621 S. 350 E.
Stogdill Rd. Ext.
gbcbluffton.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship.

HARVEST TIME BIBLE
11015S-600E, Keystone
9:10 a.m. - Prayer. 10 a.m. - Worship.

A Joyful Noise ...

REDEEMED RELATIONSHIPS
In 2012, author Rosaria Butterfield published her autobiography, titled, "The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert."



by Chet Baumgartner

Before this conversion, the former atheist, lesbian, and English professor testified, she decided to study the Bible and expose it as a "boat with holes." She assumed that if she read it through again and again, she would discover its inconsistencies and fallacies and free a world of "well-meaning" people enslaved to its ancient lies.

During this conquest, though, she met one of those "well-meaning" people.

After writing a scathing editorial denouncing a local Christian event, a pastor of the church wrote her a "gentle" letter, which led to an invitation to dinner—no debates, no theological brawls over Romans 1. Simply a friendly dinner, he promised.

And he kept his promise, and that dinner led to another, and another, and another. The pastor and his wife answered Butterfield's questions and respectfully and appropriately challenged her worldview, but they always parted as friends.

Eventually, Butterfield started attending the pastor's church; eventually, she repented.

And eventually, she wrote another book, titled "The Gospel Comes with a House Key," and in it, she encourages Christians to practically and personally apply one of Jesus' simplest—and sometimes hardest—commands: Love thy neighbor.

To love thy neighbor, though, Christians must first know thy neighbor, and as a recovering entertainment addict, I openly confess that I know more about the trials and tribulations of people that don't exist more than I do the family living down the road. I openly confess that I too easily isolate myself and my world to the TV and computer screen.

I hope—and believe—most Christians don't struggle like I do, yet I wonder how many spend more time following the latest exploits of the characters in their favorite series than they spend time reading about the suffering of their "neighbors" persecuted for their faith in other countries.

I wonder how many would rather go online to debate strangers about politics or "like" the latest photos on Facebook than invite their neighbors over for sup-

per and show Jesus' love. I wonder how many believe that God more mightily uses those with stardom and a stage that attracts thousands of strangers than He uses those whose talents bless a congregation of just a dozen.

And I wonder how many people in those congregations passionately discuss the latest sports scores or headlines rather than ask each other about the grace God showed them in the previous week.

I wonder how many know their fellow believers well enough to, like Paul, say, "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers."

God has called each Christian to redeem his or her little corner of reality, and He calls them to redeem that corner through relationships.

Certainly God works through people with grand visions for large initiatives meant to touch millions. God blesses big dreams.

However, just as He celebrated the widow who gave two mites, God celebrates believers who believe they can change the world through the seemingly small sacrifices needed to know the nearby souls well-enough to love them like Jesus.

Walt, for instance, dreamed of teaching Sunday school, but his church didn't need another teacher. That didn't discourage Walt, though. With the Sunday school superintendent's blessing, Walt went searching for children to teach, and he found some that same day.

Admittedly, they didn't want to go to Sunday school, so he asked if he could play marbles with them instead, and over the course of several weeks, he played with them again and again—until he finally convinced 13 boys to start a class.

Years later, one of those boys said that Walt "loved me for Christ's sake. He loved me more than my parents did."

Furthermore, he wrote, 11 of the 13 in Walt's first class work in full-time Christian ministry.

However, the other two don't serve their King any less just because they don't pursue a full-time ministry.

Through the power of proximity, God uses Christians to redeem the world—one neighbor at a time.

HOPE MISSIONARY
429 E. Dustman Rd.
hope4thefamily.com
8 a.m., 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service at Main Campus. 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service, north campus, Ossian.

KEYSTONE CHURCH
10556S-200W
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 - Sunday School.

LANCASTER CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
4510 E 400N, Craigville
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9:40 - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Worship.

LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST
3071 W. Cherry St.
8:30 a.m. - Pastor/Deacon's Prayer. 9 - Sunday School. 9:55 - Fellowship. 10:15 - Worship.

LIBERTY CENTER COMMUNITY CHURCH
8:45 a.m. - Choir practice. 9 a.m. - Coffee, donuts, conversation. 9:30 - Worship w/infant nursery & children's church. 10:45 - Sunday School.

LIFE COMMUNITY
428 S. Oak St.
lifecommunity.net
10:30 a.m. - Service (Children's programs available).

LIVING FAITH MISSIONARY
17718 Bluffton Rd., Yoder
10 a.m. - Worship. 11:30 - Sunday School.

LIVING WATER UNITED CHURCH
6486 S 700E, Bluffton
8:45-9 a.m. - Prayer. 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

MARKLE CHAPEL HILL SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
470 E. Morse St.
Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sabbath School (Bible study).

MARKLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
455 E. Morse St.
marklechurch.org
9 a.m. - Adult Bible study groups. 10:30 - Worship. Children's & student programming both hours.

MARKLE UNITED METHODIST
145 W. Morse St.
9 a.m. - Sunday Service. 10 a.m. - Worship.

MURRAY MISSIONARY
1117 N. Washington St., Murray
murraymc.org
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Sunday School.

NEW BEGINNING
2187 W. SR 218
10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN
(Missouri Synod)
8824 N. SR 1, Ossian
newhopelutheran-ossian.webs.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible study. 10 a.m. - Worship.

NOTTINGHAM
1100 S. SR 1
9:30 - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6 p.m. - Worship.

OSSIAN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
302 N. Metts St.
ossiannaz.org
9:15 a.m. - Bible study. 10:30 - Service.

OSSIAN UNITED METHODIST
201 W. Mill St.
ossianumc.org
9 a.m. - Worship, Worship child care nurse. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 - Adult Sunday School.

PARK COMMUNITY
617 S. Bennett St.
blog.parkub.org
10 a.m. - Connection. 11 a.m. - Worship.

PETROLEUM COMMUNITY CHURCH
3625 E. 2nd St.
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 - Sunday School.

PONETO BAPTIST
Grape Street
8:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 9 a.m. - Worship.

PONETO FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
36 E. Walnut St.
9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 - Sunday School.

RIVER OF HOPE
1224 W. Central
11 a.m. - Worship & the Word.

RIVER OF LIFE
927 N. Main St.
10:30 a.m. - Worship.

SIX MILE
4790 SE SR 116
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

SONLIGHT WESLEYAN
2350 S. SR 1
sonlightwesleyan.org
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. Nursery & Children's classes available during Sunday School & Worship.

SOUTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY CHURCH
9450 S 300 W, Poneto
9 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC
1300 N. Main St.
Saturday: 7:45 a.m. - Prayer. 8 a.m. - Mass. 8:30 - Rosary. 4 p.m. or by appointment - Confessions. 5 p.m. - Mass. Sunday: 7:30 & 10 a.m. - Mass.

ST. LUKE CHURCH
4960W-100N, Decatur
stlukechurch.in
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Sunday School.

ST. MARK EV. LUTHERAN
16933 Thiele Rd.
stmarkfw.org
8:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN (NALC)
5912 N. Sugar St., Uniondale
10 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Children's Sunday School.

THE CHURCH AT MCNATT
9221 W 800 S-90, Montpelier
8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship. 9:15 - Worship.

THE MEETING PLACE
115 E. Market St.
6:30 p.m. - Bible study.

TOWER LIFE CENTER
11811 N. Wayne St., Zanesville
towerlifecenter.com
9:30 a.m. - TLC Groups. 10:30 - Worship.

TURNPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
500 W. Logan, Markle
turnpointechurch.com
9:30 a.m. - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Adult & Children's Worship.

UNIONDALE COMMUNITY CHURCH
5867 N. Main St.
9 a.m. - Worship.

UNIONTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
11419 N-200W, Ossian
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

VERA CRUZ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER CCCU
2771 SE Mulberry St., Vera Cruz
9-10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10-10:30 - Fellowship. 10:30 - Worship.

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
205 S. Adams St., Monroe
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Discipleship for adults & children.

ZANESVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD
11984 N. Marzane Rd.
9 a.m. - Bible Class. 10 a.m. - Worship.

ZANESVILLE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
3092 W. Broadway
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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Scientists: Florida Keys coral reefs are already bleaching as water temperatures hit record highs

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Some Florida Keys coral reefs are losing their color weeks earlier than normal this summer because of record-high water temperatures, meaning they are under stress and their health is potentially endangered, federal scientists said.

The corals should be vibrant and colorful this time of year, but are swiftly going white, said Katey Lesneski, research and monitoring coordinator for Mission: Iconic Reefs, which the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration launched to protect Florida coral reefs.

"The corals are pale, it looks like the color's draining out," said Lesneski, who has spent several days on the reefs over the last two weeks. "And some individuals are stark white. And we still have more to come."

Scientists with NOAA this week raised their coral bleaching warning system to Alert Level 2 for the Keys, their highest heat stress level out of five. That level is reached when the average water surface temperature is about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit above the normal maximum for eight straight weeks.

Surface temperatures around the Keys have been averaging about 91 degrees, well above the normal mid-July average of 85 degrees, said Jacqueline De La Cour, operations manager for NOAA's Coral Reef Watch program. Previous Alert Level 2s were reached in August, she said.

Coral reefs are made up of tiny organisms that link together. The reefs get their color from the algae that live inside them and are the corals' food. When temperatures get too high, the coral expels the algae, making the reefs appear white or bleached. That doesn't mean they are dead, but the corals can starve and are more susceptible to disease.

Andrew Bruckner, research coordinator at the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, said some coral reefs began showing the first signs of bleaching two weeks ago. Then in the last few days, some reefs lost all their color. That had never been recorded before Aug. 1. The peak for bleaching typically happens in late August or September.

"We are at least a month ahead of time, if not two months," Bruckner said. "We're not yet at the point where we are seeing any mortality ... from bleaching. It is still a minor number that are completely white, certain species, but it is much sooner than we expected."

Still, forecasting what will happen the rest of the summer is hard, De La Cour and Bruckner said. While water temperatures could continue to spike — which could be devastating — a tropical storm or hurricane could churn the water and cool it down. Dusty air from the Sahara Desert moving across the Atlantic and settling over Florida could dampen the sun's rays, lowering temperatures.

North Korea fires cruise missiles, stays silent about U.S. soldier who crossed into the country

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea fired several cruise missiles toward its western sea Saturday, South Korea's military said, marking the second launch event this week apparently in protest of the docking of a nuclear-armed U.S. submarine in South Korea.

While adding to its barrage of missile launches in recent months, North Korea remained publicly silent for a fifth day on the fate of an American soldier who bolted into the North across the heavily armed Korean border this week.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the launches were detected beginning around 4 a.m. but did not immediately report how many missiles were fired or how far they flew. It said the United States and South Korean militaries were closely analyzing the launches.

North Korea in recent years has been testing newly developed cruise missiles it describes as "strategic," implying an intent to arm them with nuclear weapons. Experts say the main mission of those weapons would include striking naval assets and ports. Designed to fly like small airplanes and travel along landscape that would make them harder to detect by radar, cruise missiles are among a growing collection of North Korean weapons aimed at overwhelming missile defenses in the South.

On Wednesday, North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles from an area near its capital, Pyongyang. They flew about 340 miles before landing in waters east of the Korean Peninsula.

The flight distance

of those missiles roughly matched the distance between Pyongyang and the South Korean port city of Busan, where the USS Kentucky on Tuesday made the first visit by a U.S. nuclear-armed submarine to South Korea since the 1980s.

Also Tuesday, American soldier Pvt. Travis King sprinted across the border into North Korea while on a tour of an inter-Korean truce village.

North Korea's state media has yet to comment on King and the country has not responded to U.S. requests to clarify where he is being kept and what his condition is. U.S. officials have expressed concern about King's well-being, considering North Korea's previous rough treatment of some American detainees. It could be weeks, or even months, before North Korea releases meaningful information about King, analysts say, as the country could drag out his detention to maximize leverage and add urgency to U.S. efforts to secure his release.

Some experts say the North may try to use King for propaganda or as a bargaining chip to coax political and security concessions from Washington, possibly tying his release with the United States cutting back its military activities with South Korea.

"With so many moving pieces, it's important not to attribute causation to mere correlation of events. But North Korea's missile provocations do not foreshadow an easy negotiation to secure Travis King's release," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at South Korea's Ewha University. "Unauthorized bor-

der crossings endanger personnel, risk a political and even military incident, and can be exploited by North Korean hostage diplomacy."

The United States and South Korea have been expanding their combined military exercises and have agreed to increase the regional deployment of U.S. strategic assets like bombers, aircraft carriers and submarines in a show of force against North Korea, which has test-fired around 100 missiles since the start of 2022.

The allies also kicked off new rounds of nuclear contingency planning meetings that are partially aimed at easing fears among the South Korean public about the North's growing nuclear threat and suppressing voices within the country that it should pursue its own deterrent.

North Korea's defense minister issued a veiled threat Thursday suggesting the docking of the Kentucky in South Korea could be grounds for a nuclear attack by the North. North Korea has used such rhetoric before, but the comments underscored how much relations are strained now.

South Korea's Defense Ministry on Friday described the deployment of the Kentucky and the nuclear contingency planning meetings between Washington and Seoul as "defensive response measures" to counter the North Korean threat. The ministry said in a statement it "strongly warns" that any nuclear attack by the North on the allies would face an "immediate, overwhelming and decisive response ... that would bring an end to the North Korean regime."

Because of climate change and other factors, the Keys waters have lost 80 percent to 90 percent of their coral over the last 50 years, Bruckner said. That affects not only marine life that depends on the reefs for survival, but also people — coral reefs are a natural buffer against storm surge from hurricanes and other storms. There is also an economic impact because tourism from fishing, scuba diving and snorkeling is heavily dependent on coral reefs.

"People get in the water, let's fish, let's dive — that's why protecting Florida's coral reef is so critical," De La Cour said.

Both scientists said it is not "all doom and gloom." A 20-year, large-scale effort is underway to rebuild Florida's coral back to about 90 percent of where it was 50 years ago. Bruckner said scientists are breeding corals that can better withstand the heat and are using simple things like shade covers and underwater fans to cool the water to help them survive.

"We are looking for answers and we are trying to do something, rather than just looking away," Bruckner said.

Breeding corals can encourage heat resistance in future generations of the animals, said Jason Spadaro, coral reef restoration program manager for Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium in Sarasota, Florida. That could be vital to saving them, he said.

Spadaro and others who have visited the corals said they have noticed the coral bleaching is worse in the lower Keys than in the more northern parts of the area. The Keys have experienced bad bleaching years in the past, but this year it is "really aggressive and it's really persistent," he said.

"It's going to be a rough year for the reef. It hammers home the need to continue this important work," he said.

The early bleaching is happening during a year when water temperatures are spiking earlier than normal, said Ross Cuning, a research biologist at Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. The Keys are experiencing water temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit, which would normally not occur until August or September, he said.

The hot water could lead to a "disastrous bleaching event" if it does not wane, Cuning said.

"We're seeing temperatures now that are even higher than what we normally see at peak, which is what makes this particularly scary," Cuning said.

De La Cour said she has no doubt that the warming waters are caused by human-made global warming and that needs to be fixed for coral to survive.

"If we do not reduce the greenhouse gas emissions we are emitting and don't reduce the greenhouse gases that are already in the atmosphere, we are creating a world where coral reefs cannot exist, no matter what we do," she said.



Pictured left to right: Kevin Pritchard, Ruoff Mortgage & Chamber Golf Expo committee member, Alysha Robles and Brent Hiday of Hiday Automotive Group, Executive Director of the Wells County Chamber of Commerce Erin Prible and Nick Boratenski, and Lanarda Robinson of Hiday Automotive Group. (Photo submitted)

36th annual Chamber of Commerce Golf Expo August 3rd

The 36th annual Wells County Chamber of Commerce Golf Expo is swinging into excitement on Thursday, August 3rd, at Brookwood Golf Course. This year, the

stakes are high as one lucky hole-in-one shot player could drive away in style with a 2022 Dodge Challenger, provided by Hiday Automotive Group.

Tar balls found 100 miles downstream from Yellowstone River train derailment

LAUREL, Mont. (AP) — Tar balls have shown up 100 miles downstream of a railroad bridge collapse last month that sent numerous tank cars carrying petroleum products plummeting into Montana's Yellowstone River, officials said Friday, as dropping water levels and rising temperatures hinder cleanup work.

More than 66 tons of the black, gooey stuff have been removed from the river since the June 24 accident, officials said. Most of the spilled material — a binder for asphalt that sticks to river rocks and gets harder to handle as it warms — is expected to get left behind.

Cleanup crews working

this week on an island near the town of Laurel pulled long, taffy-like pieces of the asphalt from among the river rocks. They used shovels to pull apart sandbanks where receding water levels revealed pockets of contamination. The globs — along with some rocks and sand — were bagged for disposal and carried away by power boat.

Navigating the river is getting harder by the day for the boats being used in the cleanup. And when temperatures peak in the afternoons, the asphalt becomes too soft to pick up, curtailing work. Smaller clumps and some asphalt enmeshed in river rocks will be left

behind.

"Some of this oil will be left here," said Andrew Graham, an environmental scientist and consultant for the cleanup. "There's no way we're going to get all of the asphalt off of the river.... We're really looking at the stuff that we can peel up and getting the bulk of the product off."

Tar mats and tar balls from the spill have been found at more than three dozen locations, according to government records. That includes where the river passes through Montana's largest city, Billings. The farthest site downstream is near Pompey's Pillar National Monument.



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Sports

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County teams participate in prep football media day in Fort Wayne

By RYAN WALKER

HUNTERTOWN — Over 40 Fort Wayne area teams gathered its coaching staffs and players for high school football media day at the Empowered Sports Club Friday afternoon.

Teams had at least a head coach and up to eight players to answer questions about the upcoming season with official team practices beginning on July 31.

All three Wells County schools were represented by players wearing their jerseys, posing for photos, taking videos for media outlets, and talking with TV and print media about the season.

Here is what each school's head coaches had to say about the 2023 season:

Bluffton

The Bluffton Tigers are coming off their first sectional championship in 34 years. Despite the long wait, the 2023 team is poised for bigger and better things returning all but two starters from last season.

Head coach Brent Kunkel said his team is ready to start team practice and that the state of the program has gotten a high level of participation throughout the summer.

Expectations will be high not only in the area after an 8-5 trophy season but the community. Kunkel made it clear to his team that what happened last year doesn't make what they're going to do this year automatically.

"The theme of the summer has been humility," he said. "Coming into a day like today with all this attention (on media day) and everyone talking about, hey, you won a sectional last year, and you bring 20 guys back, there's that thought of we've already done something or have already arrived. We've been fighting that because, yeah, 2022 was awesome, but 2023 we haven't accomplished that stuff yet."

The head coach also confirmed another question that perhaps will be the key to another good season, who will fill in the running back spot.

Sophomore Khamel Moore averaged 5.4 yards per attempt last season and will fill the role of Anthony Cruz, who was four yards shy of a 1,500-yard season on the ground alone.

The Tigers run the ball nearly three times as much as they do throwing it through the air, and Kunkel is excited to give those carries to Moore.

"We feel good because we bring five offense starters back on the offensive line with a couple of guys with reps as backups as well," he said. "The kid that's going to tilt the rock for us this year is Khamel Moore. He's got 'it,' he's very talented, and he's a kid that even at the end of the year last year, if you look at the skill level, he was probably ahead of Anthony from a skill level standpoint."

Norwell

Norwell is on the opposite side of Bluffton's situation, as the Knights graduated eight starters/players with significant snaps in last year's 10-2 season.

Of the graduated seniors, Norwell will need to replace a quarterback, three of the team's top rushers, and four college football signees.

Head coach Josh Gerber is in his eighth season at the helm of the program and understands the challenge ahead to piece a starting 11 puzzle for the season, but remains optimistic he still has talent behind some of the big names.

"We bring some guys back, not household names outside of our program, but they're good kids, and they've worked hard. I think they've put themselves in a position to be successful. The challenge is going to be finding some leadership. Our juniors and seniors haven't really had to provide a lot of leadership with the strong groups in front of them with the last two classes. These young guys are going to have to step up."

Gerber shared that the quarterback position is a two-way battle between Alex Fojtik and Drew Graft, who have a combined five passing attempts in their varsity career.

The problem for the Knights is that Graft has been touring out of state with his summer travel baseball team and hasn't been able to focus on football during the summer. Graft is the starting centerfielder and leadoff man on the baseball team and it a top 10 uncommitted prospect in the class of 2024 according to Prep Baseball Report.

Fojtik has gotten reps, however, in front of the head coach, but Gerber doesn't "want to write Drew off" because of that.

The Knights were a run-first style offense last year, but the top rushers, Luke Graft, Drew Ringger, and quarterback Lleyton Bailey, need to be replaced.

The team will be trying out new

players at the position along with Timothy Bonjour and Drew Graft when not behind center.

Gerber is perhaps most excited about Bonjour's talent.

"Tim would have been a guy that would have got a lot of carries for a lot of people that we've played the last couple years, but he was behind a few good ones that have graduated," Gerber said. "We think Tim's poised to have a really good season."

Bonjour ran for 438 yards on 52 attempts last season, good for 8.4 yards per carry. Some of the yardage came at the end of games, however, playing behind Luke Graft and Ringger.

Southern Wells

Southern Wells has a new look to the program, as three-year assistant coach Jeff Sprunger is taking over the reins as the head coach this season.

The former Whitko head coach was enthusiastic Friday talking about the Raider program. He joined in 2020 when the program decided to play a full junior varsity schedule instead of varsity and struggled for numbers. When former head coach Mike Roeder retired, Sprunger wanted to jump on the opportunity to coach the kids he had seen grow in his time.

"I felt like they (the kids) needed to have a little bit of consistency with a coach who knew who they were," Sprunger said. "I've fallen in love with those boys and the underclassman that have supported them along the way and are going to be the anchor of the program for years to come. I really wanted to be a part of the program, and I think there's potential there."

Sprunger also shared that the turnout of players has increased from 27 to about 45 this season and that Southern Wells will be having a junior varsity team for the first time since he's been involved with the program.

"It's going to be huge," he said. "Over the last two years, you saw some of those freshmen that aren't developed enough to play a varsity game, and they might get a minute or two at the end of the game. To allow them to not just go to practice and just be practice warriors, but now to be able to go play a game on a Monday night is huge to build a program just so they get used to that game speed and to be able to compete and get confidence before they're ready to take a varsity field."

sports@news-banner.com



Bluffton senior wide receiver and linebacker Brody Lewis poses with a piece of paper with his name and other basic information at the Empowered Sports Club in Fort Wayne Friday afternoon. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Norwell head coach Josh Gerber talking with 1380 the fan during a live radio show during high school football media day.

Sophia Smith scores twice for US in victory over Vietnam to open the Women's World Cup

By ANNE M. PETERSON

AP Sports Writer

AUKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Sophia Smith scored twice for the United States in the opening half and the two-time defending champions kicked off the Women's World Cup with a 3-0 victory over tournament first-timers Vietnam on Saturday.

Lindsey Horan added a goal for the favored Americans, who have won four World Cups overall and are vying for an unprecedented three-peat in this year's tournament.

Vietnam drew comparisons to Thailand, the team the Americans routed 3-0 in in their 2019 World Cup

opening game. But Vietnam was surprisingly resilient, kept the game closer than expected, and goalkeeper Tran Thi Kim Thanh stopped Alex Morgan's first-half penalty attempt.

Morgan was knocked to the field clutching her calf after trying for the rebound off her missed penalty, but she quickly returned. It was just her second penalty miss for the United States.

Smith, one of 14 Americans playing in their first-ever World Cup, showed why she was named both U.S. Soccer's Player of the Year and the National Women's Soccer League MVP last year with her two first-half goals.

Smith scored off a pass from captain Lindsey Horan in the 14th minute. Smith and Horan celebrated with a choreographed handshake after the goal. She scored again in first-half stoppage time to make it 2-0 going into the break. The United States was at first flagged as offside before a video review confirmed the goal.

The U.S. team was infused with young talent including Smith and Trinity Rodman after settling for a disappointing bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics. Among the veterans, 38-year-old Megan Rapinoe made her 200th international appearance against Vietnam.

(Continued from Page A1)

Cody Bellinger hits 2-run bomb, Cubs even series with Cardinals

By MATT CARLSON

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Cody Bellinger hit a two-run homer, and the Chicago Cubs stopped St. Louis' six-game win streak with a 4-3 victory over the Cardinals on Friday.

Bellinger capped Chicago's four-run third inning with a 400-foot drive to right against Jack Flaherty. He finished with three hits in another strong performance at the plate.

Bellinger, a possible trade target ahead of the Aug. 1 deadline, is 10 for 20 in his last five games. Since returning from a bruised knee on June 15, the 2019 NL MVP is batting .381 (40 for 105) with six homers.

"I feel really good man," Bellinger said. "Just trying to understand my body and strength and what I need to do every day."

"I just show up every day to help the team win and go out play baseball, and that's what I like doing. That's the only thing I can control."

The Cubs (46-51) improved to 4-4 on their 10-game homestand. Bellinger skirted questions regarding a possible trade, and manager David Ross called the 28-year-old Bellinger "a pleasure to be around."

"He's the total package for sure, especially when he's playing like that," Ross said.

All-Star left-hander Justin Steele (10-3) struck out a season-high nine in 6 1/3 innings for Chicago, bouncing back from a lackluster performance against Boston. He allowed two runs and six hits.

"I was kind of doing the entirety of the game pretty much what I wanted to do," Steele said. "Executing pitches, putting the ball where I wanted to and stuff."

Miles Mastrobouni lined his first big league homer for the Cubs, and Mike Tauchman added an RBI double.

Flaherty (7-6) was charged with four runs and eight hits and six innings. The right-hander went 4-0 with a 3.24 ERA in his previous four starts.

St. Louis trailed 4-1 before Nolan Arenado hit a two-run single against Julian Merryweather with two out in the seventh.

The Cardinals loaded the bases with one out in the eighth on walks to Tyler O'Neill, Jordan Walker and Paul DeJong. Pinch-hitter Alec Burleson then had a 3-0 count against Mark Leiter Jr. before he looked at two called strikes that appeared to be out-

(Continued from Page A1)

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News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

WNBA

Table with Eastern Conference and Western Conference WNBA games, including teams like New York, Connecticut, Atlanta, etc.

Table with Toronto 4, San Diego 0, Detroit 3, Kansas City 0, Seattle 5, Minnesota 0, Baltimore 4, Tampa Bay 3, 10 innings.

Table with Chicago 46 51 474 7%, St. Louis 44 54 449 10, Pittsburgh 42 54 438 11.

Baseball

American League

Table with East Division and Central Division American League games, including teams like Baltimore, Tampa Bay, Toronto, etc.

Table with Philadelphia 63 33 656, Philadelphia 52 45 536 11%, Miami 53 46 535 11%, etc.

Table with Atlanta 63 33 656, Philadelphia 52 45 536 11%, Miami 53 46 535 11%, etc.

Baseball

American League

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Browns WR Marquise Goodwin to miss start of training camp with blood clots in legs, lungs

By TOM WITHERS AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Browns wide receiver Marquise Goodwin will miss the start of his first training camp with Cleveland due to blood clots in his legs and lungs.

Goodwin signed a free agent deal with the club in February, giving quarterback Deshaun Watson a much-needed deep threat. The 32-year-old Goodwin dealt with discomfort in his legs and shortness of breath during spring practices.

statement released by the team. "It was frightening at first, but now I'm at ease with it. I've prayed and just given it over to God. It's out of my control, and the only thing I can control is my effort and attitude and how I approach each day moving forward."

USA soccer win

(Continued from Page A1)

Rapinoe, who scored in the World Cup final in France and was named that tournament's best player, did not start. She announced before the team left for New Zealand that this would be her last World Cup and she would retire from her professional team at the end of the season.

the goalkeeper and deftly sent the ball back to her. Horan, who was recently engaged, kissed her ring in celebration. There was early drama when Rodman, the daughter of former NBA great Dennis Rodman and one of the young newcomers on the team, appeared injured after falling hard on her back when she was tackled by defender Tran Thi Thu.

tune-up match in Auckland last Friday. Also in Group E are the Netherlands and Portugal, which meet Sunday in Dunedin. Portugal is also making its first World Cup appearance. The group plays all of their matches in New Zealand, which is co-hosting the tournament with Australia. The United States played the Netherlands in a 2019 final rematch on Thursday in Wellington.

Cubs beat Cards

(Continued from Page A1)

Willson Contreras was hit by a pitch before O'Neill side. Burleson bounced into an inning-ending double play, and then was ejected for yelling at plate umpire Ron Kulpa.

Right fielder Seiya Suzuki also made a nice running catch on Paul Goldschmidt's drive for the second out in the ninth. St. Louis grabbed a 1-0 lead on Andrew Knizner's run-scoring grounder in the second. But Steele limited the damage when he retired Dylan Carlson on a weak comebacker for the final out.

Cardinals: RHP Drew VerHagen (right hip impingement) is nearing a return, Marmol said. He is eligible to come off the injured list on Saturday. ... INF/OF Brendan Donovan, limited to DH duties since July 4 because of a sore throwing arm, said he expects to continue in that role this season. The 26-year-old won a Gold Glove as a rookie utilityman last year, playing all four infield positions and left and right field.

Public Notices

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In accordance with Indiana Code 5-15-6-3 requiring prior notification to individuals when records will be destroyed. Notice to any individuals born in the year 2001, who received special education services in Adams and/or Wells Counties.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA. Notice is hereby given that GREGORY W. KAEHR was on July 17, 2023 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of KAREN J. KAEHR, deceased, who died on June 13, 2023.

STOCK MARKET INDEXES

Table with 52-Week High, Low, Name, Last, Wk Chg, %Chg, YTD %Chg, 12mo %Chg. Includes Dow Jones Industrials, S&P 500, etc.

STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

Table with NYSE GAINERS, NYSE LOSERS, NYSE ACTIVES, NASDAQ GAINERS, NASDAQ LOSERS, NASDAQ ACTIVES. Lists stock names and their performance.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table with Name, Div, Last, Wk Chg, %Chg, YTD %Chg. Lists local stocks like AFLAC, AT&T Inc, AMD, etc.

MONEY RATES

Table with Last, Pvs Day. Lists Prime Rate, Discount Rate, Federal Funds Rate, etc.

CURRENCIES

Table with Last, Pvs Day. Lists Australia, Britain, Canada, Euro, Japan, Mexico, Switzerland, etc.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table with Name, Obj, Total Assets (\$Mln), NAV, Total Return/Rank, Pct Load. Lists various mutual funds.

TRAINER'S ROOM

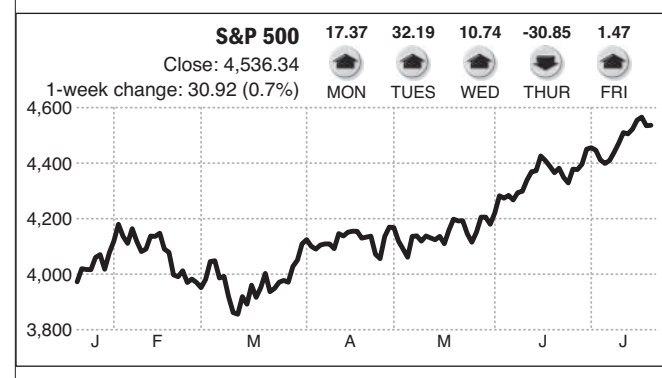
Cardinals: RHP Drew VerHagen (right hip impingement) is nearing a return, Marmol said. He is eligible to come off the injured list on Saturday. ... INF/OF Brendan Donovan, limited to DH duties since July 4 because of a sore throwing arm, said he expects to continue in that role this season.

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

WEEKLY DOW JONES AND S&P 500



STOCK MARKET INDEXES

Table with 52-Week High, Low, Name, Last, Wk Chg, %Chg, YTD %Chg, 12mo %Chg. Includes Dow Jones Industrials, S&P 500, etc.

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CA - Conservative Allocation, CI - Intermediate-Term Bond, FB - Foreign Large Blend, GS - Short Government, IB - World Bond, IH - World Allocation, LB - Large Bond, LG - Large Growth, LV - Large Value, MA - Moderate Allocation, MI - Muni National Intermediate, ML - Muni National Long, NT - Non-traditional Bond, WS - World Stock, Total Return: Chng in NAV with dividends reinvested, Rank: How fund performed vs. others with same objective. A is in top 20%, E in bottom 20%. Source: Morningstar.

Distracted dad risks marriage for another mother

Dear Annie: So I'm pretty sure I know what the right answer is and you'll be shaking your head at my letter; however, I feel like I'm on this adrenaline rush.

I am married and have been together with my wife for 13 years. We have a good relationship aside from some family issues on my end. I made a new friend, a parent at my daughter's school. I handle pickup, and after school, all the kids go to the park. Well, "Maria" sat with me one day; for the last month or two, we've pretty much waited for each other, walked up to the pickup area and just talked. She's not my type. She's a smoker, a heavy drinker and swears a lot, but I am just so fascinated! She's cool to talk to, and I'm just so zoned out when we are together.

But there's more. We hung out. She met me at a halfway point, hopped in my car and we went to a brewery for a couple drinks. That's it. But it was just so much fun. She joked about having a couple shots together one day. I went to pick up dinner one night and texted her saying, "Hey, want some pizza? You got the shots?" I hurried to her place and I swear she was wearing a lingerie robe nightie. (She said she would be dressing comfortably being at home.) She even said we will have sex someday and could right now. We didn't, but it didn't bother me one bit. We had a couple shots and I left, but I am just so smitten. My hope was since our kids are best friends, we can keep in touch.

I know I'm playing with fire, and I am on this high. I guess I am hoping for some logical right answer. — Wandering Mind

Dear Wandering: You're absolutely right: You're playing with fire and you know better. What feels like a high now will be nothing but a devastating low in the long run — not just in the way it could jeopardize your marriage but also impact your children. What would having an affair with their best friend's mother do to them?

Redirect your energy from "Maria" to your marriage. With the help of a couples counselor, you and your wife can reinvigorate your relationship and get things back on track, but it will require you to be present and honest, with her and with yourself.

Dear Annie: I have a 30-year-old daughter who has a dilemma. She has become good friends with a relative of one of her patients. He is an older gentleman who has taken her for meals, taught her to play tennis and has showered her with occasional gifts. Now he wants to be more than friends.

She has told him very politely that she likes being his friend but that she doesn't want a "sugar daddy," and she's not the kind of girl who wants him to "buy" her favors. She likes his friendship but doesn't need or want more than that. Now what should she do? — Concerned Mom

Dear Concerned Mom: Your daughter has, very smartly, set clear boundaries with this man. Now, she just has to be consistent and continue upholding them. Playing tennis or grabbing coffee together is one thing — both innocent and perfectly acceptable for friends to do together. If he tries to take things beyond what she is comfortable with, he risks losing her friendship. Someone who truly cares for your daughter will make it a priority to behave and treat her in a way that makes her feel safe and at ease.

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

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Dear Annie by Annie Lane



BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ZITS



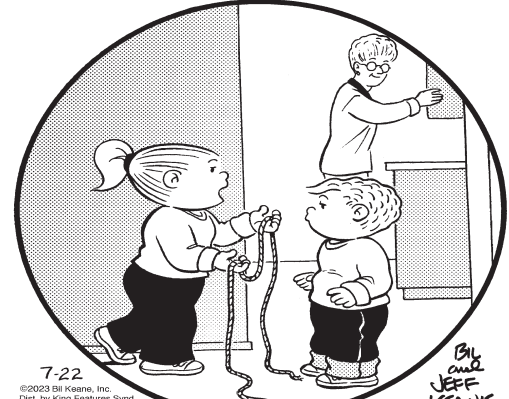
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



God's plan for peace on Earth

performs his devious acts through mankind. He's the illusive manipulator, displaying all that glitters, attracting the shallowness of man. Then suddenly the stinging whip wraps them around the waist, caught in the devil's trap. Still, they blame God for their plight.

Bankruptcies are at an all-time high. Life savings are going down the bureaucratic drain. Crime and violence are overtaking schools and businesses. Add to all of this the threats of terrorism, nuclear war, the moral climate that is disintegrating into cyberspace, and there's little doubt of the trouble ahead.

How does the situation of the world today accord with God's plan for peace on Earth? The most important question is not whether we can survive a

nuclear war, but where will mankind stand before God when the world finds itself in the center of the greatest trauma Earth's inhabitants have ever known? We don't grasp the greater horror of an eternity apart from God. Eternal horrors are ahead for all who reject God's offer of mercy, forgiveness, and grace found in the Gospel invitation to come to Christ.

Take courage. For those who know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, He will bring beauty from the ashes of world chaos. A new world will be born and a new social order will emerge when Christ returns.

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

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Q: We've lived with threats of nuclear war for decades. The messes that man has achieved are hitting home more personally from threats of financial downturns to health crises. Can we really survive much longer with such relentless attacks? What nations and political bodies are technically responsible for all of this chaos? — C.N.

A: All the nations that make up the world are burdened down with riches or poverty, obesity or malnutrition, success or failure. Some blame God for all the bad that happens. Political parties blame each other. No one blames the deceiver himself — Satan. Why? Because he cleverly

Table with columns for time slots (07:22 to 12:30) and program titles like 'Let's Take It Outside', 'The Stranger', 'Don Frost Family & Friends'.

Table with columns for channel numbers and program titles like 'Soccer Mom', 'Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom', 'Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade'.

Advertisement for classifieds with text: BUY IT, SELL IT, RENT IT, FIND IT, FILL IT, GET IT, DO IT. IN THE CLASSIFIEDS! Place Your Ad 24/7/365! www.news-banner.com

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes 'Solution time: 26 mins.' and 'Yesterday's answer 7-22'.

The Classifieds

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

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Difficulty: ★★★★★

7/22

VEHICLES

Auto/Trucks

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - General Services Administration (GSA) Sale Thurs., July 27, 12pm. View vehicles in person on July 26, 2pm until 5pm and July 27, 8am-12pm. View up to date listing at www.indianaautoauction.net or www.autoauctions.gsa.gov. (A)

INDIANA AUTO AUCTION, INC. Huge Repo Sale July 27, 2023. Over 100 repossessed units for sale. Cash only. \$500 deposit per person required. Register 8 am-9:30 am. No public entry after 9:30 am. All vehicles sold AS IS! 4425 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne. (A)

SERVICES

Services

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THE CITY OF Bluffton has an opening for 911 Emergency Services Dispatcher. Applicants must show proof of a high school diploma/GED and may be asked to work flexible shifts. Applications and a job description may be obtained in the Clerk Treasurer's Office, 128 E. Market St. between 8 am and 4:30 pm Mon-Fri or at www.blufftonindiana.net. The 911 Director will contact you with information about the next test.

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Lottery Numbers

Friday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 07-10-15-18-28
Cash4Life — 16-27-31-32-52, Cash Ball: 01
Quick Draw Midday — 02-03-05-10-12-28-30-33-38-40-41-42-48-55-64-66-68-71-79-80, BE: 68
Daily Three-Midday — 09-07-04, SB: 02
Daily Three-Evening — 01-04-02, SB: 05
Daily Four-Midday — 02-06-07-07, SB: 02

Daily Four-Evening — 04-05-02-00, SB: 05
Quick Draw Evening — 01-02-04-06-08-12-17-19-22-30-31-35-38-43-53-57-60-67-68-80, BE: 30
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$24.2 million
MEGA MILLIONS 29-40-47-50-57, Mega Ball: 25, Megaplier: 2X
POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$20 million



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- Company paid life insurance, AD&D insurance, and short-term disability benefits
- 401K with a company match of 50% up to 6%
- Shift premium for 2nd and 3rd shifts (\$1.00 for 2nd, \$2.00 for 3rd)

To apply, stop in at 1805 W. Lancaster Street, Bluffton or visit our careers page at www.intevaproducts.com

July

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As a resident of the Wells County community for decades, Attorney, Gerret J. Swearingen, has devoted his legal practice to assisting clients in preserving the family assets from the high cost of Nursing Home and In-Home Healthcare.

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OSSIAN:
1645 Hillcrest Dr., Suite 2A
Ossian, IN 46777
Attorney Gerret J. Swearingen

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- Special Needs Trusts
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CNA class will be offered beginning September 11, 2023! Students will be paid for class hours.
Application deadline: August 23, 2023

Apply online at www.swissvillage.org or send Resume to:
Kayla Reilly, HR Specialist
Swiss Village | 1350 W. Main St. | Berne, IN 46711
or email: careers@swissvillage.org
EOE

Public Sale Calendar

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.

FOR SALE 40± total acre turnkey family farm, Whitley County, IN, southwest of South Whitley. Property consists of level tillable, pasture with shade trees, land. Approx. 2,500± sq. ft., 2-story home with full basement. Recently built, 325 head baby calf barn, very nice set-up. Two-story barn for horses and hay storage, multi-purpose barn. Property also includes shop/meeting room, orchard and large gardens. Move in ready! Call 800-451-2709 for showing! Sale manager: Ritter Cox, 260-609-3306, *Schrader Real Estate and Auction Com-*

pany, Inc., *SchraderAuction.com/listings*.

JULY 25 - 6 p.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. *Krueckeburg Auction & Realty LLC*, 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! *Krueckeburg auction & realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

BIDDING STARTS CLOSING AUG. 6 STARTING AT 4 P.M. EST - Timothy Krauhs Estate, Theresa A. Roe-Krauhs, 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. *Krueckeburg Auction & Realty LLC*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

AUGUST 11 - 8 a.m. EST - Secured creditors and various consignors, owners. 815 Adams Streed, Decatur. Live and online Truck & Equipment Auction Featuring 750+ Lots! Off Lease International, Freightliner, Kenworth, Peterbilt & Volvo Daycabs & Sleepers, Tag, Bumper Pull Equipment Trailers, Semi-Trailers: Low Boys, Drop Decks, Flatbeds, Reefer, Container Trailers, Moffett Trailers, Utility Trucks including: Bucket Trucks, Digger Derricks & Dry-wall Crane, Dump Trucks, Flatbed Trucks, Stake beds, Cab & Chassis, Utility Body & Box Trucks & Service Trucks, Large group of 3/4 TonPick Up & Utility Trucks, SUV's, Forklifts, Skid Steers, UTV's, Shop & Construction Equipment, 200+ Various Skid Steer Attachments, 40' & 20' Container Loads of Brand New Items & Much More! Preview: Aug. 10, 10-5 p.m. *Krueckeburg Auction & Realty LLC*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

SUDOKU ANSWER

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