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Officials uncertain of next steps for economic development

By HOLLY GASKILL Bluffton and county officials have expressed some uncertainty about the future of the economic development following Chad Kline's resignation from the Wells County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development.

The Chamber announced

Kline's resignation Tuesday, and its Board of Directors followed with a statement shortly after saying the vacancy would not be filled. They wrote, "We will work with the Wells County Commissioners, City of Bluffton and our member towns and governmental entities in an effort to have the

economic development services historically provided by the Chamber instead be provided with the leadership of local government."

According to a Chamber press release, Kline will remain in the role through April 12.

Several officials indicated the announcement reportedly came as

a surprise. The Chamber and local government entities have been engaged in negotiations regarding their contract with the Economic Development Commission since August, but officials said a resolution seemed near.

"It's unfortunate," said Bluffton Common Council member Scott Mentzer. "I thought we were really close to making a deal."

Mentzer had been appointed to negotiate the primary snag in the contract, a list of key performance indicators. Since their discussion at the March 4 commissioner meeting, Mentzer said he and the

(Continued on Page 2)



Human Sundaes?!

As a reward for \$9,500 worth of donations in the Kids Heart Challenge, some of the top selling kids from Bluffton Elementary got to douse teachers in ice cream, chocolate, marshmallows and other dessert items. Above, from left to right are Craig Helfrich, Joey Villanueva, Jake Amstutz, Kole Meyer, Schlaura Linderwell and Alyssa Moser were participants in the sundae soaking.

> Middle, Hayden McEleveen (left) and Sophia Cornetio decorate.

At right, the kids who did the honors are Layton Johnson (left), Clarica Shively (middle foreground) and Clark Winnie (right foreground)

At bottom are Memphis Gerber (left) and Knox Zoda. (Photos by Jonathan







Annual report shows increase in violent and sexual crimes

By SYDNEY KENT

Wells County continues to experience a decrease in the number of drug-related cases for the second year in a row.

However, violent and sexual crimes are

Prosecutor Andrew Collins has released his office's 2023 annual report, detailing these and other numbers.

Andrews noted that in prior years, data has been separated by the number of charges filed. The 2023 report reflects the number of total criminal cases filed instead, with previous years updated to the new format.

"Please remember a case will often consist of multiple charges or counts filed against one individual," Andrews wrote in the report. "A case is defined by the level of the most serious charge filed in the case."

The number of drug-related charges has steadily declined, with 145 cases filed last year; 269 cases in the same category were

Battery cases rose from 53 to 81 from 2022 to 2023. A further breakdown of this data, not included in the report, reflects a significant increase in domestic violence from prior years. In 2023, 55 of the 81 cases involved domestic battery.

According to the data, there were a total of 643 cases filed in 2023, an increase from the 622 cases filed the year prior. Of these cases, 220 were felony cases and 423 misdemeanors. Sixty-two juvenile cases were also opened.

Numbers declined in cases of burglary (2) and theft (63). One rape case was filed. There were seven child molesting cases and five sexual misconduct with a minor case also filed, both higher than the year prior.

Cases involving sexual crimes were more (Continued on Page 2)

Gubernatorial forum highlights taxes, government

By WHITNEY DOWNARD **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

All eight of the hopefuls running for governor across three parties appeared at a business-friendly forum in Fishers Tuesday, where candidates regularly reverted to prepared talking points on taxes and economic development. In addition to the half-dozen candidates

appearing on the May Republican ballot — U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, Brad Chambers, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Eric Doden, former Attorney General Curtis Hill and Jamie Reitenour — the forum featured Democrat Jennifer McCormick and Libertarian Donald

McCormick is the sole candidate to qualify for the Democratic primary ballot and the Indiana Libertarian Party nominated Rainwater in a private convention.

Hosted by the National Federation of Independent Business, the Indiana Builders Association and Americans for Prosperity, the forum featured six questions in addition to an introduction and conclusion. Audience members chatted with candi-

dates before and after the lunchtime event.

Taxes

The General Assembly is in the midst of a two-year study on the state's tax system and a gradual decrease of the income tax to 2.9%. Crouch's defining campaign proposal has been to "axe" the state income tax completely over several years, which is roughly an \$8 billion impact on state revenues.

Doden said he was "thoroughly in favor" of the task force and would consider eliminating the income tax but only in a "fiscally responsible way."

"To get rid of the income tax, right now, it would put a 40% hole, or \$8 billion hole, in the budget. And so without saying what you're going to eliminate in expenses or not saying how you're going to replace the that's just not responsible," Doden

While several candidates bemoaned Indiana's current state of taxation. Chambers struck a more cheerful tone, noting that Indiana consistently ranks as one of the most tax-friendly states for businesses in the

"Indiana does a pretty good job; our legislature has done a pretty good job. We're top nine in the country for low taxation,' Chambers said. "I think the best way to lower everyone's burden is growing the top line and adding more taxpayers by growing our population and adding more businesses small and large.'

Rainwater criticized the income tax and sales tax alike — and vowed to curb future taxes in addition to vetoing any budget increases if elected governor.

"We're getting taxed to death. I don't care that we're better than 40 other states. If we're not number one, we're not good enough," Rainwater said.

McCormick, meanwhile, said that while "we needed" to address income taxes and even gas taxes — the latter a policy proposal from Hill as well — her bigger concern was about "hidden taxes" in areas she said Republicans had neglected over the decades.

For the last 20 years the Republicans had their chance. They said we're keeping all these taxes down — well ask local peo-(Continued on Page 2)

Congressional leaders sell \$1.2T spending package to members

By KEVIN FREKING **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional leaders from both parties looked to put a positive light on a \$1.2 trillion spending package that lawmakers are working to approve before funding expires at midnight Friday for a host of key

government agencies.

Text of the legislation had not been released as of Wednesday afternoon, but lawmakers and aides were expecting an official unveiling later in the day or early Thursday. The package, which is expected to pass, will wrap up Congress' work on spending bills

for the year — nearly six months after the fiscal year began.

This year's dozen spending bills were packed into two packages. The first one cleared Congress two weeks ago just hours before a shutdown deadline for the agencies funded through the bills.

Now Congress is focused on

the second, larger package, which includes about \$886 billion for defense, about a 3% increase from last year's levels. The bill also funds the Departments of Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, Labor and others, with non-defense spending expected to be relatively flat compared to the

prior year.

Leaders worked to sell the package to members. In a closed-door meeting with GOP lawmakers in the morning, Speaker Mike Johnson described a few of the policy changes that House Republicans were able to secure in the latest

(Continued on Page 2)

Local/Area

Obituaries.....3 Police Notebook . . . 3

Opinion Angelkeep 4

Also...

Classifieds 8





Sunny and chilly, showers move in tomorrow

loday	Friday	Saturday
High 40	High 61	High 42
Low 28	Low 29	Low 24

More Weather on Page 2



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Weather

Thursday, March 21, 2024

(24-hour observations at 9:44 p.m. Wednesday)

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 40. East wind

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 28. East wind

Friday: A 30% chance of showers after 2 p.m. Partly

sunny, with a high near 61. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph. **Friday Night:** A 40% chance of showers before 2 a.m.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 42.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49.

around 47. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Spending package

Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north after midnight. Winds could gust as

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 24.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36.

Monday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 62. Breezy.

Monday Night: Showers likely. Cloudy, with a low

Tuesday: Showers. High near 57. Breezy. Chance of pre-

Tuesday Night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy,

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.11

High: 44; **Low:** 28; **Precipitation:** None

feet at 9:45 p.m. Wednesday

around 5 mph.

5 to 10 mph.

high as 20 mph.

cipitation is 80%.

with a low around 37.

(Continued from Page 1)

negotiations. Those included

a prohibition on funding for

a United Nations relief pro-

gram for Palestinian refu-

gees that extends through

March 2025. He also noted

the bill funds 8,000 addition-

al detention beds for nonciti-

zens awaiting their immigra-

tion proceedings or removal

rity) piece was the most dif-

ficult to negotiate because

the two parties have a wide

chasm between them," John-

son said at the GOP leader-

ship's weekly press confer-

ence. "I think the final prod-

uct is something that we were

able to achieve a lot of key

provisions in, and wins, and it

moved in a direction that we

want even with our tiny, his-

vote on the second package

on Friday, giving lawmakers

more than a day to examine

the legislation, but in doing

so, leadership is bypassing

a House rule that calls for

giving lawmakers 72 hours

to review major legislation

Republicans, but following

the rule would surely invite

some lapse in federal fund-

ing, even if just for a day or

so, for several key federal

the House, Senate Major-

ity Leader Chuck Schumer,

D-N.Y. said he will put it on

ship, it's going to be a tight

squeeze to get this funding

package before the weekend

staving off the vast majority

of policy mandates Repub-

licans had sought to include

in the spending bills, such

as restricting access to the

abortion pill mifepristone or

banning access to gender-

tion that we knew we were

going to end up," said Rep.

Pete Aguilar D-Calif. "We

knew that House Democrats,

Senate Democrats, Senate

Republicans and the White

'We're exactly in the posi-

affirming health care.

Democrats celebrated

deadline," Schumer said.

"Even with bipartisan-

the Senate floor.

Once the bill passes

That is riling some House

before having to vote on it.

The House is expected to

torically small majority.

"The Homeland (Secu-

from the country.

Economic development

(Continued from Page 1) EDC had gone through one round of revisions.

In light of this development, Mentzer hopes the parties can work together on a transition plan. Commissioner President Jeff Stringer advised that some conversations are already in the works, however, it is unclear how the county will retain these services.

Both the city and county

have already approved a contract with Cheryl Morphew of Johnson County for economic development consulting, however, Mentzer emphasized that these services were employed "as needed" and not to replace

In the board's statement Tuesday, they expressed a willingness to "explore the possibility of a new economic development organization

for all of Wells County that represents the interests of both the private and public

Erin Prible, executive director of the Chamber, assured that Economic Development employees would be retained by the

Prible stated specific transition plans after Kline's departure are "still in the works." This included the

Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission, which receives innkeepers' tax revenue to support tourism efforts through the EDC.

Given the developing nature of the matter, Prible deferred to the board for guidance on more specific matters. The News-Banner was unable to reach Board President Patty Randall at the time of print.

holly@news-banner.com

Annual report

(Continued from Page 1)

often reported, in part due to a string of sting operations facilitated in the county to catch predators from around the state. However, these specific cases do not account for the increase in sexrelated crimes against children.

Andrews also noted there were 943 child support cases handled, amounting to more than \$2.71 million collected.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Scott Holliday and Jail Commander Karen Thompson also finalized the Wells County Jail's annual report for 2023.

Highlights from the report include: • There were 1,034 total bookings into the facility with an average daily inmate population of 65.

• Some of the top charges include 320 possession/dealing drugs, 238 operating while intoxicated, 185 driving while never licensed, 162 domestic battery or battery, 125 theft/conversion/

no in-custody deaths.

mulated to \$29,897.47. Shortages were created due to employees using paid

time confinement officers. "Currently we have 19 full-time confinement officers, three central control officers, and one transport officer," the report

sydney@news-banner.com

burglary, and 40 sex crimes. • There were 1,061 jail incident

reports filed, including 280 suicide/ medical reports, three taser deployments, 43 disruptive behavior incidents, 16 inmate altercations, 21 trafficking/contraband reports, and 12 destroying jail property incidents. There were no attempted escapes and

 Total medical costs last year were around \$145.686.85.

• Paid overtime for jail staff accu-

• The facility needs six more full-

• Church services are held several times a week for all interested inmates. Smart TVs have been purchased and the department is working with a local church to get flash drives to play services over the TV. Pastors may also visit between the hours of 8-9 a.m. as space is available.

Gubernatorial forum

(Continued from Page 1) ple what's happening with school referendums. You go ask them what's happening with some of these hidden taxes that are sneaking up on people," said McCormick, the former Superintendent for Public Instruction. "We're not having that conversation ... because the system we have built is not paying attention to our expenditure priorities (like education).

Role of government

A number of questions tackled the role of the state government, including its influence on workforce development, bureaucracy and the topic of government overreach.

For her part, Crouch vowed to "look at downsizing our state agencies so that we realize more efficiency, and we end wasteful government spending."

In addition to an audit for the Family and Social

Services Administration following a \$1 billion shortfall that prompted the agency to pursue cost-cutting measures like reducing an attendant care program for parents with disabled children, she called for an audit of all agencies to avoid such "errors."

We will look at all rules and regulations ... and any that add to the cost of doing business or slow down the speed of business will be eliminated. If there's any on there that are stricter than the federal government, they're off the books," she concluded.

Hill relitigated battles from his time as Indiana's Attorney General, including clashes with the federal government over Obamacare which he called "the largest federal overreach in my lifetime" - and COVID-19 public health policies.

"That was a prime example of state government running amok with its overreach ... and the need to have leadership that stops it in its tracks," Hill

Last week, faith-based Reitenour criticized various events for excluding her, including Tuesday's forum. Following her release, she reached out to NFIB to join. She spent the event describing a "spiritual battle" in Indiana and lauded conservative ideals, including less state government.

"The problem with the state of Indiana is that we're a red state and we just can't quite figure out if we're conservative," Reitenour said. "... We do not have less government and lower taxes in the state of Indiana. That's not happening. (But) it has to happen because the more power government has the worse it infringes on your

Braun, who received an endorsement from the Indiana State Police Alliance Tuesday morning, painted himself as a fiscal conservative who voted against bills increasing the deficit with the exception of certain priorities under former President Donald Trump. He said he alone could act on the plans volleyed about on Tuesday.

"Who is going to do what's the most difficult and take the capital — the political capital, the risks and actually do things?" Braun said. "Otherwise, you don't practice what you preach.'

Next week, several Republican candidates will again meet on stage in two televised debates — the first on FOX59/CBS4 and the second on WISH-TV. Hill didn't qualify for the first debate, held on Tuesday, March 26. Reitenour didn't qualify for either the Tuesday debate or the Wednes-

House weren't going to tolerate any significant harmful cuts and crazy policy riders."

The spending in the bill largely tracks with an agreement that former Speaker Kevin McCarthy worked out with the White House in May 2023, which restricted spending for two years and suspended the debt ceiling into January 2025 so the federal government could continue paying its bills.

"We have had to stick to some difficult toplines and fight off literally hundreds of Republican poison pills, not to mention some really harsh, almost unthinkable, cuts proposed by House Republicans," said Sen. Patty Murray, the Democratic chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "But now we have a good, bipartisan bill that protects absolutely essential investments in the American people."

McCarthy was ousted from the speaker's role a few months after securing the debt ceiling deal. Eight Republicans ended up joining with Democrats in removing McCarthy as speaker. And some of those unhappy with that debt ceiling deal also expressed misgivings about the latest

package. Johnson is expected to bring the bill up for a vote through a streamlined process that requires two-thirds support for the bill to pass. The earlier spending package passed by a vote of 339-85 with Republicans providing all but two of the

"If this bill sits out for two weeks, it will get pilloried like a pinata," said Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas. "So they want to jam it through over the next 48 hours."

"I hope there will be some modest wins. Unfortunately, I don't expect that we will get much in the way of significant policy wins based on past history and based on our unwillingness to do use any kind of leverage to force policy wins, meaning a willingness to walk away and say no," said

Rep. Bob Good, R-Va.

FORT WAYNE

U.S. inflation up again in February in latest sign that price pressures remain elevated

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer prices in the United States picked up last month, a sign that inflation remains a persistent challenge for the Federal Reserve and for President Joe Biden's re-election campaign, both of which are counting on a steady easing of price pressures this year.

Prices rose 0.4% from January to February, higher than the previous month's figure of 0.3%, the Labor Department said Tuesday. Compared with a year earlier, consumer prices rose 3.2% last month, above January's 3.1% annual pace.

Excluding volatile food and energy prices, so-called "core" prices also climbed 0.4% from January to February, matching the previous month's rise and a faster pace than is consistent with the Fed's 2\% inflation target. Core inflation is watched especially closely because it typically provides a better read of where inflation is likely headed.

"It's a disappointment, but not a disaster," said Eric Winograd, U.S. economist at asset manager AB. "The underlying details are more encouraging than the top-line number, which was boosted by a few volatile categories — the type of prices that tend not to repeat month-to-month.'

Those volatile items include gas prices, which jumped 3.8% just from January to February but are still below their level of a year ago. Air fares surged 3.6% after two months of much smaller increases. Clothing prices rose 0.6% after three months of declines but are unchanged compared with a year earlier.

Housing and rental costs, though, which tend to change more gradually, cooled in February: They rose 0.4% from January, slower than the 0.6% increase the previous month. Measures of new apartment leases, which

Wells

\dams

Blackford

Huntington

have cooled, are expected to feed into the government's inflation data in the coming months.

New car prices ticked down 0.1% in February. Though these prices remain much higher than they were before the pandemic, they're expected to decline further as more vehicles show up on dealer lots. Grocery prices were unchanged last month and are up just 1% from a year earlier.

Despite February's elevated figures, most economists expect inflation to continue slowly declining this year. At the same time, the uptick last month may underscore the Fed's cautious approach toward interest rate cuts.

Voter perceptions of inflation are sure to occupy a central place in this year's presidential election. Despite a healthy job market and a record-high stock market, polls show that many Americans blame Biden for the surge in consumer prices that began in 2021. Though inflationary pressures have significantly eased, average prices remain about far above where they stood three years ago.

In his State of the Union speech last week, Biden highlighted steps he has taken to reduce costs, like capping the price of insulin for Medicare patients. The president also criticized many large companies for engaging in "price gouging" and so-called "shrinkflation," in which a company shrinks the amount of product inside a package rather than raising the price.

"Too many corporations raise prices to pad their profits, charging more and more for less and less," Biden said.

Rob Considine, who lives near Minneapolis, said he has noticed shrinkflation in consumer products like deodorant, shampoo, and soap.

Considine, 38, said he doubts,

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though, that Biden's criticism of shrinkflation, or proposals in Congress to restrict the practice, will have much effect. If companies can't make bars of soap smaller while charging the same price, Considine suggested, they will simply reduce the quality to maintain

"I don't know how the government can set a price for a commodity like that without affecting it in the long

run," he said. Overall inflation has plummeted from a peak of 9.1% in June 2022, though it's now easing more slowly than it did last spring and summer. The prices of some goods, from appliances to furniture to used cars, are actually falling after clogged supply chains during the pandemic had sent prices soaring higher. There are more new cars on dealer lots

and electronics on store shelves. By contrast, prices for dental care, car repairs, and other services are still rising faster than they did before the pandemic. Car insurance has shot higher, reflecting rising costs for repairs and replacement. And after having sharply raised pay for nurses and other in-demand staff, hospitals are passing their higher wage costs on to patients in the form of higher prices.

Still, Fed Chair Jerome Powell signaled in congressional testimony last week that the central bank is getting closer to cutting rates. After meeting in January, Fed officials said in a statement that they needed "greater confidence" that inflation was steadily falling to their 2% target level. Since then, several of the Fed's policymakers have said they believe prices will keep declining. One reason, they suggested, is that consumers are increasingly pushing back against higher prices by seeking out cheaper alternatives.







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OBITUARIES

Carl Stephan, 88

Carl R. Stephan, 88, of Ossian, passed away on Tuesday evening, March 19, 2024, at The Heritage of Huntington.

Carl was born on Dec. 9, 1935, in Huntington, to John E. and Freda (Schenkel) Stephan. A farmer most of his life, Carl was active in starting the local chapter of Reformer's Unanimous in Bluff-

On Nov. 14, 1988, Carl and Mary E. were married. They were

married for 14 years before her passing in 2013. He married Darlene (Schibley), and she survives.

Survivors include his wife, Darlene of Markle, and children, Carlene Peters, Cathlene Smith, Chris Stephan and Chad Stephan, all of Huntington; a sister, Mae Leedy of Huntington; along with nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, a wife, Mary, and siblings, Eldon Stephan, Rose Mary Storer, Marcella Westfall and Jim Stephan.

No formal services will take place. Burial will take place at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton.

Memorials may be made to Redemption House of

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

Karen Roberts, 81

Karen K. Roberts, 81, formally of Markle, died Wednesday morning, March 20, 2024, at River Terrace Estates in Bluffton following an extended illness.

Arrangements are pending with Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel 3220 East SR 124 Bluffton, IN.

B-H announces new assistant principals

The new assistant principals have been announced for-Bluffton-Harrison Elementary School and Bluffton-Harrison Middle School. The Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District Board of School Trustees approved the hirings on Monday.

At the recommendation of the building principals and with the support of Superintendent Dr. Brad Yates, Erin Roush will serve as the assistant Principal at BHES and Chad Grieser will serve as the assistant principal at BHMS. Both begin their new roles in July 2024.

Roush has 13 years of experience in both teaching and administrative roles.

"I am both honored and thrilled to have the opportunity to continue to serve as part of the BHES team in this new capacity," Mrs. Roush says. "I've been privileged to work alongside so many amazing students, families, fellow educators, and administrators in the last several years that have taught me countless lessons in communication, dedication, and mutual respect."

Mrs. Roush and her husband Travis have three children who attend Bluffton-Harrison Schools - Sam, Emma and

"Mrs. Roush embodies the character and values that define our school community. Her dedication to fostering an inclusive, supportive, and engaging learning environment makes her a valuable asset to our team. Mrs. Roush's dedication to education, commitment to student success, and passion for fostering a positive learning environment will make her an excellent addition to our BHES team," BHES Principal Schlaura Linderwell says.

Grieser has been with BHMSD for the past 17 years, and has served in a variety of roles. Grieser has served as a high school English Language Arts teacher, high school boys basketball coach, high school girls and boys golf coach, high school student council representative, high school assistant athletic director, and most recently as the new BHMS student support specialist and middle school athletic director.

"I am truly grateful for this opportunity and am eager to continue working to create a positive and enriching educational environment for our students," Grieser says. "It is inspiring to see how the district invests time and resources in its staff to support growth and improvement. Finally, I am excited to continue the learning journey together with the staff and students, and I look forward to the growth and positive impact we can make in the lives of our students."

Grieser and his wife Amy have three sons who attend Bluffton-Harrison Schools — Gavin, Gibson and Declan.

'Mr. Grieser comes to us with a wealth of experience and a deep dedication to student achievement. As our student support specialist, Mr. Grieser has demonstrated a wide range of skills from academic support to behavioral management," says Stacy Herrold, who will serve as BHMS principal beginning next school year. "His genuine care for both students and staff has been apparent since his arrival here at BHMS. I am confident that his hard-work and dedication to student success will foster a positive learning environment for our students. We are excited for Mr. Chad Grieser to serve as the new BHMS Assistant Principal."



Winning Reader

Students at New Life Christian School read 853 during its Racing to Reading Readathon. Pictured is the top reader, Makayla Lindsey, with her preschool teacher, Patty Duke. The school also received \$1211 in sponsorships for the program. (Photo provided)



INCIDENTS

County:

Tuesday, 2:23 p.m., Wells County Jail. Multiple warrants served to Elvis Larkey at the jail.

Tuesday, 2:27 p.m., 500 North 450 East, Bluffton. Caller reported someone used their social security number to open a bank account.

Tuesday, 5:56 p.m., 11800 North Stoney Brook Drive, Zanesville. Report of suspicious male at caller's door. Unable to locate.

Tuesday, 7:08 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served on Daniel Brown at the jail.

Tuesday, 9:44 p.m., Wells

County Jail. Warrant served 1 and C.R. 1200N. Victoria

Wednesday, 10:59 a.m., 170 East 100 South, Bluffton. Report of domestic issues between mother and daughter.

Ossian:

1 and East 1200 North, Ossian. Report of an accident with injuries.

Tuesday, 6:59 p.m., North S.R. 1 and East 1200 North, Ossian. Report of a passerby advising large amount of glass on road.

ACCIDENTS County:

Tuesday, 5:31 p.m., S.R.

failed to see a Toyota Corolla Matrix driven by Sharon Sliger, 68, Zanesville, that was stopped and waiting for traffic to clear. Baumgartner's Hyundai Sonata rear ended the Toyota caus-Tuesday, 5:31 p.m., S.R. ing both vehicles to continue Northbound on State Road 1 before coming to a rest approximately 75-100 yards North of C.R. 1200N. Both drivers transported to Lutheran Hospital for injuries, both vehicles towed

ARRESTS

due to disabling damages.

Damages did not exceed

Elvis Larkey, 43, Ossian; on Clint Reynolds Jr. at the Baumgartner, 27, Ossian, Residential entry (burglary), a Level 6 felony, and public intoxication, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,000.

Daniel Keith Brown, 57, Huntington; Possession of narcotic drug, a Level 6 felony, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$5,500.

Clint Raymond Reynolds Jr., 18, Keystone; False informing and possession of marijuana, both Class B misdemeanors, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at

BHMS announces Quarter 3 honor roll

\$25,000.

Bluffton-Harrison Middle School has released the names of its students on the high honor roll and honor roll for the third quarter of the 2023-24 school year.

5th Grade **High Honor Roll**

Naomi Fry, Brynlee Gaskill, Reid Harris, Landon Heer, Kyla Isch, Hunter Johnson, Sean Kelly, Roman Mills, Patton Moore, Lakvne Neuenschwander, Eric Rinkenberger, Samuel Roush, Stella Schroeder, Brooklyn Stoller, Roman Vasquez, Aldan Wood, Liam Yates and Trace Zoda.

Honor Roll

Amalia Ali, Blaze Archer, Skylar Bass, Harvey Bedwell, Leah Bertsch, T.J. Borabo-Hower, Amelia Burman. Remington Claghorn, Callie Craig, Keagen DeLaGrange, Ethan Donovan, Rykker Dunn, Kreed Elston, Mason Englehardt, Kendall Gaskill, Averie Gavilanez, Grace Gillette, Aria Graham, Mianna Hall, Ariana Hamer, Finlay Herrold, Hunter Holloway, Griffin Kaehr, Clare Lambert, Saul Luciano-Camarena, Braxton McCullough, Ryan McPherson, Evelyn Meyer, Daisy Murray, Colton Purvis, Brynn Reinhard, Titan Robles, Brayden Smith, Mia Smith, Nicholas Stanley, Paige Steffen, Miguel Tomas Tomas, Declan Triplett, Landry Villanueva, Cameron Walker, Gambit Walton and Mackenzie White.

6th Grade

High Honor Roll

Abram Atkins, Kreigh Ault, Eli Brooks, Blaine Ehrman, Molly Frauhiger, Abigail Garrett, Clive Gerber, Parker Grandlienard, Renley Hurst Parker Klopfenstein, Jessica Littell, Paisley Neuenschwander, Madelyn Platt, Erin Ramseyer, Ithan Rinkenberger, Jordan Simpson-Barkley, Liam Smith, Rhys Smith and Leona Veselji.

Honor Roll

Aleah Adams, Carter Bell, Janeah Bennett, Riker Beste, Olivia Brown, HarrisonBuroker, Christian Clubs, Alaina Coleman, Brooklyn Coratti, Naomi Dailey, Mercedes Diaz Sanchez, Ryder Douglas, Rowan Drayer, MacKenzie Dudley, Cooper Dunnuck, Bianca English, Collin Ewart, Kendyl Forwerck, Addison Gerber, Braxton Graham, Kinsey Hartman, Aaron Hay, Broderick Hohe, Maddox Kauffman, Kole Kiefer, Logan Krachtus, Wesley Kunkel, Crystal Lee, Cadence Lehman, Brielle Lortie, Fernando Luciano-Camarena, Myah Martin, Denise Miller, Molly Mills, Corbin Minnich, Olivia Morgan, Lucy Moser, Malena Moya, Phoebe Mygrant, Mason Olivares, Sara O'Riley, Averie Pearson, Emily Priester, Devin Ramseyer, Hudson Reineck, Charlotte Rhoderick, Payson Rickard, Avalynn Scheiman, Easton Schipper, Seryniti Seale, Adrienne Smallman, Cheyenne Sonnigsen, Ciomara Tello, Autumn Watson, Dominic Wilson, Hudson Withers, Lincoln Xayyachack and Nea Zuniga. 7th Grade

High Honor Roll

Adelyn Atkins, Wren Ault, Elijah Bendes, Adalynn Bertsch, Jeremy Brown, Zain Butcher, Parker Christal, Zander Click, Lyla Feinberg, Otto Fiechter, Morgan Fox, Asher Fritz. Marlie Fry, McKenna Fry, Khloe Gehrett, Amelia Geisel, Heath Gerber, Landry Grandlienard, Ellah Grimes, Anna Hartman, Reece Himes, Barbie Jellison, Sebastian Jones, Cleyton Kenworthy, Chase Kistler, Audrey McMillan, Audrey Mechling, Avery Meyer, Alexis Miller, Irene Monagle, Foster Monticue, Madeleine Morgan, Macy Onweller, Averie Patton, Gabryella Pauley, Layne Philebaum, Davis Rockwell, Quinton Saige, Charlie Schantz, Chloe Schlotter, Eli Seago, Cameron Simpson, Trace Simpson, Laila Stein, Croy Stout, Bailey Surbaugh, Liam Teeple, Elizabeth Tlaclomulco-Moreno and Deacon Yates.

Honor Roll

Braxton Bebout, Kinley Bowman, Cooper Bustos, Breandan Carmona, Kayden Claghorn, Izzabellah Combes, Alanna Croft, Mason Dietzer, Logan Donascimento, Vivian Ellet, Dane Fiechter, Esther Gonzalez, Jabraylon Hamer, Demi Holland, Gunner Holloway, Keaton Ingram, Luci Jenkins, Vince Lambert, Kianna Linderwell, Christian Marshall, Rosemary Miller, Hadley Moehlenkamp, Landon Morphew, Brynnlee Mygrant, Madalynn Narvaez, Harper Patterson, Zayn Pearson, Ethan Ribich, Yailet Sanchez, Madieson Surbaugh, Michael Tierney, Aubrey Walker, Corban Wheeler, Maddox White and Landyn Yates.

8th Grade **High Honor Roll**

Reid Abbett, Kamryn Ault, Andy Baumgartner, Austin Bennett, Chayson Brown, Khloe Dick, Tess Frauhiger, Eden Gerber, Rafe Gerber, Cora Kunkel, Chloe Lesh, Emily Maggard, Abigail Ramseyer, Breeanna Schmidt, Addison Smith, Kenley Smith, Addison Sonnigsen, Bridget Steffen, Bennett Stoller, Violetta Tarasova and Ava

Honor Roll

Trexler.

Parker Barnes, Wyatt Beer, Krista Blair, Jimmy Borabo-Hower, Connor Byrd, Kiah Craig, Mason Engle, Grace Fry, Kylee Gottschalk, Gavin Grieser, Gibson Grieser, Brody Grimes, Jacob Hvde, Dawson Lee, Rinoa Lee, Carter Lehman, Macy Lemler, Leah Lovell, Klay Markley, Jaida Mills, Camora Otero, Cooper Pearson, Elizabeth Premo, Kyla Reinhard, Natalie Scher, Allison Schoeff, Mia Sprunger, Ariana Tello, Braelon Terry and Hunter Zoll.

First Bank of Berne announces new CFO

First Bank of Berne is pleased to announce that Matthew Reinoehl, the former Controller at their Operations Center in Berne has been named chief financial officer.

A native of northeast Indiana, Matthew graduated from DeKalb High School, before studying at Trine University in Angola, where he earned a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance. He also holds an advanced degree from the Graduate School of Banking at University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin.

A 15-year veteran of the banking industry, Matthew began his career by working as a teller in his undergrad years. Upon graduation from college, he diversified his skills by serving as an internal auditor and staff accountant for two well-regarded regional banks. In 2017, he chose to pursue his passion for community banking and accepted a position as controller at First Bank of Berne, where his financial background and knowledge of both business and agribusiness banking soon led to his promotion to CFO.

"Matthew's diverse business background, demonstrated leadership in all aspects of financial management, and commitment to putting customers first aligns well with our culture and values at First Bank of Berne," said Kent Liechty, First Bank of Berne President.

"His integrity and wisdom brought him great success as our controller. and I know these traits will continue to serve him well as the takes on the role

"I have always been guided by the principle of putting customers first, and I am honored to continue serving our community in my new role," said Matthew Reinoehl. "With a dedicated and committed team, I am excited to have this opportunity and to continue to strengthen the financial well-being of our customers and the communities we serve."

Matthew is a resident of Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he enjoys spending time with his family.

Sen. Jean Breaux dies following health problems

By LESLIE **BONĬLLA MUÑIZ** and CASEY SMITH **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

Indiana Sen. Jean Breaux, a Democrat from Indianapolis, died Wednesday, according to her caucus - just two days after she issued a public farewell.

"It is a heavy and extremely sad day," Senate Minority Leader Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, said in a statement. He said Breaux's loss would "be profoundly felt by the countless lives she touched, and we join so many in mourning the loss of her incredible life."

Senate President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville, said he was "saddened to hear" of her

"I know I speak for my caucus when I say she will be sorely missed," Bray continued. "She has long been a fierce advocate for her district and (was) always a lovely colleague with whom I truly enjoyed working. Our thoughts and prayers are with her loved ones during this difficult time."

Breaux on Monday told constituents that it was time to "focus on enjoying the time I have left surrounded

by my loved ones" following a "hard-fought battle with my health."

She highlighted her work in Black infant and maternal mortality, food access, utility affordability and more. She didn't explicitly resign, however.

Breaux previously said she "encountered an infection of unknown origin"

during the holiday season. In mid-February, she was "optimistic about returning to work," but ultimately didn't appear during the 9-week legislative session.

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Criminal justice policy in the crosshairs of the session

Crime is a perennial issue already prominent in this election year's conversation. So, before memory fades and the pitched political battles of 2024 derail our attention, let's reflect on the last few months of criminal justice policy at the Statehouse.

We all want safe neighborhoods. We also crave vindication and are enamored by crime fighters in fiction and real life. It's part of our nature. After all, Law and Order has staying power for a reason.

Not coincidentally, the General Assembly proposes new crimes and enhanced penalties every year. This year was no exception.



Zack Stock

Hoosier **Opinions**

One proposal would have made it a misdemeanor to engage in "reckless spinning" (think of doing donuts in the parking lot), and another would have criminalized the sale of "food containing high fructose corn syrup." Neither bill made it to the finish line.

Others did. A new law makes it a felony to damage a sprinkler system in a penal facility. Another increases the penalty for falsely reporting a crime if it results in bodily injury or death, and a third will make it a felony to smuggle a "chemical intoxicant" into a jail.

"Sounds good," you might say. Damaging public property, disrupting jail operations, and siccing SWAT on people you dislike are antisocial behaviors we cannot accept. Moreover, protecting life, liberty, and property is arguably the first function of government.

But the Indiana Code already criminalizes all this bad behavior (except dealing in Twinkies). These actions are criminal recklessness, criminal mischief, or illegal trafficking. Adding more statutes or jail time is unlikely to deter any of it. On the contrary, overcriminalization will lead only to charge stacking, coerced plea agreements, and, ultimately, the uneconomical and counterproductive practice of mass incarceration.

Addressing genuine criminal ingenuity

Admittedly, we occasionally encounter novel behavior that existing criminal law cannot capture. House Enrolled Act 1047, authored by Rep. Sharon Negele, is a cutting-edge piece of legislation that addresses a genuinely new development: artificial intelligence.

While some fret about the science fiction fantasy of self-aware Terminator-style robots, our experience with AI has spawned a real-life horror. Using AI, pornographers have begun inserting unwitting "participants" into their work. And internet trolls using "undressing apps" are transforming PG social media posts into R-rated images.

HEA 1047 will criminalize this conduct. Importantly, it will criminalize the action while minimizing damage to free speech. Hopefully, the bill will have the desired

Tackling the root cause of crime

Still, thicker law books are generally not the way to curb criminal activity. There is almost nothing new under the sun regarding crime. We've had millennia of murder, arson, battery, theft, rape, and the like. Criminal law is steeped in this history but also adaptable enough to deal with uncertainty.

The law codifies and defines offenses but uses words of general applicability to fit various circumstances. Moreover, the law criminalizes conspiracy, imposes accomplice liability, and treats an attempt to commit crime like the crime itself. All these tools allow courts, juries, and good prosecutors to fill any gaps in the criminal code that might arise. In other words, a lack of crimes to prosecute is not the problem.

Instead, we must address the root causes of crime, including unmet mental health needs and substance abuse. The General Assembly took steps toward improving the mental health of Hoosiers in 2023, and the 2024 session continued that effort.

House Enrolled Act 1238, authored by Rep. Wendy McNamara, and House Enrolled Act 1418, proposed by Rep. Lori Goss-Reaves, build on past progress.

HEA 1238 concerns mentally incompetent criminal defendants. These individuals cannot comprehend or participate in the proceedings against them and, therefore, cannot constitutionally stand trial. Instead, they must be assessed and provided services to restore their competency. HEA 1238 will improve the restoration process for low-level offenders by speeding up the evaluation process and providing an off-ramp for those suffering from certain conditions that are unlikely to improve.

Similarly, HEA 1418 will provide pregnant women charged with a drug crime a chance to access treatment without jail. The bill allows a judge, in consultation with the prosecutor, to refer women to a diversion program that provides services rather than a prosecution that provides jail time.

Conclusion

As with most sessions in recent memory, the 2024 session included bills to enact harsher penalties and new crimes. This urge is understandable but undesirable. Innovative legislation like HEA 1047, HEA 1238, and HEA 1418 reflect a better approach. So, when campaign commercials and flyers start to fill the airwaves and mailboxes with promises to be tough on crime, let's remember there is another way. We can enhance public safety while fostering a more just and economical criminal justice system.

Zach Stock is an appellate public defender and serves as legislative counsel for the Indiana Public Defender Council. He wrote this for the Indiana Capital Chronicle



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> Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor



Abortion is a winning issue for Republicans

The visit by Vice President Kamala Harris to a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in St. Paul, the first ever visit by a president or vice president to an abortion clinic, is getting the considerable attention

When America's vice president visits and pays homage to the nation's largest abortion provider, it's news. And what she said there is also news.

Harris predictably distorted truth and reality, pitching the boilerplate left-wing headline calling the destruction of our unborn health care.

However, the vice president did everyone a favor by stepping into the limelight and removing any doubt about how far on the left side of the political spectrum she stands.

All this, of course, is political calculation by Democrats to headline abortion as an election year issue, thinking this is a loser for Republicans.

But here, Harris and her party are wrong.

A good place to start is the truth. Indifference to the sanctity of life is not health care. And, the Supreme Court, in the Dobbs decision overturning Roe v. Wade, did not take "a constitutional right ... from the people of America, from the women of America," as the VP

Harris is a lawyer, so she must understand that Supreme Court justices don't issue rights or take them away. They interpret the U.S. Constitution. In Dobbs, the court found that Roe's understanding of the constitution, perceiving a right justifying abortion on demand, was incorrect.

Let's look at the latest Gallup polling, published

Per that polling, 34% say abortion should be legal under any circumstances, 51% say it should be legal under certain circumstances, and 13% say it should be illegal in all circumstances.

But when Gallup breaks out the 51%, 13% say "certain circumstances" means "most" circumstances, and 36% say "certain circumstances" means "few"

So, per Gallup, "the result is 47% of U.S. adults favoring expansive abortion rights (legal in all or most cases) and 49% favoring more restrictive rights (legal in only a few or no cases.)"

American attitudes about abortion do not reflect the simple-minded message of our vice president. The Gallup data shows sentiments of most Americans leaning against abortion.

Let's also consider where abortion stands in the pecking order of what voters feel are the most critical issues now facing the nation.

Per a Harvard CAPS- Harris poll released in January asking Americans about their top issue concerns, number one, 35%, said immigration; Parker number two, 32%, inflation; and number three, 25%, economy and jobs. Only 7% listed abortion as their top issue of concern.

Not only is net American sentiment about abortion far different from what Democrats want to portray, despite the importance of the issue, it is far from what voters list among their top concerns.

These issues that most concern voters define the agenda on which Republicans should focus.

And how should Republicans handle the abortion issue? I turn again to the words of Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican president.

"In this age, and in this country, public sentiment is everything. With it, nothing can fail. Against it, nothing can succeed. Whoever molds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes or pronounces judicial decisions."

Abortion is not among the issues that voters note are the highest concern to them. But it is far too important to not address.

In the spirit of Lincoln, Republicans should work to mold public opinion and help push sentiment, already favorable to an abortion-free country, more solidly in

In contrast to the vice president's distortions, abortion is a social issue, not an individual issue. There is mother, there is father, and there is a child.

And there is a country badly in need that the integrity of marriage and the American family, in an aging country with dangerously diminishing birth rates, be

In brief, America's future depends on a culture of life. This should be the Republican message.

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Massive cicada invasion, and other hokey hoax

Now that spring has arrived, regardless of the doctrines of Punxsutawney Phil, who, by the way has only a 39% accuracy over the gross of years

he's been prognosticating, it's time to move on.

Angelkeep also missed out on the St. Patty's Day pot of gold hype. Nary a ha'pence to be found. Then came the barrage of weather hypes claiming the Arora Borealis might be spotted in northern Indiana. Hype originators suggested watching every night in 2024. Angelkeep's puts it's money on first spotting Peter Cottontail hopping down the bunny trail.

Hippity, hoppity, Easter's on its way. Now that fact-hype you can hang your bunny ears on.

Let Angelkeep set the record straight on the hype of the cicada invasion with the magnitude of kryptonite. Look, up in the sky, it's a bird, it's a plane, it's a giant screaming cicada.

Some of the facts presented since January are true. In 2024, for the first time since 1803, two periodical cicadas will emerge in the same season. Newscaster hype screams, "DOUBLE BROOD," louder than a thousand cicada's can sing. Well, truth be known, two periodical emergent broods at the same place will likely only occur in eastern Illinois. Eastern Indiana will be safe from the albatross of noise.

What's a periodical cicada? Seventeen year locust named Brood XIII will begin to emerge from their seventeen-year underground lifestyle once the ground temp reaches about 64°. They will be around approximately from Mother's Day to Father's Day, then go underground for another seventeen-year silence.



Indiana and Illinois would be hit by this brood at the same time as the thirteen-year cicadas named Brood XIX. That is true in only

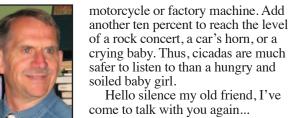
about two or three counties in each state. Eastern Indiana will remain silent from any periodical cicada brood until the year 2038 when Brood X emerges for the first time since 2021.

By the way there are only three broods of 13-year cicadas, XIX, XXII, and XXIII. For Roman numeral-challenged Angelkeep readers, that's numerically equivalent to 19, 22, and 23.

If you remember hearing cicadas in 2023, fear not, you are sane. Only a few of the many types of cicadas are periodical. Other types sing annually, find sweethearts in the process, and mate to guarantee the next year of more songs. This includes new crusty hollow shells clinging to tree bark. The "shells" are the exoskeletons left behind when cicadas emerge as transformed adults.

There is nothing to fear but fear itself. Cicada are not dangerous, not harmful unless you just planted a new fruit tree. They don't sting-only sing. They don't bite, and you can safely bite into them. Some offer recipes to sink your teeth into. Angelkeep heard about a cicada taco, best served on Taco Tuesday.

Cicada singing can reach 100 decibels, a level equivalent to a



Alan

Daugherty

Yes the "once in a lifetime" dual emergent cicada cacophony will not exist at Angelkeep or anywhere nearby. One must travel to experience the 100 decibels times-two Concerto in Cicada XIII+XIX. Surprisingly there will be a few scientists race to ground zero, but probably causing no grid lock in any form. Compare the rare double-Brood emergence as another Y2K. All hype, no strife, and Angelkeep for one will enjoy listening to the common cicada choir.

Did you know...a cicada is not a

Did you know...a cicada spends 99.5% of its life as a nymph?

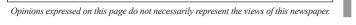
Did you know...a cicada adult (imago) has red eyes and orange wing veins?

Did you know...male cicadas often congregate on a single tree and collectively sing choruses to increase volume, thus attracting more females?

If you go out at night and listen to the variety of songs of the different cicadas singing their little hearts out for a romantic rendezvous (only males sing) you've been duped again. You only hear katydids at night. Cicadas sing only in daytime. Katydids croon by the moon.

Angelkeep sure hopes that Indiana's "April showers, bring May flowers" will not dampen the excitement of April's total equinox hype.

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



Spring is here and Gloria is counting her blessings

Spring is bursting in splendor. Birds sing the sweetest of songs in melodious chirps, grass is growing tall enough to mow, and the garden is being tilled. Spring. Could life be any better than in this season of new beginnings?

Fourteen years ago, on one of those days of spring perfection, I stood beside the man I adored and loved; I became his wife after promising I would love him for all of his days and care for him to the best of my ability.

The following spring we excitedly awaited the birth of our firstborn, Julia. Ten years after that, on a spring day, Daniel and I took our turns at court, testifying for our precious foster children to be added as a forever part of our family. It did not matter who was adopted and who was not, we were family. Then a year later on a perfect spring day we were all working together in the chestnut grove. "Life is almost perfect," I declared, beaming at my beloved. He enjoyed as much as any of us, it was what we had dreamed of for

Several days later life had a quick change of events, Daddy was called home to Jesus. We sobbed and we grieved, yet we rejoiced with deep joy- Daddy was already

The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder

ning to go, he just got there a step ahead of us.

The days melted into weeks and months. Almost two years have passed since then, the One whom we cannot even see has carried us where we could not walk, and gave hope where there was none

I've got to tell you one little thing that happened just last week. We were at my parent's house for supper. We relished the food from Mom's table- one of my favorites, a breakfast menu for supper. Still in the back of my mind I knew we'd soon need to go home, in order to do the chores before dark. Yes, flashlights have their place, but who likes choring in the dark?

I didn't feel like going home just yet; something I've been missing conversations with adults. Chatter with children is precious, yet a steady diet of it gets you ready for others on your level as well. So while the children played I settled down in the cozy living room of Mom and Dad's cabin and enjoyed the moment.

It wasn't long until I decided wisdom would tell us to head on in heaven where we were all plan- home before it's pitch dark. That's

what we did. Arriving at home Julia took two children to the house while the other three went choring

I had milked the goat when the rain clouds moved on west, and the sky lightened, providing plenty of light for me to go feed the sheep and the boys to put in the ducks and feed the rabbits.

"Children, look! Remember what God promised? He's a father to the fatherless! He gave us ample light to see!"

"He's also a husband to the widow!" Austin added. My heart again filled with joy as I walked down the chestnut field toward the sheep. Yes, we are given more than enough to keep on with life abundant. His supply will never reach the point of exhaustion, no matter what our feelings may tell us during those hard times.

Looking back over past years, there is so much to ponder, looking in the future we don't know even a single detail, but that's okay. God's got it- every little detail.

Lastly, I'll be giving you a rec-



ipe for Mom's biscuits. We have made many batches of these simple ingredients. no-fuss biscuits.

Emergency Biscuits Recipe

2 c flour

1 t. salt

4 teaspoons baking powder

6 tablespoon lard or shortening 1 cup milk

Mix first 4 ingredients.

Add milk and fold into dry

Drop on cookie sheet, or if you are tight on time, just press into a 9 by 9 inch cake pan.

Bake at 350 for 15-20 minutes or until done.

Yummy with an added dash of garlic powder or herbs such as basil, parsley, or oregano.

Yield: 1 dozen

Fast-food hazards: What you need to know

Also: Understanding your heart disease risks

Question: I don't get what's so bad about fast food — you can get a grilled chicken sandwich and nice hash brown potatoes. It's what's affordable and tastes good. - Steve L., Urbana,

Answer: Convenience and price do matter when you are eating out, and fortunately many fast-food places have expanded their menus to include salads that you can keep healthy by not adding things like creamy dressings, bacon, or fried chicken bits, and you could eat a piece of grilled chicken without a bun or ranch dressing. But much fast food won't love you back: It is fried, full of saturated fats, and excess salt, and is highly inflammatory. That means it disrupts your intestinal microbiome - leading to health problems that include arthritis, diabetes and obesity and causes cardiovascular disease and skin aging (yes, wrinkles).

Plus, the processed carbs in buns, fries, and breading can spike your blood sugar, aggravating diabetes or increasing your risk of developing it. And the sugars added to sodas, shakes, and even a Double Quarter Pounder (it has 10 grams of sugar) increase your risk for sexual dysfunction and liver disease, and they promote dementia. One study even found that fast food is associated with depression in teens because it is high in sodium and low in potassium. Another found a link between eating fast food and an increase in skin and respiratory problems such



Mehmet Oz, M.D. and Mike Roizen, M.D.

as asthma, congestion, and eczema.

Are you seeing a trend here? Fast foods have a potentially negative effect on every bodily system. You need five to seven servings of fresh fruits and veggies a day, plenty of fiber, a good dose of minerals and vitamins, and water, tea or coffee (no cream or sugar added).

To learn how to make your own quick-to-prepare, goodfor-you meals check out Dr. Roizen's "What to Eat When Cookbook" and iHerb's recipes at www.iherb.com/ blog/recipes, including morning muffins, comfort foods and healthy office lunch ideas.

Question: My doctor has me worried about heart disease – just because my LDL cholesterol is up a bit and my blood pressure sometimes - registers too high. It seems like he's trying to get me to have a lot of expensive tests and use more *medications.* — *Patricia M.*, University Heights, Ohio

Answer: Sounds like you have a caring doctor. Elevated LDL can increase deposits of artery-clogging plaque and up your risk of stroke, heart attack, dementia, peripheral artery disease, high blood pressure and kidney failure. But like you, a lot of folks aren't aware of how much of a risk that heart disease poses. A recent American Heart Association survey shows that more than half of the participants didn't know heart disease was the no. 1 killer of U.S. adults.

In order to have a picture of your health, cardiovascular blood tests for lousy LDL cholesterol, triglycerides and glucose are important. And there are three other tests that are often smart to get.

1. About 20 percent of folks are at risk for high lipoprotein(a) levels. The condition runs in families and can dramatically increase your risk for an

early heart attack. A simple blood test can be done at the same time as you get your LDL checked.

2. A coronary CT calcium scan can show if you have high levels of plaque in your coronary arteries. This is very useful in midlife, especially if you have risk factors because of a family history of coronary heart disease, diabetes or high LDL cholesterol levels.

Screening ultrasound for an aortic or cerebral aneurysm is smart for men age 65-plus or older than 55 with a family history of aortic aneurysms and for women age 65-plus who have smoked, have a family history of aneurysms or have high blood pressure. Your doctor is just looking

out for your health; you can help that effort by upgrading your nutrition and increasing your physical activity to 150-300 minutes a week, adopting stress-relief techniques like meditation and yoga and improving sleep habits.

Bluffton Parks Department Earth Day 5K registration

Registration is open in addition to live plants for the Bluffton Parks Department's annual Earth Day 5K.

Join Bluffton Parks & Recreation for our minimal footprint 5K to celebrate Earth Day.

Saturday, April 20th at 9 a.m. at the Bluffton City Gym.

The race is designed with a minimal footprint which includes no new shirts, bibs, or plastic. Previously unused event shirts and bibs are being recycled and trees for awards and prizes. Cost is \$10 and

includes event registration, all the free past event t-shirts and swag you can hold, and overall and age group awards. Runners and Walkers are welcome.

Sign up now at https://raceroster.com/ events/2024/86614/ earth-day-5k.

For more information visit www.blufftonindiana.net.

'Making Waves' art at Fort Wayne's Orchard Gallery

"Making Waves" art is featured at the Orchard Gallery in Fort Wayne throughout the month of March.

All items by the 30 artists will be have a water focus and include wall art, jewelry and pottery.

Hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The website is www.The-





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Rugar is a three-year-old, Texas Heeler, neutered

male.

Weekday walking program at the City Gym

The Bluffton Parks Department is promoting a free weekday walking program. The City Gym will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. through the end of

Walking has many health benefits but can be difficult during the colder months.

Participants can enter through the glass door on the West side of the build-

ing at 128 E Market St. Sign in on the wooden door each day. If you are the last to leave the gym, turn off the light in the southwest corner of the gym. 1 mile is equal to 20 laps.

Tigers poised for an exciting softball season under new leadership

By RYAN WALKERBluffton's softball season went up and down throughout the 2023 season. At first, the Tigers lost their first four games, tied the next two and won two straight followed shortly after on a four game tear.

It resulted in a 7-16-1 final record and finished the year winning just one of the final 11 games. They were later bounced by ACAC rival South Adams in the sectional

In the offseason, head coach Ben Powers decided to retire after three seasons, leaving the Bluffton job open.

In came Tyler Sonnigsen.Sonnigsen went to Bluffton, while his son, Kedrik, just graduated from Southern Wells in 2023. His daughter, Madyson, will be coming with him after playing her first two seasons for

Sonnigsen heard the position was opening up from a few people. He thought and prayed about it with Madyson in mind and decided to take it.

Then you take a look at the roster and think, 'Hey, their roster is pretty solid with six seniors and five juniors with addition of Madyson," Sonnigsen said. "So, I floated the idea out at home, prayed about the possibility and eventually we figured it would be in Madyson's best interest to at least try

The roster he's taking over will have a pleothra of opportunites with many athletes on the team. Last year, senior Lily King was one of the Tigers' top players on the mound and at the plate, but was the only one that graduated.

King split the majortiy of the innings in the circle with junior Averi Petty, both throwing 50-plus innings of work. Petty returns, and Sonnigsen will bring his daughter who threw 40 innings and posted a stellar 1.92 ERA and struck out 39.

Also returning will be senior Tyrah Shaw, who tossed 33 innings last year for

Defensively and at the plate is where Sonnigsen is most excited about.

"I think the thing that jumps out at me is the vast amount of players who can do so many thing defensively," Sonnigsen said.

"I also think we have a sneaky amount of power at the plate. I'd say stiring up little thing on defense and building confidence at the plate is what's gonna make or break

One thing is for certain: the outfield will be in good hands. Returning junior Marly Drayer will be patrolling centerfield again for the Tigers. She was a secondteam allconference performer her freshman year, and followed it up hitting .344, a team-high 22 runs and second-best 12 stolen bases. Defensively, Drayer had one error on the season for a .977 fielding per-

The infield will be a fun puzzle for Sonnigsen to put together.

Across the diamond, seniors Madison Smith and Kayla Kiefer will be the primary candidates behind the dish. Shaw can also play third and second base. Kiefer will play some third base and shortstop as well. Juniors Isabella Stout and Tressa Renner will fill out the remaining spots on

Petty held down first base last year when not on the mound.

Offensively, Bluffton might have its most impact.

The Tigers return six players that had 20 hits or more. King was the top hitter on the team in nearly every offensive statistic, but is the only subtraction to the lineup.

Petty had 27 hits, Kiefer (26) and Shaw will be the top-returning bats. Petty also slugged 10 extra base knocks .and Kiefer was second on the team with a .419 aver-

Other contributors include Stout, who hit .375 and had 12 extra base hits, and Claire Craighead, who in limited action hit .571 with six doubles.

To perform well in the Allen County Athletic Conference, the Tigers will need to outdo their 1-5 record in a loaded field.

Four teams finished with a 4-2 record or better in the conference: Woodlan (5-1) followed by 4-2 records by Heritage, South Adams and Jay County. South Adams was also solid despite a 3-3 conference record, finishing 19-10.

ryan@news-banner.com





Tressa Renner (left) and Isabella Stout (right) will be a pair of infielders leading an experienced Bluffton softball team this year. The Tigers will be returning all but a few pieces and will be heading into 2024 with new head coach Tyler Sonnigsen. (News-Banner file photos)

Betancourt, Garrett & Lewis look to continue Tigers' baseball success in 2024

By RYAN WALKER

Jason Pierce's Bluffton Tigers went from a .500 ballclub in 2022 to a stellar 18-7 record in 2023.

The team in 2024 will have some holes to fill in it, losing Manchester University signee Drew Pressler, its starting shortstop Andrew Onuegbu and a pair of outfielders. However, the experience on the roster should make the transition better and have the Tigers right back in the mix.

"(Our) Goals are to win, win, and win some more," Pierce said.

According to Pierce, the team will return three seniors who have been starting since

their freshman seasons: Braxton Betancourt, Brody Lewis and Eli Gar-

Betancourt headlines the talented group of seniors, as he is one of the top pitchers and hitters in the area. Last season on the mound was where he was most dangerous, posting a 2.12 ERA, and striking out 78 batters in just 43 innings. That was all after dealing with an arm injury to begin the season and having to limit his innings load. He also slugged five home runs with 33 RBI and finished with a .402 batting aver-

bags. "As always, Braxton pitch during his freshmen season in 2023. He will be a part of a trio of returns with a lot of experience and talent," Pierce starting pitchers to return this season. (News-Banner file photos) said. "Coming off an arm injury last season he was

age. He also stole 16

not able to throw as many innings for us but still found a way to be a first-team all-state first baseman. He definitely swings it well and has a high baseball I.O. which is always a good thing. He knows he has to be even more versatile this season by rotating positions, but he embraces this.

Garrett, who is signing with Indiana Tech for baseball, dealt with a lower-body injury for a chunk of the season, but managed to hit .327 with nine RBI. He also will pitch and is gearing up for an impactful senior campaign.

Although Lewis didn't make much of an impact with the bat, his work behind the plate catching holds down a solid pitching

Another returning slugger to the Tigers'

lineup is senior third baseman Lukas Gehrett, who hit .327 with 17 RBI. Nick Pastori comes back as another .320 average guy.

The strongest part of the Tigers' squad this year is its pitching rotation, returning all of the starters from last year. On top of Betancourt, Bluffton will be set with Griffin Morgan and AJ Streveler on the bump.

Morgan tossed the second most innings on the team last year, posting a solid 3.08 ERA in 11 appearances with 52 strikeouts.

Streveler came onto the scene as a freshman and threw the third most innings, hurling 30.2 innings and ended up with a 2.28

> "Pitching will definitely be a strong suit for us as we return all three of our top pitchers in our rotation," Pierce said.

The team will be also looking at some unfamiliar faces and freshmen to get meaningful playing time this year. Axton Beste, Cameron Williams, Easton Blair and Xzavier Driscoll were mentioned by Pierce to help fill the outfield voids and throw on the mound occasionally.

In terms of the ACAC, Bluffton will be in the mix again. Heritage will always be toward the top, winning the title last year at 6-0 and making a deep 3A tournament run last year. Woodlan finished second with a 5-1 record, and Bluffton third

The 4-2 record included big wins over South Adams and Adams Central, who finished right behind Bluffton in the standings. Adams Central is loading up again and so is South Adams.

"(It's) One day at a time and one opponent at a time," Pierce said. "The ACAC will be as challenging as ever. This is a tough conference that also returns a good amount of good pitchers. We expect to get everyone's best and that's hard to beat. Our pitching and defense will definitely provide us the opportunity to win any game we play I feel, but again, there is always great competition and pitching in the ACAC and we are going to have to earn it."

ryan@news-banner.com

High School Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 No events scheduled. **THURSDAY, MARCH 21** No events scheduled. FRIDAY, MARCH 22 No events scheduled **SATURDAY, MARCH 23**

No events scheduled. **MONDAY, MARCH 25** No events scheduled. **TUESDAY, MARCH 26** No events scheduled. **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27** No events scheduled.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28 No events scheduled. FRIDAY, MARCH 29

BASEBALL: Norwell vs. Evansville Central at Edgewood High School, 7:30

VIDEO SECURITY

UTV



NASCAR CUP SERIES EchoPark Automotive Grand Prix

Schedule: Saturday, practice, 10 a.m., and qualifying, 11:30

a.m.; Sunday, race, 3:30 p.m. (FOX).

Last race: Denny Hamlin passed Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Martin Truex Jr. in the closing laps and won what became a tire management race at Bristol.

Next race: March 31, Richmond, Va.

Focused Health 250

Schedule: Friday, practice, 5:30 p.m., and qualifying, 6 p.m.; Saturday, race, 5 p.m. (FS1).

Last race: Chandler Smith moved to the lead after a blown tire cost Justin Allgaier a big lead and got a huge jump on an overtime restart to hold off Jesse Love and Sheldon Creed at Phoenix, giving Toyota its second straight victory in the series. Next race: March 30, Richmond, Va.

NASCAR TRUCK SERIES

XPEL 225

Schedule: Friday, practice, 3:30 p.m, and qualifying, 4 p.m.; Saturday, race, 1:30 p.m. (FS1).

Last race: Christian Eckes passed Kyle Busch for the lead on Lap 159 and held off the career truck series victory leader by 0.141 seconds at Bristol.

Next race: April 5, Martinsville, Va.

FORMULA ONE Australian Grand Prix

Schedule: Thursday, practice, 9:30 p.m.; Friday, practice, 1 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, qualifying, 1 a.m.; Sunday, race, midnight (ESPN).

Track: Albert Park Circuit

Last race: Verstappen, the three-time defending series champion, led another dominating 1-2 finish for Red Bull to win in Saudi Arabia.

Next race: April 7, Suzuka, Japan. **INDYCAR**

\$1 Million Challenge

Site: Thermal, California.

Track: The Thermal Club Race distance: 20 laps, 61.34 miles.

Next race: April 21, Long Beach, California.

NHRA DRAG RACING

Last event: Shawn Langdon won in Top Fuel and JR Todd

won in Funny Car in Gainesville. Next event: March 24, Pomona, California.

WORLD OF OUTLAWS

Next events: March 22, Ennis, Texas; March 23, Kennedale, Texas.



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Tiger pitcher AJ Streveler throws a

Bluffton's Braxton Betancourt (middle, holding helmet) taps his helmet with teammates after launching a 3-run blast during the fifth inning against Manchester. Betancourt will lead a group of Tigers in his senior year after finishing 18-7 a year ago as a junior.

Husband's hypochondria getting out of hand

Dear Annie: My husband is a hypochondriac. It is so very hard living with him. Every time he hears of someone in all his life. our family coming down with an illness, he claims he has it. He is a healthy man my own hobbies and perfectly able-bodied. I get disgusted and friendships. when he takes a handicapped spot next to I try so hard to a store when I know he doesn't need it.

During the height of the pandemic, he was in hysterics all the time. I cannot tell you how many hours I spent trying to pacify him, looking for things that were no longer available, like a thermometer. Because he swore the many thermometers we had at home were not working. I would go to five or six stores. During a pandemic.

He hears about a disease, looks up the symptoms and swears he has it. He goes to his doctors (he has nine of them at this time) and will relay his "symptoms" to them. They run expensive tests, and he is on many medications because of this.

I tried to talk to his main treating physician, and the doctor told me flat-out that if my husband comes to him with problems, it's his responsibility to try to help him.

I tried several years ago to get my husband into therapy, but he refused.

I recently became very ill, and while I was sick, he was angry and unsympathetic. He wants to hear everything I am feeling — not because he wants to help me but because he is taking mental notes. He doesn't even bring me any water or hot tea.

Years ago, I had a serious injury and required surgery. The doctor prescribed some pain medication for me to take because I would be in pain after the anesthesia wore off. At home, I slept. I woke up in horrible pain, and a few hours later I told my husband I was going to take my medication. To which he said, "You never take medicine anyway and my hip was hurting so I took them, and they don't do anything for you." My husband had taken three days of my pain medication while I slept. I cannot describe how upset I was.

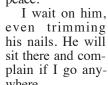
It's exhausting.

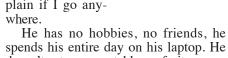
He has not worked in 30 years. He claimed and was granted disability.

I just can't go on any more. I am retired and we have been married 15

years. He says he has been like this

I try to maintain have some sort of peace.





doesn't eat any vegetables or fruit. I try to get him to go on walks, which end up with him pretending to fall so we

Dear

Annie

by Annie Lane

have to go home. Whenever we go anywhere, he will pretend to throw his hip or hurt himself.

I have actually witnessed pretending to fall down a short flight of stairs. I wish I had videotaped it because I'll tell you, I was just not even shocked, just disgusted.

When we first met and were dating, we went on hikes, long drives, dance classes, all kinds of stuff. Then we got married and a few months later he started saying he didn't feel well any time I wanted to go somewhere. The man I dated is not the man I married. He is some sort of freak actor.

I am disgusted and resentful. Thank you for any advice you can give me. I just feel broken. — Living With a Hypochondriac

Dear Living With a Hypochondriac: It sounds like your husband has a serious anxiety disorder. It's important for him to get professional help to treat his condition, or else it will spiral even further out of control. If he refuses to seek treatment, then perhaps it's time to reevaluate whether he is a good life partner.

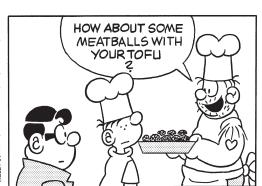
In the meantime, set boundaries with him, continue nurturing your hobbies and friendships, and focus on your own self-care. A good therapist can help you process these difficult emotions and evaluate potential next steps.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

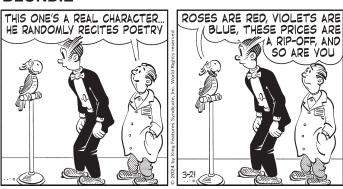
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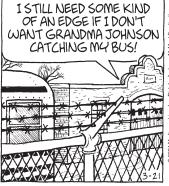
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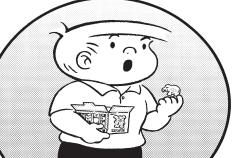


By Bil Keane



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

3-21



'Do vegetarians eat animal crackers?'

The LOCKHORNS



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My Answer By Dr. Billy

Question: I'm not sure I can really forgive those who have deliberately hurt me. But I am miserable and they all seem so happy. This

Graham

is hard to accept. -H.B. Answer: Forgiveness is a healing balm for the troubled soul. God loves us enough to offer His forgiveness that opens the pathway to a relationship with the Savior of the world. When we are not willing to repent of sin against Him and humble ourselves, we are really rebelling against God and rejecting all that He has done for us by sending His Son to bring healing to our sin-weary souls.

Imagine for a minute

Forgiveness is a healing balm for the troubled soul

that you committed a crime, were arrested, and were sent to jail. The day has now come for you to appear in

court. As you stand before the judge, there is absolutely no doubt: You are guilty of the charges against you. According to the law, you must pay for this crime, and in this case, the penalty is a year in jail. The judge issues his verdict and pronounces your sentence. At once, the bailiff comes over to lead you away to prison.

But then something almost beyond belief happens. The judge steps down from the bench, stops the bailiff, and takes your place. He is innocent — but he goes to prison and pays the penalty for the crime you committed. You, on the other hand, are free!

This is a picture of what Jesus Christ did for us. We are guilty before God and deserve nothing less than death. But the Judge -Jesus Christ — took our place. By His death on the cross, He took the penalty we deserve, and we are free. Sin's penalty has been fully paid. But you must accept it! Believe it! Act on it! Know beyond a shadow of doubt that you belong to Him. "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven" (Psalm 32:1, NKJV).

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

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36 Painter of group ballerinas **DOWN 5** "The 24 Nepal's **37** Sea Raven" 1 Pitt of writer urchin "Troy" **25** Workout 8 "Huh?" variety 2 Bonkers 12 IRA type 40 Desertlike 3 "Beetle 26 Global 13 Raggedy 41 Arrival Bailey" doll 45 Copendog **27** "Mary 14 Quasihagen 4 Sheer native fabric modo's creator 47 "Viva -**5** No 28 Artillery

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Padua D.C. hard 52 Play **18** Bone-**10** CIA employee head group **20** "Yeah, 53 Obey 11 Sock part 38 Fear 19 Last right!" 54 Snake's **22** Pet sound (Abbr.)

15 Play

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26 Bamboo Solution time: 24 mins.

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FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

EVEREST VX3 ICE & WATER VENDING MACHINE This VENDING MACHINE This Everest VX3 water/ice vending machine is the perfect addition to any business looking to boost their profits. With the ability to dispense both water and ice, this unit is sure to be a hit with customers. The machine is in great working condition and has been slightly used, making it a cost-effective option for those looking to invest in a vending machine. This unit is made in the United States and comes with a unit quantity of 1. Included is an all season insulation package, ice shield ozone disinfection, and cold fusion energy recovery. It is perfect for placement in other beverage and snack vending locations, as well as in restaurant and food service settings. Don't miss out on the opportunity to make extra money with this Everest VX3 vending machine. \$45,000.00 260-273-7020

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HOLLEY SALES, INC. is looking for an experienced medium duty / heavy duty truck mechanic. Full-time. Starting pay is \$25.00 per hour. 40-45 hours per week. Some Saturday mornings required. Paid uniforms. Vacation & holiday pay. Please apply in person at 12005 Indianapolis Rd. Yoder, IN 46798 or send your resume

dirk@holleytruckparts.com. For more information, call

This Week's Garage

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MARCH 21, 22, 23, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., 2570 W. 100 S., Monroe. ots of new Easter items, noodles and iam. furniture. tools excellent clothing, toys, everything imaginable

CRAFT/GARAGE SALE AT Country Road Primitives, 2446 E 350 N, Bluffton, Friday & Saturday, March 22 & 23, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Check out all the pictures on Country Road Primitives Bluffton, IN Facebook page.

Receive a free garage sale kit when placing a three day, line classified ad.

Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's Drawings **HOOSIER LOTTERY** Cash 5 — 06-22-23-25-

Lotto Plus — 02-17-18-24-38-44

Cash4Life — 37-43-49-51-56, Cash Ball: 02

Quick Draw Midday –

04-08-12-15-21-23-29-32-35-38-43-45-56-59-60-65-66-71-72-77, BE: 12

Daily Three-Midday — 02-04-02, SB: 05

Daily Three-Evening — 00-09-07, SB: 06

Daily Four-Midday — 06-08-07-07, SB: 05

Daily Four-Evening -09-02-04-02, SB: 06

Ouick Draw Evening -03-06-07-13-14-19-25-32-39-41-42-48-51-62-64-67-

69-73-75-77, BE: 75 **Hoosier Lotto** — 10-16-

20-26-27-33

MEGA MILLIONS Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$977 million

POWERBALL 13-22-27-54-66 Powerball: 09; Power Play: 2X

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Help Wanted

THE WELLS COUNTY Prosecutor's Office is looking to hire a person for an Investigator position. The position is a parttime county-paid position making \$21/hour. The investigator would be responsible for conducting criminal investigations and assisting the Prosecutor in preparing cases for trial. The investigator must be an effective communicator, be proficient with a computer, be able to work independently, and have the ability to be on 24call for assistance at crime scenes. Interested per-

sons should go to wellscounty.org/prosecutor/ for a more detailed description of this position. Send any resumes to the Wells County Prosecutor's Office, 102 West Market Street, Suite 405, Bluffton, IN 46714 or submit email by prosecutor@wellscounty.org.

THE CITY OF Bluffton Street Department is accepting applications for a Laborer/Truck Driver. The minimum educational requirement is a high school diploma or equivalent. Applicants must possess and maintain a CDL License or obtain one within the time limit. The City utilizes E-Verify and follows EEOC guidelines. Applications may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's of-128 East Market St, Bluffton, IN between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday or at www.blufftonindiana.net.

HELOISE HINT: When you attend a job interview. Listen to the recruiter and pay attention. Don't talk too much, and make sure to respond to their questions directly. Don't go on and on. Send your job-success story to HELOISE@Heloise.com.

March

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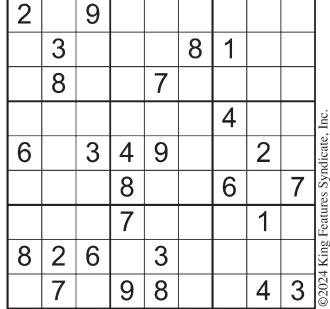
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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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Public

MARCH 23 - 10 a.m. - Various owners represented. Location: Farmers Grain & Ag LLC, 1257 St. Rd. 33, Willshire, OH. Tractors, combines, heads & carts, harvest equip., Grain carts, wagons, trucks, trailers, pickups, construction, manure equipment, livestock equipment, hay equipment, planters, no-till drills, sprayers, NH3 bars, farm related, miscellaneous, mowers & ATVs, toys, native lumber. Questions, call: Farmers Grain & Ag, LLC, 419-495-2338. Auction managers: Ritter Cox, 800-451-2709, 260-609-3306 & Tim Kreider, 260-413-8008. Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., 260-244-7606, 800-451-2709, SchraderAuction.com.

MARCH 23-30 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Sandra McCay and others, seller. 2007 Dodge Caliber SXT sedan, 1999 Ford F250 with dump bed, 2013 12' utility trailer, primitives, Turn of the Century cast iron riding horse, quilts, large qty. of crocks, antique furniture, Fenton, Carnival and other glassware. Preview: March 21, March 28 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 816 S. 11th Street, Decatur, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.
BIDDING ENDS MARCH

25 - (Online Only Auction) -Various consignors, seller. Antiques, primitives, Lionel trains and train items, modern furniture, vintage advertising, household items, patio furniture. Auction Preview: March 21 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 118 East Craig St., Ossian, IN. *The* Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-

3006, www.steffengrp.com.
BIDDING STARTS CLOSING APRIL 4 STARTING AT 6 p.m. EST - Joann Groves, Anita Miller & Veda Ewart POA, owner. 6 p.m.: 2,132 sf, 4 bedroom, 1 bath, partial basement, 2-car attached garage, sitting on .4 acre city lot, South Adams Community School, Wabash Township, Adams County. 6:30 p.m.: Furniture, household items, cast iron pans, lots of collectibles. dishes, Zippo lighters & more! Preview March 25, 5-6 p.m., 230 High Street, Geneva. Pick up April 5, 1-5 p.m. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com. APRIL 7-14 - (Online Online) - (Online Only Auction) - Unique Blue Bar and Grill (Formerly Stag Bar), seller. Ongoing needs. Outstanding collection of beer signs, neon signs, beer taps, collectibles, tools, much more. Preview: April 4 and April 11 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 205 W. Market St., Bluffton, IN. *The* Steffen Group Inc., http://www. steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006. APRIL 8-APRIL 15 - (Online Only Auction) - Fort Wayne Community Schools, seller. Excess needs of FWCS Transportation Department. Mechanic and shop equipment, shelving, computer monitors and electronics, office furniture, parts washer, air compressor, much more. Preview: April 10 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 6006 Ardmore Ave., Fort Wayne, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.

APRIL 9 - 6 p.m. - Michael & Shelley Mossburg, owners. Wells County Chamber of Commerce, 211 Water Street, Bluffton. Commercial real estate & land auction. Seven tracts to be sold in individual tracts to be sold if littly dual tracts or any combinations. Open house March 26, 5-6 p.m. or by appointment, 1600 W. Washington St., Bluffton. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.

APRIL 12-APRIL 19 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Dr. Hugh and Rhea Glidewell, seller. Huge jewelry and coin auction. Seven Rolex watches,

Thank you for reading

The News-Banner

fine diamond rings, necklaces, earrings, 14ct, 18ct and 22ct gold jewelry, sterling silver jewelry, 350+ Invicta luxury watches, coin collection. Auction preview: April 14 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., 2926 Smith Rd., Fort Wayne, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

APRIL 13-APRIL 20 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Dr. Hugh and Rhea Glidewell, seller. Major personal property auction. 2008 Mercedes sedan, large quantity of high-end camera equipment, professional telescope, new high end his and her golf clubs and accessories, huge qty. of power and hand tools, modern furniture, sterling silver flatware set, Smith and Wesson revolver, jewelers safes, much more. Auction preview: April 14 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., 2926 Smith Rd., Fort Wayne, IN. *The Stef*fen Group Inc., 260-824-3006,

www.steffengrp.com.
APRIL 20 - 10 a.m. - (Live
Auction) - Marc and Valerie
Hamman, seller. 6530 S. 300
E., Hamilton, IN. Three lots adjacent to Hamilton Lake with 2 car 26'x28' garage. This is the perfect property to build a new home, extra storage and parking. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

Public Notices

Town of Ossian, Indiana Notice of Receipt of Bids
Project: Baker Drive Extension
Project").
Summary: The Project shall

enerally consist of approximately 650 linear feet of roadway construction, 700 linear feet of 12-inch water main, and 700 linear feet of 10-inch gravity sanitary sewer. The project shall include common excavation, compacted aggregate subbase, HMA surface and intermediate, storm piping, water main, sanitary sewer, erosion control, and surface restoration. All qualified Contractors are invited to bid

General Plans and Specifications: Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.questcdn.com. Quest CDN will serve as the Issuing Office and maintain the plan holder list. Digital Bidding Documents may be downloaded for a non-refundable fee of \$22 by inputting Quest proj-ect number QuestCDN eBidDoc #9022951 on the website's projects search page. Please contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952.233.1632 or info@questcdn. com for assistance in membership registration, downloading, and working with digital project informat ion. No paper copies will be provided by the Owner.

Pre-Bid Meeting: Beginning Pre-Bid Meeting: Beginning at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, a pre-bid meeting will be held at the Ossian Town Hall, 507 N. Jefferson Street, Ossian, Indiana 46777. Prospective bidders are strongly encouraged to attend.

Bids: All bids must be submitted to the Town of Ossian by

noon, Thursday, April 4, 2024, to be considered for the work. Bids submitted prior to 11:45 a.m. on April 4, 2024, shall be submitted at the Ossian Town Hall, 507 N. Jefferson Street, Ossian, IN 46777. Bids submitted after 11:45 a.m. on April 4, 2024, must be delivered to the Ossian Town Council meeting location at Collier's Comfort, 215
N. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN. Bidders are responsible for the timely delivery of their bids. All bids shall be in sealed envelopes bearing the Project title, "Town of Ossian Baker Drive Extension" and include the name and address of the bidder. All bids shall include fully completed and executed Contractor's Bid for Public Work - Form 96 and E-Verify and Iran Investment Certification. Bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond or certified check equal to 5% of the bid amount. Bids arriving after the time set will be returned unopened and only complete bids with all required materials will be considered.

Review and Consideration: All bids timely received shall be publicly opened and read aloud at Collier's Comfort, 215 N. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN at noon, April 4, 2024. The Town of Ossian, Indiana, reserves the right to reject all bids, waive defects and amend the Project's scope. It is anticipated that the Ossian Town Council will take bids received under advisement and that a determination may

be made by April 8, 2024. By: Crystal Chapman, Town Manager Town of Ossian, Indiana oj, nb 3/14, 3/21

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Wells County, Indiana, that
the County Council of said County, will meet at the Courthouse Annex in Bluffton, Indiana at <u>7:00 O'clock p.m.</u> on <u>Tuesday, the 2nd day of April 2024</u>, to consider the following additional appropriations more than the

budget for the current year. 20.205 BRIDGE 106 Bridges (8115-40303-000-0000) 20.205 COUNTY HOME RD – CR450E CN & CF Des # 1802955 (8119-40728-000-0000) 20.205 BRIDGE 71 ROCK CREEK Bridge 71 Des # 2003072 (8124-40718-000-0000) COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT I Office Supplies (9105-20100-000-0000)

\$460,523.40 \$980.000.00

\$30,000.00

\$24.75

oj, nb 3/21

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