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Live music offered

Rest, reclaim, relive

Nonprofit partners with others in exercise, addiction recovery

By SYDNEY KENT

"Reset, reclaim, and relive your life again," is the focus of a local nonprofit helping people find, maintain and sustain sobriety through physical movement.

Tri-Recovery, founded in November 2022, meets every week at 3 p.m. at the pavilion by Hardee's in Bluffton. Anyone is welcome to join.

Andy Yergler, the founder of the nonprofit, said the idea was born from his own path to recovery.



Yergler first experimented with substances in his early teenage years. He described his young self as a somewhat average child. Yergler said he experienced some trauma at a young age, likely had undiagnosed ADHD, and was not necessarily the star athlete or

smartest kid in class. At 13, he acquired alcohol poisoning after he raided the liquor cabinet at a friend's house one weekend. Yergler said that he thought he would never try experimenting again. However, when he returned to school the following Monday, students thought he was more cool for having abused alcohol.

His identity quickly became formed around being the "party kid" in school. After graduation, Yergler went to a party where he tried cocaine for the first time.

"I fell in love with it," Yergler recounted. "Over the next 100 days, I developed a cocaine habit. I was totally in the grips of addiction. I had acquired about a \$1,000-a-week habit in 1997 and didn't have a job to cover that habit. I turned to dealing drugs.'

Yergler was arrested for dealing cocaine just over 100 days after he graduated from high school. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison and spent 4 years, and 7 months incarcerated. He said the sentence saved his life.

"During that time I was able to put my life back together a little bit," Yergler explained. "Being a young male, the maturity level, I didn't understand things like I do now. I never went back to drugs. If it wasn't for prison or that lengthy sentence I never would have gotten off of cocaine.'

Yergler said he returned home from prison in 2002 at 22-years-old. He got married at 23 and completed his bachelor's degree at Indiana Wesleyan. After probation, he thought he could handle alcohol.

Within 90 days I was a full-blown alcoholic," Yergler said. "The same pattern I had noticed from the cocaine addiction was starting to take over my life with alcohol."

During a humanitarian trip to Haiti in





Yergler (left) along with meeting participants during a run along the river. (Photo submitted)

2010, Yergler met a man who had been sober for five years. He said this was something he deeply wanted. The man agreed to be Yergler's sponsor so long as he was trying to stay sober. "I told him over 250 times — today was the day I was going to quit drinking," Yer-

Q&A: Indiana's GOP candidates for governor give stances on education

By CASEY SMITH **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

Where do Indiana's six Republican gubernatorial candidates stand on school choice, teacher pay, learning loss recovery, and the state's push to better prepare graduates for the workforce?

With a competitive primary just weeks away, the Indiana Capital Chronicle asked the six GOP hopefuls to weigh in. It's part of four issue-based question-and-answers to be published ahead of the May election.

The following four questions on various Indiana education issues were distributed to: U.S. Sen, Mike Braun, Brad Chambers, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Eric Doden, former Attorney General Curtis Hill and Jamie Reitenour.

Each candidate was asked to limit their responses to 150 words and answers were printed as submitted with only minor edits, like spacing or full names, for clarity.

Former Superintendent for Public Instruction Jennifer McCormick is the only Democrat on the primary ballot for governor. Additionally, one Libertarian, Donald Rainwater, was selected in a private convention process.

Lawmakers are considering moving to education savings accounts for all Indiana students. Do you support this move and if so, where do we come up with the new dollars to cover this major school choice expansion?

Braun: School choice is about Hoosier parents having the freedom to make decisions about their kids' education. Education savings accounts - where a student's public funds are kept in an account similar to a Health Savings Account with parents in the driver's seat — will be something I will look at closely. ESA programs have had success in states like Florida that have tried them, and I'm always looking for ways to put more power in parents' hands when it comes to their children's education.

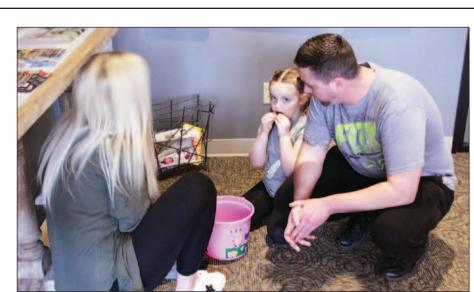
Chambers: Education is one of our greatest challenges but also one of our greatest opportunities. To take full advantage of this opportunity, we must give parents the ability

to send their children to the type of school that best fits their individual needs. The state legislature has rightly made that ability nearly universal and eliminated unnecessary eligibility "pathways." Additionally, buildings are getting bigger and administrative salaries are increasing, yet teacher salaries and classroom funding have remained relatively flat. That's why we must first ensure current funding truly follows the student. From there, we'll use the proceeds of a growing economy, paired with savings created by increased government efficiency, to further invest in education. We must make these investments to ensure that our third graders can read before moving on to fourth grade, and that our sixth graders are proficient in critical math skills.

Crouch: Hoosier parents should have the maximum amount of choice and control possible when it comes to their children's education. It is past time for us to have an honest and critical discussion about how we are going to educate our children in the 21st century, and to do that we need to reform education. By reforming I will take the five agencies that deal with education and workforce development and reduce them to one. We will concentrate the state's efforts to prepare children for enlistment, enrollment, employment, or apprenticeship. By modernizing education, we will implement efficiencies and cost savings that will help offset any additional costs associated with educational choice. The investment will be worth

Doden: Parents and students must have the freedom of school choice. That means charter schools, opportunity scholarships, education savings accounts, and vouchers — anything that breaks the government monopoly on schools and allows parents to make the best education decision for their child. Indiana has been a leader in school choice, and as governor, I will protect and promote educational freedom for Indiana families, especially for disadvantaged students trapped in failing schools.

Hill: My education plan includes a major (Continued on Page 2)



Ossian Health Easter egg hunt

According to Admissions/Marketing Director Kathy Boles, an estimated over 100 people packed into Ossian Health and Rehabilitation for an Easter egg hunt on Friday. Above, the McCune family, pictured left to right, Kristen, Emersyn and Travis, all enjoy the fruits of their searching. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

Blind people can hear and feel April's total solar eclipse with new technology

By CHRISTINA LARSON **AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — While eclipse watchers look to the skies, people who are blind or visually impaired will be able to hear and feel the celestial event.

Sound and touch devices will be available at public gatherings on April 8, when a total solar eclipse crosses North America, the moon blotting out the sun for a few min-

"Eclipses are very beautiful things, and everyone should be able to experience it once in their lifetime," said Yuki Hatch, a high school senior in Austin, Texas.

Hatch is a visually impaired student and a space enthusiast who hopes to one day become a computer scientist for NASA. On eclipse day, she and her classmates at

the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired plan to sit outside in the school's grassy quad and listen to a small device called a LightSound box that translates changing light into sounds.

When the sun is bright, there will be high, delicate flute notes. As the moon begins to cover the sun, the mid-range notes are those of a clarinet. Darkness is rendered by a low clicking sound.

"I'm looking forward to being able to actually hear the eclipse instead of seeing it," said Hatch.

The LightSound device is the result of a collaboration between Wanda Díaz-Merced, an astronomer who is blind, and Harvard astronomer Allyson Bieryla. Díaz-Merced regularly translates her data into audio to

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Local/Area

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Thunderstorms and rain moves into the area

Sunday Monday High 64 High 57 | High 56 Low 38 | Low 46 | Low 44

More Weather on Page 2



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Wells County sobriety nonprofit

(Continued from Page 1)

gler said. "Finally one day, I went for a run for 35-40 minutes. I felt like I was going to die but I didn't. And I made it through a day without drinking. It was sort of like a Forrest Gump moment where I just kept running.'

Yergler began swimming and cycling before he eventually entertained the idea of completing a triathlon. He spent 11 months fully focused on training. At the end of his first triathlon, he wasn't sure what to do.

"I thought I would just go to the bar and get hammered," Yergler said. "But that would have defeated the purpose."

Yergler set a goal to complete a triathlon in every state by the time he turned 65-years-old. During this process, he realized that if he could wake up early and swim in a pool in January, he could walk away from a drink.

"I started realizing the self-discipline that was taking hold in my life," Yergler emphasized. "It wasn't right away. I slowly realized that each time I was in active addiction, I never liked the last lines of cocaine or the last 30 beers. I liked the first line and the first few beers."

Yergler said exercise helps to release endorphins and sustain an accelerated heartbeat healthily. He said that while drugs make someone feel good temporarily and then very bad afterward, exercise is often reversed.

"It's hard while you're doing it," Yergler said. "When you're done you're feeling good. There is no shame in the morning. I tried to get sober

through different religions, and different methods, and nothing ever worked. I know this isn't for everybody, but I'm sure other people have a hard time and can't get sober. This might help."

In 2020, Yergler said he went back before Judge Kenton Kiracofe, who expunged his record. The same year, Yergler purchased the D&D food truck.

I try to hire people in recovery or coming home from incarceration," Yergler said. "Last year during Ossian Days, almost every person — if not every person — was in recovery. We had 42 years of sobriety that day in the truck."

Yergler hopes Tri-Recovery can partner with local schools to facilitate a regular program or a community triathlon in the future. The organization also wants to reach local kids at risk of generational addiction.

"If a kid is in a house where active addiction is taking place," Yergler explained. "I believe getting into some kind of sport, something for them to channel that pain and negative activity, can help. We are also there to help out with vouchers for sports accessibility. We are there to be preventive."

Yergler also said that drug and alcohol addiction are not the only types of recovery the group can help with. He hopes to partner with local hospitals. specifically bariatric patients. The goal would be to help anyone recovering from weight loss surgery or struggling with food addiction.

"I think this is a need for recovery," I think it will help people's lives. Physical activity makes you uncomfortable and when you're in an uncomfortable spot, things get real. We're young, we are growing, we have big visions.

Similarly to other programs, participants in the meetings are eligible for incentives, like a new pair of running shoes, after completing a period of consistently attending meetings.

The group continues to provide support during the winter months as well. Yergler hopes to partner with a local organization for indoor exercise activities in the future.

"We have met outside since Jan. 1," Yergler said. "There are people that don't come because it's too cold. A lot of people out of active addiction don't have access to the funds to be a member of a gym — this is offering people a way to make it accessible."

Yergler said the meetings are a helpful add-on to additional programming people in recovery may be completing elsewhere. The goal of the group is to incorporate the physical side of recovery for those working through addiction.

Whether you are the wealthiest or most fit person in the world or come from generational addiction or not, it can get to you," Yergler said. "Once it's there — it's there. We are solely about the physical side of addiction and helping someone stay sober. We're here to say, 'Hey, as a community, how can we help you stay sober today?

Anyone interested in attending a meeting, volunteering, sponsorship or with general inquiries may contact Yergler at 260-273-8821.

sydney@news-banner.com

Weather

Saturday, March 30, 2024 (24-hour observations at 10:21 p.m. Friday) High: 61; Low: 33; Precipitation: 0.02 inches of rain Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.59 feet at 8:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm before 11 a.m., then a chance of showers. High near 64. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Tonight: A slight chance of showers before 8 p.m., then a slight chance of showers after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday: A 50% chance of showers, mainly after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 57. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 8 p.m. Low around 46. East wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.

Monday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers after 2 p.m. High near 56. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Monday Night: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Low around 44. Chance of precipitation is 90%.

Tuesday: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 2 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 56. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Tuesday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Wednesday: A 40% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 43. Breezy.

Wednesday Night: A 20% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32. Breezy.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50. **Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 32. **Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 57.

Stances on education

(Continued from Page 1)

overhaul of the Indiana Department of Education. There is an unnecessary bloat of state administrators, and I plan to cut this in half freeing up money to be redirected to Hoosier students. This reduction in overhead will allow more dollars to flow to students and parents to make the best school choice for their situation. If strong options are limited, many students have no meaningful choice. That is why I will buck the status quo and ensure that schools and students have the resources they need to be successful.

Reitenour: K-12 education is first and foremost for our kids to be focused on achieving their dreams. Test scores reveal we are getting an "F" in education. We cannot throw money or programs at problems expecting things to change - we need to address what is happening in the classroom. I will introduce a back-to-basics overhaul of our public education learning object We will remove technology and devices from K-5 classrooms while kids focus on educational foundations: reading writing, and arithmetic. Private sector partners will adopt-a-classroom of 6th graders to introduce technology, AI, and workforce opportunities of the future, and will teach trades classes to 7th and 8th graders. School Improvement Programs will no longer be littered with DEI, SEL, and social justice goals, but solely on academics. I support vouchers and school choice, which provide onceunheard-of opportunities for families of all socioeconomic statuses, while putting positive competitive pressure on public schools.

Note: State lawmakers approved a massive literacy overhaul measure during the 2024 session that will require reading-deficient third graders to be held back a year in school. In 2023, the General Assembly included in the state budget a voucher buildout that makes Indiana's current Choice Scholarship program virtually universal.

Currently, ESAs in Indiana are limited to students who require special education services, though a law passed earlier this month expands eligibility to the siblings of students who have an ESA, even if those siblings do not have disabilities themselves.

Indiana's average teacher salary is currently about \$58,531. Gov. Eric Holcomb's goal has been to increase that average to \$60,000. What, if anything, should the state do to raise teacher pay and increase recruitment and retention of Hoosier educators?

Braun: We spend over half of our budget on K-12 education. Are we getting the best results we can from that investment? We need to make sure Hoosiers' investment in education is being spent wisely on things that will give students' better outcomes — like attracting and retaining great teachers - and not being gobbled up by administration, waste, or programs that aren't showing results. I'll approach our K-12 education the same way I approached solving problems in my business: rolling up my sleeves and making sure every dollar is getting maximum return for Hoosiers.

Chambers: Teaching is a noble profession — one that is essential to our social and economic futures. But for decades, it hasn't been treated as such. Teachers must be paid more than they earn today, and their pay should be based on their performance in the classroom and the outcome of their efforts, not simply on the length of their tenure. Teachers who work hard and improve education outcomes must be able to earn a higher salary faster and earlier in their careers. Additionally, teachers in high-demand subjects, such as STEM subjects, should be able to earn higher salaries so schools can compete with other employment opportunities for the best tal-

Crouch: I support the

goal to increase the average teacher salary to \$60,000 (which will bring Indiana closer to the national average). Beyond the mere financial benefits of increased pay, a greater investment will value our teachers and their crucial role in preparing our children for the future. Beyond pay, however, our teachers must have a seat at the table as we create a lifetime education model for Hoosiers. As governor, I will ask teachers and parents for their advice, counsel, and ideas as it relates to preparing our children for college, the military, their careers, or workforce training. As a result of my education reforms, we will be able to direct more money to the classroom and

less to administration. Doden: I am the only candidate for Governor with a plan to address Indiana's teacher shortage. Education is enshrined in Indiana's Constitution as a priority for very good reasons. Any state that strives for excellence must invest in educating its population. Unfortunately, many of our best teachers are moving on. Currently, there are thousands of teaching vacancies across Indiana and fewer than 15% of our teachers are under the age of 30. Our Teacher Investment Program would attract and retain teaching talent by eliminating the state income tax for Hoosier educators. This approach will put money back in the pockets of teachers, where it is intended, rather than in the hands of bureaucrats or teachers unions.

Hill: As the husband of a public school teacher, I understand many of the challenges facing Hoosier teachers. I believe we can implement my statewide policy at the local level, reviewing unnecessary overhead and

eliminating useless bureaucratic costs. If each school district reduced its costs this way, it could allocate those funds to attracting the best trained teachers through competitive salaries. Our educators play a crucial role in the success of our students, and we owe it to them to ensure they have what they need to keep our kids in school.

Reitenour: I want the

teachers in Indiana to know that I see them, I appreciate all that they do, and hard work pays off for our kids as well as the teacher. Excellent educators must be compensated for retention and starting pay must be competitive to attract young talent. Across-the-board pay increases do not improve our children's educational outcomes. We will set incentive pay standards for teachers and districts meeting their School Improvement Plan goals. These opportunities are normalized on the unique starting points and chal-Indiana Goodness Education plan includes the CCC (College? Career? Or Calling?) high school initiative, and senior year apprenticeships. These will drive our ability to close workforce shortage gaps, like pilots and trades, with the students who have worked toward those professions. Providing vision to the next generation shapes Indiana's future workforce, and saves secondary education spending that can be reallocated to incentive pay.

Note: Currently, Indiana law requires a minimum salary of \$40,000 for each fulltime teacher. Most, but not all, Hoosier districts currently meet the salary requirement, however. State data released earlier this year showed that - while the Indiana teacher workforce is growing - fewer teachers are being retained.

Solar eclipse

(Continued from Page 1) analyze patterns for her research.

A prototype was first used during the 2017 total solar eclipse that crossed the U.S., and the handheld device has been used at other eclipses.

This year, they are working with other institutions with the goal of distributing at least 750 devices to locations hosting eclipse events in Mexico, the U.S., and Canada. They held workshops at universities and museums to construct the devices, and provide DIY instructions on the group's

"The sky belongs to everyone. And if this event is available to the rest of the world, it has to be available for the blind, too," said Díaz-Merced. "I want students to be able to hear the eclipse, to hear the stars."

The Perkins Library associated with the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Massachusetts plans to broadcast the changing tones of the Light-Sound device over Zoom for members to listen online and by telephone, said outreach manager Erin Fragola.

In addition to students, many of the library's senior patrons have age-related vision loss, he said.

"We try to find ways to

make things more accessible for everyone," he said.

Others will experience the solar event through the sense of touch, with the Cadence tablet from Indiana's Tactile Engineering. The tablet is about the size of a cellphone with rows of dots that pop up and down. It can be used for a variety of purposes: reading Braille, feeling graphics and movie clips, playing video games.

For the eclipse, "A student can put their hand over the device and feel the moon slowly move over the sun,' said Tactile Engineering's Wunji Lau.

The Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired started incorporating the tablet into its curriculum last year. Some of the school's students experienced last October's "ring of fire" eclipse with the tablet.

Sophomore Jazmine Nelson is looking forward to joining the crowd expected at NASA's big eclipsewatching event at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, where the tablet will be available.

With the tablet, "You can feel like you're a part of something," she said.

Added her classmate

Minerva Pineda-Allen, a junior. "This is a very rare opportunity, I might not get this opportunity again."



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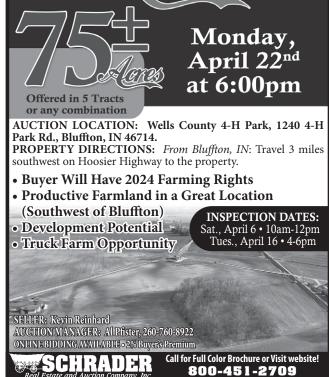
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OBITUARIES

Marlene Macon, 75

Marlene L. Macon, 75, of rural Bluffton, passed away Friday morning, March 29, 2024, at her residence.

Marlene was born in Bluffton on Feb. 24, 1949, to Dale and Maxine (Merkey) Schenkel. She married Vaughn E. Macon in Bluffton on Feb. 24, 1999. He preceded her in death on April 7, 2022.

Marlene graduated from Bluffton High School in 1967.

She worked as a machinist at Memcor in Huntington for 25 years, and then retired from Bendix Corp. in Huntington, after 15 years of service. She loved the outdoors, especially gardening and doing yard work. She also loved spending time with

Survivors include a daughter, Melissa Gooley (Brad Trollinger) of Bluffton; a step-



husband, Marlene was preceded in death by a brother, Keith Visitation will be from 10 a.m.

to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 4, 2024, at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton, followed immediately by a funeral service at 2 p.m. Pastor Shawna Scott-Hamilton will officiate. Burial will follow at Six Mile Cemetery in Bluffton.

Memorial contributions may be made to Parkview Home Health & Hospice.

Online condolences may be made at goodwincaleharnish.com.

James "Jim" Myers, 71

James "Jim" A. Myers, 71, of Monroe, passed away on Thursday morning, March 28, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort

Jim was born on June 11, 1952, in Adams County to Roland A. and Helen P. (Nevil) Myers. He was a 1970 graduate of Berne High School. He worked in the heating and plumbing business his whole life, starting at Liechty Bros in

Berne, then Schumm's in Van Wert. In 1988, Jim became an owner of Myers & Davidson Water Service, where he was still working. Jim enjoyed dirt track racing and was a long-time member of The Lighthouse Church of Monroe.

On Aug. 25, 1979, Jim and Carol E. Borne were married at Monroe United Methodist Church. Together they have shared 44 years of marriage.

Survivors include his wife, Carol of Monroe, and his children, Marsha (George)



Coleman of New Jersey, Ben Myers of Monroe, and Melissa Myers of Berne, along with eight grandchildren. He is also survived by a brother, Don (Sandy) Myers of Berne, and a sister, Ruth Kraner of Fort Wayne.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will take place on Tuesday, April 2, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Light-

house Church of Monroe. A graveside service will take place at Ray Cemetery in Monroe following visitation, with Pastor David Myers officiating.

Memorials may be made to The Lighthouse Church of Monroe and be directed to the funeral home.

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

William Zirkelbach, Jr., 89

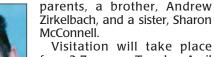
William Zirkelbach, Jr., 89 of Bluffton, passed away on Wednesday afternoon, March 27, 2024, at his residence.

William was born on Aug. 8, 1934, in Paulding County, Ohio, to Ester M. (Hoeppner) and William J. Zirkelbach, Sr. He attended Payne High School in Payne, Ohio. He farmed for 35 years in Woodburn and worked for Pinkerton Security for nine years. He was a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan.

On Aug. 18, 1962, William and Anna Mae Forsythe were married at Dunfee Christian Church in Dunfee, Indiana. They shared 61 years of marriage together.

Survivors include his wife, Anna of Bluffton, a son, David L. of Bluffton, a daughter, Angela S. (Kevin) Dailey of Cedar Creek, Texas, along with two grandchildren, Casi McCormack and Andrew Zirklebach. He is also survived by a brother, Richard (Doris) Zirkelbach of Woodburn.

William is preceded in death by his



from 3-7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluff-

Funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at the funeral home with calling for one hour prior to the service. The Rev. Chris Hirschy will officiate.

Burial will follow at Decatur Cemetery in Decatur.

Memorials may be made to Salem Magley Church or Community Harvest Food Bank and can be directed to the funeral home.

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

Bluffton Parks Rec News Notes

Destination Recreation

We are excited to announce the start of the Interurban Trail Phase 2 project, with a groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for Thursday, April 11, at 11 a.m. at Outdoor Concepts (2275 N Main). We are very grateful to Gov. Holcomb's Next Level Trails initiative for awarding us funds to complete the project, which is part of the bigger 81-mile Indiana Visionary Poka-Bache trail system. We are so thankful for the local support from donors and landowners who provided easements for this project to qualify for the grant match.

The work will begin at Lowes in mid-April, and excavation is expected to take around 45 days. Once that is complete, paving will begin in mid-June and can take around two weeks. Please stay alert and drive carefully around this area during construction.

At the same time the trail is being installed, work will begin on the improvements at Lancaster Park. Beginning April 9, a construction crew will place barricades and cones along the parking lot and start excavating around April 15. They will simultaneously rip up the old parking lot and dig the foundation for the new Pickleball Courts. The park will be closed to the public until the end of May, when a fence can be secured around the courts to allow them time to dry properly. The drying process will take another 30 days to open the courts. Follow the Bluffton Parks Facebook page for details of the park opening and future ribbon-cutting ceremony.

While we are updating you about projects, we should also let you know that the Wells Community Pool will have a new look this summer thanks to LS Construction/ LS Barn Builders. The old shakesiding has been removed, walls were framed, and new siding is about to be installed to

freshen up the 50-yearold facility. We really appreciate this company, which has donated \$5,000 worth of its own time and talent to make these improvements for basically the cost of the materials. We are so blessed to have community-minded businesses like

By Brandy

Fiechter

this one that want the best for Bluffton. As a reminder, the indoor tot time and weekday walking program ended last week. If your family enjoyed the benefits of the gym and would like to continue, we just discounted gym membership to only \$75 for a single or \$100 for the

Spring is the time for cleaning, and we want to thank Life Community Church for taking a crew of teens and adults to Roush Park to tidy up the diamonds and dugouts. We also want to thank Prairie Quest Consulting, which coordinated with local teens over spring break to clean the parks and trails. We love seeing youth get involved by taking care of the places they enjoy.

We are now close to covering the Kehoe Summer Concert series expenses thanks to a grant from the Wells County Foundation, which awarded \$10,000 from the Ellen A. Gerbers Unrestricted Endowment Fund. We would also like to thank our recent donations from Family Ford of Bluffton, Isaac Stoller Steffen Group Real Estate & Auctions, National Oil, Almco Steel Products Corp, Bluffton Roofing Co, Bluffton Rotary Club, Goodwin-Čale & Harnish Memorial Chapel, Les Gerber Insurance, and Patti Troxel. This series would not be possible without these generous folks, and we can't wait to see you all at the first concert starting June 7.

Have a great week!

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County:

Thursday, 11:19 p.m., Family Farm and Home. Driver cited for 55 in a 40 mph zone.

Friday, 12:03 a.m., 200 block of Countryside Drive, Markle. Caller reported loud noise and a woman yelling for help nearby. Officer located man immersed in March Madness. Not a woman in sight upon granting a search of his residence.

Friday, 2:41 a.m., 900 barking for over 45 minutes with no answer at the door. This is probably because dogs do not have hands.

Friday, 6:29 a.m., South 300 West and West 800 South, Poneto. Caller reported he struck some type of animal with his vehicle, likely not a deer.

Ossian:

Thursday, 5:16 p.m., 10000 North Meridian Road, Ossian. Caller reported that a donkey was loose in the road. Donkey was walked

home. Thursday, 7:29 p.m., S.R. 1 and East 224, Ossian. Officer observed vehicle nearly collide with oncoming traffic while passing, vehicle speed clocked in at 103 mph. Driver not surprised by traf-

Preston Kaehr - Julie Myers - Connie Vangelakos

fic stop, cited for speeding. Friday, 1:59 a.m., Morton

Lane and North Melching Drive, Ossian. Officer assisted with traffic stop, subject tested positive for cannabis and multiple drug-related items were located.

ARRESTS

Ansumana Jamal Ability, 36, Charlotte, North Carolina; racketeer — corrupt business influence, a Level 5 felony, and deception identity, a Level 6 felony. Bond not set.

Artemio R. Gomez, 30, block of North Jefferson Bluffton; Operating while in possession of an alco-Street. Caller reported dog intoxicated and operat- holic beverage, a Class C ing while intoxicated endangerment, both Class \$500.

A misdemeanors, and operating without ever obtaining a license, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,000.

Terrell Christian Hardy, 20, Fort Wayne; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, and possession of paraphernalia, operating with controlled substance in body, and operating while intoxicated, all Class C misdemeanors. Bond set at \$2,000.

Jordan Olin Charles Mangas, 20, Markle; minor misdemeanor. Bond set at

2024-2025 Kindergarten

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April 10, 2024 • 3:30-6:00pm

Please enter door #20. Bring Birth Certificate & Proof of Residency. Students are encouraged to attend. Tours will be offered. Sign up for screening held in May.

www.swraiders.com

Local Roundup

County Drainage Board will meet Monday afternoon

The Wells County Drainage Board will meet at 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 1, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

The only items on the agenda are project updates and miscellaneous drainage matters.

County Commissioners will meet Monday evening

The Wells County Commissioners will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, April 1, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Department reports from Sheriff Scott Holliday and Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar.
- Insurance renewal with Dan Lipp and Danica Dunwiddie of Walker Hughes.
- Approval of a 2025 Community Corrections grant. Consideration of a Wells County Zon-

ing Ordinance amendment, brought by

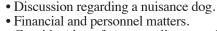
Area Plan Commission Executive Director

- Mike Lautzenheiser. • An update regarding Family Centered Services from Chief Executive Officer
- Paige Hamilton. Solar eclipse planning and safety update from Emergency Management Director Rick Velasquez.
- Monthly reports, miscellaneous business, and right-of-way or utility agreements.
- Consideration of an engineer interlocal agreement. **Bluffton Board of Works to**

meet Tuesday afternoon The Bluffton Board of Public Works and

Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, in the meeting room on the first floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Topics on the agenda include:



Consideration of a water adjustment for

922 W Market St.

• Purchase requests.

Bluffton Common Council will meet Tuesday evening

The Bluffton Common Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Consideration of Ordinance 1616 from the Area Plan Commission.
- Resolution 2024-03 SB1 ADM
- Discussion regarding Community

Wells County Council will meet Tuesday evening

The Wells County Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Quarterly reports from Sheriff Scott Holliday and Tourism Coordinator Audry Dudley.
- Solar eclipse planning and safety update from Emergency Management
- Director Rick Velasquez. Miscellaneous business.
- Approval of the 2024-3 Salary Ordinance.

 Consideration of meeting dates to plan the 2025 budget.

meet Thursday evening

The Wells County Area Plan Commission will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 4, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Area Plan Commission will

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Some 'wonderful' seasonal courtside observations

March is "the most

We all know a number of people who think

Saturday's Sub

wonderful time of the year." And now you have Andy Williams stuck in your head. You're welcome.

Last weekend was fun, particularly Thursday and Friday, keeping up with all the games and being able to switch around to watch the close ones. Pretty well basketballed out by the time Purdue mopped up Sunday afternoon but after a break ... still went back before the evening was over to watch a late game.



Mark Miller

So it seems appropriate, perhaps natural, for some basketball thoughts.

Regular visitors to this Saturday space will hopefully recall that a few inquiries last year regarding a possible Memorial Day story led to getting to know a remarkable family. Two brothers married two sisters and lived together in one farm house for several years. They had children at about the same pace, resulting in some double-cousins growing up more like brothers and sisters.

When it was announced late last year that Dick Harris would be inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in March, I marked it on my calendar that he would be back

Dick's same-age double-first cousin and best friend Lt. Jim Harris lost his life when his A-37 fighter jet was shot down Feb. 1, 1971. Dick, along with Jim's older brother Don and sisters Patty and Cindy were not just excellent resources for that story but I think we formed a unique bond between a writer and subjects. That sense was confirmed for me when I got to meet them all in person two Sundays ago at an open house in Liberty Center to honor Dick's induction. Even got a hug from the girls.

I had the opportunity last summer to have lunch with Dick and his brother Mike when Dick was in town, visiting from San Diego where he and his wife Donna live. So it was good to see him again and pleased that he remembered me. In this process, I learned that Dick's older brother Bob also played at Manchester, younger brother Mike was no slouch at Southern Wells and his son David also played for the Raiders. Something in the genes.

Dick is a very humble guy and he has a great sense of humor. He has no idea how his name came up to the top of the list, but noting with a chuckle that several of this year's class was honored posthumously, "I'm very grateful they did it for me while I'm still around."

I will always remember an exchange with Dick sometime last year regarding the now-famous, record-setting 9-overtime regional semi-final between Liberty Center and Swayzee. Dick had fouled out with only a few minutes remaining in the fourth quarter with Liberty Center leading by a few points. It was always assumed that had he not fouled out, the Lions would have advanced to meet Huntington that evening in the finals.

"But, looking back," Dick told me, "Huntington had a stacked team." The Vikings defeated the Swayzee Speedkings 58-33 to win the Marion Regional and would advance to the state finals in the still one-class tournament.

"So sure I was disappointed but we would have lost that night anyway. If I'd not fouled out, it would have been just another game and we would be long forgotten," he concluded. "So you never know."

His acceptance speech was limited to three minutes, but he made the most of his time, squeezing in thanks for his dad, his coaches and his teammates, "who made me look good enough" to receive the honors that have come his way.

"I can't think of a greater honor," he told those at the induction banquet, "besides hitting the last minute winning basket at the state basketball championship for Liberty Center." That was, of course, in his dreams.

It is ironic that this excellent athlete is now confined to a wheelchair. "Well, I probably just wore my body down," was his first response to my inquiry. He seems predisposed to somewhat blame himself. He remained active in a number of sports, but a bicycle accident several years ago resulted in surgery that resulted in complications. But I've not heard him complain. "I've had such a wonderful life," I recall him saying more than once.

Dick's induction got me to browsing through the Hall of Fame's website while watching my bracket getting busted, looking for local connections. Some I knew were there, like Norwell's Teri Rosinski, legendary Norwell coach Jerry Lewis and Bluffton's equally revered Jack Cross, with whom I was blessed to be able to play a few rounds of golf. It was neat to see that Dick Harris' Liberty Center coach, Richard Butt, of whom he speaks of expansively, is also a member. I recognized the name Bob Dro of Berne and then IU fame, but did not know that his coaching career included a stint in

Two names I was not familiar with:

• Keith Showalter, Chester Center '33. Wells County's leading scorer in his senior year; played three years at Ball State; a 22 years coaching career that started at his alma mater and finished in Vincennes. His 1949 Auburn team made it to the state finals.

• Dick Piper, Chester Township '48. That 1948 team defeated Kokomo and Marion in the same day to win regional. He then went to Manchester where he was the first player to surpass 1,000 points for the Spartans. I wonder if it was his scoring record that Dick Harris broke (slightly) with 2,643 career points. Piper eventually became headmaster at Howe Military School.

And then Bob Purkhiser's name popped up. He was a BHS '61 classmate of longtime N-B sports editor, managing editor and all-around Bluffton legend Joe Smekens, who liked to talk about his old buddy. Bob led the Tigers to the semistate final his junior year and regional finals his senior year; I'm pretty sure Joe was the student manager of those teams.

Purkhiser went on to an illustrious career at Purdue, becoming only the sixth Boilermaker to score 1,000 career points. He played professional basketball in Europe but died in an automobile accident in LeMans, France, in 1982 at age

So now you can watch more games this weekend with a bit more local basketball knowledge. Bob Purkhiser's connection to Purdue is another reason to root for the Boilermakers. Hopefully, they survived their battle with Gonzaga last night. My bracket has both those teams getting to this point with Purdue advancing. But I may have jinxed them, just like I have many others.

miller@news-banner.com



fter the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead

⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as

he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now have told you."

⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Matthew 28: 1-10 (NIV)

Today's leaders are not living up to Constitutional norms

How are America's leaders measuring up against the standards set by the Constitution and the examples of the Founding Fathers? It's a question I've been asking as I seek refuge from contemporary politics in reading and occasionally writing, in my 2023 book "Mental Maps of the Founders," about the early years of the republic.

One answer is that neither former President Donald Trump nor President Joe Biden measures up well — but not necessarily in the ways their critics think.

For example, many people, including me, are dismayed by Trump's trash-talking his opponents: his disparagement of recent Republican presidents and nominees, his insulting nicknames for opponents of both parties, his unfair but successful diminishment of Gov. Ron DeSantis

Others, including me, are put off by Biden's dismissal of "MAGA Republicans" and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's dismissal of "deplorables" as beyond the pale of decent citizens.

Such trash-talking is against the political norms of the middle and late 20th century. President John F. Kennedy didn't disparage fellow Democrats or President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Presidents who defeated incumbents — Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton — didn't whine about the messes their predecessors left behind.

The Founders were not so prim. George Washington complained about Jeffersonian "self-created societies." Thomas Jefferson called Alexander Hamilton a "monarchist," and Hamilton wrote of the "great and intrinsic" defects in the character of John Adams. Much of the name-calling came in pamphlets either anonymously or under pseudonyms that everyone saw through.

However, when it came to obeying the Constitution's rules, the Founders did. The transfer of power from Adams to Jefferson in 1801 was grudging but peaceful — a defining moment not just in American history but in world history.

This was in obvious contrast to the riot at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. This wasn't an "insurrection" like the secession proclamations of 1860-61, and it could have been prevented if Capitol authorities had sufficient forces on hand.

As I wrote at the time, "While President Trump's exact words to the crowd on the Ellipse didn't constitute a criminal incitement, they were uttered with a reckless disregard for the possibility that they would provoke violence, which any reasonable person could find impeachable.'

In fact, many reasonable members of Congress, all Democrats and some Republicans, found Trump's conduct contrary to the president's constitutional duty to faithfully execute the laws, and they voted to impeach. A majority, 57 of 100, of senators voted for conviction, short of the two-thirds required by the framers of the Constitution for the dire penalties of removal and disqualification from office.

Similarly, Jeffersonians' impeachment of a Supreme Court justice fell short of two-thirds for removal in the Senate. Absent the constitutionally required consensus, a drastic remedy is not in order.



Michael Barone

Facebook and pre-Elon Musk Twitter, cheered on by Democrats and law professors, almost immediately suspended Trump. That wasn't unconstitutional, but it's in tension with the animating spirit of the First Amendment. Even more so was the propagation by federal officials and Democratic officeholders, starting years before Jan. 6, of the Russia collusion hoax. In the first decades of the young repub-

lic, the Founders traded accusations of foreign allegiances. That's because they faced a world war for all but a few months between 1793 and 1815 between revolutionary France and mercantile Britain,

with many Americans favoring each side. Once that conflict was settled, charges of foreign allegiance disappeared.

Similarly, in the early years of the Cold War, accusations of allegiance to Stalinist Russia, some justified and many not, were common in American politics. The partisan and press propagators of the Russia collusion hoax had no such excuse: Russia is an unfriendly power, but the Cold War is over, and the evidence behind the charge was flimsy to the point of being laughable.

Just as flimsy have been the "lawfare" legal actions brought against Trump by Democratic local and special federal prosecutors. Most egregious is the lawsuit under a novel interpretation of a New York law in which Trump was fined \$454 million, reduced to a picayune \$175 million by an appeals court, for an inaccurate loan application that directly defrauded no one.

The obvious unfairness of the charges strengthened Trump's candidacy. Days after the Manhattan district attorney brought the first case against Trump, his poll lead over DeSantis doubled from a close 15 points to an insuperable 32 points.

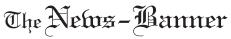
Voters seem to understand that using government to bankrupt a political opponent is contrary, certainly to the spirit, and arguably to the letter, of the Constitution. "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed," reads the Eighth Amendment. That in turn was inspired by England's 1689 Declaration of Right, which banned "excessive bail," "excessive fines" and "unusual punishments."

That was inspired by the ousted King James II's lawfare against his political opponents, as I recounted in my 2007 book "Our First Revolution." Coincidentally, it was James who, as Duke of York, ordered the capture of Nieuw Amsterdam, which has been named after him ever after.

This violation of constitutional norms evidently has Biden chortling and calling Trump "Broke Don," much as he chortled over the Supreme Court's rejection of his potentially \$50 billion student loan forgiveness order as spending money without a constitutionally required appropriation by Congress.

America's two presidents vying for a second term grew up in an America far closer in time to the Founding Fathers than any possible successor, but both have shown a reckless disregard for constitutional norms.

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ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST 8013 W.-1100S.-90,

Montpelier 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

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

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

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

> **BLUFFTON CHURCH OF GOD**

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

BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL (Independent Holiness

Church) 1309 W. Washington St. blufftonwesleyan.net 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6:30 p.m. Worship.

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



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1532 N. Main St. 9 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

COVENANT CHAPEL 3550 S. SR 1

mycovenantchapel.org 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:15 - Worship. (Children's Church for ages 6-12).

DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN

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

DOMESTIC CHURCH OF CHRIST 9 a.m. - Sunday school.

10 a.m. - Church service. **EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST**

9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:40 a.m.-Sunday School **FAIRVIEW CHURCH**

1204 W. Cherry St.

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

10 a.m. - Worship. **FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST**

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

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

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

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 1515 Clark Ave. blufftonnazarene.org

9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9-10 a.m. - Free ESL classes. 10:15 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 215 E. Dustman Rd. firstpcbluffton.org

9:30 a.m. - Children/youth & Adult Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL) 123 S. Jefferson St.,

Ossian www.OssianChurch.com 8 a.m. - Sonrise service. 8:30 - Breakfast. 9:15 -Easter egg hunt. 10 a.m. - Worship, Communion.

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

School. 10:30 - Worship.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST 325 W. Washington St. blufftonfirstumc.com

9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School. **FORGIVEN CHURCH** 1409 S. Main St.

forgivenonline.org 9 a.m. - Worship.

GRACE BIBLE 6626 Village Way, Berne gracebibleberne.com

9 a.m. - Sunday classes. 10 a.m. - Collective Worship **GRACE BAPTIST**

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

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

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A Joyful Noise ...

by Chet

Baumgartner

This page is dedicated to the building of a more spiritual and greater church-going people and is made possible

prince of this world be cast

out. And I, if I be lifted up

from the earth, will draw all

12:31, 32).

men unto me" (John

tion crowned Jesus

as the "KING OF

KINGS, AND LORD

OF LORDS" (Reve-

lation 19:16), who "is

gone into heaven, and

is on the right hand

of God; angels and

authorities and pow-

ers being made sub-

ject unto Him" (1 Peter 3:22).

Peter particularly emphasized

this when he identified Jesus

as the Christ, or "Messiah" in

Hebrew—the anointed King

from David's prophesies of

tion, Jesus doesn't just reign

over disciples, however. He

reigns through them. The

Apostle Paul, for instance,

likens Jesus' resurrection to

the ascension of a conquer-

ing king, who fills all and

leads the church to unleash

a revolution of righteousness

(Ephesians 1:19-23; 4:9, 10).

thrilled Paul as much as

Heaven's hope.

tion," he wrote.

from the dead."

is no remission."

told the Romans.

God.

This power apparently

"I count everything as loss

.that I may know Him and

He also prayed the Ephe-

the power of His resurrec-

sians would embrace ".

the exceeding greatness of

his power to usward who

believe, according to the

working of His mighty

power, which He wrought in

Christ, when He raised Him

minimized the importance of

the crucifixion as he shared

the gospel of the kingdom,

and likewise, Christians

today still rightfully attribute

salvation to Jesus' death. As

the author of Hebrews wrote,

"Without shedding of blood

treat the empty tomb like a

mere exclamation point at the

end of a gospel that focuses

primarily on the cross and

Heaven. They treated the

cross as the door by which

people can escape the tombs

of their lives and walk in

"newness of life," as Paul

from the dead by the glory of

the Father, even so we also

should walk in newness of

life ... For in that He died,

He died unto sin once: but in

that He liveth, He liveth unto

yourselves to be dead indeed

unto sin, but alive unto God

through Jesus Christ our

tians worldwide sing with the

saints of Revelation, "Worthy

is the Lamb who was slain."

ingly serve Him as the King

of kings and Lord of lords.

So this Easter, may Chris-

And may they also lov-

Lord," he wrote.

"Likewise, reckon ye also

"As Christ was raised up

But the apostles did not

Paul, of course, never

Because of the resurrec-

Psalm 16 and 110.

Then the resurrec-

LOOKING FOR THE KING In the 12th century, a German bishop introduced his

world to Prester John, a "king and priest ... who lives ... in the remote East, and who, with all his people, (are) Christians.

"His fame and his wealth is so great that he uses an emerald sceptre only," this bishop wrote.

Of course, this splendid king captured many people's attention, and they grew even more excited in 1165, when Prester John himself apparently wrote a letter.

"I surpass all under heaven in virtue, in riches, and in power," he boasted.

He even claimed to reign over "nearly all living animals," including red lions, white bears, and fire-dwelling salamanders. Finally, he said, he owned a fountain of youth to keep him forever young. Despite the obvious hoax,

the lure of this magnificent kingdom and its king still inspired explorers during the next 400 years to find him and his kingdom, and not all returned.

But they didn't have to risk their lives—or even leave their homes. They could have simply read Genesis 1 and 2.

When God created the world, He created a kingdom with a world of riches, fascinating animals, and people who would never die.

But then the serpent told

those people about another kingdom, one where they would rule without God interfering. "Ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil," he assured them. Adam and Eve believed

the hoax, and they abandoned the Kingdom where God ruled through love for a kingdom where death ruled through cancer, genocide, slavery, abuse, and pride. And for about 4,000 years,

no one could find this lost kingdom—until shepherds looked in a manger after the angels told them, "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

About 30 years after this Christmas proclamation, this promised King no longer needed an angel's testimony. His entire life testified for Him. Jesus spoke with the authority of God (Matthew 7:28, 29; Luke 4:32). He healed the lame, fed the multitudes, cast out demons, and "manifested forth His glory" (John 2:11). In fact, the Greek word that translators changed to "miracles" means "signs" or "indications," proofs of

Jesus' potentate power. Even Jesus' death testified He came to reign.

"Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the

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9:40 - Fellowship. 10 a.m.

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8:30 a.m. - Pastor/Dea-

con's Prayer. 9 - Sunday

School. 9:55 - Fellowship.

LIBERTY CENTER

COMMUNITY CHURCH

donuts, conversation. 9:30

Worship w/infant nursery

& children's church, 10:45

8:45 a.m. - Choir prac-

tice. 9 a.m. - Coffee,

- Sunday School.

10:15 - Worship.

- Worship.

10 a.m. - Worship.

north campus, Ossian.

9:30 a.m. - Worship.

10:30 - Sunday School.

LIFE COMMUNITY

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

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

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

MARKLE CHAPEL HILL SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST 470 E. Morse St.

Saturday: 9:30 a.m. -Worship. 10:45 - Sabbath School (Bible study).

MARKLE CHURCH OF CHRIST 455 E. Morse St. marklechurch.org 9 a.m. - Adult Bible study

groups. 10:30 - Worship.

Children's & student programming both hours. **MARKLE RIVERSIDE 316** 145 W. Morse St.

10 a.m. - Worship.

MURRAY MISSIONARY 1117 N. Washington St., Murray

murraymc.org 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Sunday School.

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

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN (Missouri Synod) 8824 N. SR 1, Ossian newhopelutheran-ossian. webs.com

9 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible study. 10 a.m. -Worship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PONETO FAITH

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

RIVER OF LIFE

122 Lamar St. Suite 108, 110 riveroflifebluffton.com 10:30 a.m. - Worship.

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

SONLIGHT WESLEYAN

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

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

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

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

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

School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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

Thoma/Rich,

THE CHURCH AT MCNATT 9221 W 800 S-90, Montpelier

8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship. 9:15 - Worship. THE MEETING PLACE

115 E. Market St. 6:30 p.m. - Bible study. **TOWER LIFE CENTER**

11811 N. Wayne St., Zanesville

towerlifecenter.com 9:30 a.m. - TLC Groups. 10:30 - Worship.

TURNPOINTE **COMMUNITY CHURCH** OF THE BRETHREN 500 W. Logan, Markle

turnpointechurch.com 9:30 a.m. - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Adult & Children's Worship. **UNIONDALE**

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

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

VERA CRUZ FAMILY **WORSHIP CENTER** CCCU 2771 SE Mulberry St.,

Vera Cruz 9-10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10-10:30 - Fellowship. 10:30 - Worship.

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH 205 S. Adams St.,

Monroe 9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 Discipleship for adults & children.

ZANESVILLE COMMUNITY

CHURCH OF GOD

11984 N. Marzane Rd. 9 a.m. - Bible Class. 10 a.m. - Worship. **ZANESVILLE UNITED**

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





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Baggage with daughter keeps grandma from her grandsons

Dear Annie: I have eight beautiful grandchildren. I have been blessed to help care for six of them from birth to 5-6 years old. My daughter has twin 7-yearold boys. She has issues with me that I've apologized for and have given her space to work through things. I've never met my twin grandsons. I've only seen them in pictures and several times in public, but neither she nor her husband knew I was in the same store.

I know our relationship isn't going to get any better for the moment, but I want to meet my grandsons and get to know them with my hope being that she sees I'm a good nana — a much better nana than a mom. What do you suggest? -Heartbroken Nana

Dear Nana: It sounds like you have a big, loving heart that you just want to share with those who mean the most to you. The key ingredients in mending your relationship with your daughter and getting to have one with your grandsons are consistency and patience. You've apologized and given your daughter space to work through her issues. When you reach out next, let her know just how much you'd like to meet those special boys and be a part of their life. It might take her some time to get on board, but eventually, she will hopefully see that their lives would be better with you in it.

Dear Annie: I have had a friend for almost 10 years. I say almost as we are no longer friends. About six years ago, we parted ways as friends due to him letting his girlfriend create friction in our friendship and we agreed to just go our separate ways.

Time goes on and three years later, we ended up being friends again; he had left his girlfriend. This friend and I became close over the next two years, drinking, partying, etc. I put a good word in for him so he could get a job where he then met a girl who he decided to date. I was against this, and he knew because the girl's family had done damage to my property with my ex a few years prior. I didn't want to be a part of that again.

Again, he Dear decides to remove me from all social Annie platforms and stop by Annie Lane being my friend because he got a girlfriend. A

short time later,

he breaks up with

her, adds me back

on everything and

we are friends

again. This friend

leads me on in

several ways when



he is single with messages, pictures, actions and words. What do you know? A year later, he finds a girl and guess what. We are no longer friends again.

He always said I am just jealous that he had a girlfriend and that he didn't spend time with me anymore. I am so confused why he proceeds to lead me on when he is "straight" and single, then always unfriends me when he finds a girl. I have made the decision that I will no longer be his friend after this relationship falls to pieces because I feel he is the one confused with his sexuality. Am I overthinking or being jealous? — Confused or Jealous

Dear Confused or Jealous: Your instincts are right on - this person is not a good friend to you and is not worth your continued time or energy.

Some people lose themselves when they enter a romantic relationship. It seems not only does your friend suffer from this, but he fails to remember his life and the people in it when he has a girlfriend. It's not fair to you to endure this whiplash. Focus your energy on the people in your life who value and reciprocate it. You deserve friends who are caring, loyal and interested in maintaining a bond with you, whether they are single or

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

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BEETLE BAILEY



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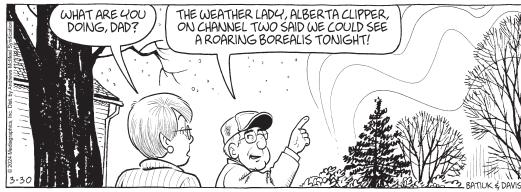
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CRANKSHAFT



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: It's been a blessing to work in a VA hospital. The sacrifice of men and women for the sake of our nation's freedom is humbling. While I always desired to work in a ministry organization or church, I've found that the Lord has given me a greater ministry in this environment. I've been able to share with so many about the sacrifice that Jesus made for mankind to bring salvation and the hope of Heaven. I do wish there was a crash course in memorizing Scripture because it would strengthen my witness among these dear people.-H.S.

Answer: For those who look not on their own sor-

'Blessed are all who hear the word of God'

row but to the Savior's sorrow for the weak and dying, they have learned comfort from

the Bible verse that says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10, NKJV). There's a depth of strength when a person can draw from God's vast supply of resolve knowing that Scripture promises, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5, NKJV).

Committing ourselves to storing up God's Word in our minds and hearts is blessed by God. He will help us remove distractions than hinder us in this endeavor. It helps to print a verse or passage on small cards and carry them throughout the day, referring to them frequently. The Spirit of God takes the

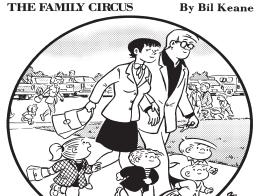
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Word of God and makes the child of God. "Blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice (Luke 11:28, NLT).

Many people are discouraged thinking they cannot memorize Scripture, but God will empower us to remember His words for they are living and powerful (see Hebrews 4:12). The Bible says, "So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine' (Deuteronomy 11:18, NLT). When it's sometimes difficult to carry the Bible with us, we can always carry it in our minds.

(This column is based on the words and writings of

the late Rev. Billy Graham.) ©2024 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.



"I like it in church on Easter when we sing Easter carols."

The LOCKHORNS

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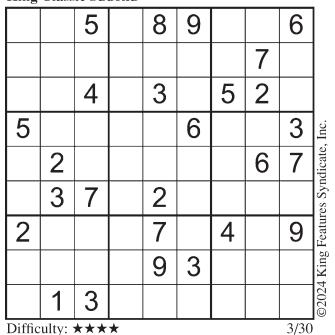
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SUDOKU

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King Classic Sudoku



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EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

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.

Help Wanted

WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE is currently seeking applicants for the position of Full Time Deputy Sheriff. Applicants must be a US Citizen, at least 21 years of age upon graduation from police academy, possess a high school diploma or equivalent as well as a valid Indiana Operators License. Applicant can't have any felony convictions. Applicants must pass all aspects of the hiring process including physical agility testing, written examination, background investigation, oral interview, polygraph and psychological evaluation. Selected applicant must be able to graduate from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. ILEA certified applicants do not have to attend the physical agility and written examination portion of the pro-cess. 20-year matrix salary range for a Deputy Sheriff (no rank) is \$56,600 - \$68,400. Years of service and experience will be honored for a starting salary up to five years in the pay matrix. Application can be found on our website at www.wellscountysheriff.com. Once application is completed, details on the testing date and

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SUMMONS - SERVICE

BY PUBLICATION STATE OF INDIANA)

location will be emailed to the

applicant. The application must be completed by April 20,

Public Notices

STATE OF INDIANA IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT CAUSE NO. 90C01-2401-MI-000005 IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF KIARA SAMMONS, MINOR RACHEL CROSBIÉ. PETITIONER

ORDER SETTING HEARING
Comes now Rachel Crisbie,
pro se, having filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name of Minor, and the Court finds that the matter

should be set for hearing.
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that this matter shall be heard on

May 9, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. So ORDERED 3/20/2024 Dated at Bluffton, Indiana March 27th, 2024.

Kenton Kiracofe Judicial Officer

nb 3/30, 4/1, 4/13 hspaxlp

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED

ADMINISTRATION
IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT
OF WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA
DOCKET NO. 90C01-2403-EU-000013

Notice is hereby given that LADONNA K. HOEHN was on the 26th day of March, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of JOEL A. HOEHN. deceased, who died on the 9th day of March, 2024, and was autho-rized to administer his estate with-

out Court supervision.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file those claims in the office of the Clerk of the Wells Circuit Court within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is ear-lier, or those claims will be forever

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 26th day of March, 2024. Beth Davis

barred.

Clerk, Wells Circuit Court Matthew P. Hayes Attorney for Personal Representa-

Attorney No. 32002-02 GORDON & ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION 119 East Oak Forest Drive Bluffton, IN 46714 (260) 824-9377

nb 3/30, 4/6 hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

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COUNTY OF WELLS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY BLUFFTON, INDIANA WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A

CORNELIUS BLANTON, JR. COLLEEN D. BLANTON A/K/A COLLEEN D. SMITH; THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; SNOW & SAUERTEIG, LLP; NEW WORLD COLLECTIONS,

PLAINTIFF

DEFENDANTS CAUSE NO: 90C01-2311-MF-000026 NOTICE OF SUIT

To the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned.

You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named.

The nature of the suit against vou is the foreclosure of a mortgage upon the property legally described as follows:

Property located in the State of Indiana, County of Wells, Lot Numbered 26 as known and designated on the recorded plat of Wiley's second addition to the city of Bluffton.

Commonly known as: 621 South Williams Street Bluffton, IN 46714 This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following

defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown Cornelius Blanton, Jr. In addition to the above-named

defendants being served by this summons, there may be other defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit.

An answer or other appropriate response in writing to the Com-plaint must be filed either by you or your attorney with the Clerk of the Court for Wells County at: Clerk of Wells County

Courthouse, 102 West Market Street Bluffton, IN 46714

on or before the 29th day of April, 2024, (the same being thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so a judgment may be entered against you for what the plaintiff has demand-

> Codilis Law, LLC Electronically Signed by: /s/ Brian Berger 19753-45

ATTEST: Clerk, Wells Circuit Court

Attorney for Plaintiff Codilis Law, LLC 8050 Cleveland Place Merrillville, IN 46410 (219) 736-5579 NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector. nb 3/16, 3/23, 3/30 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 24hour call for assistance at crime scenes. Interested persons should go 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 them email prosecutor@wellscounty.org.

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

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INDIANA AUTO AUCTION, INC. Huge Repo Sale April 4, 2024. Over 100 repossessed units for sale. Money order or cashier's check only. \$500 cashier's check or money order deposit per person required. Register 8 am-9:30 am. No public entry after 9:30 am. All vehicles sold AS IS! 4425 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne. (A)

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Lottery Numbers

Friday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 — 01-02-11-34-

Cash4Life — 10-12-13-50-56, Cash Ball: 03

Quick Draw Midday -01-02-06-09-14-15-18-27-36-40-46-50-51-55-56-59-66-70-73-79, BE: 02

Daily Three-Midday — 00-06-01, SB: 03

Daily Three-Evening — 09-04-00, SB: 03 Daily Four-Midday — 03-07-01-02, SB: 03

Daily Four-Evening — 01-05-06-03, SB: 03 Camelot Auto IIC **Quick Draw Evening** - 01-06-07-12-13-22-28-

29-31-39-42-44-46-53-55-64-69-70-73-75, BE: 01 Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Satur-

day): \$8 million **MEGA MILLIONS** 11-30-33-38-60, Mega Ball: 16, Megaplier: 4X

POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$935 million

This Week's Garage Sales



ANNUAL MULTI FAMILY garage sale, 614 Meadow Lane, Ossian, Fri., March 29,-Fri., April 5, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat., April 6, 6 a.m.-?

MOVING SALE March 29, 30, 31: 9-5. 1010 W Wabash St. Furniture & antiques antiques 260-849-1844

GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE April 4 & 5, 9-5, April 6, 9-2, sack sale, Forgotten Children Worldwide, 650 N. Main Street, Bluffton. Avon collectibles, gently used clothes and shoes, toys, drop-leaf table, bar stools, flower girl dresses, luggage, crafts, home decor, double bed frame, jewelry, much more. Sale sponsored by AdamsWells Internet.

SEMI-ANNUAL GARAGE SALE Thurs. & Fri., April 4 & 5, 8-6, Sat., April 6, 8-1, Ossian United Methodist Church, 201 W. Mill St. Contact the office, 260-622-4326, or Sharon, 260-622-6514, w/questions

HELOISE HINT: Having your first garage sale? Move your cars out of the driveway and down the street so that you have parking close by for your customers.Email HELO-ISE@Heloise.com.

Public Sale Calendar

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 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 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-

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.com.

APRIL 9 - 6 p.m. - Michael & Shelley Mossburg, owners. Wells

244 Water Street Bluffton, Commer-

County Chamber of Commerce, 211 Water Street, Bluffton. Commercial real estate & land auction. Seven tracts to be sold in individual 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.com.

APRIL 19 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Dr. Hugh and Rhea Glidewell, seller. Huge jewelry and coin auction. Seven Rolex watches, 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 Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-

2926 Smith Rd., Fort wayne, Inc. The State. 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.

March

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4

Knights open baseball season with sweep, defeats No. 6 in 2A

got off to a hot start, shutting out No. 6 Brownstown Central on the road and topping Evansville Central 7-6.

New head coach Christian Bohata and his Knights' crew made the near threehour bus trip to Brownstown Central, then went over to Bloomington South to face Evansville Christian.

Bohata picked up his first career win as a varsity coach in the 5-0 victory over the Braves.

After, six hours later, Norwell led 7-1 heading into the seventh inning against the Bears. Then, Evansville Central made it interesting and scored five runs in the final frame, but fell one run short that would have forced extra innings.

The story of the two games was the starting pitchers, where Taylor University signee Lane Lewis and Huntington University signee, Cade Shelton went six full innings and allowed one run between the two of

Lewis struck out seven Braves in his at 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 2.

senior debut, allowed three hits and walked none. Shelton allowed just one run, one hit and walk each and struck

To clean up Game 1, junior Noah Turk came into the seventh inning without allowing a run to seal the At the plate, Noah Scha-

merloh and Cayden Cassel doubled home a run each. Korben Neuenschwander and Logan Cotton

also plated RBI. Adam McBride and Cassel both had two hits in the contest.

The Knights also stole eight bags and posted a perfect fielding percentage. Shelton led the way with two stolen bases in the

In Game 2, Shelton helped himself to another extra base hit and drove in two runs. Neuenschwander had two RBI and a single. Lewis and Cassel rounded out the RBI's. Collin Burnes' lone hit was a triple.

Norwell will visit South Adams starting

News-Banner Scoreboard

Wednesday's Games Ottawa 6, Buffalo 2 Tampa Bay 3, Boston 1

Thursday's Games Ottawa 2, Chicago 0 Pittsburgh 3, Columbus 2 Toronto 5, Washington 1

N.Y. Islanders 3, Florida 2 Montreal 4, Philadelphia 1

Carolina 4, Detroit 0 Minnesota 3, San Jose 1 St. Louis 5, Calgary 3

Vegas 4, Winnipeg 1 Edmonton 4, Los Angeles 1

Friday's Games
Buffalo 5, New Jersey 2
Saturday's Games

Detroit at Florida, 12:30 p.m. Vegas at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m.

Anaheim at Edmonton, 4 p.m.

N.Y. Rangers at Arizona, 6 p.m. Nashville at Colorado, 6 p.m.

Boston at Washington, 7 p.m. Carolina at Montreal, 7 p.m.

Ottawa at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

San Jose at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Los Angeles at Calgary, 10 p.m.
Sunday's Games

Anaheim at Vancouver, 3:30 p.m.

Chicago at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.

N.Y. Rangers 3, Colorado 2, SO Dallas 3, Vancouver 1 Seattle 4, Anaheim 2 Arizona 8, Nashville 4

BASKETBALL High School

Boys' Basketball State Final Saturday, March 30 1A Bethesa Christian (23-7) vs. Fort Wayne Canterbury (18-9), 10:30 a.m. 2A

Brownstown Central (27-4) vs. Wapahani (26-2) 3A

Scottsburg (24-5) vs. South Bend St. Joseph (20-9), 6 p.m.

4A

Ben Davis (23-5) vs. Fishers (28-1),

College Men's Basketball Scores Purdue 80, Gonzaga 68 NC State 67, Marquette 58

Women's Basketball Scores Vomen's Basketball Score Friday, Mar. 29 Vermont 65, Colgate 55 South Carolina 79, Indiana 75 Troy 89, NC A&T 75 Oregon St. 70, Notre Dame 65 Saint Louis 82, Fort Wayne 78 NC State 77, Stanford 67

NBA

Thursday's Games Atlanta 123, Boston 122, OT New Orleans 107, Milwaukee 100 Friday's Games
Golden State 115, Charlotte 97

Detroit 96, Washington 87 Indiana 109, L.A. Lakers 90 L.A. Clippers 100, Orlando 97 Brooklyn 125, Chicago 108 Cleveland 117, Philadelphia 114 Oklahoma City 128, Phoenix 103 Miami 142, Portland 82 San Antonio 130, New York Knicks 126 Minnesota at Denver, late Houston at Utah, late Dallas at Sacramento, late

Saturday's Games
Boston at New Orleans, 5 p.m.
Memphis at Orlando, 7 p.m.

Memphis at Orlando, / p.m. Milwaukee at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. Sunday's Games Cleveland at Denver, 3:30 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Charlotte, 6 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Brooklyn, 6 p.m. Miami at Washington, 6 p.m. Philadelphia at Toronto, 6 p.m. Chicago at Minnesota, 7 p.m. Dallas at Houston, 7 p.m.
Golden State at San Antonio, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at New York, 7 p.m. Utah at Sacramento, 9 p.m.

BASEBALL

MLB **AMERICAN LEAGUE**

Thursday's Games Baltimore 11, L.A. Angels 3 Detroit 1, Chicago White Sox 0 Minnesota 4, Kansas City Toronto 8, Tampa Bay 2 N.Y. Yankees 5, Houston 4 Texas 4, Chicago Cubs 3, 10 innings Cleveland 8, Oakland 0

Boston 6, Seattle 4
Friday's Games
Tampa Bay 8, Toronto 2
N.Y. Yankees at Houston, late
Boston at Seattle, late Cleveland at Oakland. late

Cleveland at Oakland, late
Saturday's Games
Detroit (Maeda 0-0) at Chicago
White Sox (Soroka 0-0), 2:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Canning 0-0) at Baltimore (Rodriguez 0-0), 4:05 p.m.
Cleveland (Bibee 0-0) at Oakland
(Sears 0-0), 4:07 p.m.
Minnesota (Ryan 0-0) at Kansas

City (Lugo 0-0), 4:10 p.m.
Toronto (Kikuchi 0-0) at Tampa
Bay (Littell 0-0), 4:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 0-0) at
Texas (Bradford 0-0), 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Stroman 0-0) at
Houston (Brown 0-0), 7:15 p.m.
Roston (Crawford 0.0) at Seattle

Boston (Crawford 0-0) at Seattle (Gilbert 0-0), 9:40 p.m. Sunday's Games
L.A. Angels at Baltimore, 1:35 p.m.
Toronto at Tampa Bay, 1:40 p.m.
Detroit at Chicago White Sox,

2:10 p.m. Minnesota at Kansas City, 2:10

p.m. N.Y. Yankees at Houston, 2:10

p.m. Chicago Cubs at Texas, 2:35 p.m. Cleveland at Oakland, 4:07 p.m. Boston at Seattle, 4:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE Thursday's Games
Cincinnati 8, Washington 2
L.A. Dodgers 7, St. Louis 1
San Diego 6, San Francisco 4
Pittsburgh 6, Miami 5, 12 innings

Texas 4, Chicago Cubs 3, 10 innings Arizona 16, Colorado 1 Milwaukee at N.Y. Mets, ppd. Atlanta at Philadelphia, ppd. Friday's Games Milwaukee 3, N.Y. Mets 1

Milwaukee 3, N. T. Mets 1 Atlanta 9, Philadelphia 3 Pittsburgh 7, Miami 2 Colorado at Arizona, 9:40 p.m. San Francisco at San Diego, 9:40

St. Louis at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

Saturday's Games
Milwaukee (Hall 0-0) at N.Y. Mets
(Severino 0-0), 1:40 p.m.
Atlanta (Fried 0-0) at Philadelphia

Atlanta (Fried 0-0) at Philadelphia (Nola 0-0), 4:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Jones 0-0) at Miami (Weathers 0-0), 4:10 p.m.
Washington (Corbin 0-0) at Cincinnati (Greene 0-0), 4:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 0-0) at Texas (Bradford 0-0), 7:05 p.m.
San Francisco (Hicks 0-0) at San Diego (Cease 0-0), 7:15 p.m. Colorado (Gomber 0-0) at Arizona

(Henry 0-0), 8:10 p.m. St. Louis (Lynn 0-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Yamamoto 0-1), 9:10 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Atlanta at Philadelphia, 1:35 p.m.

Milwaukee at N.Y. Mets, 1:40 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Miami, 1:40 p.m.

Washington at Cincinnati, 1:40 Chicago Cubs at Texas, 2:35 p.m. Colorado at Arizona, 4:10 p.m.

San Francisco at San Diego, 4:10 p.m. St. Louis at L.A. Dodgers, 7:10 p.m.

HOCKEY

South Carolina wins over spirited Indiana in Sweet 16

By DOUG FEINBERG AP Basketball Writer

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — With South Carolina's perfect season on the line, coach Dawn Staley had total faith that Raven Johnson would make the necessary plays for

Johnson did just that, hitting a huge -pointer in the final minute to help the topseeded Gamecocks remain unbeaten with a 79-75 over Indiana on Friday that moved them into the Albany 1 Regional Final of the women's NCAA Tournament.

"I saw Raven's eyes coming down the stretch as our lead was diminishing and I knew she wasn't going to let us lose," Staley said. "She was going to do something. She had two big baskets.

Johnson's 3 came after South Carolina nearly blew a 22-point lead in the second half. The advantage was down to 74-72 when Staley called timeout to set up a play that was supposed to go to Kamilla Cardoso, who led the team with 22 points. The Gamecocks' star center was being double-teamed when she caught the ball, so she passed it to Johnson for the 3.

"I was open, and all I could think was, let it go. I don't want to lose," said Johnson, who scored 14 points. "Just going from last year. Nobody can sag off me this year, and I take that very personal. And I get in the gym every day and put up reps and I think that's where it comes from, the confidence.'

Last season, Iowa sagged off Johnson in the Final Four and the strategy paid off as the Hawkeyes ended South Carolina's undefeated season. Johnson got in the gym and became a better 3-pointer shooter this season, hitting 8% more of her shots from behind the arc.

"I see the work that Raven puts in every single day. Every single day she gets shots up, before or after practice," Staley said. "They have a quota to meet each and every day. I see that before. I see that after. So I don't think about last year. I don't think about any of that when it comes to Raven."

South Carolina is three wins away from

completing the 10th perfect season in NCAA Division I women's basketball history. Next up for the Gamecocks is third-seeded Oregon State, which knocked off Notre Dame earlier Friday.

The Gamecocks (35-0) had run through their first two games in March Madness, winning by 52 and 47. They faced a much bigger challenge from fourth-seeded Indiana

South Carolina built a 22-point lead in the third quarter before Indiana got going behind Sydney Parrish, who led the team with 21 points.

The Hoosiers, who were trying to pull off the biggest comeback in NCAA Tournament history, got within 74-72 on Mackenzie Holmes' layup with 1:08 left. That's when Johnson responded with her 3.

Holmes then hit another layup to make it

The Gamecocks hit only two of four free throws in the final 21 seconds to leave the door open for a miraculous comeback, but Indiana couldn't convert on the offensive end, missing two contested 3-pointers in the final 15 seconds.

'We're very disappointed. Felt like if we had a few more minutes the outcome would be a little different for us tonight," Indiana coach Teri Moren said.

South Carolina looked like it was going to steamroll another opponent. It led 34-28 midway through the second quarter before going on a 15-4 run to close the half up 49-32. All but two of those points came on the inside.

On the defensive end, Cardoso bottled up Holmes. She missed her first five shots before finally hitting a runner with less than a minute to go in the half. Holmes finished with 12 points.

The lead ballooned to 22 points early in the third quarter before the Hoosiers used a 10-0 run to get within 61-50 with just over three minutes left in the period. After the Gamecocks extended the advantage back to 15, Indiana closed within 65-55 at the end of the period.

High School Calendar

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

BASEBALL: Norwell at Edgewood, 12:30 p.m. **MONDAY, APRIL 1**

No events scheduled. **TUESDAY, APRIL 2**

BASEBALL: Norwell at South Adams, 5 p.m.; Bluffton at New Haven, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at Oak Hill, 5 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Eastbrook, 5:30 p.m. TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Eastbrook at Bluffton. 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

SOFTBALL: Norwell at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.; Bellmont at Bluffton, 5 p.m. TRACK & FIELD: Eastbrook at Bluffton,

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

BASEBALL: Bluffton at Blackford, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at Liberty Christian, 5 p.m. GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at Bluffton, 4:30

SOFTBALL: Eastbrook at Norwell 5:30 p.m. TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Southern Wells/ Madison-Grant at Daleville Invite, 5 p.m. FRIDAY, APRIL 5

BASEBALL: Eastbrook at Norwell. 5 p.m.: Bluffton at Howard County Invitational vs. Rossville at Northwestern High School, 7:30 a.m. SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Eastbrook, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6
BASEBALL: Bluffton at Howard County Invitational vs. TBD, 10 a.m.; Wes-Del at

Southern Wells, 10 a.m.
SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Central Noble, 12 p.m.; Southern Wells at Winchester, 11 a.m. TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Southern Wells at Muncie Burris Owl Invite, 10 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 8

BASEBALL: Norwell at Marion, 5:30 p.m. SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Oak Hill, 5:30 p.m.

Zach Edey leads Purdue to the Elite 8 in a win over Gonzaga

By EDDIE PELLS AP National Writer

DETROIT (AP) - They leaned on him. They jawed at him. One time, they slapped him right across the forehead. None of it came close to stopping Purdue's big man, Zach Edey, and now he and the Boilermakers are one win away from the Final Four.

The 7-foot-4 Edey withstood all the abuse Gonzaga could lay on him Friday night, finishing with 27 points and 14 rebounds to lift Purdue to an 80-68 victory over the Bulldogs.

There were highlights galore in the Midwest Region No. 1 seed's 32nd victory of the season, including a 14-point, 15-assist, eight-Smith.

No moment, though, told the story better than at the end of the first half when Edey had Gonzaga's Ben Gregg pinned underneath the basket. Gregg, in a desperation move to make a play, flailed at the ball and ended up roundhousing Edey full-on in the forehead with his open hand, picking up his third foul.

"It didn't feel good," Edey said to a room full of laughs. "Obviously, he was just trying to make a play for the ball, just missed it and whack-a-moled my head a little bit."

On Sunday, Purdue, which last year became history's second first-round loser as a No. 1 seed, will play the winner of Friday's later game between Tennessee and Creighton. A win there would land the program in the Final Four for the first time since 1980.

Smith finished two assists shy of joining Joe Barry Carroll — who played on Purdue's last Final Four squad — as the program's second player to record a triple-double. Smith made two of Purdue's seven 3-pointers in the first half, all of which forced Gonzaga into a choice no team wants to make — take away the 3s or sag down on Edey, the nation's lead-

"It's pick your poison," Gonzaga coach

Mark Few said. "They shot it great from 3, and then in the second half, we shut down that area pretty good. Then, Edey was just a load."

Once Edey got loose, foul trouble and an ever-shrinking basket ended the hopes for the fifth-seeded Zags.

Graham Ike had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Bulldogs, who shot only 38% over the first 15 minutes of the second half and fell to 0-3 vs. Edey and the Boilermakers over the

As Purdue's lead mushroomed, the arena in Detroit sounded more like Mackey Arena in West Lafayette, Indiana. The Boilermakers, long seen as underachievers when the lights bright in March, have a chance to play in April this time.

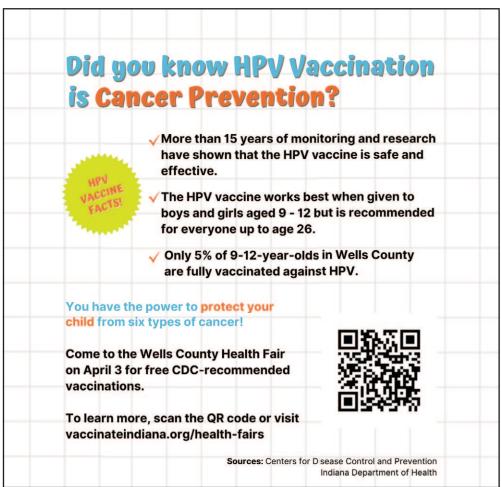
"We've had some experience in the tournament," coach Matt Painter said. "We've had disappointment, and I think any time you have that, you appreciate things a little bit more, and your attention is detail is a little bit better.'

Like all Gonzaga big men, Ike spent the evening in foul trouble; he got his fifth and trudged off the court for good with 5:07 left. His second foul came halfway through the second half after he and Edey tussled in the paint, then jawed at each other after the ref's whistle. That didn't throw Edey off his game, either.

"I think he did a good job tonight of doing that — just keep your mouth shut and carry a big stick," Painter said.

Edey made one of two free throws there, but followed with a couple baby hooks as part of a 10-0 run that made this a 16-point game.

All par for the course for last season's AP Player of the Year, who pretty much has a double-double when he gets out of bed in the morning. He recorded his 27th of the season and 66th of his career at the 14:44 mark of the second half. The 10th rebound came on the offensive glass and was part of a five-shot trip down the court that Edey sealed with a jumper in the paint.





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