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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA · Wells County's Hometown Connection

11 00

## Additional \$1.5M grant available to Bluffton

#### Leaves some with questions and concerns

By JONATHAN SNYDER

A one-time maximum \$1.5 million Community Crossings Matching Grant is recently available for Bluffton

Street Commissioner Tim Simpson told the Bluffton Common Council Tuesday that the Indiana Department of Transportation has an "overabundance" of funds that they need to spend. Because of this, the maximum for matching grants for the July application period was raised. The max-

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imum will revert to the \$1 million amount in January 2025.

The grant cannot go toward the development of new roads or work on utilities. The grant is purely for road and curb repair work. Inspection is also not covered by the Community Crossings grant.

While the council was intrigued

by the increase, a major problem lies in getting the money for the city's contribution. An estimated \$700,000 of the \$1 million match for last year's application came from American Rescue Plan Act funds. The council discussed creating a general obligation bond to help cover the cost.

Council member Scott Mentzer stated that he supports going for the maximum in matching funds, but advised that a land purchase from the Redevelopment Commission could tie up about \$2 million from the general fund.

Simpson stated that there is (Continued on Page 2)



#### Heavy rain floods River Road

Heavy rainfall led to minor flood levels Tuesday. Pictured at right, the rising water level closed River Road in Bluffton. According to the National Weather Service, the Wabash River in Bluffton measured at 10.88 deep at its peak Tuesday — it was just 1.6 ft. deep on Sunday. Above is the pedestrian bridge on the Rivergreenway, submerged by the river. The water level at the White Bridge on County Road 450 East is shown below. 1.54 inches in rainfall were recorded. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)







# Board of Works approves dump truck purchase

By JONATHAN SNYDER

A new Dodge Řam 5500 dump truck will be available for the Sewer Collections Department, following approval by the Board of Public Works and Safety on Tuesday.

The truck comes from Fox Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and costs \$100,048. The old 2002 Ford F550 needed to be replaced, with the board noting that 22 years for a dump truck is a long lifespan.

Kelly Automotive Group had the low bid for the truck at \$97,806, but the truck would not arrive for four months and would require an additional two or three weeks to install the truck bed. Fox has the truck in stock and its estimate for installing the bed is about six to eight weeks.

Wastewater and Stormwater Collections Supervisor Derrick Deininger specified that the truck would be used for smaller jobs. Board of Works member Scott Mentzer noted (Continued on Page 2)

# Ossian police get debriefing policy, discuss remodel

By SYDNEY KENT

Ossian Police Department officers will now be required to complete a "debrief" within 48 hours of any incidents with significant rauma or fatalities.

Ossian Police Commissioners, along with several officers, discussed the topic during the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday.

Commissioner Jay Esparza asked the department if any psychological services or counseling following traumatic incidents for officers were currently in place. Ossian Chief of Police Kurt Jack said that there was nothing formal.

The Ossian Police Officer Russ Mounsey said that there

had been mention of a chaplain in the past. However, he had never met the person.

"All of a sudden when someone (commits suicide), peo-

"All of a sudden when someone (commits suicide), people say they had no idea," Mounsey said. "It's like, well, (Continued on Page 2)

### Innkeeper's tax nets \$95K in 2023

By HOLLY GASKILL

A 5% tax on short-term overnight accommodations in Wells County brought \$95,267.07 in 2023.

In a quarterly update to the County Council Tuesday evening, Tourism Coordinator Audry Dudley said she was "very pleased" with the total. The tax took effect in February 2023, meaning the total did not account for a full calendar year. Given this January's data, Dudley expects Wells could garner roughly \$105,000 in tax revenue annually.

These funds are then used to promote tourism to the area through various endeavors outlined by the Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission, the appointed board tasked with advising tax use. Their plans include developing visitor guides and

maps, creating signage, and distributing marketing grants.

According to Dudley, marketing grants have provided the most immediate progress. Grants have already been given to Bluffton NOW!, Horizon Events Corporation and Oscien

been given to Bluffton NOW!, Horizon Events Corporation, and Ossian and Bluffton parks departments, who used the money to market an event to other counties through print, radio, social media, and other paid advertising.

By receiving a grant, the organizations also agree to promote the Visitors Commission and track data regarding their event attendance. Dudley said this data has helped her, as well as the host organizations, determine where marketing is most effective and where people are traveling from.

Dudley also now has access to data

about Wells County tourism through the state. The most recent available data shows visitors spent \$5.1 million in Wells County in 2022.

"It's a pretty substantial opportunity," said council member Scott Ezley, who serves on the commission. Dudley added, "It's something we shouldn't be negligent of at all."

Dudley also expressed her excitement to see how the solar eclipse will bring in tourism revenue to local businesses. The innkeeper's tax revenue will give a peek into the economic impact of the event in Wells County, however, that complete data will not be available until at least June.

Additional information about Wells County tourism can be found at visit-wellscounty.com.

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# County prepares for upcoming total solar eclipse

By HOLLY GASKILL

On the heels of the highly anticipated total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, Wells County Sheriff Scott Holliday and Emergency Management Director Rick Velasquez have presented their safety preparations for the natural phenomena.

According to Velasquez, the state is estimating Wells County to see anywhere between 20,000-50,000 tourists driving through or staying in the area. Tourism Coordinator Audry Dudley believed most overnight accommodations were "filling up."

Because of this potential influx of people — and the large estimate window — Holliday told the Wells County Commissioners that officers would be stationed throughout the county to respond as needed.

(Continued on Page 2)

#### Incide

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### Outside



Chance of rain today with strong wind gusts

TodayThursdayFridayHigh 43High 45High 45Low 34Low 32Low 29

More Weather on Page 2

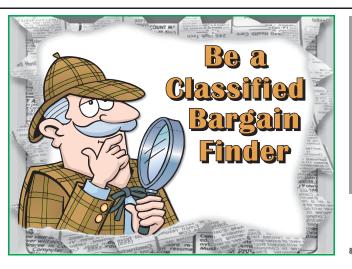
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### Additional grant available

(Continued from Page 1) way more than \$1.5 million worth of repairs that need to be finished. While it's a steep price tag, Council member Chandler Gerber noted that the cost of repairs is going to get more expensive year after year.

While no official action was taken, the council unanimously liked the idea of going for the \$1.5 million maximum, but acknowledged that getting the funding would be a challenge.

Other federal and state grant opportunities were also discussed, with Gerber saying that Bluffton is not fully embracing the opportunities there.

"I think there's a lot of money we are leaving on the table," Gerber said.

Gerber noted that RJL Solutions of Terra Haute writes and researches grant opportunities for smaller communities full-time, helparound \$50 million in grant money since 2017. The cost of bringing them on was estimated at \$5,000-\$6,000

Council member Josh Hunt gave his support for the opportunity but felt that the aggression for grants needs to be tempered, as they often require a significant financial commitment from the city. Hunt clarified that finding the needs of the community should be at the forefront, and bringing on a third party means budgeting grant writing and matching funds.

Hunt's sentiment was echoed by Rick Elwell, who mentioned that the Economic Development situation should be sorted out before any major philosophy shift in spending.

"I'm for it, but I'm a cautious dude," Elwell said.

In addition to both

ing Terra Haute bring in discussions, the council is needed to run the system, approved a rezoning request for 328 South Union St. from a Residential-2 zone to a Residential-3. This allows a triplex or multi-family unit to be built. Area Plan Commission Executive Director Mike Lautzenheiser stated the general design calls for two parking spots per unit. Lautzenheiser also noted that while the site plan requires off-street parking, it does not require a set amount.

> council also The approved a tax abatement for ADM Animal Nutrition at four years for a 100% abatement. Plant Manager Brent Weedman said they are looking to upgrade their now "obsolete" bagging line, which should improve efficiency and help prevent waste. Weedman also stated that the bagging line will free an operator to work on different tasks, as only one

and may even bring more jobs to the plant if the line works as intended.

The Redevelopment Commission also met and approved an amendment to a resolution that adds new properties that they can negotiate for purchase. The parcels added are located south of State Road 124, east of Meridian Road, north of East 100 South, and west of South Adams Street.

The Commission approved a resolution allowing them to attend meetings electronically. The resolution states that a quorum still requires a majority of members to meet in person, and members present electronically may not adopt a budget, make a reduction in personnel, initiate a referendum, impose or increase fees and penalties, make any private property a public space or establish a tax.

### Weather

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 (24-hour observations at 9:32 p.m. Tuesday) High: 63; Low: 42; Precipitation: 1.54 inches of rain Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 10.88 feet at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday

### Wells County forecast

Today: A slight chance of rain showers before 1 p.m., then rain and snow showers. High near 43. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. Little or no snow accumulation expected.

Tonight: Rain and snow showers, becoming all snow after 3 a.m. Low around 34. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. Little or no snow accumulation expected.

**Thursday:** Snow showers likely before 8 a.m., then rain showers. High near 45. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. Little or no snow accumulation expected.

Thursday Night: Rain showers before 11 p.m., then a slight chance of snow showers between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. Low around 32. North wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. Little or no snow accumulation expected.

**Friday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 45.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. **Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 50.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 31. **Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 57.

Sunday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly

cloudy, with a low around 44. **Monday:** A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny,

with a high near 64. Monday Night: A slight chance of showers. Partly

Tuesday: A slight chance of showers. Partly sunny, with

cloudy, with a low around 46. a high near 66.

### **Ossian police**

(Continued from Page 1) what's in place to detect that some things are going wrong?"

In Jack's experience with the Indiana State Police, he said certain mental health services were available. At a minimum, it was a requirement that a debrief was completed within 48 hours of incidents involving a fatality. Esparza suggested they adopt a similar policy that would include incidents beyond those involving a

Both Jack and Mounsey shared brief recollections of traumatic situations that did not necessarily end a life. However, the likelihood of an officer experiencing PTSD or negative effects were still very high. For now, officers will debrief with Jack. The commissioners plan to seek additional

"Every first respond-

er has PTSD to a certain extent," Jack said. "Everyone needs someone to talk to that understands."

Caleb Chichester, police commissioner president, suggested the potential for additional first responders in the county to participate in a support network of sorts, should the need arise. Jack agreed that it would be useful, and added that smaller focus groups for similar struggles could develop from that based on his personal experiences.

The commissioners also discussed the remodel of the department, which may involve the help of a local Boy Scouts troop. The commissioners meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Collier's building on the first Tuesday of every

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### **Dump truck purchase**

(Continued from Page 1)

that there is funding available in the sewer collections department's capital cumulative fund to pay the expense.

There was also a discussion from Brandy Singleton about her dog running loose. Singleton stated that the dog is nonviolent, and has an enclosure inside the home and a chain he's attached to when outside to help prevent him running.

Animal Shelter Employee Megan Bowling gave further context that they have had trouble with the dog since Singleton was living in Ossian. Bowling stated the dog is running because it has not been neutered.

Singleton shared a concern that a previous surgery to the dog's intestinal area could cause further complications. Board member Josh Hunt shared that he had a similar situation with his dog, but did not have issues with neutering.

Bowling also noted that some organizations, like the Wells County Foundation, are willing to alleviate the cost should that be a problem. Singleton said that she tried to get that help, as well as attempting to find other shelters around the area to take the dog but none of them would house the animal.

In previous cases, the board has ruled that the owner needs to have the animal neutered and chipped so that it can be returned to the owner if it runs again. Mentzer further commented that if a veterinarian finds a significant risk in neutering the dog, then the board could reconsider. The issue was deferred on to next week's meeting.

"People are scared of this animal when it's loose," Mentzer said. "If it's (the dog) a part of your family and it gets lost, you want it to come home."

Additionally, a raise for Parks Department Superintendent Brandy Fiechter was tabled until a later meeting. Fiechter has not been given a merit raise since 2021, according to Mayor John Whicker. While Fiechter was given a raise when she was appointed superintendent, it was not at the maximum payment in the salary ordinance. While Mentzer, Hunt and Whicker stated that Fiechter

"absolutely deserved" the maximum salary, the board wanted to figure out how to appropriately do so.

Additionally, a water adjustment at 922 West Market St. was continued to a later meeting. While a toilet at the property was fixed in February, the water bill got more expensive throughout March. While Hunt is hopeful that the issue may work itself out, the board needs more information on where the leak is before they make a decision. Whicker stated that he would get someone from the Utility Department to do a meter reading and urged the homeowner to hold off on paying until the issue is resolved next week.

Three SRF Claims were paid by the board. James S. Jackson Construction was paid \$1,489,980 for the wastewater treatment plant. DLZ Corporation was paid \$154 and \$75,968 on two separate items. The board noted that since Bluffton has no city engineer to oversee the labor, they plan to appoint Tony Fey to review the labor costs from DLZ.

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### **Total solar eclipse**

(Continued from Page 1)

"It's hard to plan — a lot of it is reactive," Holliday explained. "It's just going to be an influx of people, whether it be traffic, supplies, communication.'

Ouabache State Park, which has reportedly been booked for several weeks, will also have five officers on-site from the Department of Natural Resources, Holliday said.

Emergency response

teams will prioritize keeping communication lines open, as data and phone lines may be overloaded with people in the area. Holliday stated residents can expect delays in some more routine activities, like VIN checks, as law enforcement prioritizes availability for emergencies. He encouraged limiting 911 calls to emergencies only.

In the event of an emergency, Holliday assured there are clear plans and lines of communication for emergency response teams. Velasquez advised that several towing companies are prepared to be on-call for accidents, given the presumed increase in traffic.

Additionally, Velasquez notified the county council and commissioners of a declaration from Gov Eric Holcomb essentially enlisting the state's resources for any needed emergency response.

However, given the cloudy forecast, Holliday laughed, "You might see people chasing clearer skies and moving elsewhere.

The partial eclipse will begin in Wells County around 1:53 p.m. and reach totality at 3:08 p.m., which will last for approximately three minutes. In the event of overcast weather, the eclipse will still cast darkness over the area.

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### Deadly severe weather roars through several states, spawning potential tornadoes

**By BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI Associated Press** 

Thousands of homes and businesses were without power Tuesday as severe weather roared through several states, causing at least one death and spawning possible tornadoes.

In West Virginia, about 140,000 customers were without electricity Tuesday afternoon, or about 14% of all customers tracked in the state by poweroutage.us.

Northeastern Oklahoma was hit with a strong weather system containing heavy rains that produced three suspected tornadoes. The storms were blamed for the death of a 46-year-old homeless woman in Tulsa who died inside a drainage pipe, police said.

Tulsa Fire Department spokesperson Andy Little said the woman's boyfriend told authorities the two had gone to sleep at the entrance of the drainage pipe and were awakened by the floodwaters. Up to 1.5 inches of rain fell in Tulsa in about one hour, National

Weather Service meteorologist Robert Darby said.

"It wasn't a whole lot. But when it came down, it was pretty rapid," Darby said.

In Ohio, firefighters rescued two people who were trapped under a bridge Tuesday when a river began rising. The two people were sleeping around 8:45 a.m. when the Scioto River started to rise, preventing them from returning to shore, the Columbus Fire Department reported. A fire department boat was sent to rescue them. No injuries were reported.

In southern Ohio, Mindy Broughton rushed into her mobile home Tuesday morning as hail began and winds picked up at the RV Park where she lives near Hanging Rock.

Broughton and her fiance hunkered down as the mobile home quickly began rocking. Broughton said her fiance used his body to shield her as the winds raged outside.

"I said I think we may

die today," she said. In a matter of seconds, the winds died down. When Broughton opened her mobile home door, she saw the RV Park littered with debris and overturned RVs. Luckily, Broughton said there was no one inside the overturned mobile homes.

Residents in Wisconsin were experiencing a spring snowstorm Tuesday afternoon that forecasters warned could dump more than a foot of snow in eastern parts of the state, including the Green Bay area. The state's top election official, Meagan Wolfe, urged residents planning to vote in Tuesday's presidential primaries to consider voting earlier in the day to avoid travel woes.

The National Weather Service said snowfall totals could range from 4 to 8 inches over central Wisconsin and 8 to 14 inches over eastern Wisconsin, while wind gusts of 30 mph to 50 mph will create very limited visibility and make travel difficult.

In Bluffton since 1979

The storm will bring "a very heavy, wet snow," meteorologist Scott Cultice with the weather service's Green Bay office said.

"Just three weeks ago, we were in the 70s. So that kind of got people thinking spring is right around the corner — and here we're in April and we're getting a major snowstorm," Cultice said. "As people say, 'That's springtime in Wisconsin."

More than 67,000 homes and businesses in Wisconsin had lost power as of Tuesday evening, according to poweroutage.us.

Severe storms also swept through far southwestern Indiana on Tuesday morning, toppling trees and causing power outages, leading several local school districts to cancel the day's classes. More than 18,000 homes and businesses were without power shortly before noon Tuesday, including in Vanderburgh County, home to Evansville, Indiana's thirdlargest city.





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Arron G. Lumber

### Ossian Rotary to hear from Commissioner Jeff Stringer

At its regular weekly meeting on Thursday, April 4, Ossian Rotary will hear from Jeff Stringer, Wells County Commissioner, District 3.

Stringer and his family moved to Wells County in 2008 and has since been involved in several business and building projects. Stringer says, "I was honored to be caucused in as the District 3 County Commissioner in 2021. My goals, as a commissioner, were and continue to be: 1) bring transparency to county activities, 2) recruit businesses to Wells County. 3) work to ensure taxpayer funds are used wisely and effectively, 4) help structure department boards, so they are active participants in the processes for which they govern and manage spending.'

Going forward, he says he will focus on limited and wise spending while continuing to work on Economic Development, opening Wells County to businesses that help retain our young people. He says a goal is to continue to fight for what's right, doing it with full transparency. Stringer says he will listen to the citizens to make sure they are heard, and their concerns and needs are met. He says he considers it an honor to serve and will continue to serve the people of the county and their well-

Anyone is welcome to attend Ossian Rotary this Thursday morning, at 7:30 at First Baptist Church of Ossian, 1001 Dehner Drive for this pro-

For more information, please contact Jeremy Penrod, Ossian Rotary President, at jeremy.penrod@ edwardjones.



Jeff Stringer

Please note that Ossian Rotary will not meet if there is a weather cancellation for Norwell Community Schools.

Next week's speaker will be Denise Hughes with Aging and In Home Services speaking about Alzheimer's dis-

Ossian Rotary is a small part of a larger organization, Rotary International, which was founded almost 120 years ago in Chicago. Ossian Rotary is a group of people with a desire to meet new people, network, get involved and make a difference in Ossian and the surrounding community. Each week we have a different speaker, usually business experts, political and civic leaders, and entrepreneurs, who help us stay informed on topics that are relevant to our community.

### **Police Notebook**

Kristofer Forrest Jones.

**INCIDENTS** 

City: Monday, 4:04 p.m., 1000 South Scott Street. Report of

a man pulling screens from windows. Wife locked her husband out of windows. Monday, 7:02 p.m., 500

block of West Market Street. Report of two juveniles potentially causing issues. Juveniles returned home.

Monday, 7:20 p.m., North Oak and West Market streets. Caller requested information about juveniles from previous call.

Monday, 11:30 p.m., North Main Street and East 300 North. Driver cited for speeding 80 in a 55 mph

Tuesday, 2:44 a.m., O'Reilly Auto Parts. Driver detained for intoxicated driv-

Tuesday, 10:34 a.m., Bluffton High School. Student cited after being found in possession of vape by school staff.

**County:** 

Monday, 12:22 p.m.,

Monday, 1:18 p.m., 5200 North 100 West, Uniondale. Caller reported a Kabota zero turn lawn mower as sto-

len, possibly by ex-husband. Monday, 3:51 p.m., South 100 West and West 300 South, Bluffton. Welfare check requested man and woman walking in field. Subjects advised they were looking for arrowheads.

Monday, 11:21 p.m., South 400 West and S.R. 124, Liberty Center. Report of a vehicle that blew through stop sign and ended up in field.

Monday, 2:35 p.m., 3700 East 1200 North, Ossian. Report of theft of two cellphones and a Playstation 4.

**ACCIDENTS County:** 

Tuesday, 7:18 a.m., S.R. 224 and 100 East. Dennis Lepper, 60, Ossian, was driving through the intersection at the same time that Amy Connett, 50, Ossian, drove around an uninvolved Wells County Jail. Two vehicle waiting to turn on warrants served to Troy 100 East. This caused Lep-

**BHMSD** begins construction

per's Yukon GMC to collide with Connett's Chevrolet Equinox. The Equinox was pushed from the force of the collision into a school bus containing approximately 30 children. The driver, Melissa Bolinger-Bushee, 38, Markle, and the children were all unharmed. Connett was taken to the hospital for injuries. The report notes that Connett had the right of way as Lepper had a stop sign.

**FIRES** 

Friday, 6:55 p.m., 3000 West 200 North, Bluffton. Report of a grass fire.

**ARRESTS** 

Troy Kristofer Forrest Jones, 25, Fishers; criminal trespassing, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at

Faylynn Crystal Virginia Stein, 23, Bluffton; operating a vehicle while intoxicated - prior conviction, a Level 6 felony, operating while intoxicated — endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating with controlled substance in body, a Class C misdemeanor.

### Local solar eclipse events listed

On Monday, April 8, Wells County residents will have the opportunity to view a total solar eclipse. The partial eclipse begins at 1:53 p.m.; totality begins at 3:08 p.m. and will last for approximately three minutes.

To celebrate the occasion, many area businesses and organizations are offering free viewing events. Events include the following:

• Markle Fish and Game Park, 100 Park Dr. in Markle — Food available for purchase from a variety of vendors and music entertainment, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• Warren Watch Party, 132 N Wayne St. in Warren — Beginning at 10 a.m., Riverside Park will have music, and a variety of food trucks will be parked along 2nd Street. At 3:30 p.m., the Pulse Opera House will offer an eclipse-focused free concert.

 Archbold-Wilson Park, 116 S Braeburn Dr. in Ossian — From 1-4:30 p.m., enjoy music, food and fun at the park. A limited number of glasses have been donated by Paddlefsih Solar and memorabilia from Made by Mamaw Embroidery will be available for purchase.

• First Presbyterian Church, 215 E Dustman Rd. in Bluffton — Starting at 1 p.m. Enjoy hot dogs, popcorn, cookies or a walk through the labyrinth while waiting for the solar event. Eclipse glasses available while supplies last. Participants are asked to bring a lawn chair.

 Caylor-Nickel YMCA, 550 W Dustman Rd. in Bluffton — beginning at 1:30 p.m., the YMCA will offer live music, activities and food available for purchase from food trucks. WANE 15 meteorologists will be on-site to answer questions. Additionally, a free Zumba class will be offered from 2:30-3 p.m. Free eclipse glasses available while supplies last.

• Wells County Public Library — At 2 p.m., the library will offer a safety briefing and some solar-themed refreshments. Those

registered for the event, either at the main branch or Ossian branch, will receive a pair of eclipse glasses. Registration can be completed on the event page at wellscolibrary. org. Space is limited.

• Dazey's Supply, 1879 N Main St. in Bluffton — Watch party beginning at 2 p.m.

 Markle Health and Rehabilitation, 170 N Tracy St. in Markle — A bounce house, music and food available from 2-4 p.m. Limited supply of glasses available.

Wells County 4-H Park — The park is offering camping spots. Contact 260-820-1128 or aalma@purdue.edu.

• Ouabache State Park, 4930 IN-201 in Bluffton- the Friends of Ouabache will be selling pre-packaged food at the tennis court area in the Lodge, a food truck will be located at the boat house, and the Fort Wayne Astronomical Society will have some telescopes for the public to use. The park is anticipated to be full and will close

Ouabache State Park is also offering a variety of events leading up to the eclipse, including the following.

Solar 101, 2 p.m. Friday, April 5, at the Lodge— Learn what you need to know about the eclipse and how to enjoy it safely. Glasses available, donation suggested.

Lake Hike, 4:30 p.m. Friday, Apri meet at the Boathouse - Stroll around Kunkel Lake to look at the flora and fauna while doing a scavenger hunt for prizes. Also learn more about the eclipse and some possible viewing spots at the park.

• Eclipse Fun, 1 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at the Campview Shelter — Learn about the eclipse tips on how to view it safely, and do some activities.

• Eclipse bracelets, 10 a.m., Sunday, April 7, at the Campview Shelter — Make your own UV reactive bracelet to help stay safe during the solar eclipse.

The Bluffton-Harrison MSD school community will begin to see a lot of activity on campus this spring as students get closer to the end of the academic year and BHMSD ramps up multiple construction projects.

In February and March, overhead field lights at the Fred F. Park Field were replaced. Then on April 1, contractors with FCI Construction began to deliver materials for the Bluffton High School roof replacement and building envelope projects.

Beginning this month, the roof replacement project will get underway, as will tuck pointing and masonry repairs. Metal wall panel installation will follow in June and window installation will follow in July. Overall, the project will continue through the fall and early winter months with a tentative completion date in December.

FCI signage will be visible on Wayne Street, and construction crews will use the north entrance near the BHMSD Transportation Building. Construction materials will be staged in the north staff parking lot throughout the project. At this time, normal commute routes for students, car ridersand buses should not be impacted by the ongo-

The tentative schedule for additional projects on the BHMSD campus this spring and summer is as follows:

 Removal of track turf from May 15 (following last track meet) to May 30.

• Mill/surface track: May 31 to June 5

• Install turf: June 6 to July 4

• Install track: July 5 to Aug. 5

### **BRMC** collects peanut butter for food bank

To help address hunger in the community and in celebration of National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day on April 2, Bluffton Regional Medical Center collected 240 jars of peanut and other nut butters for Wells County Food Bank.

The jars were donated by Bluffton Regional Medical Center employees, medical staff members, volunteers and community members during a recent Jars of Love Peanut Butter Drive which was launched to help support neighbors facing food insecurity a social determinant of health.

"Food insecurity has a significant impact on a person's overall health and wellbeing," said Julie Thompson, chief administrative officer for BRMC. "Through our Jars of Love Peanut Butter Drive, we are working to help fight hunger in our community. Our generous employees really stepped up and exceeded our donation expectations.

The Wells County Food Bank serves hundreds of families a month and peanut butter is one of the high-demand food items food banks can provide to offer a protein source that has an extended shelf life. All Lutheran Health Network hospitals participated in the drive collecting a total of 3,451 jars of nut butters that were donated to area food banks in Fort Wayne, Warsaw, Peru and Bluffton.

Marlene L. Macon Calling: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Thursday, April 4. Funeral: 2 p.m. Thursday, April 4 at the funeral home. oodwin-Cale & Harnish
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#### **Corrections and clarifications** The cost for dust control was misstated

by the Wells County Highway Department during Monday's commissioner meeting. The cost is \$2.07 per foot, not

Also, early voting will be available at Lighted Gardens from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 2, and Friday, May 3.

#### **Obituary Policy**

The News-Banner and Ossian Journal publishes "basic" obituaries free of charge for "local" deaths. "Basic" obituaries will include the deceased's name, age, community of record, date and place of death, basic genealogical information, the date, time and location of calling hours and services and the name of the funeral home handling arrangements. If additional information and/or a photo is desired to be included, or if the deceased does not meet the

definitions of a "local" person, there is a charge. Area funeral homes will provide details on the policy and will coordinate obituary publication.

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## Passing on a love of board games

I grew up in a family of gamers. From a young age, I was playing Skip-Bo and Phase 10, then Labyrinth and dominoes at the kitchen table. By middle school, my friends and I were playing Kemps and euchre during recess and on the bus. In high school, "Uno Spin" was a staple on our bus to go to golf tournaments to play after we competed while we waited for the results.



Jessica Bricker

I have a lot of fond memories playing games throughout my life. With my Grandma Doris, we would often alternate between Rummikub, Skip-Bo and Aggravation.

When I would visit my grandma regularly well into my 20s, we would continue to play games even though macular degeneration stole her eyesight. I would help her with the cards or with the marbles, never cheating because that was always Grandma's one rule: "If you cheat, I won't play with you and I'm sending you home."

That was easier to do when she lived on the same property as my family growing up, and my siblings and I could walk to and fro within seconds if needed. Nevertheless, the impression was made from an early age and you never tried to cheat with her.

When Grandma Doris died in 2018, I latched onto her hand-carved Aggravation board that has been in my family for a long time, as well as her marble and dice collection. Countless hours were spent rolling those dice and moving the colorful glass marbles around the board.

All of these memories have resurfaced recently in the purest of ways.

Within the past six months or so, my almost-5-year-old son has shown quite the propensity for board games. As a way to promote this, I re-imagined our dining room to feature a two-shelf console table where we can store and display all of our board games for easy access. Then for Christmas, I made sure to fill it up with a variety of games and cards.

We now have all sorts of games, like a few of the classics — a Labyrinth Junior board, a thrifted Rummikub game unopened in the box, and a set of dominoes — and new games that we've discovered along the way. Some focus on strategy, some are luck games, and some we've modified in small ways to encourage learning the game before enforcing tough rules

Want to practice counting and identifying colors? Break out Candy Land. Want to work on fine motor skills? Get out Trouble. (Is it just me, or is it extremely difficult for little hands to pop that die in the center?) Looking for a silly game? Let's play Rock, Paper, Scissors, Pickle — a take on the classic battle game but with the twist that the elusive and goofy cartoon Pickle trumps all.

A recent favorite in our house? My very own Uno Spin board, which my parents got for me in high school and that has miraculously made multiple moves with me over the years without losing a card.

It combines the classic Uno game with special cards that indicate when to "spin" the board. Whatever action the arrow lands on, you have to do. For example, draw until you pick up a blue card or a wild card, discard all but two cards for an "Almost Uno," or let everyone see your hand. Our personal favorite actions: switch hands (even if you are down to one and the person beside you has accumulated 10 cards), and the first person to yell "Uno Spin" gets to discard one card. (How we were allowed to play this game on any golf course, I will never know.)

If you purchase games second-hand or discounted, there is little risk in trying something new or building a collection from scratch. We play at least one game almost every single day. It has served us well as an incentive for completing chores or as a way to wind down at the day's end.

More importantly, it has become a great way to spend time together, without the distraction of a TV or tablet screen, making new memories in a family of gamers.

Jessica Bricker is a former editor of The News-Banner. Although she's no longer in journalism, she enjoys writing about life in Wells County. jessicabrickerwrites@gmail.com

### **Letters to the Editor**

### Tax articles appreciated

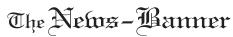
I would like to commend Mark Miller for his cogent articles on property taxes. Although his writing and accompanying diagrams were clear, there still seems to be a lot of room for uncertainty in the assessment and tax levies in Wells County.

This is not meant as a slight to the assessor's office, which has a difficult job. I think more of "too many fingers in the pie" might cover a lot of my sentiment.

Thanks again for the good information on local property taxes. Another good reason to maintain a local newspaper such as the News-Banner.

RICHARD T. JACKSON Rural Bluffton

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit your Letter) • E-Mail: email@news-banner. com • Fax: (260) 824-0700 • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. Letters must be no more than 500 words. Please mark your correspondence as a "Letter to the Editor," or if you wish to express an opinion to us but do not want it published, please mark as "Not for Publication."



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### One more try at reducing the debt

"Neither a borrower nor a lender be."

—Polonius to his son Laertes in "Hamlet"

It may be too late given the number of
Americans who have willingly allowed themselves to become dependent on government more than themselves, but it's worth trying.

Our \$34 trillion debt is unsustainable, according to most economists. If we don't act soon, we will be worse off than we are now. Our economy could collapse. The economic future is not bright if we continue down our current path. According to Statista Research," by 2034, the gross federal debt of the United States is projected to be about \$54.39 trillion."

President Biden wants to raise taxes again on "the rich" and corporations without cutting spending. Revenue is not in short supply. Fiscal discipline is. A change in spending will require a change in attitude about what government should and should not do

The U.S. has experienced a fiscal year-end budget surplus five times in the last 50 years, most recently in 2001. Debt is bipartisan and it will take a bipartisan approach to reduce or eliminate it. During President Biden's term, national debt has increased by\$4.7 trillion (he wants to spend more), a rise of 16.67 percent as of last September. During Donald Trump's one-term presidency, the national debt increased by \$8.18 trillion, a 40.43 percent boost. Part of that was spending to fight Covid-19, part was the fallout from tax cuts for the wealthy. Still, this was less of an increase than Barack Obama (69.98%) and George W. Bush (105.8%), but each of them served two terms. Part of Bush's spending was on Afghanistan and Iraq after 9/11.

Only 14 of 45 American presidents have overseen a decrease in debt. Calvin Coolidge was the last one. That was 15 presidents ago. Coolidge said: "... a good many proposals are made by people that have very excellent things that they would like to have the Government do, but they come from people that have



Cal Thomas

no responsibility for providing ways and means by which their proposals can be carried out. I don't think in all my experience, which has been very large with people that come before me in and out of Government with proposals for spending money, I have ever had any proposal from anyone as to what could be done to save any money."

Why not form a group of consultants I would call a "what works coalition." Invite historians, scientists, economists, people of good character and others who love America and ask them to examine government spending, separating the "wheat from the chaff," the necessary from the unnecessary.

They could issue a report to the public and Congress ridiculing wasteful and needless spending and pressure our elected representatives to end those underperforming or nonperforming programs, earmarks and agencies as a patriotic gesture. And yes, Social Security and Medicare must be reformed to save it for the future. The media could help if they would. Weaning people from addiction to government will take time, though some have been able to go "cold turkey" when it comes to other addictions.

Most importantly, what is needed is a change in attitude back to the view some previous presidents, the Founders and the public had toward government. Just as we don't see a doctor when we are having car trouble, neither should we look to government to solve problems best dealt with individually. Government can encourage good choices and penalize bad ones (lower taxes on the successful is one reward and allowing people to suffer the consequences of bad choices - within reason -- is another). Government should not subsidize bad choices, as if good and bad are equal. That will ensure more bad choices and fewer good ones.

If we don't start making good choices now and seriously reduce our debt there may be no way back. History teaches us that lesson. Look it up.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com

# These two GOP Senate candidates exemplify today's political squalor

PHOENIX — From Herbert Hoover's "a chicken for every pot" (1928) to Ronald Reagan's "It's morning again in America" (1984), some campaign slogans have been humdingers. The slogan of Republican Kari Lake's Senate campaign could be: "Oh, never mind."

Here in Arizona and in
Ohio, GOP Senate candidates
force conservatives to choose
between awful outcomes: the
consequences of losing the
Senate, or the disappearance of the
conservative party.

Running for Arizona's governorship in 2022, Lake practiced the kamikaze politics of subtraction. Today, she says she was joking when she told John McCain voters — they elected him to two House and six Senate terms — to "get the hell out" of a GOP event. McCain voters were not amused. She lost, then mimicked her hero, saying that her election was stolen. Courts disagreed.

Today, she seems intermittently aware that many Arizonans are weary of her high-decibel imitation of Donald Trump's sour, self-absorbed, backward-looking, fact-free, soreloser, endless grievance tour. So, she sometimes seems to say of her protracted harping on 2022: Oh, never mind.

A former local TV news whiz,
Lake has the sheen of Limoges porcelain, and the manners of Al Capone.
It was revealed in January that she
secretly taped the state Republican
chairman, then accused him of bribery because he suggested finding her
a job pending her run another year.
Seasoned Republicans here believe
that the candidate she defeated in
the 2022 gubernatorial primary
would have easily won, and today
school choice and other conservative
achievements would not be endangered.

Lake's Democratic opponent

this year, Rep. Ruben Gallego, is a



George Will

otherwise a standardissue progressive who dismays conservatives regarding almost everything. Lake dismays Arizona conservatives who are political legatees of Arizona's Sen. Barry Goldwater, whose 1964 presidential nomination prepared his party for Reaganism: limited gov-

Marine Corps veteran

of combat in Iraq but

ernment, military strength, collective security through sturdy alliances and a general inclination toward a sunny Sun Belt libertarianism — everything the Trump-saturated GOP rejects.

In Ohio, three-term Democratic Senate incumbent Sherrod Brown is a progressive reliably wrong and indistinguishable from Trump — regarding many matters. These include ignoring the unsustainable trajectories of Social Security and Medicare. And embracing the nonsensical notion that national security will be jeopardized if a superior steel company (Nippon) from an allied nation (Japan) buys U.S. Steel, which has a market capitalization about equal to the Skechers shoe company and fewer employees than BJ's Wholesale Club. Brown is, however, a progressive more concerned about practicalities

(e.g., jobs) than pronoun protocols.

His Republican opponent, Bernie Moreno, once called Trump a "maniac" and a "lunatic" akin to "a car accident that makes you sick." He scoffed at Trump's claims of election fraud and called the Jan. 6, 2021, rioters "morons" and "criminals." But Trump, like a marsupial, has tucked Moreno into his pouch, and the amazingly malleable Moreno calls (as does Lake) the Jan. 6 defendants "political prisoners" and says the 2020 election was "stolen," Joe Biden should be impeached and Trump is swell.

Moreno, who projects the Trumpkins' chest-thumping faux toughness,

disdains bipartisanship. Evidently, he plans to advance his agenda with 60 Republican votes. There have not been 60 Republican senators since

Granted, if elected senators, Lake and Moreno would be votes against ending the Senate filibuster, a Democratic aspiration that would unleash even more statism than Trumpian "national conservatives" favor. And Lake and Moreno would be obedient votes for sound judges. Both would, however, impede a larger, longer-term conservative objective.

The nation no longer has a reliably conservative party of sound ideas and good manners. If conservatism is again to be ascendant in their party, Republicans must stop electing the likes of Lake and Moreno. They would join other chips-offthe-orange-block in a Senate caucus increasingly characterized by members who have anti-conservative agendas, from industrial policy (government allocation of capital, which is socialism) to isolationism. And whose unconservative temperaments celebrate coarseness as an indicator of political authenticity and treat performative poses as substitutes for

Gallego and Brown are mistaken about much, but they are not repulsive. Conservatives can refute them and, by persuading electoral majorities, repeal or modify progressive mischief. The new breed of anticonservative Republicans think persuasion, and the patience of politics, is for "squishes," a favorite epithet of proudly loutish Trumpkins, who, like Lake and Moreno, seem to think the lungs are the location of wisdom.

The current version of Moreno says: About my talk regarding the maniac, lunatic, sickening-caraccident Trump? Oh, never mind. Moreno and Lake are useful, if only as indexes of today's political squalor. Neither, however, should be a senator.

george will @washpost.com.

### Caregivers, put on your own oxygen mask first

Dear Readers: A recent column about the caregiver who felt worn out prompted a deluge of letters, mostly from others who are, or have been, caregivers themselves. As I read the letters, I thought of the fact that airlines tell mothers to put on their own oxygen masks first, and then help the children. Here is a sampling of the letters we received:

Dear Annie: Please add to the caregiver ("Not Good Enough") that human beings have a finite mental capacity for each day. This is why Steve Jobs wore a black turtleneck and jeans every day; it left him mental room for more important decisions.

This caregiver is mentally exhausted due to the load they are carrying and needs to find ways to lessen that burden. Too many people don't realize the impact of stress on functionality and hold themselves to too high a standard.

This person should decide what tasks are most important for them, get help with things that are needed but that others could do, and focus on the tasks that would make them feel happy and productive. — Therapist in Illinois

Dear Annie: First, let me start by saying that reading your column is the marriage to my morning cup of coffee. I have never responded or written to you, but I just read about the caregiver who is taking care of their partner and is overtaken by exhaustion. Your response was to seek community support, local resources, etc. You neglected to also suggest seeing her physician as there may be underlying health issues that are causing her exhaustion. Taking care of herself is taking care of her loved one! Thank you for the caring advice over the years. Everyone can relate to someone else's life challenges. -Helping the Caregiver

Dear Annie: Depression is a common occurrence in caregivers. There are support groups online for caregivers of those with dementia, Alzheimer's disease and other conditions. While you may feel

absolutely alone, there are others who are going through almost the same thing you are. You already reached out, writ-



Dear

Annie

by Annie Lane

first step, and if you do a quick Google search on caregiver support groups, many resources can pop up. There may be some local support groups, but most likely there will be online groups.

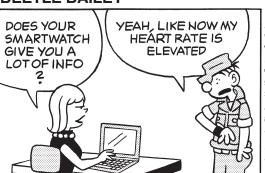
I'm the sole caregiver of my husband, who has severe combat-related PTSD; he is in his early 30s. The online support I found is amazing, because the people I know in person do not have real-life experience with the everyday struggles that we have. It's so helpful to have a support system, even if it's just a message online asking if you're OK from someone who knows what you're going through. Caregiving isn't for the faint of heart. You are your husband's lifeline, and in order to be the best for him, you have to take care of yourself too. Keep going. It's not an easy road and it doesn't get easier, but you don't have to go it alone. You've got this! Another Caregiver

Dear Annie: Having been a caregiver, I know firsthand how this lady feels. When you are taking care of everything, you are forgetting about your needs, and one of the most important is your own health. Please take care of yourself so you don't end up with a bad disease like I did. You are suffering from stress and that's why you are tired, which could damage your health. If family isn't close, contact a church, neighbors or even some online help. I wish my husband were still here, but wish I would have taken care of me, too. — Been There

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

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#### **BEETLE BAILEY**





#### **BLONDIE**







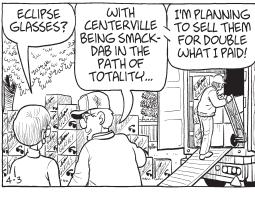
#### **ZITS**







#### **CRANKSHAFT**





### **My** Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: When people use the phrase "this may be your Gethsemane," what does that mean? - H.L.

Answer: The garden of Gethsemane is at the base of the Mount of Olives outside the gates of Jerusalem. The word Gethsemane means "oil press." When olives are harvested, they are squeezed under an enormous revolving stone that mashes the fruit to pulp and recovers the valuable oil.

This is where Jesus revealed His humanity. There, in the garden of Gethsemane, He faced the wheel of humiliation, and death would squeeze Jesus to the point of His greatest agony. In this place, He pleaded with His Father for release — but only if it were God's will.

TMC

375 859 327 553 (4:20) ₩ Moon Manor ('21) Debra Wilson.

### Jesus willingly became the sacrifice for the sin of mankind

But there was no other way for our just and loving God to deal with our sins. Sin must be punished. If God were simply to forgive our sins without judging them, then there would be no justice, no accountability for wrongdoing. God would not be truly holy and just.

If God were to judge us for our sins as we deserve, there would be no hope of salvation for any of us. His love would have failed to provide what we need. So Jesus willingly became the sacrifice for the sin of mankind.

The cross was the only way to resolve the problem of sin. At the cross, God's love and justice came together. Jesus took the punishment we deserve, and now those who receive

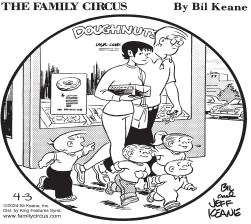
His salvation are clothed in His perfect righteousness. We never have to question His love for us. He proved it once and for all on the cross. We should thank Him continually for coming to this earth. We should always be mindful of His sacrifice for us. And we forever should glory in His resurrection, for we also have new life and hope for eternity with Jesus Christ forever.

"I will praise You ... with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore" (Psalm 86:12, NKJV).

(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.

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### **Cody Bellinger hits a 2-run** homer as the Chicago Cubs pound the Colorado Rockies

By MATT CARLSON **Associated Press** 

CHICAGO (AP) Cody Bellinger, Seiya Suzuki, Christopher Morel and Garrett Cooper homered, and the Chicago Cubs pounded the Colorado Rockies 12-2 on Tuesday night for their third straight

Bellinger's two-run drive off the right-field scoreboard at Wrigley

Field was his first homer of the season. The 2019 NL MVP re-signed with the Cubs for a \$80 million, three-year contract

Cooper hit a three-run shot in the sixth that gave Chicago a 10-0 lead. He also doubled and tripled in his first home start with the Cubs.

Nick Madrigal added two hits and three RBIs on a chilly, breezy night at Wrigley Field. Ian Happ and Dansby Swanson each had two of the Cubs' 14

Chicago right-hander Javier Assad allowed four hits in six scoreless innings. He struck out five and walked one in his first start of the season.

Michael Toglia hit a two-run homer for Colorado in the seventh against Jose Cuas. Charlie Blackmon had three of the Rockies' seven hits.

Colorado has been outscored 49-16 during its 1-5 start. The Rockies lost 5-0 to Shota Imanaga and the Cubs in the series opener on Mon-

Rockies left-hander Kyle Freeland (0-2) was roughed up for the second straight start. He was tagged for seven runs and nine hits in 3 1/3 innings.

He also started on Thursday on opening day and was tagged for 10 runs and 10 hits in 2 1/3 innings in a 16-1 loss at Arizona.

Suzuki gave Chicago a 2-0 lead when he drilled Freeland's down-the-middle 2-0 pitch to the batter's eye in center in the first. Madrigal hit an RBI single in the second, and Morel made it 4-0 with a solo shot in the third.

#### TRAINER'S ROOM

Cubs: RHP Jameson Taillon (back strain) threw live batting practice at the team's training facility in Arizona, and INF Patrick Wisdom (back strain) took part in the session, manager Craig Counsell said.

RHP Cal Quantrill (0-1, 9.00 ERA) starts for the Rockies in the series finale on Wednesday. The Cubs had not yet named their starter.

### Crochet dazzles on the mound as the White Sox top Braves

By ANDREW SELIGMAN AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (ÂP) — Garrett Crochet pitched seven sparkling innings, pinch-hitter Paul DeJong had a tiebreaking homer and



**Garrett Crochet** 

the Chicago White Sox got their first win by beating the Atlanta Braves 3-2 on Tues-

"Huge team win," Crochet said. "It was gritty, especially there at the end."

Michael Kopech needed five outs and 39 pitches for his first professional save. He

came in with two on in the eighth and pitched out of a bases-loaded

In the ninth, he gave up a solo homer to Marcell Ozuna with one out and ran into more trouble with two outs. He walked Michael Harris II and gave up a single to Orlando Arcia, putting runners on first and second, before retiring Travis d'Arnaud on a pop fly to end the game.

Gavin Sheets and Andrew Vaughn hit RBI singles, and the White Sox overcame two home runs by Ozuna to win after an 0-4

Crochet (1-1) held the Braves to one run and three hits in his second professional start. The hard-throwing left-hander struck out eight and walked one after an impressive performance in Chicago's opening 1-0 loss to Detroit.

"He started off with high, high velo, and then, he started pitching," manager Pedro Grifol said. "He settled in and just mixed his pitches, and he was pounding the strike

Sheets put Chicago ahead 1-0 in the sixth with an RBI single against Reynaldo López. Ozuna tied it in the seventh with a drive to left. But DeJong - batting for Braden Shewmake — put Chicago back on top when he greeted A.J. Minter (0-1) with a drive to left leading off the bottom half for his second homer.

Atlanta loaded the bases with one out in the eighth. John Brebbia walked Jarred Kelenic and Ronald Acuña Jr., and Kopech walked Ozzie Albies before getting Austin Riley to ground into a double play.

Vaughn made it 3-1 when he drove in Luis Robert Jr. with a single in the eighth. And Kopech kept his composure in the ninth, with some mound visits from catcher Martin Maldonado.

"Things could have easily unraveled," Kopech said. "I'm thankful they didn't. I'm thankful that he had the wherewithal to kinda take charge on that."

López, who pitched for the White Sox from 2017-23, went six innings in his Braves debut. The 30-year-old right-hander gave up one run and four hits.

"Before we even signed the contract, the conversation was always based around being a starter," said López, who has bounced between the rotation and bullpen. "So, as soon as that was finalized, my mentality has been that the whole time where I was going to be a starter, and I was able to focus on that in spring training, sort of adjust my mentality and I feel like we're sort of seeing the result of that."

The Braves agreed to minor league deals with catcher Sandy León and right-hander Jackson Stephens.



Habegger, Smith place third in TNBA

Miken Habegger and his partner, Jaycie Smith of Huntington, finished third in the TNBA bowling tournament in Canton, Michigan, over the weekend. In the two-day event, the doubles team combined for 1,393 pins in the three games each. (Photo provided)

### **High School Calendar**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

SOFTBALL: Norwell at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.; Bellmont at Bluffton, 5 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD: Eastbrook at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.

**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

SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Eastbrook, 5:30 p.m.; Norwell at Southern Wells, 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** 

SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Oak Hill, 5:30 p.m. TUESDAY, APRIL 9

BASEBALL: Mississinewa at Norwell, 5 p.m.; Bluffton at Manchester, 5 p.m. BOYS GOLF: Wayne/Bellmont at Norwell, 5 p.m.; Adams Central at Bluffton, 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at Columbia City, p.m.; Bluffton at Mississinewa, 5 p.m. SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Manchester, 5

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10** 

BASEBALL: Bluffton at Wabash, 5:30 p.m.; Eastbrook at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: Bluffton at Blackford, 5 SOFTBALL: Wayne at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.;

Southern Wells at Homestead, 5:30 p.m. TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Norwell at New

### Sycamores pull away late to beat **Utah and reach NIT championship**

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP) — Ryan Conwell matched his career high with 27 points and Robbie Avila had 26 points and 10 rebounds to help top-seeded Indiana State take advantage of a heavily partisan homestate crowd to beat second-seeded Utah 100-90 on Tuesday night and

advance to the NIT championship game. Isaiah Swope added 15 points — all in the second half — and eight assists for Indiana State (32-6), which reached its first national tourney title game since Larry Bird took the unbeaten Sycamores to the 1979 NCAA title game against Magic Johnson

and Michigan State. A win Thursday in Indianapolis, against either top-seeded Seton Hall (23-12) or fourth-seeded Georgia (20-16), would allow the Sycamores to tie the 1978-79 team's single-season school record for vic-

Deivon Smith had a career high 28 points, seven rebounds and six assists to lead the Utes (22-15), the last Pac-12 men's team still playing in the league's farewell season. Branden Carlson scored 17. Utah made 17 3-pointers, with Smith going 6 of 6.

It certainly wasn't easy for Indiana State to take control. But once it did, turning a 10-2 run midway through the second half into a 63-56 lead, the Sycamores never trailed again and extended the margin to as

Avila got it all started, scoring 11 points in the first eight minutes to help Indiana State build a 28-17 lead. But Smith led Utah back and helped the Utes take a 34-33 lead late in the first half. Then it became a back-and-forth contest until Indiana State's decisive second-half push.

### Women's NCAA tourney had center stage and has delivered

#### By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

There were plenty of people at a movie theater in central Iowa on Monday night, though very few of them were watching an actual movie.

They were there to see Caitlin

Clark. And they weren't alone. Not even close. Millions of people — 12.3 million, the most to ever watch a women's basketball game, according to ESPN — tuned in across America to watch the opener of an NCAA Tournament doubleheader that captivated fans like never before. Clark and Iowa, in a national-title-game rematch against Angel Reese and LSU in one game; Paige Bueckers and perennial power UConn against freshman sensation JuJu Watkins and Southern California in the other.

The winners on the scoreboard: Iowa and UConn, which are heading to the Final Four in Cleveland this weekend. Perhaps the biggest winner: the women's game, which had the March Madness stage all to itself on Monday night with massive star power delivering two games worthy of the over-the-top billing, and maybe, just maybe, adding a few new fans along the way.

"It's a perfect opportunity to make the moment a movement," said former Division I guard Isis Young, now a broadcaster and analyst. "Right now, women's basketball is a movement ... and the movement is really riding on the back of these players that we're watching."

And make no mistake: People were watching. Last year's LSU-Iowa national championship game, on ABC, drew 9.9 million viewers. Monday's LSU-Iowa rematch, on cable, crushed that number.

Baseball had a no-hitter on Monday night; Ronel Blanco's gem for Houston against Toronto didn't seem to capture attention the way Iowa-LSU and UConn-USC did. Phoenix's Devin Booker scored 52 points, his league-hightying third game of 50 or more this season; it happened while fellow NBA guards Damian Lillard and Patrick Beverley were tweeting about Watkins and Clark.

'Caitlin Clark the truth," offered New York Knicks forward

In homes, in sports bars from Seattle to Miami, even in NBA locker rooms, the women's games Monday night had people staring at televisions. At a sports bar in Indianapolis, where the NBA's Pacers were simultaneously playing maybe a block or so away, most TVs were on Iowa-LSU. Indiana's WNBA team has the No. 1 pick in the draft this year. There's no mystery about who it will select; the city knows Clark will soon be calling Indianapolis

"Not only did we have all the TVs on the game, we had them with the sound on, too," said Clara Husson, a longtime basketball ref-

eree in New England. She missed her morning flight from Indianapolis to Boston after a weekend wedding and was given two options for a rescheduling opportunity — Monday night or Tuesday morning.

She chose Tuesday. Easy call. "I wasn't missing these games,"

This was not just another night for women's basketball. The buzz built throughout the day. Rapper Travis Scott told his nearly 12 million followers on X, the site formerly known as Twitter, that Monday "might be one for the illest days in women's sports historyyyyyy." And Hall of Famer Magic Johnson let his 5.2 million followers know he considered Monday's two-game slate "one of

the best in history.' The games didn't disappoint. Bettors took notice, too — even a 4:15 p.m. start time in Las Vegas didn't keep LSU-Iowa from setting records, a surefire gauge of whether people had interest.

"It is the biggest handle we've seen for a women's game," Jay Kornegay, executive vice president of race and sports operations at Westgate Las Vegas, said shortly before tipoff. "It's already surpassed last year's final with these two teams."

Had the game been later in the day, Kornegay said, the numbers would have been even bigger.

South Carolina and North Carolina State reached the Final Four

with wins on Sunday, a day when the women's game was going head to head with men's tournament games. Monday's slate from an NCAA tourney perspective was all women, two games both featuring star players, not to mention a rematch of last year's Iowa-LSU championship game.

It was a perfect storm. Even in defeat, Reese understood the magnitude of the moment.

"I think it's just great for the sport, just being able to be a part of history," Reese said Monday night. "Like I said, no matter which way it went tonight, I know this was going to be a night for the ages. And just being able to be a part of history is great.'

Clark is the biggest name in the college game; she set the NCAA all-time scoring record earlier this season and has become a full-fledged celebrity, starring in national commercials and commanding media attention like no one else. After the Boston Celtics beat the Charlotte Hornets on Monday, they tuned in for the end of the Iowa-LSU game.

'Caitlin Clark is stealing the show of basketball," Celtics forward Sam Hauser said.

To Zoe Pawloski, Clark was just someone to share the weight room with. Pawloski used to swim for Iowa and her team would lift at the same time Clark's team would

"I never sat down and watched March Madness on TV until Cait-

lin Clark," said Pawloski, who watched the game with a few dozen other Iowa fans in a bar in Council Bluffs, Iowa. "It's really cool how much she's grown basketball, and people knowing Iowa the school makes me really happy. Iowa is on the map.

Not a lot of people were at the movies in Waukee, Iowa, on Monday night. There probably won't be a lot of moviegoers there on Friday, either — that's when the women's Final Four starts.

At The Palms Theater in Waukee, about 200 people showed up to watch Clark play on a 75-foot screen. It was a private party put together by Dowling Catholic High School, her alma mater. And let's just say the game was far more popular than the movies on other screens.

"Not even close," said Alison Meyer, the theater's general manager. "Nope, nope, nope. It's pretty big-time when you have an Iowa team playing, let alone somebody from our hometown.'

The games didn't disappoint. The stars didn't disappoint, either. Clark had 41 points and 12 assists, plus she tied a tournament record with nine 3-pointers. Reese had 17 points and 20 rebounds. Bueckers had 28 points and 10 rebounds. Watkins had 29 points and 10

"It's been a great ride," Watkins

And for the game, it was a great

### News-Banner Scoreboard

#### **BASKETBALL**

College

Men's Basketball Scores Indiana St. 100, Utah 90

Women's Basketball Scores

### NRA

	VР	A		
EASTERN	CO	NFE	RENCE	Ξ
Atlan	tic D	ivisi	on	
	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Boston	59	16	.787	_
New York	44	31	.587	15
Philadelphia	41	35	.539	181/2
Brooklyn	29	47	.382	301/2
Toronto	23	52	.307	36
Southe	east	Divis	sion	
	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	44	31	.587	_
Miami	42	33	.560	2 9
Atlanta	35	40	.467	9
Charlotte	18	57	.240	26
Washington	15	61	.197	29½
Cent				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	47	28	.627	_
Cleveland	45		.600	2
Indiana	43		.566	41/2
Chicago	36	40	.474	111/2
Detroit	13	62	.173	34
WESTERN				E
Southy				
Б. II	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	45	29	.608	-
New Orleans		30	.600	1/2
Houston	38	37	.507	7½
Memphis	25	50	333	201/2

San Antonio 18 57 .240

Northwest Division 271/2 x-Oklahoma City5223 x-Minnesota 52 23 .693 23 x-Denver 52 29 23 46 23 Utah .387

Pacific Division 27 31 Pct L.A. Clippers 47 Phoenix 44 .635 .587 Phoenix 43 43 31 33 Sacramento L.A. Lakers

Portland

19 56 .253 Golden State 40 34 .541 x-clinched playoff spot z-clinched conference

Monday's Games Boston 118, Charlotte 104 Memphis 110, Detroit 108 Orlando 104, Portland 103 Indiana 133, Brooklyn 111 Atlanta 113, Chicago 101 Phoenix 124, New Orleans 111

Tuesday's Games L.A. Lakers 128, Toronto 111 Washington 117, Milwaukee 113 Miami 109, New York 99 Philadelphia 109, Oklahoma City

Minnesota 113, Houston 106 Cleveland at Utah, late Cleveland at Otan, late
San Antonio at Denver, late
Dallas at Golden State, late
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, late
Wednesday's Games

L.A. Lakers at Washington, 7 p.m. Portland at Charlotte, 7 p.m. Detroit at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. Indiana at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m Oklahoma City at Boston, 7:30 p.m. Memphis at Milwaukee, 8 p.m. Orlando at New Orleans, 8 p.m. Toronto at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Cleveland at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

Thursday's Games Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m. Sacramento at New York, 7:30 p.m. Golden State at Houston, 8 p.m. Denver at L.A. Clippers, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games

Oklahoma City at Indiana, 7 p.m. Orlando at Charlotte, 7 p.m. Portland at Washington, 7 p.m. Sacramento at Boston, 7:30 p.m. Detroit at Memphis, 8 p.m. Miami at Houston, 8 p.m. New York at Chicago, 8 p.m. San Antonio at New Orleans, 8 p.m. Toronto at Milwaukee, 8 p.m. Golden State at Dallas, 8:30 p.m. Minnesota at Phoenix, 10 p.m. Utah at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

#### **HOCKEY**

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

**Atlantic Division** GP W L OTPts GF GA 76 44 17 15103252 208 76 47 24 5 99246 193 74 43 22 9 95275 231 y74 41 26 7 89259 241 x-Boston x-Florida Toronto Tampa Bay74 41 26 75 37 30 8 82251 249 76 36 35 5 77229 229 74 33 37 4 70238 256 74 29 33 12 70205 252 Buffalo Ottawa

**Metropolitan Division** GP W L OTPts GF GA x-NY Rangers755021 4104259 211 x-Carolina 75 47 21 7101255 199 Philadelphia 7636 29 11 83222 239

Mashington7436 28 10 82203 238 N.Y. Islanders753327 15 81222 249 Pittsburgh 75 34 30 11 79226 225 New Jersey7536 35 4 76246 258 Columbus 75 25 38 12 62217 273 WESTERN CONFERENCE Central Division GP W L OTPts GF GA x-Dallas 75 47 19 9103276 220 x-Colorado 75 47 22 6100280 225

6100280 225 6 96228 187 4 90244 228 4 84216 226 9 81227 235 Winnipeg 75 45 24 Nashville 75 43 28 75 40 31 St. Louis Minnesota 74 36 29 74 31 38 75 22 48 5 67226 248 5 49166 262 Arizona Chicago

Chicago 75 22 48 5 49166 262

Pacific Division

GP W L OTPts GF GA

x-Vancouver744620 8100255 197

Edmonton 73 45 23 5 95264 209

Vegas 74 41 25 8 90238 216

Los Angeles7438 25 11 87229 197

Seattle 74 31 30 13 75197 213

Calgany 73 34 34 5 73224 238 Calgary 73 34 34 5 73224 238 Anaheim 75 24 47 4 52182 272 San Jose 74 17 49 8 42165 298 NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to

x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division z-clinched conference Monday's Games

Columbus 4, Colorado 1 Toronto 6, Florida 4 N.Y. Islanders 4, Philadelphia 3, OT Pittsburgh 5, N.Y. Rangers 2 Detroit 4, Tampa Bay 2 Winnipeg 4, Los Angeles 3

St. Louis 3, Edmonton 2, OT Seattle 4, San Jose 2 Tuesday's Games

Pittsburgh 6, New Jersey 3 Buffalo 6, Washington 2 Montreal 5, Florida 3 N.Y. Islanders 2, Chicago 1 Minnesota 3, Ottawa 2 Boston 3 Nashville 0 Anaheim at Calgary, late

Vancouver at Vegas, late
Vancouver at Vegas, late
Wednesday's Games
New Jersey at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Dallas, 9:30 p.m. Seattle at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m. Vancouver at Arizona, 10 p.m. Thursday's Games

Boston at Carolina, 7 p.m. Florida at Ottawa, 7 p.m. N.Y. Islanders at Columbus, 7 p.m. Pittsburgh at Washington, 7 p.m. Tampa Bay at Montreal, 7 p.m. Calgary at Winnipeg, 8 p.m. Colorado at Minnesota, 8 p.m. St. Louis at Nashville, 8 p.m. Los Angeles at San Jose, 10:30

Friday's Games N.Y. Rangers at Detroit, 7 p.m. Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m. Washington at Carolina, 7 p.m. Colorado at Edmonton, 9 p.m. Seattle at Anaheim, 10 p.m. Vegas at Arizona, 10 p.m.

#### **BASEBALL**

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division L Pct 0 1.000 2 .600 2 .600 3 .500 **W** 5 New York 2 2 2½ **Baltimore** 3 Boston Tampa Bay .500 Toronto Central Division GB 1½ 2 2½

**W** 4 3 L Pct 0 1.000 2 .600 2 .500 3 .400 Detroit Cleveland 2 Minnesota Kansas City .200 Chicago West Division

L 2 2 2 Los Angeles .600 .600 Texas .600 .200 2 2½ Oakland Houston Monday's Games

Atlanta 9, Chicago White Sox 0, 8 innings Baltimore 6, Kansas City 4 Texas 9, Tampa Bay 3 L.A. Angels 7, Miami 4 Detroit 5, N.Y. Mets 0, 10 innings Houston 10, Toronto 0 Boston 9, Oakland 0 Seattle 5, Cleveland 4 N.Y. Yankees 5, Arizona 2

Tuesday's Games Milwaukee 3, Minnesota 2 Kansas City 4, Baltimore 1 L.A. Angels 3, Miami 1
Tampa Bay 5, Texas 2
Chicago White Sox 3, Atlanta 2
Toronto 2, Houston 1 Boston at Oakland, late Cleveland at Seattle, late N.Y. Yankees at Arizona, late Detroit at N.Y. Mets, ppd.

Wednesday's Games

Kansas City (Ragans 0-1) at Balti-more (Burnes 1-0), 1:05 p.m. L.A. Angels (Sandoval 0-1) at Miami (Puk 0-1), 1:10 p.m.
Minnesota (Paddack 0-0) at Milwau-

kee (Ross 0-0), 1:10 p.m.
Texas (Eovaldi 0-0) at Tampa Bay

Texas (Eovaldi 0-0) at Tampa Bay (Civale 1-0), 1:10 p.m.
Atlanta (Strider 0-0) at Chicago White Sox (TBD), 2:10 p.m.
Boston (Pivetta 0-1) at Oakland (Stripling 0-1), 3:37 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Rodón 0-0) at Arizona (Kelly 1-0), 3:40 p.m.
Cleveland (Allen 1-0) at Seattle (Kirby 1-0), 4:10 p.m.
Detroit (Skuhal 1-0) at N.Y. Mets

Detroit (Skubal 1-0) at N.Y. Mets (Quintana 0-1), 7:10 p.m. Toronto (Bassitt 0-1) at Houston (Javier 0-0), 8:10 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Detroit at N.Y. Mets, 1:10 p.m.
Cleveland at Minnesota, 4:10 p.m. Chicago White Sox at Kansas City,

NATIONAL LEAGUE

2 3 4 6 **W** 3 2 Atlanta .600 .400 .250 .000 Philadelphia Washington Ó New York 000 **Central Division** L Pct 0 1.000 0 1.000 GB **W** 5 4 3 3 Pittsburgh 1½ 2 2 3 Milwaukee Chicago Cincinnati .600 2 2 3 .400 St. Louis **West Division** GB **W** 5 3 **L** 2 2 Pct .714 .600 Los Angeles .429 4 3 .167

**East Division** 

Pct

Arizona San Diego 3 San Francisco 2 Colorado 1 5 .16 Monday's Games Atlanta 9, Chicago White Sox 0, 8

Cincinnati 6, Philadelphia 3, 10 innings Detroit 5, N.Y. Mets 0, 10 innings St. Louis 6, San Diego 2

Chicago Cubs 5, Colorado 0

Pittsburgh 8, Washington 4 L.A. Angels 7, Miami 4

innings

N.Y. Yankees 5, Arizona 2 L.A. Dodgers 8, San Francisco 3 Tuesday's Games Milwaukee 3, Minnesota 2 L.A. Angels 3, Miami 1

L.A. Angels A, Mialini Philadelphia 9, Cincinnati 4
Chicago White Sox 3, Atlanta 2
Chicago Cubs 12, Colorado 2
N.Y. Yankees at Arizona, late St. Louis at San Diego, late San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers, late Detroit at N.Y. Mets, ppd. Wednesday's Games Cincinnati (Montas 1-0) at Philadel-

phia (Wheeler 0-0), 1:05 p.m. Minnesota (Paddack 0-0) at Milwaukee (Ross 0-0), 1:10 p.m. Atlanta (Strider 0-0) at Chicago White Sox (TBD), 2:10 p.m. N.Y. Yankees (Rodón 0-0) at Arizona (Kelly 1-0), 3:40 p.m.

St. Louis (Thompson 0-1) at San Diego (Musgrove 0-1), 4:10 p.m. Pittsburgh (Keller 0-0) at Washing-ton (Williams 0-0), 6:45 p.m.

33

GB

3½

4 5

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

#### King Classic Sudoku

3	9			5					
4			8			6		5	
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Difficulty: ★★★

**EMPLOYMENT** 

Help Wanted

#### **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.

> **LOOKING FOR EMPLOYEES?**

Place a 20 word line classified ad for a month for \$52. Add a graphic or photo for an additional \$5. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner, 260-824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., or online at www.news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

#### **Lottery Numbers**

Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIĔR LOTTERY Cash 5 - 11-15-30-32-

33 **Cash4Life** — 26-27-43-50-56, Cash Ball: 03

Quick Draw Midday — 01-02-03-04-07-14-20-25-35-40-43-46-48-51-60-63-71-75-76-79, BE: 03

Daily Three-Midday — 04-08-01, SB: 07

Daily Three-Evening — 07-07-04, SB: 06 Daily Four-Midday —

04-09-03-09, SB: 07 **Daily Four-Evening** — 00-08-02-07, SB: 06

**Quick Draw Evening** - 03-09-12-13-16-21-31-38-42-43-50-51-56-61-66-70-72-73-76-79, BE: 16

Hoosier Lotto Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$8.2 million

**MEGA MILLIONS** 10-50-56-60-66; Mega Ball: 19; Megaplier: 3X.

**POWERBALL** Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$1.09 trillion



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 In-dianapolis Rd. Yoder, IN 46798 or send your resume

dirk@holleytruckparts.com. For more information, call 260-478-7411.

## This Week's Garage Sales



MOVING SALE APRIL 4, 5, and 6, starts 8 a.m., 216 Ridge Ct., Ossian. Household items, dishes, frames, toys, tools, gently used clothing, costume jewelry, and much more.

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

**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 ta-ble, bar stools, flower girl dresses, luggage, crafts, home decor, double bed frame, jewelry, much more. Sale sponsored by AdamsWells Internet

#### 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 process. 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 location will be emailed to the applicant. The application must be completed by April 20,

HELOISE HINT: If you are unhappy at work. Discuss this with your supervisor or human resources department. Be controlled and try to lay out the issues without too much emotion. See if you can work it out or get transferred to another division or department. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

### Thank you for reading

The News-Banner

#### **Help Wanted**

**WELLS COUNTY HIGHWAY** Seeking Full Time Bookkeep-er. Salaried, eligible for health benefits & pension. Computer knowledge required. Must be proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel. Willing to learn new soft-

ware programs. communicate Ability to effectively with employees and public. Ability to keep accurate records, organize and maintain office files. Knowledge of county road lo-

cations. Application and more information available wellscounty.org/highway department/ or at the highway office. Send application to 828 E 200 S, Bluffton or highway@wellscounty.org. Accepting applications until April 15th.

#### **FOR SALE**

#### **Miscellaneous**

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

# Swiss Village

#### Now Seeking: Summer Maintenance Worker

Swiss Village is seeking an individual to work 40 hours/week from May to August in Maintenance. This position will be day shift hours and primarily be responsible for assisting with outdoor maintenance and lawn care, including mowing, mulching, trimming shrubs, and pulling weeds. As time permits or weather requires, this position will also be responsible for assisting with indoor maintenance duties.

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

### **Public Notice**

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given to the Taxpayers of the City of Bluffton, Wells
County, Indiana, that the Common Council of said City will, at the Council Chambers, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana, meet on of April 16th, 2024 at 5:30 o'clock P.M., to consider the following additional appro-

priations in excess of the 2024 budget.

OPIOID Abatement Fund

APPROPRIATE TO:

Opioid Abatement Budget

431.020 Prevention Progs/Restricted

\$11,000.00 Taxpayers appearing at said meeting shall have the right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be automatically referred to the Department of Local Government Finance. The Department will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy

Michelle Simon City Clerk Treasurer

nb 4/3

\$11.000.00

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WANTED: ANTIQUES & OLD TOYS Cash Paid for old toys! Gi Joe, Transformers, Tin toys, Robots, Pressed Steel Cars/ trucks, Action Figures, Antiques of all kinds, etc. Searching for attics, basements, barns, etc to go through. Call or Text! 260-223-8083

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# **Public**

BIDDING STARTS CLOS- high end his and her golf clubs ING APRIL 4 STARTING AT and accessories, huge qty. of 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! Pick up April 5, 1-5 p.m., 230 High Street, Geneva. *Kruecke*berg 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, 260-824-3006. APRIL 8-APRIL 15 - (Online Only Auction) - Fort Wayne Community Schools, seller. Excess needs of FWCS Transportation Department. Mechanic and shop equipment, shelving, computer monitors and electronics, office furniture, parts washer, air compressor, much more. Preview: April 10 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 6006 Ardmore Ave., Fort Wayne, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.

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

kjauction.com.
APRIL 12-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., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

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

power and hand tools, modern furniture, sterling silver flatware set, Smith and Wesson revolver, jewelers safes, much more. Auction preview: April 14 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., 2926 Smith Rd., Fort Wayne, IN. *The Stef*fen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.
BIDDING NOW OPEN AND

STARTS CLOSING APRIL 16 STARTING AT 6 PM EST - Howard Williams, owner. Real estate 6 p.m.: 915 sq. feet, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 car detached garage, sitting on .15 acre city lot, Adams Central Community School, Monroe Township, Adams County, Indiana. Personal property 6:30 p.m.: 2007 Ford Five Hundred, tools, hand tools, appliances, furniture, lawn/garden, household items, collectibles & much more! Pick up April 17, 2-6 p.m., 113 W. Washington St., Monroe. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402,

kjauction.com. APRIL 20 - 10 a.m. - (Live Auction) - Marc and Valerie Hamman, seller. 6530 S. 300 ., 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 *lnc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

APRIL 22 - 6 p.m. - Kevin Reinhard, seller. Wells County 4-H Park, 1240 4-H Park Rd., Bluffton. Property: From Bluffton travel 3 miles southwest on Hoosier Highway. Online bidding available. 75+/-A offered in 5 tracts or any combination, Wells County, Harrison Township. Buyer will have 2024 farming rights. Productive farmland in great location (southwest of Bluffton). Development potential. Truck farm opportunity. Inspection: April 6, 10 a.m.-noon, April 16 4-6 p.m. Auction manager Al Pfister, 260-760-8922, Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., schraderauction.com, 800-451-2709.

#### **SUDOKU ANSWER**

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### ver and onions - and other bad smells

Here's

the

Thing

When I was a child of seven, my father lost his job as an advertising salesman and auctioneer for a large livestock-oriented magazine. So instead of working cattle auctions over the eastern half of the country, he decided to move his pregnant wife and family of five kids from town to his father's run-down 160-acre farm about ten miles east of Marion, Indiana, and one mile from Oak Chapel Evangelical United Brethren Church where I was saved many times at revival meetings, required due to my constant backsliding. Things like swearing (only under my breath), wanting to watch The Beverly Hillbillies more than attend Wednesday night prayer meeting, and obsessively thinking about girls even though I was too shy to talk to them. Guilty as charged on each count.

Just so you know, there were many kind and good people at the Oak Chapel EUB. I hold them in high regard, but I have changed my thinking about the whole heaven/hades' paradigm, and I am very comfortable with my choice of the Beverly Hillbillies, among many other such numerous sins. There is one question, however, from my kind and gentle Sunday School teacher that seems never to leave my consciousness. I am no biblical scholar, but it goes something like this: What if you gain the whole world, but lose your soul? Loosely translated: Try to

do the right thing. We had livestock on this financially disastrous agrarian experiment. Beef, hogs, sheep, chickens, and ponies just for fun. We butchered our own (not the ponies). It was normal to see headless chickens hanging upside down on the clothesline, wait-

ing patiently to be doused in a

boiling cauldron for defeathering

while their unsuspecting siblings

pecked the ground beneath them. Fresh sides of beef hung in the barn as I mostly watched dad and whatever neighbor came to help flash their knives.

I remember smells, the most wonderful in my life being the smell of mom's yeast rolls coming from the oven just as we got off the school bus. But, on the other side, dad insisted to everyone's horror on mom serving all parts of our butchered animals. We had chicken gizzards and livers, mutton, beef tongue, brains, beef heart, and the worst smelling dish of all time - liver and onions. Its odiferous preparation permeated the home and cast a fetid pall worthy of Poe's House of Usher on all inhabitants. My stomach recoiled in dyspeptic response with reverse peristaltic contractions of my

A total solar eclipse occurs on a given

The event will be from 2 to 4 p.m. on

The total solar eclipse should be visible

our area starting around 3:06 pm. Par ticipants of this program will get a safety

briefing before going outside to view the

eclipse. Each participant who registers

will receive a pair of glasses to view the

spot on the planet only once every 375

years, so you won't want to miss this spe-

cial event at the Main Library in Bluffton.

Monday, April 8 at the Main Branch in

alimentary canal. In other words, I wanted to throw up.

Please forgive me for the circuitous path I have taken

to get to the point of this essay. I think about this often, but I want to be careful in relaying my thoughts. When I hear or read of people professing to be Christian who suggest or outright claim that the demagogue who was POTUS 45 and who aspires to be POTUS 47 is a vessel of Christ, anointed to save a wayward world, or to prepare us for the apocalypse, I have the same response as I do in the face of liver and onions for dinner. I don't know that I can explain it any more clearly than I did in the previous paragraph. It sickens

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PLAN &

BOX

I am fully aware that three out of every four voters in Wells County, a place that has been good to me and my family, voted for him in 2020. However, I am genuinely concerned with my legacy as I have now turned 73 years of age. With the alleged Yogi Berra quote in mind, "Predictions

are hard, especially about the future.", I believe DT will lose the election in 2024 and that history will toss him and his supporters into the proverbial dust bin of history, there to be studied for their callous infamy. Of course, I may be wrong. I was wrong in 2016. My prediction is aspirational for sure.

I apologize if I have offended you, the reader, but I do not apologize for the harshness of my words. When my grandchildren ask, "Where did grandpa stand?

What did grandpa say about DT in his time?" they will know I did not kiss the ring and I was not swayed by this serial liar for the sake of political expediency. That will be my legacy. That is what I want.

Ken

Ballinger

Solar eclipse viewing at the Library

eclipse safely.

branch. All ages.

News and Events tab.

I will not list for you the perverse and various sins of this man who will soon take his place in the pantheon of menacing demagogues the world has known. These sins are well documented for the objective observers of history.

In my youth I was often warned about hanging out with bad people. They will define you; I was told. With this in mind, I would suggest that not all DT supporters are white nationalists. However, all white

Eclipse glasses will only be handed

out at the event. The library does not have

extras to hand out to the public, so you

need to be registered to get a free pair of

glasses. Space is limited at the Bluffton

There will also be an event at the

Registration can be found on the

ssian Branch, which is currently full

There is a wait list in case anyone cancels.

library's site wellscolibrary.org under the

nationalist hate groups (Ku Klux Klan, Oathkeepers, Proud Boys, Three Percenters, etc.) are full-throated supporters of DT. That fact should make our Christian blood run cold. History will remind us of those who were ensnared by this cult of personality. I choose not to be among them. I think it is important to speak up.

Here's the thing: Having read Liz Cheney's book, "Oath and Honor," I would highly recommend it to you. In the end, I agree with: General Kelly, General Mattis, General Milley, General McMaster, General McCaffrey, Admiral Stavridis, John Bolton, Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, Secretary of Defense, Mike Esper, Nikki Haley, Dick Cheney, Liz Cheney, Mike Pence... and countless others who say he is incompetent, dangerous and a threat to our democracy. He has lost his

ken.ballinger@yahoo.com

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

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### **Events at Fort Wayne's Promenade Park** Among the events at Fort Wayne's Riverfront at Prom-

enade Park are the following:

West Coast Swing: Wednesdays from April 10 to May 1, 6:30-8 p.m., Dance Lessons and Dance Party on Wednesday, May 8, 6:30-8 p.m. Park Foundation Pavilion with registration to fortwayneparks.org or 260-427-6000. \$10 per lesson (\$12 if drop in), open to all ages.

Sunday Heritage Concert: April 14, 2 p.m.: Joy Bell (combination of acoustic, folk, pop and rock), Park Foundation Pavilion, free.

Spring Cookie Decorating: Friday, April 12, 6-8 p.m., Park Foundation Pavilion

Sunday Sweat on the Riverfront: Sunday, April 14; Kickboxing with 9Round: 9-10 a.m. and Yoga on the riverfront: 10:30-11:30 p.m., Park Foundation Pavilion, free. (A 2nd Sunday free event.)



Someone Like You

Thursday, April 4th 6pm Friday, April 5th 6pm & 8:50pm Saturday, April 6th

2:30pm, 5:15pm & 8pm Sunday, April 7th 2pm & 4:50pm Ghostbusters Frozen Empire

Thursday, April 4th 6:20pm Friday, April 5th 6:20pm & 9pm Saturday, April 6th 3pm, 5:45pm & 8:15pm Sunday, April 7th 2:20pm & 5pm

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Kindergarten Open House @ Lancaster Elementary and Ossian Eleme Thursday, April 18 - 4p-6

