Gospel Barn to hold anniversary series

Entertainment Guide

Knights sweep in tennis vs. Panthers

Page 1a

Jefferson Township fire protection threatened

By SYDNEY KENT

Fire protection coverage may soon be unavailable to residents in Jefferson Township outside of the town of Ossian.

Ossian Town Council member Dennis Ealing told the advisory board and Jefferson Township Trustee Larry Heckber that they would receive the required 60-day notice of the change of services during a two-hour-long meeting on Wednesday. The decision was made after Ealing and the board

failed to agree on how to move forward with an existing contract.

Board members Tim Baker and David Haiflich took issue with the fact that a contract, signed between the town and the township in September, was breached. Specifically, the township was charged nearly \$30,000 for a fire hydrant rental even though they already have access to water for fires.

Ealing gave a reason for this funds from the township were unable to be used for nearly anything else according to the contract.

During the discussion, it was stated that Jefferson Township agreed to pay approximately \$79,000 in 2024 for fire protection. This amount is to be use exclusively for equipment, not

Ealing asked repeatedly what else he was supposed to bill the township to account for their portion of the budget. Haiflich and Baker could not answer. They continued to redirect the conversation to the fact the issue was not properly handled.

You've done some things here," Baker said to Heckber. "You knew that was against the contract. You spent that money."

Board member AJ Springer acknowledged that it was not OK to bill the township for the hydrants, nor for Heckber to have paid the bill for the hydrants without the board's approval. However, he also said it was inappropriate that the township was not paying

by the department — despite using more of the resources.

"Ossian has a lot more homes than Jefferson Township, don't they?" A member of the public asked during the meeting.

"The assessed value is identical," Heckber answered.

Ealing echoed this. He also explained that 140 fire runs were made in the township, while 133 fire runs were made in Ossian.

(Continued on Page 2)

Anti-overdose medication box distributes over 200 units in county's first year

By SYDNEY KENT

Over 200 units of Narcan, a life-saving medication used to reverse an opioid overdose, have been utilized in Wells County during the last year through a free resource

The Narcan box, located behind the Community Thrift store at 117 S. Main Street, was produced from a partnership between Community Care of Northeast Indiana and the Wells County chapter of Citizens Against Drug Abuse in March 2023. The box contains doses of naloxone, known by its brand name Narcan.

"There have been over 200 units gone in total," said Christine Walker, CCNEI executive director. "You don't know if that has saved a life, but it is humbling to think about that. Our store makes it an easy access for the community, people think that they're dropping off donations when they're just getting it out of the box."

The box is the first of its kind in the county. Walker said that the organization hopes to install an additional box at a local business in Ossian, preferably at a convenient location for the community to access.

"Molly Hoag with CADA was very strategic in looking for a location within the city limit," Walker explained. "She worked hand in hand with the Overdose Lifeline to bring (Continued on Page 2)



The Narcan box, located in downtown Bluffton, is between Christine Walker (left) and Twyla Bice (right). (Photo by Sydney Kent)

For the love of dogs

Business donates toys to animal shelter

By JONATHAN SNYDER

made dog toys from Valero Renewable Fuels.

In honor of national pet day on Thursday, Valero employees put together some dog toys made from old or unwanted T-shirts. There were three types of toys created, a simple braid made from a mix of

two shirts, a knot tied in the mid-Bluffton's animal shelter dle of two T-shirts, and a ball toss received a donation of 45 hand- toy that required two shirts and a tennis ball.

The idea to donate to the animal shelter came from Valero's monthly discussions about charity opportunities. While this is not the first time Valero has donated toys from T-shirts, the designs for the shirts have gotten simpler this

> year, according to Valero Administrative Assistant Megan Johnson.

Animal Control Officer Tina Morris stated that the shelter gets these sorts of donations monthly to every other month but they normally come from people, not businesses. The animal shelter



Valero's Megan Johnson plays with two dogs named Marty and Marley. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

will hold animals for as long as they can, which maximizes the use of anybody's donations.

"They (the animals) will take anything they can get," Morris

Morris also stated that toys and treats for cats and dogs are what the shelter needs most of the time, so Valero's gift fits nicely for the

jonathan@news-banner.com

Monday The Wells County Chamber of Commerce will host a forum for local primary candidates at 7 p.m., Monday, April 15, in the lower level of the Wells County Commerce and Visitors Centre, 211 Water St. in Bluffton. Refreshments will be provided.

Primary

forum is

candidate

Local contested elections are the Republican nominations for Wells County Council, three At-Large, and Commissioner, District 3. Council incumbents are Vicki Andrews, Scott Elzey and Seth Whicker, challenged by Heath Schlagenhauf. Incumbent Jeff Stringer is challenged by Tamra Boucher.

The Clerk's Office at the Wells County Courthouse is available for early voting 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, as well as 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, and Saturday, May 7, and 8 a.m. to noon on Monday, May 6.

Early voting will also be available from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, April 29, and Tuesday, April 30, at the Wells County 4-H Park; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 27, and Saturday, May 4, at Presbyterian Church; and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 2, and Friday, May 3, at Lighted Gardens.

Mail-in ballot applications are available at wellscounty.org/elections. Applications are due to the Clerk's Office or Indiana Election Division by the end of the day April 25.

Marley enjoys the new toys.

House reauthorizes key U.S. surveillance program

By FARNOUSH AMIRI and ERIC TUCKER **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted Friday to reauthorize and reform a key U.S. government surveillance tool following a dramatic showdown on the floor over whether the FBI should be restricted from using the program to search for Americans' data. The bill was approved on a

bipartisan basis, 273-147, though

it will still have to clear the Senate to become law. The surveillance program is set to expire on April 19 unless Congress acts.

Passage of the bill represented a much-needed victory for Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., who has been wrangling with conservative critics of the legislation for months. A group of 19 Republicans revolted to block the bill from coming to the floor earlier in the week, forcing Johnson to make

late changes to secure their sup-

The legislation approved Friday would extend the surveillance program for two years, rather than the full five-year authorization first proposed. Johnson hoped that the shorter timeline would sway GOP critics by pushing any future debate on the issue to the presidency of Donald Trump if he were to win back the White House in November.

Still, the legislation teetered precariously Friday morning as lawmakers voted on an amendment — vociferously opposed by Johnson, the White House and sponsors of the legislation — that would have prohibited the warrantless surveillance of Americans.

One of his top critics, Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene said that Johnson's vote against the warrant requirement was another (Continued on Page 2)

Local/Area

Obituaries.....3 Destination Rec...3

Opinion Saturday Sub 4

Also...

Sports. 1a-2a Classifieds 4a Diversions 3a



The rain takes a well deserved break today

Sunday Monday Today High 63 High 76 | High 73 Low 51 | Low 48 | Low 54

More Weather on Page 2



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Fire protection

More resources are also required outside of town.

"It's not raising your taxes," Ealing continued. "What's raising your taxes is Larry trying to get a cumulative fund for a firetruck. The town of Ossian is tired of paying 75% of the budget."

You have to have manpower to go fight fires," Springer pointed out to his fellow board members. "I don't get why we can't agree to pay manpower."

Haiflich said he could agree that it needed to be discussed in the future. Ealing reiterated that they agreed to pay the contracted \$79,000 this year, and suggested that the board was trying to find a way out of paying the funds.

"I've had it," Baker said. "I am ready to seek legal counsel. They threaten us to kick us out-'

"I am not threatening you," Ealing interrupted. "I am telling you. If you don't pay the \$79,000 and you don't pay half of the budget next year — we are not going to provide coverage.'

"What is good for the community?" Springer asked. "Supporting the fire department or not supporting it?"

"For them to just come in and take money out," Haiflich said. "Because

that's the only way they figured they could get our money without changing the contract — what the heck? Did they come and ask us?"

"Did we go and ask them?" Springer returned. "Do you go to their meetings? Do you go to commissioners or Wells County Council meetings? Are you involved in other aspects outside of this township? I don't see anybody else at these meetings, I try to go so I can be informed. Without being informed, you cannot make decisions. You need to be informed locally, in the county and the state. Stuff can change."

Springer explained that the county has discussed creating a fire district, a move that could cost the town and township significantly more money.

"We can stave off that push," Springer concluded.

"I'm all for talking about the contract," Baker said. "But making it retroactive because they already pulled the money out? That's wrong. It's illegal."

"Name one other contract in your life," an audience member added. "Any contract that you can decide tomorrow you don't like anymore so you're just going to make a new one retroactively.

That's not the purpose of a contract. It sounds like it needs to be renegotiated. But to throw it out the window? That's not how a contract works."

The issue continued until Heckber proposed a motion to rewrite the agreement — after a meeting between members of the township board and the council to address the contract. The motion included making the agreement retroactive for this year.

"The retroactive part may or may not work for me," Baker said. "I want to see the bills first."

Springer seconded the motion, with Haiflich and Baker in favor.

A date for a meeting has not been set at the time of publication. In a phone call following the meet-

ing, Ealing confirmed his intent to send a notice of intent to discontinue services according to the current contract. Before 2024, Jefferson Township

paid roughly \$40,000 annually Ealing indicated he also wanted the township to pay for roughly half of the \$200,000 fire department budget. Heckber had given a similar sentiment during the Ossian Town Council meeting Monday.

sydney@news-banner.com

Weather

feet at 8:45 p.m. Friday

Saturday, April 13, 2024 (24-hour observations at 10:33 p.m. Friday) High: 59; Low: 46; Precipitation: 0.02 inches of rain Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 9.7

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 63. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: A chance of showers between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 5 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 76. West wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Sunday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11 p.m., then a slight chance of showers between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 48. West wind 5 to 15 mph becoming north after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 73.

Monday Night: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Tuesday: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 8 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 75. Tuesday Night: Showers likely and possibly a thunder-

storm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Wednesday: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 74. Windy.

Wednesday Night: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. Thursday: A 50% chance of showers and thunder-

storms. Partly sunny, with a high near 68. Thursday Night: A chance of showers and thunder-

storms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 44.

Friday: A slight chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 52. Breezy.

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Anti-overdose medication

(Continued from Page 1) it all together. We would love to see another box installed in the county.'

Walker said accessibility to Narcan is a critical component of harm reduction. Nearly half of the just over 200 units used were accessed in the last two

Twyla Bice, manager

of the resource center for riencing an overdose but CCNEI, refills the box as needed and records data about the number of units taken. Bice said that 39 units of Narcan were taken in February and 49 in

Some people may have concerns about administering the medication to someone they believed was expe-

were not. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, it is still safe. If the person is overdosing on something other than an opioid, the medication will be ineffec-

"If you have loved ones you're concerned about, you can keep it in your car

or bag," Walker explained. "Even if you aren't aware of anyone battling addiction to opioids personally — it's a great thing to have. It can save a life." Any businesses in Ossian

interested in learning more about installing a Narcan box should contact CADA at cadaofwellscounty@yahoo.com.

sydney@news-banner.com

U.S. surveillance program

strike against him.

"Basically, what's the difference in Speaker (Nancy) Pelosi and Speaker Johnson and there's not one," the Georgia lawmaker said.

The amendment ultimately failed by the narrowest of margins, in a 212-212 tie. Supporters breathed a sigh of relief as the vote was gaveled to a close.

The vote on the amendment cut across party lines, uniting progressives and conservatives who agree on little else, but have long been skeptical of the government's surveillance powers.

And opponents of the legislation weren't giving up. In a surprise move after the vote was closed on the overall bill, a Republican made a procedural motion preventing the legislation from being sent to the Senate. An additional vote will be needed next week.

The legislation approved Friday would permit the U.S. government to collect, without a warrant, the communications of non-Americ outside the country to gather foreign intelligence. The reauthorization is currently tied to a series of reforms aimed at satisfying critics who complained of

civil liberties violations against Ameri-

But far-right opponents have complained that those changes did not go far enough. The vocal detractors are some of Johnson's harshest critics, members of the ultra-conservative House Freedom Caucus, who have railed against the speaker the last several months for reaching across the aisle to carry out the basic functions of the government.

To further appease some of those critics, Johnson also plans to bring forward next week a separate proposal that would close a loophole that allows U.S. officials to collect data on Americans from big tech companies without a warrant.

Though the program is technically set to expire next Friday, the Biden administration has said it expects its authority to collect intelligence to remain operational for at least another year, thanks to an opinion earlier this month from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which receives surveillance applications. But officials say that court approval shouldn't be a substitute for congressional authorization, especially since communications companies could cease cooperation with the government.

First authorized in 2008, the spy tool has been renewed several times since then as U.S. officials see it as crucial in disrupting terror attacks, cyber intrusions and foreign espionage. It has also produced intelligence that the U.S. has relied on for specific operations.

But the administration's efforts to secure reauthorization of the program have repeatedly encountered fierce, and bipartisan, pushback, with Democrats like Sen. Ron Wyden who have long championed civil liberties aligning with Republican supporters of former President Donald Trump, who in a post on Truth Social on Wednesday stated incorrectly that Section 702 had been used to spy on his presidential

"Kill FISA," Trump wrote in all capital letters. "It was illegally used against me, and many others. They spied on my campaign." A former adviser to his 2016 presidential campaign was targeted for surveillance over potential ties to Russia under a different section of the law.

Public

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3006, http://www.steffengrp.com.

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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. The Steffen Group , 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,

kiauction com BIDDING ENDS APRIL 19 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Dr. Hugh and Rhea Glidewell, seller. Huge jewelry and coin auction. Seven Rolex watches, fine diamond rings, necklaces, earrings, 14ct, 18ct and 22ct gold jewelry, sterling silver jewelry, 350+ Invicta luxury watches, coin collection. Auction preview

April 14 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., 2926 Smith Rd., Fort Wayne, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

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

Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.
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Estate of Dr. Hugh and Rhea Glidewell, seller. Major personal property auction. 2008 Mercedes sedan, large quantity of highend camera equipment, professional telescope, new high end his and her golf clubs and accessories, huge qty. of power and hand tools, modern furniture, sterling silver flatware set, Smith and Wesson revolver, jewelers safes, much more. Auction preview:

April 14 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., 2926 Smith Rd., Fort Wayne, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

APRIL 20-APRIL 27 - (Online Only Auction) - By order of the secured creditor, seller. Over 400+ designer wedding and bridesmaid dresses, designed by Christina Wu, Morilee, Allured Dride, Modding and Steffen and Modding Setters and Server and Steffen and Server a Bridal, Maddison James, Maggie Sottero, and more, all size and styles. Preview: April 17 and April 24 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 215 Market St., Bluffton, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-

3006, www.steffengrp.com.

APRIL 21-APRIL 28 - (Online Only Auction) - The estate of Loring and Sandra McCay, seller. Huge antique and primitive auction. Outstanding collection of antique furniture including primitive cupboards, dry sinks, pie safes, large qty. of country primitives, feather light sewing machines, early quilts, 100's of fabric bolts, crocks, vintage Christmas, costume jewelry. Preview: April 18 and April 25 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St.,

Ossian. Pat Carter, sale manager, The Steffen Group Inc., 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 16, 4-6 p.m. Auction manager Al Pfister, 260-760-8922, Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., 800-451-2709, schraderauction.com.

APRIL 28-MAY 5 - (Online Only Auction) - Various consignors, sellers. Over 4,000+ older and newer comic books, sports trading cards, vintage toys including Cabbage Patch dolls, vintage toys, 45 records, much more. Preview: April 30 and May 2 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 118 E. Craig St., Ossian. Rod Fetters, sale manager, The Steffen Group, Inc., www.steffengrp.com 260-824-

1 dead, 3 injured after semitrailer intentionally crashed into Texas public safety office

BRENHAM, Texas (AP) — A Texas semitrailer driver rammed a stolen 18-wheeler through the front of a public safety building where his renewal for a commercial driver's license had been rejected, killing one person and injuring 13 others, authorities said Friday.

The intentional crash into the single-story brick building off a highway in Brenham, a rural town outside of Houston, littered debris in the parking lot and left a gaping hole in the entrance. The crash damaged the front of the red semitrailer, which was hauling materials on a flatbed.

After crashing into the building the first time, the driver backed up the truck with the intention of smashing it again before being detained, Brenham Mayor Atwood Kenjura said.

"It's unfortunate that we are here gathered for a really senseless tragedy," Kenjura said.

The driver — identified as Clenard Parker, 42 — was pulled out of the truck by authorities at the Texas Department of Public Safety office. Authorities say Parker did not resist when he was taken into custody and would face multiple felonies, but did not specify the charges.

On Thursday, Parker was told by employees at the office that he would not be eligible to renew his commercial driver's license, Texas Department of Public Safety Sgt. Justin

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Ruiz said. He did not elaborate as to why Parker's renewal was rejected.

One employee in the building was trapped "for a period of time" after the crash but no one who worked at the driver's license office suffered serious injuries, Republican state Sen. Lois Kolkhorst said.

It was unclear Friday afternoon where the person who was killed was located at the time of the crash.

Following the crash, two people were flown to a hospital in Bryan and another to Houston. Three people were transported to local hospitals but later released, and eight others were treated on the scene.

Ruiz said they were still investigating whether Parker was armed at the time of the crash. He said they also were investigating whether his actions might be considered an act of terrorism.



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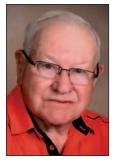
Guy Dean Jackson, 86

Guy Dean Jackson, 86, a lifetime resident of Warren, passed away Thursday, April 11, 2024, at Heritage Pointe Communities

Guy was born April 2, 1938, to Donald and Edna Louise (Barnes) Jackson in Huntington County, Indiana. He graduated from Warren High School in 1956, and married R. Carlene (Theobald) Jackson on March 4, 1962. She preceded him in death in 2009

Guy established Guy Jackson Duroc Inc., currently operating as JJ Genetics with Mike, Karen, and family. He was also a member of the Woodlawn Cemetery Board, Huntington County Fair Board as a past president, National Duroc Association, Indiana Duroc Association, Huntington County Swine Boosters, a Lifetime Member of the Indiana State Fair Hall of Fame and received a legacy award at the christening of the new Swine Barn. He sold hogs nationally and worldwide. Guy could always be found at the hog shows, supporting his grandchildren's events and activities and tooling around the farm on his gator with his dog, Spice close behind.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Edna Jackson; wife, R. Carlene Jackson; son, Kent Dean Jackson; granddaughter, Jama Lynn Johnson; and brother, Wayne Lee Jackson.



Loving survivors include his daughters, Kelly (DeWayne) Jones and Karen (Mike) Johnson both of Warren; grandchildren, Suzzette (Graham) Corbin of Ingall, Ind., Sarah Jones of Warren, Samuel Jones of Warren, Jackson (Kalin) Johnson of Warren, and Jada Johnson of Warren; four great-grandchildren, Emma, Griffin, Caysen and Gentry; brother, Wendell (Marcia) Jackson of Warren;

and sister-in-law, Mary Ann Jackson of

Friends and family may gather to share and remember at the First Christian Church of Warren, formerly Warren United Church of Christ, located at 202 E 2nd Street, Warren, IN 46792, on Monday, April 15, 2024, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and again on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. A funeral service will be held Wednesday, April 17, at 11 a.m. with visitation one hour prior. Burial will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery in Warren, Indi-

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to:

NSR Foundation in Memory of Guy Jackson, 2639 Yeager Rd., West Lafayette, IN 47906 or Wells County Swine Boosters, 1240 4H Park Rd., Bluffton, IN 46714

Arrangements have been entrusted to Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home in Warren, Indiana.

Local Roundup

County Commissioners to hold executive session

The Wells County Commissioners will hold an executive session at 3 p.m. Monday, April 15, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Notice of the session cited the reason for the executive session as hearing information about prospective employees.

Solid Waste District board will meet Monday morning

The board of the Wells County Solid Waste District will meet at 4 p.m. Monday, April 15, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- A report from Recycling Center Superintendent Kevin Poling.
 - Rates for CD investment.

County Drainage Board will meet Monday morning

The Wells County Drainage Board will meet at 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 15, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include project updates and miscellaneous matters

County Commissioners will meet Monday evening

The Wells County Commissioners will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, April 15, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Topics on the agenda include: Department reports from Wells County Sheriff Scott Holliday and Highway Super-
- visor Shawn Bonar.
- Bridge 51 and 106 bid results. • Renewal of insurance with Walker-Hughes.
- An Imagine Early update with director Ashleigh King and Jessica Bricker. • An update regarding the Economic
- Development Commission.
- Monthly reports and miscellaneous business.
- Approval of the rezoning commitment
- agreement with Meyer. • Right-of-way and utility agreements.

Bluffton-Harrison school board will meet Monday

The board of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, April 15, in the school district's administration building at 803 E. Harrison St. in Bluffton.

Topics on the agenda include:

- ISBA EGA Level 1-Commendable Board Award for 2024
 - Personnel and financial matters.
- Reports from Superintendent Brad Yates and Assistant Superintendent Julie
 - 2024 graduation information. • Continued discussion of the high school
- building envelope project, athletic facility needs and safety village.
- Recognitions of donations.
- Consideration of a resolution to raise the micro-purchase threshold.
- Discussion of the AP U.S. History cur-
- Discussion of Indiana College Core and CTE Certification.

County Election Board will meet Tuesday afternoon

The Wells County Election Board will

meet at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, in the clerk's office in the Wells County Courthouse, 102 W. Market St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- IEC-9 & IEC-10 certifications from the March 21 public test.
- Resignation of Poneto Town Clerk-Treasurer Bradley Schoeff.
- Resolution to permit 16- and 17-yearolds to work at the Vote Center
- Approval of proxies for Election Board

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market

Topics on the agenda include:

- Continued discussion of a nuisance
- An update regarding a water adjust-
 - Personnel and financial matters. • A request from the American Legion.
 - A discussion about sidewalks.

Bluffton Common Council will meet Tuesday evening

The Bluffton Common Council will meet at 5:50 p.m. Tuesday, April 10, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Consideration of an additional appropriation from opioid funding.
- Approval of a resolution for a fund

Southern Wells school board will meet Tuesday

The board of the Southern Wells Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, in the high school media center of the SWCS campus.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Financial and personnel matters.
- Updated board policies.
- Field trip requests.
- Superintendent information.
- A work session will immediately follow in the central office.

Zanesville Town Council will meet Tuesday evening

The Zanesville Town Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, at the Zanesville Town Hall/Municipal Building, 17736 Wayne St. in Zanesville.

Markle Town Council will meet Wednesday evening

The Markle Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, in the meeting room of the Markle fire station, 150 W. Sparks St. in Markle.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Adoption of a resolution for the town of Markle Plan Commission.
- · Adoption of a resolution concerning authorization for execution of INDOT agreements • Regular reports from the operations
- manager, town marshal and clerk-treasurer. HCUED and Region 3-A report.

County health board will meet Thursday morning

The board of the Wells County Health Department will meet at 6:30 a.m. Thursday, April 18, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Bluffton Parks Rec **News Notes**



Destination Recreation

Last Thursday was a monumental day as we celebrated the groundbreaking for Phase 2 of the Interurban Trail that will connect Bluffton's downtown to the newly developed Lancaster Park. This mile segment is also part of the bigger 81-mile Indiana Visionary Poka-Bache trail system, which will eventually connect Pokagon State Park to Ouabache State Park, further increasing the opportunity for tourism.

Walking trails are by far the most used park amenities, and we are very thankful to Mayor John Whicker and the City Council, who got the ball rolling by hiring Engineering Resources to design the trail. We would also like to thank Mark Reinhard and Adam Grabill for all their efforts in developing the plans for the trail's lavout.

It was a lot of work to get to today, and we want to thank Roger Thornton, the District 1 councilman at the time, for helping us secure easements and funding for the project. We also want to thank Tony Crowell for all the hours spent working on those easements' agreements and Lori Shipman, our grant writer.

We are very grateful to Gov. Holcomb's Next Level Trails initiative, which awarded this project a little over \$404,000 to turn this long-awaited goal into a reality. We want to thank Erika Siebenthal and her team at the DNR for helping guide us through the grant pro-

This project wouldn't be possible without local support, so we want to express our deepest gratitude to the following donors who made this park possible by contributing towards the 20% grant

Major donors include the Wells County Foundation and the Caylor-Nickel

Donors: Everwise Credit Union, Steven and Yvette Huggins, Dave and Kris Troxel, Patti Troxel and in memory of Dick Troxel.

Contributors: Robert Troxel Premier Truck Rental, First Bank of Berne, Wells County Trails, Adamswells Internet Telecom TV, Honegger, Ringger & Co, Inc, Bluffton Animal Clinic, Family Ford of Bluffton, General Manufacturing, Coldwell Banker Holloway, Moose Lodge Bluffton 242, Brad and Molly Hoag, Gerald and Diann Tonner, and James and Audrey Almdale.

We also appreciate the landowners along the route who kindly donated easements that we could use as an "in-kind" match for this project.

Land Easement Donors include: Lowe's Home Center, S & G Rentals (Outdoor Concepts), Bluffton Acres, Mick Cupp, Jerry and Jane Case, Thomas and Margaret Antrim, Philip and Alice Grogg, iTown Church and INDOT.

This project has been a long journey and wouldn't have been possible without the support of our community, amazing grant opportunities, and generous donors and landowners. We are excited to enhance what Bluffton has to offer and are forever thankful to everyone who contributed to it. When we all work together, great things get accomplished.

Have a great week!

1 dead in small plane crash in northwest Indiana, police say

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) — One person died after a small plane crashed in northwest Indiana, police said Friday.

Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office said deputies discovered the plane's wreckage in a field off U.S. 231 northwest of Lafayette, the Lafayette Journal & Courier reported. The plane was reported missing around 3:30 p.m. Friday but was believed to have crashed Thursday night.

One fatality has been confirmed, Lt. Greg Frantz said, but the victim's name was not immediately released.

Deputies said they were waiting on National Transportation Safety Board investigators to arrive at the scene Friday eve-

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Mother Nature did not disappoint. She lived up to the billing.

Saturday's Sub

In the aftermath of Monday's total solar eclipse, I got to wondering if she had ever been a disappointment. On the contrary, I think there have been occasions — Monday being one of them — when expectations were exceeded.



Mark Miller

Sunrise at Haleakala. The first rim encounter of the Grand Canvon at Powell Point. Sunset on Lake MacDonald at Glacier National Park. Gazing into Firehole Lake at Yellowstone. The blue stillness of Jackson Lake reflecting the Grand Tetons. An early October colorful array on the slopes of Mt. Washington. There have been other unplanned encounters: A particularly memorable firefly display on a summer evening on the back patio. An extended summer lightning storm over a northern Indiana lake. Standing on an elevated par-3 tee on a golf course in South Africa with the Capetown harbor and Table Mountain in the background.

We all experienced the buildup to Monday. My wife mentioned that if we had a dollar for every time we had heard the word "totality," we could afford to travel to wherever the next one is. I've heard this from several

people: Little did we know how it would live up to the hype.

And I feel doubly blessed. I had envisioned staying home in the afternoon to avoid the expected traffic from all of the visitors. But editor Holly Gaskill asked if I would go out to the YMCA watch party and take some photos.

I would not have met fellow BHS Class of '68 grad Sherry Elliot, now a Fort Wayne resident who brought her friends from Illinois down for the event. (Her BHS was Bluffton

edition are even more awesome when viewed in high resolution on his computer screen. Although barely visible at this size, that is a huge solar flare near the bottom that protrudes beyond the blocking moon. High School, mine was Bellmont, just to be clear.) I would not have met the Henry family from Las Vegas,

Chad Kline's eclipse photos he allowed us to use in Tuesday's

driven their motor home but Colleen Henry's brother happens to live in Fort Wayne, so they flew in late last week. She made matching t-shirts for the occasion. "She'll sell it to you for the right price," her husband

viewing their third total eclipse. They would have

Paul quipped when I was admiring her work. "So she won't give me the shirt off her back, but she'll sell it," I confirmed. We did not make a deal.

I would not have met Pete Candreva, a man with a fancy telescope who looked younger than me, but not much. Turns out he is a former physics teacher now enrolled in Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne.

"Yes, a *late* second career," his wife confirmed. "You'll find more former scientists as ministers than about any other profession," he mentioned.

I ran into the wife of one of my Ball State roommates now living in Fort Wayne; she was with their daughter and a couple grandsons. I see him fairly regularly around a card table; Marsha not so much. He had decided to stay home, thinking fighting the crowd wouldn't be worth it. We agreed afterwards that he blew

And watching the totality with several hundred other people added a lot to the experience. The scenes shown on national news Monday evening included a lot of "hootin' and hollerin" from crowds in other large venues. I just don't recall much of that here. I would better describe as an awed, hushed silence. There were plenty of oohs and ahhhs, particularly when the sun completely disappeared and some applause when the full eclipse was over. But I just don't recall any loud cries of delight like they did for the TV cameras.

Mom's favorite hymn was "How Great Thou Art." A portion of a Bible verse also came to mind along the lines of "thy wondrous works." Later, I opened the Bible app on my iPad to see what its verse of the day was. 1 Chronicles 29:11 — "Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the splendor and the majesty, for everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to you."

It is any coincidence that the sun is about 400 times the moon's diameter, but is also about 400 times further away? So they just happen to appear to be the same size in our sky and one just happens to blot the other out from time to time, resulting in some pretty awesome, spectacular results. As I've shared before, I no longer believe in coincidences. Or, as Albert Einstein, a noted scientist, is credited as saying: "Coincidences are God's way of remaining anonymous."

I just disagree with the "anonymous" part, at least when He displays His wondrous works.

miller@news-banner.com

Column note: I want to give credit and thank Leon Gaiser for bringing me a copy of his book about Tecumseh and alerting me to the interesting and entertaining story about the 1806 eclipse we printed on last Saturday's front page.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, April 13, the 104th day of 2024.

There are 262 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On April 13, 1964, Sidney Poitier became the first Black performer to win an Academv Award for best actor or best actress with his performance in "Lilies of the Field."

In 1743, the third president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, was born in Shadwell in the Virginia Colony.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., on the 200th anni-

versary of the third American president's birth. In 1953, "Casino Royale," Ian Fleming's first book as well as the first James Bond novel, was published in Lon-

don by Jonathan Cape Ltd. In 1970, Apollo 13, four-fifths of the way to the moon, was crippled when a tank containing liquid oxygen burst. (The astronauts managed to return safely.)



Why the abortion fight will ease into split-the-difference agreement

Although many participants in it do not recognize this, and some who do recognize it regret it, the intensity of the debate about abortion policy is waning. This is partly because in 2022 the Supreme Court temporarily intensified the debate. And partly because the debate has been modulated by medical technology that has given the abstract debate the concreteness of visual vividness.

The Supreme Court's initially divisive decision overturning its 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling has catalyzed a consensus, albeit nationally uneven and slowly emerging. The consensus is as blurry as the improved sonogram images that perhaps are helping to catalyze it are sharp: By 15 weeks, it is untenable to talk, as some abortion advocates do, about what is pictured by the sonogram as "fetal material." It looks like a baby.

Robert Nisbet, a philosophically sophisticated sociologist who provided intellectual ballast to conservatism in the second half of the 20th century, considered it incoherent for conservatives to make opposition to abortion a fundamental tenet of their doctrine. He said "the major theme of Western conservatism" is "the preservation, to the extent feasible, of the autonomy of social groups against the state." And particularly the preservation of "the family's authority over its own."

Abortion has been considered an intractably divisive issue because it supposedly was not amenable to the basic business of politics: the splitting of differences. Nisbet noted, however, that "there is no record of any religion, including Christianity, ever pronouncing an accidental miscarriage as a death to be commemorated in prayer and ritual." This, Nisbet implied, indicates an ancient, durable and widespread cultural tendency to say this: Societies that assert an interest in protecting life before birth are not required, by custom or a settled, articulated logic, to ban all deliberate terminations of pregnancies.

This month, the Supreme Court of the nation's third-most-populous state allowed the legislature's recently enacted six-week ban on abortion to go into effect next month. (Before this, Florida had a moderately permissive abortion law.) But the court also, and perhaps more importantly, approved a ballot initiative that this November might undo what the legislature has done: If the initiative garners 60 percent support (current polling shows more than 60 percent support), it would establish a state constitutional right to abortion up to the point of viability (currently understood as 23-24 weeks).

The Economist says that more than 1 million sig-

natures (150,000 reportedly from registered Republicans) launched this referendum in the state whose 86,000 abortions in 2023 were one-twelfth of the nation's total. The Economist notes that Florida has been a destination for women from neighboring states with stricter abortion limits:

"Florida was one of the states that saw the greatest increase in abortions following the Dobbs ruling that overturned Roe v Wade. The state's ban will cut off nearly all access to abortion in the South.' Until its recent deepening redness (Don-

ald Trump carried it in 2016 and 2020 by 1.2 and 3.3 percentage points, respectively; Barack Obama carried it in 2008 and 2012 by 2.8 and .09 points, respectively), Florida was the largest swing

George

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who calls himself pro-life, has said he would sign legislation restricting abortion to the first 15 weeks. Another Republican governor, New Hampshire's pro-choice Chris Sununu, accepts his state's 24-week (viability) limit, and especially with each state working out its consensus. At six weeks, many pregnant women do not know their condition; recently, more than 90 percent of U.S. abortions have occurred within the first 15 weeks of gestation.

If most Republicans would reject a six-week threshold, and eschew an unconservative clamor for re-federalizing the subject with a national abortion ban, the taint of extremism would shift to Democrats. Many of them insist on a right to abortion until birth, when sonograms give a disturbing (one hopes) picture of what abortion would end, and why society can at this point reasonably assert an interest in protecting the visible infant's life.

Alexander Hamilton said that because the Supreme Court has neither the power of the purse nor of the sword, it is the government's "least dangerous" branch. Actually, the court today is the uniquely powerful branch because it lacks the power of the purse or sword, and must resort to persuasive public reasoning. Nowadays presidents and Congresses attempt this rarely, and only clumsily.

The debate the U.S. Supreme Court fueled two years ago is being ameliorative. North Dakota and South Carolina will continue to differ about abortion, but probably not forever as much they do now.

georgewill@washpost.com

Trump's abortion statement missed the mark

Donald Trump issued a lengthy statement on abortion this past Monday. It is the latest of several positions he has taken on an issue that continues to be hotly debated. Each statement is supposedly a matter of Trump's "conviction," though some have been contradictions of previous statements. These have included his longstanding pro-choice position before he ran for president, to pro-life, and now prolife with important caveats. Clearly his statement is one that conforms more to polls than principles, which

is nothing new. Trump starts with his support for IVF treatments, a subject raised in the Alabama state legislature, which first passed a law that criminalized the procedure if an embryo is subsequently destroyed, but then quickly reversed itself following an uproar. Trump said he favors IVF treatments for couples who need them.

Trump then takes the argument where it should go when he notes that many Democrats who support abortion, even in some cases late-term abortions, are the true radicals.

Next, Trump takes credit for the



Cal **Thomas**

Supreme Court ruling overturning Roe. Wade, which he should, but then says he favors each state deciding for itself what their laws should be. That should be seen as a starting point, not the end of the debate. A Civil War was fought over whether individual states should decide to embrace slavery or not. Either all life is "endowed by our Creator," or we are evolutionary accidents who can do what we want to each

other. "This is all about the will of the people," says Trump. "You must follow your heart, or in many cases your religion or your faith. Do what's right for your family and do what's right for yourself."

With that last line, Trump loses the moral argument about the value of human life. If each pregnant woman gets to decide for herself (and a man has no legal say), then we are back at the pro-choice position.

The abortion pill and telemedicine abortions have changed the debate. Women who want an abortion can now do it at home.

This is an argument that must be won mostly by persuasion. Abortion, like rampant crime and so many other cultural challenges that face us, is not the cause of our decadence, but a reflection of it. Here a definition of decadence can help focus on our deplorable condition as a nation: "moral degeneration or decay."

Look around. See what is happening in big cities, in public schools, at the border, our declining military power and standing in the world, the redefining of what it means to be a man or a woman. America's decline is noticeable to all with eyes to see and ears to hear. These things cannot be fixed overnight, but incrementally.

Near the end of his statement, Trump says this: "That's where we are right now. And that's what we want, the will of the people."

He's right in saying that's where we are right now, but he is wrong when he says it's all about the will of the people. People can be led to do what is right (see the end of slavery and the civil rights movement as only two examples). If one has no right to be born, no other rights matter.

Trump's statement, while welcome in part, cedes the moral high ground when he says abortion is up to individuals. That puts us back to where we started from, with the 1973 Supreme Court decision.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com.

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by the Advertisers on this page who want as their return to see more people go to church. A CITY ON A HILL

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

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

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

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

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

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

BLUFFTON CHURCH OF GOD

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

> **BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL** (Independent Holiness

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

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BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST

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

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

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

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

> **DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN** 8888S-1100W-90,

Warren 9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. -Sunday School.

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

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

FAIRVIEW CHURCH OF GOD

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

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST 210 W. Townley fbc-bluffton.com

10 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Discipleship.

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

FIRST BAPTIST

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

FIRST BAPTIST

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST 909 W. Spring St.

FCCfamily.com 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Worship.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 1515 Clark Ave.

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL)

123 S. Jefferson St., Óssian www.OssianChurch.com 8:45 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Worship.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF BLUFFTON 301 W. Cherry St.

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST 325 W. Washington St.

blufftonfirstumc.com 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

> **FORGIVEN CHURCH** 1409 S. Main St. forgivenonline.org

9 a.m. - Worship. **GRACE BAPTIST**

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

GRACE BIBLE 6626 Village Way, Berne gracebibleberne.com 9 a.m. - Sunday classes. 10 a.m. - Collective Wor-

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

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A Joyful Noise ...

by Chet

A SAINT'S STORY This Monday marks the

birthday of one of the 20th centuries greatest heroes of the faith: Corrie Ten Boom. It also marks the anniver-

sary of the day she passed away in 1981 at 91 and reunited with her family, including the sister who died in the Ravensbruck concentration camp. Germans sentenced both Ten Boom women there for harboring Jews during Baumgartner World War II.

Those who best know of Ten Boom's overcoming faith probably learned of it in her famous autobiography, "The Hiding Place," which focused on her life before, during, and shortly after World War II. But in 1917, Ten Boom wrote another book, "Tramp for the Lord," chronicling the decades she spent traveling to more than 60 countries to share the gospel.

And in this book, she recounts one particular encounter in Germany in 1947 — one that echoes in my heart as politicians smother me in more and more commercials in anticipation of Indiana's primary Tuesday, May 7.

According to these commercials, every other candidate hates America, hates apple pie, hates democracy, and hates puppies.

And quite candidly, I'm sick of people treating other people not as people, but as political boogeymen.

But Ten Boom's account gives me hope, even as it convicts me to see my favorite enemies as people According to Ten Boom,

she had just finished speaking about God's forgiveness at a church in Munich when a bald, heavyset man in a gray overcoat and carrying a brown hat approached her. Everyone else left with-

out talking to her, but this man apparently needed to say something.

But as he approached, Ten Boom quickly recognized him from her past – when he wasn't wearing a grey overcoat but a blue German uniform, and he didn't carry a brown hat then; he wore a visored cap with skull and crossbones.

'It came back with a rush," Ten Boom wrote in her account, "the huge room with its harsh overhead lights; the pathetic pile of dresses and shoes in the center of the floor; the

shame of walking naked past this man.

'The man who was making his way forward had been a guard — one of the most cruel guards."

In the past, the guard would have only referred to Ten Boom by her prisoner number, but in 1947 in the church in Munich, he referred to her respectfully as "fraulein." He thanked her for her message about forgiveness.

And he reached out his hand; he wanted her to shake the same hand that once held — and used — a leather crop.

"I have become a Christian," he continued saying. "I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel things I did there, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well.

"Will you forgive me?" Ten Boom knew she needed to say yes; she knew because Jesus commanded it, and she knew because she had counseled many war victims to forgive. If they did, she knew, they

could rebuild their lives. But, "Those who nursed their bitterness remained invalids.

"It was as simple as horrible as that."

And so she prayed. She pleaded to Jesus for help, and she lifted her hand.

"Woodenly, mechanically, I thrust my hand into the one stretched out to me. And as I did, an incredible thing took place. The current started in my shoulder, raced down my arm, sprang into our joined hands. And then this healing warmth seemed to flood my whole being."

With tears in her eyes, Ten Boom cried, "I forgive you, brother ... with all my

"I had never known God's love so intensely as I did then. But even so, I realized it was not my love. I had tried, and did not have the power. It was the power of the Holy Spirit."

I wonder if Ten Boom and this guard embraced each other on April 15, 1981 — before bowing before the one who had forgiven them both, the one who can forgive the vilest of sinners, the one who sees their sin, hates their sin, condemns their sin, but still sees in them the image of God.

baumofchet@gmail.com

COVENANT CHAPEL 3550 S. SR 1 mycovenantchapel.org

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:15 - Worship. (Children's Church for ages

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

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

KINGDOM HALL OF **JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES** 2803 N. Main St.

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

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

LANCASTER CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST 4510 E 400N, Craigville

9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9:40 - Fellowship. 10 a.m. -Worship.

LIFE COMMUNITY 428 S. Oak St. lifecommunity.net 10:30 a.m. - Service (Chil-

dren's programs available). **LIVING FAITH MISSIONARY**

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

LIVING WATER

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

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

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

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

TO REPORT CHURCH NEWS:

• E-mail to churchnews@news-banner.com • Drop information at 125 N. Johnson St. in Bluffton MARKLE CHURCH OF CHRIST 455 E. Morse St.

marklechurch.org 9 a.m. - Adult Bible study groups. 10:30 - Worship. Children's & student programming both hours.

145 W. Morse St. 10 a.m. - Worship. **MURRAY MISSIONARY**

MARKLE RIVERSIDE 316

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

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN (Missouri Synod) 8824 N. SR 1, Ossian

newhopelutheran-ossian.

webs.com 9 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible study. 10 a.m. -Worship. **OSSIAN CHURCH** OF THE NAZARENE

302 N. Metts St. ossiannaz.org 9:15 a.m. - Bible study. 10:30 - Service.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RIVER OF LIFE

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

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

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

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC 1300 N. Main St. Saturday: 7:45 a.m. -

Prayer. 8 a.m. - Mass. 8:30 - Rosary. 4 p.m. or by appointment - Confessions. 5 p.m. - Mass Sunday: 7:30 & 10 a.m. -Mass.

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

ST. MARK EV. LUTHERAN 16933 Thiele Rd. stmarkfw.org

School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

8:45 a.m. - Sunday

ST. MARK'S **LUTHERAN (NALC)** 5912 N. Sugar St., Uniondale

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

10 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 -

Children's Sunday School.

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

Montpelier 8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship. 9:15 - Worship.

TOWER LIFE CENTER 11811 N. Wayne St., Zanesville towerlifecenter.com

9:30 a.m. - TLC Groups. 10:30 - Worship. **TURNPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

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

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

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

VERA CRUZ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER CCCU

2771 SE Mulberry St., Vera Cruz 9-10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10-10:30 - Fellowship. 10:30 - Worship.

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH 205 S. Adams St., Monroe

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

COMMUNITY

CHURCH OF GOD

11984 N. Marzane Rd.

a.m. - Worship. **ZANESVILLE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST**

9 a.m. - Bible Class. 10

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





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Trump gives support to Speaker Mike Johnson at Mar-a-Lago meet

By LISA MASCARO and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Donald Trump offered a political lifeline Friday to House Speaker Mike Johnson, saying the beleaguered GOP leader is doing a "very good job," and tamping down the far-right forces led by Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene trying to oust him from office.

Trump and Johnson appeared side-by-side at the ex-president's Mar-a-Lago club, a rite of passage for the new House leader as he hitches himself, and his GOP majority, to the indicted Republican Party leader ahead of the November election.

"I stand with the speaker," Trump said at an evening press conference at his gilded private club.

Trump said he thinks Johnson, of Louisiana, is "doing a very good job – he's doing about as good as you're going to do."

"We're getting along very well with the speaker — and I get along very well with Marjorie," Trump said.

But Trump flashed some criticism over efforts to oust the speak-

er calling it "unfortunate," saying there are "much bigger problems" right now.

The visit was arranged as a joint announcement on new House legislation to require proof of citizenship for voting, but the trip itself is significant for both. Johnson needed Trump to temper hard-line threats to evict him from office. And Trump benefits from the imprimatur of official Washington dashing to Florida to embrace his comeback bid for the White House and his tangled election lies.

"It is the symbolism," said Charlie Sykes, a conservative commentator and frequent Trump critic

"There was a time when the Speaker of the House of Representatives was a dominant figure in American politics," he said. "Look where we are now, where he comes hat in hand to Mar-a-Lago."

While the moment captured the fragility of the speaker's grip on the gavel, just six months on the job, it also put on display his evolving grasp of Trump-era politics as the Republicans in Congress align with the "Make America Great Again" movement

powering the former president's re-election bid.

Johnson and Trump underscored their alliance Friday by using similar wording to describe one part of their campaign strategy — pummeling President Joe Biden with alarmist language over what Republicans claim is a "migrant invasion."

By linking the surge of migrants coming to the U.S. with the upcoming election, Trump and Johnson raised the specter of noncitizens from voting — even though it's already a federal felony for a noncitizen to cast a ballot in a federal election and exceedingly rare.

Trump called America a "dumping ground" for migrants coming to the U.S., and revived pressure on Biden to "close the border."

The speaker nodded along. "It could, if there are enough votes, affect the presidential election," warned Johnson, who had played a key role in challenging the 2020 election that Trump lost to Biden, previewing potential 2024 arguments.

In fact, Trump had made similar claims of illegal voting in 2016

but the commission he appointed to investigate the issue disbanded without identifying a single case. A previous voter crackdown risked striking actual citizens from the voting rolls.

Ahead of the meeting, the Trump campaign sent a background paper that echoed language from the racist great replacement conspiracy theory to suggest that Biden and Democrats are engaging in what Trump's campaign called "a willful and brazen attempt to import millions of new voters."

Some liberal cities like San Francisco have begun to allow noncitizens to vote in a few local elections. But there's no evidence of significant numbers of immigrants violating federal law by casting illegal ballots.

Afterward, Trump's team said the speaker agreed to hold a series of public committee meetings over the next two months ahead of the new House legislation.

Greene, a top Trump ally, said on social media that while she is "working as hard as possible" to elect Trump, "I do not support Speaker Johnson."

In the Trump era, the sojourns

by Republican leaders to his private club in Palm Beach, Florida, have become defining moments, amplifying the lopsided partnership as the former president commandeers the party in sometimes humiliating displays of power.

Such was the case when Kevin McCarthy, then the House GOP leader, trekked to Mar-a-Lago after having been critical of the defeated president after the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol. A cheery photo was posted afterward, a sign of their mending relationship.

Johnson proposed the idea of coming to Mar-a-Lago weeks before Greene filed her motion to vacate him from the speaker's office, just as another group of hardliners had previously ousted McCarthy. The visit comes days before the former president's criminal trial on hush money charges gets underway next week in New York City.

The speaker's own political future depends on support — or at least not opposition — from the "Make America Great Again" Republicans who are aligned with Trump but creating much of the House dysfunction that has brought work there to a halt.

20 years later, Abu Ghraib detainees get their day in U.S. court

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Twenty years ago this month, photos of abused prisoners and smiling U.S. soldiers guarding them at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison were released, shocking the world.

Now, three survivors of Abu Ghraib will finally get their day in U.S. court against the military contractor they hold responsible for their mistreatment.

The trial is scheduled to begin Monday in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, and will be the first time that Abu Ghraib survivors are able to bring their claims of torture to a U.S. jury, said Baher Azmy, a lawyer with the Center for Constitutional Rights representing the plaintiffs.

The defendant in the civil suit, CACI, supplied the interrogators who worked at the prison. The Virginia-based contractor denies any wrongdoing, and has emphasized throughout 16 years of

litigation that its employees are not alleged to have inflicted any abuse on any of the plaintiffs in the case.

The plaintiffs, though, seek to hold CACI responsible for setting the conditions that resulted in the torture they endured, citing evidence in government investigations that CACI contractors instructed military police to "soften up" detainees for their interrogations.

Retired Army Gen. Antonio Taguba, who led an investigation into the Abu Ghraib scandal, is among those expected to testify. His inquiry concluded that at least one CACI interrogator should be held accountable for instructing military police to set conditions that amounted to physical abuse.

There is little dispute that the abuse was horrific. The photos released in 2004 showed naked prisoners stacked into pyramids or dragged by leashes. Some photos had a soldier smiling and giving a thumbs up while posing next to a corpse, or detainees being threatened with dogs, or hooded and attached to electrical wires.

The plaintiffs cannot be clearly identified in any of the infamous images, but their descriptions of mistreatment are unnerving.

Suhail Al Shimari has described sexual assaults and beatings during his two months at the prison. He was also electrically shocked and dragged around the prison by a rope tied around his neck. Former Al-Jazeera reporter Salah Al-Ejaili said he was subjected to stress positions that caused him to vomit black liquid. He was also deprived of sleep, forced to wear women's underwear and threatened with dogs.

CACI, though, has said the U.S. military is the institution that bears responsibility for setting the conditions at Abu Ghraib and that its employees weren't in a position to be giving orders to soldiers. In court papers, lawyers for the contractor group have said the "entire case is nothing more than an attempt to impose liability on CACI PT because its personnel worked in a war zone prison with a climate of activity that reeks of something foul. The law, however, does not recognize guilt by association with Abu Ghraib."

The case has bouncedthroughthecourts since 2008, and CACI has tried roughly 20 times to have it tossed out of court. The U.S. Supreme Court in 2021 ultimately turned back CACI's appeal efforts and sent the case back to district court for trial.

In one of CACI's appeal arguments, the company contended that the U.S. enjoys sovereign immunity against the torture claims, and that CACI enjoys derivative immunity as a contractor doing the government's

bidding. But U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema, in a first-of-its kind ruling, determined that the U.S. government can't claim immunity when it comes to allegations that violate established international norms, like torturing prisoners, so CACI as a result can't claim any derivative immunity.

Jurors next week are also expected to hear testimony from some of the soldiers who were convicted in military court of directly inflicting the abuse. Ivan Frederick, a former staff sergeant who was sentenced to more than eight years of confinement after a court-martial conviction on charges including assault, indecent acts and dereliction of duty, has provided deposition testimony that is expected to be played for the jury because he has refused to attend the trial voluntarily. The two sides have differed on whether his testimony establishes that soldiers were working under the direction of CACI interrogators.

The U.S. government may present a wild card in the trial, which is scheduled to last two weeks. Both the plaintiffs and CACI have complained that their cases have been hampered by government assertions that some evidence, if made public, would divulge state secrets that would harm national security.

Government lawyers will be at the trial ready to object if witnesses stray into territory they deem to be a state secret, they said at a pretrial hearing April 5.

Judge Brinkema, who has overseen complex national security cases many times, warned the government that if it asserts such a privilege at trial, "it better be a genuine state secret."

Jason Lynch, a government lawyer, assured her, "We're trying to stay out of the way as much as we possibly can."

The O.J. Simpson case forced domestic violence into the spotlight, boosting a movement

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

— Thirty years ago, as women's rights advocates worked to pass the 1994 Violence Against Women Act, domestic violence was still something of a bushed topic

thing of a hushed topic.

Then Nicole Brown
Simpson's death forced it
into the spotlight. Americans riveted by the murder
investigation of superstar
ex-husband O.J. Simpson,
who died Wednesday at 76,
heard startling and painful
details of the abuse she said
she suffered at his hands.

"We must have had 20 media trucks lined up on Hollywood Boulevard to talk to us," said Patti Giggans, executive director of the Los Angeles-based non-profit Peace Over Violence, who said interest in the issue exploded overnight.

"Because it was O.J. — he's famous, an athlete, hand-some, everybody loved O.J. — we started to have conversations about what goes on in the mind of a batterer," Giggans said. "We were able to maintain that conversation throughout that two-year period (of the case). I think it changed the movement."

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story includes discussion of domestic violence. If you or someone you know needs help, please call 1-800-799-7233 in the U.S.

Given that victims — then and now — often hide their abuse, many people assumed it happened only to poor or marginalized women. But then they saw that neither Nicole Simpson's privilege nor her earlier calls to police had insulated her.

"She was beautiful, she was white, she was famous, she was wealthy. So, there was this sense that if it could happen to her, it could happen to anybody," said Rachel Louise Snyder, an

American University professor who explored the issue in her 2019 book, "No Visible Bruises."

In an undated letter that surfaced after her death, Nicole Simpson revealed that her NFL star-turned-celebrity husband gave her "disgusted" looks when she gained weight in her first pregnancy in 1988 and "beat the holy hell" out of her the following year, although the couple told an X-ray lab she had fallen off a bike.

In October 1993, a year after they divorced, she called 911 when Simpson showed up at her home "ranting and raving."

"He's in a white Bronco, but first of all he broke the back door down to get in," she said. "He's O.J. Simpson. I think you know his record."

Eight months later, she and friend Ron Goldman — who had stopped by to return eyeglasses left at a restaurant that night — were fatally stabbed outside her Brentwood home. Her two young children with Simpson were inside. She was 35, Goldman just 25.

"This was absolutely a watershed case," said Snyder, who said their June 12, 1994, deaths helped galvanize support for the Violence Against Women Act, which Congress passed that fall. "It spurred a national conversation, a national reckoning."

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SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024 · The News-Banner · Page 1a

Knights continue strong start, sweep Snider in tennis

Norwell extended its hot start to the girls' tennis season with another 5-0 sweep.

The home victory over Snider now puts the Knights at a perfect 3-0, winning all 15 varsity matches. This match was the first time any of the varsity games went to a third

Friday's match was a little more challenging as both teams fought through windy conditions, making the light tennis ball fly all over the court. It caused for some adjustments, as volleys were not going over the net like normal, balls in the air would get caught and swerve and most of the serves would need second or third attempts.

"It's tough for both teams to battle the elements, but I thought all the girls on both teams handled it really well," Norwell head coach Holly Kimball said. "I didn't hear a lot of complaining, and it wasn't as ugly as it could have been."

"You change your strategy a little bit when there's wind, especially when it's going diagonal," she continued. "You have to stand a little shorter on one side and stand a little further back on the other. It's just a skill they have to learn to play in the elements.'

The experienced, senior-led Knights still pushed through and came out without a scratch. It's something they've had to endure in the early part of the year with rain postponements and forcing practices outside.

Norwell is on a mission to win its sixth Northeast 8 Conference title and defend its sectional championship, but the inconsistency of the weather has tried to alter its plans. But Kimball has kept the group focused, and she's been impressed with the girls' adaptability.

We've had a lot of trouble practicing outside," Kimball said. "We've only been practicing four or five times. Just the resiliency — they're not really complaining that we're inside and were doing the same drills over and over. They translate that (outside). I'm thrilled that they're taking what they're learning inside and applying it to the courts."

Next week, Norwell has five scheduled matches, but unfortunately, early forecasts are not trending in the right direction.

Norwell's next contest on Monday looks to be the best short early in the week. That match will be against Adams Central and start at 4:30 p.m.

Kimball reaches 100

In the Knights' 5-0 win over Columbia City, head coach Holly Kimball earned her 100th career victory.

"It was never something that I really thought about," Kimball said. "I counted the other day, and it's exciting to coach the same team for long enough to get to 100, and I'm glad to share it with this group of girls. They're very excited for me, and I'm thrilled to have all of the girls I've had in the past that got me to 100.

ryan@news-banner.com

Individual results:

Names were not provided by Snider for

- Addy Heyerly won 6-0, 6-2 at No. 1 singles.
- Annabelle Johnson and Macy Felger won 6-1, 6-3 at No. 1 doubles.
- Delaney Hoover won 7-5, 6-2 at No. 2
- Jordan Xayyachack and Ciera Hiester won 4-6, 6-0, 6-0 at No.2. doubles.
- Macie Saalfrank won 6-1, 6-0at No. 3
- singles. The junior varsity team also defeated

Snider by a score of 9-0.

JV results

- Aubrey Meyer won 8-3. • Gabbi Hoeppner won 8-0.
- Lucy Gerbers won 8-0.
- Charli Swindell won 8-5.
- Hope Mitchell and Emmaline Johnson
- Sam Evans and Aubryn Keller won 6-4. Melissa Hoag and Campbell Sloan won
- Carley Wolf and Isabella Hubble won
- Hazel Lewis and Molly Threewits won 6-3.



Norwell's Delaney Hoover sends the ball back across the net in her Number 2 singles match against Snider Friday afternoon at Norwell. The Knights improved to 3-0 on the season in a sweep over the Panthers. (Photos by Chad Kline)



Norwell's Ciera Hiester, right, reaches high for a return against Snider during the Number 2 double match Friday afternoon at Norwell.

Bluffton Parks to host numerous events throughout spring, summer

Bluffton Parks has a handful of spring and summer events. Below are each event and more information. For more information on any of these events please email sports@blufftonindiana.gov.

Earth Day 5K

On Saturday, April 20, Bluffton Parks is hosting an Earth Day 5K at the Bluffton City Gym 128 E Market St.). This race be run, walked or jogged through Bluffton's residential neighborhoods and River Greenway. The goal is to celebrate Earth Day by minimizing our footprint on this event as we reduce waste, reuse old race bibs, and recycle past event shirts, even our awards are live plants and trees. Sign-ups for the 9 a.m. event is at raceroster.com/ events/2024/86614/earth-day-5k.

Summer Miles Challenge

The 2024 Bluffton Parks Summer Miles Challenge will run for all of the summer, between June 1 through Aug. 31. This event is a walk or run for 100 miles, bike 250 miles or bike 500 miles in that time span. You can register now at raceroster. com/events/2024/88130/summer-mileschallenge. A Challenge t-shirt and finisher medal are included when you register.

5 In 5K Series

The 5 In 5K Series is a five-week program Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. There is no pre-registration, rather, just come to the Wabash Pavillion behind Hardee's in Bluffton before the 7 p.m. start time. Run dates are June 11, 18, 25, July 2 and July 9. The event can be walked or ran and are "casual" runs. Refreshments are provided after each

run. Participants with four runs completed will earn a free series t-shirt.

Summer Solstice Sunrise Yoga

The longest day of the year, Thursday, June 20, will feature a one-hour yoga session at Pickett's Run Park at 6 a.m. Cost is \$10 as you come into the event. All you'll need is a yoga mat. Light, fresh and healthy hments will be provided.

Chicks Run 5K Run/Walk

Women can join a fun 5K at Pickett's Run Park at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 20. There will be prizes for the biggest teams, best costumes and overall and age group fastest times. Cost is \$20 including an event t-shirt, or \$10 excluding the shirt. Registration is at raceroster.com/events/2024/86896/chicks-

Hot Diggity Dog Jog 5K & 1 Mile

Bring your furry friend at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 22 at the fun, pet-friendly K9 Kommons Dog Park for a 5K or one mile run/walk. Proceeds will benefit the dog park. Participants will receive a running fanny pack, bandana and frisbee. On site, there will be a foam machine, dog wash, agility course and more. You can sign up to participate in person, virtually or donate at raceroster.com/events/2024/88158/hot-diggity-dog-jog. Bringing a dog is not required, but friendly dogs on a leash are welcome.

Fastest Kid in Town

Boys and girls ages 3-12 can race to find out who the fastest kid in Bluffton is in a 50m or 100m dash. This event will take place at Pickett's Run Park for a \$5 (Continued on Page A1)

High School Calendar

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

BASEBALL: Norwell at Athenian Invite at Crawfordsville, 10 a.m. and vs. Logansport, 12:30 p.m.; Oak Hill at Bluffton, 12 p.m. (doubleheader) SOFTBALL: Norwell at South Adams, 10::30

a.m. & 12 p.m.; New Haven at Bluffton, 12 p.m. TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Norwell at IPT Relays at Heritage High School, 9 a.m.; Bluffton at Oak Hill Invitational, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 15

BASEBALL: Bluffton at Norwell, 5 p.m.; South Adams at Southern Wells (non-conference), 5

GIRLS TENNIS: Adams Central at Norwell,

4:30 p.m.; Wabash at Bluffton, 5 p.m. SOFTBALL: Norwell at Adams Central, 5

.m.; Bluffton at Southwood, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at Wayne, 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

BASEBALL: Norwell at Jay County, 5 p.m.; Bellmont at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Jay County at Bluffton, 4:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Southwood, 5 p.m. GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at South side, 5:30

SOFTBALL: Norwell at Bishop Luers, 5:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Wabash, 5:30 p.m. TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Bellmont at Nor-

well, 5 p.m.; Bluffton at Jay County, 5:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Heritage, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

BASEBALL: Bluffton at Canterbury, 5 p.m.

ton at Southwood, 4:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Woodlan, 5 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at Homestead, 5 p.m.; Adams Central at Bluffton, 5 p.m. SOFTBALL: Marion at Norwell, 5 p.m.; Wes-

Del at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

BASEBALL: Homestead at Norwell, 5 p.m.; South Adams at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at Adams Central, 5 p.m. BOYS GOLF: Southern Wells at Wapahani,

4:30 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: Bluffton at New Haven, 5

SOFTBALL: South Adams at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at Adams Central, 5 p.m. TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Yorktown at Bluff-

FRIDAY, APRIL 19 BASEBÁLL: Angola at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: Wayne at Norwell, 5:30 p.m. SOFTBALL: Norwell at Homestead, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20 BASEBALL: Mississinewa at Southern Wells, 10 a.m.

BOYS GOLF: Norwell. Bluffton. Southern Wells at South Adams Golf Invitational, 9 a.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at Concordia, 10 SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Northfield, 10 a.m.

TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Southern Wells at BOYS GOLF: Norwell at Leo, 4:30 p.m.; Bluff-Eastern, 10:30 a.m.



GB

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division
W L P z-Boston x-New York 63 49 18 32 .778 .605

14 17 35 49 56 Philadelphia 46 32 25 .395 31 38 Brooklyn 309 **Southeast Division** GB **L** 35 Orlando 36 45 Miami .556 .444 10 20 61 Charlotte 26 Washington 15 66 .18 Central Division .185 32 33 GB x-Milwaukee .605 Cleveland

35 Indiana nicago 39 42 481 etroit 14 67 .173 WESTERN CONFERENCE **Southwest Division** GB W 31 32 y-Dallas 50 New Orleans 48 1½

.600

39 27 21 Houston 41 54 101/2 Memphis San Antonio 60 **Northwest Division** GB L x-Oklahoma City5625 56 56 25 25 50 x-Minnesota .691 x-Denver 25½ 30 Utah .375 59 Pacific Division y-L.A. Clippers51 GB **L** 29 33 35 Phoenix 588

x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division z-clinched conference Thursday's Games
Chicago 127, Detroit 105
New York 118, Boston 109
Utah 124, Houston 121 Golden State 100, Portland 92 New Orleans 135, Sacramento 123

35

L.A. Lakers

Sacramento

Golden State 45

Friday's Games
Chicago 129, Washington 127
Philadelphia 125, Orlando 113
Boston 131, Charlotte 98
Cleveland 129, Indiana 120 New York 111, Brooklyn 107 San Antonio 121, Denver 120 L.A. Lakers 123, Memphis 120 Miami 125, Toronto 103 Minnesota 109, Atlanta 106 Oklahoma City 125, Milwaukee 107 Detroit 107, Dallas 89 Houston at Portland, late New Orleans at Golden State, late Phoenix at Sacramento, late Utah at L.A. Clippers, late Saturday's Games

Sunday's Games Atlanta at Indiana, 1 p.m. Brooklyn at Philadelphia, 1 p.m. Charlotte at Cleveland, 1 p.m. Chicago at New York, 1 p.m. Milwaukee at Orlando, 1 p.m. Toronto at Miami, 1 p.m. Washington at Boston, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Oklahoma City, 3:30 p.m.
Denver at Memphis, 3:30 p.m. Detroit at San Antonio, 3:30 p.m. Houston at L.A. Clippers, 3:30 p.m L.A. Lakers at New Orleans, 3:30

No games scheduled.

Phoenix at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m. Portland at Sacramento, 3:30 p.m. Utah at Golden State, 3:30 p.m. Monday's Games

No games scheduled

HOCKEY

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division GP W L OTPts GF GA 79 46 18 15107260 215 x-Boston x-Florida x-Toronto 80 50 24 6106260 196 9101293 247 79 46 24 x-Tampa Bay794427 Detroit 79 38 32 8 96281 256

Buffalo 80 38 37 5 81240 239 79 35 40 4 74247 272 79 30 36 13 73224 274 **Metropolitan Division** GP W L OTPts GF GA

x-NY Rangers805323 4110275 227 x-Carolina 80 51 22 7109272 208 N.Y. Islanders793727 15 89235 255 Pittsburgh 79 37 30 12 86243 238 Mashington79 37 31 11 85212 254
Philadelphia8037 32 11 85233 259
New Jersey80 38 37 5 81263 278
Columbus 80 26 42 12 64227 291
WESTERN CONFERENCE Central Division
GP W L OTPts GF GA

x-Dallas 80 50 21 x-Winnipeg 79 49 24 9109293 232 6104244 194 x-Colorado 79 49 24 6104296 242 x-Nashville 80 46 29 5 97261 240 5 89234 247 9 83237 249 St. Louis 80 42 33 Minnesota 78 37 32 79 34 40 5 73243 264 Chicago 79 23 51 5 51172 278 **Pacific Division**

GP W L OTPts GF GA x-Vancouver7948 22 9105270 217 9105270 217 5101279 219 x-Edmonton7748 24 x-Los Angeles794226 11 95247 207 78 42 28 8 92252 235 78 33 32 13 79208 222 Vegas Seattle 78 35 38 79 26 48 5 75235 258 5 57196 285 Calgary San Jose 79 19 51 9 47176 311 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 playoffs. x-clinched playoff spot v-clinched division z-clinched conference

Thursday's Games Florida 4, Columbus 0 Buffalo 4, Washington 2 Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Rangers 1 New Jersey 6, Toronto 5 Pittsburgh 6, Detroit 5, OT Ottawa 3, Tampa Bay 2, SO N.Y. Islanders 3, Montreal 2, OT Winnipeg 3, Dallas 0

San Jose 3, Seattle 1
Los Angeles 4, Calgary 1
Friday's Games
Carolina 5, St. Louis 2
Nashville 5, Chicago 1 Arizona at Edmonton, late Calgary at Anaheim, late Minnesota at Vegas, late
Saturday's Games

N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 12:30 p.m. Seattle at Dallas, 3 p.m. Winnipeg at Colorado, 4 p.m. Buffalo at Florida, 5 p.m. New Jersey at Philadelphia, 5 p.m. Tampa Bay at Washington, 5:30 p.m. Detroit at Toronto, 7 p.m. Montreal at Ottawa, 7 p.m. Roston at Pittsburgh, 8 p.m.
Columbus at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Edmonton, 10 p.m.
Anaheim at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m. Minnesota at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games Seattle at St. Louis, 1 p.m. Colorado at Vegas, 3:30 p.m. Carolina at Chicago, 6 p.m.

Arizona at Calgary, 8 p.m. **Monday's Games** Boston at Washington, 7 p.m. Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m. Montreal at Detroit, 7 p.m. NY. Islanders at New Jersey, 7 p.m. N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey, 7 p.m. Nashville at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m. Ottawa at N.Y. Rangers, 7:30 p.m. Minnesota at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m. San Jose at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m

BASEBALL

MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division W 10 New York .769 Baltimore Tampa Bay 3½ 4½ 500 .429 Central Division GB L 3 4 5 7 9 Cleveland .750 Detroit .667 Kansas City .643 4½ 7½ Minnesota 364 .154 Chicago **West Division** .571 **L** 6 Texas 8 .538 Los Angeles Oakland 6 1/2

.385 Houston Thursday's Games Kansas City 13, Houston 3 Oakland 1, Texas 0 Baltimore 9, Boston 4, 10 innings Minnesota at Detroit, ppd. Friday's Games
Tampa Bay 2, San Francisco 1

Detroit 8, Minnesota 2 N.Y. Mets 6, Kansas City 1 L.A. Angels 7, Boston 0
Milwaukee 11, Baltimore 1
Colorado 12, Toronto 4
Cincinnati 11, Chicago White Sox 1 Texas 12 Houston 8 Chicago Cubs at Seattle, late Washington at Oakland, late N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland, ppd

Saturday's Games N.Y. Yankees (Schmidt 0-0) at Cleveland (Carrasco 0-0), 12:10 p.m., 1st game

Ninnesota (Ryan 0-1) at Detroit (Maeda 0-1), 1:10 p.m., 1st game Kansas City (Marsh 1-0) at N.Y. Mets (Manaea 1-0), 1:40 p.m. Cincinnati (Lodolo 0-0) at Chicago White Sox (Crochet 1-1), 2:10 p.m.

Colorado (Hudson 0-2) at Toronto (Francis 0-2), 3:07 p.m. Milwaukee (Hall 0-1) at Baltimore (Kremer 0-0), 4:05 p.m. Texas (Heaney 0-2) at Houston

(Blanco 2-0), 4:05 p.m. Washington (Gore 1-0) at Oakland (Boyle 1-1), 4:07 p.m. L.A. Angels (Canning 0-1) at Boston

(TBD), 4:10 p.m. San Francisco (Webb 0-1) at Tampa Bay (Pepiot 1-1), 4:10 p.m. Minnesota (Woods Richardson 0-0) at Detroit (Manning 0-0), 5:40 p.m.,

N.Y. Yankees (Poteet 0-0) at Cleveland (McKenzie 1-1), 6:10 p.m., 2nd

Chicago Cubs (Imanaga 1-0) at Seattle (Hancock 1-1), 9:40 p.m. Sunday's Games L.A. Angels at Boston, 1:35 p.m. Milwaukee at Baltimore, 1:35 p.m.

Colorado at Toronto, 1:37 p.m. Kansas City at N.Y. Mets, 1:40 p.m. Minnesota at Detroit, 1:40 p.m. N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland, 1:40 p.m. San Francisco at Tampa Bay, 1:40

Cincinnati at Chicago White Sox, 2:10 p.m. Texas at Houston, 2:10 p.m

Washington at Oakland, 4:07 p.m Chicago Cubs at Seattle, 4:10 p.m NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

GB

L Pct 4 .667 7 .500 7 .462 7 .417 12 .143 Philadelphia New York $2\frac{1}{2}$ Washington 5 2 3 7 Miami **Central Division** GB **L** 3 4 5 Milwaukee 9 .750 .714 .583 Pittsburgh Chicago .538 .462 Cincinnati St. Louis **West Division** GB

w

8

Atlanta

Los Angeles 10 San Diego 7 .467 Arizona .462 San Francisco 5 10 .286 Colorado 4 Thursday's Games N.Y. Mets 16, Atlanta 4 Philadelphia 5, Pittsburgh 1 Milwaukee at Cincinnati, ppd.

Friday's Games
Tampa Bay 2, San Francisco 1 N.Y. Mets 6, Kansas City 1 Pittsburgh 5, Philadelphia 2 Atlanta 8, Miami 1 Milwaukee 11, Baltimore 1 Colorado 12, Toronto 4 Cincinnati 11, Chicago White

Chicago Cubs at Seattle, late St. Louis at Arizona, late Washington at Oakland, late San Diego at L.A. Dodgers, late

Saturday's Games
Kansas City (Marsh 1-0) at N.Y.
Mets (Manaea 1-0), 1:40 p.m.
Cincinnati (Lodolo 0-0) at Chicago White Sox (Crochet 1-1), 2:10 p.m. Colorado (Hudson 0-2) at Toronto (Francis 0-2), 3:07 p.m. Milwaukee (Hall 0-1) at Baltimore (Kremer 0-0), 4:05 p.m.

Pittsburgh (Gonzales 0-0) at Philadelphia (Turnbull 1-0), 4:05 p.m.
Washington (Gore 1-0) at Oakland (Boyle 1-1), 4:07 p.m.
Atlanta (Sale 1-0) at Miami (Meyer 1-0), 4:10 p.m. 1-0), 4:10 p.m.

San Francisco (Webb 0-1) at Tampa Bay (Pepiot 1-1), 4:10 p.m. St. Louis (Gibson 1-1) at Arizona (Nelson 0-2), 8:10 p.m. San Diego (Waldron 0-1) at L.A. Dodgers (Stone 0-1), 9:10 p.m. Chicago Cubs (Imanaga 1-0) at

Seattle (Hancock 1-1), 9:40 p.m.

Sunday's Games Milwaukee at Baltimore, 1:35 p.m. Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 1:35

Colorado at Toronto, 1:37 p.m. Atlanta at Miami, 1:40 p.m. Kansas City at N.Y. Mets, 1:40

San Francisco at Tampa Bay, 1:40 Cincinnati at Chicago White Sox,

2:10 p.m. Washington at Oakland, 4:07 p.m. Chicago Cubs at Seattle, 4:10

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

Midwest League Friday's Games Lake County 7, Fort Wayne 6

Bluffton Parks events (Continued from Page A1)

place at Pickett's Run Park for a \$5 cost. Participants receive a finisher medal and awards for the top three boys and girls in each age group (3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12). A foam machine and more activican pre-register at raceroster.com/ events/2024/88159/fastest-kid-in-town.

Parlor City Trot Half Marathon

A 10K and 5K will take place hosted by the Bluffton Parks at 7 a.m. Saturday, Aug 31. This is the 50th running of the

ties will be there after the race. You Parlor City Trot and is a FWRC point series event AND the Road Runner's Club of America's Indiana State Championship Half Marathon event. Training group options will be announced soon. Early registration is at raceroster.com/ events/2024/82437/parlor-city-trot.

Scheffler, DeChambeau and Homa hold on to share the lead at Day 2 of Masters

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) Homa played the most beautifully boring round of golf amid raging wind and endless calamity Friday in the Masters, giving him a share of the lead with Scottie Scheffler and Bryson DeChambeau going into a weekend for

Homa made 15 pars — they all felt so much better than that — for a 1-under 71.

Scheffler finally made his first bogey of the Masters and then a few more, but he was rock solid down the stretch for a 72, his highest score of the year. DeChambeau played the 13th hole from the 14th fairway — at one point hoisting a wooden directional sign over his shoulder as he plotted his move - and finished with a 73.

For some 12 hours, the wind roared through the pines, scattered magnolia leaves across pristine Augusta National, and blew sand out of the white bunkers and into the faces of the players as they tried to handle a beast of a course.

"Mostly what I was trying to do out there was make a bunch of pars and stay in the golf tournament," Scheffler said, a testament to just how difficult it

The 60 players who made the cut at 6-over 150 are expected to get a slight reprieve, though still plenty of wind. And that weekend will include Tiger

Woods set a Masters record by making the cut for the 24th consecutive time. He had to play 23 holes — five in the morning to finish the weatherdelayed first round, and then a second round in which he kept the ball in play and posted an even-par 72.

He was only seven shots behind and still very much in the tournament.

"I'm here. I have a chance to win the golf tournament," Woods said. "I got my two rounds in."

That's really what it was all about - finishing, surviving.

"That was about as happy as you could be to be off of a golf course," Homa said. "That was so hard. We got the sand shower to end our day. So it was kind of the golf course saying,

'Get the hell out of here."

The average score was 75.09. Only eight players broke par, the same number of players who shot 80 or higher. Ludvig Aberg had the low round at 69.

"I've never experienced anything like this before," DeChambeau said. "But what a great test."

Homa heard some of the loudest cheers, even if they weren't for him. He spent two days with Woods, and caught the full experience of largest galleries, all of them rising to their feet when Woods approached tee boxes, or the 15th green that he managed to reach in two.

"The memories will just be a lot of the Tiger stuff," Homa said. "I hope to build my own come this weekend, but I fortunately think I've done a good enough job of playing it one shot at a time that I can't really remember a ton of the round at the moment. I played really well, and I tried to play as boring as possible.

"I think just the view of this beautiful golf course with the sea of fans, it will be seared in my brain for a while."

The leaders were at 6-under 138, two shots clear of Masters newcomer Nicolai Hojgaard of Denmark, who shot a 73. Two-time major champion Collin Morikawa, one of only two fortunate souls to break par each of the first two rounds, had a 70 and was three behind.

Justin Thomas will have far worse memories. He was even par for the tournament on the par-5 15th hole, very much in the tournament. He hit iron to lay up and it raced along the turf and into the pond. That was the start of a double bogey-double bogeybogey-double bogey finish. He shot 79 and missed the cut by one shot.

Defending champion Jon Rahm and Rory McIlroy looked as though they might join him, but that was before the cut line began to move.

Rahm made a late charge for a 76, leaving him 11 shots out of the lead. McIlroy, missing only the Masters for the career Grand Slam, didn't make a birdie for only the third time in his 56 trips around Augusta National. He shot 77 and was 10 shots back.

Homa has some experience of the

grandest of stages, playing with Woods during his final British Open at St. Andrews. He was far more comfortable with Woods at Augusta National, and his game was a big part of it. Homa picked up two early birdies, one of them on the par-3 fourth when he had to hit 7-wood.

His lone bogey was on the 11th, the hardest hole at Augusta National, and he buckled down against the most extreme conditions.

DeChambeau was the only player to reach 8 under at any point with his birdie on the 13th hole that was quite the expedition. He drove right into the pines and didn't see a clear route back to the fairway — not the 13th fairway,

So he looked to the right toward the 14th hole, even removing the sign post that he briefly carried over his shoulder "It was probably 30 pounds, not too bad," he said — and left himself 145 yards over the tributary to Rae's Creek to a back right pin.

"The patrons were nice enough to move over to the side to make sure it was wide enough so if I hit an errant one, nobody would get hit by the ball," he said. "I hit a great great shot around the corner and was able to take advantage of a pretty open entrance to the green."

He hit it to about 15 feet for birdie and dropped two shots coming in. In those conditions, that was acceptable.

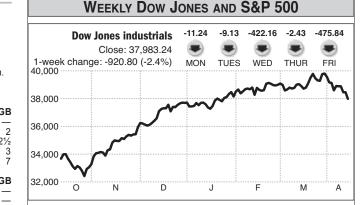
The wind was so fierce that players thought it might be called, with balls oscillating and gusts arriving without notice. As it was, the rounds took nearly six hours to play.

Scheffler hit driver and 3-iron onto the 15th green on Thursday, and driver and 3-iron just to lay up on the 15th on "It can be three clubs different,

depending on what time you hit it," Harris English said. "Ten to 20 seconds later or earlier, it can be a totally different shot."

Among those making the cut were three Masters champions — 58-yearold Jose Maria Olazabal, 61-yearold Vijay Singh and 53-year-old Phil Mickelson — who have combined to play the Masters 97 times.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW





		STOCK MARK	KET IND	EXES			
52-1 High	Week Low	Name	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg
39,889.05	32,327.20	Dow Jones Industrials	37,983.24	-920.80	-2.37	+.78	+12.09
16,717.04	13,400.45	Dow Jones Transportation	15,498.11	-421.09	-2.65	-2.52	+8.78
979.98	765.47	Dow Jones Utilities	854.91	-14.80	-1.70	-3.04	-10.62
18,342.24	14,638.37	NYSE Composite	17,639.04	-483.22	-2.67	+4.66	+13.06
16,538.86	11,798.77	Nasdaq Composite	16,175.09	-73.43	45	+7.75	+33.42
5,264.85	4,048.28	S&P 500	5,123.41	-80.93	-1.55	+7.41	+23.82
3,056.49	2,322.38	S&P MidCap	2,899.72	-89.44	-2.99	+4.25	+16.48
53,009.37	39,864.87	Wilshire 5000	51,459.67	-878.48	-1.68	+6.55	+25.91
2,135.46	1,633.67	Russell 2000	2,003.17	-60.30	-2.92	-1.18	+12.46
18,201.38	13,068.01	Lipper Growth Index	17,733.15	-178.74	-1.00	+9.35	+32.50

STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

NYSE G	AINERS	\$ (\$2 or	R MORE)	NYSE L	OSERS	(\$2 or	MORE)	NYSE A	CTIVES (\$1 or i	MORE)
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
OppFi	3.20	+.79	+32.8	GlbeLife	59.09	-49.36	-45.5	FordM	2122131	12.61	67
Cheetah	4.61	+1.12	+32.1	GCT Semi	6.06	-2.10	-25.7	Pfizer	2049818	25.86	80
AptInco	38.36	+7.01	+22.4	ATI Phys	4.10	-1.05	-20.4	BkofAm	1881466	35.79	-1.32
BraemHot	2.45	+.44	+21.9	Ouster rs	7.73	-1.87	-19.5	AT&T Inc	1808147	16.31	83
akaBrnd rs	11.76	+1.97	+20.1	DesignBr	8.29	-1.77	-17.6	Vale SA	1795273	12.02	+.22
Argan	59.77	+9.60	+19.1	BauschHl	8.76	-1.65	-15.9	BarrickGld	1655202	17.86	
Coupang	21.25	+3.01	+16.5	CazooG rs	9.72	-1.83	-15.8	Carnival	1472057	14.36	76
MP Matl	16.84	+2.23	+15.3	Azul	6.57	-1.09	-14.2	Palantir	1438279	22.67	29
Ducomun	54.84	+6.26	+12.9	BBB Fds n	20.04	-3.22	-13.8	GinkgoBi	1155816	1.01	07
Perfect	2.66	+.26	+10.8	DaqoNEn	23.34	-3.70	-13.7	Transocn	1094291	6.18	35
NASDAQ (GAINER	s (\$2 o	R MORE)	NASDAQ I	_OSERS	\$ (\$2 OR	R MORE)	NASDAQ	ACTIVES	(\$1 or	MORE)
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
RntRnwA r	s19.23	+14.45	+302.3	Tracon rs	2.36	-2.74	-53.7	Tesla	4501735	171.05	+6.15
EcoWvPw	3.70	+2.36	+176.1	Allarty rs	2.10	-2.42	-53.5	Apple Inc s	3217789	176.55	+6.97
Iczoom A	45.05	+25.46	+130.0	DigitBrnd w	t 6.00	-6.13	-50.5	Intel	3154340	35.69	-3.02
AdialPh rs	2.33	+1.17	+100.9	PerionNwk	12.58	-8.53	-40.4	AMD	2627974	163.28	-7.14

dialPh rs oneBio wt 1 lpImmu 6 olowin n 1 liemTh echPrec n	2.33 9.00		+100.9 +90.2 +84.4 +70.5 +65.8 +63.2	DigitBrn PerionN AvitaThe Esperior Aerwins Lexaria Vivopwr ChXiang	wk 12.5 e 9.8 n 2.1 rs 3.4 2.1 rs 4.0	58 -8.53 88 -5.51 14 -1.10 43 -1.72 1293 02 -1.67	-40.4 A -35.8 T -34.0 F -33.3 S -30.5 C	ntel MD ilrayBr ilviaAu A ioFiTech c3is rs Ividia mazon	3154340 2627974 2315663 2235992 2213396 2115691 2067818 1900300	1 163.28 3 1.82 2 9.13 6 7.33 1 1.87 3 881.86	78 97 07 -2.84 +1.78
		(Sтос	KS C	F L	OCAL I	NTER	EST			
ame	Div	Last	Wk t Chg	Wk Chg	YTD %Chg	Name	Div	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg
FLAC	2.00			-6.0	-2.7	Intel		35.69	-3.02	-7.8	-29.0
T&T Inc	1.11	16.3			-2.8	IBM		182.27	-6.87		+11.4
MD		163.2			+10.8	Inv QQQ	1.16	438.27	-2.20	-0.5	+7.0
mazon		186.13			+22.5	JaguaH			+.01	+7.1	-40.4
EP		82.10		-2.2	+1.1	Kroger	1.16		-2.11		+20.8
pple Inc s		176.5		+4.1	-8.3	LincNat	1.80		-2.00	-6.6	+4.9
pldMatl		207.8			+28.3	Lowes	4.40	232.05	-7.27	-3.0	+4.3
P PLC	1.74	39.4	4 +.78	+2.0	+11.4	MarathDi		16.11	-2.32	-12.6	-31.4
kofAm	.96	35.79	9 -1.32	-3.6	+6.3	MarinSft	rs	.49	+.20 -	+65.9	+33.8
enefic A n		.10	0 +.05	+86.5	-80.0	McDnlds	6.68	267.39	+.70	+0.3	-9.8
rMySq	2.40	48.2	8 -3.04	-5.9	-5.9	Microsoft	3.00	421.90	-3.62	-0.9	+12.2
0:		4 0	7 004	00.0	00 5	All Lode		7.00	0.5	0.4	44.4

UNID		100.20			T10.0	IIIV QQQ	1.10 400.27		-0.5	₹1.0
Amazon		186.13	+1.06	+0.6	+22.5	JaguaH	09	+.01	+7.1	-40.4
AEP	3.52	82.10	-1.85	-2.2	+1.1	Kroger	1.16 55.20	-2.11	-3.7	+20.8
Apple Inc s		176.55		+4.1	-8.3	LincNat	1.80 28.28	-2.00	-6.6	+4.9
ApldMatl	1.60	207.86	+.01		+28.3	Lowes	4.40 232.05	-7.27	-3.0	+4.3
BP PLC	1.74	39.44	+.78	+2.0	+11.4	MarathDig	16.11	-2.32	-12.6	-31.4
BkofAm	.96	35.79	-1.32	-3.6	+6.3	MarinSft rs	49	+.20	+65.9	+33.8
Benefic A n		.10	+.05	+86.5	-80.0	McDnlds	6.68 267.39	+.70	+0.3	-9.8
BrMySq	2.40	48.28	-3.04	-5.9	-5.9	Microsoft	3.00 421.90	-3.62	-0.9	+12.2
C3is rs		1.87	-2.84	-60.3	-96.5	NL Inds	.32 7.93	25	-3.1	+41.4
CampSp	1.48	42.31	99	-2.3	-2.1	NiSource	1.06 27.07	12	-0.4	+2.0
Caterpillar	5.20	365.63	-13.67	-3.6	+23.7	Nikola	70	32	-31.4	-20.0
Chevron	6.52	158.96	-2.64	-1.6	+6.6	NorflkSo	5.40 245.74	-4.29	-1.7	+4.0
Cisco	1.60	48.49	06	-0.1	-4.0	Nucor	2.16 194.53	-6.44		+11.8
Citigroup	2.12	59.68	-1.92	-3.1	+16.0	Nvidia	.16 881.86	+1.78	+0.2	+78.1
CocaCola	1.84	58.28	-1.23	-2.1	-1.1	PepsiCo	5.06 168.10	-1.04	-0.6	-1.0
DirSPBr		9.42	+.43	+4.8	-18.4	Pfizer	1.68 25.86	80		-10.2
DxSOXBr		3.52	+.13	+3.8	-39.5	PrUltPQ	58.72	-1.14	-1.9	+15.8
DxSOXBI		41.51	-2.11	-4.8	+32.2	PShtQQQ	10.89	+.15	+1.4	-19.0
Disney	.30	114.01	-4.37	-3.7	+26.3	RiviaAu A	9.13	97	-9.6	-61.1
Eaton	2.92	318.50	-12.01	-3.6	+32.3	SpdrDJIA	3.98 379.87	-8.99	-2.3	+.8
EliLilly	5.20	751.64	-32.57	-4.2	+28.9	S&P500ETF	4.13 510.85	-7.58	-1.5	+7.5
ExxonMbl	3.80	120.37	-1.00	-0.8	+20.4	SelinaHos	08	+.02	+38.2	-57.3
FardyFut rs		.08	+.00	+2.6	-88.5	SoFiTech	7.33	07	-0.9	-26.3
FordM	.60	12.61	67	-5.0	+3.4	SPDR Fncl	.46 40.06	-1.51	-3.6	+6.5
FrankElec	.90	100.45	-2.57	-2.5	+3.9	StlDynam	1.84 140.63	-6.64	-4.5	+19.1
FrptMcM	.30	49.47	+.16	+0.3	+16.2	SummW	01	01	-31.8	-87.2
GE Aero	1.12	154.63	-1.67	-1.1	+51.9	Tesla	171.05	+6.15	+3.7	-31.2
HP Inc	1.02	28.53	58	-2.0	-5.2	TilrayBr	1.82	78	-29.9	-20.9
HomeDp	9.00	342.87	-15.00	-4.2	-1.1	Vale SA	3.08 12.02	+.22	+1.9	-24.2
ShSilver		25.63	+.60	+2.4	+17.7	VanEGold	.06 33.76	08	-0.2	+8.9
iShChinaLC	.87	23.84	35	-1.4	8	VerizonCm	2.66 39.72	-1.73	-4.2	+5.4
iShiBoxIG	3.87	106.06	97	-0.9	-4.2	WalMart s	.83 60.14	+.29	+0.5	
iSh20 yrT	3.05	90.29	-1.10	-1.2	-8.7	WalgBoots	1.00 17.85	-1.28	-6.7	-31.6
iShiBxHYB	5.09	76.37	45	-0.6	-1.3	WsteMInc	3.00 205.37	-1.56	-0.8	+14.7
iShR2K	1.77	198.69	- 5.76	-2.8	-1.0	WellsFargo	1.40 56.47	93	-1.6	+14.7
						•				

Money	RATES	S
	Last	Pvs Day
Prime Rate	8.50	8.50
Discount Rate	6.00	6.00
Federal Funds Rate	5.33	5.33
Treasuries		
1-year	5.13	5.17
2-year	4.89	4.95
5-year	4.54	4.61
10-year	4.52	4.58
30-year	4.63	4.67

CUR	RENCIES	
	Last	Pvs Day
Australia	1.5488	1.5292
Britain	1.2444	1.2554
Canada	1.3784	1.3684
Euro	.9400	.9323
Japan	153.22	153.24
Mexico	16.6686	16.4391
SwitzerInd	.9136	.9099
British pound expre	ssed in U.S. foreign curre	dollars. All

5.33	5.33	Canada		1.3	784	1.3684
		Euro		.9	400	.9323
5.13	5.17	Japan		153	3.22	153.24
4.89	4.95	Mexico		16.6		16.4391
4.54	4.61	SwitzerInd			136	.9099
4.52	4.58					
4.63	4.67	British pou others show				
		others snov	/ dolla	in loreign	currenc	у.
	MUTUA	L FUNDS	•			
	IVIOTOA	L I UNDS	,			
	Total As	sets	To	tal Returr	/Rank	Pct
	Obj (\$MIr	ns) NAV	4-wk	12-mo	5-yea	ar Load
BalA m	MA 104.17	77 33.13	-0.9	+14.6/B	+7.8/	B 5.75

	Mυ	TUAL	FUND	S			
		otal Asse			tal Return		Pct
	Obj	(\$MIns)		4-wk		5-year	Load
American Funds AmrcnBalA m		104,177	33.13	-0.9	+14.6/B	+7.8/B	5.75
American Funds EuroPacGrA m	FG	,	57.27	-2.2	+9.9/C	+5.5/C	5.75
American Funds FdmtIInvsA m	LB	71,946		-0.1	+29.5/B	+12.3/D	5.75
American Funds GrfAmrcA m		138,543		-0.1	+37.9/C	+13.7/D	5.75
American Funds IncAmrcA m	ΑL	76,586	23.57	-1.4	+6.8/E	+6.4/D	5.75
American Funds InvCAmrcA m	LB	86,246		0.0	+30.9/A	+13.0/C	5.75
American Funds NwPrspctvA m	WG	59,714	59.29	-1.7	+20.3/D	+11.4/B	5.75
American Funds WAMtInvsA m	LB	84,412	60.16	-1.4	+21.4/D	+11.8/D	5.75
Davis NYVentureA m	LB	4,854	29.12	-0.2	+34.5/A	+10.2/E	4.75
Fidelity 500ldxInsPrm	LB	534,035	177.94	-0.9	+27.2/B	+13.9/A	NL
Fidelity Contrafund	LG	124,462	18.85	+0.7	+45.9/A	+16.4/A	NL
Fidelity TtlMktldxInsPrm x	LB	90,963	140.75	-1.1	+26.6/C	+13.0/C	NL
Fidelity Advisor EquityGrowthA m	ı LG	2,260	19.52	-0.5	+42.3/B	+18.0/A	5.75
Fidelity Advisor GrowthOppsA m	LG	4,118	145.03	-1.8	+45.9/A	+16.4/A	5.75
George Putnam BalA m	MA	1,359	24.06	-1.0	+19.2/A	+9.1/A	5.75
INVESCO MnStrA m	LB	9,097	54.57	-0.3	+26.5/C	+12.0/D	5.50
PIMCO Incinsti	MU	87,392	10.46	-0.6	+6.4/B	+2.7/B	NL
Putnam DiversIncA m	NT	533	5.42	-1.2	+3.8/D	-0.1/E	4.00
Putnam SustLeadersA m	LG	5,821	120.25	-1.6	+32.8/D	+14.1/C	5.75
Putnam TEIncA m	ML	537	7.75	-1.3	+2.2/C	+1.4/B	4.00
Schwab SP500ldx	LB	91,414	78.83	-0.9	+27.1/B	+13.9/A	NL
Thornburg IntermMnA m	MI	261	13.19	-0.6	+2.5/A	+1.4/C	2.00
Thornburg LtdTrmUSGvtA m	GS	39	11.66	-1.1	+0.1/E	-0.3/E	2.25
Vanguard 500ldxAdmrl	LB	505,179	472.99	-0.9	+27.1/B	+13.8/A	NL
Vanguard GrldxAdmrl	LG	75,443	175.65	-0.5	+40.3/B	+17.0/A	NL
Vanguard InTrTEAdmrl	MI	69,955	13.55	-1.0	+1.7/C	+1.7/A	NL
Vanguard PrmCpAdmrl	LB	70,617	164.68	-1.7	+26.0/C	+13.0/C	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2025Fd	TG	77,474	18.72	-0.2	+11.3	+6.1	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2030Fd	TH	92,795	36.32	0.0	+13.1	+6.8	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2035Fd	ΤI	96,066	22.77	+0.2	+14.7	+7.6	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2040Fd	TJ	85,087	40.65	+0.4	+16.4	+8.4	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2045Fd	TK	82,605	27.71	+0.6	+17.9	+9.1	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2050Fd	TN	69,280	46.33	+0.8	+18.9	+9.4	NL
Vanguard TtBMldxAdmrl	CI	98,643	9.38	-1.6	-0.6/C	+0.1/C	NL
Vanguard TtlnSldxAdmrl	FB	75,190	31.62	-2.1	+9.3/C	+5.1/D	NL
Vanguard TtlnSldxInv	FB	195,268	18.90	-2.1	+9.2/C	+5.1/D	NL
Vanguard TtlSMldxAdmrl		373,296		-1.0	+26.6/C	+13.0/C	NL
Vanguard WingtnAdmrl	MA	98,087	73.45	-0.7	+13.7/B	+8.3/A	NL
- •							

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

Stock Footnotes: g = Dividends and earnings in Canadian dollars. h = Does not meet continued listing standards. If = Late filing with SEC. n = New in past 52 weeks. pf = Preferred. rs = Stock has undergone a reverse stock split of at least 50 percent within the past year. rt = Right to buy security at a specified price. s = Stock has split by at least 20 percent within the last year. un = Units. vj = In bankruptcy or receivership. wd = When distributed, wi = When issued, wt = Warrants | New York | New Units. Vj = in Dankruptcy or receivership, we = writer distributed, wi = whiter issued. Wi = warranti.

Mutual Fund Footnotes: b = Fee covering market costs is paid from fund assets. d = Deferred sales charge, or redemption fee. f = front load (sales charges), m = Multiple fees are charged. NA = not available. p = previous day's net asset value. s = fund split shares during the week. x = fund paid a distribution during the week. Source: The Associated Press. Sales figures are unofficial.

THEY'RE GOOD

FOR WAKING

SO AT THE MOMENT,

I FIGURE IGNORANCE

Struggling to make and keep friends in a new city

Dear Annie: I have a friend, "Donna," who lives in another state. We've been friends for three years. Due to past trauma of being cheated on, I have trust issues, not just in relationships but friendships as well. I've damaged and even lost a few friends because of these issues.

Donna is an introvert and doesn't want to talk all the time. I'm more extroverted. When she says she can't or doesn't want to talk, I have doubts about our friendship and it causes fights between us. It hurts because I know she's a true friend, but I struggle to bring myself to trust her because I think about what I've experi-

Truth be told, ever since I moved, I've missed having a true friend who's close by. Making friends where I moved to has been a struggle. I've tried counseling, but it is expensive. I want to go, but affording it is a challenge. I dislike where I moved from but miss the hell out of my friend. Please help. — Lonely in Wyoming

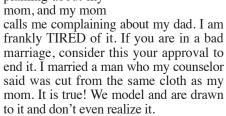
Dear Lonely: Don't take Donna's introversion too personally. Everyone has different communication styles, and just because yours don't exactly match doesn't mean she doesn't still love and value your friendship. Let her know how much you miss her and how you've been struggling in isolation after your move. Suggest that you set a standing date — once a week or every other — for a phone call or Face-*Time to catch up and keep in touch.*

As for settling in in your new city, put your extroversion into volunteering, joining a club or hitting some local scenes to meet people who share your interests. There might also be online therapy or low-cost counseling near you that's more affordable than the options you've already looked into. Remember that growth takes time. Be gentle with yourself.

Dear Annie: I wanted to take a moment and let you know how much I enjoy your column; I think you give the best responses to your readers. I do not have a question, but rather some valuable advice for your readers. You see, I grew up in a home with a toxic marriage modeled by my parents. I remember being about

10 when my mom found out about my dad's affair and we rode around with a baseball bat, searching for the "other





My mom always taught me that you stay no matter what. I am about to graduate college and will be a social worker. I am so excited to empower/teach others to end what does not serve them. Love is not enduring unlimited abuse, and you don't get a trophy for the years you stay. This really damages the children; they typically grow up modeling the same stuff they've seen, and when you put them in the middle, it sucks! The more I heal, the more dysfunction I see. — Willing to Walk

Dear Willing: Thank you for your letter and wise words. I'm sorry to hear about all the traumas you've experienced but am glad they have given you such a strong sense of self-worth and awareness of what you deserve. I agree it's so important to protect ourselves, our mental peace and overall well-being. Here's to letting go of the things that do not serve us.

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

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GRE6

BEETLE BAILEY

WHY DO YOU HAVE

THIS OLD SET OF

GOLF CLUBS?

I'LL SHOW

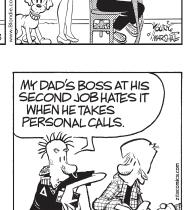
YOU





I'VE NEVER BEEN

GOOD AT THIS



CRANKSHAFT







My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: It has been gut wrenching to watch my parents grow old and exist in bad health that keeps getting worse. Why does God allow people, especially people who follow Him, to *suffer so? The dying process* is grotesque, and I think it is worse for the caregiver than the patient because we have no control of the outcome. -

Answer: Many people have experienced watching a loved one grow old and struggle with pain and discomfort for great lengths of time. No one knows completely why, but the Bible tells us that we live in a fallen world and much of what happens falls far short

We should ask God to teach us whatever lessons He has for us

of God's original plan. Why? Because man disobeyed God and rebelled against Him.

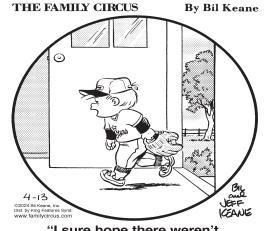
But even when we can't totally understand why God allows things like this to happen, He can still be trusted to do what is right. God is sovereign and He knows what is best for the one who is suffering and for those caring for them. In God's time, He will take the suffering saint to be with

When someone is dying, we should ask God to teach us whatever lessons He has for us in this experience. Sometimes, God allows a loved one to linger because family members need to come together and be reconciled to one another. God also may use situations like this to teach us how to love others who are in need and to remind us of the brevity

We can react with bitterness and hate God, as some do, or we can accept suffering as a natural part of life and a condition that comes with living in this world. We cannot avoid suffering, but we can determine our response to it.

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

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"I sure hope there weren't any major league scouts out there today."



"A GIFT CERTIFICATE...TO THE NEIGHBOR'S YARD SALE?"

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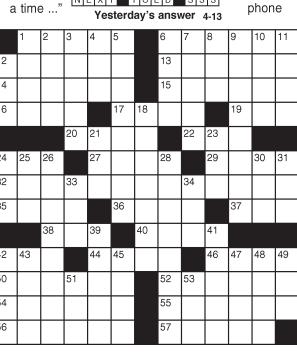
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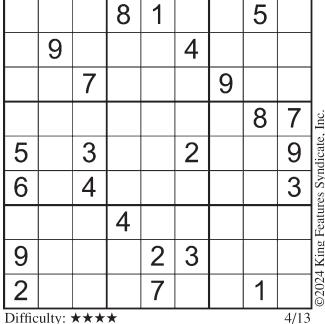


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EMPLOYMENT

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

LOOKING FOR EMPLOYEES?

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,

2024.

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.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 111 in Bluffton is looking to hire bartender for days from 11 Tuesday through Friday. Must have current Indiana state license and be nonsmoker.

Also wanted to hire short order cook for 24 hours a week 10:30-1. 4-7:30 Tuesday through Friday. Non-smoker only apply and must be dependable.

Ideal positions for recently retired person and can be trained if the person is motivated. Applications available at the Post on 111 W. Washington St. (EAP1)

HELOISE HINT: As the workplace continues to change and adapt. Be open to more flexible schedules and more responsibilities. More and more jobs are continuing to offer hybrid or remote work for certain positions. Email HELOISE@ Heloise.com.

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Help Wanted

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

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

Application and more infor available mation 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 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 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

Pets

ZAILEY, \$400, BORN December 23, 2019. She is four years old and is spayed, and up to date on all shots. She is a pure bred Chocolate Lab. Good with children, dogs, cats. Negotiable, message me, (765) 348-7811.

HELOISE HINT: If you have just gotten a new dog. You have to pay attention to its nails. They will need to be cut, and you will know it's time to cut them when you hear its nails clicking on the floor. They are too long then! Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

Lottery Numbers

Friday's Drawings

HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 — 10-11-20-28-36

Cash4Life — 12-31-49-54-56, Cash Ball: 03 **Quick Draw Midday** — 01-04-05-10-15-28-30-34-40-44-45-46-47-51-64-66-71-72-76-79, BE: 10

Daily Three-Midday — 06-03-00, SB: 09 **Daily Three-Evening** — 02-09-05, SB: 05 **Daily Four-Midday** — 01-04-03-09, SB: 09 **Daily Four-Evening** — 04-01-08-09, SB: 05

Quick Draw Evening — 05-07-10-12-14-18-24-30-41-43-48-50-51-55-58-59-62-69-75-80, BE: 24 **Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$9.5

POWERBALL

MEGA MILLIONS 01-12-14-18-66, Mega Ball: 16, Megaplier: 2X

Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$46 million

Pets

LEO, FOR SALE, \$400.00. He was born November 28 2023. Leo is half Manx and half Rag doll. He has the stumpy tail. Leo is black and white, and his coat is slick and shiny. He has had all shots, but has a slight hernia, that can be fixed. At six months, I will take off \$100.00 to get hernia fixed, you would pay the rest. Negotiable, message me, (765) 348-7811.

REHOMING AKC CHOCO-LATE & YELLOW LAB PUP-

PIES Be ready April 26th. 1st shots and wormed. 2 vellow females 3 yellow males 5 chocolate females

2 chocolate males Call or text for more info. Portland IN 260-729-7870

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INDIANA AUTO AUCTION, INC. Huge Repo Sale April 18, 2024. Over 100 repossessed units for sale. Money order or cashier's check only. \$500 cashier's check or money order deposit per person required. Register 8 am-9:30 am. No public entry after 9:30 am. All vehicles sold AS IS! 4425 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne. (A)

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Public Notices

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

RACHEL CROSBIE, PETITIONER
ORDER SETTING HEARING
Comes now Rachel Crisbie,
pro se, having filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name of Minor, and the Court finds that the matter should be set for hearing. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED

that this matter shall be heard on May 9, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. So ORDERED 3/20/2024

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana March 27th, 2024. Kenton Kiracofe Judicial Officer

nb 3/30, 4/6, 4/13 hspaxlp

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That on 05/02/2024 at 10:00 a.m. a sale will be held at 404 EASTMOOR DR (OFFICE) Bluffton, IN, for the sale of the mobile home located at: 613 Cedar, Bluffton, IN 46714. to sell the following articles to enforce a lien existing under the laws of the State of INDI-ANA against such articles for labor, services, skill or material expended upon a storage furnished for such articles at the request of the following designated persons, unless such articles are redeemed within thirty days of the publication of this notice. Park reserves the right to bid on the home. Name: GARY P KLEIN /

LAURA L BAILEY
Name: STATE OF INDIANA
DEPT OF REVENUE Name:

Vin #: TXFL212A41519CY22 2002 FLEETWOOD 16 X 76 Lien: \$ 1,812.00 nb 4/13, 4/20

SUDOKU ANSWER

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HELOISE HINT: When organizing your sale. Lay items out by category, such as tools, clothing or books. You can also get rid of smaller stuff by having a 50 cent or \$1 table. For bigger items, you can label them \$5, \$10 or \$20. Email HE-LOISE@Heloise.com.



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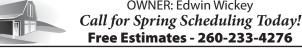
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