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Historical society

re-elects officers

BLUFFTON, INDIANA · Wells County's Hometown Connection



Redbuds in bloom at Ouabache

Now might be the right time for an afternoon drive out to Ouabache State Park to view the redbuds in bloom throughout the park. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

Unloaded firearm located in Bluffton student's bag

By HOLLY GASKILL

An unloaded firearm was located in a Bluffton High School student's bag Wednesday afternoon.

In a statement that afternoon, Bluffton-Harrison MSD Superintendent Brad Yates said administrators had been alerted that a student may have had a firearm in their possession. Administrators and the school resource officer conducted a secure, private search, and found the unloaded firearm in the student's bag. Ammunition was found in the student's locker.

Yates said the student was "fully cooperative and made no threats or intent to harm anyone in the building." The district's communications specialist, Jessica Bricker, said the school did not have to lockdown or evacuate due to the incident.

The Bluffton Police Department stated they are continuing to investigate the incident.

Yates told The News-Banner he was unable to discuss the student's specific disciplinary actions, but student handbook procedures were being followed. According to the handbook, penalties could range from suspension to expulsion depending on circumstances.

Students were alerted of the incident shortly before the public statement was released, Yates said. After-school activities were not affected.

Yates concluded by thanking the individuals who reported the threat and the responsiveness of school staff and

holly@news-banner.com

Job market for engineers pushes Bluffton into nearly three month search

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Bluffton is still searching for a new city engineer. Mayor John Whicker stated that the demand for private businesses to have engineers is a major hurdle in the process.

The search started after former engineer Kelly White resigned on Feb. 2. Whicker noted that White's hiring process took about three months to finish

"A lot of communities are doing projects involving either water or wastewater and so there's a lot of demand for engineers," Whicker said. "And these engineering companies need the jobs and are protecting the employees they have."

Whicker said the city learned it does not need a professional engineer since White's hire. Since the contractors and other companies the city hires have professional engineers on their payroll, having a knowledgeable engineer representing the city side is

Whicker also stated that one of White's

strengths was putting processes in place so projects could get done in a timely and costeffective fashion, something that the city will look for in its future candidates.

Since her resignation, White's responsibilities have been divided between various department heads, according to Utility Director Jon Oman. Oman is currently the designated email contact for city engineerrelated questions.

Oman stressed that the various department heads have been trying to continue the methodology that White integrated while she was involved. Oman stated that Kelly's approach to the projects was more analytical and calculated, which the department heads look to continue using.

Despite the shared responsibilities, Oman recognized the need for a new engineer. Since White's departure, department heads have focused on corresponding with contractors and spending more time (Continued on Page 2)



Five GOP candidates attended the final gubernatorial debate of the season Tuesday, April 23. 2024. (Screenshot from livestream)

Indiana GOP gubernatorial candidates focus on moderator, not Braun, during final debate

Economic development, taxes and education were among the issues discussed by candidates Tuesday evening

By CASEY SMITH **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

Five of the six Republicans hoping to be Indiana's next governor squabbled more with the moderator than they did over policy issues during their last pre-primary debate on Tuesday — just two weeks before the May election.

And although U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, largely considered to be the frontrunner in the race, was absent from the debate, he was sparsely mentioned by his competitors.

The candidates met at IUPUI's Hine Hall Auditorium at the 90-minute debate hosted by the nonpartisan Indiana Debate Commission.

On the stage were former Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch; former Indiana Economic Development Corp. leader Eric Doden, former Attorney General Curtis Hill and conservative activist Jamie Reitenour.

Braun pulled out of the debate unexpectedly Monday evening, however, saying he needed to be in Washington, D.C. to vote.

Although Braun submitted a statement to

the commission before the debate, it was not read before the audience Tuesday evening. Cindi Andrews, the Indiana Debate Commission president, said that's because his

statement didn't follow guidelines. "I told him that he could submit a statement of two to three sentences about why he was unable to send. What he sent ... was about politics," Andrews said. "So, we opted not to use that, but to simply rephrase.'

Braun said in the debated statement that, "I was looking forward to sharing my vision with Hoosiers at tonight's debate, but Chuck Schumer has called the Senate into session.'

'Tonight, I am in D.C. voting 'no' on a bill to send \$95 billion of your money overseas instead of securing our open southern border, which puts Hoosier families in danger every day," he continued, referring to a foreign aid package passed by the U.S. Senate late Tuesday. "I'm proud to stand up for you and vote against the Biden spending spree making life unaffordable for so many Hoosiers."

Even so, Braun's competitors did little (Continued on Page 2)

Biden says U.S. is rushing weaponry to Ukraine as he signs a \$95B war aid measure

By AAMER MADHANI and SEUNG MIN KIM **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden said Wednesday that he was immediately rushing badly needed weaponry to Ukraine as he signed into law a \$95 billion war aid measure that also included assistance for Israel, Taiwan and other global hot spots.

The announcement marked an end to the long, painful battle with Republicans in Congress over urgently needed assistance for Ukraine, with Biden promising that U.S. weapons shipment would begin making the way into Ukraine "in the next few hours." We rose to the moment, we came

together, and we got it done," Biden said

a White House event to announce the bill signing. "Now we need to move fast, and we are.

But significant damage has been done to the Biden administration's effort to help Ukraine repel Russia's invasion during the funding impasse that dates back to August, when the Democratic president made his first emergency spending request for Ukraine. Even with a burst of new weapons and ammunition, it's unlikely Ukraine will immediately recover after months of set-

Biden immediately approved sending Ukraine \$1 billion in military assistance, the first installment from about \$61 billion allocated for Ukraine. The package includes

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Sunny and cool today, showers tomorrow

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 58	High 69	High 77
Low 37	Low 57	Low 63

More Weather on Page 2

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Gop gubernatorial candidates

(Continued from Page 1)

to point out his absence outside of a few small jabs at his record. Specific references were made to the senator's support for increased state gas taxes, "lack" of action on illegal immigration and his rejection of the CHIPS and Science Act, which was authored by Indiana's senior U.S. Sen. Todd Young.

Reiterating their stances

The participating candidates answered questions posed primarily by the public; the commission invited Hoosiers to submit queries online and received more than 200 questions. Jon Schwantes, host of PBS's "Indiana Lawmakers," moderated the debate.

Among those questions was one about the Indiana Economic Development Corp. and how each of the candidates might transform the quasi-government agency that was formerly led by Doden.

Later, under Chambers' helm, the IEDC launched the ambitious LEAP project in Boone County and bought thousands of acres of farmland while navigating water shortages.

Doden said the IEDC shouldn't be "buying up land and moving water around the state," emphasizing that wouldn't happen under his administration. Crouch said she seeks to empower local economic development officials and limit income tax to grow the state's economy.

Reitenour said the IEDC overpaid for land in Boone County, while Hill referred to the agency as a "shadow government" that lacks transparency.

In his defense, Chamber said tens of thousands of high-wage jobs are coming from the project. He said, too, that Indiana has "plenty of water" if we use

it strategically.

Separately, on property taxes, Reitenour said referendum rates are growing too fast and homeowners can't keep up. She said Indiana needs a statewide conversation at the county level to identify the best solutions.

Chambers also said property taxes need to be addressed and promised to focus on making the assessment process more uniform. Hill agreed that assessments are an issue and called for a comprehensive, longterm plan to make a fix.

Doden additionally made reference to his campaign plan, which limits growth of property taxes to about 5% a year.

Crouch — whose plan to "axe" the state's personal income tax has repeatedly come under attack but her competitors — said she is open to property tax cuts, as well.

The night's single question directed at education asked candidates how they would improve dismal K-12 test scores.

Doden said he supports parental choice and is a "big fan" of private school vouchers and "competition." He also pointed to his plan to invest in teachers by reducing their income and property taxes.

Crouch wants a lifetime education system focused on reading, writing, "'rithmetic" and reasoning. Retienour, meanwhile, said Indiana is in the midst of an educational "crisis." A comeback will require more trades training for younger Hoosiers and removing social emotional learning from classrooms, she said.

Chambers called Indiana's current educational attainment rates "unac-

ceptable" and said more Hoosiers need skills training. It also requires more parental involvement and investing in work-based learning, rather than buildings and administration

Hill further positioned that federal dollars have no place in Indiana education. "The federal government acts like a crack dealer — dangling money out in front of you," he said. He would instead urge local districts to turn down the money and direct their own programming.

Candidates unhappy with debate format

Multiple questions posed by Schwantes, the moderator, drew pushback from the Republican hopefuls, though.

That included a series in which candidates were asked to raise their hands — signaling yes or no — about whether they would have voted for the CHIPS Act; if they are confident in the integrity of Indiana elections; and if they agree that the 2020 election was "stolen" from former President Donald Trump.

Schwantes additionally asked if they would accept the results of the 2024 Election. Reitenour specifically spoke out, saying there's "no way to know what will happen before now and then."

At one point, Schwantes even gave Braun's reasoning for supporting a gas tax increase when he was a state representative.

Speaking to reporters after the debate's conclusion, candidates largely took issue with which questions were selected — and how they were asked. They also complained that many of the debate topics were centered around national issues, not state ones.

Weather

Thursday, April 25, 2024 (24-hour observations at 10:37 p.m. Wednesday) High: 52; Low: 40; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 3.46 feet at 8:45 p.m. Wednesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Widespread frost before 9 a.m. Otherwise, sunny, with a high near 58. East wind around 5 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 37. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: A 40% chance of showers after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 69. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. **Friday Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms,

then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 a.m. Cloudy, with a low around 57. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Saturday: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm

before 8 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 77. Windy. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Saturday Night: A slight chance of showers before 8 p.m., then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms

after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 a.m., then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 81.

Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 20%. **Sunday Night:** A 30% chance of showers, thunderstorms, mainly after 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Monday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 76. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Monday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Tuesday: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 70.

Tuesday Night: A slight chance of showers. Mostly clear, with a low around 51.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 77.

Biden signs aid measure

(Continued from Page 1) air defense capabilities, artillery rounds, armored vehicles and other weapons to shore up Ukrainian forces who have seen morale sink as Russian President Vladimir Putin has racked up win after win.

Meanwhile, Ukraine for the first time has begun using long-range ballistic missiles provided secretly by the United States, bombing a Russian military airfield in Crimea last week and Russian forces in another occupied area overnight, American officials

confirmed Wednesday. The U.S. is providing more of the Army Tactical Missile System, known as ATAC-MS, in the new military package, according to one official who was not authorized to comment and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Still, longer term, it remains uncertain if Ukraine, after months of losses and massive damage to its infrastructure, can make enough progress to sustain American political support before burning through the latest influx of

money.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan cautioned that even as new U.S. aid flows into Ukraine, it's possible that Russia will continue to make tactical gains in the weeks ahead.

"The fact is that it's going to take some time for us to dig out of the hole that was created by six months of delay," he said.

Tucked into the measure is a provision that gives TikTok's Beijing-based parent company, ByteDance, nine months to sell it or face a nationwide prohibition in the United States. The administration and a bipartisan group of lawmakers have called the social media site a growing national security concern, which Byte-Dance denies.

The bill includes about \$26 billion in aid for Israel and about \$1 billion in humanitarian relief for Palestinians in Gaza as the Israel-Hamas war continues. Biden said Israel must ensure the humanitarian aid for Palestinians in bill reaches the Hamas-controlled territory "without delay."

City engineer

(Continued from Page 1) on the supervision side of projects. Oman stated it is "hard to put an amount" on the additional workload the department heads have gotten.

"It's certainly not a long-term solution, but we are making the best of it in the interim," Oman said. "I don't know of anybody that's taken on more than anybody else. Hopefully, it's, to my knowledge, a pretty equal division of the

duties "

Whicker stated that while the process will take time, the city must ensure that it gets the right person to progress the city forward.

"It's important we take their take our time and get the person that we feel fits best for the city of Bluffton," Whicker said. "I would rather take time and get the right person versus rushing in and getting someone that is not a good fit."

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OBITUARIES

Maurice A. "Mort' Sorg, 86

Maurice A. "Mort' Sorg, 86, of Fort Wayne, passed away at 5:41 p.m. Monday, April 22, 2024, at Stillwater Hospice in Fort Wayne. He was born Wednesday, Sept. 28,1937, in Fort Wayne. He married Antoinette "Toni" (Welling) Sorg on Thursday, Nov. 28, 1963 in Yoder; she preceded him in death Nov. 26, 2013, after 50 years of

He is survived by his sons, Edward A. (Teresa) Sorg, Fishers, Richard A. Sorg, Ossian; daughters, Beverly A. (Caleb) Vanlandingham, Fort Wayne, Rebecca A. Sorg, Fort Wayne; brothers, Jerry (Barb) Sorg, Fort Wayne, Kenny (Joan) Sorg, Southlake, Texas; and nine grand-

He was preceded in death by his wife, Antoinette 'Toni" (Welling) Sorg; father, Herman Sorg; mother, Alice (May) Sorg; brother, Donald Sorg; sister, Carol Benschneider, infant brother; and great-grandson, Cade

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home located at 100 N Washington Street Geneva on Friday, April 26, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A Rosary service will be held at 1:45 p.m. and a IVFA service will be at 7:00 p.m. Visitation will also be held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Catholic Church located at 11337 US Hwy 27 Fort Wayne on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Catholic Church at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 27, 2024, with Father Bill Kummer officiating. Interment will follow in the St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

Arrangements are being handled by Downing & Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva.

Senior care organization group pulls out of managed care, future uncertain

By WHITNEY DOWNARD, Indiana Capital Chronicle

Negotiations between a group representing senior care organizations and the insurers tasked with overseeing the state's summer transition of long-term care services collapsed earlier this month after the two sides couldn't come to an agreement — but the impact is still unclear for older

The state insists it's on track to launch its Medicaid managed care program for Hoosiers over the age of 60 by July 1, but others aren't so certain following the end of talks between the two parties.

"I'm deeply concerned that this program is not ready for implementation as we get closer to the July 1st start date," Rep. Greg Porter said in a recent release, calling for more state action to support senior care organizations.

The Community Care Hub of Indiana was a partnership between the state's sixteen Area Agencies on Aging, the decades-old local organizations tasked with easing Hoosier burdens as they age by connecting them with resources such as home health aides or transportation.

As one entity, Community Care Hub conferred with the three Managed Care Entities contracted by the state to launch Indiana's PathWays for Aging, a managed care Medicaid program that will impact every senior Hoosier who depends on Medicaid for services.

But according to Tauhric Brown, Community Care Hub and the MCEs couldn't come to a consensus after technology woes and state intervention on a rate recommendation.

"The rate is so low that we're just not able to make that make sense," Brown said. "... I do not believe that any of the AAAs will be able to enter into a contract with the

Brown is one of Community Care Hub's leaders and the CEO of central Indiana's CICOA Aging & IN-Home Solutions, the latter of which covers just over one-quarter of the state's population.

The Family and Social Services Administration, or FSSA, previously said it recommended the rate of \$112 - a41% cut from the \$189.54 rate AAAs get now for different but overlapping duties - to "facilitate swift negotiations" with the three behemoth insurers selected as managed care

But the senior care organizations insist they can't make the rate work and warned it would jeopardize their futures — saying it would hurt the seniors with whom they've cultivated relationships for years.

"... if AAAs are not involved, that linkage, that continuity between a member and a case manager — that has existed in many instances for decades — is broken. And the person that gets hurt in that scenario is the member," Brown said.

How did we get here?

Most of Indiana's Medicaid programs are considered to be managed care, meaning the state pays a predictable, flat rate for an outside entity to coordinate care and services with one major exception: long-term supports and services for aged or disabled Hoosiers.

Currently this program is fee for service, meaning the state gets charged piecemeal for every service a senior Hoosier might need.

AAAs are designed to be the first call for a senior Hoosier looking for some extra assistance, whether it's getting meals, socializing or finding a home health aide.

The senior care organizations primarily provide case management for Hoosiers on the Aged & Disabled Waiver, but the managed care companies are using AAAs for service coordination, creating a personalized plan to coordinate home- and community-based services.

The duties are similar but different enough for FSSA to suggest the \$112 rate, rather than the \$189.54 it offers for case management. That lower rate jumps up to \$128 if performance measures are met.

Transitioning to managed care has been a nationwide shift to make health care costs more predictable. Indiana chose to rely on insurers — Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Humana Health Horizons in Indiana and United Healthcare Community Plan — as the overseeing entities across several contracts worth \$15 billion.

FSSA said the Aged and Disabled waiver Care Management rate assumed a caseload of one care manager to 44 clients while the PathWays Service Coordination under managed care had a ratio of one manager to 65 clients.

Brown said CICOA currently had a ratio of one manager to 65 clients.

But the rate was just one motivation for pulling out, Brown said, in addition to the technological challenge of creating a statewide portal for all AAAs and MCEs. It was Brown's understanding that one MCE wouldn't transition and thus it failed a state readiness review, meaning that there's no way to easily transfer a case between AAAs.

Instead, each AAA will have its own access point to three different MCEs — if they even choose to contract with one

"With (16) different organizations doing the same process, there's going to be variance. And so if you have a tool that allows you to minimize that variance and have a very coordinated approach, that's a home run," Brown said. "Without the tool being prevalent ... you can't be successful from the AAA side because there's nothing monitoring and ensuring that referrals are received (and acted on)."

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Tuesday, 2:38 p.m., River Terrace Estates. Officers assisted county with call for unwanted party.

Tuesday, 2:38 p.m., Lancaster Park. Report of a blown gas line.

Tuesday, 4:51 p.m., North Bond and West Wabash streets. Report of a cone that fell over on corner, semi fell into curb damage as he was

Tuesday, 7:11 p.m., 300 block of West South Street. 2900 West Walnut Street,

Report of vehicle blocking Liberty Center. Report of 2100 East 800 South, Keyprivate drive.

Tuesday, 7:36 p.m., 1000 block of West Washington Street. Caller requested to speak to officer.

Tuesday, 10:53 p.m., Velocity Motors. Report of a vehicle running. Someone went and caught it.

Wednesday, 2:47 a.m., North Main Street and Commerce Drive. Driver cited for no valid license.

County: Tuesday, 3:47 p.m.,

Jayde Ketring

fencing torn down on prop-

Wednesday, 1:58 a.m., S.R. 124 and South 600 West, Markle. Report of a truck pulling a trailer with no

Wednesday, 3:11 a.m., Wells County Jail. Nicole Nusbaumer turned herself in at the jail.

Wednesday, 6:08 a.m., Wells County Jail. Parole retake warrant served to Lyle

Wednesday, 8:36 a.m., misdemeanor.

stone. Report of a stray dog that killed 4-H animals.

ARRESTS

Nichole Suzanne Nusbaumer, 42, Bluffton; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor, and possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. No bond set.

Kyle Allen Peterson, 45, Bluffton; operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C

First Bank of Berne announces Ketring as agribusiness banking manager

First Bank of Berne is pleased to challenges and opportunities facing announce that Jayde Ketring, an agri-

business banker at their Bluffton branch, has been named agribusiness banking manager.

First Bank of Berne's appointment of Jayde underscores its ongoing commitment to supporting the prosperity and growth of the agricultural sector, and to providing farmers, and agribusinesses with the financial resources and expertise they need to thrive.

A proven leader with a lifelong love of farming, Jayde brings deep academic knowledge of the industry, excellent communication skills, a results-driven talent for financial analyses, and a genuine commitment to meeting customers' needs to her new role.

lead First Bank of Berne's agribusiness division to new heights of success. Her expert understanding of the unique the agribusiness industry are essential

to our ability to help clients achieve financial goals and sustainably grow their operations," said Kent Liechty, President & CEO of First Bank of Berne. Jayde is a graduate of

Southern Wells Junior-Senior High School in Poneto, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business and Management from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. She began her career in seed sales before moving

into ag banking several years ago. Jayde enjoys ag banking because it combines three of her favorite things: personal relationships, community involvement, and working with numbers. Her diverse skillset and nearly two decades of experience have brought tremendous value around the Wells County area.

rienced ag bankers, and I am honored to be selected to lead this team. I look forward to continuing our work in helping area ag businesses grow and prosper. I am also devoted to ensuring that First Bank of Berne maintains its ranking and reputation as an American Bankers Association Top 100 Farm Lender in the nation," said Jayde.

Jayde's community and industry involvement began in her youth, where she helped with the family farm and was actively involved with both 4-H Club and Future Farmers of America. In addition, she has livestock experience and participated in collegiate-level internships, in which she learned the equipment side of farming.

Jayde enjoys speaking with farmers and appreciates the ever-changing landscape of the agribusiness industry. Her work ethic and passion for agriculture are evident as she works hard to help clients reach their goals. Jayde is taking the reins of agribusiness banking manager from Rick Gentis, who plans to retire at the end of the

"I am fully confident that Jayde will to the farmers and businesses in and "First Bank of Berne has a wonderful team of knowledgeable and expe-

Bluffton-Harrison MSD board honored by ISBA

The Bluffton-Harrison MSD School Board has beenrecognized by the Indiana School Boards Association with an Exemplary Governance Award for calendar year 2023 for demonstrating an outstanding commitment to professional learning and student suc-

The Exemplary Governance Awards are conferred annually to school boards across four levels of distinction. Board awards are based on points earned by

each member for attending ISBA seminars, workshops, conferences, and other learning events, as well as the board's completion of certain additional criteria, such as a retreat with an outside facilitator and goal setting to elevate student achievement outcomes.

"Bluffton-Harrison MSD is a proud member of the ISBA, and our board members maintain active participation within the organization to stay up to date on school governance to best serve our students, faculty, staff, and community," said BHMSD Superintendent Brad Yates. This year, 105 school

boards are receiving awards through the EGA program. 'On behalf of ISBA, I

would like to commend this most exceptional group of school boards and school

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board members," said ISBA **Executive Director Terry** Spradlin. "School boards perform a vital public service for their communities, and board members who actively participate in professional learning are better equipped to perform their duties effectively and meet the needs of their students."

Gay rights group calls for gubernatorial primary vote boycott

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ Indiana Capital Chronicle

An Indiana gay rights group on Wednesday called for primary election voters pulling Republican ballots to leave the race for governor blank in an electoral boycott.

Indiana Equality dubbed all six Hoosiers running for the GOP nomination "prodiscrimination candidates" in a news release.

"If any of these Republican candidates for Governor get elected, they will weaken Indiana's economic future by rejecting the Hoosier Hospitality welcoming values of diversity, equity, and inclusion," Executive Director G. David Caudill

Indiana Primary Election Day is Tuesday, May 7, 2024. Early voting has

The candidates are U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, former Indiana Economic Development Corp. leader Eric Doden, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, former Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers, former Attorney General Curtis Hill and conservative activist Jamie Reitenour.

Corrections and clarifications

Hours for the High School Art Show to be hosted by the Beta Phi chapter of Tri Kappa, at the Wells County Commerce & Visitors Center, 211 W. Water St. in Bluffton on Sunday, April 28, are from 1 to 3 p.m. The exhibit will continue to be on view through May 1 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday.

Equality Indiana, which bills itself as a nonprofit working for LGBT+ legal

sity, equity and inclusion initiatives. "Each of them are extremists with anti-DEI positions, meaning they are self-proclaimed prodiscrimination candidates,'

Caudill said.

rights and against discrimi-

nation, criticized the candi-

dates' stances against diver-

Caudill recommended that "any" Hoosier — "especially LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers and allies" pulling a Republican ballot for the primary boycott the gubernatorial question.



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State candidates should focus on state issues

As Indiana's gubernatorial election falls on a presidential election year, it should come as no surprise that Republican primary candidates have latched onto national GOP talking points in

Hoosier

Opinions

their campaigns. It may be an effective campaign strategy, but it isn't good for voters.

Immigration, protecting law enforcement and com-

bating China may be central planks for the Republican National Committee, but here at home, we need to know our gubernatorial candidates' plans for state leadership if

For example, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch is pushing for eliminating the state income tax in her "Ax the Tax" campaign, and Brad Chambers has used TV ads to highlight his plan to protect kids from online threats. Eric Doden has campaigned on implementing zero-cost adoptions and investing in rural parts of the state.

It's no mystery that national politics are heavily polarized, but our gubernatorial candidates needn't campaign on divisiveness.

To our GOP gubernatorial candidates, we implore you to leave the national politics to the national candidates. Let them be the ones to argue about "wokeness," foreign policy, immigration reform, etc.

Seek to inform rather than incite outrage.

Seek to unify, rather than divide.

Leave the national politics to national leaders.

Give us a chance to vote on issues impacting day-today lives of Hoosiers.

Above all, assure us that you intend to work for the good of ALL of your constituents. The Hoosier State is counting on you.

ANDERSON HERALD BULLETIN

Other Opinions The GOP isolationist caucus

The U.S. — and the Republican Party — dodged a geopolitical disaster on Saturday with the House passage of military aid to allies in Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific. But the moment shouldn't pass without noting the Members who voted against U.S. help for any allies, anywhere, and against replenishing American weapons stocks.

Fourteen Republicans voted against all four bills on the House floor, including the one that would force a sale of TikTok from Chinese ownership. Here's the dishonor roll in alphabetical order: Andy Biggs (Ariz.), Lauren Boebert (Colo.), Andrew Clyde (Ga.), Elijah Crane (Ariz.), Matt Gaetz (Fla.), Bob Good (Va.), Paul Gosar (Ariz.), Marjorie Taylor Greene (Ga.), Andy Harris (Md.), Thomas Massie (Ky.), Troy Nehls (Texas), Ralph Norman (S.C.), Matt Rosendale (Mont.), Chip Roy (Texas).

These Members are in heavily Republican districts, so they would be difficult for Democrats to defeat. But Ms. Boebert and Mr. Good face competitive primaries that could end their destructive Congressional careers.

The unavoidable meaning of the votes is that these Members don't believe the U.S. should support allies threatened by authoritarians on the march. Like Republicans in the 1930s who slept while Hitler and Tojo advanced, these Republicans apparently think America can sit out these fights in splendid isolation. But history suggests that if they prevail, American sons and daughters would eventually have to fight. Better to help allies who want to help themselves.

The isolationist caucus lost this round, but this GOP tendency is dangerous. Another 17 Members voted for arms for Israel but not for Taiwan and Ukraine. Do they want to encourage a Chinese invasion? Perhaps if Florida is attacked, they'll awaken to the reality of the world's growing dangers.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Election Letters Policy

The News-Banner accepts Letters to the Editor concerning local election candidates and issues. All letters must be signed; the writer's address and phone number must be included in case verification is desired. Letters are subject to editing for brevity, clarity and length; letters are limited to 500 words.

• There is a limit to one letter per writer per campaign period. • The editor reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter at all times. • An appearance of a letter-writing campaign will be deemed as such and discontinued. • Letters pertaining to the May 7, 2024 election must be received by Sat., Apr. 27, with the exception of appropriate responses by a candidate to any letter published on or

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit Your Letter) • E-Mail: miller@news-banner.com • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. (There is a 24-hour drop-slot available.) Please mark your correspondence as a "Letter to the Editor."

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 25, the 116th day of 2024. There are 250 days left in

Today's Highlights in History: In 404 B.C., the Peloponnesian War ended as Athens surrendered to Sparta.

On this date:

In 1507, a world map produced by German cartographer Martin Waldseemueller contained the first recorded use of the term "America," in honor of Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci .

In 1859, ground was broken for the Suez Canal.

In 1862, during the Civil War, a Union fleet commanded by Flag Officer David G. Farragut captured the city of New Orleans.

In 1898, the United States Congress declared war on Spain; the 10-week conflict resulted in an American victory.

In 1901, New York Gov. Benjamin Barker Odell, Jr. signed an automobile registration bill which imposed a 15 mph speed limit on high-

In 1915, during World War I, Allied soldiers invaded the Gallipoli Peninsula in an unsuccessful attempt to take the Ottoman Empire out of the war.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. and Soviet forces linked up on the Elbe River, a meeting that dramatized the collapse of Nazi Germany's defenses. Meanwhile, delegates from some 50 countries gathered in San Francisco to organize the United Nations.

In 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope was deployed in orbit from the space shuttle Discovery. (It was later discovered that the telescope's primary mirror was flawed, requiring the installation of corrective components to achieve optimal focus.)

In 1992, Islamic forces in Afghanistan took control of most of the capital of Kabul following the collapse of the

Communist government. In 2002, Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes of the Grammy-winning trio TLC died in an SUV crash in Honduras.



Mike Johnson is a hero

Author Herman Wouk captured well how to understand heroism.

"Heroes are not supermen; they are good men who embody — by the cast of destiny — the virtue of their whole people in a great hour," observed Wouk.

We have today an American hero in the name of House Speaker Mike Johnson.

Anyone with eyes open knows the world today is a very dangerous place. Johnson, a conservative Republican and a devout Christian, knows that the way for it to become even more dangerous is for the leader of the free world to withdraw from its responsibilities as such.

In the face of threats from some within his own party, in the face of the possibility of a purge like that which happened to his predecessor Kevin McCarthy, Johnson stepped up, rounded up 101 Republican votes in the House and, together with Democrats, passed a \$95 billion military aid bill for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan.

As a Christian, Johnson understands that there is no understanding of what freedom is without appreciation that there is good and evil in this world.

Our tendency in our country is to emphasize individual rights when we think about freedom. But the equal and opposite side of rights is responsibilities. Without responsibility, whether as individuals or as a nation, freedom is gone.

As President Ronald Reagan famously observed, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.

Speaking to reporters after the vote, Johnson noted that this is a "critical time" and that "Xi (China) and Vladimir Putin and Iran really are an axis of evil."

This is not a matter of our nation aspiring to be world's policeman. It is matter of k the force of evil cannot be ignored and the price of believing that it can be ignored only grows and becomes increasingly more dangerous.

Is this a matter of focusing abroad at the expense of what is happening at home? Certainly not. If a hero, in the words of Herman Wouk, embodies the "virtue" of his or her people, how do we define the virtue of the American people?

It's about the principles of a free nation

We also face great danger at home as we have departed from these principles. The \$95 billion that will go in aid abroad is peanuts compared to what we waste at home in spending programs that do nothing.

The Biden administration has appropriated \$80 billion to the IRS to bolster tax collection. But at the same time, Biden has submitted a 2025 budget to Congress increasing federal spending by some \$800

We are now trillions of dollars in the red as result of bankrupt entitlement programs that are basically socialism. These programs are gushing red ink because they are not about, and never have been about, American principles of freedom and personal responsibility.

We, of course, need to assure that those that immigrate to our country come to embrace the principles that make our country great. But Republicans need to contend with a president and his party who have long abandoned those principles.

Enough Democrats do seem to understand the importance of defending our principles abroad, and here Republicans and Democrats must work together.

So it's not a matter of either/or. Freedom is about knowing that we have choices, that there is good and evil, and we must fight evil everywhere by choosing

Johnson has done us all a favor through his principles and courage. We have great challenges at home, but we cannot ignore what's happening around us.

Alan

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Star

Parker

The next-best natural phenomenon: Brood X

For survivors of the eclipse comes summer's round two of the super-

natural. "You're traveling

through another dimension, a dimension not only of sight and sound but of mind; a journey into a wondrous land whose boundaries are that of imagination. That's the signpost up ahead—your next stop,

... no, not the Twilight Zone. It's Brood X according to entm.purdue. edu/cicadas/ online.

Baby Boomers survived both Twilight Zone and Eclipse. Do not confuse Brood X with Gen X, although there are those who say one is as annoying as the other. Brood X refers to a 17-year cicada emergence in 2021. Do not confuse cicada with locust. In Biblical times God sent locust to annoy pagan Egypt.

"And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. Ex10:14" Without an exact year of Moses' rod-starting locusts, it's impossible to calculate if this was the

beginning of Brood X. Angelkeep decided to travel through another dimension in time, stealing Rod Sterling's words, and stop at 119 years ago to investigate the Brood X year of 1905. News-Banner's Bluffton forerunner published, "According to their peculiar habit they come in the night to the surface of the ground from their subterranean caverns, where they have been maturing and slumbering for the last seventeen years. The ground beneath the trees is perforated like an immense colander with the holes from which they emerged."

Do not confuse colander with



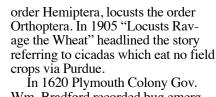
Marie Callender's perfect pecan pies. Angelkeep could devour a Marie Callender pecan pie in 17 hours, not 17 years. A la mode, and make it an overload. But I digress, and drool.

Daugherty

Do not confuse dining habits of cicadas with locusts. According to "entm" (entomology) at Purdue, "Some people call cicadas locusts, but cicadas can't eat crops like locusts. They only drink trees." That's comforting. Hordes of tree-drunk cicadas could arrive eminently. Will gawking at an inebriated cicada cause your eyes to go blind, like an eclipse

Remember the eclipse trekkers? You may need to travel for cicadas, southern Indiana a good bet, Nashville, Brookville, and McCormick's Creek were bygone hot spots, according to cicadamania.com. Wait, do not confuse Brood X with Brood XIII and/or Brood XIX. The latter, assigned the moniker of "Great Southern Brood," emerge as Hoosiers this year simultaneously with Brood XIII. It's Cicada Super Bowl time. Cicada choruses you hear will not be those of Brood X until 2038. Enjoy the loud tenor pitch of Hoosier annual Cicada. Only boys sing, girls click their responding "I do.

Brood X had been highlighted by Bluffton's 1905 newspaper. The paper used both terms cicada and locust in the same story, same paragraphs. They obviously didn't know the difference. Cicadas fall in the



Wm. Bradford recorded bug emerging, "...out of little holes in the ground, and did eat up the green things, and made such a constant yelling noise as made the woods ring of them...the Indians told them that sickness would follow, and so it

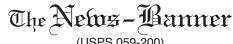
Remember that for a conversation starter. Why are cicadas an Angelkeep Journals' topic a second month in a row? Because, as the news wrote in 1915, cicadas can get on your last nerve, they sing until they die. "The innumerable locusts are filling the air with their sonorous, monotonous and doleful song. The farmers are spraying their orchards with prepared mixture of kerosene." Purdue assures cicadas don't eat crops, trees yes.

Indiana Cicada Fest runs May 1 to June 21. It's an iNaturalist project. They wish outdoor lovers to hike, locate, then photograph interesting plants, animals, fungi, and hopefully cicadas. The iNaturalist website desires your downloads.

Don't embarrass yourself by photographing common annual cicadas. There's a difference. Unlike as Gen X and Baby Boomers. Periodical cicadas have red eyes and a nearly black body. Annual cicadas have dark eyes and a forest green thorax.

April's Angelkeep cicada column ends with trivia. The Latin root word for cicada is "cicada." Like some pronounce "puh-tay-to" as "po-tahto," you're correct to utter "si-kayda" as "si-kah-da."

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



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Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

Historical society re-elects officers, hears history of county bridges

BARBIERI

Members of the Wells County Historical Society held their annual meeting Monday at the Wells County Public Library where they re-elected officers for 2024, announced program plans for the year and heard historical facts about the county's

Re-elected officers for 2024 were Jim Sturgeon, president; Connie Burbaker, vice president; Lynn Elliott, treasurer; and Marsha Hotopp, secretary. Board members include Sam Aeschliman, Rebecca Behning, Pat Wall, Paul Griner, Larry McAfee, Samantha Acosta, Susan Price, Roger Scherer and Ben Jones.

During the reading of the minutes by Hotopp, it was noted that the major projects over the past year have been replacing the museum's back steps and the paneling of the annex and the beginning of the Carriage House roofing project.

Sturgeon began his talk about bridges by explaining the first were probably logs or fords. These were replaced by more stur-



Program presenters were Larry McAfee, left, who spoke about The Cover covered bridge and the book he compiled about it, and Jim Sturgeon, who told about the county's other bridges. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

dy timber bridges that often were covered to protect the wood, keep snow off, calm animals into thinking they were entering a barn and give shelter during rain showers.

Bluffton's Main Street bridge was once a covered bridge, replaced by an iron bridge and then replaced by the current Crosby bridge in 1934. A re-fresh of the bridge in 2004 brought restoration to the lighting sys-

McAfee spoke about The Cover Bridge, which was a covered bridge located near Markle that burned down May 28, 1966. At the time the Huntington Reservoir was being built and the bridge had been scheduled to be torn down.

Efforts to save it by Paul Bender and Ralph Higman had just brought the news that the bridge was to be saved and raised eight feet, when it burnt down.

It was built in 1870, was 207 ft. long, had 10 ft. overhangs on either side and cost \$7,576.50 to build. The river bed below the bridge was solid limestone.

The road made a curve as it came to the bridge to make sure animals slowed down before crossing. The reason most covered bridges were red was that the paint was cheaper being made of skim milk, wine and

McAfee gifted all in attendance one of his booklets about The Cover bridge titled "The Kissing Bridge." Also, everyone

received a postcard of the bridge.

The dinner was catered by Corner Depot Catering. A list of coming events at the museum was shared by Scherer and fol-

Coming Events

• May 1, 10 a.m.: Local History: Miller Airport by Jim Sturgeon.

• May 8, 10 a.m.: Local History: Grover Sheets American Legion Post 111, Bluffton, by Connie Brubaker.

• May 9, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.: Wells County Senior Expo. 4-H Community Building.

• May 15, 10 a.m.: Local History: "Ghost of the Bluffton Waterworks" by Connie Brubaker.

• May 19, 2 p.m.: Museum History Series with Alan Daugherty telling about his book about Edward Bruce Williamson. (Program in the Annex)

July 21, 2-5 p.m.: Ice Cream Social.
Aug. 18, 2 p.m.: Museum History Series about local artist Harry Lindstrand.

 Museum is now open every Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. barb@news-banner.com

Gloria recalls the splendor of the total solar eclipse

What a day to be remembered! When I first heard about the eclipse, I pictured something like the one we had seven years ago. As the days came close I thought of the nearby towns flooded with thousands and even millions of people. Though I knew better, I imagined what it would be like, should there have been a mistake and no eclipse would come to capture the attention of spectators across the line of fire.

We as a church planned a fish fry in the evening, after watching the rare event of total alignment of sun, moon, and earth. Monday morning dawned beautiful and sunny, I couldn't help but feel for those in neighboring states where the weather proved to be cloudy, thus less informative of the precise process of the events at hand.

By 1:00 in the afternoon we all gathered on the school playground with our camp chairs and eclipse moons shining through the perfect sunglasses. Taking a seat I borrowed one of the children's glasses. Sure enough, it was coming to reality, it was no scheme. A gentleman from the large Amish community in Arthur Illinois demonstrated the function of the sun, moon, and earth, and exactly what was about to happen. Two lower graders were summoned to carry the 'moon' and 'sun' as they walked in circles, creating patterns similar to the sun and

The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder

At about that moment I glanced down toward the schoolhouse. What should I see but Mr. Strutter? I hesitated for a moment, then instructing the children to stay where they were, I headed toward our intruding pet which had obviously trailed us. I scooped up the big black strutting turkey and carried him off to our pasture in the woods on the other side of schoolhouse.

Relieved, I joined the others watching the moon/ sun demo. By now the eclipse was half covering the sun and it was getting cooler and slightly darker across the coun-

Intrigued we watched the half circles of the stainless steel colander. Using a pin, Cousin Judith poked holes into her handout with eclipse info. Even these tiny round holes had teeny slivers of sunbeams shining through. What a mighty God we serve!

Totality was getting closer. We were only minutes away, soon it was down to seconds. Elijah, who was sitting on my lap snuggled up close; the 16 degree drop in temperature certainly made a difference! And then it happened. A deeper level of darkness settled over the countryside as the last bit of light from the sun was covered by the moon; a silver ring flashed. Exclamations of awe and delight were sounded on all sides, the splendor being too rich for mere description.

Seven years ago gave us a good taste of the earlier stages, now the totality blew my expectations. The diamond ring caught me off guard. The wonder of our Creator and Provider went to the deeper parts of my

Surely hearing about it is one thing, seeing it is altogether different. Amazing. Simply super amazing. The diamond ring, lasting only a few seconds, was faded by flaming gasses of the sun shining around it.

Someone started the old familiar hymn, How great thou art. I wanted to help, and I did, still the moment was almost too precious for words.

"There are the two planets," someone pointed out. "And look at that star!" pointed another. By now

Baily's Beads were forming on the with the help of a couple other men lower edge of the eclipse, marking the evidence of the valleys along the moon's horizon. Someone from the back corner suggested, "Let's all be quiet for 30 seconds.

We did. I loved it. A nearby rooster crowed his early morning call; we smiled, it was obvious that his instincts were setting in.

In a couple short minutes the diamond ring flashed, and the first glimmer of the sun could be seen on the bottom.

Even after the initial darkness had lifted it took some time until the lighting was back to normal. As one of my friends had stated, "The lighting made you feel funny, as if it could affect even your balance."

Soon the ball players were ready to have the ball diamond cleared and wind out with soft ball. Us mothers shuffled to the side with the children as we chatted with out of state guests and watched ball games. Though our ball games are not professional, we have lots of fun. The second time the teams numbered off the lower graders even got to help.

At one point Mr. Strutter was summoned back to school where he entertained the children for a while.

By 5:30 supper aromas were sweeping across the yard as Uncle Vernon and Cousin Josh, along

in church, deep fried hush puppies, fish, and french fries. The taste and quality of the food proved to match the smell. Vernon's wife makes the most amazing hush puppies, these were no exception. Homemade bread, potato salad, fresh veggies. and frozen cheese cakes finished off the meal. Yummy. Yummy memories, too.

It was 7:30 when we walked into the house. Tired and dirty children marked the reality of a good day of hard play.

At 9:20 they are now all sound asleep. Good night to one and all! **HOMEMADE HUSH PUPPIES**

1 cup corn meal

1/3 cup flour 1 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon black pepper 1 egg, beaten

1/4 cup chopped onion 1 cup creamed corn

2 tablespoons milk (more milk may be added if mixture seems to thick)

Mix altogether and drop onto a cookie sheet with a small cookie

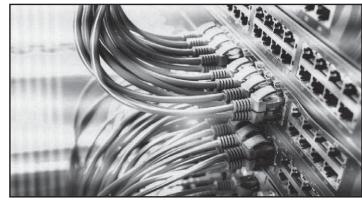
Heat oil to 300 degrees.

Place hush puppies in hot oil and fry until golden.

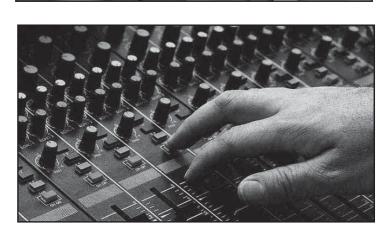
Serve with ketchup, barbecue sauce, or any dips of your choice.

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What to listen for during arguments on Trump and presidential immunity

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court hears arguments Thursday over whether Donald Trump is immune from prosecution in a case charging him with plotting to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election.

It's a historic day for the court, with the justices having an opportunity to decide once and for all whether former presidents can be prosecuted for official acts they take while in the White House.

But between a decades-old court case about Richard Nixon, and an obscure constitutional provision about presidential impeachments, there are likely to be some unfamiliar concepts and terms thrown about.

Here are some tips to help follow everything:

WHEN DOES

THE SESSION START?
The court marshal will bang the gavel at 10 a.m. EDT and Chief Justice John Roberts will announce the start of arguments in Donald J. Trump vs. United States of America, as the case is called.

The session easily could last two hours or more.

FIND THE LIVESTREAM?

wo hours or more. WHERE DO I

There are no cameras in the courtroom, but since the pandemic the court has livestreamed its argument sessions. Listen live on apnews.com/live/trump-supremecourt-arguments-updates or the court's website at www.supreme-

court.gov. C-SPAN also will carry the arguments at www.c-span.org. IMPEACHMENT CLAUSE

Expect to hear talk about the impeachment process and the relationship, if any, to criminal prosecution.

Central to Trump's immunity argument is the claim that only a former president who was impeached and convicted by the Senate can be criminally prosecuted. Trump was impeached over his efforts to undo the election in the run-up to the violent riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. But he was acquitted, not convicted, by the Senate in 2021.

Trump's lawyers cite as backup for their argument a provision of the Constitution known as the Impeachment Judgment Clause that says an officeholder convicted by the Senate shall nevertheless be "liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment" in court.

Prosecutors say the Trump team is misreading the clause and that conviction in the Senate is not a prerequisite for a courtroom prosecution.

WAIT, WHAT'S THIS ABOUT RICHARD NIXON?

There's going to be plentiful discussion about Nixon but not necessarily for the reasons one might think.

Trump's team has repeatedly drawn attention to a 1982 case, Nixon v. Fitzgerald, in which the Supreme Court held that a former president cannot be sued in civil cases for their actions while in office. The case concerned the firing of an Air Force analyst, A. Ernest Fitzgerald, who testified before Congress about cost overruns in the production of a transport plane.

Fitzgerald's lawsuit against Nixon, president at the time of the 1970 termination, was unsuccessful, with Justice Lewis Powell writing for the court that presidents are entitled to absolute immunity from civil lawsuits for acts that fall within the "outer perimeter" of their official duties.

Importantly, that decision did not shield presidents from criminal liability, though Trump's team says the same analysis should apply

Special counsel Jack Smith's team is also likely to bring up a separate Supreme Court decision involving Nixon that they say bolsters their case — a 1974 opinion that forced the president to turn over incriminating White House tapes for use in the prosecutions of his top aides.

Prosecutors have also noted that Nixon accepted rather than declined a subsequent pardon from President Gerald Ford — a recognition by the men, they say, "that a former President was subject to prosecution."

DRONE STRIKES AND SEAL TEAM SIX

The justices are known to love presenting hypothetical scenarios to lawyers as a way of testing the outer limits of their arguments.

Expect that practice to be on full display Thursday as the court assesses whether former presidents are entitled to absolute immunity.

Already, Trump's lawyers have warned that if the prosecution is permitted to go forward, it would open the floodgates to criminal charges against other presidents, such as for authorizing a drone strike that kills a U.S. citizen or for giving false information to Congress that leads the country into war.

In a memorable moment during arguments in January before a federal appeals court, a judge asked a Trump lawyer whether a president who ordered a Navy SEAL to assassinate a political rival could be prosecuted.

Look for Smith's team to try to draw a sharp distinction between acts that it says are quintessential exercises of presidential power — such as ordering a drone strike during war — to the acts that Trump is accused of in this case, such as participating in a scheme to organize fake electors in battleground states. Those acts, prosecutors say, are personal acts and not presidential ones.

A few key questions and answers on the United States TikTok ban

The Associated Press

No, TikTok will not suddenly disappear from your phone. Nor will you go to jail if you continue using it after it is banned.

After years of attempts to ban the Chinese-owned app, including by former President Donald Trump, a measure to outlaw the popular video-sharing app has won congressional approval and is on its way to President Biden for his signature. The measure gives Beijing-based parent company ByteDance nine months to sell the company, with a possible additional three months if a sale is in progress. If it doesn't, TikTok will be banned.

So what does this mean for you, a TikTok user, or perhaps the parent of a TikTok user? Here are some key questions and answers.

WHEN DOES THE BAN GO INTO EFFECT?

The original proposal gave ByteDance just six months to divest from its U.S. subsidiary, negotiations lengthened it to nine. Then, if the sale is already in progress, the company will get another three months to complete it.

So it would be at least a year before a ban goes into effect — but with likely court challenges, this could stretch even longer, perhaps years. TikTok has seen some success with court challenges in the past, but it has never sought to prevent federal legislation from going into effect.

WHAT IF I ALREADY DOWNLOADED IT?

TikTok, which is used by more than 170 million Americans, most likely won't disappear from your phone even if an eventual ban does take effect. But it would disappear from Apple and Google's app stores, which means users won't be able to download it. This would also mean that TikTok wouldn't be able to send updates, security patches and bug fixes, and over time the app would likely

become unusable — not to mention a security risk.

BUT SURELY THERE ARE WORKAROUNDS?

Teenagers are known for circumventing parental controls and bans when it comes to social media, so dodging the U.S. government's ban is certainly not outside the realm of possibilities. For instance, users could try to mask their location using a VPN, or virtual private network, use alternative app stores or even install a foreign SIM card into their phone.

But some tech savvy is required, and it's not clear what will and won't work. More likely, users will migrate to another platform — such as Instagram, which has a TikTok-like feature called Reels, or YouTube, which has incorporated vertical short videos in its feed to try to compete with TikTok. Often, such videos are taken directly from TikTok itself. And popular creators are likely to be found on other platforms as

well, so you'll probably be able to see the same stuff.

"The TikTok bill relies heavily on the control that Apple and Google maintain over their smartphone platforms because the bill's primary mechanism is to direct Apple and Google to stop allowing the TikTok app on their respective app stores, said Dean Ball, a research fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. "Such a mechanism might be much less effective in the world envisioned by many advocates of antitrust and aggressive regulation against the large tech firms.'

SHOULD I BE WORRIED ABOUT USING TIKTOK?

Lawmakers from both parties
— as well as law enforcement
and intelligence officials —
have long expressed concerns
that Chinese authorities could
force ByteDance to hand over
data on the 170 million Americans who use TikTok. The worry
stems from a set of Chinese

national security laws that compel organizations to assist with intelligence gathering - which ByteDance would likely be subject to - and other far-reaching ways the country's authoritarian government exercises control.

Data privacy experts say, though, that the Chinese government could easily get information on Americans in other ways, including through commercial data brokers that sell or rent personal information.

Lawmakers and some administration officials have also expressed concerns that China could - potentially - direct or influence ByteDance to suppress or boost TikTok content that are favorable to its interests. TikTok, for its part, has denied assertions that it could be used as a tool of the Chinese government. The company has also said it has never shared U.S. user data with Chinese authorities and won't do so if it's asked.

Arizona indicts 18 in case over 2020 election in Arizona, including Giuliani and Meadows

PHOENIX (AP) — An Arizona grand jury has indicted former Donald Trump chief of staff Mark Meadows and lawyer Rudy Giuliani along with 16 others in an election interference case.

The indictment released Wednesday names 11 Republicans who submitted a document to Congress falsely declaring that Donald Trump beat Joe Biden in Arizona in the 2020 presidential election. It shows seven other defendants whose names were not immediately released because they had not yet been served with the charges

The Associated Press was able to determine the identities of the unnamed defendants based on their descriptions in the indict-

One is described as an attorney "who was often identified as the Mayor" and spread false allegations of election fraud, a description that clearly describes Giuliani. Another is described as Trump's "chief of staff in 2020," which describes Meadows.

"I will not allow Ameri-

can democracy to be undermined," Democratic Attorney General Kris Mayes said in a video released by her office. "It's too impor-

tant." The 11 people who had been nominated to be Arizona's Republican electors met in Phoenix on Dec. 14, 2020, to sign a certificate saying they were "duly elected and qualified" electors and claiming that Trump carried the state. A one-minute video of the signing ceremony was posted on social media by the Arizona Republican Party at the time. The document was later sent to Congress and the National Archives, where it was ignored.

Biden won Arizona by more than 10,000 votes. Of the eight lawsuits that unsuccessfully challenged Biden's victory in the state, one was filed by the 11 Republicans who would later sign the certificate declaring Trump as the winner.

Their lawsuit asked a judge to de-certify the results that gave Biden his victory in Arizona and block the state from sending them to the Electoral College. In dismissing the case,

Days

U.S. District Judge Diane

Humetewa said the Repub-

licans lacked legal stand-

ing, waited too long to bring

their case and "failed to pro-

vide the court with factual

support for their extraordi-

Days after that lawsuit was dismissed, the 11 Republicans participated in the certificate signing.

The Arizona charges come after a string of indictments against fake electors in other states.



Prime Rib Dinner
Every Friday after 4pm
Includes Green Beans &
Baby Potatoes with Bread

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THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024 • The News-Banner • Page 1a

Tigers take care of business against Raiders

By RYAN WALKER

Bluffton took advantage of errors and walks and smacked the ball around against its rival down the road Wednesday night.

Southern Wells (1-7, 0-2 ACAC) coughed up five errors and seven walks in the contest that contributed to a 15-1 win for the Tigers (6-6, 2-0 ACAC), now winners of five of their last six games.

Of the 15 runs, only seven of them were earned. But standout freshman pitcher for the Raiders, Landon Johnson, tossed three full innings without allowing an earned run and gave up

only two hits and struck out three. After two innings, the Raiders and Tigers were deadlocked at 1-1 with Johnson getting out of back-to-back jams and keeping the team within striking distance.

10 strikeouts.

But with the mistakes and four walks, it was too much to overcome that night.

"It started off well, and that's the team that we are," Southern Wells head coach Evan Huffman said after the game. "When we got Landon on the mound, we knew he was going to be around the zone. It's just what we have to do when he is in the zone that people are going to hit him a little bit. We've got to make the plays."

On the other hand, Bluffton played clean defensively and starting pitcher A.J. Streveler pounded the strike zone for five solid innings. He allowed one unearned run, one hit with two walks and 10 strike-

"We took advantage of some of the mistakes that they made, which is always a positive, and we didn't shoot ourselves in the foot when they didn't put the ball in play," Bluffton head coach Jason Pierce said.

Griffin Morgan got the Tigers on the board first with a fielder's choice ground ball, but the Raiders would respond with a bases loaded walk by Johnson.

After a swift second inning by both ams, the Tigers put up a four spot in the third inning when Lukas Gehrett drilled a two-RBI base hit to left field with two outs. The Tigers scored two more times walking with the bases loaded.

The fourth frame was where Bluffton made its biggest mark, scoring eight runs. Morgan smoked an RBI double to deep left field and Nick Pastore followed with a double of his own. Braxton Betancourt and Streveler drove in runs on their base hits. On a few throwing errors and walks,

the Tigers completed the inning with a 15-1 cushion.

An inning later, the game was over with the 10-run mercy rule after the fifth

inning. win The got the Tigers back to .500 on the season after falling to 1-4 to start it. They've won five of their last six games going into the game against Woodlan Thursday night, one of the top teams in the conference. Pierce said

that the rough stretch to open the season has been used as a teaching moment. He mentioned plate disipline has been better, pitch selection and

inning game, allowing one unearned run, only one hit and defense seeing improvements too. In the first five games, Bluffton averaged six runs per game and allowed 11.6. In the last six games, the team has scored a whopping 13.1 runs per game and

allowed only 2.5. The team has also had

just four errors in that stretch compared

Tigers' starter A.J. Streveler dishes out a pitch during the

first inning against the Raiders. He threw a complete five-

to 18 in the first five games. "Those were valuable, valuable moments for us as unfortunate as they were," Pierce said. "I think we've done a really good job of trying to recover from that and understanding that we are in total control of balls that are hit to us, and we have got to make routine plays, and I think that's been our biggest uptick.

Southern Wells still has some things to improve on during the season, but has had a positive outcome with some of their younger players on the roster.

The Raiders' top four batting average leaders are all freshmen or sophomores. Johnson, who threw against Bluffton, is hitting .438 on the season with four extrabase hits and is tied for the team lead in

Sophomore Peyton Bertsch is also hitting .400 on the squad, while sophomore Robby Freimuth and freshmen Jakob Gearheart are over .333 thus far.

Johnson also has a 3.65 ERA entering the Tigers' contest in three appearances and has established himself as a cornerstone piece to Southern Wells' future

"He's an incredible leader," Huffman said. "(He) leads by example. Like I said, every time he's on the mound, we have a chance. He's going to pitch to strikes and he's going to challenge hitters to hit him. He's been very impressive."

Bluffton will host Woodlan at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 25.

Southern Wells will be at Heritage at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 25.

ryan@news-banner.com



Southern Wells' starting pitcher Landon Johnson (left) throws a pitch to Bluffton batter Griffin Morgan during Wednesday night's contest between the two Wells County foes. The Tigers got the best of the Raiders 15-1. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

High School Calendar

THURSDAY, APRIL 25BASEBALL: Bellmont at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.; Woodlan at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Heritage, 5 p.m.
BOYS GOLF: Southern Wells at Wabash,

GIRLS TENNIS: Bellmont at Norwell, 4:30

p.m.; Bluffton at Wayne, 5 p.m. SOFTBALL: Woodlan at Bluffton, 5:30

p.m.; Southern Wells at Heritage, 5:30 p.m. TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Northfield at

Southern Wells, 5 p.m.; Adams Central, Jay County at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

BASEBALL: Carroll at Norwell, 5:30 p.m. GIRLS TENNIS: Blackhawk Christian at Norwell 4:30 p.m.; Southwood at Bluffton, 5

SOFTBALL: Heritage at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Southern Wells, 5 p.m. TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Norwell,

Bluffton at South Adams Invitational, 5:30

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

BASEBALL: Southern Wells at UC Dylan Williams Memorial at Union City, 9 a.m.; Nor-

well at Heritage, 10 a.m. BOYS GOLF: Canterbury Invitational, 8:30

GIRLS TENNIS: Bluffton at DeKalb, 9 a.m. SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Daleville, 10 a.m.; Southern Wells at Dylan Williams Memorial at

Union City, 10 a.m. MONDAY, APRIL 29

BASEBALL: Norwell at Delta, 6 p.m.; Bluffton at Churubusco, 5:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Randolph Southern, 5 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at Carroll, 4:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Bellmont, 4:30 p.m. SOFTBALL: New Haven at Norwell, 5:30

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

BASEBALL: Norwell at New Haven, 5:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Adams Central, 5 p.m.

BOYS GOLF: East Noble at Norwell, 4:30 p.m.; Woodlan at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at South Adams, 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at New Haven, 5 p.m.; South Adams at Bluffton, 5 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Adams Central, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at Monroe Central, 5



Norwell's Milanna Pepper (second from left) signs with Saint Mary's College at Notre Dame with her family and cheer coach present Wednesday morning. Pepper will be a part of the first class of athletes to participate in stunt at the school. From left to right are Dave Pepper, Milanna Pepper, Yolanda Pepper and cheer coach Breanna Clifton. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

Sports Roundup

Tiger boys win home track meet with Jets, Patriots

Bluffton's boys team won the home track meet over Jay County and Adams Central, while the girls got second Wednesday night.

The Tiger boys won by a score of 100, topping the Patriots in second at 39.5 and the Jets at 16.5. The girls had a score of 46 to the Patriots' 76, and topped the Jets at 34.

Top Placers were:

Boys • Andrew Hunt in the 110m hurdles with a

of 11.30.

time of 15.57 and in the 300m hurdles with a time of 43.90. • Alex Mechling in the 100m with a time

- Tyler Godwin in the 1600m with a time of 4:44.49 and in the 800m with a time of
- 2:08.07.• Elijah Kerner in the 400m with a time of 55.30.
- Jude Baumgartner in the 200m with a time of 23.29.
- Levi Johns in the 3200m with a time of 10:33.14.
- Austin Geimer in the high jump at 5-8.
- Maksym Laishevkin in the long jump at
- 19-5. • Johnny Cruz in the shot put at 47-1.50.
- The 4x800m relay team of Godwin, Ayden Teeple, Jackson Rockwell and Aidan

Graves with a time of 8:46.46.

• The 4x100m relay team of Mechling, Ben Ramseyer, Trey Bustos and Khamel Moore with a time of 46.22.

• The 4x400m relay team of Kerner, Laishevkin, Hunt and Baumgartner with a time of 3:42.16.

Girls • Maryn Schreiber in the 400m with a time of 1:05.90 and Madelyn Funk second in the 400m with a time of 1:05.90. • Corina Rader in the discus at 92-9 and

Rori Drayer at 87-2.50. Dakota Lee second in the 100m hurdles

with a tine of 17.26.

• Funk second in the long jump at 14-2. Bluffton will be at the South Adams Invitational starting at 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 26.

Raiders fall to the **Broncos in softball**

Southern Wells fell to Daleville on the road 10-0 Wednesday.

The Raiders tallied three hits in the contest, one each by Gracie Reeves, Collena Reeves and Remi Holmes. Holmes also stole two bases in the game.

Emma Parks was charged with the loss. Maddy Sutton threw 2.2 innings, allowing one run and struck out four.

Southern Wells will be at Heritage at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25.

Norwell's Pepper joins first Saint Mary's recruiting class for stunt

By RYAN WALKER

Norwell stunt cheerleader Milanna Pepper signed with Saint Mary's College at Notre Dame Wednesday morning.

Pepper signed alongside many friends and family to witness her achievement, which she was warmed by.

"I'm so appreciative for them for everything," Pepper said. "They've always come to my games and supported me. Just seeing them here today felt amazing because it's exciting that they're willing to come out and see something that I'm excited about.'

Pepper will now be a part of the first recruiting class Saint Marys have ever had for stunt cheer, a sport that has been recently added and will compete for the first time next school year. It's also the first NCAA Division III school in Indiana to add the

Stunt is an athletic form of cheerleading where teams will compete in a four-quarter style format against other schools. Pepper said she was excited to be on the first team at the school.

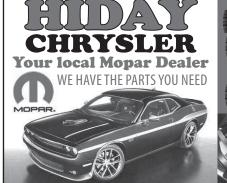
According to the school website, Jillian Humphrey will be leading the stunt team as head coach. She's spent the past several months preparing a team for next year, which included the Norwell Knight.

Pepper enjoyed visiting campus and getting to know Humphrey and her future teammates.

When I talked with the coach, she seemed really sweet and the other girls that are committed are really sweet too and have reached out to me and talked to me about

Pepper plans to study nursing.

rvan@news-banner.com







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News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL NBA

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7; x-if necessary) Eastern Conference Milwaukee 1, Indiana 0 Sunday, April 21: Milwaukee 109, Indiana 94

Tuesday, April 23: Indiana 125, Milwaukee 108 Friday, April 26: Milwaukee at Indi-

Sunday, April 28: Milwaukee at Indiana, 7 p.m. x-Tuesday, April 30: Indiana at Milwaukee, TBA x-Thursday, May 2: Milwaukee at

Indiana, TBA x-Saturday, May 4: Indiana at Mil-waukee, TBA Boston 1, Miami 1

Sunday, April 21: Boston 114, Miami Wednesday, April 24: Miami 111,

Boston 101 Saturday, April 27: Boston at Miami,

6 p.m. Monday, April 29: Boston at Miami, x-Wednesday, May 1: Miami at Boston, TBA

x-Friday, May 3: Boston at Miami, x-Sunday, May 5: Miami at Boston,

Cleveland 2. Orlando 0 Saturday, April 20: Cleveland 97, Orlando 83

Monday, April 22: Cleveland 96, Orlando 86

Thursday, April 25: Cleveland at Orlando, 7 p.m. Saturday, April 27: Cleveland at

Saturday, April 27: Cleveland at Orlando, 1 p.m. x-Tuesday, April 30: Orlando at Cleveland, TBA x-Friday, May 3: Cleveland at Orlando, TBA x-Sunday, May 5: Orlando at Cleve-

land, TBA New York 2, Philadelphia 0 Saturday, April 20: New York 111, Philadelphia 104 Monday, April 22: New York 104,

Philadelphia 101
Thursday, April 25: New York at
Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 28: New York at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.

delphia, 1 p.m. x-Tuesday, April 30: Philadelphia at New York, TBA

x-Thursday, May 2: New York at Philadelphia, TBA x-Saturday, May 4: Philadelphia at New York, TBA Western Conference

L.A. Clippers 1, Dallas 1 Sunday, April 21: L.A. Clippers 109, Tuesday, April 23: Dallas 96, L.A.

Friday, April 26: L.A. Clippers at Dallas. 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 28: L.A. Clippers at Dallas, 3:30 p.m. x-Wednesday, May 1: Dallas at L.A. Clippers, TBA x-Friday, May 3: L.A. Clippers at Dallas, TBA

x-Sunday, May 5: Dallas at L.A. Clip-

Denver 2, L.A. Lakers 0 Saturday, April 20: Denver 114, L.A Lakers 103

Monday, April 22: Denver 101, L.A. Lakers 99 Thursday, April 25: Denver at L.A.

Lakers, 10 p.m. Saturday, April 27: Denver at L.A. Lakers, 8:30 p.m.

x-Monday, April 29: L.A. Lakers at Denver, TBA x-Thursday, May 2: Denver at L.A.

x-Saturday, May 4: L.A. Lakers at Denver, TBA Oklahoma City 1, New Orleans 0

Sunday, April 21: Oklahoma City 94 New Orleans 92

Wednesday, April 24: New Orleans at Oklahoma City, late. Saturday, April 27: Oklahoma City at New Orleans, 3:30 p.m. Monday, April 29: Oklahoma City at New Orleans, TBA

x-Wednesday, May 1: New Orleans at Oklahoma City, TBA x-Friday, May 3: Oklahoma City at New Orleans, TBA

x-Sunday, May 5: New Orleans at Oklahoma City, TBA Minnesota 2, Phoenix 0

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Saturday, April 20: Minnesota 120, Phoenix 95 Tuesday, April 23: Minnesota 105,

Phoenix 93 Friday, April 26: Minnesota at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m. Sunday, April 28: Minnesota at Phoenix, 9:30 p.m.

x-Tuesday, April 30: Phoenix at Minnesota, TBA x-Thursday, May 2: Minnesota at x-Saturday, May 4: Phoenix at Minnesota, TBA

HOCKEY

NHL

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7; x-if necessary) EASTERN CONFERENCE Carolina 2, N.Y. Islanders 0 Saturday, April 20: Carolina 3, N.Y.

Monday, April 22: Carolina 5, N.Y. Islanders 3

Islanders 3
Thursday, April 25: Carolina at N.Y.
Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 27: Carolina at N.Y.
Islanders, 2 p.m.
x-Tuesday, April 30: N.Y. Islanders at Carolina, TBA

x-Thursday, May 2: Carolina at N.Y. Islanders, TBA x-Saturday, May 4: N.Y. Islanders at Carolina, TBA

Florida 1, Tampa Bay 0 Sunday, April 21: Florida 3, Tampa Bay 2 Tuesday, April 23: Florida 3, Tampa

Bay 2 (OT) Thursday, April 25: Florida at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m. Saturday, April 27: Florida at Tampa Bay, 5 p.m.

x-Monday, April 29: Tampa Bay at Florida, TBA x-Wednesday, May 1: Florida at Tampa Bay, TBA x-Saturday, May 4: Tampa Bay at

Boston 2, Toronto 1 Saturday, April 20: Boston 5, Toronto 1 Monday, April 22: Toronto 3, Boston 2 Wednesday, April 24: Boston 4,

Saturday, April 27: Boston at Toronto. Tuesday, April 30: Toronto at Boston,

x-Thursday, May 2: Boston at Toronto, TBA
x-Saturday, May 4: Toronto at Bos-

N.Y. Rangers 2, Washington 0 Sunday, April 21: N.Y. Rangers 4, Washington 1 Tuesday, April 23: N.Y. Rangers 4, Washington 3
Friday, April 26: N.Y. Rangers at

Washington, 7 p.m. Sunday, April 28: N.Y. Rangers at Washington, 8 p.m. x-Wednesday, May 1: Washington at N.Y. Rangers, TBA

x-Friday, May 3: N.Y. Rangers at Washington, TBA x-Sunday, May 5: Washington at N.Y. Rangers, TBA WESTERN CONFERENCE

Winnipeg 1, Colorado 1 Sunday, April 21: Winnipeg 7, Colo-

Tuesday, April 23: Colorado 5 Winnipeg 2 Friday, April 26: Winnipeg at Colo-

rado, 10 p.m. Sunday, April 28: Winnipeg at Colorado, 2:30 p.m. x-Tuesday, April 30: Colorado at Winnipeg, TBA

x-Thursday, May 2: Winnipeg at Colorado, TBA x-Saturday, May 4: Colorado at Win-

nipeg, TBA Edmonton 1, Los Angeles 0 Monday, April 22: Edmonton 7, Los Wednesday, April 24: Los Angeles at

Edmonton, late Friday, April 26: Edmonton at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m. Sunday, April 28: Edmonton at Los

Angeles, 10:30 p.m. x-Wednesday, May 1: Los Angeles at Edmonton, TBA x-Friday, May 3: Edmonton at Los Angeles, TBA

x-Sunday, May 5: Los Angeles at Edmonton, TBA

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Tuesday, April 23: Nashville 4 Van-

Friday, April 26: Vancouver at Nash-ville, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 28: Vancouver at Nashville, 5 p.m.

x-Tuesday, April 30: Nashville at Vancouver, TBA x-Friday, May 3: Vancouver at Nash-

x-Sunday, May 5: Nashville at Vancouver, TBA

Vegas 1, Dallas 0 Monday, April 22: Vegas 4, Dallas 3 Wednesday, April 24: Vegas at Dal-

aturday, April 27: Dallas at Vegas, 10:30 p.m Monday, April 29: Dallas at Vegas

x-Wednesday, May 1: Vegas at Dallas, TBA x-Friday, May 3: Dallas at Vegas,

x-Sunday, May 5: Vegas at Dallas

BASEBALL

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L 7 10 11 13 21 .708 .600 Cleveland 17 15 2½ Kansas City 3½ 6½ 14 Detroit 14 10 .560 Minnesota Chicago .125 West Division GB 11 12 15 16 Seattle 12 12 1/2 Texas Los Angeles Oakland 10 .400

3 4 6

18 Houston .280 Tuesday's Games Cleveland 4, Boston 1 Detroit 4, Tampa Bay 2 N.Y. Yankees 4, Oakland 3 Kansas City 3, Toronto 2 Chicago Cubs 7, Houston 2 Minnesota 6, Chicago White Sox 5

Seattle 4, Texas 0 L.A. Angels 7, Baltimore 4 Wednesday's Games Baltimore 6, L.A. Angels 5 Boston 8, Cleveland 0
Tampa Bay 7, Detroit 5
N.Y. Yankees 7, Oakland 3 Minnesota 6, Chicago White Sox 3 Kansas City 3, Toronto 2 Chicago Cubs 4, Houston 3 Seattle at Texas, late

Thursday's Games
Boston (Anderson 0-0) at Cleveland (McKenzie 2-2), 1:10 p.m. Chicago White Sox (Soroka 0-3) at Minnesota (Ober 1-1), 1:10 p.m.
Toronto (Berríos 4-0) at Kansas City

(Ragans 0-2), 2:10 p.m. Houston (Verlander 1-0) at Chicago Cubs (Assad 2-0), 2:20 p.m. Seattle (Castillo 1-4) at Texas (Heaney 0-2), 2:35 p.m. Oakland (Wood 0-2) at N.Y. Yankees

(Cortes 1-1), 7:05 p.m

Friday's Games Kansas City at Detroit, 1:10 p.m. Oakland at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m. L.A. Dodgers at Toronto, 7:07 p.m. Chicago Cubs at Boston, 7:10 p.m. Cleveland at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m. Tampa Bay at Chicago White Sox 7:40 p.m.

Cincinnati at Texas, 8:05 p.m. N.Y. Yankees at Milwaukee, 8:10 p.m. Minnesota at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m. Arizona at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

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9 .625 15

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Tuesday's Games
Pittsburgh 2, Milwaukee 1
Atlanta 5, Miami 0 Cincinnati 8, Philadelphia 1 L.A. Dodgers 4, Washington 1 Chicago Cubs 7, Houston 2 Arizona 14, St. Louis 1 Colorado 7, San Diego 4 San Francisco 5, N.Y. Mets 1

Wednesday's Games St. Louis 5, Arizona 1 N.Y. Mets 8, San Francisco 2 Milwaukee 3, Pittsburgh 2 L.A. Dodgers 11, Washington 2 Cincinnati 7. Philadelphia 4 Chicago Cubs 4, Houston 3 San Diego at Colorado, late Miami at Atlanta, late
Thursday's Games

Milwaukee (Peralta 2-0) at Pitts-burgh (Keller 2-2), 12:35 p.m. Philadelphia (Wheeler 1-3) at Cin-cinnati (Martinez 0-0), 1:10 p.m. Houston (Verlander 1-0) at Chicago Cubs (Assad 2-0), 2:20 p.m. San Diego (Vásquez 0-1) at Colo-

rado (Hudson 0-4), 3:10 p.m. L.A. Dodgers (Yamamoto 1-1) at Washington (Gore 2-1), 4:05 p.m. Friday's Games L.A. Dodgers at Toronto, 7:07 p.m Chicago Cubs at Boston, 7:10

St. Louis at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m. Washington at Miami, 7:10 p.m. Cleveland at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m. Cincinnati at Texas, 8:05 p.m. N.Y. Yankees at Milwaukee, 8:10

Arizona at Seattle, 9:40 p.m Philadelphia at San Diego, 9:40

Pittsburgh at San Francisco, 10:15

Midwest League Tuesday's Games

Fort Wayne vs. Great Lakes, PPD Wednesday's Games Great Lakes at Fort Wayne, 5:35

TRANSACTIONS

Wednesday's Transactions BASEBALL Major League Baseball

National League
CINCINNATI REDS — Sent RHP
lan Gibaut to Louisville (IL) on a rehab assignment. Transferred LHP Alex Young to the 60-day IL from the 15-day IL. Claimed CF Peyton Burdick of waiv ers from Baltimore and optioned him to Louisville (IL).

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Recalled LHP John King and SS Jose Fermin from Memphis (IL). Optioned LHP Zack Thompson and 3B Jordan Walker to **FOOTBALL**

National Football League CHICAGO BEARS — Signed assis tant general manager lan Cunningham to a contract extension.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Exercised

their fifth-year team option and signed WR Ja'Marr Chase to a one-year contract extension DALLAS COWBOYS — Exercised

their fifth-year team option on LB Micah Parsons.
DETROIT LIONS — Agreed to terms with WR Amon-Ra St. Brown and OT Penei Sewell on four-year contract exten-

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed OLB Alex Highsmith to a restructured

Nootbaar, Gibson spark Cards to victory over Diamondbacks

By WARREN MAYES **Associated Press**

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Lars Nootbaar drove in two runs and Kyle Gibson pitched six effective innings, lifting the St. Louis Cardinals to a 5-1 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks in the finale of three-game series on Wednesday.

It was the first win in a series finale this season for the Cardinals, who bounced back from a 14-1 loss Tuesday "It was just a bad game yesterday as far as the final score,"

St. Louis manager Oliver Marmol said. "They showed up today ready to go. We take it one game at a time.' In his 299th start, Gibson (2-2) allowed one run and five hits. Gibson struck out six and walked two. It was his fifth

straight start of six innings or more. "We came in with a good attitude and kind of flushed last night away," Gibson said. "We were facing a good pitcher over there. I know it's cliche, but you can't let one loss turn

Three relievers finished up for St. Louis.

Former Cardinal Jordan Montgomery (1-1) went seven innings in his second start for Arizona since signing a oneyear, \$25 million deal as this season began. He allowed three runs, two earned, and six hits and struck out four and walked one in his first career start against St. Louis.

"I got my pitches and I got seven innings and other than losing, there's some positives, but we lost so it stinks," said Montgomery, who spent the bulk of last season with the Cardinals before he was traded to the Texas Rangers.

The Cardinals took a 2-1 lead in the sixth inning against the defending National League champions. With one out, Brendan Donovan singled and Willson Contreras doubled. Nolan Arenado's single scored Donovan. Contreras scored on a wild pitch before Montgomery retired the next two hit-

"Monty (Montgomery) is a really tough pitcher," Arenado said. "We were fortunate to get some runs and get a win. We love Monty. He's a good dude and we miss him.'

Arenado has reached base safely in 23 consecutive games since March 30, tying the injured Christian Yelich for the longest active on-base streak this season.

St. Louis added a run in the seventh for a 3-1 lead. Masyn Winn reached on a one-out throwing error and scored on Nolan Gorman's RBI single to left field.

Nootbaar's bases-loaded double in the eighth gave the Cardinals a 5-1 lead.

Arizona loaded the bases with no outs in the first inning, but Gibson gave up just a run on Christian Walker's sacrifice fly. Gibson got out of the inning by getting Eugenio Suarez to hit into an inning-ending double play.

"I always know I'm one pitch away," Gibson said. "It's figuring out what that pitch is and let the defense work. I just want to avoid damage and give up three, four or five runs." The escape was huge for the Cardinals.

"That first inning really set the tone," Marmol said. Arizona manager Torey Lovullo agreed.

"I think they felt like they got away with something in the first, we walked away with one run," Lovullo said.

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UP NEXT

Cardinals: Off Thursday. Will start Miles Mikolas (1-3, 6.49) on Friday in New York against the Mets. Mikolas has failed to get through five innings in his past two starts. The Mets will start José Buttó (0-0, 1.65). Buttó has had six or more strikeouts in each of his first three starts of the season



NASCAR CUP SERIES Wurth 400

Site: Dover, Delaware.

Schedule: Saturday, practice, 10:30 a.m., and qualifying, 11:20 a.m.; Sunday, race, 2 p.m. (FS1).

Track: Dover Motor Speedway.

Last race: Tyler Reddick stole a victory at Talladega when front-runner Michael McDowell, swerving up and down the track trying to block Brad Keselowski, wound up crashing with the finish line in sight.

Next race: May 5, Kansas City, Kansas.

NASCAR XFINITY SERIES

BetRivers 200

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

Last race: Rookie Jesse Love won the first Xfinity race of his career in a crash-marred, double-overtime finish at Talladega, beating Riley Herbst by 0.141 seconds.

Next race: May 11, Darlington, South Carolina. NASCAR TRUCK SERIES

Last race: Kyle Busch overcame a series of late restarts and led 112 of 167 laps to win for the sixth time in the truck series at Texas and the 20th time overall on the 1.5-mile layout. Next race: May 4, Kansas City, Kansas.

FORMULA ONE Last race: Three-time defending champion Max Verstappen

started from pole for his fourth victory in five races this season and his 23rd in the last 27 extending through last season. **Next race**: May 5, Miami Gardens, Florida. **INDYCAR**

Site: Birmingham, Alabama.

Children's of Alabama Indy Grand Prix

Schedule: Friday, practice, 3:40 p.m.; Saturday, practice, 12:15 p.m., and qualifications: round 1, group 1, 3:30 p.m.; round 1, group 2, 3:55 p.m.; round 2, 4:20 p.m.; and Firestone fast 6, 4:45 p.m.; Sunday, race, 1:30 p.m. (NBC).

Track: Barber Motorsports Park. Last race: Scott Dixon used fuel-saving strategy to win in Long Beach, moving within 10 victories of A.J. Foyt's career-

leading 67.

Next race: May 11, Indianapolis, Indiana. NHRA DRAG RACING

Last event: Doug Kalitta won in Top Fuel and Bob Tasca III won in Funny Car in Las Vegas. Next event: April 28, Concord, North Carolina.

WORLD OF OUTLAWS





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New love amid grief: navigating timelines

Dear Annie: I am a 45-year-old man, been designing and I was married for 17 years to my lovely wife until her untimely death a year ago. My wife and I have three children, one of whom is from her previous relationship. I love her so much, and when she passed, I was heartbroken and severely depressed.

Recently, an old girlfriend from my teenage years reached out and was a great friend to me. She helped me through my grief, helped me reconnect with God and was always there for me. During this time, I developed romantic feelings toward her, and she to me.

I want to ask her to marry me, but my question is: Is there a time limit on moving on? Or should I mourn my wife because I do not want to disrespect her? My children and step-child won't talk to me also and treat me like a pariah. Any help will be great. Thank you. — Widowed Husband

Dear Widowed Husband: The pain of losing a spouse is profound, and navigating grief is a deeply personal process. The fact that you're considering love again is a testament to your capacity for love and a sign of healing.

The reaction of your children and stepchild, however, is an important consideration. Their behavior suggests they may be struggling with their own grief and possibly feeling like moving on could be a betrayal of their mother's memory. It's important to approach this situation with empathy, patience and open communication. It might be beneficial to seek family

There's no universal timeline for mourning or for when it's "appropriate" to find new love, and marrying again doesn't mean you disrespect your wife. If this relationship feels right, it's OK to embrace it. Just make sure you're moving forward with sensitivity to your own feelings, those of your children and the memory of your wife. Consider speaking with a counselor or spiritual adviser to help you through these complex emotions.

Dear Annie: I know this topic has been beaten to death, but still I am asking for advice. For more than 25 years, I have

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



much. I have two children who each have two children. One is a son, the other a daughter. My daughter's kids, who are teens, always thank me for the cards. My son's kids, who are slightly younger, never have, and I mean that "never" literally. Last year for their birthdays, I bought store-bought cards to send with their gifts. I am waiting for the day when my son asks why. Do I tell the truth and say that my feelings have been hurt and that I am done with anticipating a response that will never come, or do I make up some story about not having time (or whatever)? The grandkids don't live close to each other, so there isn't ever a comparison made. It just makes me sad that they

and making all of

my greeting cards

by hand, with rub-

ber stamps, dyes

and coloring tools.

It takes me a long

time to do one

card, and I enjoy

the process very

Hurting Grandma

Dear Sad and Hurting Grandma: Being open about your feelings is often the best route. Share with your son how much joy you find in creating those cards and how you've noticed the difference in responses. It's not about blame; it's about expressing that a simple acknowledgment means a lot to you. It's OK to set the expectation for gratitude, and it's a valuable lesson for your grandchildren as well. It's about respect and recognition for someone's time and effort. You deserve to feel appreciated for your acts of love.

do not appreciate what I do. - Sad and

'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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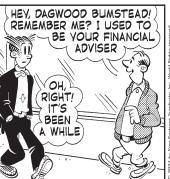
BEETLE BAILEY







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CRANKSHAFT







THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: What does the Bible mean when it says that when we are weak, we are strong? Seems contradictory to me. – W.S.

Answer: The Apostle Paul wrote, "When I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10, NKJV). How is it possible to be both?

Paul was stating a very important truth: When we attempt to do God's work in our own strength instead of God's strength, we will fail. Only when we acknowledge our weakness and look to the Holy Spirit for the wisdom and strength we need will God bless our efforts.

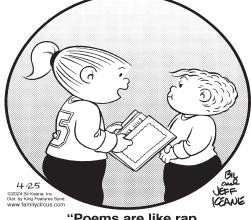
God empowers us to speak according to His will and His word

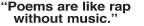
It is true that we can prepare ourselves to teach, to counsel, to volunteer for a mission, or to serve others; but when God empowers us to speak according to His will and His word, we accomplish His purpose. Only God can prepare the hearts of those we witness to. We can do nothing of eternal value without the Lord. When we pray fervently and study the Bible, the Lord will prepare us for service and prepare the hearts of those we

There is no greater strength, no greater assurance that He is with us, than when we go forth equipped and nourished by His instruction. The Bible tells us that the Lord will be our strength when our hearts trust in Him, and He helps us (see Psalm 28:7). We must be honest before God about our weaknesses and ask Him to help us overcome them, so that we can serve Him more effectively — with purpose. Our eyes, our ears, our hands and feet, and our thoughts and hearts, when given completely to Christ, will bear much fruit.

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

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"LOOK OUT, WORLD... HERE GOES NOTHING

61 Quibble

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King Classic Sudoku

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Cash4Life — 23-35-36-41-44, Cash Ball: 04 **Quick Draw Midday** — 01-03-11-14-15-16-21-31-42-

45-49-53-58-62-64-65-70-71-75-80, BE: 65 **Daily Three-Midday** - 01-01-04, SB: 09 **Daily Three-Evening** — 08-02-08, SB: 01 **Daily Four-Midday** — 02-04-08-03, SB: 09 **Daily Four-Evening** — 07-04-05-06, SB: 01

Quick Draw Evening — 05-06-08-12-19-29-34-35-36-40-44-46-49-50-54-58-68-70-77-78, BE: 29

Hoosier Lotto — 03-16-22-30-36-38 **MEGA MILLIONS**

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02-20-22-26-47 Powerball: 21; Power Play: 4X

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THE CITY OF Bluffton is accepting applications for a paid internship at the Animal Shelter. Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent. The City of Bluffton utilizes E-Verify and follows EEOC guidelines. Applications may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's Office, 128 E. Market St, Bluffton, IN Mon-Fri 8 am-4:30 pm or online www.blufftonindiana.net.

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This Week's Garage Sales



APRIL 25, 4-7 p.m., April 26 & 27, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., 6610 W. St. Rd. 124, Decatur. Boys newborn-24 months, newborn-24 monuns, boys large, silk flowers, Beanie Babies, Vera Bradley, sea-sonal decor & outdoor, rugs & books, 2 bicycles.

RUMMAGE AND BAKE sale plus queen size quilt raffle THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1 TO 7 P.M., FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 9 A.M. TO 7 P.M., SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. McNatt Church, 9183 W 800 S -90, Warren (Wells County) one mile west of State Road 3. Bake sale and food will be available on Friday and Saturday only!

3355 S. 300 W., Liberty Center, IN, Friday, April 26, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m. to noon. Mostly adult and children's clothes, children's toys, home decor and bedding, Avon bottles and misc. items

3484 S. 300 W.: Piano, doll trunk that holds an All American Girl Doll, wood quilt ladders, noodle drying rack, kite string winder, wood interior shelves, quilt rack, large wood tree slice, table run-ners, teacher carrying bags (has many uses), baby blan-ket, plants, black TV stand, large selection of clothes, \$2 each item except the larger women's sizes.

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BIDDING ENDS 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 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-

BIDDING STARTS END-ING APRIL 28 - 6 p.m. EST - Phil Vorhees, owner. 2005 Homiers Farm Pro 2425 4x4 tractor w/loader & backhoe, Massey Harris 44 Special tractor, 1995 Coachman Catalina 5th wheel camper, several 3 pt attachments, Husqvarna Z248f zero turn mower, yard & garden, hand tools, power tools, muzzleloader pistols .41 cal, household, glassware, furniture, Chrane bedroom suite, WWII video reels, 1960 Roy Smeck steel guitar Gold Edition, more! Preview April 25, 3-5 p.m., 2414 W 1100 S. Geneva. Pick up April 29, 2-6 p.m. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.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 260-824-3006. MAY 4 - 9 a.m. - Multiple consigners. 6632 N. 500 W., Decatur. Personal property: Vehicles, jewelry (gold, silver, costume), toys, collectables, furniture, household, antiques, tools, appliances. Preview May 3, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. *Wiegmann Auctioneers*, 260-447-4311, wiegmannauctioneers.com.
BIDDING NOW OPEN &
STARTS CLOSING MAY 5 - 6

p.m. - James Koons, owner. Online only personal property auction! 100+ lots that include general household items, glassware, furniture, Samsung washer, Basset bedroom suite, solid oak table, garden items, Stihl chainsaw, Yard Machine snow blower & much more! Pick up May 6, 2-6 p.m., 808 N. Jefferson St., Ossian. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

MAY 9 & 10 - 9 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. Two day truck & equipment auction. Day 1 online bidding only: 100+ various skid loader attachments, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 1 trip 40' high side shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter containers, various truck take off parts, plumbing, electrical and mechanical surplus including urinals, toilets, electrical components, more!

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BIDDING ENDS APRIL 27 -Day 2 onsite and online bid-

ding offering 700+ lots! 100+/-municipal units! Cars, SUV, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickups, cargo & passenger vans, large group Chevy Impalas, Tahoes & Dodge Chargers, Harley-Davidson motorcycles, dump trucks, 2012-2014 Frieghtliner M2106 box trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's, pickups, 100+ various skid steer attachments, more! Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.

MAY 12-MAY 19 - (Online Only Auction) - Phyllis Montgomery, Seller. Major auction of fine antiques and collectables. "An Auction of the Year." Extensive cast iron skillet collection, early candy scales, primitives, salesman samples, early rare gum dispenser, De Laval signs, beer signs, firearms, butter churns, large Westmorland glass collection, much more. Preview: May 9 and 16 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 1556 Shadow Run Trail, Bluffton. *Steffen Group*, www. steffengrp.com, 824-3006, Pat Carter, sale manager.

MAY 19 - 4 p.m. - Multiple

consignors, owners. Online only consignment auction. 1,000+ lots! Furniture, oak kitchen table, large assortment of household items, tools, 100+ lots of collectible glass including Fostoria, Fenton, Candlewick, Pyrex and much more! Preview May 16, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm Street, Decatur. Pick up May 20, 1-6 p.m. & May 21, 9 a.m.-noon. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

Public Notice

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS AND ALL OTHER PERSONS
AFFECTED OF ADOPTION AND
CONTENT OF RESOLUTION OF THE BLUFFTON REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON RESOLUTION

Taxpavers of the Bluffton Redevelopment District, and all other persons affected hereby, are notified that the Bluffton Redevelopment Commission ("Commission" adopted a declaratory resolution on December 31, 2007, as supple-mented and amended to date (collectively, "Declaratory Resolution"), establishing and expanding the Adams Street Economic Development Area ("Area"), and the Declaratory Resolution was confirmed by a confirmatory resolution adopted on January 27, 2008, as supplemented and amended to date (collectively with the Declara-tory Resolution, "Area Resolution"). On April 2, 2024, the Commission adopted its Amending Declaratory Resolution ("Amending Declaratory Resolution"), amending the Area Resolution and Economic Development Plan to add the acquisition of certain real property parcels in, serving or benefitting the Area. The Amending Declaratory Resolution, the Plan, as amended, and supporting data, including maps and plats describing the Area, have been prepared and can be inspected at the office of the Clerk-Treasurer, 128 East Market Street in the City of Bluffton, Indiana.

Notice is further given that the Commission on May 7, 2024, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., local time, or upon the conclusion of the City Council meeting, on the second floor of the City Hall, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana, will receive and hear remonstrances from persons interested in or affected by the proceedings pertaining to the Amending Declaratory Resolution and determine the public utility and benefit of such actions. At the time fixed for hearing or at any time prior thereto any person interested in the proceedings may file a written remonstrance with the Secretary of the Commission in the Clerk-Treasurer's office. At such hearing, which may be adjourned from time to time, the Commission will hear all persons interested in the proceedngs and all remonstrances that have been filed. After considering this evidence, the Commission will take final action by either confirming, modifying and confirming, or rescinding the Amending Declaratory Resolution.

Dated April 25, 2024. BLUFFTON REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION oj, nb 4/25 hspaxlp



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