

# BHS, SW take part in Dollars for Scholars

Page 5

Sports

# Knights get NE8 win over Braves

Page 6

# The Hemz-Banner.com

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA · Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1 00

# Student expelled for possessing a firearm on Bluffton campus

By HOLLY GASKILL

The student who had an unloaded firearm on Bluffton High School's campus has been expelled from the school for one year, according to a recent statement from Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools.

The district did not provide further details about the incident but recognized the balance between transparency with the public and an individual's privacy

an individual's privacy.

"We are able to share that all BHMSD student handbooks abide by state law, specifically IC 20-33-8-16, which outlines the possession of a firearm on school grounds results in expulsion for one calendar year," the statement from Superintendent Brad Yates

reads. "In order to best preserve the safety of Bluffton-Harrison MSD students and staff, we adhere to the consequences outlined in state law.

The school received reports Wednesday afternoon that a Bluffton High School student was potentially in possession of a firearm on campus. Administrators and the school resource officer escorted the student to a secure location. A search discovered an unloaded firearm in student's bag and ammunition in their locker.

A statement from Yates on Wednesday said the student was "fully cooperative and made no threats or intent to harm anyone in the building."

hollv@news-banner.com



Construction on 900 South

Jutte Excavating has begun replacing Bridge 170, located on County Road 900S, between county roads 750E and 800E, the Adams County Line. Construction is expected to last 90-120 days. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

# Trial set for kidnapping suspect; lead suspect's case moved to federal level

By SYDNEY KENT

A three-day trial is scheduled for one of three suspects charged in the kidnapping of an 11-year-old from Zanesville late last year.



Isaiah Schryvers

setting.

Schryvers, 24, South Dakota, appeared in the Wells Circuit Court for a pretrial conference on Wednesday. Schryvers' defense requested the case be set for trial, with the state noting it would likely require a three-day

Isaiah

The trial is currently expected to begin at 9 a.m. on Sept. 30 in the Wells Circuit Court.

According to a probable cause affidavit, an alert was issued for an 11-yearold in Zanesville around Dec. 23. Less than 24 hours later, Schryvers was arrested along with Zachary Delozier, 27, and Sara Gaudino, 23, during a traffic stop in Barneveld, Wisconsin. The victim was safely taken into custody at the time.

Married co-defendants Schryvers and Gaudino face up to six years in prison each if convicted of the Level 5 felony for kidnapping.

In addition to a Level 5 felony for kidnapping, lead suspect Delozier was charged with child molesting, a Level 1 felony, child molesting, a Level 2 felony, promotion of child sexual human trafficking, a Level 3 felony, and child solicitation, a Level 4 felony.

Local charges have been dismissed without prejudice, as Delozier's case will now be tried by the federal government

Gaudino is scheduled for a pretrial conference at 9 a.m. on May 15 in the Wells Circuit Court.

sydney@news-banner.com

# U.S.-led effort to bring aid to Gaza by sea moving forward, but big concerns remain

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, JULIA FRANKEL and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The construction of a new port in Gaza and an accompanying U.S. military-built pier offshore are underway, but the complex plan to bring more desperately needed food to Palestinian civilians is still mired in fears over security and how the humanitarian aid will be delivered.

The Israeli-developed port, for example, has already been attacked by mortar fire, sending high-ranking U.N. officials scrambling for shelter this week, and there is still no solid decision on when the aid deliveries will actually begin.

While satellite photos show major port construction along the shore near Gaza City, aid groups are making it clear that they have broad concerns about their safety and reservations about how Israeli forces will handle security.

Sonali Korde, an official with the U.S. Agency for International Development, said key agreements for security and handling the aid deliveries are still being negotiated. Those include how Israeli forces will operate in Gaza to ensure that aid workers are

not harmed.

"We need to see steps implemented. And the humanitarian community and IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) continue to talk and engage and iterate and improve the system so that everyone feels safe and secure in this very difficult operating environment," Korde said.

A senior U.S. military official said Thursday the U.S. is on track to begin delivering aid using the new port and pier by early May. The official, who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss details not yet made public, said deliveries through the sea route initially will total about 90 trucks a day and could quickly increase to about 150 trucks daily.

The senior official acknowledged, however, that the final installation of the U.S.-built causeway onto the beach at the port will be governed by the security situation, which is assessed daily. The Israeli Defense Force has a brigade — thousands of soldiers — as well as ships and aircraft dedicated to protecting the deliveries, the official said.

Asked about the recent mortar attack, the miliary official said the U.S. assesses that it had nothing to do with the humanitarian

(Continued on Page 2)

# Blinken raises Chinese trade practices in meetings with officials

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

SHANGHAI (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken raised what the U.S. describes as unfair Chinese trade practices during his first full day of meetings in China on Thursday with local government officials in the financial hub of Shanghai.

Blinken met with the city's top official, Communist Party Secretary Chen Jining, and "raised concerns about (Chinese) trade policies and non-market economic practices," the State Department said in a statement.

It said he stressed that the United States seeks healthy economic competition with China and "a level playing field for U.S. workers and firms operating in China."

"The two sides reaffirmed the importance of ties between the people of the United States and (China), including the expansion of exchanges between students, scholars, and business," it said.

China's multibillion-dollar trade surplus with the U.S. along

with accusations of intellectual property theft and other practices seen as discriminating against U.S. businesses in China have long been a source of friction in relations.

China, for its part, has objected strongly to U.S. accusations of human rights abuses and Washington's support for Taiwan, the self-

governing island that Beijing considers its own territory and warns could be annexed by force.

Asked about Blinken's comments, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said China has "always conducted economic and trade cooperation in accordance with market principles, (Continued on Page 2)

# Net neutrality restored as FCC votes to regulate internet providers

By DAVID HAMILTON
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— The Federal Trade Commission on Thursday voted to restore "net neutrality" rules that prevent broadband internet providers such as Comcast and Verizon from favoring some sites and apps over others.

The move effectively reinstates a net neutrality order the commission first issued in 2015 during the Obama administration. In 2017, under then-President Donald Trump, the FCC repealed those rules.

The measure passed Thursday on a 3-2 vote split along party lines, with Democratic commissioners in favor and Republicans opposed.

Net neutrality effectively requires providers of internet service to treat all traffic equally, eliminating any incentive they might face to favor business partners or to hobble competitors. The public interest group Public Knowledge describes net neutrality as "the principle that the company that connects you to the internet does not get to control what you do on the internet."

The rules, for instance, ban practices that throttle or block certain sites or apps, or that reserve higher speeds for the services or customers willing to pay more for them. "In our post-pandemic world, we know that broadband is a necessity, not a luxury," FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel said in a statement ahead of the

While it's been almost seven years since the FCC killed the previous net neutrality rules, their (Continued on Page 2)

#### Incida

#### Local/Area

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

Opinion
Danny Tyree . . . . . 4

\_ .

Also...
Sports. . . . . 6-7
Classifieds . . . . 9
Diversions . . . . 8

# Outside



Rain today ... and the next day ... and the next day

Today	Saturday	Sunday			
High 67	High 78 Low 64	High 81			
Low 58	Low 64	Low 64			

More Weather on Page 2



Follow us on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/ newsbanner

Place Your Classified Ads 24/7

Vol. 95 No. 150 FRIDAY April 26, 2024



How to contact us:

Call us: 824-0224

or 1-800-579-7476
email@news-banner.com
On the Web:

www.news-banner.com
Follow us at:
twitter.com/newsbanner



#### LOCAL/NATION

## **Bringing aid to Gaza**

(Continued from Page 1) mission, adding that security around the port will be "far more robust" when the deliveries start.

In addition, the U.S. has rehearsed offensive and defensive measures to ensure U.S. troops working at the pier and those on the floating platform several miles off shore are all protected.

Aid groups have been shaken by the deaths of seven World Central Kitchen aid workers in an Israeli airstrike on April 1 as they traveled in clearly marked vehicles on a delivery mission authorized by Israel. The killings have hardened sentiment among some aid groups that the international community should focus instead on pushing Israel to ease obstacles to the delivery of aid on land routes by truck.

The World Central Kitchen staff, who were honored at a memorial service Thursday in Washington, are among more than 200 humanitarian workers killed in Gaza, a toll the U.N. says is three times higher than any previous number for aid workers in a single year of any war.

Development of the port and pier comes as Israel faces widespread international criticism over the slow trickle of aid into the Palestinian territory, where the United Nations says at least a quarter of the population sits on the brink of starvation

This is how the sea route

will wor

— Pallets of aid will be inspected and loaded onto mainly commercial ships in Cyprus, which then will sail about 200 miles to the large floating platform being built by the U.S. military.

— The pallets will be transferred onto trucks, driven onto smaller Army vessels and then taken several miles to the causeway, which will be roughly 1,800 feet, or 550 meters, long and anchored to the shoreline by the Israeli military.

— The trucks will then go down the causeway to a secure drop-off area, where pallets will be distributed to aid agencies. That mission could last several months, the U.S. military official said.

A U.N. official said the port will likely have three zones — one controlled by the Israelis where aid from the pier is dropped off, another where the aid will be transferred, and a third where Palestinian drivers contracted by the U.N. will wait to pick up the aid before bringing it to distribution points.

The construction of the new port in the Gaza Strip appears to have been moving quickly over the last two weeks, according to satellite images analyzed Thursday by The Associated Press. Offshore, U.S. Navy and Army vessels have started the construction of the large pier, or floating platform.

The port sits just southwest of Gaza City, a bit

north of a road bisecting Gaza that the Israeli military built during the fighting. The area once was the territory's most-populous region, before the Israeli ground offensive rolled through, pushing over 1 million people south toward the town of Rafah on the Egyptian border.

No militant group immediately claimed responsibility for Wednesday's mortar attack at the port site, and no one was hurt of killed. But it reflected ongoing threats from Hamas, which has said it would reject the presence of any non-Palestinians in Gaza.

High-ranking Hamas political official Khalil al-Hayya told the AP that the group would consider Israeli forces — or forces from any other country — stationed by the pier to guard it as "an occupying force and aggression," and that they would resist it.

The U.N.'s World Food Program has agreed to lead the aid delivery effort. Carl Skau, WFP's deputy executive director, speaking Thursday at the U.N., said it's "necessary for us to be able to operate, reach communities, have access to needs, and to do so in a safe and secure way." He also said the port mission must be just one part of a broader Israeli effort to improve sustainable, land-based deliveries of aid to avert a famine.

The U.N. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss behind-

the-scenes deliberations, said several sticking points remain around how the Israelis would handle the port's security. The military is reportedly seeking to install remote-controlled gun positions, which the U.N. opposes, said the official, although it was not clear what weapons were being described.

In a statement Thursday, the IDF said it "will act to provide security and logistical support for the initiative," including the construction of the dock and the transfer of aid from the sea to the Gaza Strip.

The port will provide critical extra aid as getting more supplies into Gaza through land crossings has proven challenging, with long backups of trucks awaiting Israeli inspections. Past efforts to get land in by sea faltered after the World Central Kitchen attack.

Countries have even tried airdropping aid from the sky— a tactic that aid groups say is a last-ditch resort because it can't deliver aid in large quantities and also has led to deaths.

"The more time we spend talking about JLOTS," said Bob Kitchen, vice president for emergencies with the International Rescue Committee, using the U.S. military acronym for the U.S.-built pier, "the more we talk about air drops — all of this is massively expensive, comparatively low-scale and is a side-show. It's a distraction."

# Weather

Friday, April 26, 2024
(24-hour observations at 10:31 p.m. Thursday)
High: 55; Low: 34; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.9 feet at 8:45 p.m. Thursday

#### Wells County forecast

**Today:** Showers likely, mainly after 5 p.m. Areas of frost before 9 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 67. East wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Tonight:** Showers likely, with thunderstorms also possible after 11 p.m. Cloudy, with a low around 58. Southeast wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

**Saturday:** A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms before 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 78. South wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 64. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. Breezy. **Sunday Night:** A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. Breezy.

## **Net neutrality**

(Continued from Page 1) reinstatement isn't expected to noticeably change users' online experience. Public Knowledge legal director John Bergmayer credits that to several states having passed their own net neutrality measures prior to 2015, all of which remained in force when the FCC reversed course two years later following Trump's election.

"Some of the absolute worst excesses from (internet providers) were kept in check by state level oversight," Bergmayer said.

States like California went even further than the

FCC did — for instance, by banning a practice called "zero rating." That's where, for instance, a mobile provider might strike a business deal to steer users toward a particular streaming service by zeroing out any related data charges. Other states with strong net neutrality rules include Colorado, Maine, Oregon, Vermont and Washington, according to Bergmayer.

The telecommunications industry opposed the reintroduction of the federal rules, as it has before, declaring them an example of unnecessary government interfer-

# Chinese trade practices

(Continued from Page 1)

firmly supported the multilateral trading system, and fully complied with the rules of the World Trade Organization."

"We hope the U.S. will also earnestly respect the principle of fair competition, abide by the WTO rules, and work with China to create favorable conditions for the sound and stable development of China-U.S. economic and trade relations," Wang told reporters at a daily briefing.

Blinken also spoke with students and business leaders before flying to Beijing for what are expected to be contentious talks with national officials, including Foreign Minister Wang Yi and possibly President Xi Jinping.

Blinken arrived in Shanghai on Wednesday shortly before U.S. President Joe Biden signed a \$95 billion foreign aid package that has several elements likely to anger Beijing, including \$8 billion to counter China's growing aggressiveness toward Taiwan and in the South China Sea. It also seeks to force TikTok's China-based parent company to sell the social media platform.

China has railed against U.S. assis-

tance to Taiwan and immediately condemned the aid as a dangerous provocation. It also strongly opposes efforts to force TikTok's sale.

Still, the fact that Blinken made the trip — shortly after a conversation between Biden and Xi, a visit to China by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and a call between the U.S. and Chinese defense chiefs — is a sign the two sides are at least willing to discuss their differences

"I think it's important to underscore the value — in fact, the necessity — of direct engagement, of speaking to each other, laying out our differences, which are real, seeking to work through them," Blinken told Chen, according to the State Department statement.

"We have an obligation for our people, indeed an obligation to the world, to manage the relationship between our two countries responsibly," he said. "That is the obligation we have, and one that we take very seriously."

Chen agreed with that sentiment and said the recent Biden-Xi call had helped the "stable and healthy development of our two countries' relation-

ship."
"Whether we choose cooperation or

confrontation affects the well-being of both peoples, both countries, and the future of humanity," he said.

Chen added that he hoped Blinken was able to get a "deep impression and understanding" of Shanghai, a city of skyscrapers, ports and more than 25 million people that is a magnet for commercially ambitious young people from China and abroad.

Most recently, the U.S. has raised concerns that potential overcapacity in Chinese industries — such as electric vehicles, steel and solar panels — might crowd out U.S. and other foreign

manufacturers.

Shortly after arriving, Blinken attended a Chinese basketball playoff game between the local Shanghai Sharks and the Zhejiang Golden Bulls, with the home team losing in the last seconds in a 121-120 nailbiter.

With the U.S. presidential race heating up, it's unclear what ramifications a victory for either Biden or former President Donald Trump might have for relations. But Trump could deepen a trade war he started during his first term. His tough rhetoric on China and isolationist approach to foreign policy could ramp up uncertainties.

# went even further than the ence in business decisions. IF ITAJE TO SECRETALL IF It's Got a Tire! We Can Replace It! Lawn Mowers Vard Carts Cars Tiruds Utility Vehidles Boat Trailers Wheel Barrows

# COMPLETE AUTO SERVICE BLUFFTON TIRE INC.

1308 S. MAIN ST., BLUFFTON • 824-0418 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5:00 • WWW.BLUFFTONTIRE.COM

# Senior Citizens Expo

Thursday, May 9, 2024 9 am – 2 pm

Wells County 4-H Community Building 1240 4-H Road, Bluffton, IN

- The Expo is Open to the Public
- > There will be over 60 venders
- Free Breakfast provided by Adams
  Health Network from 9-10 am
- Free Lunch provided by River Terrace Retirement Community from 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Look for more detail in May 7<sup>th</sup> News Banner Adverting Available - Deadline: May 2

BUSINESS OR PERSONAL

# Strict new EPA rules would force coal-fired power plants to capture emissions or shut down

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)
— Coal-fired power plants
would be forced to capture smokestack emissions
or shut down under a rule
issued Thursday by the
Environmental Protection

Agency. New limits on greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel-fired electric plants are the Biden administration's most ambitious effort yet to roll back planetwarming pollution from the power sector, the nation's second-largest contributor to climate change. The rules are a key part of President Joe Biden's pledge to eliminate carbon pollution from the electricity sector by 2035 and economy-wide by 2050.

The rule was among four measures targeting coal and natural gas plants that the EPA said would provide "regulatory certainty" to the power industry and encourage them to make investments to transition "to a clean energy economy." The measures include requirements to reduce toxic wastewater pollutants from coalfired plants and to safely manage coal ash in unlined storage ponds.

EPA Administrator Michael Regan said the rules will reduce pollution and improve public health while supporting the reliable, long-term supply of electricity that America

"One of the biggest environmental challenges facing our nation is man-made pollution that damages our air, our water and our land," Regan said in a speech at Howard University. "Not only is this pollution a major threat to public health — it's pushing our planet to the brink"

Regan called the power plant rules "a defining moment" for his agency as it works to "build a cleaner and healthier future for all of us."

The plan is likely to be challenged by industry groups and Republicanleaning states. They have repeatedly accused the Democratic administration of overreach on environmental regulations and have warned of a looming reliability crisis for the electric grid. The rules issued Thursday are among at least a half-dozen EPA rules limiting power plant emissions and wastewater pollution.

Environmental groups hailed the EPA's latest action as urgently needed to protect against the devastating harms of climate change.

The power plant rule marks the first time the federal government has restricted carbon dioxide emissions from existing coal-fired power plants.

The rule also would force future electric plants fueled by coal or gas to control up to 90% of their carbon pollution. The new standards will avoid 1.38 billion metric tons of carbon pollution through 2047, equivalent to the annual emissions of 328 million gas cars, the EPA said, and will provide hundreds of billions of dollars in climate and health benefits, measured in fewer premature deaths, asthma cases and lost work or school days.

Coal plants that plan to stay open beyond 2039 would have to cut or capture 90% of their carbon dioxide emissions by 2032, the EPA said. Plants that expect to retire by 2039 would face a less stringent standard but still would have to capture some emissions. Coal plants that are set to retire by 2032 would not be subject to the new rules.

Rich Nolan, president and CEO of the National Mining Association, said that through the latest rules, "the EPA is systematically dismantling the reliability of the U.S. electric grid."

He accused Biden, Regan and other officials of "ignoring our energy reality and forcing the closure of well-operating coal plants that repeatedly come to the rescue during times of peak demand. The repercussions of this reckless plan will be felt across the country by all

Americans."

Regan denied that the rules were aimed at shutting down the coal sector, but he acknowledged in proposing the power plant rule last year that, "We will see some coal retirements."

The proposal relies on technologies to limit carbon pollution that the industry itself has said are viable and available, Regan said. "Multiple power companies have indicated that (carbon capture and storage) is a viable technology for the power sector today, and they are currently pursuing those CCS projects," he told reporters Wednesday.

reporters Wednesday.
Coal provided about 16% of U.S. electricity last year, down from about 45% in 2010. Natural gas provides about 43% of U.S. electricity, with the remainder from nuclear energy and renewables such as wind, solar and hydropower.

Dan Brouillette, president and CEO of of the Edison Electric Institute, which represents U.S. investorowned electric companies, said he was "disappointed" that the EPA "did not address the concerns we raised about carbon capture and storage." While promising, the technology "is not yet ready for full-scale, economy-wide deployment," said Brouillette, who served as energy secretary in President Donald Trump's administration.



(260)824-8070

kim.gentis@raymondjames.com

1245 N. Main St., Bluffton, <u>IN 46714</u>

Investment Advisory Services are offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc.

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Charles Irvin Brown Jr., 68

Charles Irvin Brown Jr., 68, of rural Pennville, passed away at 9:43 a.m., Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at IU Health-Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie. He was born Sunday, Sept. 4, 1955, in Portland. He married Teresa K. (Jackson) Brown on Saturday, July 24, 1993, at the Chester Center Christian Church.

He is survived by his wife, Teresa K. (Jackson) Brown, Pennville; sons, Jason Brown, Pennville, Ramie (Stacy) Brown, Redkey; daughters, Mindy (Nathan) Coates, Decatur and Allison Alford, Markle; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild; sisters, Connie Ferguson, Portland, Cynthia (Bruce) Naylor, Decatur; and brother, Lowell "Dean" Brown, Pennville.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charles I. Brown, Sr.; and mother, Delores "Jean" (Geiger) Brown.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home located at 109 W Windsor St Montpelier, Monday, April 29, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A service to celebrate his life will follow at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home at 3:00 p.m. Monday, April 29, 2024, with Pastor Steve Rogers officiating. Interment will follow in the Twin Hill-I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Pennville.

Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

#### Charles "Chuck" McKinley, 92

Charles J. "Chuck" McKinley, 92, Fort Wayne. passed away Friday, April 19, 2024.

Chuck was born in Humboldt, Tennesse on Feb. 14, 1032, to William M. and Emma (Beckman) McKinley; both parents preceded him in death. He married Virginia G. (Swisher) on June 4, 1976, she preceded him in death on Aug. 20, 2007.

Chuck is survived by four sons, Curtis McKinley, Charles J. McKinley II, Christopher J. McKinley and Carlton J. Mckinley, and eight grandchildren. Chuck was preceded in death by a brother, James McKinley.

In accordance with Chuck's wishes, there will be no public services. Private interment of cremains will take place at a later date at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton.

# Amazon unit plans to invest \$11B to build data center in northern Indiana

NEW CARLISLE, Ind. (AP) - Amazon 's cloud computing unit Amazon Web Services plans to invest \$11 billion to build a data center in northern Indiana that will create at least 1,000 new jobs, state and company officials announced Thursday.

Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb called the project planned near the town of New Carlisle, about 15 miles (24 kilometers) west of South Bend, "the largest capital investment announcement in Indiana's history."

'This significant investment solidifies Indiana's leadership position in the economy of the future, and will undoubtedly have a positive ripple effect on the town of New Carlisle, the north central region and the state of Indiana for years to come," Holcomb said in a news release.

The announcement from Holcomb's office and AWS did not include a timeline for the data center campus in northern Indiana's St. Joseph County, which abuts the Michigan state line.

But Carl Baxmeyer, president of the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners, said in the news release that it would be built "over the next decade" at the Indiana Enterprise Center, located just east of New Carlisle, and "will be a major employment center for all of northern Indiana."

The AWS data center would contain computer servers, data storage drives, networking equipment, "and other forms of technology infrastructure used to power cloud computing capabilities, and generative artificial intelligence (AI) technologies," according to the news release.

Roger Wehner, AWS director of economic development, said the Indiana data center "will create numerous well-paying job opportunities and tap into the state's burgeoning tech sector, while contributing significantly to the state's growing economy."

Based on the company 's planned investment, the Indiana Economic Development Corp. has committed to providing data center sales tax exemptions "for eligible capital investments over a 50-year term," the release states.

The IEDC has also committed to a variety of performance-based tax credits to support the AWS data center plans, including up to \$18.3 million in headcount-based tax credits, up to \$55 million in Hoosier Business Investment tax credits, and up to \$20 million in redevelopment tax credits, the release states.

AWS will provide up to \$7 million to support road infrastructure improvements along State Road 2, surrounding the company's planned data center, according to the release.

#### Honda planning to expand its electric vehicle efforts in Canada, Toyota expands in Indiana

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN, AP Business Writer Honda plans to invest \$11 billion, with the help of joint venture partners, to build out its electric vehicle efforts in Canada as it prepares for future demand in North America for the automobiles.

The company said Thursday that it has started evaluating the requirements to build an EV plant and a separate EV battery plant in Ontario. It already has two manufacturing plants there that have 4,200 employees. Honda expects to add at least 1,000 more workers for the two new facilities.

The EV plant, once fully operational, will have a production capacity of 240,000 EVs per year and the battery plant will have a capacity of 36 GWh per year.

There's also plans for a cathode active material and precursor processing plant through a joint venture partnership with POSCO Future M Co. and a separator plant through a joint venture partnership with Asahi Kasei Corp.

Honda Motor Co. anticipates EV production will start in

Last month Nissan and Honda announced that they would work together in developing electric vehicles and auto intelligence technology.

The world's automakers are rapidly shifting toward electric vehicles, focusing on batteries and motors instead of gas engines, as concerns grow about emissions and climate change.

# Police Notebook

#### **INCIDENTS**

Thursday, 2:41 p.m., Bargain Hut. Report of two individuals stealing. Subjects warned for trespassing by store manager.

Thursday, 4:44 p.m., 500 block of West Market Street. Report of a physical domestic incident.

Friday, Inteva Products, 3:58 a.m. Report of threatening messages.

Friday, 6:07 a.m., Main and Monroe streets. Citation issued for speeding.

Friday, 11:20 a.m., Airplane Express. Report of suspicious interaction between man and woman. Woman advised she had just walked away to get some space from her husband.

#### **County:**

Wednesday, 2:54 p.m., residence on 100E, Bluffton. Report of threatening messages from a parent to their juvenile child.

Thursday, 1:14 a.m., NW

S.R. 116 and N 300W. Citation issued for 70 in a 55 mph zone.

Thursday, 8:17 a.m., residence on 700E, Craigville. Property owner reported an ongoing vandalism issue. Vandal recently attempted to break his skid steer. Property owner said he would be putting up cameras.

#### Ossian:

Wednesday, 2:29 p.m., 2000 block of U.S. 224, Ossian. Report of a male living out of a tent. Property owner advised his granddaughter was just camping in the backyard.

Wednesday, 9:14 p.m., residence on 1200N, Ossian. Domestic dispute between man and woman.

Thursday, 2:07 a.m., residence on 1200N, Ossian. Report of juveniles trying to get a man to leave the residence. Man reportedly said he would defend himself if necessary and requested standby.

**ACCIDENTS** 

Street at Ohio Street. Nelly Greer, Bluffton, stopped at the intersection in a 2021 Honda Hr-V, but was unable to see oncoming traffic due to landscaping, and struck a 2013 Kia Optima driven by Diego Barrera Ciprian, 31, Bluffton. Damage did not exceed \$2,500.

Wednesday, 12:03 p.m., 2829 E S.R. 124.

Wednesday, 9:34 p.m., 200 block of West Market Street. Audry Dudley, 28, Bluffton, backed her 2013 Chrysler Town and Country into an unattended 2009 Dodge Nitro. Damage did not exceed \$1,000. Driver left a 2020 Freightliner Cascadia to use the restroom in a gas station. When he came out, he did not see his rig. The vehicle had moved forward and struck a 2021 Mack Anthem. Damage did not exceed \$25,000.

**FIRES** 

Ossian:

Thursday, 11:34 a.m., Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Scott Ossian Health and Rehabilitation. Fire alarm. Maintenance working.

#### ARRESTS

Nichole Suzanne Nusbaumer, 42, Bluffton; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond not set.

Kyle Allen Peterson, 45, Bluffton; probation violation, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond not set.

Kem Dewayne Jay Maggart, 32, Fort Wayne; driving while suspended - prior suspension within 10 years, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Randi Renee Suarez, 35, Fort Wayne; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle while an ACE of .15 or higher. Bond not set.



Pictured in the photo cutting the ribbon is Todd and Michelle Gerber with General Manager, Stacey Duncan and Mayor John Whicker holding the ends, along with community members, Chamber supporters and partners that made Tonner Transfer Station a reality. (Photo submitted)

# **Grand opening of Tonner Transfer Station marks milestone for Wells County**

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce, alongside local ambassadors and esteemed community supporters, proudly inaugurated the grand opening of Tonner Transfer Station with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Located at 3626 E 550 South in Bluffton, this recent addition to Wells County is set to meet the pressing need for enhanced waste management services in the community.

Spanning six months from inception to completion, Tonner Transfer Station stands as a testament to local entrepreneurship and dedication. Family-owned and operated by Brandon Megan Gerber, Damon and Michelle Gerber, Ton-trash. Damon Gerber

ner Transfer Station is the latest evolution of Tonner Dumpster, a business acquired from Bill and Susan Tonner in July 2020.

Brandon Gerber, reflecting on the motivation behind this expansion, remarked, "We envisioned Tonner Transfer Station as not just a business venture but as a service to our community. The need for enhanced waste disposal solutions for both residents and contractors were apparent, and we eagerly embraced the opportunity to meet that demand."

At Tonner Transfer Station, individuals and businesses alike can benefit themselves with dumpster rental services and and Kylie Gerber, and Todd veniently dispose of their explained, "Our station bridges the gap between landfills and the public. Whether you're a homeowner with household waste or a contractor with demolition debris, our streamlined process ensures hassle-free disposal."

Tonner Transfer Station welcomes residents and businesses alike, offering competitive rates and a comprehensive range of services. With a few exceptions, such as hazardous materials, electronic waste, and asbestos, the station accommodates most disposal needs. Additionally, dumpsters are available for rent, ensuring flexibility for requirements.

Brandon Gerber station.com.

expressed gratitude for the collaborative effort that brought Tonner Transfer Station to fruition, stating, "This endeavor has been a collective journey, and we're immensely grateful for the support we've received. Our vision for the first Wells County transfer station is to deliver unparalleled service and convenience to our community."

Tonner Transfer Station operates Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will extend its hours to include Saturdays beginning May 4, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information, visit tonnertransferstation. call 260-296-3499. email info@tonnertransfer-

## Man indicted in 2012 slaying of retired western Indiana farmer

SULLIVAN, Ind. (AP) - A man imprisoned since last year has been indicted on murder and other charges in the 2012 slaying of a retired farmer found shot to death in his western Indiana home, police said Wednesday.

A Sullivan County grand jury indicted William Ray Grimes on charges of murder, burglary and conspiracy to commit burglary in the December 2012 slaying of Lowell Badger, state police

Badger, 85, died during a burglary at his rural Sullivan County home about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Terre Haute.

Grimes, 38, is currently incarcerated at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility in nearby Carlisle serving a 2023 sentence for battery, theft and unlawful possession of a firearm.

A phone message seeking comment was left for an attorney who represented him in that case.

'This is the beginning of the criminal process," special prosecutor Rob Roberts said in a news release. "Once again, we encourage anyone that has information related to the murder of Mr. Badger to contact the Indiana State Police."

A phone message was left for Roberts requesting details on what led investigators to Grimes and other information.

Police investigators in December 2021 renewed their plea for information about Badger's killing. It came a year after police released photos showing vehicles that may have been in the area around the time Badger was killed. Those photos were taken from a gas station's security video in nearby Graysville, a few miles east of the Illinois state line.

Detectives as of December 2021 had investigated more than 275 tips, conducted nearly 170 interviews and searched many areas of land and water in the Sullivan County area as part of the investigation.

# Pancake Sausage **Breakfast**

Saturday, April 27, 7:00 to 10:00 AM

**Lancaster Chapel UMC** 4510E 400N, Craigville

Everyone Welcome Dine-In or Carry-Out

Freewill donations for the Special Needs Ministry Dream Team

#### Follow us on Twitter at...

twitter.com/newsbanner

# WE HELP YOU GET SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE AND MEDICAID READY!



The Price Tag is the Same Everywhere Consider Local for Better Service

# WE HAVE THE MARKETPLACE UNDER 65 PRODUCTS.

WHEN YOU HAVE PROBLEMS AND YOU WILL HAVE PROBLEMS YOU WILL HAVE US TO COUNT ON **MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS - MEDICARE** ADVANTAGE PLANS - PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS

Life Insurance - Long Term Care Insurance - Investments - Individual and Small Group Health - Dental - Vision - Hearing - Cancer Insurance

Folks on Medicare A and B and Diabetic can get FREE Nice Looking Diabetic Shoes Every Year from Us We Do FREE Information/ Education Seminars In Your Business (Again Former Teachers)

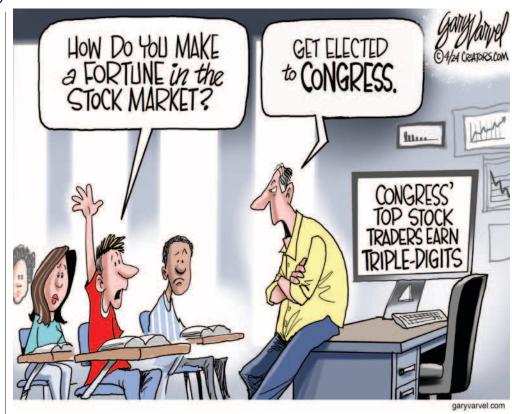
**WE CAN MEET:** IN OUR OFFICE - IN YOUR HOME - IN A FAVORED LOCATION

In the 1882 Building at Main & Market with the mural on the outside wall • 260-824-1618

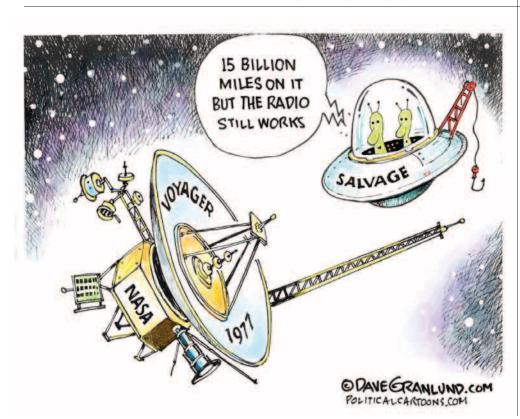
#### The Week That Was - a look back through cartoonists' eyes...



"I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT KIND OF AMERICA WE'RE LEAVING FOR OUR KIDS TO CRAWL OUT INTO ... YOU KNOW, 13 YEARS FROM NOW."



NASA RESTORES COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE MOST DISTANT SPACECRAFT FROM EARTH ... CONSIDERING THIS ELECTION YEAR, I'M STILL NOT FAR ENDUGH AWAY!



#### Does your town need renaming?

The venerable comic strip "Gasoline Alley" is wrapping up a storyline in which the dastardly assistant mayor schemed to change the town's name from Gasoline Alley to the ostensibly more modern Electric Acres (without even offering a compromise such as Hybrid Hollow).

Sentimentality saved the day in the funnies, just as it usually applies the brakes to abrupt municipal name changes in the real world.

Still, considering the number of streets, bridges, military bases, buildings and sports teams that have undergone

**Tyrades** 

radical name changes in recent years, I'm surprised we haven't seen more cities throwing caution to the wind and charging a name makeover to the ol' credit card.

Think of it as less hackneyed bloviating about "Our infrastructure and workforce are second to none" and more cities singing, "I feel pretty, oh, so pretty..."

There's certainly no shortage of experts who would graciously dig up some dirt on the pioneer, statesman or industry for which any given town was originally named. I have it on good authority that the founder of Northeast Mugwump never once (\*gasp\*) requested a paper drinking straw. True, neither paper nor plastic drinking straws had been invented during his lifetime, but we can't let pesky technicalities stand in the way of cleaning house.

Random renaming projects would be a good start, but maybe we should rip the Band-Aid off and reboot the whole country at once, like the movie industry revamping an intellectual property franchise.

Sure, it might be confusing to mimic Hollywood and have every "Mount" changed to "Plains" and every "Creek" changed to "Ocean"; but as William Shakespeare (the bard of the soon-to-be Funkytownon-Avon) said, "What's in a name? That which we call Lower Podunk by any other name would smell of hog rendering plants, asbestos factories and vape shops."

I realize there might be whimsical minor eruptions of chaos in the short run, but look at the silver lining: it might keep the Postal Service too preoccupied to raise stamp prices again.

What's the best way to pick the names? Committee of local professionals? Artificial intelligence? Beats me. I'm leery of letting schoolchildren decide; we might be saddled with an excess of gravitas for years to come. ("I was born in Taylor Springs, but when I was five we moved to Swift City. But I do most of my shopping over the county line in Kelce Corners. My big sister moved to TayTay Town, and if I can't figure out which TayTay Town, we are never ever getting back together.")

Of course selling the naming rights to some global corporation is one option, but there would be strings attached. ("Hope you enjoy your new name. But please be advised that we're moving all the street cleaner, crossing guard and fire department jobs overseas.")

I would love to write more on this subject, but I promised to lend an ear to a young man who recently relocated near Santa Claus, Indiana. "Maybe one of my children will live long enough to discover who the town was named for. My money is on Louis Pasteur, inventor of the cotton gin, but then again..."

I think his former high school is hurriedly changing its name.

tyreetyrades@aol.com or find him on Facebook

**Danny** 

Tyree

am: What good is an expensive university education if the young person receiving it comes up short on kindness, compassion and common sense? As you get older, you see that those are the things

that really matter in life. One day, when you are gone, people probably won't talk about what college you attended. But they're sure to mention the effect you had on others, good or bad.

More colleges and universities in this country ould offer courses on life skills – and maybe incl some training about the proper way to treat fellow human beings. The Golden Rule has been forgotten. People demand to be heard, even as they try to silence

At more than a dozen university campuses around the country — including Yale University, University of California at Berkeley, the University of Michigan, Ohio State University — protests over the war in the Middle East and the United States' support for Israel are dividing students and confounding administrators.

It started at Columbia University. The Ivy League school, located in upper Manhattan, has become the epicenter of the campus protests. On April 18, more

than 100 pro-Palestinian protesters who were demanding that the university divest from companies that do business with Israel refused to vacate an encampment they had set up. After being given repeated warnings, they were arrested for trespassing, which sparked an even larger and more vocal protest. Within days, protests erupted at other schools on both coasts — and at several colleges and universities in

between. For the 2023-2024 academic year, the cost of tuition and fees at Columbia University was \$32,670 per semester, according to the school's website.

That's a lot of money to shell out for what will be until the end of classes for the year — April 29 - ahybrid online education that will offer virtual lectures as a substitute for in-person classes.

The decision to go hybrid, which was made by Columbia University President Minouche Shafik, is not leadership. Rather, it's capitulation — on multiple

It's not just that Shafik has given in to the threat of violence if students were to remain on campus, continuing to get in each other's faces. It is deeply disturbing to see videos of pro-Palestinian protesters swarming Jewish students, calling them "Zionists" and then proceeding to harass, taunt and threaten

#### **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 after that date.

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."

# Campus protests represent moment of crisis for higher education in America them. The president should be using her

Right about now, I imagine that many Americans following the news are wondering the same thing I power — including the ability to mobilize the campus police force, or ask for more assistance from the New York Police Department — to protect Jewish students and not simply send them home.

Shafik is also surrendering to what social psychologists like Jonathan Haidt a professor at New York University Stern School of Business, and author of the new book, "The Anxious Generation" — warn are signs of mental illness and disturbing loner tendencies among many young people today. Part of the reason, Haidt notes,

is the prevalence of smartphones and social media, which limit face-to-face interaction. By resorting to online learning, Shafik is acknowledging that some of Columbia's students need a timeout because they can't play nice with others.

The whole world is watching with concern what is happening at the intersection of 116th street and Broadway. And they're wondering if the kids are all

Torres, D-NY, called Shafik's decision to cancel in-

person classes "an admission of failure." Torres also said the University President had "chosen to surrender control of Columbia to an antisemitic fringe.'

The Democrat did not hold back.

"If you cannot ensure the safety of your students, then you have no business serving as President of any university, let alone the alma mater of Alexander

Hamilton," Torres said in a statement. "What Columbia University needs is not an appeaser of antisemitism but a leader who will fight with moral clarity

Finally, Torres called on Shafik to lead – or leave. That Columbia University has failed its Jewish students so profoundly is an indelible stain on the soul of the institution," he said. "If the President of Columbia University cannot lead with moral clarity, then she should step aside for a true leader who can and will."

Bravo for Torres. This is a moment of crisis for higher education in America. It's time for our elected officials to speak plainly and tell us what is in their hearts. The New York congressman rose to the challenge. And in doing so, Torres is offering students - and the rest of us - a lesson that is as valuable as anything they teach in the Ivy League.

crimscribe@icloud.com.

# The News-Banner

(USPS 059-200)

Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929

#### **News-Banner Publications, Inc.**

George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board Doug Brown, President, Publisher Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714. Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

> Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

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



Ruben Navarette

#### **DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS**

On Sunday, April 21, 72 seniors from Bluffton High School and Southern Wells Jr./Sr. High School were awarded \$47,950 in scholarships as part of the annual Bluffton and Southern Wells Dollars for Scholars event at Southern Wells. The following Bluffton and Southern Wells students received 2024 awards. **More photos on Page 10.**(Photos provided)



Recipients of \$500 awards are, front row from left, Delaney Zigler (SW), Terry L. Burns Memorial; Lucia Corkwell (BHS), BRMC; Alydia Bertsch (BHS), BRMC; Corina Rader (BHS), Meyer Building LLC; Olivia Schreiber (BHS), BRMC; and Lily Pulfer (BHS), BRMC; back row from left, Andrew Pearson (SW), Potters Lawn Service; Jaxon Heath (SW), Keith Honegger Scholarship; Christopher Kramer (BHS), Allen Bricker Memorial; Kristopher Cortez (BHS), Terry L. Burns Memorial; Madison Murray (BHS), Keith Honegger Scholarship; and Elijah Garrett (BHS), Meyer Building LLC Scholarship.



The Top Scholars of the Year are Ella Lahr (SW) and Claire Craighead (BHS). Each received \$1,600.



Recipients of \$750 awards are, from left, Yazmine Tucker (SW), Tech Services; Alexis Grover (BHS), Dale Huffman & Babcock Lawyers; and Zara Eisenhut (BHS), Trueland Equipment.



Recipients of \$1,000 Pretzels Inc. scholarships are, front row from left, Malina Culbetson (SW), Lauren Mann (BHS) and Ayden Teeple (BHS); back row from left, Caleb Johnson (SW), Joshua Bricker (SW) and Elijah Spencer (BHS).



The \$1,500 Go For the Flag recipients are, front row from left, Case Boxell (SW), Kayla Kiefer (BHS), and Caleb Dailey (BHS); back row from left, Keith Pluimer (SW), Madison Smith (BHS) and Kammy Miller (SW).



Recipients of \$500 Steve Wagner Memorial Scholarship awards are, front row from left, Tessa Maul (SW) and Karlee Warner (SW), and back row from left, Lukas Gehrett (BHS) and Benjamin Ramseyer (BHS).



BIDDING ENDS APRIL 27 - (Online Only Auction) - By order of the secured creditor, seller. Over 400+ designer wedding and bridesmaid dresses, designed by Christina Wu, Morilee, Allure Bridal, Maddison James, Maggie Sottero, and more, all size and styles. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006. 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. Pat Carter, sale manager, *The Steffen* Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com. BIDDING STARTS ENDING 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! Pick up April 29, 2-6 p.m., 2414 W 1100 S, Geneva. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

APRIL 28-MAY 5 - (Online Only Auction) -

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, wiegmannauctioneers.

com, 260-447-4311.

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! Day 2 onsite and online bidding offering 700+ lots! 100+/- municipal units! Cars, SUV, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickups, cargo & passenger vans, large group of 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.com.

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.

# Ukraine pulls U.S.-provided Abrams tanks from the front lines over Russian drone threats

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ukraine has sidelined U.S.-provided Abrams M1A1 battle tanks for now in its fight against Russia, in part because Russian drone warfare has made it too difficult for them to operate without detection or coming under attack, two U.S. military officials told The Associated Press.

The U.S. agreed to send 31 Abrams to Ukraine in January 2023 after an aggressive monthslong campaign by Kyiv arguing that the tanks, which cost about \$10 million apiece, were vital to its ability to breach Russian lines.

But the battlefield has changed substantially since then, notably by the ubiquitous use of Russian surveillance drones and hunter-killer drones. Those weapons have made it more difficult for Ukraine to protect the tanks when they are quickly detected and hunted by Russian drones or rounds.

Five of the 31 tanks have already been lost to Russian attacks.

The proliferation of drones on the Ukrainian battlefield means "there isn't open ground that you can just drive across without fear of detection," a senior defense official told reporters Thursday.

The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide an update on U.S. weapons support for Ukraine before Friday's Ukraine Defense Contact Group meeting.

For now, the tanks have been moved from the front lines, and the U.S. will work with the Ukrainians to reset tactics, said Joint Chiefs of Staff Vice Chairman Adm. Christopher Grady and a third defense official who confirmed the move on the condition of anonymity.

"When you think about the way the fight has evolved, massed armor in an environment where unmanned aerial systems are ubiquitous can be at risk," Grady told the AP in an interview this week, adding that tanks are still important.

"Now, there is a way to do it," he said. "We'll work with our Ukrainian partners, and other partners on the ground, to help them think through how they might use that, in that kind of changed environment now, where everything is seen immediately."

News of the sidelined tanks comes as the U.S. marks the two-year anniversary of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, a coalition of about 50 countries that meets monthly to assess Ukraine's battlefield needs and identify where to find needed ammunition, weapons or maintenance to keep Ukraine's troops equipped.

Recent aid packages, including the \$1 billion military assistance package signed by President

Joe Biden on Wednesday, also reflect a wider reset for Ukrainian forces in the evolving fight.

The U.S. is expected to announce Friday that it also will provide about \$6 billion in long-term military aid to Ukraine, U.S. officials said, adding that it will include much sought after munitions for Patriot air defense systems. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details not yet made public.

The \$1 billion package emphasized counterdrone capabilities, including .50-caliber rounds specifically modified to counter drone systems; additional air defenses and ammunition; and a host of alternative, and cheaper, vehicles, including Humvees, Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles.



TUESDAY, APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> FROM 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM



#### 6075 N 100 E, OSSIAN, IN 46777 • \$599,000

- 2,924 SQ. FT. RANCH
  - ANCH 4 BED / 3 BATH
- WALKOUT BASEMENT
- 36'X 48'POLE BARN



VISIT STEFFENGRP.COM FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION

LISTING AGENT: BRANDON STEFFEN (260.710.5684)

STEFFEN GROUP
REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS

260.426.0633 STEFFENGRP.COM RE14016472



# Cotton, Lewis lift Knights to win over Braves to open the NE8 Conference season

Knights' starting pitcher Lane Lewis stares

down a Braves base runner at first base. He

pitched all seven innings of Norwell's win over

Bellmont and allowed one run, his first of the

By RYAN WALKER

Norwell cruised its way to a 6-1 victory over Bellmont to open conference play Thurs-

Knights (8-4, 1-0 NE8) starting pitcher Lane Lewis breezed through the Braves (1-5-

1, 0-2 NE8) lineup, allowing just two hits and one run.

The conference season was supposed to start on Tuesday at Leo, a highly anticipated matchup, but rain foiled plans. It gave Norwell the opportunity to host its first conference game and push starting pitcher Lane Lewis start to Thursday, considering he would have thrown on Tuesday.

Norwell head coach Christian Bohata was confident, regardless if Lewis threw Tuesday or not, as he mentioned Cade Shelton has given the Knights a nice Tuesday-Thursday combination. But the Knights certainly will take their No. 1 when they can.

"It feels awesome," Bohata said. "You know, obviously rained out Tuesday — supposed to be at Leo, but it feels nice to open up a conference at home, Lane Lewis on the bump. It feels good. It's 1-0 in the conference. We know we're in a tough conference. Every team's gonna bring it — we're gonna see that, and the boys battled hard and competed well."

Bohata's Knight competed right from the first inning.

The three and four holes in the lineup got the job done right away — Logan Cotton and Cade Shelton's RBI singles got the Knights up 2-0. In the second, Norwell struck again via a passed ball and a fielder's choice by Lewis to double their lead. Then, Cayden Cassel dropped a sacrifice bunt down the right field line and drove in another run to take a 5-1 lead.

But after the third inning, both teams went quiet offensively.

Bellmont replaced its No. 1 starter, Beau

Baker, with Keagan Martin. Martin has been used in only 1.2 innings pitched (all vs. Bluffton) and was catching Baker behind the plate all game. Against Norwell, Martin had something cooking.

Martin's funky motion, which included a

high leg kick, perhaps stumped the Knights' hitters for the time he was in the game. His only blemish in his three innings of work was a RBI single to Cotton.

"His delivery's a little different. So, I think we were a little off on our timing," Bohata said. "Guys were either out on their front foot or behind it and it kind of snuck up on him. But I thought we adjusted. We're still putting the ball in play. I'm not sure how many strikeouts we had, but I don't think we had too many. That's been a big stressor all year is just put the ball in play and make things happen."

But when Lewis is on the mound with a 0.00 ERA in 18 innings, that five-run lead

seemed like 10. He finished the game with a complete seven innings, allowing his first run and walk of the season, seven strikeouts and picking up win No. 4.

Norwell's next week and a half will be a grind, playing nine games in nine days.

It all started with Bellmont in the conference, then a date with Carroll the following day at home starting at 5:30 p.m. Then, the Knights will travel to perennial power Heritage and end it with 3A's No. 2 team Guerin Catholic on the road.

Bohata mentioned that his team is blessed to have as many arms as they do, having eight pitchers that have thrown so far this season. They'll keep a close eye on pitch counts and the overall health of the team during the

"We're trying to keep guys as fresh as we

ryan@news-banner.com



Norwell second baseman Noah Turk (left) attempts to spin a double play after getting the forceout of Bellmont runner Aidan Zimmerman Thursday at home. The Knights topped the Braves 6-1 to open the Northeast 8 Conference season with a victory. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

# **High School Calendar**

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

BASEBÁLL: 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.; Norwell 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 p.m. **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

TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Huntington North at Norwell, 5 p.m.; Bluffton/Heritage at South Adams, 5:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Woodlan, 5:3- p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1** 

BASEBALL: Adams Central at Norwell, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at Oak Hill, 5:30 p.m. GIRLS TENNIS: Northfield at Bluffton, 5

SOFTBALL: Norwell at East Noble, 5:30

THURSDAY, MAY 2

BASEBALL: East Noble at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.; Jay County at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at South Adams, 5 p.m.

BOYS GOLF: Norwell at Whitko, 4:30 p.m.; Bluffton/Jay County at Bellmont, 4:30 p.m.; Wes-Del at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: East Noble at Norwell, 5 p.m.; Manchester at Bluffton, 5 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Norwell at Carroll, 5:30 p.m.; Jay County at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at South Adams, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 3 SOFTBALL: Southern Wells at Jay County,

TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Norwell at Northeast 8 Conference championship at Columbia City, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at ACAC Championship at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.

# Tigers celebrate 11 seniors on college signing day

By RYAN WALKER

Bluffton High School had one of its biggest college athletic signing days in recent memory.

Thursday morning, 11 student-athletes surrounded by their families, friends, coaches and staff members gathered in the cafetorium to celebrate the extension of their academic and athletic careers. Eight of the 11 were signing for the first time, while three of them had already signed, but joined the party to honor what Athletic Director Steve Thompson said was the most signees he's had in one senior class.

"As the athletic director, I'm very proud of our student-athletes," Thompson said. "But just as a man, I almost get emotional. I'm just proud of what they've been able to accomplish. Yes, they're going to continue their athletics in college, but they're just better people. I'm blessed — we're blessed because of the quality of people they are."

The athletes that inked in their new school colors in order were: Braxton Betancourt, Olney Central College for baseball; Johnny Cruz, Indiana Tech for wrestling; Lukas Gehrett, Bluffton University for football; Haley Gibson, Saint Francis for basketball; Alex West, Bluffton University for football; Ben Ramseyer, Trine for football; Alydia Bertsch, Indiana Wesleyan for cheerleading; and Sophia Schwartz, Taylor for cheerleading. The three athletes that already signed previously were: Eli Garrett, Indiana Tech for baseball; Tyler Godwin, Purdue Fort Wayne for cross country and track and field; and Sam Mechling, Manchester for

Thompson described this senior class of 2024 as ones that have character and resiliency that have grown since they were freshmen. Now, in his 18th year as the A.D., Thompson wanted to celebrate this class in one special day together like a family.

"I wanted to bring everyone together to kind of emphasize the significance of the day and just reinforce the idea that we are one family and it's a family event, it's us. Yes, we had signings today, but it's about us," Thompson said.

The athletes echoed his words, as they've grown up together in Bluffton and have all supported one another through the good, the bad and just having a blast together.

"This class is amazing," Gibson said, who will be attending Saint Francis to play basketball. "Ever since youth elementary school, we've all been athletic and we've been there for each other, honestly. All of us have had our struggles, but all of us are very put together."

'My class is very athletic," Cruz said. "I think the thing with them is they're very motivated, they want to have a good future. Most of them love sports, so of course they want to do the thing they love as they're learning for their career. I just feel like our class is a very nice set of kids."

There were several reasons why each athlete chose their respective schools. Some include the program fit, the campus life and environment, and education programs — or even the case of West and Gehrett, who get to play with one another for another four years with a school the same name as their high school.

For Betancourt, like the rest of the bunch, playing baseball was a sport he's always loved and wanted to play for as long as he could.

"Ever since I could walk," Betancourt said. "When I started swinging the bat, I was like 'Man, this is going to be my life for a lifetime hopefully.' Being able to play and just have fun.

For him and many others, they'll get the opportunity to fulfill the itch to stay on the playing field.

ryan@news-banner.com









Tigers ink 11 college athletes

Bluffton gathered 11 of its student athletes in the cafeteria Thursday morning to honor one of its largest college athletic signings in recent memory. At top, Bluffton's senior class of 11 college signees all pose together with one another, repping their respective choices to extend their athletic careers. Bottom left to right, Haley Gibson signs with Saint Francis to play basketball, Johnny Cruz with Indiana Tech for wrestling and Braxton Betancourt to Onley Central College for baseball. More photos on Page 7 (Photos by Ryan Walker)

# **Sports Roundup**

#### **Tigers earn crucial ACAC** baseball win over Warriors

Bluffton picked up a big ACAC game with a 4-3 win over Woodlan in

11 innings Thursday night. The Tigers now improve to 8-5 and 3-0 in the conference.

Bluffton got two hits from Braxton Betancourt with two RBI. Lukas Gehrett went 1-5 with an RBI. A.J. Streveler doubled in his 1-3 day.

Griffin Morgan picked up the win, going four innings in relief without allowing a hit or a run, walking one and striking out six. Betancourt started and threw seven innings, allowing three runs, five hits and struck out nine. Bluffton will host Churubusco at

5:30 p.m. Monday, April 29. **Knights defeat Braves in** 

#### NE8 girls' tennis match Norwell defeated Bellmont 4-1 in

girls' tennis at home Thursday.

The Knights improved to 7-1 on the season with the win.

#### **Individual winners were:**

 Addy Heyerly (N) defeated Leila Jin 6-3, 6-4 at No. 1 singles.

• Delaney Hoover (N) defeated Lillian Jin 6-0, 6-4 at No. 2 singles.

• Emma Fuelling (B) defeated Aubrey Meyer 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 at No. 3

singles. • Annabelle Johnson and Macy Felger (N) defeated Isabelle Ortiz and Marison Jackson 6-3, 7-5 at No. 1 doubles.

• Jordyn Xayyachack and Macie Saalfrank (N) defeated Ella Ross and (Continued on Page 7)



Norwell's Macy Felger takes a backhard Thursday against Bellmont at No. 1 doubles. Felger helped the Knights pick up a 4-1 victory over the Northeast 8 Conference foe. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

# **Sports Roundup**

• Sydney Alstoft in the 100m hurdles with a time of 19.53 and in the 300m hur-

• The 4x400m relay team of Makyla

Southern Wells will be at Woodlan at

Pryor, Reagan Needler, Shaylinn Geesa-

man and Dannicka Sorenson with a time

**Tigers beat Generals in tennis** 

**Individual results:** 

Schwartz 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7-3) at No. 1 sin-

Bluffton defeated Wayne in girls' ten-

• Kyla Harroff (W) defeated Emma

• Eve Corkwell (B) defeated Tessa

• Sydney Gorman (W) defeated

• Hazel Pfister and Sophie Eisenhut (B) defeated Gally Martinez and Erianna

• Avery Hunt and Emily Drayer (B) defeated Makenna Cartwright and Kaylin

Bluffton won 5-4 in the junior varsity

• Kaleigh Guevara (W) defeated Gissel

Alexis Grover and Kinzie Fiechter

• Zara Eisenhut and Mary Beth Zucher

• Aleeah Grover and Isla Gibson (B)

• Anna Zurcher and Madison Dun-

Isabella Rhoderick and Zoey Schmidt

• Carma Bruant and Oh Mai Da (W)

• Jessica Pozvelos and Rose Reyes (W)

Kara Sells and Natalya Bennett-

Bluffton will host Southwood at 5 p.m.

Brookshire (W) defeated Zainab Ameen

Knights fall in JV baseball

Norwell fell to Bellmont 8-2 in junior

Five players had one hit each for the

Adam Mahnensmith pitched five

Knights, they were Trey Privett, Nick

McBride, Will Case (two RBI), Jaxson

innings, allowing seven runs (two

earned), three hits and three strikeouts.

Josiah Ray threw one inning and allowed

**Knights defeat Cadets in** 

junior vasity softball

junior varsity softball Thursday.

Nern had two hits with two RBI.

Norwell won 16-7 at Concordia in

The Knights were led by a 3-4 effort

Bria Reinhard threw three innings,

by Angie Cros with two doubles and a

triple with six RBI. Brielle Foss and Ayla

allowing three runs, three hits and struck

two out. B Wilson threw four innings and

allowed four runs, four hits and struck out

**Tigers fall to Warriors** 

in JV softball game

test with Woodlan 10-7 at home in soft-

the Tigers with 2 hits each. Taylor had

a double. Addison Kauffman and Piper

Morgan had doubles, while Jillian Phil-

ball Thursday.

lippe had a triple.

out nine and had no walks.

Bluffton fell in its junior varsity con-

Kierstynn Reed and Kinlee Taylor led

Kinlee Taylor took the loss, but struck

(B) defeated Carma Bryant and Oh Mai

(B) defeated Jessica Pozvelos and Rose

defeated Kara Sells and Natalya Bennett-

can (B) defeated Kim Solls and Adina

(B) defeated Vanessa Carranza and

defeated Kenley Falk and Briell Coratti

defeated Madison Murray and Olgaa Jar-

**Results for JV:** 

Gretchen Crist 7-5, 7-5 at No. 3 singles.

dles with a time of 58.5.

5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 30.

nis 3-2 at Wayne Thursday night.

Summers 6-1, 7-5 at No. 2 singles.

Greene 7-5, 7-5 at No. 1 doubles.

Tin 6-4, 6-2 at No. 2 doubles.

match.

Da 6-1.

Martinez 6-4.

Brookshire 7-6.

Eldridge 6-0.

dan 6-2.

Friday, April 26.

Kaleigh Guevara 6-2.

and Charos Anorboeva 6-1.

varsity baseball Thursday.

Dohrmanand Cade Thornton.

(Continued from Page 6)

Averie Coats 6-2, 6-2 at No. 2 doubles. Norwell won the junior varsity match 7-1 and improved to 8-1 on the season.

#### **Results for JV:**

- Courtney Arrington (B) defeated Lucy Gerbers 8-4.
- Gabbi Hoeppner defeated Vienna Braun
- Charli Swindell defeated Izzu Krull 8-3.
- Hope Mitchell and Emmaline Johnson defeated Lucie McIntire and Alyssa Coffey 8-7(4).
- Sam Evans and Aubryn Keller defeated Sofia Steury and Lilly Alberding 8-5.
- Carley Wolf and Melissa Hoag defeated
- Maddy Gardner and Ccarley Oetting 8-5.

   Aubryn Keller and Isabella Hubble defeated Elise Rumschlag and Faith Cook
- Hazel Lewis and Molly Threewits defeated Veronica Franz and Larissa Reed 8-2.

Norwell will host Blackhawk Christian at 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 26.

#### **Knights rout Cadets in softball**

Norwell crushed Concordia 10-0 at home Thursday night.

The win brought the Knights to a 3-4 record on the season.

The Knights tallied 11 hits in the game, led by two-hit nights by Kara Brown and Kaydance Clark. Brown had four RBI and hit a home run, while Clark went 2-2 with two runs scored. Jordan Markley went 2-3 with a double and an RBI. Leah Werling, Nevada Lenwell and Hayden Herman had hits and RBI.

Brown and Kayla Watkins combined for five innings and only one hit. Brown went four innings, no runs and seven strikeouts while Watkins had two strikeouts and no

Norwell will be at Bellmont at 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 26

# Tigers drop ACAC softball contest to Warriors

Bluffton fell to Woodlan 7-0 in conference play at home Thursday night.

The Warriors scored two in the top of the fifth inning and five in the sixth to capture the victory. The loss drops the Tigers to 4-6 on the season and 0-2 in the ACAC.

Of the four hits, Tressa Renner had two of them and one each by Konley Ault and Averi Petty.

Madyson Sonnigsen picked up the loss, throwing all seven innings and allowing seven runs (two earned), eight hits, four walks and four strikeouts.

Bluffton will be at Southern Wells at 5 p.m. Friday, April 26.

# Radiers fall to Apaches in road boys' golf match

Southern Wells fell on the road at Wabash in boys' golf Thursday night.

The Raiders scored a 208, while the Apaches scored a 196.

Chandler Oswalt led the Raiders and was the medalist at 43, followed by Gabe McElhaney (53), Dirk Frauhiger and Tristen Worster (56) and Cash Banter (58).

Southern Wells will be at Wabash Valley to face South Adams at 4:30 p.m. Thuesday, April 30.

# Raiders fall to Norseman in track and field meet

Southern Wells fell to Northfield at home Thursday night.
The boys fell 68-40, while the girls

lost 80-42.

#### **Event winners were:**

- Kane Jenkins in the 300m hurdles with a time of 46.4.
  Andrew Aker in the 800m with a time
- of 2:22.7.
   Joshua Bricker in the 3200m with a
- time of 11:10.5.
   Peyton Long in the shot put at

42-7.50.

**Boys** 

#### **TIGERS INK 11 COLLEGE ATHLETES**





Left, Alex West signs with Bluffton University for football along with teammate Lukas Gehrett (right), also signing with Bluffton. (Photos by Ryan Walker)





Left, Alydia Bertsch signs with Indiana Wesleyan University for cheer. At right, Sophia Schwartz signs with Taylor University for cheer.



Ben Ramseyer signs with Trine University for football.

Marine

VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING

UTV

Motorcycle

Sound

**Pjockford fosquie.** 

1421 Manchester St., Decatur

www.icav.us

**PRECISION** 

Family, Farm and Fleet Vehicle Repair

**FLEET ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE** 

0520 S. Decker Dr.

**Bluffton** 

Bluffton Tire Inc.

"The Quality Service You Deserve!" FREE 260-824-9149

(260) 724-2276

1/2 block west of U.S. 27 North

Systems



# Zhou Guanyu will be a star regardless of who wins in Shanghai

By STEPHEN WADE AP Sports Writer

SHANGHAI (AP) — Formula 1 returns to China this weekend after a five-year absence. And no matter who wins on Sunday, the star locally will be China-born driver Zhou Guanyu.

Despite his so-so results, Zhou is being promoted as a celebrity in China. He's the subject of a new film as the first Chinese driver to compete in F1. And he's, of course, a favorite of sponsors who want a Chinese connection.

Ahead of the first grand prix weekend in Shanghai since 2019, Zhou described it as more than a race for him, saying, "With a Chinese driver on the grid, we will write history."

By the time he got to the driver's news conference on Thursday, where the questions to him ranged from China's economy and politics to its burgeoning auto industry's future potential in F1, Zhou had spent more than a week doing promotional work and meetings with sponsors, backers and fans.

"I've been extremely busy, you know — the busiest man, probably, in Shanghai over the last week and a half," he said. "A lot of activities done. It's great to see the support from the country already."

Zhou has never won a F1 race. In 48 races since 2022, he's

yet to even reach the podium. In the last grand prix almost two weeks ago in Japan, his Sauber retired with a gearbox failure and he placed 18th out of 20.

In 2023, he finished 18th with only six points from 22

races.

But the numbers don't matter much in the search for a hometown hero in F1.

"The pressure ... of course, this race is a little bit higher, but I don't think it gets much more than for me than my debut in Formula 1," he said. "Because by now everything feels a lot more familiar than back in the day. First day here is completely different ... now's third season."

Zhou was born in Shanghai and, though he's spent many of his formative years in England, Sunday's race is a homecoming for him — and for the race. The last grand prix in China was in 2019, and the next four were canceled during the COVID-19 pandemic.







### Having fun beyond the party scene

Dear Annie: I've always disliked house parties. During the first ones I'd been invited to, I had to leave early due to the loud music, vulgar dancing and drunk classmates — an environment at 57. I never got that would only make me feel anxious, disgusted and sick.

I thought this feeling would wear off and I'd eventually be able to integrate and have fun just like everyone else. However, after attending a couple more, I came to the realization that it's just not my thing and that I like to have fun in other ways. So, I began declining all house party invites with silly excuses or anything that I could come up with.

Because of that, I earned the reputation of being a boring and wearisome person, and that I hated everybody and didn't want to spend time with them, which is not true.

My high school days are over, and I am about to begin university. I know I will be invited to parties in the coming months. What would be a more assertive and confident way to decline all these invites? — 'Boring' Student in South America

Dear 'Boring': Embrace what makes you comfortable. A simple "No, thanks, that's not really my scene" is honest and assertive. Suggest an alternative way to hang out that aligns with your interests. This shows you're open to socializing on your terms and helps others understand your preferences without having to make excuses or get caught up in a lie. Your university years can be a fresh start to find like-minded friends who respect your idea of fun.

Dear Annie: When I was in college, I dated someone for a year. It was great, and I respected and loved her in every

She went on to complete her studies, and I started working. We then went our separate ways, the reason being to give her more space to study and for me to get settled in my career. When I finally felt ready to settle, I tried to contact her again. I called a number I'd saved to get in touch with her. Her sister gave me her contact details.

When I called, her husband answered. I took it like a man and moved on, I thought. I had relationships after that,

but it seems I never got over it because I can't get her out of my mind even married and can't seem to find the right person.

I know this

sounds unfair,

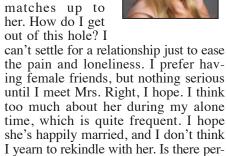
but no one else



Dear

Annie

by Annie Lane



haps another deep-seated reason for my

predicament? — Crazy In Love

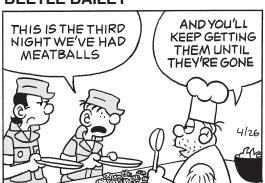
Dear Crazy In Love: You're dealing with unresolved feelings and idealizing a past relationship, which is quite common, especially after one as impactful as yours. The fact that no one seems to measure up to this woman, though, indicates that you're comparing all of your more recent relationships to an idealized version of her, rather than seeing each new person for their unique qualities, which, in turn, creates a barrier to forming new, meaningful connections.

Reflect on what you truly miss about that relationship. Is it the companionship, shared interests, or simply the way you felt about yourself at the time? A good therapist can help you figure out why you're holding onto this history and develop strategies to open your heart to new love. Remember, it's about finding someone who fits with the person you are now, not who you were.

"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.

© 2024 CREATORS.COM

#### **BEETLE BAILEY**





#### **BLONDIE**







#### **ZITS**



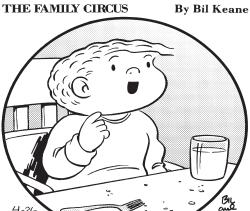




#### CRANKSHAFT







"I don't care for any pie, but I'll have lots of a la mode.

# The LOCKHORNS



"LORETTA DOESN'T RUSH HER COOKING... IT'S MORE OF A SLOW BURN."

4 USMC

ranks

5 Italian

8 Mode

9 eBay

offer

(Pref.)

11 Zodiac

feline

**17** Flying toy

21 Navajo or

Hopi

**10** Bird

lead-in

26 "Thar -

28 Hosp.

30 Buck-

area

31 Favorite

short

Story"

riser? 36 Pirate's

quaff

37 Smith of

40 Collision

42 Furnish with gear

43 Conti-

nental

cash 44 Gist

**45** Gag

46 Apiece

48 Hwys.

49 Dadaist

Jean

50 Cato's

502

"Downton Abbey"

actress

MacGraw 33 Early

**32** "Love

pal, for

blows!"

eyes' sch.

#### Answer By Dr. Billy Graham

Мy

Question: A friend of mine gave me a book that has the poetry from the Bible. I love the phrase "a crown of beauty instead of ashes," but I'm not sure what it means. As I watch what is going on in the Middle East and Israel, I pray that beauty will somehow come out of the ashes of destruction we see on television daily. It's a reminder of the importance of praying for the peace of Jerusalem. – P.L.

Answer: When the Prophet Isaiah wrote the picturesque words about beauty from ashes, he was likely thinking first of Jerusalem, the once-proud

SHOW

# Christ stands ready to forgive and cleanse us

city that had been shattered and burned at the hand of a brutal

No matter what our past has been, Christ stands ready to forgive and cleanse us — and then to make us new. "Therefore," the Bible says, "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things has passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV).

Only Christ can bring hope to lives that have been turned into ashes by the assaults of our enemy, Satan. And He doesn't just restore us to what we once were; He gives us "a crown of beauty" — the beauty of forgiveness and

the beauty of hope and joy and peace. There are many people who are experiencing the ashes of a shattered life. We can pray for them and ask God to use us to point them to Christ and the great hope that the Bible gives us through its wisdom, poetry, hope, strength, and salvation that comes only from Him.

"He will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning" (Isaiah 61:3,

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

©2024 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

M A D1 D2 5 PM | 5:30 | 6 PM | 6:30 | 7 PM | 7:30 | 8 PM | 8:30 | 9 PM | 9:30 | 10 PM | 10:30 | 11 PM | 11:30 | 12 AM | 12:30



Place Your Ad 24/7/365! www.news-banner.com

(:35) **Y Tone-Deaf** ('19) Ar

(:45) \★★ The Whale (2022, Drama) Sadie Sink,

Hong Chau, Brendan Fraser

(:50) ♥★★★ Pearl (2022, Horror) David Corens

WINM 12	2 11	26	63		(4:30) <b>% Movie</b>		O FIW		Joseph Prince	Morris	TCT Today	Méyer	Jewish Jesus	James Robison		That	Andrew Wommack	Ask the Pas		Prop. Con
CBS WANE	5 2	2	15	15	E	dition (N)	News at 6 (N)	(N)	Fortune (N)	(N)	Mary" (N) Ropes		Ropes" (N)	(N)		With Stephen Colbert				
Antenna VANE-2	2 106	20			Hawaii Five-0 Ka Moana"		Hawaii Five "Popilikia"		Bull "Fallen		Bull "To Save a Life"   Bull "The Head of the Goat"   Bull "Cloak Goat"   2-3 A panel of analysts break down teams' picks in the 2024 draft.						Bull "The Bo Murder"	,		
ABC WPTA 21	1 4	3	21	21	ABC21 News			News (N)										ABC21 (N)	(:05) Jimmy R Live!	
NBC IPTA-2	.2 7	8		14		5 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	Password " & Jimmy Fal			BC Compelling ies, in-depth i			News (N)	(:35) Tonight	Show (N)	(:35) Seth Meyers (N)
MNT IPTA-3 (21.	.3 10	9	56	34	The King To of Queens o		Modern Family	News (N)	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Chicago P.I "Unforgiven		Chicago P.I Justice"	D. "Equal	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Mom	Mom	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs
CW NISE 33	3 8	4	33	33	The Steve Wil (N)	lkos Show	TMZ Live (N	)	Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Penn "Now Shut Up" (SI	Teller Won't F) (N)	100 Days to (N)	o Indy (SP)	Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers
PBS IFWA	9 13	5	39	39	Disaster "A Pe Storm: Mozam		PBS NewsH	our (N)	BBC News America	Primetime 39 (N)	Washing- ton Wk (N)	Firing- Hoover (N)	Perform. "I This: Old Fri		Art Happen John Lithgo		Amanpour Company (I		Washin- gton Wk	Firing- Hoover
PBS VIPB 49	9 3				Disaster "A Pe Storm: Mozam			BBC News America	PBS NewsH	lour (N)	Washing- ton Wk (N)	Firing- Hoover (N)	Perform. "I This: Old Fri		Art Happen John Lithgo		Amanpour Company (I		Poetry in America	Firing- Hoover
FOX NFFT 55	5 6	6	55	55	WFFT Fox Nev (N)		WFFT Fox N (N)	ews at 6	Big Bang	Big Bang		The Superstar t do battle in el			News at 10 (N)	Locker Room (N)	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Neighbor	Neighbor
CABLE (		1			Castle "The G	nc"	Castle "Fide	lic Ad	Castle "Hea	erthroakor"	<b>\$</b> Hor Stud	y of a Killer	/2022 Thrillo	r) Tulor	(IOE) St Dane	or on Party	Island (2024	Thrillor\	₩ Her Study	of a Ville
LIFE			108	252			Mortem"				Courtad, Jen	na Michno, N	latasha Wilso	n. (P)	Adam Harpe	r, James Bobo	o, Lindsey Dre	sbach. (P)	('23) Natash	a Wilson.
FX					(4:00) \$\foatin \text{Star W} Andv A		mpire Strike Andy	s Back Andv		r Wars: Retu Everybody						ents "Broken Everybody		Times Prese		Horses" The King
TVLAND	25		106	304	Griffith G	iriffith	Griffith	Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	of Queens	of Queens	of Queens	of Queer
E!	26	142	114	236		leill.	·		e) Laura Deri	n, Jeff Goldblu	ım, sam		hwaite, Jeff G	urassic Park oldblum.	(1997, Adver	ture) Julianne	e ivioore,		sic Park III ('( a Leoni, Sam N	
PARMT	30		241	241	Two and a Tr Half Men H	wo and a lalf Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Half Men	Two and a Half Men						♥ Movie				
ESPN	31	50	140	206	College Game	eDay (L)	NFL Draft C (L) (N)	ountdown	<b>2024 NFL D</b> 2-3	raft Rounds	action from	the NBA. (L) (	N)	BA Profession		action from	the NBA. (L) (	N)		
ESPN2	32	54	143	209	UFC Live R		SportsCente		NBA Count					sts break dow						
FSMW	33		418	671	Live on the Li	ine	Focused	Sports Stars	The Card Life Tampa	In the Spotlight	Game 2.			nerz at RWE	Magica in M	adrid, Spain.				•
USA	34	133	105	242	(4:00) \\ \dots\ \dots			<b>n Wick: Chap</b> nburne, Keant	u Reeves.	·		McShane, Ke	eanu Reeves.	pter 3 Para	bellum (201	9, Action) Ha	,	Jessica Alba,	anic: Resurre Jason Statha	
DISC	35				GOIG BOOTH		Gold Rush V "Unfinished	Business"	My Nightma		"\$70,000 No	ugget" (N)	Gold "Rock Nugget Feve	er" (N)	Mysteries " From Bisbee	" (N)	Gold Rush- Dog, New Tr		<b>Gold Rush V</b> "\$70,000 Nu	
TLC	36	73	183	280	Love "El Said I		Love "Ja or		90 Day Fiar			ore to Love: Ti				Seeking Sis		90 Day	90 Day Fian	
HIST	38	77	120	269	The UnXplain		UnXplain "N Disappearan		The UnXpla "Legends Ur		The UnXpla "Decoding G		UnXplain ": Ancient Civi	Secrets of lizations" (N)	(:05) The Un	Kplained	(:05) The Uni "Lost Civiliz		(:05) UnXplai of Ancient Ci	
A&E	39	134	118	265	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		(:05) The Firs		(:05) The Firs	
HALL	40	117	185	312	Reardon, Hayle	ey Sales, Em	ily Kinney.		Paevey, Brud	<b>s at the Plaz</b> ce Davison, Eli	izabeth Henst	ridge.	O'Donnell, V	hristmas Inn /ivica Fox, Jod	ie Sweetin.	·	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls
SYFY	41	135	122	244	(25) ♥★★★ The Goonies (1985, Children) Josh Brolin, Jeff Cohen, Sean Astin.						(:55) ♥★★ The Hitman's Bodyguard (2017, Action) Samuel L. Jackson, Gary Oldman, Ryan Reynolds. (:25) ♥ Samu					(:25) <b>♀★ The</b> Samuel L. Ja	225) <b>** ★ The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard</b> ('21) Chuc iamuel L. Jackson, Salma Hayek, Ryan Reynolds.			
TBS	43	130	139	247	Big Bang B					Big Bang	NHL Hocke	y First Round:	: Teams TBA (	(L) (N)				Teams TBA (		
TNT	44	131	138	245	Cera, Jonan Hi	II.		TNT (L) (N)	from across	y First Round: the NHL. (L) (I	N)		•	NHL Hockey NHL. (L) (N)				key action fro		(L) (N)
AMC	45		131	254	<b>***** The</b> Bob Gunton, Ti	Shawshan im Robbins.	k Redemptio	on (1994, Dra	ıma) Morgan	Freeman,	₹*** The	Green Mile	(1999, Drama	a) David Mors	e, Michael Cl	arke Duncan,	Tom Hanks.		★★★ Cap     Phillips ('13)	
COM	47		107	249	Seinfeld S	einfeld								The Office					('10) Will Fer	rell.
FS1	48					, , ,	PokerStars Main Event -	Part 9	the ARCA M	ards Series D enards Series.			Zions Bank S	Old Glory DC Stadium in He	rriman, Utah.	(L) (N)	BetRivers 20	inity Racing 0, Qualifying		I Am Kev Harvick
WGN	53				Vargas Repor		The Hill (L) (		On Balance 9-1-1	(L) (N)	Cuomo (L) (			s Live (L) (N)			Cuomo	Laaloos	Dan Abrams The Barnes	
WE FOOD	57				9-1-1 "Karma' Diners D		9-1-1 "Trapp Diners		Diners	Diners	Love After Diners		Love After Best Bite in		The Barnes Diners	Diners	Love After Diners	Diners	Best Bite "F	
BRAVO					Dubai "Du-bye			terboy ('98)				ddy ('99) Ada					Adam Sandle		F*★ The Hot	
NICK	68				(4:30) <b>%★★ So</b>									SpongeBob		Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
DISN	69	30	172	290						lo Manheim.					Big City	Big City		Monsters	Ladybug	Ladybug
EEFORM	70	32	180	311	Family Guy F									"HTTPete"					Boy Meets World	World
нво	301		300	501	Sympathi	50) The Jinx		Elliott, Bradle	ey Cooper.	rn (2018, Ron		-	We're Here		Real Time V Maher (L) (N	1)	(N)	(:35) We're H		(:40) Real, Bill Mahe
MAX	325	5	310	515	( 15) Hallee Ste	einfeld.	<b>***★ Ronin</b> McElhone, R	bert De Niro			Chris Evans,	Jeffrey Dean	Morgan.	(:35) <b>**</b> ★★ Buscemi, Fra	nces McDorn	and.	Woody Harr	White Men elson, Rosie P	erez, Wesley	
					(3:30) <b>Pet</b> (::	25) ♀★★★	First Blood (	'82) Richard	♥ War Pony	y (2022, Dram	na) LaDainian	Crazy	₹*** Pas	t Lives ('23)	Гео Үоо,	(:45) ** ★ T	he Whale (20	022, Drama) S	adie Sink.	(:45) ♀★★

Thunder, Ashley Shelton, Jojo Bapteise Whiting

\\*\*\*\* Past Lives ('23) Teo Yoo,

John Magaro, Greta Lee.

(:15) \* Margaux (2022, Horror) Vanessa Morgan,

#### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **39** Sony rival **2** Battery **23** Airship 41 Incubator part

#### 1 Indent 25 Cardinal noise 3 Lightkey 4 Qt. 45 Catcher weight cap fractions Posada letters wood

by Queen letters play-13 Churchill **52** Mentalist house gesture Geller 6 Tennis 53 Imbibe **14** Martini great garnish 54 Brack-Monica 15 MSN rival eted word **7** Muffin 16 Broadcast 55 Charged type

bit

47 Status

follower

48 Hit song

**7** Group of

plotters

12 Genetic

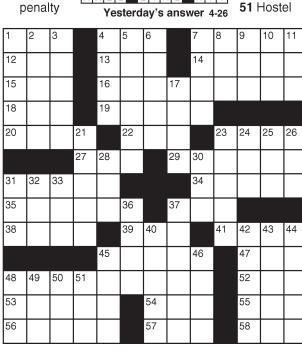
genre

with 56 Backbone "call-in" **57** Furtive segments laugh 18 Rx writers 58 Calif.

19 Beer mug clock 20 Pants setting part **22** Trio DOWN

after Q 1 Street-23 Low voice cars **27** 2016

Solution time: 25 mins. Olympics city 29 Crude stone artifact 31 No-frills E L K L U N A R 34 Move DIFLILA laterally 35 Viral win-RAVIOLIORO ter woe E P I C **37** Silent 38 Speeding



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

#### King Classic Sudoku

King	Class	ic Su	uoku						
					5	8	3	2	
	5			4		6			
							5		
2		5	8						Inc
			9		4			6	dicate
					2				nyS Ser
	6		7	1				4	Featur
	9	4				2			Kino
8						3			©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc
Diffic	4/26								

Musical Instruments

VINTAGE OVATION CUSTOM Balladeer guitar. Best offer, 260-515-8574.

Sporting Goods

**2 CATRIKES, 1** large frame, 1 small frame. Selling for health reasons. 260-442-6804.

Wanted to Buy

WANTED: ANTIQUES & OLD

TOYS Cash Paid for old toys!

Gi Joe, Transformers, Tin toys,

Robots, Pressed Steel Cars/

trucks, Action Figures, Antiques of all kinds, etc. Search-

ing for attics, basements,

barns, etc to go through. Call or Text! 260-223-8083

Read & recycle

this newspaper

Public Notices

90C01-2403-JC-000015 IN THE MATTER OF:

A CHILD ALLEGED TO BE A CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES

AND CHRISTOPHER BUSHEE

(FATHER)
HALEY ANN BUSHEE (MOTHER)

ANY UNKNOWN ALLEGED

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE

OF CHILD IN NEED OF

TO: Any Unknown Alleged Father Whereabouts unknown

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to Any Unknown Alleged Fathers,

whose whereabouts are unknown,

that the Indiana Department of

Child Services has filed its Verified Petition Alleging the child to

be in Need of Services, in accordance with I.C. 31-34-9-3, and that

an adjudication hearing has been

MANDED to appear before the Judge of the Wells Circuit Court, 102 Market Street, Bluffton, IN 46714 - 260-824-6485 for a(n) Fact

Finding Hearing on 6/6/2024 at 1:30 PM.

At said hearing, the Court will consider the Petition and evidence

thereon and will render its decision as to whether the above named

minor child is child in need of ser-

vices and shall enter adjudication

accordingly. Your failure to appear after lawful notice will be deemed

as your default and waiver to be

upon entry of said Adjudication, a disposi-Tional Hearing will be held in

which the Court will consider (1) Alternatives for the care, treatment,

or rehabilitation for the child; (2)

The necessity, nature, and extent

of your participation in the program of care, treatment, or rehabilitation

for the child; and (3) Your finan-

cial responsibility for any services provided for the parent, guardian or custodian of the child including

child support.
YOU MUST RESPOND by

appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and

in the event you fail to do so, an adjudication on said petition, judg-

ment by default may be entered against you, or the court may pro-ceed in your absence, without fur-

Beth Davis

Holly N Smith, 31840-49 Attorney, Indiana Department of Child Services Clerk

**SUDOKU ANSWER** 

9 9 8 6 7 7 1 4 8

7 8 6 8 1 2 7 9 9

9 2 9 4 8 4 8 1

2 4 2 8 8 2 1 3

7 2 3 2 4 8 6 1 8

7 8 8 2 4 9 6 1 7

9 7 1 6 8 8 7 9

2 8 9 7 6 8

7 2 2 9 1 9 E 6

nb 4/12, 4/19, 4/26

hspaxlp

ther notice.

c/o Wells Co DCS

Bluffton, IN 46714 Office: 260-824-3530

221 W Market St

7

YOU ARE HEREBY COM-

scheduled with the Court

SERVICES HEARING

BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE

COUNTY OF WELLS )
IN THE WELLS
CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NUMBER:

) SS:

STATE OF INDIANA

ML - DOB 8/30/2022

#### **FOR SALE**

#### **Miscellaneous**

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

#### Pets

glacierpure@outlook.com

**HELOISE HINT:** If you are worried about leaving your dog at home alone while you work. There are several options available if you can't take your pet to work with you. You can find a licensed pet sitter, or there are doggy day care centers in many cities where you can leave your pet all day. Write to HELOÍSE@Heloise.com.

## This Week's Garage Sales Clip & Save

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

day only! **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, boys large, silk flowers, Beanie newborn-24 Babies, Vera Bradley, seasonal decor & outdoor, rugs

& books, 2 bicycles.

Bake sale and food will be available on Friday and Satur-

BEAUTIFUL HANGING BAS-KETS, garden plants, Singer treadle sewing machine, hun dreds of pieces of large women's clothes, handicap medical equipment, and much more, Sat., April 27, Tues., April 30, and Wed., May 1, 9a-5p, 129 Beechwood Place, Bluffton.

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 runners, 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.

HELOISE HINT: Make your garage sale a family affair. Have everyone in your family help with the sale and let children sell their items, too. They will learn about making money this way! Be sure to price items reasonably so that you actually get rid of them. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### **Help Wanted**

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. Deadline for applications is May 3, 2024.



**CUSTOM APPLICATOR Responsible** for the proper application and placement of cation and placement of chemicals and fertilizers. Also responsible for general vehicle maintenance and equipment. Must have a valid driver's license and the ability to obtain an Ag CDL with required enagplusinc.com/ dorsements. employment

**HELOISE HINT:** When you are finished writing your resume. Reread it several times to be sure that there are no typos or errors. It needs to read perfectly. Send your job-success story to HELOISE@Heloise.

#### Public Notice Des. No. 2003077

Wells County is planning to undertake a new bridge and road reconstruction and realignment project funded in part by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) The project is located on County Road (CR) 200 South from Adams Street/CR 100 East to CR 200 East/Ellingham Pike.

The project proposes to construct a new bridge to carry CR 200 South over the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The new three-span bridge will be approximately 178.5 feet long and out-to-out copings approximately 34.67 feet wide. CR 200 South will be realigned slightly to the south at the railroad crossing to reduce the skew and the length of the new bridge. The realignment of CR 200 South will reduce impacts to adjacent residential properties and allow portions of the existing CR 200 South to maintain traffic during construction. CR 200 South will have a typical section consisting of two 12-foot travel lanes, one in each direction, with 4-foot paved shoulders for a total pavement width of 32 feet. Small structures within the project area will be replaced.

The project is approximately 1.00 mile long. Approximately 4.25 acres of permanent right-of-way acquisition is anticipated. The proposed right-of-way width on CR 200 South ranges from 30 to 70 One residentiai reloca tion (demolition) is expected. Con-struction is anticipated to begin in the Summer of 2026. Maintenance of Traffic will allow CR 200 South to remain open while building of the bridge and approach work take place. Short-term closures and a

detour will also be used. The need for this project is due to the high volume of train traffic on the Norfolk Southern Railroad in addition to the high volume. ume of heavy truck traffic accessing the nearby renewable fuels plant. When trains are stopped on the tracks, there are no elevated crossings available for motorists in the City of Bluffton. According to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), as of 2022, an average of eight trains use this line every day between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. and eight trains use this line between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. With the average delay per train being approximately 10 minutes, traffic at the above railroad crossings is delayed approximately 11% of the day. In addition, over the last 32 years, there have been 3 crashes at the CR 200 S crossing involving train collisions resulting in one casualty. The purpose of this project is to reduce delays for local traffic, improve east-west connectivity for truck traffic to bypass the City of Bluffton, and to provide a safe railroad

crossing. The proposed action does not impact properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) on behalf of the FHWA has issued 'No Historic Properties Affected finding for the project due to the fact that no historic properties are present within the Area of Potential Effects (APE). In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, the views of the public are being sought regarding the effect of the proposed project on the historic elements as per 36 CFR 800.2(d), 800.3(e) and 800.6(a) (4). Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d) (1), the documentation specified 36 CFR 800.11(d) is available for inspection in Butler, Fairman, & Seufert, Inc. Additionally, this documentation can be viewed electronically by accessing INDOT's Section 106 document posting website IN SCOPE at https:// erms12c.indot.in.gov/Section-106Documents/. This documentation serves as the basis for the "No Historic Properties Affected" finding. The views of the public on this effect finding are being sought. Please reply with any comments to Elizabet Biggio, Butler, Fairman, & Seufert, Inc., 9450 Westfield Blvd.

Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46240, 317-713-4615, ebiggio@bfsengr. com no later than May 26, 2024. In accordance with the "Americans with Disabilities Act", if you have a disability for which Wells County needs to provide accessibility to the document(s) such as interpreters or readers, please contact the ADA Coordinator, Nate Rumschlag, at 260-824-6430 or ADA@wellscountv.org.

nb 4/26

#### **Help Wanted**

#### **LOOKING FOR** EMPLOYEES?

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

#### **NOTICE**

#### **Notices**

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given, that the Horeb Cemetery Association will hold it's annual public meeting April 29th, 2024 at the Markle Fire Department at 7pm

#### **SERVICES**

#### Services

WINDOW CLEANING **SERVICES** 

Residential/ranch/lake homes/ villas/condos. Entire home inside & out. Lowest rates in the state. 765-603-9981. Psalms

**NEW WINDOWS FROM Win**dow Nation. Special money saving offer - zero down, zero payments, zero interest for TWO years AND buy 2 windows and get 2 FREE! Offer is valid for select models. Labor not included. Other restrictions apply. Call Window Nation today! 866-553-0725 (I)

#### Services

HOME MAINTENANCE AND repairs. Free quotes. Locally and owned operated. hirebrennan.com, 260-353-9339.

**LANDSCAPE SERVICES** Landscape clean up installation maintenance mulch plants and rocks lawn and property clean up debris removal etc. Experienced honest service. Can provide references upon request. Call Dan for a free estimate. 231-373-8028

#### Services

MARV'S CONSTRUCTION Room additions, fix old saggy floors, all types remodeling. Redo bathrooms, old foundation repairs. Marv Schwartz: 260-525-8877.

#### PRECISION LAND MAN-AGEMENT

Excavating-Drainage Driveways-Demolition
Call us today for a free quote! Serving Ossian and surrounding 517-932-8063

#### **Lottery Numbers**

#### Thursday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 09-17-22-39-42

**Cash4Life** — 03-07-39-49-58, Cash Ball: 01 Quick Draw Midday — 02-05-07-12-17-21-23-25-37-

44-50-51-56-57-59-64-65-71-73-78, BE: 05 **Daily Three-Midday** — 01-09-02, SB:09 Daily Three-Evening — 00-07-08, SB: 08

**Daily Four-Midday** — 03-00-04-07, SB: 09 **Daily Four-Evening** — 09-00-09-00, SB: 08 **Quick Draw Evening** — 01-05-11-13-15-20-28-34-35-36-37-39-49-52-57-58-64-74-76-77, BE: 35

**Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$10.9million

**MEGA MILLIONS** 

Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$228 million POWERBALL

Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$149 million





•24 Hr. Access Video Cameras www.a1-ustor.com 🚾 **After hours & Saturdays** 

Call 273-9678 or 824-4782 In Monroe at corner of U.S. 27 and S.R. 124 Office at 1180 N. Main, Bluffton



Get Cash NOW 260-307-1302

Me Buy Junk Cars

The HIDEAWAY BEER SOURBON THURSDAY -**Dollar Off Drinks** (Excludes Pop)

**WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE** FRI. & SAT. - Live Music

Follow us on **f** for our Events. 123 S Johnson ST. • 824-0455

## **Primary Contracting, LLC**

Specializing in Building & Remodeling **OWNER: Edwin Wickey** 

Call for Spring Scheduling Today! Free Estimates - 260-233-4276

 Pole Barns Grarages Vinly Siding Metal Roofing Poly Decks Storm Damage





Sure-Flo Seamless Gutters 5" & 6" Continuous Gutters Leaf Protection Systems Large Color Selection - FREE Estimat 260-888-5062

www.seamlessgutter.net



GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE
All makes & models · broken springs & cables Owner: James Fisher • Sales: Carl Fisher "50 Years of Combined Experience" Call us at **824-3262** 



Jerry Flack & Associates Jerry Flack & Julie Myers A Senior Citizen Answers Our Phone! • Dental - Vision - Hearing

**ASSISTING IN:**  FREE Medicare Supplement Comparison • Life Planning · Safe Money Ideas



Commercial-Industrial-Residential 24 Hr. Emergency Service Charles Miller-Electrican
1233 W. Cherry St., Bluffton
Estimates

Home Remodel and Repair Locally Owned

Repair Bowed Basement Walls Foundations repaired Floor joist repair or replaced Concrete • Doors Windows • Painting

Tile • Small Jobs Welcome

Text me at 260-301-1269 Jim Baker

**AMISH CREW** will do roofing, siding,

remodeling, pole barns. Specializing in redoing old barns. Free estimates.

Call **260-438-2508** 



MOWING YARD CLEANUP LANDSCAPING STONE / GRAVEL

WEED CONTROL **SCHEDULE TODAY!** FREE ESTIMATES

For as little as ..

260-223-5884

As a resident of the Wells County community for decades, Attorney, Gerret J. Swearingen, has devoted his legal practice to assisting clients in preserving the family assets from the high cost of Nursing Home and In Home Healthcare. As your guide through the "Medicaid Planning"

process, Swearingen Elder Law will provide the right path to both protect your life savings and receive the quality of care we all deserve.

1645 Hillcrest Dr., Suite 2A Ossian, IN 46777

Attorney Gerret J. Swearinge

 Medicaid Planning • In-Home Healthcare Durable Power of Attorney Estate Planning & Deeds • Special Needs Trusts

(260) 888-9256 FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION!

YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEWS-BANNER Every Day! Call

May deadline is

824-0224 or

Plus The Ossian Journal Every Week!

... you can keep your name in the public eye! Increase your business with regular advertising!

622-4108 Tues., Apr. 23!

Recipients of \$500 awards are, front row from left, Rehgyn Brooks (BHS), Johnson Family; Isaiah San Juan (BHS), Memorial of Carrie Jo Crosbie Johns; Christian Castaneda (BHS), Bill Leising Scholarship; Hutchenson Craighead (BHS), Memorial of Carrie Jo Crosbie Johns; Tyler Godwin (BHS), Bill Leising Scholarship; Hudson Werich (BHS), Bluffton Animal Clinic; back row from left, Tristan Worster (SW), Bluffton Rotary; Perrin Gates (SW), Smith's Garage; Gabriel McElhaney (SW), Schwarzkopf Scholarship; Conner Collins (BHS), Dollars for Scholars; Samuel Mechling (BHS), Tyler and Brittany Kitt Scholarship; and Clayton Straub (BHS), Johnson Family. Not pictured is Elija Robles (BHS), Bluffton





DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

Recipients of \$500 awards are, front row from left, Tyrah Shaw (BHS), Indiana Physical Therapy; Cayah King (BHS), Adams Wells Internet/Dollars for Scholars; Cruz Rinkenberger (BHS), Eyecare Associates of Bluffton/Dollars for Scholars; Gissel Martinez (BHS), Peyton's Northern/Kroger; Zoey Schmidt (BHS), Ross and Kara Frank/Dollars for Scholars; Keturah Bradford (BHS), Blake and Fawn Gerber/Dollars for Scholars; and back row from left, Seth Alstoft (SW), Stephanie and Tad Baumgartner/Dollars for Scholars; Hunter Wenger (BHS), Bluffton Dental/Dollars for Scholars; Fletcher Wenger (BHS), Almco Steel Products/Dollars for Scholars; Caleb Gerber (BHS), Peyton's Northern/Kroger; Landon Crist (BHS), Roger Sherer/Dollars for Scholars; Mackinley Baker (BHS), Double D Home Improvements/Dollars for Scholars; Ashton Arnett (BHS), Six Mile Church Mission/Dollars for Scholars; and Hattie Reinhard (BHS), National Oil & Gas.

Recipients of \$500 awards are, front row from left, Haley Gibson (BHS), First Bank of Berne; Lillian Broderick (BHS), Rochester Travel Group's Education Enhancement Scholarship; Gretchen Crist (BHS), Saf-T-Lite; Katelynn Bedwell (BHS), Lincoln Investments; Isabella Rhoderick (BHS), First Bank of Berne; Noah Zoll (BHS), Roembke Manufacturing; back row from left, Evan Pennington (SW), Doug and Janet Lehman Scholarship; Peyton Long (SW), Doug and Janet Lehman Scholarship; Brody Lewis (BHS), Roembke Manufacturing; Jonah Cole (BHS), First Bank of Berne; and Kaden Simpson (BHS), James and Betty Van Winkle Scholarship. Not pictured is Juan Cruz (BHS), Lincoln Investments.



# **Supreme Court seems** skeptical of Trump's claim of immunity

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Thursday appeared likely to reject former President Donald Trump's claim of absolute immunity from prosecution over election interference, but several justices signaled reservations about the charges that could cause a lengthy delay, possibly beyond November's election.

A majority of the justices did not appear to embrace the claim of absolute immunity that would stop special counsel Jack Smith's prosecution of Trump on charges he conspired to overturn his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden. But in arguments lasting more than 2 1/2 hours in the court's first consideration of criminal charges against a former president, several conservative justices indicated they could limit when former presidents might be prosecuted, suggesting that the case might have to be sent back to lower courts before any trial could begin.

The timing of the Supreme Court's decision could be as important as the outcome. Trump, the presumptive 2024 Republican presidential nominee, has been pushing to delay the trial until after the election, and the later the justices issue their decision, the more likely he is to succeed. If Trump regains the presidency, he could order the Justice Department to dismiss the case, or possibly, as two justices suggested, pardon himself if convicted.

Since conservatives on the court gained a supermajority with the confirmation of three Trump appointees, they have cast aside decades-old long precedent on abortion and affirmation action. Now Trump is asking them to rule that one of the fundamental tenets of the American system of government — that no person is above the law — should be rejected as well, at least as it applies to him.

The active questioning of all nine justices left the strong impression that the court was not headed for the sort of speedy, consensus decision that would allow a trial to begin quickly.

Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, two of Trump's three high court appointees, and Alito said their concern was not the case against Trump, but rather the effect of their ruling on future presidencies.

Each time Justice Department lawyer Michael Dreeben sought to focus on Trump's actions, these justices jumped in. "This case has huge implications for the presidency, for the future of the presidency, for the future of the country,' Kavanaugh said. The court is writing a decision "for the ages," Gorsuch said.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett, the other Trump appointee, seemed less open to arguments advanced by Trump lawyer D. John Sauer, searching for a way a trial could take place.

Smith's team is asking for a speedy resolution. The court typically issues its last opinions by the end of June, about four months before the election. U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, who would preside over the trial, said pre-trial issues could take up to three months. The court has moved very quickly in prior cases involv-

ing presidential power, deciding the Watergate tapes case against President Richard Nixon just 16 days after arguments. Earlier this year, it took the justices less than a month to rule unanimously that states couldn't kick Trump

Sauer argued that former presidents are entitled to absolute immunity for their official acts. Otherwise, he said, politically motivated prosecutions of former occupants of the Oval Office would become routine and presidents couldn't function as the commander in chief if they had to worry about criminal charges.

UPERIOR

**PRODUCTS** 



Conditioning

SERVICE 219 E. Perry St. Bluffton 260·824·0228 · www.moserandsonheatingandair.com **SOLU** 

A New High Efficiency Air Conditioning Unit



American Standard

99.98% CLEANER AIR

Clean air starts with better airflow. Ask us about installing AccuClean™, Humidfiers, Dehumidifiers, or UV (Ultra Violet) Lights.



SUMMER SERVICE NEEDS

90 YEARS OF SERVICE to Our Customers