

The News - Banner

www.News-Banner.com

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

Punching back at Parkinson's Disease

By SYDNEY KENT
"Hey guys?" Amy Johnson paused. "That was a hot mess. I don't — I don't know."

Johnson's comment elicited a wave of chuckles from the Rock Steady Boxing class last week. The sound of laughter was quickly replaced by upbeat music and the squeaking of sneakers on the gym floor as participants prepared for another round.

Fifteen seconds passed — and a new intense exercise was introduced. Gloves on, gloves off. On the mat, in front of the bag, and so on.

The method of fast-changing exercises is intended to slow down the progression of Parkinson's Disease — something all participants of the class have been diag-

nosed with. April is Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month.

Johnson, a certified personal trainer and fitness instructor for over 15 years, is the head coach. Johnson has been with the group since the beginning, along with trainers Laurie Baumgartner and Richard Shoenherr. Taylor Mayotte is the newest trainer at the gym.

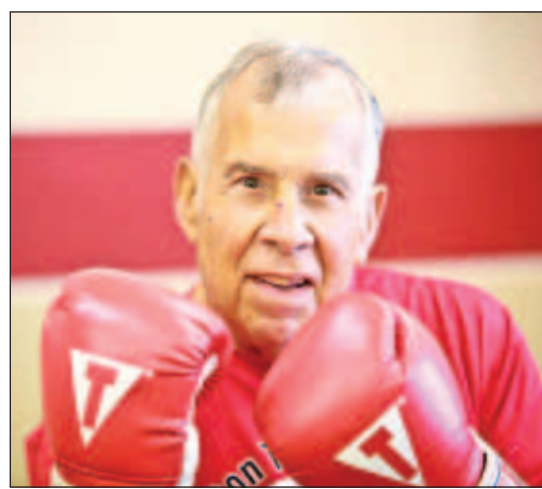
"We change what we do often so that muscle memory doesn't kick in," Baumgartner explained. "Memory games, weights, yardsticks out on cones, practice stepping up and over, medicine balls, you name it. But we always do boxing."

Parkinson's Disease is a neurodegenerative disorder that can result in shuffling, trembling, stiffness, slowed movement, and impaired balance and coordination. The disease typically impacts those over 50, though onset can begin earlier.

People diagnosed with Parkinson's can progressively lose the ability to complete day-to-day tasks or struggle to walk. Certain forms of intense exercise are proven to help.

"The same aspects that boxers

(Continued on Page 2)



Dick Troxel (Photo submitted)



Above, former Bluffton mayor Ted Ellis (right), packs a punch with trainer Laurie Baumgartner (left). At left, Jim (left) and Greg Kitson (right) prepare to put on their gloves. (Photos by Sydney Kent)

K-9 Leo's final call

By HOLLY GASKILL
It was a bittersweet ending early Friday morning as Sgt. A.J. Campbell sat in the back of his patrol car with K9 Leo. After working alongside one another

at the Wells County Sheriff's Department for eight years, Campbell ended their final shift together with a radio call for Leo.

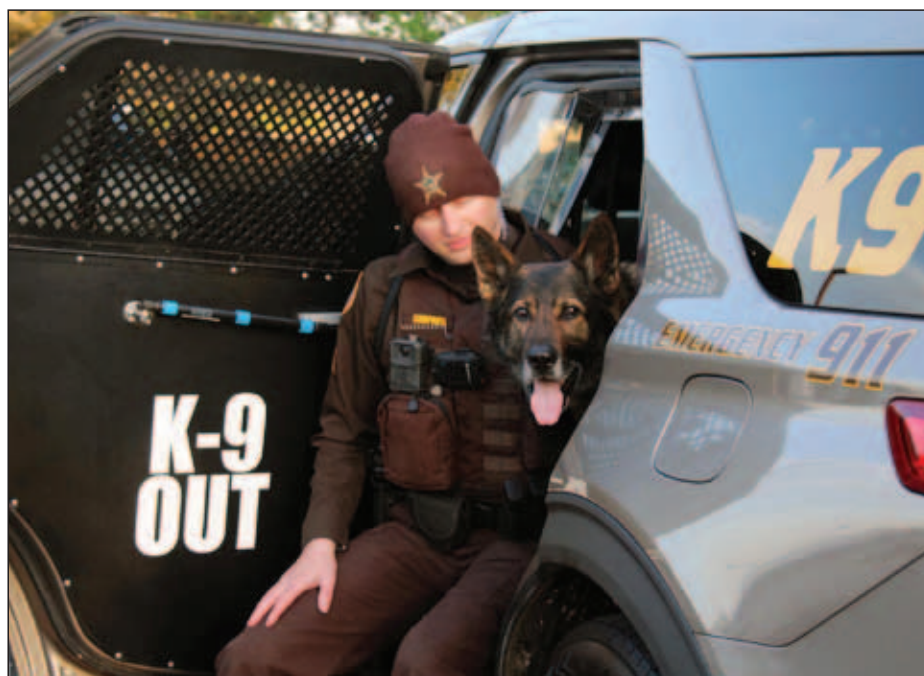
Celebrating his 10th birthday this weekend, Leo will enter retirement and life as a civilian dog with Campbell and his wife, Tessa.

"Here's to living life on the couch and making sure the food in the fridge is good to eat," Campbell said into his radio. "K-9 Leo, 1042."

Dispatch returned the



Following the final call, Leo was gifted a bucket of new tennis balls to enjoy in his retirement, shown above.



Above, K-9 Leo listens to a special police radio announcement recognizing his over eight years of service to the Wells County Sheriff's Department alongside handler Sgt. A.J. Campbell. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

call off with a special announcement highlighting Leo's accomplishments, including completing numerous training hours, being

deployed over 1,000 times, recovering evidence, locating drugs and finding missing people. They also

(Continued on Page 2)

Inflation gauge shows prices stayed elevated

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A measure of inflation closely tracked by the Federal Reserve remained uncomfortably high in March, likely reinforcing the Fed's reluctance to cut interest rates anytime soon and underscoring a burden for President Joe Biden's re-election bid.

Friday's report from the government showed that prices rose 0.3% from February to March, the same as in the previous month. It was the third straight month that the index has run at a pace faster than is consistent with the Fed's 2% inflation target. Measured from a year earlier, prices were up 2.7% in March, up from a 2.5% annual rise in February.

After peaking at 7.1% in 2022, the Fed's favored inflation index steadily cooled for most of 2023. Yet so far this year, the index has remained stuck above the central bank's target rate. More expensive gas and higher prices for restaurant meals, health care and auto repairs and insurance, among other items, have kept the overall pace of price increases elevated.

With new-car prices up sharply

(Continued on Page 2)

U.S. announces new Patriot missiles for Ukraine

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and TARA COPP
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. will provide Ukraine additional Patriot missiles for its air defense systems as part of a massive \$6 billion additional aid package, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced Friday.

The missiles will be used to replenish previously supplied Patriot systems. The package also includes more munitions for the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems, or NASAMS, and additional gear to integrate Western air defense launchers,

missiles and radars into Ukraine's existing weaponry, much of which still dates back to the Soviet era.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy discussed the need for Patriots early Friday with the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, a coalition of about 50 countries gathering virtually in a Pentagon-led meeting. The meeting fell on the second anniversary of the group, which Austin said has "moved heaven and earth" since April 2022 to source millions of rounds of ammunition, rocket systems, armored vehicles and even jets to help Ukraine rebuff Russia's invasion.

Zelenskyy said at least seven Patriot systems are needed to protect Ukrainian cities. "We urgently need Patriot systems and missiles for them," Zelenskyy said. "This is what can and should save lives right now."

At a Pentagon press conference following the meeting, Austin said the U.S. was working with allies to resource additional Patriot systems but did not commit to sending more U.S. versions. He said he has been speaking one-on-one with a number of his European counterparts in recent days to hash out this issue and others.

"It's not just Patriots that they

need, they need other types of systems and interceptors as well," Austin said. "I would caution us all in terms of making Patriot the silver bullet."

Austin said he is asking allied nations to "accept a little bit more risk" as they consider what weapons to send to Ukraine. A number of nations have expressed some reluctance to send Patriot air defense systems to Ukraine because most don't have very many and they believe they need them for their own defense.

U.S. officials said the aid package will be funded through the

(Continued on Page 10)

Inside

Local/Area

- Destination Rec 3
- Police Notebook . . . 3

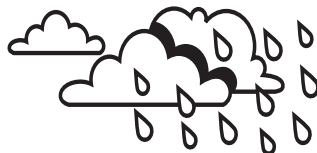
Opinion

- Saturday Sub 4

Also...

- Sports 6-7
- Classifieds 9
- Diversions 8

Outside



A rainy weekend forges ahead

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 78	High 82	High 75
Low 63	Low 64	Low 59

More Weather on Page 2

Online

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

Place Your Classified Ads 24/7

Vol. 95 No. 151

SATURDAY
April 27, 2024

Check Out Our Daily Directory of Advertising You Can be Here EVERY DAY!

Call 824-0224 for Special Monthly Pricing!



The News-Banner
Bluffton, Indiana
125 N. Johnson St. • 260-824-0224 • www.news-banner.com



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



Punching back

(Continued from Page 1)

train for are the aspects that Parkinson's Disease patients struggle with," Baumgartner explained. "We apply that curriculum in a non-contact way."

The Indianapolis-based program was started in 2006 by former Marion County prosecutor and Parkinson's patient, Scott C. Newman. There are now chapters all over the world. Baumgartner said the seed for the Bluffton group was planted in 2015 when Dick and Pattie Troxel approached the Bluffton Parks Department with the idea.

It quickly began to take root as support from the community grew. The funds allowed for the purchase of equipment, as well as the training for those who lead the class. The boxers began to meet at the CrossFit gym with the help of Jake Higgins. After about six months, however, Baumgartner said they outgrew the space.

A new location on Main Street then provided enough room for nearly five years — until they outgrew the space again. In January 2020, the group found a permanent home at the new Dick Troxel Boxing Gym, located at the Washington Park Pavilion in Bluffton.

"The gym is named in his honor," Baumgartner said proudly. "We keep his picture on the wall. He is very missed. Patti still volunteers every week."

Dick Troxel battled the disease for 20 years. He died in May 2018.

"Parkinson's is still a progressive disease, and that can be tough," Baumgartner said. "We can slow it down but we can't stop it. However, research has proven that it is easier to slow it down than to get it back. The sooner they come, the better off they are."



Pictured from left to right are Amy Johnson, Richard Shoenherr, Taylor Mayotte and Laurie Baumgartner laughing after a fun class. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

The physical benefits of the program have become more obvious over time. Baumgartner said people have reported excellent feedback from their neurologists after beginning the class. The intangible aspects are more difficult to measure, however, and something Baumgartner said the group did not expect.

"It has become an exercise class and a support group and a friend group," Baumgartner laughed. "That's the part we didn't count on. We didn't realize the emotional and social impact we can have. It is a reason to get up in the morning."

Greg Kitson, a participant in last week's class, wholeheartedly agreed with this sentiment.

"This group is as much about family as it is about exercise," Kitson said. "We may not know each other's last names, and we may forget each other's first names. But — we are family."

Jack Shoaf, who said he has been attending the group

since 2015, said the fellowship is a great aspect. He encourages those with Parkinson's Disease to give the class a try.

"It's also a good workout," Shoaf said. "It mentally gives me an idea of how far I can push myself. No one is going to make fun of you if you can't do it. We will work on it together."

Baumgartner emphasized that the group is specifically for those with Parkinson's Disease and that all levels of ability can benefit from the exercises. She also noted that most people who participate are stronger and in better shape than those their age — they simply happen to have Parkinson's.

She also said that very few people choose not to come back to the class. The cost for participants is \$5, and assistance is available for those who may need it. The one-hour class takes place at 10:30 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The gym is located at 710 South Mulberry St. in Bluffton.

Anyone who would like to learn more information about donations, volunteering, or attending may call Rock Steady Boxing at 260-824-6069.

"Most people tell us at first that they're tired," Baumgartner concluded. "Then they say that class days become their best days. When someone comes in and says that they can't do this — someone else tells them they can. We are here for each other, and we are loud and fun. This is a family."

The words Baumgartner chose to describe the group fit perfectly as the class came to a close. Participants gathered around to say goodbye. One member told a friend to make sure they make it to the doctor's on time, adding a "don't worry, it will be fine." Another member quipped a witty joke to the crowd about the program's choice of music.

The class ultimately ended the same way that it began with laughter among friends.

sydney@news-banner.com

Weather

Saturday, April 27, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:18 p.m. Friday)

High: 68; Low: 36; Precipitation: 0.15 inches of rain

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.71 feet at 8:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 78. Breezy, with a southwest wind 20 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Tonight: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms before 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 82. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday Night: A 20% chance of showers after 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Monday: A chance of showers before 11 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 75. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

K-9 Leo

(Continued from Page 1)

emphasized Leo's impact in connecting law enforcement with the general public through community demonstrations and many "Tongue Out Tuesday" pictures on the WCSD Facebook page. For four years in a row, Leo has been voted "Best Police Officer" in The News-Banner's annual Readers' Choice Awards.

"Thank you, K-9 Leo, for your services to Wells County, protecting your fellow officers and making sure your partner, Sgt. A.J. Campbell, made it home safely every night," dispatch returned. "You have touched the hearts of your coworkers and the citizens of Wells County ... Enjoy retirement with family, and get your well-deserved rest — you've earned it. Congratulations, and happy 10th birthday, K-9 Leo. Your presence will be greatly missed. K-9 Leo's final 1042 at 07:07."

In lieu of confetti, Leo was showered with brand-new tennis balls following the final call. An assortment of local officers, jail staff

and dispatchers attended a surprise party for Leo, where he enjoyed his own special cake alongside everybody else.

While the Campbells and Leo have bonded over the years, there are some boundaries in caring for a working dog. For example, Leo has stayed in a kennel separate from the Campbells' home and in boarding when the couple travels. A.J. said he's taken the next week off from work to help Leo transition from working and enjoy some rest. Tessa said she's excited for new opportunities to spoil Leo.

"I've trained him since the beginning, we've been together all the time," A.J. Campbell said. "He protected me one time when a guy fought me. We've been through a lot of stuff together — that's what makes this special."

The WCSD still has one working K-9 on duty, Letty, who began on the force earlier this year with Deputy Alex Monce.

holly@news-banner.com

U.S. inflation gauge

(Continued from Page 1)

In the past few years, auto repair and replacement costs have risen especially fast. Auto insurance, a major driver of inflation in recent months, was up 8% in March from a year earlier.

Gas prices jumped again last month, the government said — up 1.6% just from February to March. So far in April, gas prices are up still further, to a national average of \$3.66 a gallon, from \$3.53 a month ago.

Grocery prices, though, were unchanged last month and are up only 1.5% from a year earlier.

"This isn't going to sit overly well with the Fed," said Ryan Sweet, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics. "I think it's clear that they're going to keep rates higher for longer."

Like many economists, Sweet envisions no rate cuts before September.

Friday's inflation data showed that excluding volatile food and energy costs, "core" prices rose by an elevated 0.3% from February to March, unchanged from the previous month. Compared with a year earlier, core prices rose 2.8% for a second straight month. The Fed closely tracks core

prices, which tend to provide a particularly good read of where inflation is headed.

The chronically elevated measures of inflation have become a source of frustration for the Fed, whose policymakers had projected as recently as last month that they expected to cut their benchmark rate three times this year. Most economists expected the cuts to begin in June. More recently, though, several Fed officials, including Chair Jerome Powell, have signaled that they have no immediate plans to cut their key rate, a move that would eventually lead to lower rates for mortgages, auto loans, credit cards and many business loans.

"Recent data have clearly not given us greater confidence" that inflation is coming fully under control, Powell said last week, and "instead indicate that it's likely to take longer than expected to achieve that confidence."

"If higher inflation does persist," he added, "we can maintain the current level of (interest rates) for as long as needed."

Many economists say they think the Fed may end up cutting its key rate only once or twice this year, perhaps

beginning in September. Others say they think the central bank may not cut its benchmark rate at all in 2024.

One reason why inflation has remained persistently elevated is that many Americans are still willing to spend even at higher prices. In March, consumer spending jumped 0.8% for a second straight month, well above the rate of inflation. The spending figure underscored that even while the U.S. economy slowed in the first three months of 2024, consumer demand remained healthy, suggesting that economic growth remains on track.

Sweet said Friday's figures suggest strong consumer spending is a key reason inflation has stayed stubbornly high in the first three months of this year.

Despite the continuing inflation pressures, robust gains in jobs and average wages have allowed many American consumers to continue spending at a healthy clip, supporting a still-durable economy. That helps explain why Fed officials have said they can afford to keep borrowing rates where they are for now. The economy did slow in the first three months of the year, the government reported Thursday,

but consumers continued to fuel growth with their steady spending.



CHOICE HOTELS 2024 GOLD AWARD WINNER!

The Comfort Inn Hotel in Bluffton, Indiana Wins Prestigious 2024 Gold Award from Choice Hotels

Las Vegas, NV May, 1, 2024 – The Comfort Inn hotel of Bluffton, Indiana has been recognized with a prestigious 2023 Gold Award by Choice Hotels International, Inc. (NYSE: CHH), one of the world's leading lodging franchisors.

The Gold Award designation is awarded to the top 10% of hotels within the brand, representing a tremendous accomplishment. As one of the top tier properties operating under the Comfort Inn flag, the hotel has demonstrated an exceptional focus on guest satisfaction and dedication to superior service. Award criteria are evaluated by Choice Hotels through its official property ranking reports.

Justin Osborn GM

The Comfort Inn hotel participates in Choice Privileges, the award-winning rewards program where members earn points on eligible charges during their stay, which can be redeemed for reward nights at nearly 7,500 hotels across 22 brands located in 47 countries and territories worldwide. With the Choice Privileges Mastercard and Choice Privileges Select Mastercard, members can earn more points faster, including on everyday purchases.

Choice Hotels, with a franchise-first focus and an industry-leading retention rate, has been committed to providing its hotel owners with the support they need to succeed since it launched the country's first hotel chain in 1941. Today, Choice offers franchisees a suite of cutting-edge cloud-based solutions, including the choiceEDGE guest reservation platform and the choiceADVANTAGE property management system to help franchisees effectively manage room rates, distribution channels, and inventory. Additionally, Choice University, the most widely awarded learning program in the hospitality industry, delivers customized and always evolving learning and development resources. From pre-opening to grand opening and every day forward, Choice provides hotel owners with best-in-class resources to help them maximize the return on their investment.

For more information or to make a reservation at this award-winning hotel, visit www.choicehotels.com/in388.

About Choice Hotels®

Choice Hotels International, Inc. (NYSE: CHH) is one of the largest lodging franchisors in the world. The challenger in upscale and a leader in midscale and extended stay, Choice® has over 7,500 hotels, representing more than 630,000 rooms, in 46 countries and territories. A diverse portfolio of 22 brands that range from full-service upper upscale properties to midscale, extended stay and economy enables Choice® to meet traveler's needs in more places and for more occasions while driving more value for franchise owners and shareholders. The award-winning Choice Privileges® rewards program and co-brand credit card options provide members with a fast and easy way to earn reward nights and personalized perks. For more information, visit www.choicehotels.com.

© 2024 Choice Hotels International, Inc. All rights reserved.

PLANT AHEAD NOW OPEN

Check Out Our Selection We carry Proven Winner the #1 Plant Brand

- Hanging Baskets
- Bedding Plants
- Vegetable Plants
- Perennials
- Flower Shrubs
- Ferns
- Now Offering Fruit Trees



G.M. Plants GREENHOUSE

2575 W 250 S • Berne, IN | 8-5 Monday-Saturday • Closed Sunday

BLUFFTON	S.R. 124
	C.R. 100.S.
	C.R. 200.S.
G.M. Plants & Products	C.R. 250 S.
	C.R. 300.S.

FLOWERS ARE OUR SPECIALTY!

Local Roundup

County Commissioners will hold special session

The Wells County Commissioners will hold a special session at 8 a.m. Monday, April 30, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Consideration of an insurance policy renewal with WalkerHughes representatives Dan Lipp and Danica Dunwiddie.
 - Right-of-way and utility agreements.

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

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

- Items on the agenda include:
- Updates on the sidewalk program.

Area Plan Commission will meet Thursday evening

The Wells County Area Plan Commission will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 2, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Consideration of amending the TIF resolution for the Adams Street West Economic Development area to allow the purchase of certain property.
 - Junk issues at 5926 Main St. in Uniondale, 7666S 200E in Bluffton, 10017S 200W in Keystone and 6010 S S.R. 1 in Bluffton.
 - Updates regarding progress on the Wells County Vision 2035 plan and revitalization/trail updates.

- Personnel and financial matters.
- Interurban Trail services.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

- City:**
- Thursday, 2:20 p.m., residence on the 1400 block Hi Lo Drive. Caller reported boxes of kerosine and propane tanks left by their garage. Unable to locate.
- Thursday, 2:22 p.m., 1400 block of Hi Lo Drive. Wrecked vehicle left on the street for over a week.
- Thursday, 2:23 p.m., residence on the 500 block of South Main Street. Dead tree in yard.
- Thursday, 2:24 p.m., 500 block of South Marion Street. Weed violation.
- Thursday, 5:33 p.m., residence on the 900 block of West South Street. Report of missing juvenile. Located several blocks away and transported home.
- Thursday, 6:23 p.m., Kroger. Panhandler in parking lot. Unable to locate.
- Thursday, 7:58 p.m., residence on the 500 block of West Market Street. Marijuana found at residence.
- Friday, 12:51 a.m., Scott and Arnold streets. Driver cited for speeding.
- Friday, 6:39 a.m., Pretzels, Inc. Flock camera alert for a wanted subject. Driver was intoxicated and taken into custody.
- Friday, 8:41 a.m., Main and Monroe streets. Two-vehicle accident. Report to follow.
- Friday, 8:43 a.m., Bluffton Police Department. Caller reported an animal bite that occurred in Bluffton.
- Friday, 8:52 a.m., Bluffton High School. Student cited for vape.
- Friday, 9:46 a.m., 200 block of East Washington
- Street. Report of man dancing in the street.
- Friday, 11:22 a.m., residence on the 700 block of South Marian Street. Property damage reported.
- Friday, 11:23 a.m., 500 block of West Central Avenue. Weed violation.
- Friday, 12:09 p.m., Main Street and S.R. 124. Vehicle ran out gas in roadway, towed to the nearest gas station.
- Friday, 12:20 p.m., Super-Pufft. Caller reported a firearm was stolen out of his vehicle.
- Friday, 12:23 p.m., Premier Flats. Found wallet. Collected by owner.
- County:**
- Thursday, 1:34 p.m., W 900S and S 1100W, Marion. Caller wanted to report semi traffic through the area and causing damage to the road. The routes are marked as no truck routes, but were being rerouted due to an accident on I-60. Caller said he had physically stopped several trucks and was advised not to and that if any drivers felt threatened it was within their right to defend themselves. The road did not appear to be severely damaged.
- Thursday, 4:20 p.m., residence on the 2000 block of South Main Street, Liberty Center. An individual reported that their neighbor's dog bit their dog. The neighbor called and said the individual was threatening to shoot the neighbor's dog. All dogs were put away at the time.
- Thursday, 8:58 p.m., residence on North Main Street, Uniondale. Report of possible trespassing. Resident said the family has had ongoing issues with an individual harassing them.
- Friday, 5:42 a.m., W 1000S and SE Jeff Road, Warren. Car vs. deer.
- Friday, 8:10 a.m., E 100N and N 100E, Bluffton. License plate returned to a suspended driver. The driver was under the impression their license was re-eligible, but police records showed a different eligibility date. Rooakptah Gaines-El, 25, Fort Wayne, was arrested for driving with a suspended license with a prior conviction, a Class A misdemeanor.
- Ossian:**
- Friday, 11:20 a.m., N S.R. 1 and E 1200N, Ossian. Arrest warrant served on Nathan T. Nusbaumer. Nusbaumer picked up at the county line from Allen County.

ACCIDENTS

County:

Friday, 5:42 a.m., 1000S, Jackson Township. Trenton Gillespie, 38, hit a deer in his 2004 Chevrolet Silverado pick-up truck. Damage did not exceed \$5,000.

FIRES

Friday, 3:55 a.m., McDonalds. Potential carbon dioxide leak, hissing sound. Requested the Bluffton Fire Department to shut the line off.

ARRESTS

Diamond Grace Bailey, 18, Hartford City; perjury, a Level 6 felony, and false reporting, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$5,000. Bonded.

Gabriel Sergeil Tijerina, 21, Fort Wayne; intimidation, a Level 6 felony, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$5,500.

Bluffton Parks & Rec News Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

Today is the Wells Community Pool summer swim lesson sign-up day. Classes are offered for ages 2 and up. Stop by the City Hall (128 E Market) foyer between 9 and 11 a.m. If you cannot stop by, please call the park office starting Monday at 824-6069 to take any remaining openings.

Next week, we're thrilled to bring your young ones the free **Animal Tracks Matching Game**. This unique educational scavenger hunt, running from May 1 to 31, will have them searching for pictures of animals and then matching them to their tracks. Keep a record of which park you found each animal and its tracks in. Here's the twist: the animal will be in a different location than its tracks, and some parks may have up to two pictures hidden. Once they have been successfully located and matched to all the animals, submit your form by May 31 to the Bluffton Parks Department office on the 2nd floor of the City Hall Building (128 E. Market) for a chance to win a prize. You can download the Animal Tracks Matching Game form at <https://tinyurl.com/ms3kx8yy> or pick up a form from the Parks Department office. Happy hunting!

Help us raise funds for the K9 Kommons Dog Park and enjoy a fun-filled morning at our **Hot Diggity Dog Jog** on Saturday, June 22, at 9 a.m. This canine-friendly (but no dog required) 5K and 1-mile fun run is a great way to stay active and support our community. Stick around after the run for exciting activities, including a dog wash, foam machine, photo booth and more. You can pre-register at <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/88158/hot-diggity-dog-jog>.

Don't miss your chance to sign your child up for the next **Nerf Wars**, which will be held at the Bluffton City Gym on Thursday, May 9. The event will be from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. and is open to children ages 5 to 16. You must pre-register for this event by emailing events@blufftonindiana.gov or calling 824-6069.

The cost is \$1 per child due the day of the event (exact change is preferred). Bring your own Nerf weapons; we've got the ammo covered.

- A few reminders:
- Bring a Nerf gun that uses the regular bullets/darts — Not the larger Mega bullets.
 - Make sure your gun has your name on it.
 - You must bring your safety glasses with you.
 - If you bring a gun that takes batteries, please bring extra
 - Parents and spectators can wait in the bleachers of the gym.

We had a great turnout for the winter walking challenge, so we are going to continue with a **Summer Miles Challenge**. Stay motivated by selecting to either run or walk 100 miles or bike 250 or 500 miles. The challenge will run from June 1 to Aug. 31. We will have separate Strava groups for walk/run and bike participants. You can also use our mileage log to track your miles manually. Everyone gets a cool shirt, and Medals will be awarded to everyone who finishes their challenge.

What counts??? Miles that you INTENTIONALLY walk, run, or bike from point A to point B to cover a distance. The idea is to move more than your normal steps around the house or work.

Sign up now at <https://tinyurl.com/5xbp2d6h>.

Our friends at the Wells County Council on Aging invite you to join them at the **Senior Citizens Expo** on Thursday, May 4, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the 4-H park. They will offer FREE admission, parking, giveaways and breakfast and lunch. They will also have LIPID panel blood work, reduced-cost basic cat and dog vaccinations, accept unwanted medications, various presentations, and more. See their flier at <https://tinyurl.com/2efkh6ua>.

Have a great week!

Democrat Jennifer McCormick gets teacher union endorsement in race for Indiana governor

By CASEY SMITH Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana's largest teachers union gave its official support to Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jennifer McCormick on Wednesday, citing her "common sense and bipartisanship" approach to state politics and education policy.

Speaking on the south steps of the Statehouse Wednesday morning, Indiana State Teachers Association President Keith Gambill announced its political action committee, I-PACE, has endorsed McCormick, a former teacher and principal who served as Indiana's final elected superintendent of public instruction from 2017 to 2021.

She's the only gubernatorial candidate on the Democratic primary ballot and has already effectively secured her place on the ballot.

There are six candidates vying for the Republican nomination. The victor will face McCormick and Libertarian nominee Donald Rainwater — who was chosen in a party convention — in the general election.

"Today, as we face con-

tinuous challenges that threaten the fabric of public education, we need a leader like Dr. McCormick, someone who understands these issues deeply — not just from the perspective of policy — but through the lens of personal experience as a teacher, and a princi-

pal and an administrator," Gambill said. "I call upon all supporters of public education, all who believe in a brighter future for Indiana, to stand with us. Stand with a leader who has proven she can uplift our educational standards and advocate tirelessly for our needs."

President of Indiana Hospital Association Brian Tabor to step down

By WHITNEY DOWNARD Indiana Capital Chronicle

After 16 years with the state's powerful hospital lobbying group, Indiana Hospital Association President Brian Tabor will step down once the organization selects a new president.

"It has been an honor to serve IHA, as the commitment of Hoosier hospitals to delivering the best care to every single patient is unsurpassed anywhere in the nation," Tabor said in a release.

The IHA board will start a search committee to find its next leader, who will represent the interests of over 170 Indiana hospitals in the Indiana Statehouse and beyond. "Our industry couldn't have asked for a

better leader to guide us through these years of monumental health care reform, and we can't thank Brian enough for his passion and dedicated service to our member hospitals and the patients we serve," said Steve Holman, Chair of the IHA Board of Directors and President and CEO of Union Health. "I am confident that our Board will find the right person to keep IHA on a successful path for the future."

Prior to becoming president in 2016, Tabor was the association's chief advocate for hospitals and their patients. He joined the hospital group in 2008 after holding various policy roles in the Indiana General Assembly and the Indiana Association of REALTORS.



MATTHEW 13:1-8, 18-23 SATURDAY | APRIL 27
 [They hear] the word, but the worries of this life... choke the word. [MATTHEW 13:22]

PULL THE WEEDS OF WORRY

After burying a few seeds in a planter in my backyard, I waited to see the results. Reading that the seeds would sprout within ten to fourteen days, I checked often as I watered the soil. Soon I saw a few green leaves pushing their way out of the soil. My bubble burst quickly when my husband told me those were weeds. He encouraged me to pull them quickly so that they wouldn't choke the plants I was trying to grow.

Jesus also told of the importance of dealing with intruders that can impede our spiritual growth. He explained a portion of His parable this way: when a sower cast his seeds, some "fell among thorns... and choked the plants" (MATTHEW 13:7). Thorns, or weeds, will do just that to plants—stop their growth (v. 22). And worry will surely stunt our spiritual growth. Reading Scripture and praying are great ways to grow our faith, but I've found I need to watch out for the thorns of worry. They'll "choke" the good word that has been planted in me, making me focus on what could go wrong.

The fruit of the Spirit, found in Scripture, includes such things as love, joy, peace (GALATIANS 5:22). But in order for us to bear that fruit, in God's strength we need to pull any weeds of doubt or worry that may distract us and cause us to focus on anything other than Him.

KATARIA PATTON

How is God helping you grow the seeds He's planted within you?
 How can you pull the weeds of worry?

Dear Heavenly Father, please remind me to pull weeds often, discarding worry and deceitful thoughts so I may grow and bear fruit in You.

Kataria Patton, Our Daily Bread®, Copyright © 2024 by Our Daily Bread Ministries, Grand Rapids, MI. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. www.odb.org/ For further distribution, please contact -permissionsdept@odb.org

From our family to you...

The Reimschisel family at Family Ford of Bluffton hope that you will take a few moments at least once each week to spend some time with what really matters during these "interesting times."

This short essay is from

Our Daily Bread®

— a free publication we would love to share with you. Stop in anytime. There is no cost or obligation.

 Family Ford of Bluffton
 970 N. Main St., Bluffton 824-2300



SONLIGHT CHURCH

Spring Market

Indoor Craft & Vendor Fair
 2350 S ST RD 1 in Bluffton, IN.
 May 4, 2024 from 9 am to 3 pm
 Sonlight Kids Fundraiser

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



Jerry Flack & Associates

WE REPRESENT MANY - MANY - MANY INSURANCE COMPANIES

WE HAVE ALL THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID OPTIONS AVAILABLE

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

Sometimes the news can be good for a chuckle

The plan had been to take a week off from filling this Saturday morning space. While there always seem to be possibilities rattling around the attic, no particular topic or thoughts seemed all that urgent this past week.

But then, Friday afternoon while putting this Saturday page together, an “AP Breaking News” alert arrived in my inbox with a “ding.” AP, as you most likely know, is short for the Associated Press, which supplies the N-B with state and national news. These are not meant to be a top-news-of-the-day notification, but are only used when AP editors feel they need to alert their members of an important, breaking news story.

For example, when Iran launched a barrage of missiles and drones against Israel, and when Israel retaliated. When a rare East Coast earthquake shook New York City earlier this month and when the bridge collapsed in Baltimore, the inboxes of editors and newspapers dinged across the country. Occasionally you question whether a ding is newsworthy, but that’s how I learned that O.J. Simpson had died a couple weeks ago while puttering around on the computer at the office.

But there are other times when you really question AP’s news judgement.

Friday, April 26, 1:15 p.m.: “Alert: Buckingham Palace says King Charles III will resume his public duties next week following treatment for cancer.”

I think I did an “LOL.” I think. I’ve never been totally sure if that means “laugh out loud” or “lots of luck.” But I digress.

I’ve never understood this fascination we have in America about the British royal family. While what they do and think and say and when they have a bowel movement might mean something to the Brits, why should we care?

Now, I have to pause and admit that I have watched the entirety — or perhaps “totality” is a better word in this year of the eclipse — of “The Crown” series on Netflix. I found it intriguing to see how these people can lead meaningless, ceremonial, yet luxurious lives completely in the public eye. What is depicted may be fictionalized to some extent, but it is clear that it is not easy. How they cope with their fate — those born into it have little if any choice — is quite interesting. Found myself actually feeling sorry for them.

So, by the time you are reading this, I presume that this news flash has reached you. It may actually displace Donald Trump from being the lead story on the major networks for a few minutes.

So maybe I shouldn’t be laughing. Maybe I should be grateful. And I guess that might be why the King’s return to official duties is such big news — it’s a diversion from our otherwise worrisome world.

miller@news-banner.com



Mark Miller

Saturday’s Sub



Nothing good comes from Columbia University radicalism

Columbia University is once again the center of the radical universe.

More than 50 years after anti-Vietnam War demonstrators roiled the Columbia campus in 1968, anti-Israel agitators are disrupting the school’s operations, and inspiring similar actions at other universities around the country.

In their open support for a terror group, today’s demonstrators are more virulent than their 1960s forebears, but they are still the ideological heirs of the New Left — grandchildren in spirit of the first Morningside Heights revolutionaries.

It’s Columbia 1968 — the antisemitic version. The protests back then were, to be sure, a larger and more violent event. Demonstrators seized buildings and briefly took a dean hostage. The campus shut down. When the police came to re-take the occupied buildings in the early-morning hours of April 30, 1968, they arrested more than 700 people and roughed some of them up.

The situation at Columbia today, noxious though it is, would have to get much worse to match 1968’s mayhem. The protestors have set up an encampment rather than seizing buildings. When police moved in last week to briefly break up the illegal gathering, they arrested about a hundred people. Although the protest has generated national attention (and a well-deserved condemnation from the White House), it’s not the cause celebre of 1968, when famous journalists and poets joined the demonstrators in their barricaded buildings.

Yet, the director of the college’s Jewish Learning Initiative has urged Jewish students to stay home for fear for their safety, and classes have gone remote.

The argot of both sets of demonstrators is largely the same. In 1968, the protestors inveighed against the “complicity” of the University in the Vietnam War and its “institutional racism” for wanting to expand a gym in the neighborhood. Decades later, those are still the popular catchphrases.

Israel is to today’s radicals what the Pentagon was to 1968’s. Just as the protestors back then demanded that the university cut ties with a Department of Defense outfit doing research for the Vietnam War, today’s radi-

cals want the university to divest from Israel. The essential argument is the same — that Columbia bears moral responsibility for crimes against humanity committed in an imperialist war.

Yesteryear’s agitators might have been surprised to learn that student demonstrators acting in the tradition of 1968 have been discomfiting and harassing Jews and expressing support for a horrific terrorist assault. Here too, though, there are connections to 1968, at least its more extreme elements.

The famed Columbia protest leader Mark Rudd went on to become part of the violent Weather Underground. The group’s manifesto is a bilious attack on America’s influence in the world.

It contends that “the main struggle going on in the world today is between U.S. imperialism and the national liberation struggles against it.” The fact is, according to the manifesto, that “every other empire and petty dictator is in the long run dependent on U.S. imperialism, which has unified, allied with, and defended all of the reactionary forces of the whole world.” That’s why “we determine who are our friends and who are our enemies according to whether they help U.S. imperialism or fight to defeat it.”

The same logic animates today’s radicals. Hamas is their equivalent of Che Guevara or the Viet Cong, and Israel an expression of Western imperialism that must be opposed at all costs. (The Weather Underground statement does briefly mention “Israeli imperialism.”)

A key difference between 1968 and today is that protestors then were revolting against an institution dominated by traditional liberals, whereas the radicals have steadily taken over the universities since. Today’s protestors are only crudely expressing the attitudes and tropes that they hear in many of their classrooms. A large contingent of Columbia faculty walked out to protest the arrests of the agitators.

Columbia 1968 is widely seen as a hugely influential event in the direction of academia. It will be a calamity if Columbia 2024 is eventually viewed the same way.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry



Rich Lowry

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.”

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, April 27, the 118th day of 2024. There are 248 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History: On April 27, 1521, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan was killed by natives in the Philippines.

On this date:

In 1810, Ludwig van Beethoven wrote one of his most famous piano compositions, the Bagatelle in A-minor.

In 1813, the Battle of York took place in Upper Canada during the War of 1812 as a U.S. force defeated the British garrison in present-day Toronto before withdrawing.

In 1865, the steamer Sultana, carrying freed Union prisoners of war, exploded on the Mississippi River near Memphis, Tennessee; death toll estimates vary from 1,500 to 2,000.

In 1973, acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray resigned after it was revealed that he’d destroyed files removed from the safe of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt.

In 1978, 51 construction workers plunged to their deaths when a scaffold inside a cooling tower at the Pleasants Power Station site in West Virginia fell 168 feet to the ground.

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.

The leakage of universities’ prestige amid protests is most welcome

Do not emulate the Chicago politician who said he would not “cast asparagus” at opponents. Do cast aspersions at “elite” (just a synonym for “expensive”) institutions of what is still called, despite an ocean of contrary evidence, higher (than what?) education.

Parents paying \$89,000 for a child’s year at Columbia University might be nonplussed about the university’s explanation of its recourse to remote learning: “Safety is our highest priority.” Clearly education is not.

Otherwise, the university, instead of flinching from firm measures to make the campus conducive to learning, would have expelled all students participating in the antisemitic encampment that panicked Columbia into prioritizing “safety.” Imagine how stern the institutional responses would be, nationwide, if the antisemitic and anti-American disruptors of education were violating really important norms by, say, using inappropriate pronouns.

Given academia’s nearly monochrome culture, most universities have many infantile adults. These are faculty members who have glided from kindergarten through postdoctoral fellowships (these often support surplus PhDs, who are being manufactured faster than the academic job market can absorb them). To such professors, the 99.9 percent of the world adjacent to campuses is as foreign as Mongolia.

Still, suppose you want to hire a recent college graduate for your business. Suppose one of your applicants attended Harvard while it was becoming an incubator of antisemitic educations. And suppose the other applicant attended a large public university. The public-university graduate is at least marginally less apt to be enthusiastic about Hamas, which aspires to complete the Holocaust.



George Will

Or suppose you seek a young doctor to join your medical practice. You might reasonably hesitate before hiring someone from UCLA’s medical school. There a recent pro-Hamas guest lecturer in a mandatory course on “Structural Racism and Health Equity” led students in a “Free Palestine” chant, directed them to get on their knees and touch the floor in a “prayer” to “mama earth,” and warned the future doctors against the “crapalistic lie” of “private property.”

The leakage of prestige from politicized universities is overdue and wholesome. Those schools that once were preeminent and now are punchlines might soon have a bruising rendezvous with real politics, which, unlike the sandbox radicalism of cam-



pus playgrounds, can be serious.

Government policies have encouraged the growth of universities’ endowments, and funded their research, because institutions of higher education have hitherto been considered valuable contributors to the nation’s welfare. These policies can be changed if policymakers reassess the merits of an education sector that is hospitable to vicious extremism and adversarial toward U.S. national values. Wealthy private universities, echoing progressive clamors for more aggressive taxing of the rich, should not be surprised or scandalized if government heeds the clamors by turning its covetous gaze

toward their endowments.

Frederick Hess of the American Enterprise Institute has an explanation of the self-satisfied adolescents engaged in histrionic campus politics: Their clenched fists indicate that they have too much time on their hands. Hess notes that a recent survey of four-year college students found that 64 percent claim to put “a lot of effort” into school work. But fewer than a third of these toilers in the academic salt mines say they devote even two hours a day to studying.

In 1961, full-time students studied an average of about 40 hours per week; by 2003, the figure was 27 hours. It is likely fewer two decades later. Time-use data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that, from 2003 to 2014, full-time college students devoted an average of 2.8 hours a day to classroom instruction, homework and other educational activities.

Unsurprisingly, the decline of studiousness has coincided with rampant grade inflation. At Yale in the 2022-2023 academic year, only prodigies of underachievement managed to miss the bounty: Almost 80 percent of grades were A’s or A-minuses.

The decline in students’ academic efforts has also coincided with the rise of their performative politics. “Activism” — an interestingly contentless category — can fill the vacuums in the lives of bored students who are unchallenged by unexacting academic standards, and who have been indoctrinated by teachers to think highly of themselves as political moralists.

Back at Columbia (which, when it was King’s College, gave the nation Alexander Hamilton), a revolutionary evicted from university housing is suffering for his idealism. The 27-year-old student in the School of Social Work says he now must find off-campus housing that will accommodate his emotional support rabbit.

georgewill@washpost.com



At left, Bluffton's track and field team hold the boys' trophy after winning the South Adams Invitational. At right, the Norwell girls do the same with their trophy for winning the invite. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

Tiger boys, Knight girls take home South Adams Invite

By RYAN WALKER
Bluffton's boys and Norwell's girls dominated the 2024 South Adams Invitational Friday night.

It was a chilly, rainy evening at Bluffton High School, but it didn't slow down either school to their respective wins in the long-running history of the invite. This year, hosted by Bluffton due to South Adams redoing its track.

The Knight girls won the event two years in a row, even after losing key pieces to graduation. They won it with a team score of 129, 30 points ahead of second-place South Adams.

Head coach Deidre Stoppenhagen was thrilled after the meet to be able to take home the hardware again, shouting out the youth on her team stepping into bigger roles this season.

"It feels good, because we did back-to-back winning last year and we won this year," Stoppenhagen said. "We lost some key players, but all of these girls stepped up and filled all of those roles perfectly."

Of the primary standouts, it was the Dale sisters, Jada and Abigail, who combined for either first or second place in six of the events Friday night.

Haley Williamson, who finished first or second in four total events, also received high praise from her coach.

For the Tigers, it was their first win in this invitational since 2017. Last season, head coach Brent Kunkel's squad finished in third with a team score of 64. This season was much different, winning it by 69 points over second place Norwell with 155.

"This is a big deal meet for us," Kunkel said. "(The) South Adams Invite has gone back 40-50 years. It's our first time winning it since 2017. I feel great about our performance tonight. Obviously, anytime you win a big invite by as many points as we did, it kind of speaks to a whole team effort."

The highlight of the night in both the boys and the girls was senior Tyler Godwin, who scored a whopping 32.5 of his team's points as an individual.

In four events, he won the 800m, the 1600m and the 3200m, and helped the 4x800m relay team capture first too.

"Tyler Godwin scoring 32.5 points, you've got to start right there. He's just incredible," Kunkel said.

The Norwell boys and Bluffton girls also had solid showings at the event.

The Knight boys, who placed second with 86 points, have been hit by sickness recently and are still trying to figure out some spots in their lineups.

Head coach Adam Prater said they used three individuals to help replace Trevon Stoppenhagen, the IU Kokomo signee, who competed in the state finals last year in sprinting events. He was out due to illness, so in stepped Jase Harmon, Nolan Weedaman and Caiden Petrie. The three held their own and scored points in key parts Friday night.

"As far as the meet going, we had young guys stepping up," Prater said. "We had to make a lot of changes last minute with guys being sick and hurt. So proud of the way we stepped up ... (I) Wish we were full steam tonight, but it is what it is guys stepped up. Love where our young guys are."

The Bluffton girls finished in third place, one spot up from last year and 28 points higher.

The program has been taken over by Sebastian Baxter, although he and Kunkel both work with both teams.

The Tigers placed in the top three in six events and got contributions from several athletes in all four grade levels. Baxter is encouraged to see the group be tightly knit and wanting to work hard together and learn from one another, and it's paying off.

"These upperclassmen are starting to buy into refusing to lose and wanting to lead these eager freshman and sophomores," Baxter said. "It's just exciting to see this program culture start to shift because they see a chance to actually do something pretty good."

Bluffton will host South Adams and Heritage at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 30.

Norwell will host Huntington North next at 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 30.

ryan@news-banner.com

Top-three finishers:

Boys Bluffton

- Andrew Hunt first in the 110m hurdles with a time of 16.43.
- Tyler Godwin first in the 1600m 4:40.70.
- Alex Mechling, Ben Ramseyer, Trey Bustos and Khamel Moore third in the 4x100m relay with a time of 46.16.
- Johnny Cruz first in the shot put at 51-7.75, Sam Mechling second at 42-4.
- Eli Bertsch second in the high jump at 5-8.
- Godwin first in the 3200m with a time of 10:31.99 and Levi Johns third at 10:35.38.
- Baumgartner, Ayden Teeple, Johns and Godwin first in the 4x800m relay with a time of 8:34.71.

Norwell

- Hayden Bennett second in the 110m hurdles with a time of 16.88, Zane Borne third at 17.11.
- Devin Dale first in the 100m with a time of 11.36 and Jase Harmon third at 11.84.
- Godwin first in the 800m with a time of 2:04.03.
- Elijah Kerner, Maksym Laishevkin, Andrew Hunt and Jude Baumgartner first in the 4x400m relay with a time of 3:36.07.
- Tyler Morris, Luke Johnson, Gavin Threewits and Caiden Petrie third in the 4x800m relay with a time of 8:55.21.
- Tautauris Jones, Ryan Smith, Bennett and Harmon first in the 4x100m relay with a time of 45.23.
- Harmon third in the high jump at 5-8.

Girls Bluffton

- Rylenn Penick third

in the 100m with a time of 13.87.

- Maryn Schreiber third in the 400m with a time of 1:06.85.
- Dakota Lee third in the 300m hurdles with a time of 53.33.

- Haley Gibson, Penick, Olivia Schreiber and Lee third in the 4x100m relay with a time of 54.87.
- Rori Drayer second in the shot put at 29-11.75, Alexandria Koby third at 29-6.75.
- Madelyn Funk third in the long jump at 14-5.
- Corina Raider second in the discus at 95-2.

Norwell

- Jada Dale first in the 100m with a time of 13.66 and Abigail Dale second at 13.70.
- Dale first in the 400m with a time of 1:04.28, Haley Williamson second at 1:05.91.
- Haleigh Reinhard second in the 800m with a time of 2:37.03.
- Dale first in the 200m with a time of 27.63, Graft second at 27.90.
- Makenzie Fuess, Abigail Dale, Jada Dale and Haley Williamson first in the 4x400m relay with a time of 4:26.09.
- Reinhard, Larkin Smith, Ali Riley and Brooklyn Meyer first in the 4x800m relay with a time of 10:41.94.
- Fuess, Williamson, Abigail Dale and Graft first in the 4x100m relay with a time of 52.93.
- Williamson in the high jump at 4-8.
- Fuess second in the long jump at 14-7.
- Kaylee Eicher third in the discus 92-3.

Team Scores

- Boys**
1. Bluffton (155 points), 2. Norwell (86), T3. Rockford Parkway (55), T3. South Adams (55), 5. Monroe Central (48), 6. Convoy Crestview

- Girls**
1. Norwell (129 points), 2. South Adams (99), 3. Bluffton (75), 4. Belmont (56), 5. Rockford Parkway (50), 6. Monroe Central (49), 7. Convoy Crestview (7).



Norwell's Jada Dale (right) dives toward the finish line ahead of Bluffton's Rylenn Penick in the preliminary race of the 100 meter sprint in Friday night's South Adams Invitational in Bluffton. Dale went on to win the final race with Penick placing third. (Photos by Chad Kline)



Bluffton senior Andrew Hunt (middle) clears a hurdle ahead of teammate Eli Bertsch (right) during the second heat of the 110 meter hurdles in Friday night's South Adams Invite at Bluffton. Hunt went on to win the finals with a time of 16:43.

Public Sale Calendar

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.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

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) - 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 consignors. 6632 N. 500 W., Decatur. Personal property: Vehicles, jewelry (gold, silver, costume), toys, collectables, furniture, household, antiques, tools, appliances. Preview May 3, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. *Wiegmann Auctioneers*, 260-447-4311, wiegmannauctioneers.com.

BIDDING NOW OPEN & STARTS CLOSING MAY 5 - 6 p.m. - James Koons, owner. Online only personal property auction! 100+ lots that include general household items, glassware, furniture, Samsung washer, Basset bedroom suite, solid oak table, garden items, Stihl chainsaw, Yard Machine snow blower & much more! Pick up May 6, 2-6 p.m., 808 N. Jefferson St., Ossian. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

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



Al Pfister Sale Manager

1169 N. Main St. Ste. 14 Bluffton, IN

**30 Years Experience
Land, Farms, Farm
Equipment, Estate Sales**

Call Al • 260-760-8922
Email: auction@adamswells.com
1-800-451-2709
www.schraderauction.com



SCHRADER
Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.
Auction Marketing Specialists Since 1944

Wells County Solid Waste Management District

FREE SHREDDING EVENT

Proshred Services 

All materials will be safely shredded in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Staples, rubber bands and paper clips are OK, but no other metal objects please. NO newspaper, phone books, carbon paper or magazines. This event is sponsored by the Wells County Solid Waste Management District.

WELLS COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



DATE: May 4 2024
TIME: 9AM-11AM

WHERE: Washington/Main Commons
Washington and Main Street Parking Lot
(Across the street from the Post Office)
BLUFFTON, IN 46714

WHY: RID YOUR HOME OF OLD DOCUMENTS FOR FREE!!

LIMIT OF 6 COPY PAPER SIZED BOXES PER PERSON

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Call (260)824-6470 or
Email: auditor@wellscounty.org

Arnold Lumber Co.

425 S. Winchester St., Decatur, IN

Hours: Mon-Thurs 7AM-5PM
Fri 7AM-4:30PM • Sat 7AM-11:30AM
260-724-3108 • Fax 260-724-4505



FABRAL
METAL WALL AND ROOF SYSTEMS

1-800-903-4206 | [Check Us Out on Facebook](#)

Sports Roundup

Tigers, Raiders softball postponed in third inning

Bluffton and Southern Wells matchup in Poneto got to the middle of the third inning before rain caused a postponement Friday night.

The Tigers were up 8-0 in the ACAC contest, and the game will be made up on Monday. A time has not been decided yet.

Kayla Kiefer for the Tigers drilled an RBI double down the left field line to get the Tigers up 2-0. Then, after a passed ball and double steal putting them up 4-0, Tressa Renner tripled to right field and scored two more.

Marly Drayer hit an RBI single in the next inning, followed by Claire Craighead taking home.

Tyrah Shaw was on the mound for Bluffton, and got out of a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the bottom of the second inning with a strikeout.

Raiders win Eagle Invite in middle school track

Southern Wells Middle School won in both the boys and in the girls at the Eagle Invitational at Churubusco Friday night.

The win included the girls 4x400 team breaking another school record and Eagle Invite meet record, as they finished with a time of 4:47.13. The team consisted of Holly Pearson, Reese Prible, Grace Rogers and Laren Schneider.

Other event winners were:

Boys

- John Schneider in the 110m hurdles.
- Adam Aulbach in the 100m and in the

high jump.

- Logan Leas in the 1600m and in the long jump.

• The 4x100m relay team of Hunter Durham, Isaac VanDeman, Trenton Heshner and Aulbach.

- Hunter Durham in the 400m.
- Brayden Williams in the 200m hurdles.
- The 4x400m relay team of Chase Kirkwood, Leas, Vance Mounsey and Durham

Girls

- Bailey Jenkins in the 100m hurdles.
- Aubree Neuenschwander in the 1600m and broke a meet record.

• The 4x100m relay team of Kameron Hawkins, Kyan Johnson, Leighann Carpenter and Jekins.

- Carpenter in the 200m hurdles and broke a meet record.

- Grace Rogers in the 800m and broke a meet record.

Knights win tri-match in middle school golf meet

Norwell's Middle School golf team won their first tri-match in program history Thursday night.

The Knights topped Central Noble and Oak Farm at Cobblestone Golf Course.

Norwell had a team score of 187, Central Noble 198 and Oak Farm 216.

Knights fall in MS soccer

Both Norwell Middle School soccer teams fell at Crestview Tuesday night.

The boys fell 2-1 to the Cougars. Cioer Nagel scored the goal for the Knights.

In the girls game, Crestview won 3-0.



Southern Wells Middle School track athletes from left to right: Holly Pearson, Reese Prible, Grace Rogers and Laren Schneider hold the winning baton for the 4x400m relay event. The four not only won it at the Eagle Invitational at Churubusco High School, but they broke the school record and meet record with a time of 4:47.13. (Photo provided)

Corrections and clarifications

Alli Crow was misprinted in Friday's News-Banner. Crow went 3-4 with two dou-

bles and a triple with six RBI to lead Norwell to a 16-7 victory at Concordia

High School Calendar

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 a.m.

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 Belmont, 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 p.m.

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

FAST, RELIABLE FIBER INTERNET

SOLUTIONS FOR HOME AND BUSINESS

UNLIMITED DATA | UP TO 1* GBPS | 24/7 SUPPORT

SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE IN MANY AREAS.

Sign up today or get fiber-ready by signing the underground agreement.

Call for more details!

833.727.5563

twncomm.com/heartland



*Services provided by TWN Communications. Not available in all areas. Restrictions, terms and conditions apply. Taxes, regulatory, surcharges and other charges are applicable. A line connection fee may be applicable. Call for details or visit twncomm.com/terms-conditions for additional information and terms and conditions of services. Residential customers on qualifying internet plans will receive download/upload speeds of 25.0 Mbps to 1.0 Gbps, per respective plan. A 30-day notice is required to cancel service.

Richards

restaurant

Accepting applications for:

Full or Part-Time Cook

Apply in person at the restaurant

508 Charles Deam Court

(behind Perfect Pet & Taco Bell)

or online at www.richardsrestaurants.com

\$2.00 off any \$15.00 dine-in purchase

4-7 Tues-Fri

Valid thru 5/31/24 at Richards Restaurants Bluffton location only, cannot combine with other offers.

Serving the Community

Dine-In, Carry Out & Catering

for individuals, families and groups



Bearcreek Escape and Events offers:

- Multiple Fundraising Opportunities for your group

Choose from Baked Goods, Candies, Dips, Coffee and more

- A quiet country location for your group meetings, parties or wedding & reception

For more information call Carla at 260-251-1936 or visit our website www.bearcreekevents.com

When pregnancy tests relationships

Dear Annie: I'm struggling badly with something that occurred over a week and a half ago. I'm a mom. My son is 15. I've been dating a man for two years now, but I've known him for over six. He has no kids and has always expressed his interest in becoming a dad.

A year ago, we decided to try for a baby, but I was a bit hesitant considering my son is 15 and I was 35. In my head, that's kind of old, particularly for me because I'm not very healthy. I have sickle cell disease, so I'd capped my latest age to give birth at 32. He's a good man to me, and my son's very fond of him. He told me I wouldn't have to worry about a thing and that he was preparing for a child for a while now, but it simply didn't happen. I also knew he would be a great dad, so we agreed to try, and now I'm 36 and expecting.

My issue is that we had an argument the other day and he texted me that he regretted getting me pregnant. I was so hurt. I couldn't believe he would say such a thing after none of his other relationships produced a child. Now I'm not speaking to him because I'm very upset, and I told him I will not add his surname to the baby's birth certificate if he's so regretful. He's tried to apologize and reached out to my mom to vent his frustration, but I don't want to hear from him. I didn't wait 15 years just to have some guy say such a horrible thing to me. Do you think I'm going too far? — Baby Blues

Dear Baby Blues: Your feelings are valid and understandable given the hurtful words exchanged. Words, especially in moments of anger, can leave lasting scars. Communication is crucial here. It's important to address the hurt and the root cause of the argument to understand whether this was momentary frustration or indicative of deeper problems.

Evaluate the relationship's overall health and what future you see with him. Is this a one-off or a red flag? Consider if you can overcome this with time, conversation and possibly counseling. The choice on how to move forward should align with what's best for you and your child.

Dear Annie: I'm 75. When I was 19, I worked with a lady. We were friends, nothing more. She left and got married. I did, too. We both went in different directions. Her hubby was killed in an acci-

dent after her three children were born, and she hastily got married again but it didn't work out. We had a casual thing till she met another man she was with for 13 years. Then he died of cancer. As for me, my marriage lasted 36 years, but my wife and I drifted apart. I remarried again, a marriage that lasted for seven years. Then we both were single, her for 12 years and me for another seven.

I'm a surfer and put up a post on social media, which she saw. She asked if it was me from long ago. We eventually got together and have been seeing each other for the last nine months. I have only been really in love twice. She has turned out to be the second woman I fell in love with. My problem is she loves me but won't fully commit. She says she can't go there again but wants me in her life. When she feels she's getting too close, she backs off. We do the man-woman thing, but after, I have to go home and can never stay over. How do I break this barrier down? — Long Ago Love

Dear Long Ago: Navigating a relationship where one partner is hesitant about full commitment can be challenging. It's clear you both share a deep connection, but her past experiences are causing her to protect herself from potential heartache. The key here is patience and understanding.

Instead of focusing on breaking down her barriers, concentrate on building a foundation of trust and security between you. Show her through your actions and consistency that you're there for her, and communicate openly about your feelings and desires for the relationship, without pressuring her for more commitment than she's ready to give.

Remember, relationships evolve at different paces for everyone. With time and continued support, she may become more open to a deeper commitment.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

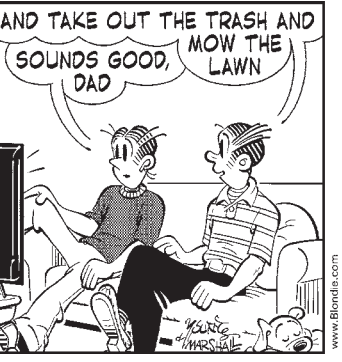


Dear Annie by Annie Lane

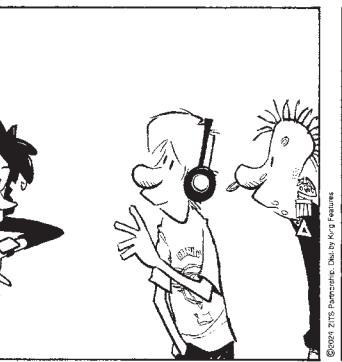
BEETLE BAILEY



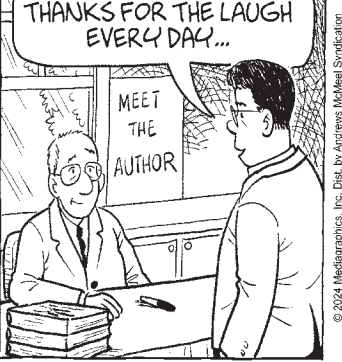
BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

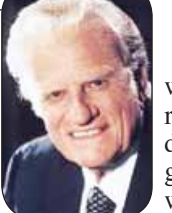
By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



God's love is real

Question: "God is love." Really? I don't feel that God loves me at all. My life is so messed up. Some of it's my fault and the rest of the mess is because other people have taken advantage of me; and if God really is in control, He must think it's OK. At least this is where my mind is right now. Am I wrong, and if so, how do I straighten it all out? — L.F.

Answer: Do you want to know if God loves you? Here is the proof: Jesus Christ left Heaven's glory and came down to this sin-infested earth to die for you. The Apostle Paul put it this

way: "Scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:7-8, NKJV).

God's love is not just a vague feeling or sentimental emotion hidden in His heart. God's love is real — and we know it because He demonstrated it to us. He put His love into action!

Temptation to doubt God's love for mankind comes from Satan. Doubt no longer, and place your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who cares for you and says, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will

give you rest" (Matthew 11:28, NKJV). Love isn't just a feeling; love must be expressed in action.

When desperation overtakes us, we decide whether to turn away from God or turn toward Him. Which road will we take? One road leads to doubt, bitterness, and despair. The other leads to hope, comfort, peace, strength, and joy — which gives us a purpose to go on. "God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us ... that we might live through Him" (1 John 4:8-9).

(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.

BUY IT SELL IT RENT IT FIND IT FILL IT GET IT DO IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS! Place Your Ad 24/7/365! www.news-banner.com

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-27

Grid for yesterday's crossword puzzle answer.

Table with columns for date, channel, time, and program details. Includes categories like Cable Channels, Sports, and Entertainment.

Patriot missiles

(Continued from Page 1)

Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which pays for longer-term contracts with the defense industry and means that it could take many months or years for the weapons to arrive. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss details not yet made public.

The new funding — the largest tranche of USAI aid sent to date — also includes High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, as well as Switchblade and Puma drones, counter drone systems and artillery.

The Ukraine Defense Contact Group has been meeting about monthly for the past two years and is the primary forum for weapons contributions to Kyiv for the war.

Friday's meeting follows the White House decision earlier this week to approve the delivery of \$1 billion in weapons and equipment to Ukraine. Those weapons include a variety of ammunition, such as air defense munitions and large amounts of artillery rounds that are much in demand by

Ukrainian forces, as well as armored vehicles and other weapons.

That aid, however, will get to Ukraine quickly because it is being pulled off Pentagon shelves, including in warehouses in Europe.

Gen. CQ Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the \$1 billion weapons package will have a key benefit.

"There's some near-term effects," said Brown, who stood alongside Austin at the Pentagon briefing. "Now the Ukrainians don't necessarily have to ration what they have because they know things are coming out of this package and there will be follow-on packages."

The large back-to-back aid approvals are the result of a new infusion of about \$61 billion in funding for Ukraine that was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden on Wednesday. And they provide weapons Kyiv desperately needs to stall gains being made by Russian forces in the war.



Wells County Chamber of Commerce celebrates Kassie Schwartz's acquisition of Fields of Grace Boutique

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassadors gathered to extend a warm welcome and heartfelt congratulations to entrepreneur Kassie Schwartz on the acquisition of Fields of Grace Boutique. The celebratory ribbon-cutting event marked the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the boutique, located at 207 W Market Street in Bluffton.

Kassie Schwartz, who also owns Magnolias & Minis in Bluffton, shared her unexpected journey to acquiring Fields of Grace. "While I initially intended to expand at my current location, various constraints with the building and property led me to reconsider. When the opportunity to acquire Fields of Grace arose, it was a quick decision filled with excitement," she explained.

Expressing her vision for the boutique's future, Schwartz outlined plans to diversify the product offerings. "I'm passionate about home décor and clothing, so customers can expect an expanded selection in these areas. We'll continue to offer services such as gifts for funerals, flowers for weddings and special events, as well as unique clothing options not found elsewhere," she elaborated.

Fields of Grace will offer an expanded men's line such as T-shirts and golf shirts and clothing from small through 3X. Some of the popular items such as body butter and soaps will be offered at both locations. "We have brought back the floral bouquets, vases, and wrapped flowers for customers to enjoy as well," stated Schwartz.

In addition to retaining customer favorites, Fields of Grace will introduce new merchandise lines curated by Schwartz. "I'm collaborating with new vendors to bring a fresh assortment of products to the store such as kitchen items and other clothing options. Our goal is to continually refresh the inventory and provide an engaging shopping experience," Schwartz added.

Fields of Grace will continue to feature the beloved coffee offerings, with Schwartz promising monthly additions to the store's offerings. Operating hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Stay updated on specials and highlights by following Fields of Grace Boutique on Facebook.



FFA Spring Banquet

Norwell FFA hosted their spring banquet on April 18. Pictured at top is the 2023-2024 officer team taking a picture with former state officer Mary Jones, center. Above at left are Zach Wilson, far left, and Allie Riley, far right, who received the 2024 FFA scholarship, and Rick Johnloz who serves on the agriculture advisory board and is the chairman of the scholarship committee. Cade Shelton and Bree Ullig also received the scholarship. Above at right is Shelton, recognized as a FFA senior. (Photos submitted)

SFG STEFFEN Financial Group

110 W Cherry Street Bluffton, Indiana
WWW.STEFFINANCIAL.COM

Discover the Power
of Tax Deferral...
Retirement Savings
Traditional & Roth IRAs



TIM STEFFEN
FINANCIAL CONSULTANT
INSURANCE SPECIALIST

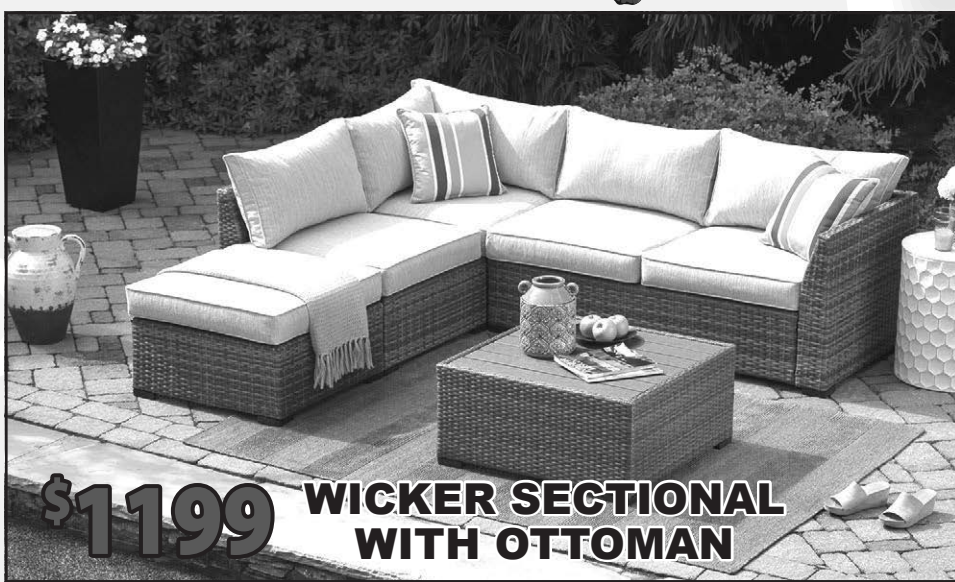
MICHELE STOLLER
INSURANCE SPECIALIST

(260) 824-8175

Securities offered through LPL Financial Member FINRA/SIPC

Refresh!

Great Selection of New Spring Styles



\$1199 WICKER SECTIONAL WITH OTTOMAN



\$999 WICKER LOVESEAT, COCKTAIL AND TWO CHAIRS



5 pc. Pub Set \$2499



ADIRONDACK LOVESEAT \$1049
Colors: Black, White & Tan

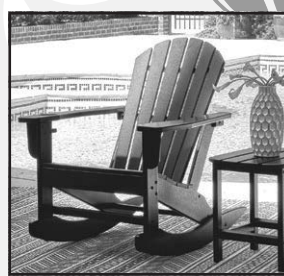


ADIRONDACK CHAIRS \$229
Colors: Black, White, Blue, Turquoise, Red & Tan

ADIRONDACK ROCKERS

Colors: Black, White & Tan

\$289



HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**985 N. Main St., Bluffton
260-824-1200 • 800-759-8795
www.gerberfurniture.com**



Rockers \$199

Gerber FURNITURE MATTRESSES & WINDOW TREATMENTS

