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Tigers stay perfect in ACAC baseball

Page 6

Wells County commissioners settle insurance issue

By HOLLY GASKILL
In a special session Tuesday morning, the Wells County Commissioners approved an insurance renewal that increases their liability coverage on several county buildings.

The approved policy covers a

\$25 million replacement for the jail, up from \$5 million, and a \$3million replacement for the Carnegie Annex for a \$98,843 premium.

The commissioners had twice delayed action on a renewal to increase these building valuations, criticizing the back and forth for

quotes. However, Dann Lipp of WalkerHughes told the commissioners Tuesday that they needed to have increased communication about county needs. He emphasized that he only heard updated numbers about highway assets and the new salt storage building last

"In the future, I don't want to have conversations where we show up to a meeting, and we don't know what's insured on what value ... we've got to pay very close attention to what we have in the jail, what we have in

the annex — and if you don't feel it's the right coverage, we have to be notified as soon as possible, because we don't want to be in this situation at all," Lipp said. "And if (you) feel that (value needs to increase) from a jail renovation

(Continued on Page 2)



Walking and praying for Bluffton and Wells

Pastor Neil Ainslie hosted a public prayer walk, where people could pray in front of different nonprofits and city departments for wisdom and a heart to serve on Tuesday. Above, pictured left to right, Holly and David Wittbrodt, Ainslie, Carey and Sarah Collins, and Judy LaPeer prayed for Indiana Child Services, Community Care, The Garage, county/city government, fire and police, among other organizations. At right, Holly prays with Christine Walker of Community Care. Below, the walk ended with the singing of hymns. (Photos by Jona-





City, county working interlocal agreement for economic development

By HOLLY GASKILL

There may soon be an interlocal agreement for Wells County's economic development commis-

On Tuesday, County Attorney Ted Storer told the County Commissioners that he and Tony Crowell, attorney for the city of Bluffton, are continuing to work on an agreement. Storer was unsure of a specific timeline, but said he may have a draft by the commissioners' next regular meeting, 5 p.m. May

Bluffton Common Council member Scott Mentzer, the city's point person on the matter, further told The News-Banner that a temporary fee for service agreement may be necessary due to time constraints, but that an interlocal agreement is the long-term goal.

Cheryl Morphew of Johnson County has taken the helm in the meantime. The county and city of Bluffton have each contracted Morphew for economic development consulting for up to 10 hours

monthly at \$150 per hour.

During the commissioners' special meeting Tuesday, Commissioner Blake Gerber asked about the county's stake in READI 2.0, where Gov. Eric Holcomb has awarded \$45 million for economic development in northeast Indiana. Commissioner Jeff Stringer stated Morphew was handling that matter but that the funds had not yet been divided between all 11 counties. Stringer claimed Allen County has made arguments for the lion's share of the funding.

The mayor's office also announced a READI workshop at 8 a.m. on May 9 for potential project owners via a Facebook post on Tuesday. Ryan Twiss and Michael Galbriath will discuss regional efforts and strategies for the fund-

Morphew's contact information is also now listed on the Wells County Economic Development Commission website, wellsedc.

holly@news-banner.com

Interurban project receives approval for additional expense

By JONATHAN SNYDER

An additional \$10,000 expense for construction observation on the Interurban Trail project was approved by the Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety Tuesday.

Engineering Resources Incorporated out of Fort Wayne will help oversee the project. Engineering Resources will respond to contractor requests for information, review pay applications, hold construction progress meetings, issue change orders if need be, summarize information about ground

conditions in regards to the native material underneath the pavement and complete a punch list when the project is completed. Parks Department Superinten-

dent Brandy Fiechter stated that donated funds will cover the additional expense.

Additionally, the board announced that Josh Barkley withdrew his request for funding assistance for his sidewalk. Barkley came to the board on April 16 asking if the program would (Continued on Page 2)

Democrats will save Johnson's job if Republicans try to oust him

By KEVIN FREKING **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) House Democrats will vote to save Republican Speaker Mike Johnson's job should some of his fellow Republican lawmakers seek to remove him from the position, Democratic leaders said Tuesday, likely assuring for now that Johnson will avoid being ousted from office like his predecessor, former Rep. Kevin McCarthy.

Johnson, R-La., has come under heavy criticism from some Republicans for moving forward

with aid for Ukraine as part of a \$95 billion emergency spending package that passed this month. It would take only a handful of Republicans to remove Johnson from the speakership if the Democratic caucus went along with

But Democratic leaders took that possibility off the table.

"At this moment, upon completion of our national security work, the time has come to turn the page on this chapter of Pro-Putin Republican obstruction," said a statement from the top three House Democrats, Reps. Hakeem Jeffries, Katherine Clark Democrats, creating an unusuand Pete Aguilar. "We will vote to table Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene's Motion to Vacate the Chair. If she invokes the motion, it will not succeed.'

The announcement from Democrats ensures that Johnson will survive the most difficult stretch of his tenure so far, which saw him struggle through internal GOP divisions to pass government funding, the renewal of a key surveillance program and aid for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan. To do so, Johnson was often forced to rely on votes from

al governing coalition that has angered hard-right members who say their majority is being squandered.

Greene, R-Ga., filed a resolution with the House clerk last month — called a motion to vacate — that would remove Johnson from office if approved by the House. And while Greene did not force the resolution to be taken up immediately, she told reporters she was laying the groundwork for future consideration. She had two co-sponsors, Reps. Thomas Massie, R-Ky.,

and Paul Gosar, R-Ariz.

Johnson was quick to distance himself from Democrats on the issue, saying he had no conversations with Jeffries or anyone else about saving his job.

"I was laser-focused on getting the supplemental done," Johnson said, referring to the aid package. "I've had colleagues from both parties come up to me on the floor, of course, and say we won't stand for this. ... I've not requested assistance from anyone. I'm not focused on that at all."

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April showers are over, so where are the May flowers

Thursday Friday High 79 | High 81 | High 76 Low 51 Low 62 Low 55

More Weather on Page 2

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Insurance issue

that was done in 2022, and we don't know about it until we show up with numbers to discuss the renewal we've got to have something better in place."

The commissioners agreed that communication needed to be better and

expressed that fine-tuning insurance needs would be considered an ongoing process. Commissioner Jeff Stringer noted that building costs have increased significantly and Commissioner Blake Gerber added that the courthouse and annex are unique buildings

construction would be irreplaceable.

Also during the meeting, commissioners stated that Nate Rumschlag, former Wells County engineer, has dropped from two county projects. Rumschlag, now working for

to quote since their historic Adams County, had been assisting Wells through an interlocal agreement, which expired earlier this month. Stringer said an agreement is still in the works, but there has not been progress in filling the role full-time.

holly@news-banner.com

Interurban project

(Continued from Page 1)

assist landowners for rental properties in addition to homeowners. Mayor John Whicker stated that during a conversation involving Barkley, Street Commissioner Tim Simpson and Building Commissioner Richard Triplett, it was determined that a few items needed to be cleared up on Bar-

Furthermore, Utility Director Jon Oman stated that the wastewater treatabout the proper variable speed drive motors to get for the project. These drives help control the speed and torque of electric motors and the company wants to ensure they get the right ones for the plant.

Oman clarified that a meeting tomorrow will discuss the proper specifications for the drives, while noting that the debate will not delay the project's completion. Oman also noted that all the other ment plant project has run into a debate aspects of the project are moving

on schedule.

The board approved a raise for Dispatcher Dallas Creager, Creager, who has now worked one year in the department, will be getting a \$1.00 per hour raise. The board also approved an SRF Claim for James S. Jackson Construction company, totaling \$1,439,256.65. This claim covers the cost for the whole month of April, with the project still needing \$18,396,011.95 to be paid

jonathan@news-banner.com

Speaker Mike Johnson

Many House Republicans are eager to move past the divisions that have tormented their ranks ever since taking the majority last January. At a closeddoor session Tuesday morning, much of the discussion focused on how to create unity in the party heading into the November elections.

Rep. Andy Barr, R-Ky., said Republicans heard from Michael Whatley, the new chairman of the Republican National Committee, who emphasized that Donald Trump, the presumptive GOP presidential nominee, wants to unify the majority in the House. He said that's a message that certainly helps Johnson.

'What he wants is a unified Republican majority, so my message is singing from the same song sheet as President Trump," Barr

Still, Greene indicated she may move forward with the effort to remove Johnson, tweeting on X that she believes in record-

ed votes to put "Congress on record." She also called Johnson "officially the Democratic Speaker of the House" and questioned "what slimy deal" he made for Democratic support.

"Americans deserve to see the Uniparty on full display. I'm about to give them their coming out party!" Greene tweeted. "Uniparty" is a derisive term some Republicans use to describe cooperation between some fellow Republicans and Democrats.

Greene announced a press conference on the issue for Wednesday. During votes Tuesday, she held an extensive conversation with House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., who said afterward that he had stressed the work Republicans were trying to accomplish as she weighs her next move.

"In the end, it's her decision, but we had a conversation about it," Scalise

The removal of McCarthy in October left the House adrift for nearly a month, unable to take up legislation as Republicans struggled to select a replacement. Republicans were anxious to avoid a repeat going into Novem-

"It's huge, it's huge, especially for the presidential election but all of us up and down the ballot,' said Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Fla. "They don't want another 30 days of a dysfunctional Congress, and that's what you would get."

Many Democrats, even before Tuesday's announcement, had said they would consider helping Johnson, but they were also looking for direction from their leadership and emphasized that in order for Johnson to gain their support, he would need to allow for the vote on an emergency aid package focused on Ukraine and Israel.

Democrats made clear that their approach would be to table Greene's motion, rather than take an affirmative vote for Johnson, particularly because

of his role leading Trump's 2020 election challenge in the runup to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

Democrats were also wary of repeating the disorder that occurred during McCarthy's removal. The Democratic leaders in their statement of opposition to Greene's effort, emphasized their willingness to work across party lines on national priorities.

We're not looking for chaos. We're the adults in the room," said Rep. Ann Kuster, D-N.H.

Some Republican lawmakers, however, said the Democratic change in tactics was a sign of remorse over helping to oust McCarthy.

"I think that Democrats are realizing that they voted with the wrong, small group of individuals last time around," said Rep. Anthony D'Esposito, R-N.Y. "Mike Johnson has shown he's a leader. He has the ability to garner support from both sides of the aisle on issues that matter most to the American people."

Weather

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 (24-hour observations at 11:40 p.m. Tuesday at the Fort Wayne International Airport)

High: 75; **Low:** 54; **Precipitation:** None Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 5.00 feet at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Partly sunny, with a high near 79. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. **Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 51. Northwest

wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northeast after midnight.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. East wind around 10 mph.

Thursday Night: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. South-

east wind around 10 mph. Friday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after

2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 76. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thun-

Friday Night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 8 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 55. Chance of precipitation is 60%. **Saturday:** A slight chance of showers between 8 a.m.

and 2 p.m., then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. Chance of precipitation is 20%. Saturday Night: A 30%

chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Sunday: A 10% chance of showers before 8 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 56. **Monday:** A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Partly sunny, with a high near 76.

Monday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62.

Tuesday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 79. Breezy.



Mammograms should start at 40 to address rising breast cancer rates at younger ages, panel says

By CARLA K. JOHNSON **AP Medical Writer**

Regular mammograms to screen for breast cancer should start younger, at age 40, according to an influential U.S. task force. Women ages 40 to 74 should get screened every other year, the group said.

Previously, the task force had said women could choose to start breast cancer screening as young as 40, with a stronger recommendation that they get the exams every two years from age 50 through 74.

The announcement Tuesday from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force makes official a draft recommendation announced last year. The recommendations were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

"It's a win that they are now recognizing the benefits of screening women in their 40s," said Dr. Therese Bevers of MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. She was not involved in the guidance.

Other medical groups, including the American College of Radiology and the American Cancer Society, suggest mammograms every year - instead of every other year — starting at age 40 or 45, which may cause confusion, Bevers said, but "now the starting age will align with what many other organizations are saying."

Breast cancer death rates have fallen as treatment continues to improve. But breast cancer is still the second-most common cause of cancer death for U.S. women. About 240,000 cases are diagnosed annually and nearly 43,000 women die from breast cancer.

The nudge toward earlier screening is meant to address two vexing issues: the increasing incidence of breast cancer among women in their 40s — it's risen 2% annually since 2015 — and the higher breast cancer death rate among Black women compared to white women, said task force vice chair Dr. John Wong of Tufts Medical Center in Boston.

"Sadly, we know all too well that Black women are 40% more likely to die from breast cancer than white women," Wong said. Modeling studies predict that earlier screening may help all women, and have "even more benefit for women who are Black," he said.

Here are more details on what's changed, why it's important and who should pay attention.

Age 40 is when mammograms should start for women, transgender men and nonbinary people at average risk. They should have the X-ray exam every other year, according to the new guidance. Other groups recommend annual mammograms, starting at 40 or 45.

The advice does not apply to women who've had breast cancer or those cancer because of genetic markers. It also does not apply to women who had high-dose radiation therapy to the chest when they were young, or to women who've had a lesion on previous biopsies.

It's not clear whether older women should continue getting regular mammograms. Studies rarely include women 75 and older, so the task force is

calling for more research. Bevers suggests that older women talk with their doctors about the benefits of screening, as well as harms like false alarms and unnecessary biopsies.

Mammograms don't work as well for women with dense breasts, but they should still get the exams.

The task force would like to see more evidence about additional tests such as ultrasounds or MRIs for women with dense breasts. It's not yet clear whether those types of tests would help detect cancer at an earlier, more treatable stage,



With the primary election only a few weeks away I thought it was a good time to share a little about myself.

I've been married to my high school sweetheart, Tim Andrews, for 47 years. We are blessed with 3 daughters & 7 grandkids. I was born & raised on a farm in Souther Wells County to Dean & Pat Mounsey. I previously worked in the Wells County Clerk and Treasurer's Office for 7.5 years and then 22 years at Southern Wells Community School as the Corporation Treasurer.

Community engagement: Southern Wells Community Church, CADA board, Solid Waste Board, Purdue **Extension Board, SW Construction Trades board, Junior** Achievement, Justice Reinvestment Advisory Board, Wells **County Drug Task Force.**

My expertise in government budgeting & finance makes me the right choice. Under my tenure, we've achieved significant milestones: new highway garage, jail renovations, and payroll matrix system implementation.

Firm believer in God, family, and country. Your support means the world to me. #Election2024



Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Monday, 3:19 p.m., 500 block of West Market Street. Located a cell phone.

Monday, 7:10 p.m., Walmart. Report of theft, subject stole meat in duffle bags, lawn care equipment and a blue tarp.

Monday, 9:16 p.m., First Church of Christ. Report of mild flooding.

Monday, 9:43 p.m., 500 block of West Market Street, report of unwanted party.

Tuesday, 11:50 a.m., Lancaster Elementary School. Report of a student that ran out of school.

County:

Friday, 5:42 a.m., 1000 South and Jeff Road, Warren. Car vs. deer.

Friday, 8:51 a.m., North 100 East and 200 North, Bluffton. Osirus Rooakptah Gaines arrested for driving while suspended.

Friday, 8 p.m., West

Railroad and North Miller streets, Uniondale. Ashley Confill charged arrested for driving while suspended.

Saturday, 12:03 p.m., Capri Meadows, Bluffton. Report of a civil issue with

Saturday, 2:17 p.m., 6700 Report of heavy grass clippings in roadway.

Saturday, 4:04 p.m., 3600 East Market Street, Petroleum. Caller reported a hole in her windshield, unsure of

Saturday, 8:40 p.m., 1600 North 300 West, Markle. Caller reported someone shooting in the woods that should not be.

Sunday, 3:10 a.m., S.R. 3 and West 1200 South, Montpelier. Car vs. deer.

Sunday, 6:16 p.m., 5600 East 100 North, Bluffton. Report of vehicles in driveway and tall grass. Nothing

South 600 East, Bluffton. Caller reported issue with subject destroying property in callers home. Subject was actively making threats in the background while caller

was on the phone. Sunday, 8:45 p.m., Mur-East 100 North, Bluffton. ray Cemetery. Report of a noise complaint. From exhaust on ATVs, which feels like an acceptable source of noise, given the location.

Monday, 6:12 a.m., North Main and East Monroe streets, Bluffton. Sandra Milena Yanez Perez arrested for driving while suspended.

Monday, 1:51 p.m., West Railroad and Sugar streets, Uniondale. Michael Kidwell called police from a park bench at a playground and advised he had a warrant for his arrest for assaulting prison staff. Kidwell told police that he was hammered and blew a .17% brac.

County Jail. Warrant served to Veronica Lazaro.

Monday, 5:42 p.m., Willow Road and West 625 South, Warren. Caller reported vehicle stuck in mud.

Tuesday, 9:18 a.m., 9800 South 300 West, Poneto. Report of cattle on the road, refused to moooove.

Ossian:

Friday, 11:19 a.m., S.R. and East 1200 North, Ossian. Nathan Nusbaumer issued warrant at the Wells County Jail.

Friday, 2:43 p.m., S.R. 1

and East 700 North, Ossian. Officer standing by with vehicles while flat tire is Monday, 5:09 a.m., South Jefferson Street and East

Esteban Monterroso Solares arrested for driving while never licensed.

900 North, Ossian. Rogelio

ARRESTS

Trevor Lee Pitzer, 24,

Monday, 4:31 p.m., Wells Cutler; domestic battery moderate bodily injury, a Level 6 felony. No bond set.

Johnathon Gordon Bates, 40, Fort Wayne; theft from motor vehicle, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

Nathan T. Nusbaumer, 45, Fort Wayne; probation violation, a Level 6 felony, and invasion of privacy, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

Gabriel Sergeil Tijerina, 21, Fort Wayne; intimidation, a Level 6 felony, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$3,500.

Blaine Marion Mosser, 33, Bluffton; operating a vehicle while intoxicated and operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, both Class A misdemeanors. Bond set at \$1,500.

Reynoso, 27, Fort Wayne; reckless driving and operating without ever obtaining a

meanors.

Rogelio Esteban Monterroso Solares, 31, Fort Wayne; operating without ever obtaining a license, both Class C misdemeanor.

Osiris Rooakptah Gaines-El, 25, Fort Wayne; driving while suspended - prior suspension, a Class A misde-

Ashley Avonne Conliff, 36, Huntington; driving while suspended - prior, a Class A misdemeanor.

Sandra Milena Yanez Perez, 46, Fort Wayne; driving while suspended, prior suspension, a Class A misde-

Abu Lay, 36, Fort Wayne; driving while suspended prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Veronica Lazaro, 20, Cesar Orlando Cruz Bluffton; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdelicense, both Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Families call on Holcomb administration to pivot on attendant care transition

By WHITNEY ĎOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle

Six moms of medically complex children pressured Gov. Eric Holcomb to reform his administration's approach to transitioning families from attendant care to another caregiving program in a private Monday meeting at the State-

The parents, appearing on behalf of Indiana Families United 4 Care, shared their requests for action in a media scrum outside the governor's office. They represent the roughly 1,600 families of children with complex medical needs whose monetary benefits will be substantially cut on July 1 as Indiana amends its attendant care program.

But the group said the loss of care is already happening and the state agency in charge is "woefully lacking" in terms of communication.

"We're here to try to make the best decisions we possibly can for our children and there's approximately a nine-step process for us to be able to make that transition from attendant care to structured family care. And right now we're stuck on step one," said Jennifer Dewitt a mom whose son has complex medical needs. "... all of that is at a standstill because, quite frankly, there's not effective communication coming out of FSSA. But we hope that sharing this information today will enable them to get us that information quicker."

Dewitt said the administration agreed to update families on their response within the week.

The coalition formed roughly four months ago

following an announcement from the Family and Social Services Administration, that parents would no longer be eligible for an hourly stipend and would move to a lower per diem benefit in response to a projected \$1 billion shortfall in the state's Medicaid budget.

The July 1 date is also when the state's Aged and Disabled Waiver, under which the families currently get services, will transition to the Health and Wellness Waiver while Hoosiers over 60 on the waiver will move to PathWays for Aging.

A list of "requests"

The parents met with Holcomb and FSSA Secretary Dan Rusyniak, and presented nine requests crafted from a survey of providers and care managers along with more than 250 fami-

Holcomb's office released a statement after the meeting, saying, "I listened carefully and appreciated the moms bringing their concerns forward. They obviously only want the best for their children. Dr. Rusyniak was with me during the meeting, and we'll consider the issues they raised as well as changes we can make to better communicate with impacted

Dewitt said afterward that "most of the care managers that we are speaking with, honestly, they don't know what's going on and they are frustrated by the lack of information that they are getting and they feel that it's very difficult to help and guide our families."

She added that FSSA had already taken action to reduce attendant care hours paid out to parents, such as holding approvals "hostage" for things such as home modifications, specialized equipment and generators for medical devices. The group asked FSSA to halt that practice.

... some families are having either part or all of their attendant care hours cut. There has been a previously unannounced requirement that you have to have prior authorization hours through the Medicaid state plan before you are allowed to use attendant care hours," Dewitt said.

"... there's no reason why a request for a generator should be held up as a way to force a family to lose attendant care hours. If somebody is requesting a generator for their home, it means they have medical equipment that requires power to run. That should not be held up due to wanting to lower hours before July 1.'

Other requests include: designating an ombudsman for families, public versions of the waivers submitted to the federal government, written notification within five business days of notifying a case manager following a denial of services and publishing an FAQ (or a frequently asked questions document) of previous questions from parents.

Another request families is that FSSA reconsider the attendant care program for Legally Responsible Individuals, usually parents, with certain guardrails, such as limits on hours paid out by the state. The state previously shared that costs from the program jumped from \$9.3 million two years ago to \$172 million.

Dewitt said none of the proposals are more important than the others but all intertwine.

A key difference between

the current attendant care program and Structured Family Caregiving — other than payments being hourly rate or per diem — is that benefits are granted based on a three-tier structure following an evaluation by a case manager.

But the moms said none of them and none of the families they'd contacted had been reviewed - and case managers told them they hadn't received the evaluation criteria.

"To our understanding, there is not a tool available to adequately evaluate our children from what tiered level they're supposed to be on," Dewitt said, noting there are just over 60 days before the transition date. "Quite frankly, I would've expected at this point that we would have that evaluation tool ready and that our care managers would be able to start doing those evaluation processes with the Medicaid members."

Sharing the evaluation tool, or its release date, is another request from the families.

Dewitt said that without action from the Holcomb administration by the end of the week, families around Indiana will continue to struggle.

"That is the main point that we came here today with, is that families are suffering. We have families that are going days, weeks and — some families, at this point — a month without any options, without any care because of the ineffective processes and communications that they are experiencing from FSSA,' Dewitt said.

However, the moms acknowledged that their advocacy has "a long road ahead" with the term-limited Holcomb set to leave office. His successor will likely be the winner of the six-way Republican primary next week, one of whom Holcomb's second-incommand, Lt. Gov. Suzanne

Crouch — has been vocal about her support for fami-Her office, which pre-

viously called for an audit of FSSA in response to the budget shortfall and ensuing attendant care changes, sent a statement Monday sharing her reaction to the meeting and offering her help. Previously, her campaign released an advertisement on the topic. 'Careful consideration

of these recommendations is the least Gov. Holcomb and FSSA can do at this point. There are 62 days to make necessary adjustments to help give some of these families not only the hope but the help they need. I sincerely hope that these families can get answers by this Friday on the recommendations submitted to FSSA," Crouch said. "We in Indiana will be judged by how we care for the most vulnerable among us."

Dewitt said that the lack of supports for families like theirs was hurting not just them but also Indiana as a

"Between the six women standing in front of you, we have 10 college degrees and 18 professional licenses and certifications. We are a talented part of the workforce that, unfortunately, is having to work as caregivers because we don't have adequate supports elsewhere," Dewitt said. "We love our children. We know that moving forward, we're going to have a lot of advocacy efforts ahead to hopefully be able to work with

members of the General Assembly and to work with ... the incoming administra-

Public Notice

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Wells County, Indiana, in Cause No. 90D01-2203-MF-00009, wherein U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPA CITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUST-EE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST was Plaintiff, and Mark A. Hogsett, Erica Scherrer, AKA Erica S. Scherrer, AKA Erica S. Hogsett, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. and CommunityWide Federal Credit Union were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 12th day of June, 2024, at the hour of 1:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as is possible, at Wells County Courthouse at 102 W Market St., Bluffton, IN 46714, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wells Coun-

A part of the NE/4 of Section 29, Township 28 North, Range 12 East, Wells County, Indiana, described as follows:
Starting at the NE corner of

said Section 29, marked by a 5/8" reinforcing bar stake over a buried stone; thence westerly 825.0 feet on the north line of said Section to a P.K. nail which shall be the place of beginning; thence westerly 95.0 feet on the north line of said Section 29, to a P.K. nail; thence southerly, deflecting left 89 degrees 38 minutes, 25.0 feet to a standard corner marker (5/8" x 15" reinforcing bar stake with an aluminum cap 10025): thence southerly 892.04 feet on an extension of the last above described line to a standard corner marker thence easterly deflecting left 90 degrees 22 minutes, parallel to the north line of said Section 29, 95.0 feet to a standard corner marker thence northerly deflecting left 89 degrees 38 minutes, 892.04 feet to a standard corner marker: thence northerly 25.0 feet on an extension of the last above described line to the place of beginning. Containing

in all 2.0 acres. More commonly known as: 1820 East 800 North, Ossian, IN 46777

Parcel No. 90-02-29-100-002.000-008

Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement

"Subject to all liens, encumbrances and easements of record not otherwise extinguished in the proceedings known as Cause 90D01-2203-MF-000009 in the Superior Court of the County of

Wells. Indiana. Attorney for Plaintiff: Nicholas

ATTORNEY NO. 31800-15 Manley Deas Kochalski LLC P.O. Box 165028 Columbus OH 43216-5028 Scott Holliday Sheriff of Wells County Jefferson Township 1820 East 800 North Street Address

The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein. nb 5/1, 5/8, 5/15

Holcomb and nature allies celebrate planting 1 million trees to help us plant trees that one day By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ ceremonial planting of the millionth **Indiana Capital Chronicle** tree, grown at Clark State Forest. will tower over our descendants, The cucumber magnolia tree, Holcomb made the pledge in leaving a legacy that will long out-

freshly planted on the Indiana Statehouse's plush green lawn, stands lanky and sparse.

But the 12-foot sapling will grow to "stand guard" outside the capital building for "generations to come," Gov. Eric Holcomb said.

His administration on Friday celebrated the fulfillment of a fouryear-old promise to plant 1 million trees in public lands around the state.

his 2020 State of the State speech. Department of Natural Resources Director Dan Bortner said his agency "knew it would be a massive undertaking" but added, "Thankfully for all Hoosiers, conservation is a

Bortner lauded a lengthy list of natural resources partners, telling the crowd, "It's the people standing here with us today - plus many,

last our time on this planet." DNR picked trees native to Indiana, including red oak, white oak, bur, chinkapin, swamp chestnut, Shumard, pin, cherry bark oak, and black walnut. They were planted on state forest, state park, fish and wild-

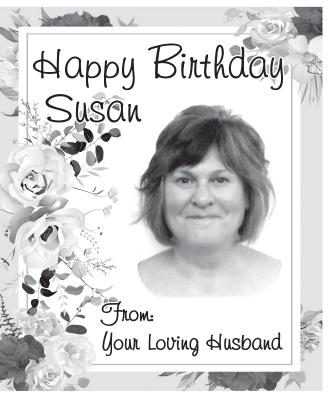
life area, and nature preserve land. Millions more trees could be on

In October, the leaders of eight states and two Canadian provinces - including Indiana's Holcomb - launched a campaign to plant an additional 250 million trees by 2033. All are part of the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers.

Holcomb is term-limited, with eight gubernatorial candidates hoping to succeed him. But Bortner said the change in leadership wouldn't

jeopardize the new, higher goal. Îndiana's next governor, he noted, will be part of the regional group leading the charge. And, tree planting has been a unifying force.







Me and my sparrows and finches and spiders

There's a bird on the back porch. More specifically, there is a female red finch with a nest on the back porch. She made it out of jasmine clematis that Mom planted around 10 years ago. The flowers smell divine in the summer, but the vine can quickly take over if you're not careful. The bees love it The finch's home is nestled behind



Carrie Penrod

the porch light, between the wall and the glass of the light. On the other side is the downspout, and a few feet away is a large lilac tree at least 40 years old. It's not a bad spot for a home, in my opinion. That said, the bird and I are struggling to find harmony. It's dark when I come home and most of the natural world is sleeping including Mrs. Finch. I approach quietly, keeping an eye on the area of the nest because I know two things will happen. First, I am going to startle the finch. Second, the finch is going to startle me by being startled.

Last night, she watched me approach from the edge of the nest. "Don't freak out. If you don't freak out, I won't freak out, and everyone will be fine," I told her quietly. She didn't listen. She freaked out and flapped towards me; I freaked out and dropped my keys while apologizing to a bird.

Thinking about it, I have that conversation a lot with wild animals — big and small. Sometimes, I'll even throw a please in there. "Please don't freak out. Because if you freak out, I am going to freak out, and it will end badly for all parties."

When the bird isn't making a home, the back porch at night usually has a copious amount of spiders. I'm not really afraid of spiders, but I generally don't like them in my vicinity. I avoid killing them if I can because they are helpful to the ecosystem. I repeat the same conversation with them that I have with the bird. They usually listen. Unlike the bird.

When I was a kid, my mom's dad, Paps, put up nets around all the cherry trees in the front yard to keep the birds from eating the cherries. I was playing outside and came across a bird tangled up in one, flailing about wildly. I pulled an old white table over to the tree so I could reach it and, as carefully as I could, untangled the bird. It was a sparrow. Mom and Mams, mom's mom, often used to say to each other while watching the birds, "God loves his little sparrows, doesn't he?" I found Paps sitting in his chair under the tree and yelled at him about the nets and how the bird could have died. I told him they were just hungry. He took the nets down and never put them back up. But that didn't stop him from sitting outside with a BB gun. (I don't think he ever shot any, but the sound was enough to scare them off.) You can't win them all.

Around the same time, I found a baby bird on the ground under the lilac tree. We couldn't find a nest, so Paps helped me take care of it. It stayed in a cage in the backroom on top of the washer for a good while. He taught me how to feed it and how to handle it. I remember coming over after school one day to find the bird gone. Paps said it was ready to be released, but part of me wonders if the bird didn't die, and he was just sparing my hopeful heart.

Last year, around Easter, someone visiting tore down the finch nest and smashed the eggs.

I don't think I'll ever understand the cruelty of man. There's a poem by Rudy Francisco called "Mercy." In it, he writes about a woman asking the speaker to kill a spider. The speaker says instead, they find the most peaceful weapons they can — a cup and a napkin. The spider is caught and placed outside. He writes, "If I am ever caught in the wrong place/ at the wrong time, just being alive/ and not bothering anyone./ I hope I am greeted/ with the same kind of mercy." Althea Davis wrote a poem called "Kinder than man." She writes about deer hit by cars, moths to porch lights, and mice in traps. The last stanza reads, "If I am ever killed/ for simply living/ let death be kinder/ than man."

I've noticed that we humans tend to kill things just because we can. Because they're a nuisance, because they're scary, because we don't like them, because we're afraid, because we want to tell the world we killed a bear. Maybe we do it because it's easy. The life isn't human, so it doesn't matter. I'm not sure I have it in me to live that way. After all, I get sad when I see roadkill.

Nature can already be so cruel; why would I want to

Contact Carrie at: newsroom@news-banner.com

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 1, the 122nd day of 2024. There are 244 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 1, 2011, President Barack Obama announced the death of Osama bin Laden during a U.S. commando operation. (Because of the time difference, it was early May 2 in Pakistan, where the al-Qaida leader met his end.)

On this date:

In 1707, the Kingdom of Great Britain was created as a treaty merging England and Scotland took effect.

In 1866, three days of race-related rioting erupted in Memphis, Tennessee, as white mobs targeted Black people, 46 of whom were killed, along with two whites. (The violence spurred passage of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution defining American citizenship and equal protection under the law.)

In 1960, the Soviet Union shot down an American U-2 reconnaissance plane over Sverdlovsk and captured its pilot, Francis Gary Powers.

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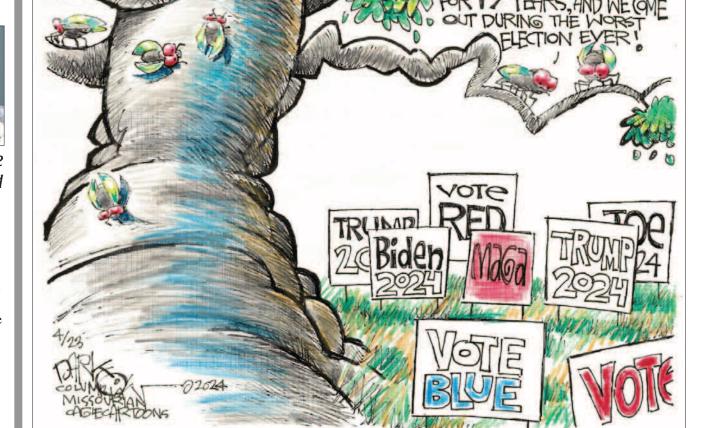
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Holly Gaskill, Editor

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

Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor



A Republican and a Democrat confront our era of bad vibes

Are you skeptical of bipartisan dialogues and commissions that pretend away differences in a chase after a lowest-common-denominator "center"? Me, too.

Yet there is good reason to be weary of a political culture so saturated with negative partisanship and mutual mistrust that it makes discussing our nation's most intractable problems impossible. That's especially true of challenges that defy easy ideological categorization: social disconnection, loneliness, the damaging side effects of social media, the shattering of families, the curse of drug addiction.

Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), who has made it a personal crusade to move these challenges to the forefront of politics, told me he sees "a lot of room between right and left to work hard" on these ques-

This has now taken the form of an alliance with Republican Gov. Spencer Cox of Utah to convene "a national conversation" under the rubric "restoring the common good." A small group of prominent intellectuals and activists ranging from progressive to conservative held its first meeting in Utah on Friday.

It is worth briefly interrupting the news about a certain trial in New York and ludicrous claims that presidents don't have to obey the law to celebrate this effort to do politics differently.

Their initiative matters as a signal that parts of both the left and right are reconfiguring politics around communitarian themes. By focusing on deep personal dissatisfactions, they are also offering an explanation for the disconnect between the good news of a nation where "the unemployment rate is low, crime is going down, GDP is growing," as Murphy put it, and the unhappiness so many Americans express.

Murphy and Cox initially came together because of their mutual desire to respond to the damage that cellphones and social media are doing to children and teens. In the process, Murphy told me, they realized they shared a "common worry that this country feels like it's falling apart at the seams emotionally and

If that sounds grand or even theological, the specific forms of suffering that alarm Murphy and Cox are tangible and heartbreaking - from "deaths of despair" caused by suicide and drug overdoses to the collapse of communities that lost their economic purpose. "We had more opioid prescriptions than people in some of these counties," Cox said in an interview, referring to rural parts of his state.

Murphy is emphatic in distinguishing their effort from the usual bipartisan confab. "This is not intended to be some milquetoast, moderate, let's-all-get-along conversation," he says. "This is about trying to push right and left into a ... conversation about why so many Americans are feeling bad and some of the really big things we may have to do together to fix that."

What could turn this conversation into a larger challenge to the status quo are the links Murphy and Cox draw between the social breakdown often highlighted on the right and the economic injustices that engage the left.

Ian Marcus Corbin, a philosopher at Harvard Medical School and architect of the initiative, says the emphasis on the material roots of personal struggles distinguishes this era's communitarians from their forebears. "You pull out the economic foundation of a community," he told me, "and family formation goes haywire, and all sorts of social pathologies - drug abuse, loneliness, alienation and anti-social behavior - emerge."

Dionne

Murphy speaks of how "concentrated power is driving Americans crazy," the need to "grow bipartisan coalitions around breaking up monopolies and big companies that have way too much power in our economic lives," and the imperative to recognize that there are "some sacred places where efficiency and profit shouldn't govern.

Cox has pioneered a call on Americans to "disagree better" - meaning to argue substantively without holding each other in contempt - and he expects to have some disagreements with Murphy about "the proper role of government" in the economy. But, Cox added, "I think he and I will find agreements that when there are major economic changes to a community, that does lead to some of these deaths of despair, this hopelessness that we're seeing." Repairing the social damage will require public action to "help build more resilient neighborhoods and economies.'

Murphy and Cox also have different (but not diametrically opposed) perspectives on the fiercely contested presidential campaign in the backdrop of their dialogue. Murphy is a staunch supporter of President Biden, whom he credits with pushing "transformational policies." Cox is critical of both Biden and former president Donald Trump. "We should be nominating different people," Cox said earlier this year.

Yet both insist the nation needs to pay attention to the discontent Trump has exposed. "I guess we can thank him for that, and nothing else," Murphy said. Cox said that to move forward, the country must figure out why so many voters used Trump as an opportunity "to throw a brick through the window."

Democracies can founder when they fail to address festering social wounds. These bipartisan partners are standing up for the democratic project by insisting that we can't ignore them any longer.

Follow E.J. Dionne Jr. @EJDionne on X

No, don't rush the Trump J6 case

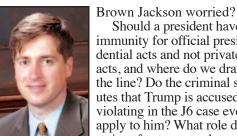
When the Supreme Court said it would hear Donald Trump's immunity claim in the Jan. 6 case brought by Special Counsel Jack Smith, the former president's enemies erupted in anger.

It was delay for delay's sake. It was a rank political favor for an ally. It was utterly gratuitous in legal terms, since it's a slam dunk that a former president doesn't enjoy immu-

nity for acts during his time in office. MSNBC's Rachel Maddow accused the Court of "doing this as a dilatory tactic to help your political friend." And, she added, "for you to say that this is something that the Court needs to decide because it's something that's unclear in the law is just flagrant, flagrant bullpucky.'

This interpretation didn't survive first contact with the oral arguments, which were fascinating, complex and raised all sorts of knotty and conse-

quential issues. Does the threat of criminal prosecution run the risk of chilling presidents in the performance of their duties, as Trump's lawyer argued? Or does immunity run the risk of creating an incentive for executive lawlessness, as the Special Counsel's representative argued? Would politicized lawsuits against presidents threaten our "stable, democratic society," as Justice Samuel Alito suggested? Or would immunity make the presidency "the seat of criminality," as Justice Ketanji



immunity for official presidential acts and not private acts, and where do we draw the line? Do the criminal statutes that Trump is accused of violating in the J6 case even apply to him? What role do a series of court precedents play

Should a president have

Rich in this case? All of this and more fea-

LOWIV tured in the oral arguments. They were so interesting and

fraught because the court is grappling with fresh questions raised by an unprecedented circumstance, namely, the prosecution of a former president.

As for the sweeping, unanimous decision of the D.C. Circuit that denied Trump's claim of immunity and Trump's critics considered dispositive, Chief Justice John Roberts, who is not a MAGA extremist, made it clear that he thinks it's desperately

Trump's critics are putting partisan considerations (the belief that a trial in of itself and, even more so, a conviction will hurt Trump politically) and their hatred of Trump and his post-election conduct before everything else in their demand for the fastest possible ruling most damaging to Trump.

This is a very bad impulse when asking the Court to create a precedent that will affect all presidents going forward.

As Justice Brett Kavanaugh said, "I'm not as concerned about the here and now. I'm more concerned about

the future." Usually, we value such long-term thinking, but it's extremely inconvenient to Jack Smith and his cheerleaders.

A rush is understandable from their point of view. There is about a 50% chance that Trump will win election again and, if he's not tried before November, he'll shut down the prosecutions of him.

But the idea that a complicated case relying on novel use of federal statutes and involving a former president should, or could, be slammed through the courts like a case about an overdue parking ticket was always ridiculous.

If timing was such a worry (and Trump's criminality so obvious), the Justice department could have appointed Jack Smith much sooner and Smith could have indicted Trump much faster. Hoping to short-circuit careful judicial review of all the weighty legal issues raised by the case just to meet the inherently political deadline of getting to trial before the election is foolish and short-

As it is, it seems the Court will almost certainly reject Trump's extravagant claims of immunity, while quite possibly blessing a more limited version. The Court also may ask the judge in the J6 case to determine which of Trump's acts were official and which private. That would take time and be hateful to Trump's enemies, who can't bear the thought that the judiciary might be judicious in its handling of a truly momentous court case.

Rich Lowry is on X @RichLowry

What we can learn from labs, the furry kind not medical

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PLAN 3

I'm reading Tomorrow, a novel by Damien Dibben (2018) with multiple settings spanning 200 years and many locations; it focuses on Venice in 1815 as a 200-year-old dog searches for his master. That's 200 in human years, a fantastical element of the book. The fact the dog is the narrator is another fantastical element. I'm



Anna Spalding

enjoying it as I read the tale from Tomorrow's point of view. It inspired me to let Java, our chocolate

lab, write this week's column. She begins.... If you've

read Anna's columns, you've encountered me, Java. I've been with Mom and Dad since she picked me up 9.5 weeks after my April 14, 2014, birthdate. She arranged for pickup on June 20, her daughter Danielle's birthday. I never knew Danielle: she died before I became a part of the family. When we lived in Ossian, I enjoyed walks on a paved path behind the elementary school and spent some extra time at her memorial tree and plaque. We had a picnic there once. I love any occasion where eating is

I recently celebrated my tenth

birthday. Ten is pretty old for a chocolate lab, but some days I feel like a young pup, especially when I'm around Nor-

man or Oakley or my friends at Rudy's Dog Park. At 10 my eyes are clear, my teeth sparkle, and I hear well unless Mom's calling me to come inside when I'm on the trail of a trespassing critter. I am allergic to grass, so by mid-spring I'm taking Apoquel. I have arthritis and take medicine for that. Those of you humans of a certain age probably experience similar

Labs have been called lazy, loving, licking, and lumpy. I have my share of lumps, two of which were removed from my rear right leg just above my ankle. As those fatty cysts got bigger, Mom worried they'd impede my walking and romping. Dr. Carla Carlton at Lake City Animal Health and Wellness Center agreed and removed them. The worst thing about it all was having to wear the "cone of shame" again. You humans have no idea what wearing that cone is like! I had worn it before when my doctor at Honegger Animal Clinic performed surtwisted colon.

On January 18, I had surgery to repair a torn ACL. We drove to the Center for Animal Health, Edwardsburg, Michigan. Dr. Visser did that

operation. After I'd healed, we returned for 5 sessions of physical therapy with Dr. Reed. I love car rides, so the 55-minute drive didn't bother me. Mom and Dad did some of the same PT exercises at home. I did not like it. But I didn't have to wear the dreaded "cone of shame." The hair on my left rear hip is growing back, so it's not quite so obvious I had repair work done. And I'm limping a lot less. Cabprofen eases the arthritis pain. I may eventually need monthly shots of Librela; laser therapy is even a possibility. Dr. Katie Van Dyke explained it all to mom. My parents take really good care of me, as do my doc-

I think I've taken pretty good care of Mom and Dad, too. In 2016 when Mom had a nasty bout of pancreatitis, I actually got to visit her twice during her nineday stay at Adams Memorial. I was only 2 but already a "good girl." She tells me I'm excellent at lifting her spirits. When she

experienced breast cancer surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation in 2021, I slept by her side of the bed when she slept. I sat at her feet when she sat. In 2022 when she broke her hip while she and Dad were walking me on our icy street, I stayed beside her as she healed after surgery.

I take care of Dad, too. He claims I prevented him from having a heart attack. He told me when he returned from a week in the hospital in December that he had severely clogged coronary arteries. Because we walked three times a day since I was just a wee pup, I helped his heart develop new pathways. Mom thought I was going to wag my butt off when I greeted him in the garage the day he returned from quadruple bypass surgery.

Enough talk of injuries and maladies. I couldn't end my opportunity to write Mom's column without sharing the things I love—besides Mom and Dad. I love sticks, the bigger the better. I love swimming. And there's nothing like a pontoon ride. I love taking walks on our street, on the Beyer Farm Trail but especially in campgrounds. There are so many intriguing smells in campgrounds—and sticks. And kids, lots of kids. Did I tell you I love kids? They are generous with hugs and pats on the head. And they

We camped most recently at Jefferson Ridge in Dirks, Arkansas, to view the eclipse. Dad is nuts about all things astronomical. He set up two telescopes that afternoon. One had a camera attached to it and the camera was connected to his computer. I heard him tell a campground neighbor that he was taking pictures once every minute. I watched from the camper so I didn't disturb the telescopes or the step ladder holding the computer. It got dark and then it wasn't. And the birds stopped chatting. It was spooky.

Here's the Thing: I'll conclude for Java. She is very much a part of our lives and family. Beloved canines spend such a short time on earth. During their brief lives, they teach us lots of lessons: how to take care of those we love, how to play and enjoy simple things, how to rest when tired, and how to love unconditionally. This world would be a much better place if people were more like good dogs.

Let's talk.

annaspalding1956@gmail.com

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

The cause of your constant lack of energy Also: Understanding your stroke risk

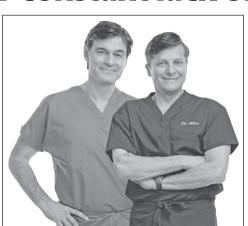
Question: I'm dragging around with no energy these days. I never used to feel this way. What could cause me to be so tired all the time? I am 47 and in pretty good shape. — Kevin G., Milwaukee

Answer: Chronic fatigue - that's what being tired all the time is called - is something that 20 percent of folks ages 45 to 86 contend with according to a study in BMJ Public Health — and around 60 percent of those folks haven't been able to pinpoint the

What we do know is that fatigue can be the symptom of many things, from sleep apnea and insomnia to hormonal changes, depression, stress, drinking too much, being sedentary, and obesity. Obsessive use of social media or other digital snares can deprive you of needed sleep and fuel fatigue.

Certain medications such as beta-blockers (for high blood pressure), anticonvulsants, sedatives and anti-anxiety drugs can also cause daytime weariness. Chronic fatigue is also associated with specific medical conditions such as chronic fatigue syndrome (duh!), Lyme disease, mononucleosis, heart disease/failure, anemia, and respiratory conditions like COPD.

As a first step, ask yourself if there are lifestyle choices that you're making that are fueling your fatigue. If so, determine if you can address them yourself (with help from the support and information at LongevityPlaybook.com) by adopting a smart sleep schedule (7-8 hours nightly),



Mehmet Oz, M.D. and Mike Roizen, M.D.

getting more physical activity daily (30-plus minutes), improving your nutrition (go plantbased, avoiding highly processed foods), and/ or avoiding excess alcohol. You may also want to check out the iHerb.com blog, "Constant Fatigue: Common Causes + the Best Foods and Supplements to Boost Energy."

But if your tiredness doesn't improve with lifestyle changes, or it came on suddenly, you're losing weight unintentionally, it is accompanied by other symptoms such as sore muscles or headache, or you're over age 65, it's important to consult your doctor to determine if there's an autoimmune condition, hormone imbalance, or chronic

disease causing your symptoms. Good luck!

Question: My 37-year-old cousin had

a stroke two months ago. I don't really understand why she had it at such a young age. And does that mean I'm at increased risk? I am 52. Any info would be welcome! — *Greg T., Evansville, Indiana*

Answer: It surprises people to learn that about 15 percent of ischemic strokes happen to young adults and adolescents and that in any given year, around 34 percent of people hospitalized for a stroke can be younger than

There are three types of strokes: Ischemic stroke happens when blood flow to the brain becomes blocked and accounts for around 87 percent of strokes. A hemorrhagic stroke happens when an artery in the brain ruptures. A transient ischemic attack, AKA mini-stroke, occurs because of a temporary blockage of blood flow to the brain. It can signal a risk for a major stroke.

The most common causes are high blood pressure, high LDL cholesterol, obesity, diabetes, head or neck trauma, an irregular heartbeat and smoking or vaping. Smoking - even a little — increases the risk — every five cigarettes you smoke a day increases your stroke risk by 12 percent. In addition, genetic risks for cardiovascular disease may predispose you, as can diseases like sickle cell

To reduce your risk, get plenty of physical activity; eat a plant-based diet that avoids highly processed foods, saturated fats and added sugars; maintain a healthy weight; and don't smoke or vape. Also, have cholesterol levels and blood pressure checked regularly; take any medications prescribed for diabetes and heart disease; and limit alcohol consumption. If you've had a stroke, stay in touch with your health care team to prevent another one (around 23 percent of people who have a stroke will experience a second one).

We hope you and your cousin adopt preventive measures. And check out the iHerb.com blog, "Cardiovascular Health," which lets you know what foods to avoid if taking anti-clotting medication and what may help protect you from stroke or aid in your recovery. (Always discuss supplements with your doctor before taking them).

'Alice in Wonderland' next at the Pulse

"Alice in Wonderland" will be the next production at the Pulse Opera House in Warren on the weekends of May 3-5 and 10-12.

Alice will be portrayed by Abigail Drummond and other members of the cast are Elizabeth Drummond,

Vivian Littell, Emma Mounsey, Megan Gilleand, Jessica Barker, Ellie Coyne, Trinity Cain, Jessica Littell, Robinson Walter, Eli Gilleand, Hanson Hensley, Amanda Shull, Kira Stansell, Izzv Harlan, Jacob Elwell, Emy Shidler and Sophia Miner.

There will 8 p.m. performances on Friday and Saturday and 4 p.m. ones on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for those 12 and under. For online reservations go to www.pulseoperahouse.org or call 260-375-7017.

LSM hosts 'An evening with Dr. Gary Chapman'

Loving Shepherd Ministries will be hosting "An Evening with Dr. Gary Chapman" on Tuesday, June 25, at 5:30 p.m. at the LSM Event Center at 1935 North Main St. in Bluffton.

Chapman is the author of more than 50 books, including "The 5 Love Languages," that sold more than a million copies and is on the New York Times best seller list. He has been a family counselor for more than 40 years and recently retired after being a senior associate for 50 years.

His talk here will be about how to strengthen families and vulnerable children through the Gospel. A freewill offering will be taken to further LSM's impact around the

Tickets are now available for purchase at \$50 per individual (\$350 for table for 8) by calling 260-824-9000.

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®

<u>Choice Hotels International, Inc.</u> (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 travelers' 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.

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Events at Fort Wayne's Swinney Homestead

The Swinney Homestead, 1424 West Jefferson Blvd. will host an Open House on Friday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the home and the herb garden open to the public.

Registration for the 2024-2025 Settlers Inc. programs opens with new members welcome.

The Settlers annual Herb and Perennial Plant Sale also will begin on Friday, May 3, at 10 a.m. and continue on Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. until noon. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Swinney Homestead.

Direct questions about the sale to Norene at 260-

637-8622.



No license fishing day at Indiana water sites

On Sunday, May 12, all of the state's public water sites, including Ouabache's Kunkel Lake, will allow fishing without a license or trout/salmon stamp.

All size and bag limits remain in effect. For other public places to fish check out on.In.gov/where2fish.



Thursday, May 2nd 6pm Friday, May 3rd 6pm & 8:50pm Saturday, May 4th 2:30pm, 5:20pm & 8:10pm Sunday, May 5th 2pm & 4:50pm

Unsung Hero Thursday, May 2nd 6:20pm Friday, May 3rd 6:20pm & 9pm Saturday, May 4th 3pm, 5:45pm & 8:30pm Sunday, May 5th 2:20pm & 5pm

www.abcinemainc.com

Tigers remain perfect in ACAC, top Jets on the road

Bluffton got yet another all-important conference victory to remain perfect in the ACAC. This time was at the expense of Adams Central 8-4.

The Tigers (9-5, 4-0 ACAC) just wrapped up an 11-inning, 4-3 thrilling win over Woodlan last week, who was second in the conference last year. The win also brings the Tigers to winning eight of their last nine games.

The Jets (9-6, 1-2 ACAC) were only a game underneath the Tigers in the 2023 ACAC standings, but returned a good chunk of seniors to the roster and were preseason ranked No. 9 in 2A.

The Tigers needed a win to continue their quest for the conference crown in what is a three-team race between them, the reigning champion Heritage Patriots and Jay County, and they did just that.

"I think it's monumental," Bluffton head coach Jason Pierce said after the win. "I really do. I mean, you try to not overplay and make (the team) feel stressed just by the size of the game. But you know what, when you're trying to win a conference, that's just natural pressure, and it's good pressure. Those are things that I think benefit you further when you go into the tournament.'

Five runs was all it took for Bluffton to win this game, and it came all at once in the third inning.

Adams Central starter Cade Van De Weg, who entered the game with a 3-1 record in his four starts and 1.00 ER, to no one's surprise mowed down the Bluffton bats. He struck out the side in the first inning, and only allowed a bloop single and an infield single

But all the Tigers needed was to get the first baserunner of the third inning on base, and Nick Pastore reached via an error on a groundball to third baseman Keagen Combs. That was enough to get the sticks hot, as the Tigers put up three hits in a row to take a 3-0 lead. Braxton Betancourt smoked an opposite-field double just shy of the wall in left-centerfield for one run, and Brody Lewis countered with a two-RBI single.

Lewis then manufactured a run all on his own on the base paths. The senior catcher swiped all three bags mixed with a few passed balls to score the fourth. Lukas Gehrett's single was also plated in the next at-bat, driven in by Eli Garrett.

Bluffton's five-run inning seemingly came out of nowhere, as Van De Weg seemed to be on cruise control. He silenced the bats for two more innings, alllowing only one baserunner more until the sixth.

Pierce attributed his team adjusting to the offspeed and breaking pitches that kept his Tigers off balance. He thought that the first time through the batting order, the team was swinging at pitches outside of the strike zone instead of taking them. After that first time through the order, they started laying off the pitch and hitting fastballs.

"We kind of had to figure that out, get off of (breaking pitches) and make him go to fastballs because then, by the third inning, when we started working into the bottom of our lineup, he started starting us off with a few more fastballs," Pierce said. "We made a great adjustment there. I can't take that away from our kids. They just battled their tails off."

The Jets needed to start scraping across a few runs in the middle innings to answer the Tigers' big inning. They got one back in the third off of the RBI single by Dakota Perry, and got two back in the fifth with a two-out, two-rbi base knock by Carson Ross.

Those three runs made a now uncomfortable Bluffton dugout that saw its five-run lead shave down to two.

In the sixth, the Tigers needed some insurance runs to pad the lead, so why not go to the freshman in a clutch moment?

Axton Beste climbed into the box with two outs, Gehrett and Easton Blair in scoring position. He sent a line drive hit to centerfield and cushioned the Tigers' lead to 7-4 and exhaled.

"That's a huge hit," Pierce said. "He got himself in a hitter's count and was able to attack a fastball. I can't say enough about him as a freshman. He's stepping up. He loves to lead. He's not afraid."

Griffin Morgan finished his day after four innings of work, three runs and eight strikeouts. Cameron Williams came into relieve the fifth and part of the sixth

But when Williams loaded the bases, Pierce went with his third starter A.J. Streveler. The Jets were able to sneak one run back with Trevor Currie's walk, but a inning-ending double play deflated the big threat.

In the seventh, Gehrett ripped his third single of the game to drive home Lewis to ensure the seventh inning. Streveler delivered and sent the Tigers home with a 4-0 record in the ACAC.

Bluffton will host Jay County (9-6, 3-0 ACAC) at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 2.

ryan@news-banner.com



Bluffton's Griffin Morgan (middle) receives high fives from head coach Jason Pierce, (left) and Dane Schlagenhauf after getting out of the second inning Tuesday at Adams Central. The Tigers' starter picked up the win on the mound in the ACAC contest, leading the team to an 8-4 win over the Jets. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

High School Calendar

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

BASEBALL: Southern Wells at Oak Hill, 5:30

BOYS GOLF: Huntington North at Norwell,

GIRLS TENNIS: Northfield at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Norwell at South Adams, 4:30 p.m. SOFTBALL: Norwell at East Noble, 5:30 p.m.;

Southern Wells at Monroe Central, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 2

Jay County at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at South Adams, 5 p.m. BOYS GOLF: Norwell at Whitko, 4:30 p.m.;

BASEBALL: East Noble at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.;

Bluffton/Bellmont at Jay County, 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: Bishop Luers at Southern Wells,

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.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

BASEBALL: Norwell at Guerin Catholic, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Muncie Burris, 11 a.m.

BOYS GOLF: Norwell, Bluffton, Southern Wells at Bi-County meet at Wabash Valley Golf

Sports Roundup

Raiders blow out Rebels in softball

Southern Wells traveled to Randolph Southern in softball and came back happy Tuesday night.

The Raiders picked up their third win of the season, improving to 3-9 overall in a 19-0 rout over the Rebels.

Gracie Reeves, Morgan Jones and Kaylea Coffel led the way for the Raiders with three hits each. Jones had a double and two RBI, while Coffel drove in three runs in her 3-3 day at the plate. Kenzie Paxson had a home run and a triple with her two hits and three RBI. Collena Reeves went 2-2 with two RBI and a triple. Kyah Thomas went 2-4 with three RBI. Emma Parks hit a double with an RBI and Lillia Paxson had a hit and an RBI.

Coffel pitched a complete game shutout with nine strikeouts, one walk and four hits. Southern Wells will be at Monroe Central at 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 1.

Knights rout Bulldogs, improve to 2-0 in NE8 play

Norwell crushed New Haven 12-1in NE8 Conference play on the road in baseball Tuesday night.

The Knights improve their record to 9-4 overall with a 2-0 conference record.

The team produced 14 hits, three from Drew Graft and Cade Shelton. Graft drove in two RBI with two doubles and Shelton drove in two and hit a double. Cayden Cassel also doubled and brought home a run, and Noah Schamerloh doubled. Lane Lewis and Cassel had multi-hit games.

Schamerloh threw in the victory, tossing six complete innings, allowing four hits on his one unearned run, one walk and six strikeouts.

Norwell will host East Noble at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 2.

Southern Wells edges out South Adams in boys golf

The Southern Wells boys' golf team one by one stroke at South Adams Tuesday night at Wabash Valley.

The Raiders scored a 185 on the day, led by Gabe McElhaney and Cash Banter's day at 44. Following them were Chandler Oswalt (48), Tristen Worster (49) and Dirk Frauhiger (52).

Southern Wells will be at home against Wes-Del at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 2.

Knights finish game with **Spartans, top Bulldogs**

Norwell finished its one match with Homestead in girls' tennis Tuesday night from last week while also playing at New Haven Tuesday night.

The Knights and the Spartans had a 2-2 match going before darkness postponed the No. 2 singles match. In the makeup Tuesday, Homestead's Layla Kelly defeated Delaney Hoover 5-7, 6-3, 7-5. That dropped the Knights' record to 7-2.

In the match against New Haven, Norwell won 5-0, and their record now stands at 8-2.

Individual results:

- Macie Saalfrank defeated Malee Snodgrass 6-2, 6-1 at No. 1 singles.
- Aubrey Meyer defeated Nakia Capers 6-0, 6-1 at No. 2 singles.
- Charli Swindell defeated Ale Buchanan 6-1, 6-2 at No. 3 singles.
- Annabelle Johnson and Macy Felger efeated Brooke Thornhill and Casiano 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 doubles.
- · Jordyn Xayyachack and Ciera Hiester defeated Emily Gordillo and Jessica Didion 6-0, 6-0 at No. 2 doubles.

The Norwell junior varsity team also won by a score of 4-0 and improved to 9-1 on the season.

Results for JV:

- Campbell Sloan defeated Marisol Balt-
- Carley Wolf and Melissa Hoag defeated Ella Doust and Grae Galloway 8-7(5).
- · Campbell Sloan and Isabella Hubble defeated Gabi Dishong and Ciera Casiano
- Hazel Lewis and Molly Threewits defeated Lucy Graves and Ella Wilson 8-0. Norwell will be at South Adams at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 1.

Tigers split track home meet with Heritage, South Adams

Bluffton's track and field teams hosted

Heritage and South Adams Tuesday night. The boys defeated both teams by a team score of 80-38. The girls fell to the Starfires

61-22 and the Patriots 72-22.

Individual results

• Alex Mechling first in the 100m with a

time of 11.86 and Isaiah San Juan third at of • San Juan first in the 200m with a time

of 24.77 and Khamel Moore third at 24.95.

- Jude Baumgartner first in the 400m with a time of 51.56. • Tyler Godwin first in the 800m with a
- time of 2:02.28 and Levi Johns second at 2:13.02. Aidan Graves second in the 1600m with
- a time of 4:57.14 and Jackson Rockwell third at 5:00.91. • Graves third in the 3200m with a time

of 11:19.74.

- Andrew Hunt first in the 110m hurdles with a time of 16.10 and in the 300m hurdles at 42.77.
- Bluffton's 4x100m relay team of Mechling, Ben Ramseyer, Trey Bustos and Hunt first at 46.17. • Bluffton's 4x400m relay team of Marshall Gerber, Maksym Laishevkin, Hunt and
- Baumgartner first at 3:38.20 and third with their team B of Elijah Kerner, Teeple, Johns and Godwin at 3:44.48. • Eli Bertsch first in the high jump at 5-10 and Austin Geimer second at 5-8.
 - Bustos first in the long jump at 20-5.
- Johnny Cruz second in the shot put at 48-5.5.

(Continued on Page 7)

IHSAA releases new sectional assignments for six sports

The IHSAA made movements toward sectional assignments for both basketball sports, both for soccer, football and girls volleyball on Tuesday.

These changes will add new teams or subtract old ones to each sectional assignment. The assignments are set for the last two seasons, running through 2024-25 and

Below are the new assignments for Wells County teams in all sports.

Boys

Basketball Norwell in 3A with Bellmont, Heritage,

Marion, Mississinewa and New Haven. Bluffton in 2A with Adams Central, Bishop Luers, South Adams, Whitko and

Woodlan. Southern Wells in 1A with Cowan, Daleville, North Miami, Northfield, Southwood, Tri-Central and Wes-Del.

Football

Norwell in 3A with Bellmont, Delta, Bishop Luers, Heritage, Jay County, Mississinewa and Oak Hill.

Bluffton in 2A with Adams Central, Central Noble, Churubusco, Eastside, Manchester, Prairie Heights and Whitko.

Southern Wells in 1A with Blackhawk

Christian, Fremont, North Miami, Northfield, Southwood and Trition. Soccer

Norwell in 2A with Bellmont, Bishop Luers, Concordia, Heritage, Manchester and Woodlan.

Girls

Norwell in 3A with Bellmont, Heritage, Marion, Mississinewa and New Haven.

Bluffton in 2A with Adams Central. Bishop Luers, South Adams, Whitko and Woodlan.

Southern Wells in 1A with Cowan, Daleville, North Miami, Northfield, Southwood. Tri-Central and Wes-Del. Soccer

Norwell in 2A with Bellmont, Bishop

Luers, Canterbury, Heritage, New Haven and Woodlan.

Basketball

Volleyball Norwell in 3A with Heritage, Marion, Mississinewa and New Haven.

Bluffton in 2A with Adams Central, Bishop Luers, Blackhawk Christian, South Adams and Whitko.

Southern Wells in 1A with Cowan, Daleville, North Miami, Northfield, Tri-Central and Wes-Del.



Thomas kicks it to UT Martin for rodeo

Above, Norwell's Drew Thomas (right) signs with the University of Tennessee at Martin next to her future head coach Chase Thrasher to be on the college rodeo team. The senior will compete in the breakaway roping and Barrel racing events in the NIRA Ozark Region. Thomas plans to study agricultural business. (Photo provided)

Sports Roundup

(Continued from Page 6)

- Drayvin Shoemaker second in the discus at 135-1.
- Rylynn Penick second in the 100m with a time of 13.41.
- Olivia Schreiber third in the 200m with a time of 29.66. • Maryn Schreiber third in the 400m with a time of 1:05.89.
- Addison Yates second in the 800m with a time of 2:45.05. • Sophie Schwartz third in the 100m hurdles with a time of
- 188.10.
 - Dakota Lee third in the 300m hurdles with a time of 53.80. • The 4x100m relay team of Haley Gibson, Olivia Sch-
- reiber, Lee and Penick third with a time of 54.85. • The 4x400m relay team of Yates, Lee, Maryn Schreiber
- and Madelyn Funk third with a time of 4:47.78. • Corina Rader third in the discus at 93-3.
- Bluffton will host the ACAC championship meet at 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 3.

Tigers drop by one run against Jets in softball

Bluffton fell at Adams Central in an ACAC softball game 7-6 Tuesday.

The loss brings the Tigers' record to 6-7 on the season and 0-3 in the conference.

Of the nine hits, Marly Drayer led the way with three hits and an RBI along with two stolen bases. Tyrah Shaw went 2-4 with two RBI, and Madyson Sonnigson went 2-4 with a double. Averi Petty had an RBI.

Sonnigsen received the loss despite only one earned run. She went six innings, allowing seven hits and seven total runs, two walks and three strikeouts.

Bluffton will host Jay County at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 2.

Tigers fall to Starfires in ACAC girls tennis match

Bluffton hosted and lost to South Adams 3-2 in ACAC girls' tennis play Tuesday night.

Individual results:

- Chloe Summersett (SA) defeated Hazel Pfister 6-4, 6-2 at No. 1 singles.
- Ava Kinsey (SA) defeated Eve Corkwell 6-2, 6-2 at No. 2 singles.

- Gretchen Crist (B) defeated Abby Claghorn 6-0, 6-2 at
- Emma Schwartz and Kinzie Fiechter (B) defeated Sam Wiegel and Grace Barkley 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 at No. 1 doubles.
- Malina Mawhorr and Ayla Loshe (SA) defeated Emily Drayer and Sophie Eisenhut 7-6 (7-1), 6-4 at No. 2 doubles. Bluffton also lost the junior varsity game 7-2.

Results for JV:

- Olivia Oswalt (SA) defeated Gissel Martinez 8-2,
- Makenzie Miller (SA) defeated Zoey Schmidt 8-4. • Lamie Bryan (SA) defeated Briell Coratti 8-1.
- Calah Hill and Ginamarie Summersett (SA) defeated Alexis Grover and Avery Hunt 9-7.
- Hannah Scott and Emerson Wanner (SA) defeated Zara Eisenhut and Mary Beth Zurcher 8-2.
- Aleeah Grover and Isla Gibson (B) defeated Elysia Gonsowsky and Kyleigh Habegger 8-6.
- Calah Hill and Leah Summersett defeated Anna Zurch-
- er and Madison Duncan 8-3. • Zainab Ameen and Charos Anorboeva (B) defeated
- ShaFinga Chiagi and Zahira Rani 8-4. Bluffton will host Northfield at 5 p.m. Wednesday, May

Green Valley Tuesday Senior Golf League results

The Green Valley Tuesday Senior Golf League kiked off its 2024 season on Tuesday. The winning team was Tom Nahlword Steve Folk, Mike Allred and Ron McDonald at

Folk had the low gross of 39, Nahword had the low net of 31 Bruce Warner had the closest to pin and the longest putt.

Knights mercy Bulldogs in JV baseball

Norwell earned a 10-run mercy rule victory over New Haven in home baseball Tuesday night.

The Knights won 11-1 and compiled 10 hits in the game. Of the 10 hits, Will Case led the way with three hits. Jaxson Dohrman went 2-2 with a double and two RBI, while Palmer Krug had two hits and an RBI. Cade Thornton and Trey Privett had a double and an RBI.

Privett got the win, throwing six innings, allowing two hits, one unearned run, two walks and seven strikeouts.

Tigers pour 19 runs on Jets in JV softball

Bluffton defeated Adams Central at home in iunior varsity softball Tuesday night.

The Tigers splashed an 11-run first inning to take home a 19-3 win over the Jets.

Jillian Phillppe led the team with three triples in the game. Sy'Annha Jordan-Turner, Kierstynn Reed, and Addison Kauffman also all had 3 hits. Reed's was a double. Addison Gehring had two triples. Ella Borror and Reese Turnbull had two hits each, one of Turnbull's was a double.

Kinlee Taylor threw four innings, striking out two. Sierra Holmes threw the final inning.

Knights fall to Chargers in JV softball

Norwell fell in junior varsity softball at Carroll 17-7

The Knights had two hits, one being from Ayla Nern, and Madison Mashuda had the other for two RBI. Kaitlee Reinhard had an RBI.

Carli Fausz got the loss, throwing three innings and allowed 16 runs (only one was earned, six errors). Bridget Wilson allowed one run on two hits in one inning.

Norwell Middle School sweeps New Haven in soccer

The Norwell Middle School soccer teams competed Monday night and won both games at New Haven.

The boys' team won 3-1. Goals were scored by Marvin Keller, Blake Fuess and Cooper Nagel.

The girls won 2-0. Bailynn Messman and Vivian Branham scored the goals for the Knights.

Norwell Middle School falls to East Noble in middle school golf

The Norwell Middle School golf team lost to East Noble

The Knights lost 270-270. Gracie Hulvey had the lowest score at a 53.

News-Banner Scoreboard

<u>BASKETBALL</u> NBA

FIRST ROUND

Sunday, April 28 New York 97, Philadelphia 92 L.A. Clippers 116, Dallas 111, series tied 2 - 2 Indiana 126, Milwaukee 113, Indiana

leads series 3 - 1 Minnesota 122, Phoenix 116, Min-

nesota wins series 4 - 0 **Monday, April 29** Boston 102, Miami 88, Boston leads

series 3 - 1 Oklahoma City 97, New Orleans 89, Oklahoma City wins series 4 - 0 Denver 108, L.A. Lakers 106, Den-

ver wins series 4 - 1
Tuesday, April 30 Philadelphia 112, New York 106, OT, New York leads series 3 - 2 Cleveland 104, Orlando 103, Cleveland leads series 3 - 2 Indiana at Milwaukee, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 1 Miami at Boston, 7:30 p.m. Dallas at L.A. Clippers, 10 p.m.

Thursday, May 2 x-Milwaukee at Indiana, TBA New York at Philadelphia, TBA

HOCKEY

NHL.

FIRST ROUND Sunday, April 28

Colorado 5, Winnipeg 1, Colorado leads series 3 - 1 Vancouver 4, Nashville 3, OT, Vancouver leads series 3 - 1
N.Y. Rangers 4, Washington 2, N.Y. Rangers wins series 4 - 0 Edmonton 1, Los Angeles 0, Edmon-

Monday, April 29
Florida 6, Tampa Bay 1, Florida wins

Dallas 4. Vegas 2. series tied 2 - 2 Tuesday, April 30
Toronto 2, Boston 1, OT, Boston

leads series 3 - 2 Carolina 6, N.Y. Islanders 3 Colorado at Winnipeg, 9:30 p.m Nashville at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Wednesday, May 1 Vegas at Dallas, 7:30 p.m. Los Angeles at Edmonton, 10 p.m. Thursday, May 2

BASEBALL

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Monday's Games Baltimore 2, N.Y. Yankees 0 Toronto 6, Kansas City 5 Tampa Bay 1, Milwaukee 0
Minnesota 3, Chicago White Sox 2
Oakland 5, Pitsburgh 1
South 2, Atlanta 1 Seattle 2, Atlanta 1 L.A. Angels 6, Philadelphia 5 St. Louis at Detroit, ppd.

Tuesday's Games St. Louis 2, Detroit 1, 1st game Baltimore 4, N.Y. Yankees 2 Kansas City 4, Toronto 1 Detroit 11, St. Louis 6, 2nd game Boston 4, San Francisco 0 Texas 7, Washington 1 Milwaukee 8, Tampa Bay 2 Minnesota 6, Chicago White Sox 5

Houston 10, Cleveland 9 Philadelphia at L.A. Angels, late Atlanta at Seattle, late

Pittsburgh at Oakland, late

Wednesday's Games
St. Louis (Mikolas 2-3) at Detroit

Maeda 0-1), 1:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Eflin 1-3) at Milwaukee
(Rea 2-0), 1:10 p.m.
Minnesota (Ober 2-1) at Chicago Minnesota (Ober 2-1) at Chicago White Sox (Flexen 1-3), 2:10 p.m. Kansas City (Lugo 4-1) at Toronto (Bassitt 2-4), 3:07 p.m. Pittsburgh (Priester 0-1) at Oakland (Stripling 0-5), 3:37 p.m. Atlanta (Sale 3-1) at Seattle (Hancock 3-2), 3:40 p.m. Philadelphia (Wheeler 2-3) at L.A. Angels (Sandoval 1-4), 4:07 p.m. N.Y. Yankees (Gil 1-1) at Baltimore (Burnes 3-0), 6:35 p.m.

N.1. Talikees (Gil 1-1) at Baltilliole (Burnes 3-0), 6:35 p.m. San Francisco (TBD) at Boston (Crawford 1-1), 7:10 p.m. Washington (Williams 2-0) at Texas

(Heaney 0-3), 8:05 p.m. Cleveland (McKenzie 2-2) at House ton (Verlander 1-0), 8:10 p.m.

Thursday's Games

N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, 1:05 p.m. San Francisco at Boston, 1:35 p.m. Washington at Texas, 2:35 p.m. Cleveland at Houston, 8:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE Monday's Games Washington 7, Miami 2 Chicago Cubs 3, N.Y. Mets 1 Tampa Bay 1, Milwaukee 0
Oakland 5, Pittsburgh 1
Cincinnati 5, San Diego 2
Seattle 2, Atlanta 1 L.A. Angels 6. Philadelphia 5 L.A. Dodgers 8, Arizona 4 St. Louis at Detroit, ppd.

Tuesday's Games
St. Louis 2, Detroit 1, 1st game
Miami 7, Colorado 6, 10 innings Detroit 11, St. Louis 6, 2nd game N.Y. Mets 4, Chicago Cubs 2 Boston 4, San Francisco 0 Texas 7, Washington 1 Milwaukee 8, Tampa Bay 2 Philadelphia at L.A. Angels, 9:38

p.m. Atlanta at Seattle, late Cincinnati at San Diego, late L.A. Dodgers at Arizona, 9:40 p.m. Pittsburgh at Oakland, 9:40 p.m

Wednesday's Games St. Louis (Mikolas 2-3) at Detroit (Maeda 0-1), 1:10 p.m.

Tampa Bay (Eflin 1-3) at Milwaukee (Rea 2-0), 1:10 p.m.

(Rea 2-0), 1.10 J.III.
Pittsburgh (Priester 0-1) at Oakland
(Stripling 0-5), 3:37 p.m.
Atlanta (Sale 3-1) at Seattle (Hancock 3-2), 3:40 p.m.
Philadelphia (Wheeler 2-3) at L.A.

Angels (Sandoval 1-4), 4:07 p.m. Cincinnati (Ashcraft 3-1) at San

Cincinnati (Ashcratt 3-1) at San Diego (Musgrove 3-3), 4:10 p.m. Colorado (Hudson 0-4) at Miami (Muñoz 0-0), 6:40 p.m. Chicago Cubs (Imanaga 4-0) at N.Y. Mets (Buttó 0-1), 7:10 p.m. San Francisco (TBD) at Boston (Crawford 1-1), 7:10 p.m. Washington (Williams 2-0) at Texas

(Heaney 0-3), 8:05 p.m. L.A. Dodgers (Yamamoto 2-1) at Arizona (Gallen 3-2), 9:40 p.m. Thursday's Games Colorado at Miami, 12:10 p.m. Chicago Cubs at N.Y. Mets, 1:10

San Francisco at Boston, 1:35 p.m Washington at Texas, 2:35 p.m

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Navigating wedding etiquette

tal health support

to be. One of the

behaviors I want-

ed to change was

always feeling

like I was inter-

rupting others, but

I truly cared about

what they were

saving and want-

ed to show them

that. Listening, for

me, was waiting

my turn to speak,

Dear Annie: I have a question I hear to seek out menmany people ask about wedding gifting.

The old rule of thumb was the gift because I wasn't should cover the plate. Others say it's a the person I wanted gift and you're not responsible for paying for the couple's wedding.

Recently, my husband and I attended a family member's wedding; we put \$200 in an envelope and gave them a lovely wedding frame. We couldn't afford a hotel so we drove 2.5 hours

We truly couldn't afford what we gave as it was. And we never heard a word after the wedding.

It was lovely talking to friends and family, but I truly wished I hadn't attended.

Is it a gift, or must we pay for all expenses for each of us? When our children got married, many people were very generous, and some were not. -Confused

Dear Confused: As far as the amount to give, it varies. Cultures have different ways of handling important events like a birth, a wedding or a funeral. You mentioned an "old rule of thumb" stating that "the gift should cover the plate." That sounds fine for some people, but perhaps not for you. It sounds like your gift was as generous as it could be. In other words, it was clearly your intention to honor the couple the best way you could. The \$200 gift you gave, along with the frame, sounds very generous in view of the circumstances you described. The fact that you had a good time at the wedding with your family and friends would seem to indicate that they had a good time with you, too. Clearly, your presence was enough. You mentioned that the couple did not acknowledge your gift. That might not be a reflection of your gift but perhaps a reflection on

Dear Annie: I'm writing in response to "Love My Mother-in-Law," who was being rudely interrupted and chalked it up to somebody that wanted to hear themselves speak.

As a woman in my late 30s, I started

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



not hearing what was being said. I thought it was a flaw in my personality.

After much digging and many other behaviors that seemed related, my therapist recommended I be evaluated for ADD. I come from a generation where ADD/ADHD seemed to be a buzzword and a condition that was over-diagnosed to explain troubled behaviors in kids, so I wasn't necessarily on board.

Fast forward through research and an evaluation, and I have been diagnosed with ADD. It is such a relief to know I am not a bad person, but I have an imbalance of neurotransmitters that creates many of these behaviors I am trying to change, including interrupting. There are so many thoughts in my head that I feel, in order to contribute to the conversation, I have to get them out or I will forget due to the incessant raving thoughts I have.

So while she may love her MIL, she should also know that there are many reasons for people that interrupt and some are not within their realm of control. — ADD Adult

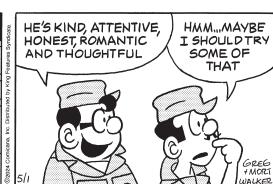
Dear ADD Adult: Thank you for giving another possible explanation for interrupting. When we know better, we do better.

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

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BEETLE BAILEY





BLONDIE







ZITS





CRANKSHAFT







My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: I am searching for an answer to this *question: If two Christians* are at odds with one another concerning a moral issue and both believe they are right based on the Scripture, how can they be in unity as Jesus desires? Who is the one who should give in and go the way of the other for the sake of unity, even though they still believe they are right? Doesn't it seem that the narrow-minded person should compromise with some grace and the other broader party consider the

Answer: From the beginning of time until the present moment, man's ungodly determination

21.3 10 9 56 34 King "Lost Vegas"

News (N)

4 3 21 21 ABC21 News at 5 (N)

48 64 150 219 (4:30) Speak (L) (N)

59 153 110 231 Guy's Grocery Games

310 515 (3:45) ** Barbersho...

351 851 318 545 (4:15) ★ Mafia Mamma Toni Collette.

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SHOW

TMC

307 Vargas Report (L) (N)

B 260 NCIS "Borderland"

NASCAR Race Hub (L)

The Hill (L) (N)

| 59 30 172 290 Bluey | Bluey | Bluey | Big City | Big

300 501 (4:50) ★★★ Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps ("10) Shia LaBeouf, Josh Brolin, Michael Douglas.

NCIS "Patriot Down

Guy's Grocery Games

(:35) *** * Straight Outta Compton (2015, Drama) Corey Hawkins, Jason Mitchell, O'Shea Jackson Jr..

*** Triple 9 (2016, Thriller) Chiwetel Ejiofor Anthony Mackie, Casey Affleck.

Edition (N) (N)

25 Words

King "No Retreat"

consequences? – N.B.

15

21.2 WPTA-2

15.2 106 20

God created us free to choose how we would live

to use his gift of free choice for his own selfish ends has brought him to the brink of doom. Moral living sometimes demands difficult choices. When there are disagreements between two parties, both may be wrong. But God's Word is never wrong. The Bible has a great deal to say about right and wrong, good and evil.

Not a day goes by that we do not have a chance to choose between the devil's clever promises and God's sure Word. God created us free to choose how we would live, but leaves us free to pursue our own ends, though we will reap the consequences of bad moral decisions.

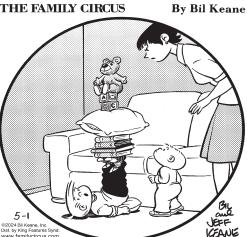
We are called to be a

holy people - separated from the moral evils of the world. God will never lead contrary to His Word. When we take all things to Him in prayer, asking for His wisdom, He will direct us in His righteousness. "Who is the man who fears the Lord? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose" (Psalm 25:12, ESV). Test everything in the light of God's Word, for it is the only place we can find a clear, unmistakable message.

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Gra-

ham.) ©2024 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agen-

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I AM acting my age. I'm seven."

The LOCKHORNS



"YOU WANT ME TO READ SOMETHING ON PAPER?

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cy, LLC. 8:30 9 рм Wheel of Survivor (N) (:35) Late Show-Colbert :35) After News at 6 CBS News Jeopardy! Thanksgiving "Moonlighting ABC21 (N) ABC World ABC21 Abbott (N) C The \$100,000 Pyramid ABC21 (N) lightline News (N) NBC News Chicago P.D. "Buried (:35) Tonight Show (N) Chicago Med (N) Chicago Fire "The News (N) Family Feud (N) Feud (N) Walker "We've Beer TMZ (N) Family Guy Family Guy Bob's 8 4 33 33 The Steve Wilkos Show TMZ Live (N) "She Stole My DNA!" (N) TMZ (N) Sight Unseen "Matt Bob's Nation (N) Here Before" (N) Nation (N)

Concacaf The best contine

WatchWhat (:45) Below Deck

Friends

NCIS "Short Fuse

Ladybug

grown-ish

in North & Central America & the Caribbe

NCIS

Friends

The 700 Club

Friends

Supermarket Stakeout Guy's Grocery Games

(:05) *** ★★ The Manchurian Candidate ('04)

Before the Devil Knows You're Dead

**** Happy-Go-Lucky (2008, Comedy) Alexis Zegerman, Andrea Riseborough, Sally Hawkins.

UFFA

Friends

Simpsons

Dan Abrams Live

Supermarket Stakeout

(:15) ♥★★ Freedomland

NCIS "Dead Air"

erage of drag racing

Super. Stakeout (N

Top Chef (N)

NCIS

Big City Hailey Hailey Marvel's Ladyb

*** The Giver ('14) Meryl Streep, Brenton Thwaites, Jeff Bridges. (P)

★★★ Black Mass (2015, Crime Story) Joel

Judd, Bruce Greenwood, Tommy Lee Jones. (P)

*** The Girl Next Door (2004, Romance) Elish Cuthbert, Timothy Olyphant, Emile Hirsch.

erton Renedict Cumberbatch, Johnny Depp

Rachel House, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson

Dan Abrams Live (L) (N) Banfield (L) (N)

WFWA 39	13	5	39		Future "Hun						Osprey"		Future "Together" (N)		America: Human"		Company (N)		Osprey"	ason or the			
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CABLE CH	ANN	IEL	s																				
LIFE	23 1	13	108	Castle		Castle		Castle		Dance Moms Interviews with they look back at the most me				Dance Moms (N)	Dance Moms (N)	Dance Moms (N)	TBA	Dance Mom Reunion"	ns "The				
FX	24 1	32	136	148	Movie	¥*★ Sicari	o: Day of the	e Soldado ("	18) Benicio de	l Toro.	*★★ The Equalizer 2 ('18) Pedro Pascal, Denzel W			ashington. ♀★★ The Equalizer 2 ('18) Pedro Pas									
TVLAND	25		106		Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith		Andy Griffith	Everybody Raymond					Everybody Raymond		Everybody Raymond				The King of Queens			
E!	26 1	42	114		Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Mod Fam "Schooled"	Mod Fam "Snip"		Modern Family	Mod Fam "Yard Sale"	Mod Fam "Arrested"		Modern Family	Modern Family	E! News (N)	Sex and the City		Sex and the City			
PARMT	30		241	241	Half Men	Two and a Half Men		Two and a Half Men		Two and a Half Men	¥★★★ The	Wolf of Wa	Il Street (20°	13, Comedy D	rama) Jonah I	Hill, Margot F	Robbie, Leona	do DiCaprio.	r∗*** Cas Robert De Ni	iro.			
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	41 1				ቻ★★ Jeepe	★ Jeepers Creepers (2001, Horror) Justin g, Jonathan Breck, Gina Philips.							Chucky "Final (:10) \\ \dots\ \dots\ \dots\ Freaky (2020) \\ Newton, Katie Finneran, V										
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AMC	45			254	Red	Bruce Willis.				ch, Mary-Louise Parker,						Samuel L. Ja	ckson, Salma	Hayek, Ryan	's Bodyguard (2021, Action) yek, Ryan Reynolds. (P)				
COM	47		107	249	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	South Park	South Park			

NHRA Drag Racing NHRA Four-Wide Nationals Covaction from the National Hot Rod Association.

Guy's Grocery Games Guy's Grocery Games

Top Chef "Supper Club" Top Chef

NCIS

On Balance (L) (N)

170 299 SpongeBob Rock Paper Rock Paper Loud House Loud House SpongeBob SpongeBob SpongeBob Sheldon

NCIS "Rule Fifty-One"

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19 Basketball position

21 Cheeky back talk **24** Dime portrait

25 Dull pain 28 Boost **30** "— show-

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SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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Difficulty: $\star \star \star$ 5/1										

Wanted to Buy

WANTED: ANTIQUES & OLD

TOYS Cash Paid for old toys!

Gi Joe, Transformers, Tin toys,

Robots, Pressed Steel Cars/

tiques of all kinds, etc. Search-

ing for attics, basements, barns, etc to go through. Call

Receive a free garage

sale kit when placing

a three day, line

classified ad.

or Text! 260-223-8083

May

As a resident of the Wells County

As your guide through the "Medicaid Planning"

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.

-OSSIAN-

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Ossian, IN 46777

Medicaid Planning

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Estate Planning & Deeds

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Special Needs Trusts

community for decades, Attorney, Gerret

community for decades, Attorney, Gerre 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.

trucks.

Action Figures, An-

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

Musical Instruments

glacierpure@outlook.com

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

Sporting Goods

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

GUN AND KNIFE Show, Bluffton, Indiana, at the Wells County Fairgrounds May 4th-5th, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-3. Admission \$6. All State and Federal Laws apply. For more information: 765-993-8942. (A)

Pets

HELOISE HINT: Get your dog several chew toys. They can be helpful for your dog's teeth because chewing on them helps to wear off plaque. Write to HE-LOISE@Heloise.com.

This Week's Garage Sales



LARGE **GARAGE** SALE Thurs. & Fri. 8-4, Sat. 8-2, 842 Sycamore Lane. Name brand and boutique women's and men's clothes, new wedding dress, furniture, baby swing, high chair, pack & play, fishing poles, home decor & much

WOOD CARVERS 2" thick Basswood, Scout knife, glass jars, fishing, old tools, 2 Case pocketknives, Prussian knife, old smoking stand, 1934 Decatur High School class ring, glass door knobs, Griswold aluminum dutch oven, 78 RPM records, 1976 Alaska license plate. 1524 Kensington Drive, Wed., Thurs., Fri., 8-?

308 WHITE BRIDGE COURT EXTREMELY LARGE 2 BUILDING GARAGE SALE bath&body;,31 bags,namebrand infant to adult clothes baked goods, arrowheads, golf balls, quart canning jars, knick-knacks May. 01 3:30 PM-6:00 PM, May. 02 8:00 AM-6:00 PM, May. 03 8:00 AM- Rain or

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SAT-URDAY, May 2, 3, 4, 10 a.m. till 7 p.m., 310 East Market Street. Area rugs (6'x10'), CDs, movies, novels, home Street. decor, and more.

316 S. WAYNE St., Thursday Friday, Saturday, 7a-6p. For the ladies: Size 12-XL clothes, kitchen gadgets, glassware food dehydrator. For the men Sporting & hunting equipment, hardware store stuff, lawn care equipment, tools, much more.

BLUFFTON CITY WIDE garage sales - May 2, 3 and 4, 8am-4pm. Ads are online at www.blufftonindiana.net or pick up copy at City Hall, 128 East Market Street. Bargains and treasures all over the city.

HELOISE HINT: If you see an item that you really want at a garage sale. Offer to pay more than the listed price. You might get lucky! 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 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

RENTALS

Office Space Rental

LOCATION

MAKE YOUR AD stand out for extra attention! Add a graphic or photo for an additional \$5 or a border for an additional \$1. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office, 260-824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., or submit online at www.news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

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Jim Baker

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Pest Services

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Geoffrey Horner

260-227-0742

Locally

Owned

DIRECTOR

SERVICES

Services

TROPHY CONSTRUCTION. ALL types of construction: Pole barns, roofing, remodeling, concrete, seamless gutters, etc. Free estimates. (260)

223-4835.

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

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Services

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Lottery Numbers

Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash4Life — 05-23-26-29-33, Cash Ball: 03

Quick Draw Midday -01-04-19-35-40-46-51-55-57-62-63-64-66-68-70-73-

00-09-00, SB: 03

Daily Three-Evening — 09-02-09, SB: 02

Daily Four-Midday —

06-04-02-02, SB: 03

Quick Draw Evening 04-05-15-16-17-18-24-

Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$11.3 mil-

10-18-27-37-61; Mega Ball: 05; Megaplier: 3X.

Wednesday): \$178 million

Public Notices

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING RE: C.Y. 2025 Capital Assis-

 Notice is hereby given that Wells County Council on Aging will provide an opportunity for a public hearing for the purpose of con-sidering a grant for which federal capital assistance under Section 5339 of the Federal Bus and Bus Facilities Program is being sought. Any person interested in a hearing must submit a request in writing that a hearing be held by Wells County Council on Aging within a ten (10) day period, after the pub-

lication of this notice.

The project is generally described as follows: In calendar year 2025 Wells County Council on Aging will purchase three Low Floor Minivans through the INDOT 5339 Capital Assistance Program. The application will be a replacement grant. The request is to replace the three vans that have exceeded their useful life. The total estimated project cost is \$213,000 with 80% Federal funds anticipated at \$170,400 and 20% Local match being around \$42,600. Local

a evidence

STATE OF INDIANA SS: COUNTY OF WELLS IN THÉ WELLS CIRCUIT COURT

2024 TERM Cause Number 90C01-2404-AD-08 IN RE: THE MATTER OF)

THE ADOPTION OF: S.S.A.O., d.o.b. 01.20.2015 NOTICE OF ADOPTION BY PUBLICATION

Michael K. O'Rourke is notified that a petition for adoption of a minor child, named S.S.A.O. born on January 20, 2015, was filed in the office of the clerk of Wells County Circuit Court, located at 102 W Market St. #301 Bluffton, IN 46714, and reachable at (260) 824-6485. The petition for guardianship alleges that the consent to adoption of S.S.A.O. is not required because in accordance with I.C. 31-19-9-8 he has abandoned or deserted the minor child for at least six (6) months immediately preceding the date of the filing of the petition for adoption and/or that the child has been in the custody of another person if for a period of at least one (1) year; the parent: (A) fails without justifiable cause to communicate significantly with the children when able to do so; or (B) knowingly fails to provide for the care and support of the children when able to do so as required by law or judicial decree and in given that the biological Father has made no efforts to support or communicate with the minor children and has therefore abandoned the minor children.

If Mr. O'Rourke seeks to contest the adoption of the child, S.S.A.O., then Mr. O'Rourke must file a motion to contest the adoptions in accordance with IC 31-19-10-1 in the above named court not later than thirty (30) days after the date of service of this notice.

If Mr. Michael K. O'Rourke

does not file a motion to contest the guardianship within thirty (30) days after service of this notice the above-mentioned court will hear and determine the petition for adoption. The consent to adoption of S.S.A.O. will be irrevocably implied and Michael K. O'Rourke will lose the right to contest either the adoption or the validity of Michael K. O'Rourke's implied consent to the adoption.

No oral statement made to

Michael K. O'Rourke relieves Michael K. O'Rourke of Michael K. O'Rourke's obligations under this

This notice complies with IC 31-19-4.5-3 but does not exhaustively set forth a person's legal obligations under the Indiana adoption statutes. A person being served with this notice should consult the

nb 4/24, 5/1, 5/8

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

STATE OF INDIANA SS COUNTY OF WELLS IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT **2024 TERM** Cause Number: 90C01-2404-AD-09 IN RE: THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: M.D.O., d.o.b. 06.10.2016)
NOTICE OF ADOPTION

BY PUBLICATION

Michael K. O'Rourke is notified that a petition for adoption of a minor child, named M.D.O. born on June 10, 2016 was filed in the office of the clerk of Wells County Circuit Court, located at 102 W Market St. #301 Bluffton, IN 46714, and reachable at (260) 824-6485. The petition for guardianship alleges that the consent to adoption of M.D.O. is not required because in accordance with I.C. 31-19-9-8 he has abandoned or deserted the minor child for at least six (6) months immediately pre-ceding the date of the filing of the petition for adoption and/or that the child has been in the custody of another person if for a period of at least one (1) year; the parent: (A) fails without justifiable cause to communicate significantly with the children when able to do so: or (B) knowingly fails to provide for the care and support of the children when able to do so as required by law or judicial decree and in given that the biological Father has made no efforts to support or communicate with the minor children and

If Mr. O'Rourke seeks to contest the adoption of the child, M.D.O., then Mr. O'Rourke must file a motion to contest the adoptions in accordance with IC 31-19-10-1 in the above named court not later than thirty (30) days after the date of service of this notice.

has therefore abandoned the minor

children.

If Mr. Michael K. O'Rourke does not file a motion to contest the adoption within thirty (30) days after service of this notice the above-mentioned court will hear and determine the petition for adoption. The consent to adoption of M.D.O. will be irrevocably implied and Michael K. O'Rourke will lose the right to contest either the adoption or the validity of Michael K. O'Rourke's implied consent to the adoption.

No oral statement made to Michael K. O'Rourke relieves Michael K. O'Rourke of Michael K. O'Rourke's obligations under this

This notice complies with IC 31-19-4.5-3 but does not exhaustively set forth a person's legal obligations under the Indiana adoption statutes. A person being served with this notice should consult the Indiana adoption statutes

nb 4/24, 5/1, 5/8 hspaxlp

STATE OF INDIANA)) SS: COUNTY OF WELLS IN THÉ WELLS CIRCUIT COURT 2024 TERM

Cause Number: 90C01-2404-AD-10 IN RE: THE MATTER OF

THE ADOPTION OF: O., d.o.b. 08.16.2017.)

NOTICE OF ADOPTION BY PUBLICATION

Michael K. O'Rourke is notified that a petition for adoption of a minor child, named E.P.O. born on August 16, 2017, was filed in the office of the clerk of Wells County Circuit Court, located at 102 W Market St. #301 Bluffton, IN 46714, and reachable at (260) 824-6485. The petition for guardianship alleges that the consent to adoption of E.P.O. is not required because in accordance with I.C 31-19-9-8 he has abandoned or deserted the minor child for at least six (6) months immediately preceding the date of the filing of the petition for adoption and/or that the child has been in the custody of another person if for a period of at least one (1) year; the parent: (A) fails without justifiable cause to communicate significantly with the children when able to do so; or (B) knowingly fails to provide for the care and support of the children when able to do so as required by law or judicial decree and in given that the biological Father has made

If Mr. O'Rourke seeks to contest the adoption of the child, E.P.O., then Mr. O'Rourke must file a motion to contest the adoptions in accordance with IC 31-19-10-1 in the above named court not later than thirty (30) days after the date of service of this notice.

no efforts to support or communicate with the minor children and

has therefore abandoned the minor

If Mr. Michael K. O'Rourke does not file a motion to contest the adoption within thirty (30) days after service of this notice the above-mentioned court will hear and determine the petition for adoption. The consent to adoption of E.P.O. will be irrevocably implied and Michael K. O'Rourke will lose the right to contest either the adoption or the validity of Michael K. O'Rourke's implied consent to the

adoption.

No oral statement made to Michael K. O'Rourke relieves Michael K. O'Rourke of Michael K O'Rourke's obligations under this

This notice complies with IC 31-19-4.5-3 but does not exhaustively set forth a person's legal obligations under the Indiana adoption statutes. A person being served with this notice should consult the Indiana adoption statutes

nb 4/24, 5/1, 5/8

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2. If a hearing is requested and scheduled, Wells County Council on Aging will afford an opportunity for interested person(s), agencies and private transportation providers to be heard with respect to the social, environmental, and economic aspects of the grant later. nomic aspects of the grant. Interested persons may submit orally or dations with respect to said grant at the public hearing.

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Indiana adoption statutes

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Netanyahu vows to invade Rafah 'with or without a deal' as cease-fire talks with Hamas continue

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged Tuesday to launch an incursion into the southern Gaza city of Rafah, where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are sheltering from the almost 7-month-long war, just as cease-fire negotiations between Israel and Hamas appear to be gaining steam.

Netanyahu's comments came hours before U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was to arrive in Israel to advance the truce talks — which appear to be one of the most serious rounds of negotiations between Israel and Hamas since the war began. The deal is meant to free hostages, bring some relief to the population and avert an Israeli offensive into Rafah and the potential harm to civilians there.

Netanyahu said Israel would enter Rafah, which Israel says is Hamas' last stronghold, regardless of whether a truce-for-hostages deal is struck. His comments appeared to be meant to appease his nationalist governing partners but it was not clear whether they would have any bearing on any emerging deal with Hamas.

"The idea that we will stop the war before achieving all of its goals is out of the question," Netanyahu said, according to a statement from his office. "We will enter Rafah and we will eliminate Hamas' battalions there — with or without a deal, to achieve the total vic-

The U.S. has repeatedly said it opposes the Rafah operation until Israel presents a credible plan for evacuating and protecting the estimated 1.5 million people seeking shelter there.

Blinken, speaking in Jordan before flying to Israel, said the "focus" right now is on improving the humanitarian situation and reaching a cease-fire deal that brings Israeli hostages home. He said Israel has offered a "strong proposal" and called on Hamas to respond.

'No more delays. No more excuses. The time to act is now," he said. "We want to see in the coming days this agreement coming together."

Netanyahu has faced pressure from his governing partners not to proceed with a deal that might prevent Israel from invading Rafah. His government could be threatened if he agrees to a deal because hardline Cabinet members have demanded an attack on Rafah.

Netanyahu met on Tuesday with one of those partners, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, according to the minister's office, who said Netanyahu promised him that "Israel will enter Rafah, promised that we are not stopping the war and promised that there won't be a reckless deal.'

With more than half of Gaza's 2.3 million people sheltering in Rafah, the international community, including Israel's top ally, the United States, has warned Israel against any offensive that puts civilians

Netanyahu on Tuesday was addressing the Tikva Forum, a small group of families of hostages that's distinct from the main group representing the families of captive Israelis. The forum has indicated that it prefers to see Hamas crushed over the freedom of their loved ones. Most families and their supporters have demonstrated in the thousands every week for a deal that would bring the hostages home, saying it should take precedence over military

Netanyahu's coalition is made up of ultranationalist and conservative religious parties, and critics of the İsraeli leader say his decision-making during the war has been driven by political considerations rather than national interests, a charge Netanyahu denies. His government could collapse if one of the parties opposed to a deal pulls out, a scenario Netanyahu would try to avoid considering his support has plummeted in opinion polls since the war began, although it has seen a

slight gradual uptick. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who heads the ultranationalist Religious Zionist party, said Monday that he was seeking "total annihilation" of Israel's enemies, appearing to refer to Hamas, in a recorded portion of his remarks at an event marking the end of the Passover holiday which were aired in Israeli media.

"You can't do half a job,"

he said.

The current deal being discussed, brokered by the U.S., Egypt and Qatar, would see the release of dozens of hostages in exchange for a six-week halt in fighting as part of an initial phase, according to an Egyptian official and Israeli media. Hundreds of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel would also be released, including some serving long sentences.

Blinken, who was meeting with regional leaders in Saudi Arabia and Jordan before landing in Tel Aviv later Tuesday, urged Hamas on Monday to accept the latest proposal, calling it "extraordinarily generous" on Israel's part.

But a sticking point remains over what happens next. Hamas has demanded assurances that an eventual release of all hostages will bring a complete end to Israel's nearly sevenmonth assault in Gaza and a withdrawal of its troops from the devastated territory. Israel has offered only an extended pause, vowing to resume its offensive once the first phase of the deal is over. The issue has repeatedly obstructed efforts by the mediators during months of talks.

The Israel-Hamas war was sparked by the unprecedented Oct. 7 raid into southern Israel in which militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted around 250 hostages. Israel says the militants are still holding around 100 hostages and the remains of more than 30

The war in Gaza has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials. The war has driven around 80% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million from their homes, caused vast destruction in several towns and cities and

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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.

BIDDING ENDS 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: 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,

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, kiauction.com.

MAY 9 & 10 - 9 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. Two day truck & equipment auction. Day 1 online bidding 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+/- munici-

pal units! Cars, SUV, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickups,

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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.

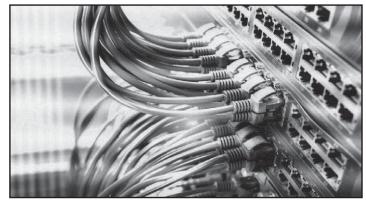
MAY 12-MAY 19 - (Online Only Auction) -Phyllis Montgomery, Seller. Major auction of fine antiques and collectables. "An Auction of the Year." Extensive cast iron skillet collection, early candy scales, primitives, salesman samples, early rare gum dispenser, De Laval signs, beer signs, firearms, butter 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

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.

MAY 21 - 6 p.m. - Patricia Mossburg & Joyce Shady, owners. Wells County 4-H Park, 1240 4-H Rd., Bluffton. Property location: 100S & 200W, Bluffton. 90+/-A, Zoned Agricultural, Liberty Township, Wells County. To be sold in individual tracts or any combination. Tract 1: 54+/-A tillable, frontage on both CR 100S & CR 200W. Tract 2: 12+/-A, 8+/-A tillable, 4+/-A woods, frontage on 100S & 200W. Tract 3: 24+/-A, mostly woods, 6+/-A tillable, frontage on CR 200W. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

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