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BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

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Solar company's future lies in limbo after 5 years

By HOLLY GASKILL

A solar farm seeking an "overlay district" for electricity production in Wells County has become subject to significant debate and speculation, garnering high attendance at county government meetings, as well as petitions and public protests calling for "No Solar on Wells County Farm Ground."

Paddlefish Solar LLC has secured land leases for 3,413 acres spanning across southern Wells County and into Huntington County for its solar development. If approved, the project will last for roughly 40 years.

While this recent zoning application has garnered the most public interest thus far, the project has roots spanning back to 2019, when Director of Community Relations Trena Roudebush said the company first began seeking leases.

According to Roudebush, the area was identified due to its proximity to existing electrical utilities and suitability for solar development. "What makes the land good for farming is what also makes it good for solar," she explained. Roudebush stated that 5-6 acres in Indiana can produce one megawatt of energy through solar — the same output would require nearly 10 acres in Kentucky.

Geenex, a solar company based out of North Carolina, was initially solely handling the project. Paddlefish Solar was later acquired by EDF Renewables, an energy company owned by the French government. The companies have continued to work together until the project's construction.

Paddlefish Solar first began negotiating with local officials in 2021, Roudebush said. In September 2021, the Area Plan Commission was also notified that the project would apply for an overlay district "very soon."

Roudebush said conversations at the time seemed "very positive" and that the Wells County Commissioners expressed sentiments that the county had "missed an opportunity" when a wind farm had been dropped nearly 10 years prior.

Paddlefish Solar has since received a unanimous "do not pass" recommendation from the APC for its zoning application. The commissioners have until June 6 to either follow or overturn the APC's ruling.

Commissioners Jeff Stringer and Blake Gerber told The News-Banner that this statement from Roudebush was not accurate.

Stringer said he's taken negotiations step-by-step, intending to broker competitive agreements that would set a precedent for future interest from renewable energy companies. Meanwhile, Gerber stated there was interest in what the potential money could do for the county, but had felt the wind turbine discussions had ended with a "sigh of relief"

when it failed.

The News-Banner was unable to reach Commissioner Mike Vanover about Roudebush's statements by print deadline.

Tax Abatement

In December 2022, Paddlefish received approval for a 10-year total tax abatement from the Wells County Council. The council at the time voted 5-2 in favor of the abatement; Jim Oswalt and Vicki Andrews, the board's only two residents in the affected Chester and Liberty townships, were opposed.

The abatement only applied to the equipment on the land, not the land itself, which would be taxed at a higher rate for energy production.

In exchange, Paddlefish agreed to issue a series of economic development payments totaling at least \$8.5 million. These payments reportedly would have accrued roughly 85% of what would have been collected through taxes but without the same restrictions as tax funding.

Officials gave no specific plans for the payments but alluded to several needs related to emergency services. Representatives from Southern Wells Community Schools also advocated for a portion of the funds, which would have otherwise more significantly benefited their tax levy.

In the abatement agreement, Paddlefish pledged to invest at least \$250 million in the project, which would then be fully taxable after 10 years.

The commissioners also approved the economic development agreement 2-0; Vanover was absent. At the time, Stringer stated, "For me, it's not about pro-solar or anti-solar, it's about pro-individual rights. I don't believe that we have the right to tell you what you can and can't do on your ground. We just need to make sure that taxpayers are equally taken care of by their governments."

Paddlefish has since been criticized for receiving an abatement in addition to federal credits for solar development.

"They are only necessary to level the playing field," Roudebush stated about federal credits. "So, all forms of general energy generation — coal, gas, oil — they all receive government subsidies. So for us to be competitive financially, we need similar considerations."

To this effect, Roudebush initially stated that an abatement frees up some money for the company amidst a the company a \$250 million-plus upfront investment. She did, however, recognize that \$10 million in property taxes is a fraction in the context of the total project.

"If those weren't (approved), we could also do without, but I think the biggest impact



"No Solar on Farm Ground" and similar signs can be found throughout Wells County as a response to Paddlefish Solar and other solar developments. The sign pictured above is located on the corner of State Road 218 and County Road 300 West. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

that those assistance mechanisms have is keeping our energy prices low," Roudebush said.

Road Use and Decommissioning Agreements

The County Commissioners then unanimously approved road use and decommissioning agreements with Paddlefish in December 2023. These documents outlined protections for the county regarding the set-up and eventual tear-down of the solar development.

Paddlefish agreed to a two-year "restoration period," where the company would have to "restore the land substantially to the same condition prior to construction," the document states. To ensure this process is honored, Paddlefish will submit a decommissioning security based upon a mutually agreed-upon engineer's estimate of decommissioning costs with contingency.

The decommissioning agreement includes provisions that, should a major event stop energy production, Paddlefish would have 12 months to restart operations and prove they would be "substantially operational" within another year. If the county found this unsatisfactory, decommissioning would begin within six months.

Paddlefish also agreed to pay for road damages caused by the project.

"These agreements only add protection to Wells County — there is no risk," summarized Paddlefish project manager Jesse Laniak at the time.

Overlay District

In March 2024, the APC unanimously

agreed to send a "do not pass" recommendation to the County Commissioners for an overlay district requested by Paddlefish for 49 parcels of land. The P-1 district overlay would allow agriculturally zoned land to be used for energy development.

The board heard presentations from Paddlefish and the public for approximately four hours until board member Chandler Gerber made a motion for the recommendation, saying approval of the project felt inconsistent with the Wells County Vision 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

The comprehensive plan, which was formed through an extensive effort by multiple governing bodies, states that all jurisdictions should consider the lack of public support for utility-scale solar energy and the desire to preserve an agricultural community.

As the item proceeded to the county commissioners, an outpouring of support from both sides flooded the meeting. The commissioners ultimately deferred action, with Gerber saying they had to do their due diligence in considering all aspects of the request.

Paddlefish in Huntington County

A relatively small portion of the Paddlefish project will span into Huntington County, where officials are in a much different position. According to Huntington County APC Executive Director Kim Hostetler, Paddlefish did not have to go through a zoning hearing process because their local agricultural zoning permits solar energy development.

Paddlefish has, however, been approved

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Bluffton Fire Department has some big shoes to fill

Kelly Thompson retires after 39 years

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Kelly Thompson's 39-year tenure for the Bluffton Fire Department has come to an end, with his resignation letter turned in to the Bluffton Common Council on April 23.

Thompson joined the BFD in 1985, making him the longest-tenured firefighter on the force before his resignation. Over those 39 years, Thompson has become a mentor to many firefighters who are still on the force and to those who have moved on.

The department has gone through significant changes during Thompson's tenure. Much of the equipment that came through came from donated money. Thompson remembered the department's efforts in selling phone books and taking them throughout the city to get funding. From equipment to personnel, Thompson has seen the department grow exponentially.

"When I first started here, we had two frontline pumper (trucks), and they were (from) 1962 and 1963," Thompson said. "We went from a part-time chief to full-time chief and assistant chief. A fire inspector — we got one of those. We had one back then, but it was part-time — it was just when the guy had time to do it. We had three drivers — now we got six or eight. It's changed a

lot."

Thompson gleaned a lot of knowledge from his 39-year tenure, which he's always enjoying passing down to others. Battalion Chief Brandon Mechling, who worked with Thompson for 25 years, lauded Thompson's knowledge of cars and how to extract people from wrecked vehicles.

Mechling remembered one time when the team had to improvise to retrieve someone from a vehicle impact. Mechling said Thompson's adaptability and knowledge of vehicles made the rescue a much easier process.

"He could look at the whole picture and just mechanically know if we pry here we cut here, we do this, do that (we can get inside)," Mechling said. "He can see the overall picture and is very helpful on giving suggestions or (advice) like, 'Hey, have we thought about it this way or thought about it that way.'"

Thompson has a knack for mentoring the younger guys, according to Fire Chief Don Craig and Deputy Fire Chief Chris Wolf, both of whom came on after Thompson, and Mechling. Thompson emphasized showing up to training sessions and sharing his knowledge with others.



Kelly Thompson, middle, coaches a young fireman during a structure fire call. The photo proudly hangs in the fire department. (Photo provided)

"That was always a good trait about Kelly. Kelly would always share what he what he knew or what he learned," Wolf said. "That's just Kelly. Kelly can make a friend with a tree."

Craig recalled Thompson training him on driving a grass rig with a boat trailer

attached behind it. Craig said he was apprehensive about driving it because he had little experience with a trailer at the time.

"Kelly grabbed me and said, 'Jump in!' And you know, I'm kind of stammering but (Thompson) says, 'You got this!' So

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Outside



Small chance of showers and storms all weekend

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 77	High 74	High 73
Low 61	Low 56	Low 59

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Solar company

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for similar abatement, road use and decommissioning agreements, all of which also passed.

Most recently, Paddlefish received three variances, allowing the company to eliminate setback requirements across properties, increase solar panel height from 12 to 16 ft., and place a collection system underground across a public right-of-way or drainage easement. Roudebush said these variances were requested so the development could continue without separation over directly adjacent parcels.

Hostetler said Paddlefish will next need to apply for development plan approval with Huntington County.

EDF Renewables also has another project, Bowfin, near the Paddlefish site in Huntington County. Hostetler said the county has not received any applications from that project but "the majority of projects are fired up about it."

Meanwhile, the 150-acre solar project from Narenc, a company based out of North Carolina, has already received development plan approval and is moving toward building permits, Hostetler said.

Project Specifics

Paddlefish holds 40-year leases from 12 property owners for 49 parcels of land in Wells County.

Representatives from Paddlefish have stated that only 1,800 acres of their leased land in Huntington and Wells counties will be within a fenced area. Panels will cover approximately 45% of the remaining acreage to allow the panels to rotate and maintenance vehicles to pass through as needed.

Roudebush said the panels will be held into the ground by their poles without concrete. Concrete will only be poured at a substation, which

transmits and distributes electricity. The site will generate 350 megawatts for the regional power grid system, powering roughly 64,000 homes.

Roudebush also advised that Paddlefish will use agricultural fencing 20 ft. from the panels, then "vegetative screening" from trees and shrubs roughly 20 ft. from the fence. Paddlefish will use a 450 ft. setback from any dwelling. With this in mind, Roudebush said the development should be "low profile."

Down the line, all of these items will be removed or restored to their original state per the decommissioning agreement. Roudebush additionally emphasized that preserving and repairing drainage is a priority of the company, not only for the landowners but also because the development itself will need well-draining land.

Roudebush further stated that selling carbon credits, a method of offsetting carbon emissions, is "not contemplated in the financial model." Furthermore, should EDF Renewables sell Paddlefish to another company, all current agreements would remain in place.

Paddlefish has not yet reached the stage of submitting a formal development proposal, however. The company website states construction is planned for 2026-27 and operation beginning in 2027-28.

Public Response

Support and criticism of Paddlefish have ranged widely among Wells County and northeastern Indiana residents.

In recent months, the Facebook group, "No Solar on Wells County, IN Farm Ground" has spearheaded efforts to place anti-solar signs throughout the county and planned a protest preceding the Republican primary

candidate forum in April. The group has also coordinated widespread attendance at government meetings in Huntington and Wells counties.

During these events, those opposed to the development have cited numerous complaints, predominantly issues with the possible weakening of the agricultural community and industry, concerns about property values and a general dislike of solar farms.

In response, Roudebush claimed that the Paddlefish project represents about 0.6% of farmland in Wells County and 1.5% in Huntington County. She also referenced studies of property values near solar farms indicate no significant change. "(Neighbors will) find that these do make good neighbors. They don't make noise. They don't bring traffic," she said.

Roudebush attributed misinformation to some of the vitriol for solar energy. Supporters of the project have emphasized the property owners' rights, the potential economic value to the county and future energy needs.

Roudebush added, "For the last several generations, we've entrusted our farmers and our landowners to do what is right for their family and for their property. And at the end of the day, it's the same."

What's Next

According to Wells County APC Executive Director Mike Lautzenheiser, the commissioners have until June 6 to vote in favor or against the overlay district or the request will be automatically rejected.

After delaying their vote, the commissioners expressed they would not vote on the matter until "at least May" to review their legal options. Roudebush told The News-Banner there would not be a penalty to the county should they vote against the zoning request.

"All of the agreements that have been done so far — the road use agreement, decommissioning, economic development — they're all to the benefit of the county, should the project be permitted," she said.

Both Stringer and Gerber have expressed negative sentiments about the project. Stringer claimed Paddlefish representatives had informally requested to extend the consideration period and asked what was needed to make things work. Gerber made similar comments, adding that he "had no interest" in continuing the conversations with Paddlefish.

If the request is rejected, Roudebush said there is a "timeout" period before the company could refile. During that time, she said "it would be EDF deciding on whether we see a path forward down the line at some point, or if this is the end of this horrible, vicious road, and we move on to other opportunities. There would be a lot to be contemplated."

Meanwhile, Paddlefish has extended a \$750 annual electricity credit to 49 adjacent properties for the first 15 years of the project. Should all properties participate, this would be over \$550,000 in total toward the area property owners. Residents were asked to sign up by June 1 to receive the credit.

The Huntington County Commissioners are also reportedly slowing their processes, taking time to meet with the APC, Paddlefish representatives and property owners affected by the potential development.

That said, Gerber indicated the conversation about solar energy at large may be ongoing, as several other companies have reportedly secured land leases in both southern and northern Wells County.

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Weather

Saturday, May 4, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:01 p.m. Friday)

High: 77; Low: 59; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.76 feet at 8:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 77. East wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tonight: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest after midnight.

Sunday: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 74. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

Sunday Night: A 20% chance of showers after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northeast after midnight.

Monday: A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 73. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Monday Night: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tuesday: A chance of showers, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 79. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Tuesday Night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Wednesday: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.

Wednesday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Thursday: A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 76.

Kelly Thompson retires

(Continued from Page 1)
he jumped in the passenger seat. I jump in the driver's seat, and we start moving," Craig remembered. "Kelly just looks at me and says, 'Calm down, you're in a parking lot, it's not an emergency, just calm down and drive the thing like you would your own vehicle.'"

"(Thompson) would do that at driver's training. He'd do that in a fire. He does that in education. He would sit there, and he would coach and mentor," Wolf added. "(Thompson) would think, 'Man, instead of me grabbing the tool, instead of me getting behind the wheel and doing this. How about you do it? And then we both feel good when we leave.' He was he was more of a giver than a taker."

"I always try to include a new one or two of them or three (firefighters). I always try to include them because they don't learn if we don't tell them," Thompson said. "I want to make them more forward where they feel like, 'Hey, I know how to do that!' So they don't have to ask and don't feel like, 'I wish Thompson was here.' I don't want them to feel that way."

Thompson was also extremely dedicated to the department. Mechling noted that many other guys have only lasted about two or three years in the department. Craig admires that no matter what was going on in Thompson's life, Thompson was vigilant.

"The fact that he stayed on the fire service in spite of catastrophic events that happened in his own personal life," Craig said. "To put that aside, and still want to be in this community, helping others, says a lot about Kelly."

"Sometimes you get (new firefighters) saying, 'It's neat,' and they'll be on it for two years, and (then) they're done," Mechling said. "Then you can see a guy that's been doing it for almost 40 years. I think it just serves as a good reminder that you know, you're doing good for the community and that there's a reward at the end of it."

Kelly's absence will be sorely missed, Wolf said. In his retirement, Thompson plans to continue restoring a group of old motorcycles and enjoy time with his grandchildren. Throughout his tenure, Thompson under-

stood the need to be a mentor and friend to others.

"You can't fill those shoes," Wolf said. "I mean, that is how he was raised. And you know, when you work with somebody that many years (his departure) it's just different."

"Training is probably my biggest thing. I liked it," Thompson said. "I was a firm believer that these old guys need to show up and be in training. You gotta be persistent about it because these little guys are looking up to you. And they're looking and seeing what you're doing. You can't be good enough to the new ones."

In his departure, Thompson has nothing but praise for the Bluffton Fire Department and the current team working there. The friendships he's built and the people he helped mentor still carry the torch he helped spark.

"The group that I'm working with now, probably are some of the best that I've worked with," Thompson said. "They're more receptive to new people. We have always had a good group of guys... they were workers and they always had your

back."

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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 Southern 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

IT'S TIME TO VOTE

TUESDAY MAY 7TH

VICKI ANDREWS

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL AT-LARGE

Paid for by the committee to elect Vicki Andrews county council at large

OBITUARIES

Ellis H. McFadden, 95

Ellis H. McFadden, 95, of rural Fort Wayne, passed away Wednesday, April 24, 2024. Ellis was born April 23, 1929 in Fort Wayne, son to the late Otis A. and Edna V. (Pfeiffer) McFadden.

He was a lifelong farmer and very active on the Allen County Soil Conservation Board and Farm Bureau. He also received the prestigious Indiana Master Farmer award. His eagerness to master new technologies in farming along with his incredible work ethic made him extremely successful. He was a member of the Poe Volunteer Fire Department for 75 years. Ellis was one of the original appointed Board Members of the Southwest Fire District in 1987 and served until December 2020. He was the longest serving board member. His focus, dedication and hard work always ensured the job would get done. Ellis was always there for his friends and neighbors and enjoyed the time he had with them. He was extremely proud of his family.

Surviving are his wife of 76 years, Marilyn (Lehneke) McFadden; daughters, Sharon McFadden Ray, Rita (Tom) Tilden,

Carla DeKoning, Ellen Moore, and Amy (Louis) Leonard; grandchildren, Stacey (JC Study) Tilden, Brian (Bethany) Tilden, Michele (Robin) Simerman, Joni (Phil) Horton, Jason (Amanda) Moore, Tyler (Courtney) Leonard, Carissa (Jonathan) Green, and Greyson Leonard; 15 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Verna Keever; and brothers, Donald McFadden and Richard McFadden.

A family gathering will take place Tuesday, May 7, 2024, with burial at Oak Lawn Cemetery. To honor Ellis McFadden's memory, we will hold a Celebration of Life event at a later date.

Preferred memorials may be made to the Southwest Fire District.

Visit www.elzey-patterson-rodak.com to leave condolences.



Judith A. Stewart, 80

Judith A. Stewart, 80, of Poneto, passed away Thursday evening, May 2, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital in Ft. Wayne, IN.

Judy was born in Bluffton, on Nov. 14, 1943, to Earl J. and Della M. (Murray) Murray, both parents preceded her in death. She married Donald "Gean" Stewart in Wells County on Aug. 15, 1959, he preceded her in death on April 21, 2024.

Judy worked as a meat packer for various grocery stores in Bluffton and was a bartender with the Elk's Lodge, Bluffton Moose Lodge and the American Legion Post 111 in Bluffton in addition to managing the Parlor City Country Club restaurant and bar for many years. She enjoyed dancing to the music performed by the Mountain Dew Boy's Band and bowling with her local league in Bluffton.

She is survived by two daughters, Carol (Bruce Smith) Nestlerod of Craigville and Rhonda Stewart of Berne; two grandchildren, Michael (Kris) Nestlerod and Adam Stewart both of Bluffton; five great-grandchildren and one great grandchild; two sisters, Pat Coleman of Foley, Ala., and

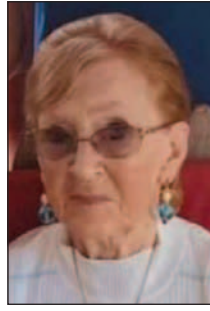
Mary Taylor of Bluffton; a brother, Rick Murray of Bluffton; and a daughter-in-law, Alicia Stewart of Bluffton.

In addition to her parents and husband, Judy was preceded in death by two sons, Ronald Stewart and Larry Stewart; a brother, John Murray; and a great-grandchild, Braden Nestlerod.

As Judy requested, there will be no formal service at this time. A private family graveside will take place at the Mossburg Cemetery, Liberty Center.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.goodwincalehamish.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Heart to Heart Hospice, in care of the funeral home.



Bluffton Parks & Rec News Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

It's a bustling day in Bluffton today, with the **city-wide garage sales** already underway. If you haven't had a chance to explore them yet, you're missing out! Today marks the final day of shopping, wrapping up by 4 p.m. Don't miss your chance to grab some great deals. For a comprehensive list of all the sales, visit <https://tinyurl.com/mt83kuw7>.

If you have driven on the north side of town, you will have noticed that progress has been made on the Interurban trail between all the rainy days we have had. At the same time, work has been moving forward at Lancaster Park, and if all goes well, new asphalt should be coming next week for the parking lot. As a reminder, Lancaster Park is fully closed to the public while we are under construction. Please enjoy our other parks until we get this one finished.

If you are a Bluffton City Gym member, we want to let you know that the basketball and racquetball courts will be closed for maintenance from May 20-24, so that they can be sanded and sealed. During this time, members will still have access to the weight room and restrooms (by walking through the weight room). If you are still looking for a gym to join, we have discounted the rates to only \$75 for a single membership from now until the end of the year. Stop by the park office on the 2nd floor of City Hall to join.

We are so happy with how great the Wells Community pool house looks with the new siding from L & S Construction/Barn Builders & More. They have done a fantastic job, and we are so thankful for their kindness in donating all their labor to this project. If you see Leander and his

crew, be sure to thank them for their hard work. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

Speaking of the pool, dates are filling up fast for after-hour pool parties. To schedule your next birthday party or celebration, call 824-6069. The pool opens on Memorial Weekend.

Don't panic if you missed **swim registration** last Saturday; we still have many openings. The two-week, one-hour classes are only \$20 per child and are good for kids in kindergarten through high school. The Tot Swim and Pee Wee Swim Lessons are for ages 2-3 years or 4-Pre-K, for a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday class for only \$6. A parent or other adult must get in the water with the child during class. Call our office at 824-6069 to sign up.

The next **FREE Theater Thursday** will be May 16, at the Wells County Public Library starting at 10 a.m. Adults are invited to join us for a movie and snacks every 3rd Thursday of the month.

We want to thank Elks Lodge 796 for donating funds for eight new life vests. We appreciate their heart for the children in this community and know that these vests will be put to good use this summer at the Wells Community Pool.

We also want to thank Outdoor Concepts for donating two beautiful yellow-wood trees to Lancaster Park in honor of Arbor Day. We sincerely appreciate this lasting gift that will benefit park users for years to come. Stop out at Outdoor Concepts this weekend for their customer appreciation event and take advantage of great discounts.

Have a great week!

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
 Tuesday, 2:38 p.m., Family Practice. Welfare check requested for man acting strange.
 Tuesday, 2:42 p.m., 700 block of West Wiley Avenue. Report of junk and furniture on porch.
 Tuesday, 2:50 p.m., North Marion and West Wabash streets. Report of an abandoned vehicle.
 Tuesday, 4:37 p.m., 1000 block of South Marion Street. Caller reported dog killed two chickens.
 Tuesday, 7:25 p.m., 700 block of West Silver Street. Report of a civil issue.
 Tuesday, 11:02 p.m., Walmart Supercenter. Report of a domestic disturbance.
 Wednesday, 9:49 a.m., Pak A Sak North. Report of a suspicious vehicle.
 Wednesday, 10:24 a.m., 200 block of East Market Street. Caller reported subject threatening via app.
 Wednesday, 3:04 p.m., 500 block of Beth Avenue. Report of grass/weeds over 8 inches.
 Wednesday, 5:47 p.m., South Wayne Street and East River Road. Report of large black dog in roadway.
 Thursday, 12:06 a.m., North Main and West Water streets. Citation issued for speeding.
 Thursday, 4:45 p.m., East Monroe Street and Fieldcrest Drive. Citation issued for speeding.

Thursday, 5:38 p.m., Washington Park. Report of a one year old male missing with juvenile female looking for him. Report ends with unable to locate child.
 Friday, 7:01 a.m., North Morgan and West Wabash streets. Report of white four door vehicle circling area attempting to talk to students. Driver was reportedly lost.
 Friday, 11:31 a.m., Lions Park. Report of a gun found near the swings on the ground.
 Friday, 12:26 p.m., Valley Park Apartments. Male subject intoxicates and cursing, given warning to stay inside.
 Friday, 1:02 p.m., Pine Grove Apartments. Report of fraud.
County:
 Thursday, 2:32 p.m., S.R. 116 and North 500 West, Markle. Driver cited for speeding.
 Friday, 12:28 a.m., South S.R. 3 and S.R. 218, Warren. Officer assisted driver who ran out of gas.
 Friday, 3:18 a.m., Elm Grove Cemetery. Officer assisted with domestic issues, caller advised man threatened to disturb her sons grave.

2023 PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

From our family to you ...

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

This short essay is from

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

Family Ford of Bluffton
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SOLAR FACT

Did You Know?
 For every 100 megawatts of solar projects constructed, there is enough clean electricity generated to power approximately **20,000** homes per year

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 Email: info@paddlefishsolar.com

Source: <https://www.seia.org/initiatives/whats-megawatt>

Public Sale Calendar

MAY 4 - 9 a.m. - Multiple consignors. 6632 N. 500 W., Decatur. Personal property: Vehicles, jewelry (gold, silver, costume), toys, collectibles, furniture, household, antiques, tools, appliances. **Wiegmann Auctioneers**, 260-447-4311, wiegmannauctioneers.com.

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. Rod Fetters, sale manager, **The Steffen Group, Inc.**, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

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

MAY 9 & 10 - 9 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. Two day truck & equipment auction. Day 1 online bidding only: 100+ various skid loader attachments, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 1 trip 40' high side shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter containers, various truck take off parts, plumbing, electrical and mechanical surplus including urinals, toilets, electrical components, more! Day 2 onsite and online bidding offering 700+ lots! 100+/- municipal units! Cars, SUV, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickups, cargo & passenger vans, large group of Chevy Impalas, Tahoes & Dodge Chargers, Harley-Davidson motorcycles, dump trucks, 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's, pickups, 100+ various skid steer attachments, more! **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

MAY 12-MAY 19 - (Online Only Auction) - Phyllis Montgomery, Seller. Major auction of fine antiques and collectibles. "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, Inc.**, www.steffengrp.com, 824-3006, Pat Carter, sale manager.

MAY 19 - 4 p.m. - Multiple consignors, owners. Online only consignment auction. 1,000+ lots! Furniture, oak kitchen table, large assortment of household items, tools, 100+ lots of collectible glass including Fostoria, Fenton, Candlewick, Pyrex and much more! Preview May 16, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm Street, Decatur. Pick up May 20, 1-6 p.m. & May 21, 9 a.m.-noon. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

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.

MAY 26-JUNE 2 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of John F. Holbrook, seller. 200+ pcs. Roseville, Rookwood, Hull, McCoy, VanBriggle, antique & modern furniture, 1950 Ford Sedan, Coca Cola vintage signs & collectibles, antique tools, 2-pc. Oak kitchen cabinet, JFK political buttons and advertising, vintage toys. Auction preview: May 23 from 3-6 p.m. and May 30 from 3-6 p.m., 10421 W. Yoder Rd., Roanoke, IN. Patrick Carter, sale manager, **The Steffen Group Inc.**, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

JUNE 1 - 8:30 a.m. - E & M Blacksmith Shop. 2404 W 350 S, Berne, IN. 13th annual consignment auction. Horses, ponies, horse-drawn machinery, produce equipment, buggies, harness, carts, new tack, saddles, shop tools, lawn & garden tools, sausage grinders & stuffers, new & used furniture, washing machines, hay, straw & firewood. Accepting consignments every evening that week from 4-8 p.m., all day May 30, and May 31 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. **Troyer Auctions, LLC**, 260-768-7246, ext. 3.

JUNE 4 - (Online Only Auction) - Bidding Opens at 9 a.m. and will close at 6 p.m. - The Estate of John F. Holbrook, seller. 300 W, Markle, IN. Northern Wells containing 6.79 acres in Union Township of vacant agricultural land, outstanding opportunity for potential building site with excellent location. Patrick Carter, sale manager, **The Steffen Group Inc.**, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

PSALM 56:1-4
 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.
 [PSALM 56:3]

SATURDAY | MAY 4

THE TRIUMPH OF FAITH

A routine wellness check for little four-year-old Calvin revealed a few unexpected spots on his body. During the visit, he was given some shots, and the injection site was covered with a bandage. At home, when the time came to remove the small adhesive covering, Calvin whimpered with fear. Seeking to console his son, his father said, "Calvin, you know I'd never do anything to hurt you." His father wanted his son to trust him more than fearing the removal of the bandage.

Four-year-olds aren't the only ones who grow faint in the face of discomfort. Surgeries, separation from loved ones, mental or psychological challenges—and more—prompt our fears, sighs, cries, and groans.

One of David's fear-filled moments was when he found himself in Philistine territory while fleeing a jealous King Saul. When he was recognized, he was anxious about what might happen to him (SEE 1 SAMUEL 21:10-11): "David... was very much afraid of Achish king of Gath" (v. 12). Reflecting on this uncomfortable situation, David wrote, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you... In God I trust and am not afraid" (PSALM 56:3-4).

What shall we do when life's discomforts stir up our fears? We can put our trust in our heavenly Father.

ARTHUR JACKSON

What situation is presently making you fearful? How can you rest in His care as you bring your fears before your loving heavenly Father in prayer?

Dear God, in my humanity and frailty, I'm fearful. Help me to see and experience Your love and care even in the midst of my trials and discomfort.

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Wondering who my 'Mad Hatter' might be

Saturday's Sub

I've never read Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland." Maybe I should, because I was curious enough one day to go down the rabbit hole of property taxes to find, as she did, a nonsensical world. According to one Cliff-Notes-style synopsis of the story, "after numerous incoherent adventures involving a Hatter, a Hare and the Queen of Hearts, she wakes up in time for tea."



Mark Miller

So maybe this is all just a bad dream. Perhaps I'm ready to wake up in time for something to drink. A safe bet it would not be tea.

And, as lamented before on this topic, I can also commiserate with Al Pacino's Godfather character in movie-number-three when he says, "just when I think I'm out, they pull me back in." The 2024-pay-2025 updated assessments were mailed out last week as promised. And as perfectly predictable, continue to befuddle.

Wells County Assessor Laura Roberts reports that total assessments are up almost 10% — 9.89% to be exact. So if your assessment went up more than that, you are above average. Congratulations. If it's lower than that, count your blessings. She added that 168 new parcels were added this year, led by 44 new lots in Greenfield Farms on Bluffton's south side. That strikes me as a significant number and perhaps bodes well to ease what has been described as a housing shortage.

The assessed value of one of the properties I've been tracking went up a whopping 44%. The neighbors in their cul-de-sac went up 9, 20, and 15%. Another property in a different neighborhood went up more than 13%; their neighbors' AVs went down ... fractionally — like -0.07% — but down. Both homeowners confirmed they made no improvements in the past two years.

Most neighborhoods seem to have some degree of consistency within each, but they vary from moderate increases to high-teens, percentage-wise. My samples in the Timber Ridge area that has seen huge increases the past few years saw practically none, while my sampling of Liberty Center homes that have seen decreases got double-digit increases this year.

A sampling of residential rental properties finds some increases of 36%, many remaining exactly the same and a couple others reduced to their prior years' amount.

I've been tracking about two dozen commercial/industrial properties throughout my journey through Wonderland. The group includes The News-Banner building. The average increase from last year to this year of assessed value of this sampling is a meager 2.43%. We're feeling a bit picked on at 125 N. Johnson St. — the N-B's AV went up 14.4%. Even less apparent would be the cause of the change in AV of the medical building on Ossian's south side owned by the Lutheran Health Network. It's AV went up a whopping 80%, from \$297,300 to \$535,000. We drive by there often; I don't recall them doubling their space or even adding a new sign.

Much of this, I presume, is explainable. I've not yet peppered Roberts with any specific questions; still nosing around. As you may have seen, we published a guest column penned by Roberts last week with her forewarnings about the new assessments being in the mail. In it, she cited some statistics from the northeast Indiana Realtors that Wells County's median sales price for 2023 rose 20-some percent while Adams County's went down about 2%. I found that interesting. Is there that much more demand here and that much less supply? Are our properties now worth so much more because people want to live here and not in Adams County? So I asked a couple local real estate gurus why that might be. It is not, I was told by both, due to any big discrepancies in the number of homes for sale or sold last year. Wells County is quite comparable to its neighbors in that regard.

Neither puts "a lot of stock," as one phrased it, in those figures because they are just a snapshot in time and are subject to a variety of factors that can distort the numbers. Jody Holloway took the time to pull up the details and found that, for example, there were almost twice as many high-end transactions here in 2023 than 2022 and significantly fewer sales under \$100,000; the opposite was likely the case in Adams County. It is not unusual, he added, that a number of rental properties change hands when one investor either retires or otherwise decides to get out of the business. These transactions can distort averages either way.

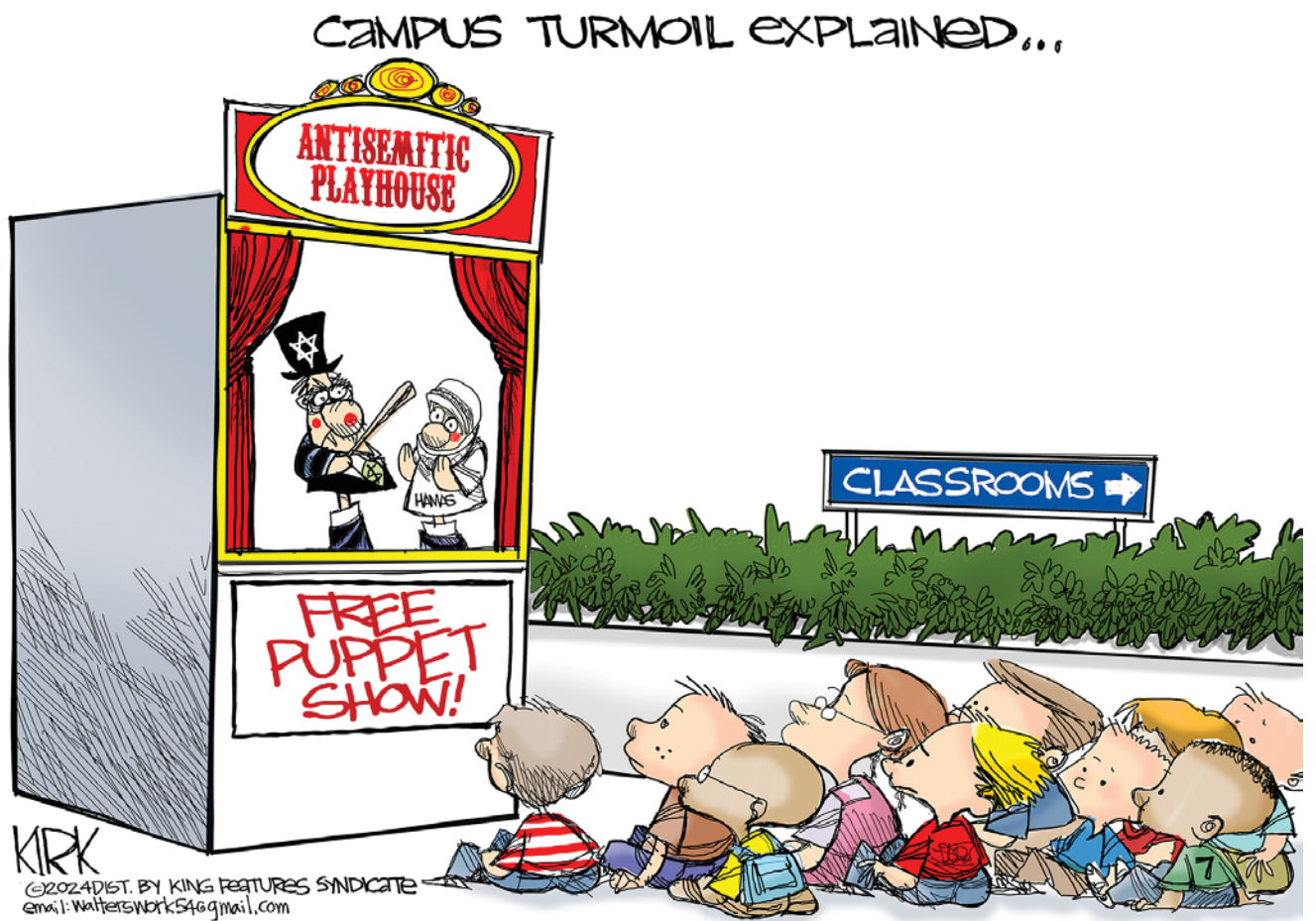
Roberts also asked that taxpayers do some research before making an appeal which is indeed a very fair request. But if your AV went up significantly more than your neighbors and you've not hammered a nail, I think you have a fair question at least. Our neighborhood went up an average of 9.75%; our home "only" 5.62%. But one of the similar villas went up 19.4% and about a half-dozen went down 2.56%. Guess who might be calling to inquire?

My research has also included comparing Gross AVs in comparable counties. The new data for all the counties is not yet available but between 2021 and 2023, Wells County's total assessed values rose at a higher percentage than Adams, Huntington, Wabash, Miami and Noble counties. The largest difference was between Wells and Adams — ours increased 23.2% and Adams County increased 16.7%. I think that raises more questions than the median sales price numbers.

Curious — like Alice — I plugged in the square miles of these counties (they're relatively similar) and calculated the AV per SM (Assessed Value per Square Mile). Interestingly, Wells, Adams and Huntington are quite similar at just over \$9 million per square mile while Wabash and Miami are less than \$7 million.

Hmm. Why that is? Maybe the Mad Hatter knows. Maybe I'll wake up soon and sip some tea. Or whatever.

miller@news-banner.com



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Campus riots and a Chicago convention: Deja vu all over again?

As the philosopher and baseball player Yogi Berra once (supposedly) said, it's deja vu all over again. Student protesters are occupying campuses of famed universities across the country. In New York, Columbia University protesters occupied administrative offices in Hamilton Hall and were cleared out by police, exactly 56 years to the day after student protesters occupied and were thrown out of that building in 1968.

Back then, it was famously reported that protester Mark Rudd sat at university President Grayson Kirk's desk smoking his cigars. It's not clear whether protesters reached current President Manouche Shafik's office, but it seems unlikely that any humidior there contains tobacco.

One thing that has changed in the last three generations is the place of universities in American life. In 1940, only 6% of men and 4% of women in America had undergraduate degrees. Thanks to the GI Bill of Rights, that percentage rose sharply after World War II due to the expansion of old schools and the rollout of state and community colleges.

Higher education also earned huge prestige. Brilliant scientists, many of them Jews, arrived from Hitler's Europe, created the atomic bomb that ended World War II, and spared the lives of the hundreds of thousands of GIs who would have died in an invasion of Japan. Lavishing more money on education, especially on gifted children and universities, was politically popular and justified as defense spending.

Fast-forward two generations. Policymakers of both parties, in states as well as Washington, D.C., concluded that if people with college degrees earned more money than others, enabling more people to get college degrees would mean more money for them, too. State legislators expanded universities, and federal policy encouraged and, during the Obama administration, administered loans for college and graduate school.

Meanwhile, the 1968 student rebels and their intellectual progeny started their long march through the institutions. Faculties that once included conservatives as well as liberals, and even some Republicans, became bastions of the political Left. Politically correct, tenured faculty imposed ideological tests on new hires as their elders retired.

Students' politically incorrect speech was punished with expulsion and opprobrium. Schools that had arguably America's freest speech zones in the 1940s and '50s became the most restrictive and censorious institutions by the '90s and 2000s.

Government subsidies of institutions and students pumped huge sums of money into colleges and universities, which responded by raising tuition and hiring even more bureaucrats, to the point that postsecondary schools today employ more administrators than teachers. Over the last generation, there has been a particular increase in diversity, equity and inclusion

bureaucrats, whose Orwellian function is to impose uniformity of opinions, divergent treatment according to ethnic status, and exclusion of those who disagree.

In the process, colleges and universities have squandered much of the prestige they once enjoyed. It's not clear any longer that college degrees, particularly in politically correct fields, produce higher incomes. Imposition of feminist-backed behavior codes, just reiterated by Biden administration Title IX proposals, has seen college gender ratios change from two-thirds male in the '60s to three-fifths female in the 2020s.

Ominously, enrollment in higher education peaked in 2010, declined by 10% even before COVID-19 and has continued to decline since. And the long-term trend seems almost certain to be downward from there, for the number of births per year in the nation has plunged since the 2007-08 financial collapse and recession from 4.3 million in 2007 to just under 3.6 million in 2023. With smaller percentages embarking on postsecondary education, the number of college and university students seems headed downward. What looked like a growth sector back in 1968 looks like a shrinking one today.

And it's a sector, unlike the mass of American society, riddled with repellent antisemitism. The pro-Palestinian student protesters say they are anti-Israel, not anti-Jewish, but their frequent attacks on Jewish students are redolent of the antisemitism of German universities in the Weimar Republic. This flows from the view, widely taught on campuses, dividing the world into oppressors and virtuous victims, in which Israel and Jews, in general, are dismissed as oppressors and Hamas terrorists are celebrated as heroes.

This view, of course, is not shared by most of the public. There has probably never been such a large population so respectful of the rights and contributions of Jews and so repelled by anti-Jewish bigotry. Which is, as political scientist Charles Lipson writes at RealClearPolitics, "bad news for Democrats" since "their party is closely tied to education at all levels" and the pro-Palestinian "squad" of congressional Democrats is aligned with the protesters. All the more so since the day the police cleared Hamilton Hall, President Joe Biden announced student debt cancellation for 317,000 adults who attended art institutes.

Disorder tends to hurt incumbents and, as political scientist Omar Wasow and leftish consultant David Shor have pointed out, to the dismay of young leftists, anger at student riots helped elect Ronald Reagan as governor in 1966 and Richard Nixon as president in 1968. The Democratic National Convention this year will be in Chicago, as it was in 1968, and some are threatening protests there. Will it be deja vu all over again?



Michael Barone

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Demeaning, diminishing, destroying

If history proves anything it shows if civil rights, human rights, equality and even the right to live are to be denied to a class of people, they must first be stripped of their inherent value as human beings.

In the case of African Americans, it was slavery and the Dred Scott decision by the Supreme Court in 1857 that upheld that evil practice, justifying it by claiming Blacks were not citizens of the United States. An earlier "compromise" in 1787 declared that for purposes of representation in Congress, enslaved Blacks in a state would be counted as three-fifths of the number of white inhabitants of that state. Jim Crow laws enacted by Southern Democrats went further by preventing most Blacks from voting.

In modern times, the unborn have been denied their right to live through abortion and the claim by some that fetuses are not fully human, thus justifying the procedure.

Which brings me to the current demonstrations against Israel and Jews on many college camp uses.

The language hurled against Jews is often similar to words used by the Nazis in the 1930s. The purpose was to diminish their value among the German people so that killing them would be tolerable, or at least ignored.

In 2022, Stanford University, the University of California and Tel Aviv University published a study of how



Cal Thomas

words were used by the Nazis as tools to accomplish their evil goals.

The dehumanizing process included words such as "rats, lice, cockroaches, foxes, and vultures." These words were used in speeches, articles, pamphlets and posters, noted the researchers. All were designed to rob Jews of their humanity. In fact, the vile rhetoric preceded the Nazi's rise to power and fueled their eventual political triumph. Jews were represented as incapable of human feeling. European Jews were smeared as agents of evil, and demons. The objective was to overcome the moral barriers established largely by Christian theology and allow for their mass extermination.

Compare that with the language on posters, signs and in the mouths of some of today's college demonstrators. Israel and the Jewish people, the victims of mass murder and kidnappings on Oct. 7 and in the Holocaust, are now blamed for committing "genocide" by trying to root out Hamas terrorists who have vowed to do it over and over again until Israel is destroyed. Talk about your double standard!

Two of many examples compiled by the Anti-Defamation League show what modern Jews and Israel are up against: "At the University of Michigan, where students began their encampment on April 22, protesters hung a banner next to their

tents that read "LONG LIVE THE INTIFADA." Intifada is a reference to two historical periods in the late 1980s and early 2000s during which Palestinian terrorists committed indiscriminate acts of violence against Israelis, including suicide bombings, resulting in the deaths of more than 1,000 people.

"At Columbia on April 20, protesters held signs that included such messages as 'Fight for worldwide Intifada' and chanted familiar slogans like 'Globalize the Intifada' and 'There is only one solution; Intifada, revolution.'"

University presidents have encouraged these outrages by largely surrendering to the mob. Columbia has begun suspending some students, but where are the academics denouncing this language and behavior? President Biden condemns the "antisemitic protests" and "those who don't understand what's going on with the Palestinians", but is his lukewarm response an attempt at not offending Muslim voters in the key state of Michigan? How cynical. While giving lip service to his "support" of Israel, Biden orders Secretary of State Antony Blinken to pressure Israel into a ceasefire in Gaza. But wouldn't that just allow Hamas to regroup and engage in more murderous acts?

The Jewish people have a slogan "Never Again" in reference to the Holocaust. With the incendiary language and threatening behavior rolling across many college campuses, we may be approaching "again."

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

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

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

CHRISTIAN NEW LIGHT
1011 W. Washington St.
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Praise & worship.

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

COVENANT CHAPEL
3550 S. SR 1
mycovenantchapel.org
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:15 - Worship. (Children's Church for ages 6-12).

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

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

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST
210 W. Townley
fbc-bluffton.com
10 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Discipleship.

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

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST
909 W. Spring St.
FCCfamily.com
9:30 & 11 a.m. - Worship.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1515 Clark Ave.
blufftonnazarene.org
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9-10 a.m. - Free ESL classes. 10:15 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL)
123 S. Jefferson St., Ossian
www.OssianChurch.com
8:45 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Worship.

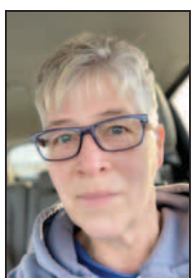
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FIRST UNITED METHODIST
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blufftonfirstumc.com
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

Time to Take a Devotional Break

WHEN GOD UNEXPECTEDLY SHOWS UP

If you are a living, breathing human being, I daresay you have felt disappointed by God at some point. Even if you felt that you couldn't express that unhappiness around fellow believers lest they think poorly of your faith, everyone has expectations of God based on their spiritual background and life experiences.



by Martha Paxson

The Old Testament book of Jonah tells the story of a prophet who got much more than he bargained for when God showed up in very unique ways.

Jonah was given a specific mission: Go to the city of Ninevah with a message of judgment and salvation. The uncooperative missionary somehow believed that God would not find him if he disappeared in the opposite direction, yet despite his attempt to outrun an omnipotent God, that same Almighty Father did not give up on encouraging Jonah's obedience.

God unexpectedly appeared to Jonah and the pagan crew of a battered ship during a violent deep-sea storm. Even the heathen sailors recognized that the deity this traveler wor-

shipped had power over the wind and waves, resulting in their belief in Him (Jonah 1:16).

God unexpectedly showed up in a great fish that obediently swallowed and safely transported the recalcitrant prophet to the shores of Ninevah, Jonah's original mission destination (Jonah 1:17; 2:10).

God unexpectedly revealed His presence when the Ninevites believed the prophet's warnings, repented of their sins, and turned to Him (Jonah 3:5-10).

God unexpectedly demonstrated His power in a miraculously grown plant, a ravenous worm, and a scorching wind when Jonah resentfully sequestered himself at a safe distance from the profane Ninevites to watch the spectacle of what he hoped would be divine judgment for their idolatry (Jonah 4:1-5).

The tale of Jonah ends abruptly with God reminding His servant that He, alone, has the power to choose the ones He will forgive and bless. When you hear the voice of God, listen, then respond in obedience. Don't wait for a storm, a great fish, or even a hungry caterpillar to capture your attention.

mpaxson99@yahoo.com

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

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

FORGIVEN CHURCH
1409 S. Main St.
forgivenonline.org
9 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
2803 N. Main St.
jw.org
10 a.m. - Worship.

LANCASTER CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
4510 E 400N, Craigville
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9:40 - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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

LIFE COMMUNITY
428 S. Oak St.
lifecommunity.net
10:30 a.m. - Service (Children's programs available).

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

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

MARKLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
455 E. Morse St.
marklechurch.org
9 a.m. - Adult Bible study groups. 10:30 - Worship. Children's & student programming both hours.

MARKLE RIVERSIDE 316
145 W. Morse St.
10 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

OSSIAN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
302 N. Metts St.
ossiannaz.org
9:15 a.m. - Bible study. 10:30 - Service.

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN
(Missouri Synod)
8824 N. SR 1, Ossian
newhopelutheran-ossian.webs.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible study. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RIVER OF LIFE
122 Lamar St.
Suite 108, 110
riveroflifebluffton.com
10:30 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC
1300 N. Main St.
Saturday: 7:45 a.m. - Prayer. 8 a.m. - Mass. 8:30 - Rosary. 4 p.m. or by appointment - Confessions. 5 p.m. - Mass. Sunday: 7:30 & 10 a.m. - Mass.

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

ST. MARK EV. LUTHERAN
16933 Thiele Rd.
stmarkfw.org
8:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN (NALC)
5912 N. Sugar St., Uniondale
10 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Children's Sunday School.

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

THE CHURCH AT MCNATT
9221 W 800 S-90, Montpelier
8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship. 9:15 - Worship.

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

TOWER LIFE CENTER
11811 N. Wayne St., Zanesville
towerlifecenter.com
9:30 a.m. - TLC Groups. 10:30 - Worship.

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

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

VERA CRUZ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER CCCU
2771 SE Mulberry St., Vera Cruz
9-10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10-10:30 - Fellowship. 10:30 - Worship.

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
205 S. Adams St., Monroe
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Discipleship for adults & children.

ZANESVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD
11984 N. Marzane Rd.
9 a.m. - Bible Class. 10 a.m. - Worship.

ZANESVILLE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
3092 W. Broadway
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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TO REPORT CHURCH NEWS:
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• Drop information at 125 N. Johnson St. in Bluffton



Bluffton's boys' track and field team all get together to celebrate their fourth ACAC championship in a row Friday night at Bluffton High School. This was the first time in school history that the Tigers won four straight, and they did it with 175 team points. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

Tiger boys claim 4th straight ACAC track title in a row

By RYAN WALKER

For the fourth time in a row, the Bluffton Tigers have won the boys Allen County Athletic Conference track meet.

The Tigers blew the seven-team field out of the water, winning seven total events that helped tally a 78-point margin of victory with 175 team points. The Jay County Patriots were the champs on the girls' side with 122 points, ahead of Woodlan at 116.50 points.

A dominant performance was largely on the shoulders of a strong senior class, who now haven't not held the trophy at the end of this meet in their four year careers. Head coach Brent Kunkel noted this was the first time in school history that they've won four track conference titles in a row.

"I mean, it's crazy," Kunkel said after the meet. "That means you have a really good group seniors ... When you got a group like that (Tyler Godwin, Andrew Hunt and Johnny Cruz) who have stayed committed over the course of four years and kind of stuck with the program and done it, it's just a really, really cool thing. To go an entire career and hold one of those up is an incredible accomplishment."

Alone, Godwin scored 32.5 points for his team, winning the 800m, the 1600m and the 3200m. Efforts like that are exactly why Division I Purdue Fort Wayne recruited him.

Cruz and Hunt have been consistent scorers in both the shot put and hurdles events. Hunt would have been a candidate for the 110m hurdles to earn a top finish, but a false start disqualified him. Regardless, the core of seniors did what they have for the last four years and have put it all together again.

The ACAC meet for the Tigers is the one they mark on the calendar. Kunkel shared that this is their last meet where they try and win it as a team. The sectional and beyond will, of course, be welcomed to win, but that's the time where he gets the individuals as far as they can.

"We put a lot into this meet," Kunkel said. "We are always going to view this as our most important meet. The lineup we run tonight, we say this is about team. The lineup we'll run next Thursday — It's about individuals. We've got some very, very talented kids

who I think can do some great things individually. But the focus will be on ok, I tell them, 'Hey, now you can be selfish.'"

The Bluffton girls placed sixth and both Southern Wells groups finished seventh, but all three coaches are optimistic about the future of their programs.

Sebastain Baxter, the Tigers' first year head coach, has been preaching to dream big and build a culture that is successful on and off the track. He noted an all-out team effort, as he has all season, from its freshman and sophomores and the upper classmen leading by example. He believes that a culture shift is imminent.

"The mindset was that we were continuing to build this program, and I said it last time too," Baxter said. "But the girls — the seniors continue to step up (and) continue to lead and lead by example. We had a lot of (personal records) tonight."

Bluffton had solid performances all around Friday night, with several events scoring points for the team.

Baxter gave praise for his distance runners and hurdles. Dakota Lee and Sophia Schwartz made the finals and finished fifth and sixth in both the 100m and 300m. Lucia Corkwell and Amarah Robles placed in the 3200m, which he said was a helpful addition to the scoreboard. Robles also competed in the high jump for the first time this season, deciding to give it a try and told Baxter on Tuesday. She ended up in seventh.

Baxter also is encouraged by the returners for next season and some of the middle schoolers, and was bold enough to quote Bluffton's boys' tennis coach Bob Vanderkolk from last year's sectional.

"I think within three years from now, we have an ACAC championship. To quote Bob Vanderkolk (who is predicting a 2024 tennis sectional title) ... Not only just the talent, because you need way more than talent. The girls across all ACAC have been incredibly talented last few years. We need way more than talent to win it and we finally had this buy in with the talent and it's going to take the two to combine."

For Southern Wells, head coach Gary Paxson was fairly happy with his Raiders. He said the team was going through a



Bluffton's Tyler Godwin (middle) takes command early during the mile run in which he won. Godwin scored 32.5 points for the Tigers, who finished with 175 for the night, and help lead his squad to yet another ACAC crown. **More photos and individual results on Page 7.**

list of injuries, and didn't have runners like Malaki Capper in the sprints. But four of the girls competed along with some of the boys with those injuries.

"I think we're on our third or fourth quad injury," Paxson said. "All four of those girls participated tonight and they gave me everything they got. And I can't ask for any more than that. The boys, we're missing a pretty vital part of our team tonight, but we had kids stepped up."

Some of the team's highlights for the night were Peyton Ellis and Kane Jenkins to help with Capper's absence. They placed in both hurdles events and in the relays. Peyton Long and Ashlie Needler were the top finisher for the Raiders, placing fourth in the discus and shot put.

As a team, Southern Wells had personal bests all across the board, even through the injuries, according to Paxson.

It shows the toughness of the group, who has a number of young athletes on its roster and are setting the foundation for a strong middle school class coming in.

"That tells me that they're not going to quit ... (their younger athletes) are all over the place as well," Paxson said. "We've got younger kids all over the place, but you look at them, and they're performing at junior-senior levels, some of them. And again, that's that's the just like the toughness of those younger kids have."

Southern Wells' senior night is next week at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7 against Whitko. Bluffton will host Norwell and Eastbrook

Knight boys finish in third, girls fourth at Northeast 8 track finals

Norwell finished third in the boys' and fourth in the girls' Northeast 8 Conference championship meet Friday night at Columbia City.

The boys held a team score of 110, falling behind New Haven and the champ Columbia City. The girls finished with 73 points, falling behind Columbia City, Huntington North and the champ East Noble.

Individual results:

Boys

- The 4x800m relay team of Gage Reinhard, Gavin Threewits, Luke Johnson and Caiden Petrie fourth with a time of 8:37.79.
- Hayden Bennett sixth in the 110m hurdles with a time of 16.61 and Zane Borne seventh at 16.89.
- Trevon Stoppenhagen first in the 100m with a time of 10.77 and Devin Dale second at 10.94.
- The 4x100m relay team of Stoppenhagen, Dale, Quentauris Jones and Jase Harmon first with a time of 43.50.
- Reinhard seventh in the 3200m with a time of 10:32.56.
- The 4x400m relay team of Borne, Petrie, Ryan Smith and Kyler Morris fourth with a time of 3:33.73.
- Harmon first in the high jump at 6-1 and Trace Moser third at 5-10.
- Jasper Kreigh second in the pole vault at 12-6 and Easton Scherrer fourth at 10-0.
- Harmon fourth in the long jump at 20-4.75 and Cohen Bailey sixth at 19-2.
- Alex Fojtik eighth in the shot put at

41-5.50.

- Will Gerber eighth in the discus at 123-6.

Girls

- The 4x800m relay team of Haleigh Reinhard, Ali Riley, Larkin Smith and Brooklyn Meyer fourth with a time of 10:38.00.
- Jaycie Grzych sixth in the 100m hurdles with a time of 17.61.
- Abigail Dale fifth in the 100m with a time of 13.05 and Jada Dale sixth at 13.18.
- The 4x100m relay team of Makenzie Fuess, Ryland Graft, Shae Brooks and Haley Williamson fifth with a time of 53.02.
- Jada Dale second in the 400m with a time of 1:00.43 and Abigail Dale eighth at 1:04.28.
- Jada Dale fifth in the 200m with a time of 27.12 and Abigail Dale eighth at 27.92.
- Ashley Waldman sixth in the 3200m with a time of 12:54.16.
- The 4x400m relay team of Jada and Abigail Dale, Fuess and Williamson fourth with a time of 4:24.92.
- Williamson third in the high jump at 4-10.
- Emerson Meredith first in the pole vault at 10-0 and Kendall Dunwiddie fourth at 8-6.
- Fuess fifth in the shot put at 31-5.50.
- Kaylee Eicher sixth in the discus at 97-3.

Both teams will be at Bluffton at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 6.

Sports Roundup

Knights top Bulldogs in Northeast 8 softball

The Norwell softball team improved to 2-1 in the Northeast 8 Conference with a 12-3 home victory over New Haven Friday night.

The Knights jumped to 6-4 overall with the win.

In the 12-hit effort (all of which were singles), Sami Lemler and Nevada Lenwell had three-hit nights. Leah Werling had a two-hit night. Teagan Lesley drove in three runs, while Lemler drove in two.

Lemler also picked up the win on the mound, throwing six innings, allowing three runs on six hits and struck out nine. Kayla Watkins threw a perfect inning in relief.

Norwell will host DeKalb at 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 6.

Knights win boys' soccer match in middle school

Norwell won its boys' soccer game Thursday night over Riverview 3-1.

Cooper Nagel scored two of the goals, while Blake Fuess scored one. Storms rained out the girls' game.

Knights win in MS golf

Norwell's middle school golf team won over Indian Springs 240-249.

Isaiah Goeglein scored a 43 on the back nine to lead the team and was the medalist.

High School Calendar

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 Course, 9 a.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at Tony Wright Memorial Tournament at Angola, 9 a.m.

SOFTBALL: Heritage at Norwell, 10 a.m. & 12 p.m.; Bluffton at Northfield, 10 a.m.

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Tigers win ACAC track title

(Continued from Page 6)

Individual results:
Boys Bluffton
 • The 4x800m relay team of Jude Baumgartner, Ayden Teeple, Levi Johns and Tyler Godwin first with a time of 8:30.76.
 • Baumgartner second in the 200m with a time of 23.84. Isaiah San Juan sixth at 24.60.
 • Eli Bertsch second in the 110m hurdles with a time of 16.37. Andrew Hunt first at 19.9.
 • Tavin Frees second in the discus at 137-6 and Drayvin Shoemaker sixth at 113-4.
 • Godwin first in the mile with a time of 4:44.17.
 • The 4x100m relay team of Alex Mechling, Ben Ramseyer, Trey Bustos and Khameel Moore first with a time of 45.13.
 • Baumgartner first in the 400m with a time of 50.84 and Maksym Laishevkin third at 54.27.
 • Hunt second in the

300m hurdles with a time of 42.73 and Bertsch fourth at 44.76.
 • Godwin first in the 800m with a time of 2:00.73 and Ayden Teeple fifth at 2:09.82.
 • Baumgartner second in the 200m with a time of 23.53 and Isaiah San Juan fifth at 24.29.
 • Godwin first in the 3200m with a time of 10:15.28 and Levi Johns second at 10:18.27.
 • The 4x400m relay team of Caleb Gates, Peyton Ellis, Kane Jenkins and Aiden Carroll seventh with a time of 53.65.
 • Jenkins sixth in the 300m hurdles with a time of 45.33 and Ellis seventh at 4.77.
 • Joshua Bricker seventh in the 3200m with a time of 10:49.29.

Girls Bluffton
 • Maryn Schreiber sixth in the 200m with a time of 28.80 and Olivia Schreiber seventh at 28.88.
 • Dakota Lee fifth in the 100m hurdles with a time of 17.23 and Sophie Schwartz sixth at 17.37.
 • Alexandria Koby eighth in the shot put at 30-1.50.
 • Rylynn Penick sixth in the 100m with a time of 13.70.
 • Madelyn Funk seventh in the long jump at 14-7.
 • The 4x100m relay team of Haley Gibson, Rylynn Penick, Olivia Schreiber and Dakota Lee fifth with a time of 54.25.
 • Maryn Schreiber second in the 400m with a time of 1:03.73.
 • Lee fifth in the 300m hurdles with a time of 51.98 and Schwartz sixth at 52.20.
 • Addison Yates sixth in the 800m with a time of 2:41.31.
 • Olivia Schreiber sixth in the 200m with a time of 29.25 and Maryn Schreiber eighth at 29.77.
 • Lucia Corkwell seventh in the 3200m with a time of 14:53.55 and Amarah Robles eighth at 14:53.72.

• The 4x400m relay team of Madelyn Funk, Addison Yates, Maryn Schreiber and Dakota Lee sixth with a time of 4:41.37.
Southern Wells
 • Ashlee Needler fourth in the shot put at 31-9.50.
 • The 4x100m relay team of Tessa Maul, Sydney Alstoft, Kinley Allred and Jayda Brown seventh with a time of 57.78.
 • The 4x400m relay team of Makyla Pryor, Reagan Needler, Adeline Sabinske and Dannicka Sorenson seventh with a time of 5:05.09.
 • The 4x400m relay team of Peyton Ellis, Miles Garrett, Kelton Barr and Aiden Carroll seventh with a time of 4:01.89.
Team Scores
Boys
 1. Bluffton (175 points), 2. Heritage (97), 3. South Adams (92), 4. Jay County (90.50), 5. Woodlan (74.50), 6. Adams Central (31), 7. Southern Wells (21).
Girls
 1. Jay County (122 points), 2. Woodlan (116.50), T3. Heritage (108), T3. South Adams (108), 5. Adams Central (63), 6. Bluffton (54), 7. Southern Wells (10.50).



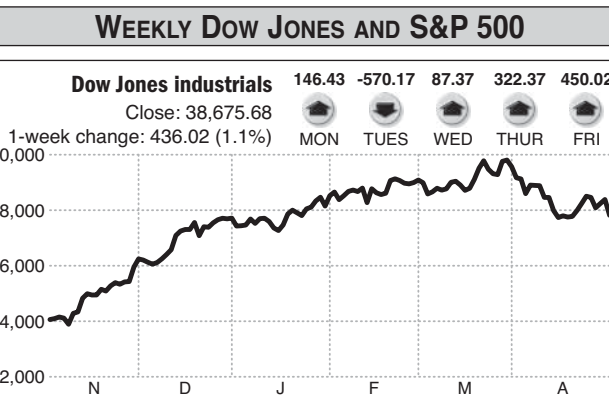
At left, Southern Wells' Peyton Long throws during the shot put Friday at the ACAC track and field championships. At right, Shaylinn Geesaman runs during the 400m. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



At left, Bluffton's Johnny Cruz launches the ball during the shot put. At right, Lucia Corkwell (left) paces with Amarah Robles (right) during the 3200m race.



THE WEEK IN REVIEW



STOCK MARKET INDEXES

52-Week	High	Low	Name	Last	Wk Chg	%Chg	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg
39,889.05	32,327.20		Dow Jones Industrials	38,675.68	+436.02	+1.14	+2.62	+14.85
16,717.04	13,471.47		Dow Jones Transportation	15,348.40	+177.52	+1.17	-3.46	+8.68
970.64	765.47		Dow Jones Utilities	914.31	+30.06	+3.40	+3.70	-4.98
18,342.24	14,638.37		NYSE Composite	17,797.89	+34.62	+1.9	+5.61	+15.71
16,538.86	11,925.37		Nasdaq Composite	16,156.33	+228.43	+1.43	+7.63	+32.05
5,264.85	4,048.28		S&P 500	5,127.79	+27.83	+0.55	+7.50	+23.97
3,056.49	2,322.38		S&P MidCap	2,929.04	+33.80	+1.17	+5.30	+19.01
53,009.37	39,864.87		Wilshire 5000	51,555.36	+317.27	+0.62	+6.75	+26.46
2,135.46	1,633.67		Russell 2000	2,035.72	+33.72	+1.68	+4.3	+15.67
18,201.38	13,179.91		Lipper Growth Index	17,560.37	+151.62	+0.87	+8.29	+30.76

STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

NYSE GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)	NYSE LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE)	NYSE ACTIVES (\$1 OR MORE)																																																																																																																																
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STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Name	Div	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg
AFLAC	2.00	83.21	-0.40	-0.5	+9
AT&T Inc	1.11	16.85	+0.10	+0.6	+4
AMD	1.60	150.60	-6.80	-4.3	+2.2
Akanda h	...	0.09	-0.01	-11.7	-79.4
AEP	...	186.21	+6.59	+3.7	+22.6
Apple Inc s	...	96.183.38	+14.08	+8.3	-4.8
ApldMtl	1.60	204.09	+0.71	+0.3	+25.9
BP PLC	1.74	38.70	-0.77	-2.0	+9.3
BrMySq	2.40	43.99	-0.86	-1.9	-14.3
CampSp	1.48	44.88	+0.03	+0.1	+3.8
CanopyGr s	...	10.24	+1.33	+14.9	+100.4
Caterpillar	5.20	336.75	-6.63	-1.9	+13.9
Chevron	6.52	160.25	-5.64	-3.4	+7.4
Cisco	1.60	47.12	-0.74	-1.5	-6.7
Citigroup	2.12	61.52	-0.61	-1.0	+19.6
CocaCola	1.84	62.17	+0.43	+0.7	+5.5
CyotmX	...	4.43	+2.84	+178.6	+185.8
DxSOXB	...	38.97	-0.83	-2.1	+24.1
Disney	30	113.66	+0.93	+0.8	+25.9
Eaton	2.92	320.50	-2.86	-0.9	+33.1
EliLilly	5.20	734.97	+1.46	+0.2	+26.1
ExxonMbl	3.80	116.00	-1.96	-1.7	+16.0
FordFut r s	...	0.04	-0.01	-12.8	-94.1
FordM	60	12.43	-0.36	-2.8	+2.0
FrankElec	90	98.90	-3.62	-3.5	+2.3
FrtmMcM	30	50.45	-0.05	-0.1	+18.5
FuelCell	...	90	+0.03	+3.3	-43.8
GE Aero	1.12	164.11	+1.76	+1.1	+61.2
GinkgoBi	...	96	+0.10	+11.0	-43.5
HP Inc	1.02	28.18	+0.18	+0.6	-6.3
HomeDp	9.00	342.85	+7.76	+2.3	-1.1
ShChinaLc	87	27.33	+1.46	+5.6	+13.7
SHEMkts	59	42.47	+1.30	+3.2	+5.6
ISH20 yr T	3.05	89.84	+1.60	+1.8	-9.1
SHIBXHYB	5.09	77.08	+0.46	+0.6	-4
Intel	50	30.90	-0.98	-3.1	-38.5
IBM	6.64	165.71	-1.42	-0.8	+1.3
Inv QQQ	1.16	435.48	+4.48	+1.0	+6.3
JaguarH	...	32	+14	+76.7	+110.6
Kroger	1.16	54.78	-0.71	-1.3	+19.8
LincNat	1.80	28.10	+0.29	+1.0	+4.2
Lowes	4.40	232.13	+2.26	+1.0	+4.3
MarathDig	...	17.52	-1.91	-9.8	-25.4
McDnlds	6.68	270.32	-2.77	-1.0	-8.8
Microsoft	3.00	406.66	+0.34	+0.1	+8.1
NL Inds	32	8.24	+0.43	+5.5	+46.9
NY CmtyB	0.4	3.53	+0.56	+18.9	-65.5
NISource	1.06	28.54	+0.87	+3.1	+7.5
Nikola	...	66	+0.1	+2.3	-24.8
NorfolkSo	5.40	235.55	-3.04	-1.3	-4
Nucor	2.16	173.92	-1.50	-0.9	-1.1
Nvidia	16	887.89	+10.54	+1.2	+79.3
Palantir	...	23.33	+0.81	+3.6	+35.9
Paramnt B	0.96	12.89	+0.98	+8.2	-12.8
PepsiCo	5.42	176.15	+0.57	+0.3	+3.7
Pfizer	1.68	27.81	+2.41	+9.5	-3.4
PlugPow h	...	2.74	+0.33	+13.7	-39.1
PRUPQ	...	56.70	+1.42	+2.6	+11.8
PShQQQ	...	11.08	-0.35	-3.1	-17.6
RivivaAu A	...	10.07	+1.03	+11.4	-57.1
SodrDJIA	3.98	386.77	+4.46	+1.2	+2.6
S&P500ETF	4.13	511.29	+3.03	+0.6	+7.6
SiNxtC	...	05	+0.01	+17.5	-87.7
Snapple A	...	16.25	+1.70	+11.7	-4.0
SoFTech	...	6.96	-0.91	-11.6	-30.1
SPDR FncI	...	46	50.55	-2.7	-0.7
SPDR Dyn	1.84	135.47	+1.43	+1.1	+14.7
Tesla	...	181.19	+12.90	+7.7	-27.1
TirayBr	...	2.10	+0.32	+18.0	-8.7
VerizonCm	2.66	38.89	-0.79	-2.0	+3.2
WalMart s	0.83	59.82	-0.34	-0.6	...
WalBoots	1.00	17.81	+0.11	+0.6	-31.8
WBroDis A	...	7.97	-0.14	-1.7	-30.0
WsteMinc	3.00	207.88	-2.22	-1.1	+16.1
WellsFargo	1.40	59.94	+0.03	+0.1	+21.8

MONEY RATES

	Last	Pvs Day
Prime Rate	8.50	8.50
Discount Rate	6.00	6.00
Federal Funds Rate	5.33	5.33

CURRENCIES

	Last	Pvs Day
Australia	1.5119	1.5216
Britain	1.2551	1.2537
Canada	1.3682	1.3671
Euro	9287	9320
Japan	152.94	153.10
Mexico	16.9571	16.9601
Switzerland	9050	9101

British pound expressed in U.S. dollars. All others show dollar in foreign currency.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	Total Assets Obj (\$Mln)	NAV	Total Return/ Rank	Pct Load			
American Funds AmrcnBalA	m	MA 100.594	33.12	-1.7	+14.9/B	+7.7/B	5.75
American Funds EuroPacGrA	m	FG 20,263	58.02	-1.2	+11.8/B	+5.5/C	5.75
American Funds FdmllInvSA	m	LB 68,953	77.59	-2.3	+29.1/B	+12.1/C	5.75
American Funds GrAmrcA	m	LG 131,954	69.29	-2.3	+36.3/C	+12.2/C	5.75
American Funds IncAmrcA	m	AL 74,046	23.79	-1.3	+8.9/E	+6.6/D	5.75
American Funds InvCAMrcA	m	LB 83,028	54.48	-1.6	+30.3/A	+12.9/B	5.75
American Funds NwPrspctA	m	WG 57,356	59.49	-1.7	+20.1/D	+11.1/B	5.75
American Funds WAMtlvnsA	m	LB 80,811	60.16	-2.3	+22.1/D	+11.6/D	5.75
Davis NYVentureA	m	LB 4,650	29.58	-0.5	+37.1/A	+10.0/E	4.75
Fidelity 500IdxInvPm	m	LB 512,391	178.15	-1.5	+27.3/B	+13.6/A	NL
Fidelity Contrafund	m	LG 118,349	18.56	-2.5	+41.9/A	+15.5/B	NL
Fidelity TtlMktIdxInvPm	m	LB 87,501	141.05	-1.6	+27.2/B	+12.7/C	NL
Fidelity Advisor EquityGrowthA	m	LG 2,172	19.39	-1.6	+39.9/B	+17.5/A	5.75
Fidelity Advisor GrowthOppsA	m	LG 3,940	145.56	-0.7	+46.8/A	+16.1/A	5.75
George Putnam BalA	m	MA 1,308	24.14	-1.1	+19.2/A	+8.8/A	5.75
INVESCO MnStrA	m	LB 8,676	54.59	-1.7	+26.1/C	+11.5/D	5.50
PIMCO Inclnst	m	MU 87,601	10.51	-0.4	+6.7	+2.7	NL
Putnam DiversIncA	m	NT 517	5.43	-0.3	+4.3/D	0.0/E	4.00
Putnam SustLeadersA	m	LG 5,509	120.00	-1.7	+31.1/D	+13.4/C	5.75
Putnam TEIncA	m	ML 526	7.75	+0.3	+3.8/B	+1.2/B	4.00
Schwab SP500Idx	m	LB 88,247	78.93	-2.6	+24.8	+13.5	NL
Thornburg InternMnA	m	MI 257	13.18	+0.1	+3.4/B	+1.3/C	2.00
Thornburg LtdTrmUSGvtA	m	GS 38	11.67	-0.3	0.0/E	-0.3/E	2.25
Vanguard 500IdxAdmrl	m	LB 505,179	473.55	-1.5	+27.3/B	+13.6/A	NL
Vanguard GrlIdxAdmrl	m	LG 75,443	174.46	-1.0	+37.4/C	+16.4/A	NL
Vanguard InTrTEAdmrl	m	MI 69,955	13.53	0.0	+2.8/C	+1.6/A	NL
Vanguard PmCpAdmrl	m	LB 70,617	166.95	-1.3	+27.3/B	+13.1/B	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2025Fnd	m	TG 77,474	18.86	-1.2	+10.5	+5.8	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2030Fnd	m	TH 92,795	36.61	-1.4	+12.1	+6.	

The Classifieds

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King Classic Sudoku

	4		5	3				2
		3		9	2	4		
				4	1	7		5
			8	1			5	
2			3					8
9	1							
3		4		6				
1				2			6	3
6		9						

Difficulty: ★★★★★

5/4

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Lottery Numbers

Friday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 04-13-18-27-31

Cash4Life — 03-07-09-25-42, Cash Ball: 04

Quick Draw Midday — 04-07-08-16-26-28-29-32-33-35-36-40-47-49-52-63-71-75-78-80, BE: 75

Daily Three-Midday — 02-02-09, SB: 02

Daily Three-Evening — 00-02-08, SB: 02

Daily Four-Midday — 02-05-01-01, SB: 02

Daily Four-Evening — 05-02-06-04, SB: 02

Quick Draw Evening — 01-06-07-09-14-23-27-33-44-45-50-55-60-64-65-66-69-70-73-79, BE: 73

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$11.5 million

MEGA MILLIONS 06-13-15-53-56, Mega Ball: 11, Megaplier: 2X

POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$203 million

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STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF WELLS)
) IN THE WELLS
) CIRCUIT COURT
) 2024 TERM
) Cause Number:
) 90C01-2404-AD-10

IN RE: THE MATTER OF)
THE ADOPTION OF:)
E.P.O., d.o.b. 08.15.2017.)
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 15, 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 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, 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.

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 notice.

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 5/4, 5/11, 5/18 hspaxlp

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Services

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Briana Eicher, Pavilion Director
Muselman Wellness Pavilion/Swiss Village, Inc. | 1201 Emmental Drive | Berne, IN 46711
Or email: brianae@swissvillage.org

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

THE CITY OF Bluffton is accepting applications for Paid-On-Call Firefighters and Part Time Firefighters. Both positions require a high school diploma or equivalent and a Driver's License. The City utilizes E-Verify and follows EEOC guidelines. Applications may be obtained from the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, 128 E. Market St, Bluffton, Mon-Fri from 8a-4:30p or online at www.blufftonindiana.net. Applications due June 14th.

VEHICLES

Auto/Trucks

HELOISE HINT: If the trunk of your vehicle begins to smell. Open it up and find out what's causing the stench. Deal with it right away by removing the offending items. Email HELOISE@Heloise.com.

Auto/Trucks

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HELOISE HINT: A fun way to help sell all of your smaller garage sale items: Offer each customer a large paper bag from the supermarket, and allow them to fill it up for \$5. Email HELOISE@Heloise.com.

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Public Notices

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA DOCKET NO.

90C01-2404-EU-000016
Notice is hereby given that LINDA S. HERMAN was on the 1st day of May 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of EDWIN M. HERMAN, deceased, who died on the 1st day of July, 2021, and was authorized to administer his estate without Court supervision.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file those claims in the office of the Clerk of the Wells Circuit Court within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or those claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 1st day of May, 2024.

Beth Davis
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court
Matthew P. Hayes
Attorney for Personal Representative
Attorney No. 32002-02
GORDON & ASSOCIATES
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
119 East Oak Forest Drive
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-9377

nb 5/4, 5/11 hspaxlp

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1	8	7	2	6	2	5	9	9
2	6	9	8	5	9	1	7	2

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May GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY

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

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Pet disparity puts strain on marriage

Dear Annie: I grew up never allowed to have pets. I've been married almost 30 years to a man who allowed me to have a small inside dog, and he doesn't mind her so much but hates the two we have outside.

The issue is that, if our granddaughter brings a pet for us to take care of, it can do no wrong because we love our granddaughter, no matter how stinky or destructive the animal.

Dear Protective: It sounds like there's a significant imbalance in how your husband views your pets compared to those of your granddaughter, which understandably feels personal since your animals mean so much to you.

Sit down with your husband to tell him how much it means to you to care for your animals and how it hurts to feel like this interest of yours is not reciprocated.

Dear Annie: My husband of 35 years has taken to letting himself go. We are both in our 60s and have, in the past, enjoyed hiking, walking around our neighborhood and getting some exercise.

has a powerful taste for sweets, eating them often and usually clandestinely. He has gained a fair amount of weight and has had some recent problems with his knees and one hip.

I have suggested exercise and a sensible diet, but he does not seem to find it an important suggestion. We have good insurance, although he does not see a doctor or dentist.

Should I let him be? I am tired of telling him how I feel regarding this issue and know I will soon be a widow.

Dear Impending Widow: Your concerns are both valid and pressing, especially given your husband's previous battles with alcoholism and now his declining physical condition.

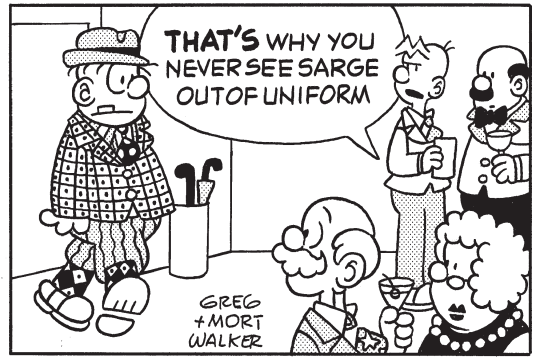
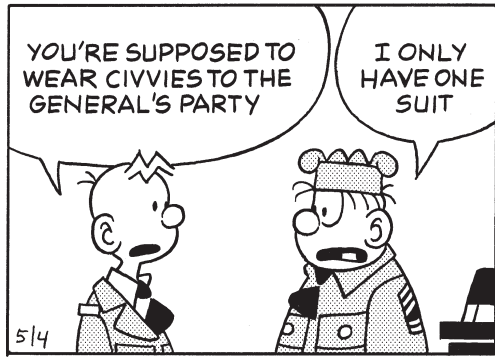
Make sure to express your concerns not just from a health standpoint but from a relational one. Let him know how much you value your time together and your future, emphasizing that his health directly affects the quality and longevity of your shared life.

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

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



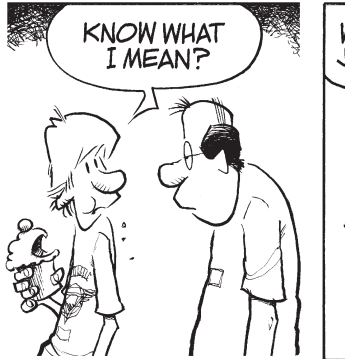
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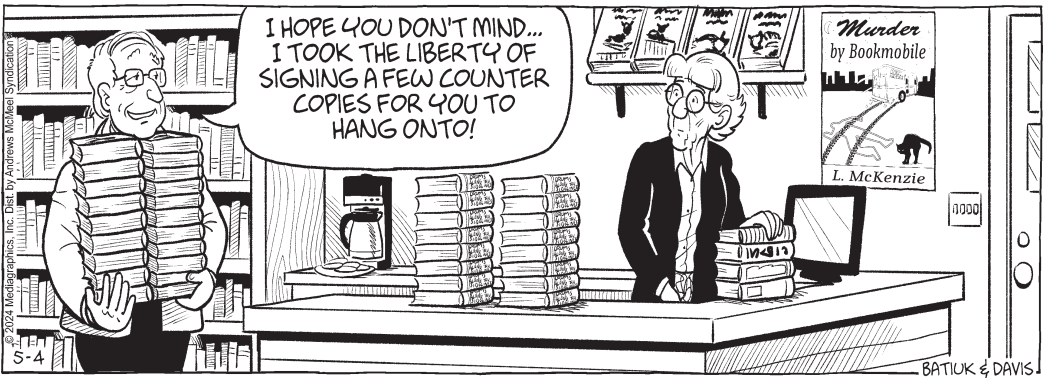
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Christ does not lie

for the life to come. The devil makes promises he cannot keep. He promises that you don't have to worry about what will happen to you when you die - which is a lie.

But Christ does not lie. "The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37, NKJV). You can depend on His promises - and the greatest promise is God's promise of new life in Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5:17). God can forgive your repentant heart.

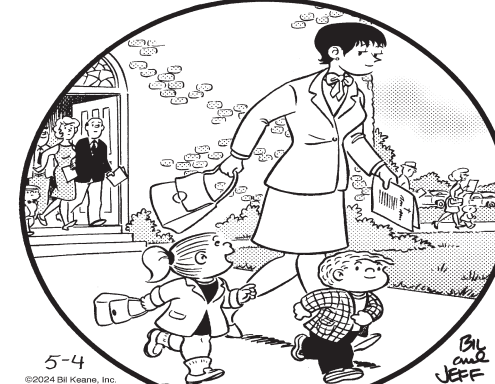
"The Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin" (Galatians 3:22, NIV). It was God's love that knew people were incapable of obeying His law, and it was His love that promised a Redeemer, a Savior, who

would save His people from their sins.

Study God's Word. He opens up our understanding. Read the letters penned by the Apostle Paul and Peter while imprisoned. Read the story of Joseph, John the Baptist, and the prophets of old who landed in jail. And then read the gospels and the account of the thief on the cross who was gloriously saved, and Jesus said to him, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43, NKJV).

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

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Yesterday's answer 5-4 crossword puzzle grid.

Table with 24 columns (channels and times) and 53 rows (channel numbers) listing TV programs and their descriptions.

Local Roundup

County Drainage Board will meet Monday afternoon

The Wells County Drainage Board will meet at 4:30 p.m. Monday, May 6, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Awarding of quotes for projects on the Walter Johnson Prong 2 (Harrison Township), Peter Gaskill (Liberty Township) and William Day Prong 3 (Liberty Township) tiles.
 - Discussion about replacing the B.F. Kain Tile Drain in Harrison Township.
 - Project updates and miscellaneous matters.

County Commissioners will meet Monday evening

The Wells County Commissioners will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, May 6, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Department reports from Sheriff Scott Holliday and Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar.
 - 1st quarter invoice from Wells County Council on Aging.
 - Consideration of Health First Indiana.
 - Monthly reports and miscellaneous business.
 - Community Plan Steering Committee appointments.
 - Right-of-way or utility agreements.

Poneto will hold special council meeting Monday

The Poneto Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, at the Poneto Town Hall, 105 West Washington St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Consideration of applicants for clerk-treasurer. A decision is expected to be made at the board's May 13 meeting.

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Bluffton Common Council will meet Tuesday evening

The Bluffton Common Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Visitors Commission will meet Wednesday morning

The Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission will meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday, May 8, in the conference room of Wells County Commerce and Visitors Centre, 211 Water St. in Bluffton.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Financial updates.
 - Updates regarding visitor guides and maps.
 - Grant recipient report.
 - Discussion regarding billboards and content collecting ideas.

Wells County Council will meet Wednesday evening

The Wells County Council will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Consideration of additional appropriations and transfers.
 - Nomination to the Ossian Economic Development Commission.
 - Discussion of Indiana House Bill 1328 with Clerk Beth Davis and Auditor Lisa McCormick.
 - Miscellaneous business and discussion of the 2025 budget timeline.

Health board will have special meeting Thursday

The board of the Wells County Health Department will hold a special meeting at 6:30 a.m. Thursday, May 9, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

The only item on the agenda is Health First Indiana.

Bluffton parks board will meet Thursday evening

The Bluffton parks board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Reports from the treasurer and superintendent.
 - Recognition of donations.
 - Park and project updates.
 - DORA consideration for Kehoe.
 - ERI Construction Observation Agreement.
 - IPRA state conference.
 - Concession stand prices.



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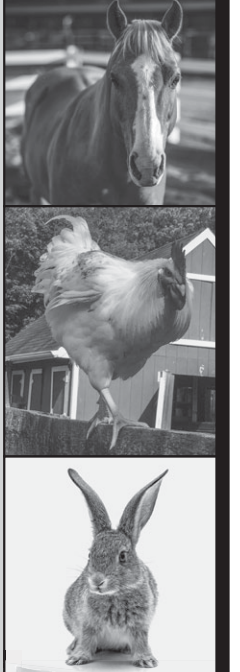


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