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MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

Michigan man arrested for child solicitation

By SYDNEY KENT

A Michigan government official was arrested on felony charges for child solicitation at Walmart in Bluffton on Saturday.



Seth Abraham Waxman

Seth Abraham Waxman, 48, Lansing, Michigan, is facing one count of child solicitation, a Level 4 felony. Waxman is the most recent subject of a sting facilitat-

ed by the nonprofit group Predator Catchers Indianapolis, or PCI. This was the fifth live-streamed arrest to take place at Walmart.

Waxman reportedly arranged to meet who he believed to be a teenage girl in the girl's underwear section of the store. Instead, he was met by a decoy. In a video, PCI member and decoy Eric Schmutte read explicit sexual text messages between Waxman and the decoy.

"You have a pretty decent job, right?" Schmutte asked Waxman during the initial confrontation.

Waxman insisted the group speak with him outside. As Waxman and the PCI group walked throughout the store, he continued to deflect questions about his age and intentions. Towards the exit of Walmart, a deputy with the Wells County Sheriff's Office joined them. Waxman was searched for weapons before being placed in handcuffs.

The group live-streamed the video of the arrest on YouTube. (Continued on Page 2)



Norwell seniors pose for a photo after the awards ceremony held Sunday, May 5. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

Norwell seniors receive over \$2.3M in scholarships

By HOLLY GASKILL

Norwell High School honored 120 soon-to-graduate seniors for their academic achievement on Sunday. The group has received over \$2.3 million in scholarships to continue their education.

Those honored were:

- Joshua Adam: Core 40 with Technical Honors, High Honors, Wells County Foundation Loren and Helen Decker Scholarship, and Wells County Foundation K. Robert Ehrman Trade/Technical Scholarship and Wells County Foundation Dean S. George Memorial Scholarship.
- Alex Baker: Huntington University Trustee Award.
- Faith Bales: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society, Dollars For Scholars Scholarship, Wells County 4-H Foundation and Grace College Dean's Academic Scholarship.
- Morgan Batdorff: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Core 40 with Technical Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society, Wells County Foundation Claude and Helen Decker Scholarship and Dollars For Scholars Pretzel's Inc. Scholarship.
- Eli Baumgardner: Core 40 with Technical Honors and Honors.
- Logan Bennett: Core 40 with Technical Honors and Honors.
- Ayden Billiard: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Core 40 with Technical Honors, High Honors and Dollars For Scholars Roembke Mfg. & Design, Inc. Scholarship.
- Timothy Bonjour: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Distinction, National Honors Society, Dollars For Scholars Ossian Days Scholarship and I.U. Bloomington Hudson and Holland Scholars Program.
- Garrett Boomershine: Core 40 with Technical Honors and Dollars For Scholars Scholarship.
- Jack Brown: Core 40 with Academic Honors and Honors.

ors and Honors.

- Madison Brown-Schooley: Dollars For Scholars Scholarship, Achievement Award and Indiana Partnership Grant.
- Collin Burns: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors and Dollars For Scholars First Bank of Berne Scholarship.
- Sophia Campbell: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society, Dollars For Scholars Pretzel's Inc. Scholarship, Provost's Scholarship, Winona Merit Scholarship, Grace Heritage Scholarship, Next Generation Hoosier Educator Scholarship and Bluffton Elk's Lodge 796 Scholarship.
- Ava Cavanaugh: Core 40 with Academic Honors and High Honors.
- Zachary Cook: Core 40 with Academic Honors.
- Aiden Curry: Core 40 with Academic Honors and Honors.
- Aleasia Decot: Dollars For Scholars Scholarship and Honors.
- Austin Deleon: Core 40 with Academic Honors.
- Aaron Dennison: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors and Indiana Tech Academic Scholarship.
- Riley Dettmer: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society and Dollars For Scholars Pretzel's Inc. Scholarship.
- Anna Dodane: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Distinction, National Honors Society, Dollars For Scholars Ossian Days Scholarship and Huntington Academic Scholarship.
- Emma Dodane: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors and Dollars For Scholars Barkley Properties LLC. Scholarship.
- Lucas Dunwiddie: High Honors, Wells County Foundation Loren and Helen Decker Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars and University of Alabama Competitive Achievement Scholarship.
- Peyton Dunwiddie: Core 40 with Academic

Honors, Core 40 with Technical Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society and Dollars For Scholars Meyer Building Scholarship.

- Kailey Eccles: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors and Dollars For Scholars.
- Emily Edmiston: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors and Dollars For Scholars.
- Mallory Falls: Honors.
- Ashton Federspiel: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Distinction and Dollars For Scholars.
- Macy Felger: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Honors, Dollars For Scholars, Huntington Athletic Scholarship, Hope Missionary Church Scholarship and Academic Scholarship.
- Chloe Ferguson: Dollars For Scholars Pretzel's Inc. Scholarship.
- Renee Frazee: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society, Dollars For Scholars Scholarship, Scholars Award and William E. and Helen E. Locke Scholarship.
- Logan Freiburger: Core 40 with Academic Honors and Honors.
- Kennedy Fuelling: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Honors, Dollars For Scholars Scholarship, Scholar Athlete Excellence 2024 Scholarship and Marian University Basketball Scholarship.
- Makenzie Fuess: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Distinction, National Honors Society, Wells County Foundation Mabel M. Wilson Archbold Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars Scholarship, Wells County 4-H Foundation Scholarship, Saint Francis Presidential Scholarship, Saint Francis Athletic Scholarship, Elks State Scholarship and Bridget Memorial Scholarship.
- Grace Gerber: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society, Dollars For Scholars Pretzel's Inc. Scholarship and Saint Francis Presidential Scholarship.
- Tailor Grant: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, Dollars For Scholars Lan-

(Continued on Page 2)



Lifewise and donuts

Lifewise Academy hosted an information booth in front of Heyerley's Bakery in Ossian Saturday afternoon. Lifewise gave out information packets about their organization and gave free donuts and drinks to Lifewise kids. Above, from left to right, Cainen Kinsey, Hundson Heckber, Ryan Brown, Hayden Heckber and Tristen Kinsey, along with Adelynn Schwartz, behind, enjoyed the refreshments and time with friends. At right, Rick Smalling and Landon Gerz both enjoyed the weather that day. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



U.S. spotlights those missing or dead in Native communities, prosecutors work to solve cases

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — It was a frigid winter morning when authorities found a Native American man dead on a remote gravel road in western New Mexico. He was lying on his side, with only one sock on, his clothes gone and his shoes tossed in the snow.

There were trails of blood on both sides of his body and it appeared he had been struck in the head.

Investigators retraced the man's steps, gathering security camera footage that showed him walking near a convenience store miles away in Gallup, an economic hub in an otherwise rural area bordered on one side by the Navajo Nation and Zuni Pueblo on the other.

Court records said the footage and cell phone records showed the victim — a Navajo man identified only as John Doe — was "on a collision course" with the man who would ultimately be accused of killing him.

A grand jury has indicted a man from Zuni Pueblo on a charge of second-degree murder in the Jan. 18 death, and prosecutors say more charges are likely as he is the prime suspect in a series of crimes targeting Native American men in Gallup, Zuni and Albuquerque. Investigators found several wallets, cell phones and clothing belonging to other men when searching his vehicle and two residences.

As people gathered around the nation on Sunday to spotlight the troubling number of disappearances and killings in Indian Country, authorities say the New Mexico case represents the kind of work the U.S. Department of Justice had aspired to when establishing its Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons outreach program last summer.

Special teams of assistant U.S. attorneys and coordinators have been tasked with focusing on MMIP cases. Their goal: Improve communication and coordination

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Outside

Small chance of showers for the rest of the week

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 68	High 76	High 80
Low 55	Low 56	Low 59

More Weather on Page 2

Online

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Norwell seniors

(Continued from Page 1)

caster Staff Bobcat Bucks for College Scholarship, Bowling Green Success Scholarship, University Freshman Academic Scholarship and Bluffton Psi Iota Xi Scholarship.

- Haley Green: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, Dollars For Scholars and Saint Francis Presidential Scholarship.

- Alexis Hartup: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society and Dollars For Scholars Scholarship.

- Coby Hartzler: Core 40 with Technical Honors and High Honors.

- Emilyn Heaston: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society, Dollars For Scholars Imel Family Scholarship, I.U. Academic Scholarship and IUFW Suedhoff Excellence III Scholarship.

- Addyson Heindel: Core 40 with Academic Honors and High Honors.

- Addyson Heyerly: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Distinction, National Honors Society, Wells County Foundation Rex, Marceille and Jerry Shutt Memorial Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars Gabe Norris Family Scholarship and Trine University Education Chair Scholarship.

- Ciera Hiester: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society, Wells County Foundation Forrest D. Ramseyer Memorial Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars Pretzel's Inc. Scholarship, University of Saint Francis Presidential Scholarship and Bridget Memorial Scholarship.

- Jake Hoover: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Distinction, National Honors Society, Wells County Foundation Forrest D. Ramseyer Memorial Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars Roembke Mfg. & Design, Inc. Scholarship and Taylor University Scholarships.

- Dekota Hubble: Huntington University Basketball Scholarship.

- Olivia Hull: Core 40 with Academic Honors and High Honors.

- Chase Hulvey: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors and Dollars For Scholars.

- Elijah Ingle: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Distinction, National Honors Society, Wells County Foundation Six Mile Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars Gabe Norris Family Scholarship, Wells County 4-H Foundation Scholarship, Madden Scholarship William G. & Ilo Jane (Altman) Martin Scholarship.

- Danny Jackson: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors and National Honors Society.

- Annabelle Johnson: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Distinction, National Honors Society, Dollars For Scholars Rachel Murchland-Eckert Memorial Scholarship and Wells County 4-H Foundation Scholarship.

- Luke Johnson: Core 40 with Academic Honors and Dollars For Scholars Scholarship.

- Quentauris Jones: Dollars For Scholars Scholarship, Honors and Bethel Academic Scholarship.

- Andrea Kabel: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors and Dollars For Scholars Scholarship.

- Addison Keller: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, Dollars For Scholars Scholarship and University of Saint Francis Presidential Scholarship.

- Jacob Kelley: Core 40 with Academic Honors and High Honors.

- Ella Krug: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Distinction, National Honors Society, Dollars For Scholars Dale, Huffman & Babcock Scholarship, Davenport Academic Excellence Scholarship and Davenport Swim Team Athletic Scholarship.

- Daphne Lantz: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Core 40 with Technical Honors, Honors and Dollars For Scholars Scholarship.

- Samantha Lemler: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society, Wells County Foundation Forrest D.

Ramseyer Memorial Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars Peyton Northern Scholarship, Academic Scholarship, Grace Colleg Athletic Scholarship and Merit Scholarship.

- Alyssa Lenwell: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors and Dollars For Scholars Scholarship.

- Nevada Lenwell: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Distinction, National Honors Society, Wells County Foundation LiGHT The Way Gifting Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars Energy Control Scholarship, Trine University Ketner School of Business Scholarship and Bluffton Elk's Lodge 796 Scholarship.

- Connor Lewis: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Core 40 with Technical Honors, Distinction, National Honors Society, Wells County Foundation Forrest D. Ramseyer Memorial Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars Bluffton Rotary Club Scholarship and Purdue Presidential Scholarship.

- Lane Lewis: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors and Taylor University Athletic Scholarship.

- Jordan Markley: Bethel University Athletic Scholarship and Dollars For Scholars John & Pam Reinhard Scholarship.

- Lukas Mashuda: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Honors, Wells County Foundation Gaylord and Crystal Mounsey Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars Scholarship and Geneva College Alumni Scholarship.

- Madeline McCabe: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Distinction, National Honors Society, Wells County Foundation August and Eleanor Streater Mathematics and Science Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars Ossian Days Scholarship, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Mocs Scholarship and Bridget Memorial Scholarship.

- Jillian Melcher: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society, Dollars For Scholars Pretzel's Inc. Scholarship, Saint Francis Presidential Scholarship and Bluffton Elk's Lodge 796 Scholarship.

- Lauren Merritt: Honors.
- Braxten Millard: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society, Dollars For Scholars Energy Control Scholarship and Taylor University's Dean Scholarship.

- Emily Mills: High Honors and Dollars For Scholars Scholarship.

- Grant Mishler: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, Dollars For Scholars Pretzel's Inc. Scholarship, University of Saint Francis Presidential Scholarship and University of Saint Francis Athletic Scholarship.

- Trace Moser: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Honors, Dollars For Scholars Scholarship and University of Saint Francis Athletic Scholarship.

- Coral Neuenschwander: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors and Robert E. Pence Scholarship.

- Lillian Norris: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society, Wells County Foundation Claude and Helen Decker Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars Scholarship, Trustee Scholarship and Bluffton Elk's Lodge 796 Scholarship.

- Grace Oden: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, Core 40 with Technical Honors and Indiana Tech Academic Scholarship.

- Gabriella Orta: Core 40 with Academic Honors.

- Jaden Payne: Core 40 with Academic Honors High Honors.

- Lillian Penrod: Indiana Wesleyan Achievement Scholarship.

- Milanna Pepper: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society, Dollars For Scholars Scholarship, Steel Dynamics Scholarship and Saint Mary's Madelva Award.

- Kaby Peterson: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, Wells County

Foundation Zack W. McKee Memorial Scholarship and Dollars For Scholars Pay It Forward Scholarship.

- Reghan Plunkett: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, Dollars For Scholars Bluffton Regional Medical Center Scholarship and Bowling Green State University Freshman Academic Scholarship.

- Faith Putman: Core 40 with Academic Honors.

- Haleigh Reinhard: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, Dollars For Scholars Scholarship and 4.0 GPA Academic Scholarship.

- Ava Richardson: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Core 40 with Technical Honors and Honors.

- Ali Riley: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society, Dollars For Scholars Bluffton Animal Clinic Scholarship, Pine Scholarship, ISTA Foundation District Scholarship and FFA Senior Scholarship.

- Michaela Rinehart: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Core 40 with Technical Honors, Honors and Dollars For Scholars.

- Gracie Rinkenberger: Core 40 with Academic Honors and High Honors.

- Kaden Rittmeyer: Core 40 with Technical Honors and Honors.

- Emma Roembke: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Distinction, National Honors Society, Dollars For Scholars Pay It Forward Scholarship and Butler University Scholarship.

- Hudson Roller: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Core 40 with Technical Honors, Honors, Wells County Foundation Turn Around Scholarship.

- Evan Rolston: Core 40 with Academic Honors and Honors.

- Jacob Runkel: Core 40 with Technical Honors and Honors.

- Delaney Sessions: Wells County Foundation Emily J. Butler Memorial Scholarship for the Visual Arts Fund and Dollars For Scholars Scholarship.

- Hannah Shane: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, Dollars For Scholars Scholarship, Huntington University Dean's Scholarship and Fir Scholarship.

- Ashlyne Shanks: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Honors, Dollars For Scholars Indiana Physical Therapy Scholarship and University of Saint Francis Academic Scholarship.

- Cade Shelton: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, Wells County Foundation Daniel M. and Ruth A. Eichhorn Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars Scholar Athlete Excellence 2024 Scholarship, Huntington University President's Scholarship and FFA Senior Scholarship.

- Cooper Sloan: Core 40 with Academic Honors and High Honors.

- Ryan Smith: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Core 40 with Technical Honors and Honors.

- Sophia Smith: Core 40 with Technical Honors and Honors.

- Spencer Smith: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors and Dollars For Scholars Scholarship.

- Tori Steinacker: Wells County Foundation Gaylord and Crystal Mounsey Scholarship.

- Trevon Stoppenhagen: Wells County 4-H Foundation Scholarship, Indiana University Kokomo Athletic Scholarship and 4-H 10-year member.

- Ryan Straub: Honors.
- Anna Thomas: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Honors and Dollars For Scholars Scholarship.

- Drew Thomas: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society, Wells County Foundation G. Robert and Emma W. Studabaker Agriculture Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars Go For the Flag Scholarship and University of Tennessee at Martin Excellence Scholarship.

- Dalton Tomasek: Core 40 with Academic Honors and Core 40 with Technical Honors.

- Kate Tudor: Honors, Dollars For Scholars Scholarship and Olivet Nazarene Leadership Scholarship.

- Bree Ulfig: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society, Dollars For Scholars Go For the Flag Scholarship, University of Findlay Trustee Scholarship and FFA Senior Scholarship.

- Hannah Ungerer: High Honors and Wells County Foundation K. Robert Ehrman Trade/Technical Scholarship.

- Dawson Ward: Honors, Wells County Foundation K. Robert Ehrman Trade/Technical Scholarship, Wells County Foundation Don Wood Foundation Ignite Your Future Scholarship (2-year) and Dollars For Scholars Truland Equipment Scholarship.

- Mason Watters: Core 40 with Academic Honors and Core 40 with Technical Honors.

- Zachary Wechsler: Huntington University Trustee Grant and Video Production Award.

- Brady Wenger: Wells County 4-H Foundation Scholarship.

- Marlee Wenger: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Distinction, National Honors Society, Wells County Foundation Sherrie's Kitchen Memorial Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars Pay It Forward Scholarship, Wells County 4-H Foundation Scholarship and Ball State University Presidential Scholarship.

- Taylor Werling: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Core 40 with Technical Honors, High Honors, National Honors Society, Dollars For Scholars, Grace College Provost's Scholarship and Winona Merit Scholarship.

- Zachary Willson: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Core 40 with Technical Honors, High Honors, Wells County Foundation Zadylak Family Wrestling Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars Go For the Flag Scholarship, Presidential Scholarship, FFA Senior Scholarship and Heath Baumgarner Memorial Award.

- Isabella Winget: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors and Dollars For Scholars Ossian Elementary Denim for Dollars Scholarship.

- Willem Wooster: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors and Ball State Scholars Award.

- Jordyn Xayyachack: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, Dollars For Scholars Scholarship, Ball State University Presidential Scholarship and Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship.

- Cayden Young: Core 40 with Academic Honors, Distinction, Wells County Foundation Wells County Pilot's Association Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars Ossian Days Scholarship and Purdue University Presidential Scholarship.

- Bodie Zimmer: Core 40 with Academic Honors, High Honors, Dollars For Scholars Imel Family Scholarship and Bluffton Elk's Lodge 796 Scholarship.

holly@news-banner.com

Weather

Monday, May 6, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:05 p.m. Sunday)

High: 70; Low: 60; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.4 feet at 8:45 p.m. Sunday

Wells County forecast

Today: A 20% chance of showers after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 68. East wind around 10 mph.

Tonight: A 10% chance of showers before 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 55. East wind around 10 mph.

Tuesday: Showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 11 a.m. High near 76. East wind 10 to 15 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Tuesday Night: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms before 2 a.m. Mostly clear, with a low around 56. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday: A chance of showers between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 5 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Wednesday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 p.m., then showers and possibly a thunderstorm between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Low around 59. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Thursday: A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 71.

Thursday Night: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms before 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 48.

Friday: A chance of showers between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 62. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Friday Night: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 45.

Saturday: A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 64.

Saturday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 45.

Sunday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 68.

Michigan man

(Continued from Page 1)

as well as posted photos of Waxman on their Facebook page. One photo appears to be a screenshot of Waxman at a Planning Commission meeting. According to the government website for the city of Mason, Michigan, Waxman is the Vice-Chairper-

son of the committee.

PCI has become well known in the county with over 10 arrests in Wells County in the last several years. Waxman is one of four suspects currently being held in the Wells County Jail in connection to a PCI sting.

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OBITUARIES

Joyce A. Smith – Shady, 92

Joyce A. Smith – Shady, 92 of Bluffton, passed away Saturday morning, May 4, 2024, at Christian Care Retirement Community in Bluffton.



She was born Nov. 14, 1931, in Wells County, to Clifford and Nellie (Pinney) Fryback. Joyce was a 1949 graduate of Liberty Center High School and worked as a respiratory therapist at the Caylor-Nickel Clinic for 12 years, retiring in 1994. She was a long-time member of the First Church of Christ, was active in the P.T.A at school, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and served as a Democratic Committeeman in Wells County.

On March 21, 1949, in Huntington County, Joyce and Ralph Smith were married and he preceded her in death Nov. 12, 1994. On Oct. 24, 1996, she married Donald E. Shady in Bluffton, and he preceded her in death on Nov. 14, 2021.

Survivors include two sons, Don (Jackie) Smith of Bluffton, and Neal (Vickie) Smith of Lanesville, Ind.; and two daughters Judy Thompson and Sherri (Charlie) Smiley of Bluffton; along with nine grandchildren. She is also survived by son-in-law Joe Poffenberger of Bluffton; and a sister, Pat Mossburg of Bluffton.

Joyce is preceded in death by her parents; husbands; a loving daughter, Cynthia Poffenberger; and two grandchildren, Corey Poffenberger and Ted Smith.

Funeral Services will take place at 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with Dave Schultz officiating. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton.

Visitation will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the First Church of Christ.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Jeff & Jamie Lemler of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.

Michael L. Rybolt, 76

Michael L. "Mike" Rybolt, 76, of Berne, passed away Thursday, May 2, 2024, at Stillwater Hospice in Fort Wayne.

Mike was born Dec. 3, 1947, to Ernest A. and Mabel Marceil (Maddock) Rybolt in Bluffton.

Survivors include his children, Jared (Star) Rybolt of Warren, Jenni (Keith) Felton of Huntington, Josh (Paige) Rybolt of Boise, Idaho, and Josie (Levi Albertson) Rybolt of Andrews; 10 grandchildren; and siblings, Sandy Booher, Linda (Barry) Hammel and Vickie (Jerry) Grim.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Mabel Marceil Rybolt; and brother-in-law, Chuck Booher.

Friends and family may gather to share and remember Thursday, May 9, 2024, at Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home located at 203 N Matilda St. Warren, IN 46792, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. A funeral service will be held Friday, May 10, 2024, at 11 a.m., with visitation one hour prior. Pastor Barry L. Humble will officiate and military rites will be performed by American Legion Post 468 of Berne, Indiana.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home, Warren, IN.

To sign our online guestbook and leave a condolence for the family, please visit www.glancyfuneralhomes.com

Jack D. Abenath, Sr. 76

Jack D. Abenath, Sr. 76, of Bluffton, passed away Saturday evening, May 4, 2024, at his residence surrounded by his family.

Funeral arrangements are pending at this time with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Police Notebook

FIRES

County:
Thursday, 2:34 p.m., U.S. 224 and North 300 West, Uniondale. Report of a grass fire.

ARRESTS

Casey Lee Hundley, 42, Bluffton; possession of a hypodermic needle or

syringe, and possession of paraphernalia. Bond set at \$5,500.

Robert Andrew Dasilva, 25, Bluffton; operating with a controlled substance in body and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, both Class C misdemeanors. Bond set at \$500.

Obituary Policy

The News-Banner and Ossian Journal publishes "basic" obituaries free of charge for "local" deaths. "Basic" obituaries will include the deceased's name, age, community of record, date and place of death, basic genealogical information, the date, time and location of calling hours and services and the name of the funeral home handling arrangements.

If additional information and/or a photo is desired to be included, or if the deceased does not meet the definitions of a "local" person, there is a charge.

Area funeral homes will provide details on the policy and will coordinate obituary publication.

Wells Court Docket

Wells Superior Court Criminal Cases

Sydney Lillian Wells, 31, Ossian, was sentenced to 60 days at Community Corrections after she pled guilty to one count of theft, a Level 6 felony. Wells is also required to pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$189.

Joseph James Roth-Bradley, 27, Plainfield, pled guilty to invasion of privacy, a Level 6 felony. Roth-Bradley is scheduled for a sentencing hearing at 9 a.m. on June 10 in the Wells Superior Court.

Andrew Morrison, 37, Huntington,

was sentenced to 180 days at the Wells County Jail with 174 days suspended. Morrison pled guilty to one count of disorderly conduct, a Class B misdemeanor. He received 6 days of jail credit towards his sentence and is required to serve 359 days on probation. Morrison is also ordered to pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$189.



Southern Wells prom royalty

Southern Wells held its prom Saturday, May 4, where it crowned its prom royalty. Pictured from left to right are Junior Prince, Andres Herrmann and Junior Princess, Alyssa Green; Queen, Ella Lahr; and King, Joshua Bricker. (Photo provided)

Native communities

(Continued from Page 1)

across federal, tribal, state and local jurisdictions in hopes of bridging the gaps that have made solving violent crimes in Indian Country a generational challenge.

Some of the new federal prosecutors were participating in MMIP Awareness Day events. From the Arizona state capitol to a cultural center in Albuquerque and the Qualla Boundary in North Carolina, marches, symposiums, art exhibitions and candlelight vigils were planned for May 5, which is the birthday of Hanna Harris, who was only 21 when she was killed on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Montana in 2013.

It was an emotional day in Albuquerque, where family members and advocates participated in a prayer walk. They chanted: "What do we want? Answers! What do we want? Justice!" There were tears and long embraces as they shared their stories and frustrations. They talked about feeling forgotten and the lack of resources in Native communities.

Geraldine Toya of Jemez Pueblo marched with other family members to bring awareness to the death of her daughter Shawna Toya in 2021. She said she and her husband are artists who make pottery and never dreamed they would end up being investigators in an effort to determine what happened to their daughter.

"Our journey has been rough, but you know what, we're going to make this journey successful for all of our people that are here in this same thing that we're struggling through right now," she said, vowing to support other families through their heartbreak as they seek justice.

Alex Uballez, the U.S. attorney for the District of New Mexico, told The Associated Press on Friday that the outreach program is starting to pay dividends.

"Providing those bridges between those agencies is critical to seeing the patterns that affect all of our communities," Uballez said. "None of our borders that we have drawn prevents the spillover of impacts on communities — across tribal communities, across states, across the nation, across international borders."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eliot Neal oversees MMIP cases for a region spanning New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Nevada.

Having law enforcement agencies and attorneys talking to each other can help head off other crimes that are often precursors to deadly violence. The other pieces of the puzzle are building relationships with Native American communities and making the justice system more accessible to the public, Neal said.

Part of Neal's work includes reviewing old cases: time-consuming work that can involve tracking down witnesses and resubmitting evidence for testing.

"We're trying to flip that script a little bit and give those cases the time and attention they deserve," he said, adding that communicating with family members about the process is a critical component for the MMIP attorneys and coordinators.

The DOJ over the past year also has awarded \$268 million in grants to tribal justice systems for handling child abuse cases, combating domestic and sexual violence and bolstering victim services.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Bree Black Horse was

dressed in red as she was sworn in Thursday during a ceremony in Yakima, Washington. The color is synonymous with raising awareness about the disproportionate number of Indigenous people who have been victims of violence.

She prosecutes MMIP cases in a five-state region across California and the Pacific Northwest to Montana. Her caseload is in the double digits, and she's working with advocacy groups to identify more unresolved cases and open lines of communication with law enforcement.

An enrolled member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and a lawyer for more than a decade, Black Horse said having 10 assistant U.S. attorneys and coordinators focusing solely on MMIP cases is unprecedented.

"This is an issue that has touched not only my community but my friends and my family," she said. "I see this as a way to help make sure that our future generations, our young people don't experience these same kinds of disparities and this same kind of trauma."

In New Mexico, Uballez acknowledged the federal government moves slowly and credited tribal communities with raising their voices, consistently showing up to protest and put-

ting pressure on politicians to improve public safety in tribal communities.

Still, he and Neal said it will take a paradigm shift to undo the public perception that nothing is being done.

The man charged in the New Mexico case, Labar Tsethlikai, appeared in court Wednesday and pleaded not guilty while standing shackled next to his public defender. A victim advocate from Uballez's office was there, too, sitting with victims' family members.

Tsethlikai's attorney argued that evidence had yet to be presented tying her client to the alleged crimes spelled out in court documents. Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew McGinley argued that no conditions of release would keep the community safe, pointing to cell phone data and DNA evidence allegedly showing Tsethlikai had preyed on people who were homeless or in need of alcohol so he could satisfy his sexual desires.

Tsethlikai will remain in custody pending trial as authorities continue to investigate. Court documents list at least 10 other victims along with five newly identified potential victims. McGinley said prosecutors wanted to focus on a few of the cases "to get him off the street" and prevent more violence.

In Memory of Randy Hughes

Dad,

I look for you in the sunset, the colors brushed across the sky. I look for you as the campfire dances colors of red and orange. I look for you in the mirror, when I reflect on my own hazel eyes. I look for you in your grandkids voices, as they whisper that they love you each and every night. I find myself always looking for you, a sign, a glimpse and smell. 21 years later and I'll never stop.

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Too few Hoosiers vote. They see through the illusion of choice

“Your vote counts.”
 “If you don’t vote, you can’t complain.”
 “Your vote matters.”
 “Your ancestors shed their blood, sweat and tears, some even died for your right to vote. You honor them by voting.”



Oseye Boyd

I’ve heard those words in one form or another throughout my lifetime. I’ve repeated those words time and again to those who tell me they don’t vote. I was raised to believe voting is your civic duty and it’s how you effect change.

Hoosier Opinions

I still believe that, but now I understand why people become disillusioned with voting and our political system. Once you see the behind-the-scenes machinations of parties and politicians, you realize it’s more complicated than the lessons we learned in high school government class.

The cold, hard truth is sometimes your vote doesn’t matter — or that’s how it feels.

It’s not just voter suppression efforts such as gerrymandering where cracking and packing diminish voices and feed apathy, but it’s also gatekeeping by political parties that creates few choices, making it harder for voters to see why they should care.

Limiting choice

The recent death of Sen. Jean Breaux is an example of voters being left out of the political process. Before Breaux’s death, her challenger Chunia Graves was removed from the ballot because she couldn’t prove she voted in two Indiana Democratic primaries. Removing Graves would’ve meant an uncontested primary race and win for Breaux. Since there’s no challenger, Democratic leaders — not voters — will caucus to choose Breaux’s replacement.

The change in state law that raises the bar to prove party affiliation has made it more difficult for newcomers such as Graves to break into politics and challenge the incumbent. Before 2022, you only had to vote in one recent primary to prove your party affiliation. Now, a potential candidates’ two most recent primary votes have to match the party they wish to represent. If you don’t meet this requirement, county party chairs can allow you to run by issuing a waiver. “Can” being the operative word. Without clear guidelines on waiver issuance, the decision is left to the whims of party chairs in each county, creating a hodgepodge of reasons for approving or denying waivers.

Thanks to this law, Marion County lost Democratic challengers in Senate District 32, Senate District 34 and House District 96.

Now, only five of the 23 Marion County legislative races in the upcoming primary are competitive. That’s it. Five. The incumbents in the other 18 districts will win no matter what. Let’s be real, races without competition are boring and uninspiring. Candidates bring out their A game when there’s competition. Our political system should encourage public service not discourage it by creating arbitrary obstacles.

The competition in the Republican primary for House District 90 is heartening. Although these candidates aren’t running against incumbent State Rep. Mike Speedy, as Autumn Carter is in her challenge to State Rep. John Bartlett for House District 95, there’s still energy around the race that voters elsewhere won’t experience.

The fact that many Democratic incumbents don’t have a challenger hasn’t gone unnoticed. What’s up with that?

Voting record

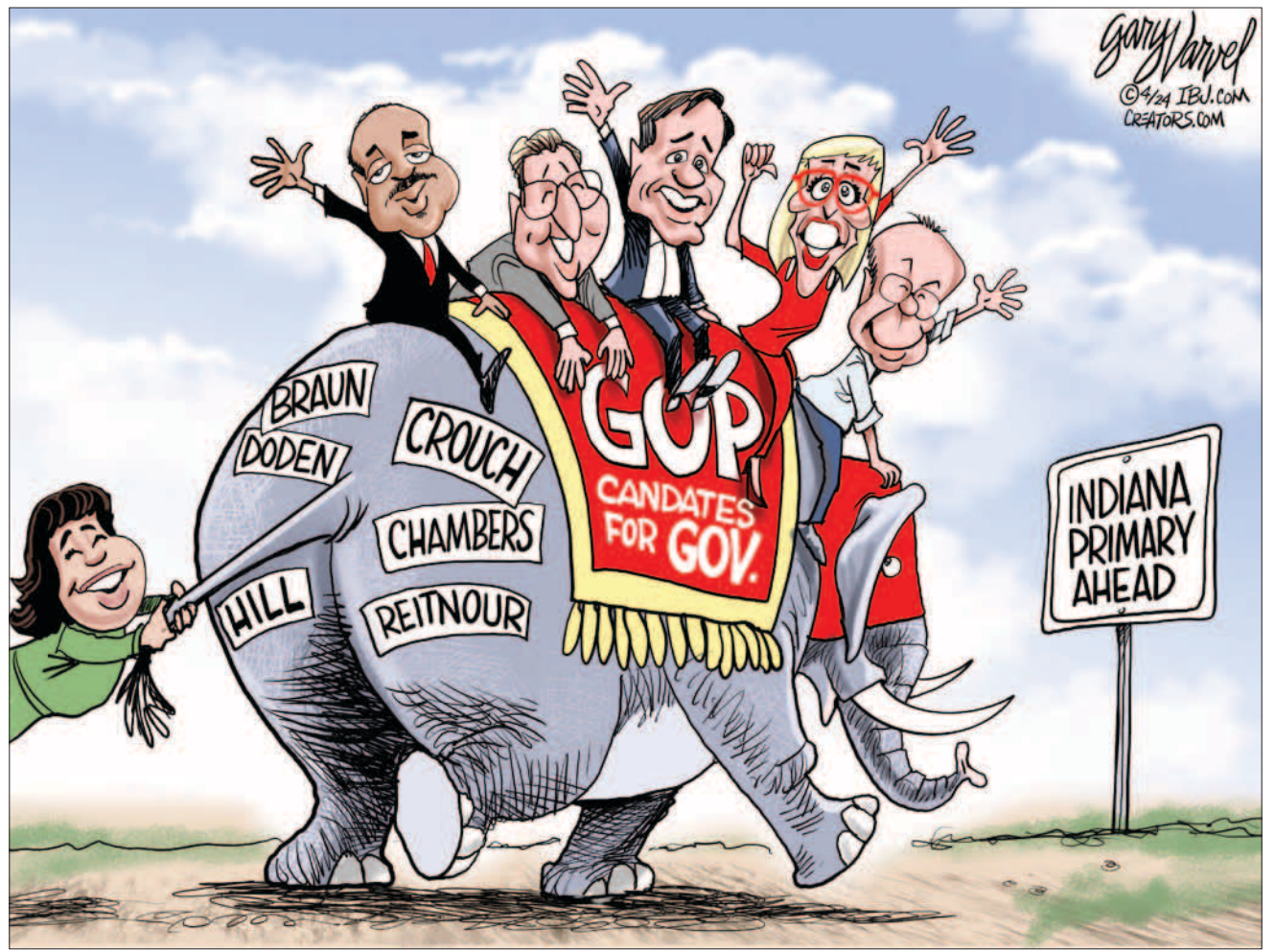
Given our state’s abysmal voting record — we ranked 50th out of 51 states and Washington, D.C., in voter turnout and 40th for the number of voters registered in 2022, according to the 2023 Indiana Civic Health Index — it seems we should want to do more to get voters voting.

Yes, we should always encourage — even admonish — Hoosiers to vote, but it will take more than catchy slogans and campaigns to get more people to do so. We can’t keep chastising those who don’t vote without acknowledging there’s a system that seems to only want a few people participating.

Don’t believe me? Look at the number of people who voted in Marion County’s last two primaries; it’s quite sad. In 2023, 12.74% or 79,156 people out of 621,384 registered voters cast a ballot. In 2022, 10.78% or 73,086 people voted in that primary. The number of registered voters was 678,067.

I surmise more people would vote if they felt they had something to vote for. However, we can’t sit idly by, waiting for that to happen. We still have to cast those ballots. It’s still the best way to be heard.

Boyd is Editor in Chief of Mirror Indy. Previously, she worked as the public engagement editor for the IndyStar and also is the former editor of the Indianapolis Recorder.



A Hoosier GOP testosterone ticket

If U.S. Sen. Mike Braun secures the Republican gubernatorial nomination Tuesday and Noblesville pastor Micah Beckwith prevails in his unorthodox quest for the ticket at the June convention, the GOP’s standard will be a font of testosterone in the so-called “Year of the Woman.”

Mike Braun, Micah Beckwith, Todd Rokita and Jim Banks.

That would compare to the austere Democratic ticket headed by Jennifer McCormick, with potential female nominees for lieutenant governor, attorney general and the U.S. Senate.

Why is 2024 being cast as the “Year of the Woman?” Because the impacts of the U.S. Supreme Court that rendered Roe vs. Wade moot are starting to be revealed. Florida just instituted its new law making abortion illegal after six weeks. Arizona found itself with an 1864 abortion ban law until its legislature repealed it this week. Voters in conservative states such as Kansas, Kentucky, Montana and Ohio have passed referendums preserving abortion access.

And here’s a canary/coal mine element: Despite open seats for governor, the U.S. Senate and three congressional districts, early voting appears to be very low across Indiana

Allen County Republican Chairman Steve Shine told Howey Politics Indiana this past Wednesday: “So far in Allen County, voter turnout is low compared to 2020 and just low overall. Election boards across the state have been communicating they all are reporting low turnout. If that trend continues, we’ll have a primary with very low turnout but with a high price tag. So for whatever reason, voters are not being motivated to go to the polls at this time.”

Why would that be happening with an open governor seat and three congressional districts? Is it Donald Trump’s castigating early voting that is in play here? Or that none of these consultant-driven campaigns have captured the imagination of voters? Electing “outsiders” to the ultimate “insider” office is simply not exciting anyone.

Axios reported on Thursday: After years of calling voting by mail “corrupt” and “crooked,” Donald Trump and GOP committees are scrambling to convince their voters that it’s safe and secure ahead of the election. Many Republican voters have bought into Trump’s distrust of voting by mail. Trump railed against the practice just two months ago. In Michigan on Feb. 27, he said: “Mail-in voting is totally corrupt ... Get that through your head.”

Which brings me to the premise of this column: What would a GOP gubernatorial ticket look like this month?

Evansville attorney Joshua Claybourn observed that he has been hearing rumors, though nothing credible. “I think the activist efforts to elect Micah Beckwith at the state convention will complicate the nominee’s efforts to select their own LG,” he said.

In the Aug. 10, 2023, edition of Howey Politics Indiana, Lt. Gov. Crouch said, “It is not my right to choose a lieutenant governor nominee. It is by a vote of the delegates that my potential running mate is selected. The fact that several people have expressed interest in joining me in a campaign that will make history is both very flattering and quite encouraging.”

Braun took a more nuanced approach. Senior advisor Joshua Kelley told me last year, “Mike Braun believes our party and state are stronger



Brian Howey

Politicking

when the grassroots has a seat at the table, and he looks forward to working with the delegates next summer to find a lieutenant governor candidate that shares his conservative values and can help further his agenda to make Indiana a beacon of freedom and opportunity.”

Should Crouch pull off an upset, her potential running mates would likely include U.S. Rep. Greg Pence and Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen, both of whom have endorsed her.

Eric Doden has long cited his mentor in Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas, though with the Beckwith aim at using the convention to make the ticket, it would be hard to see Costas emerging. He lost a 2008 attorney general nomination when delegates revolted against his candidacy despite the ardent backing of Gov. Mitch Daniels.

Curtis Hill had vowed to reveal his LG pick before the primary but hasn’t done so as of this writing.

As for Sen. Braun, the tea leaves are so tiny as to leave us to speculate.

Rival media outlets had suggested Braun might select former Congressman Trey Hollingsworth, who would bring a huge checkbook to the campaign. The Braun campaign swatted that one away as mindless speculation, with Kelley saying last August that the reports were “not accurate.”

If Braun is seeking gender, race and geography diversity, a name we’re hearing is 2022 1st CD nominee Jennifer-Ruth Green, a Black woman with military experience. Another is newly appointed state Comptroller Elise Nieshalla, who hails from Boone County. She lost a 2022 convention race for state treasurer. And there’s U.S. Rep. Erin Houchin, who served several terms in the Indiana Senate.

If gender diversity is not a priority, another name surfacing is Treasurer Daniel Elliott.

If geography and a Statehouse résumé are priorities, La Porte Mayor Tom Dermody might fill the bill. He previously served in the Indiana House. Another mayor to keep an eye on would be Scott Fadness of Fishers, though he has endorsed Brad Chambers. Stay tuned.

Brian Howey is senior writer and columnist for Howey Politics Indiana/State Affairs. Find Howey on Facebook and X @hwypol.

More violence, turmoil under Biden

Former President Donald Trump’s statement that the attack on Israel by Iran “would not have happened if we were in office,” has drawn derision, including from his former National Security Adviser John Bolton.

Bolton called the remark “delusional,” saying that Trump “has no idea what to do in the Middle East in this situation.” If Trump is delusional, Bolton has amnesia regarding what happened on his watch and after.

In less than four years under Biden, we have witnessed the disastrous pull out from Afghanistan and subsequently the Russian attack on Ukraine, the Hamas attack on Israel, and now the unprecedented massive attack by Iran on Israel.

During the four Trump years, there were, for practical purposes, no violent, aggressive international incidents. This cannot be attributed to Trump not doing anything provocative.

In May of 2018, shortly after Bolton became national security adviser, Trump took the historic initiative of moving the American embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. Reports were that the move would provoke significant unrest among Palestinians — possibly a new intifada.

I had the privilege of attending the dedication of the new U.S. embassy in Jerusalem and can confirm it



Star Parker

occurred in quiet and serenity. No unrest, no uprising, no intifada.

In another major step that same month, the Trump administration announced withdrawal from the nuclear deal made with Iran by President Barack Obama and five other nations. Thus, sanctions on Iranian oil sales were reinstated. Thanks to Trump, multiple billions in cash flow to Iran, funds they use to fund and advance terror, were cut off.

In August of 2018, the Trump administration announced cut off of \$200 million in aid to the Palestinians, citing as one reason activities and influence of the terrorist group Hamas. In September 2018, Trump ordered the closing of the office in Washington, D.C., of the PLO — the Palestinian Liberation Organization. And then, in January 2020, Trump directed the assassination of Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, deemed responsible for attacks resulting in the death of an American contractor.

In September 2020, Trump presided over the signing of the historic Abraham Accords, which I also had the privilege to attend, achieving peace between Israel and three Arab nations — United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco. Reports are that cooperation with these Arab states provided vital intelligence that helped defer the massive Iranian

attack on Israel.

In less than four years, Trump changed the face of the Middle East — the most challenging diplomatic terrain in the world — for the better. All without violence or aggression.

In 2021, Joe Biden took over the presidency. Soon, the \$200 million in Palestinian aid was restored. Then Biden allowed waivers on the sanctions on Iran, releasing multibillions in cash flow to them.

And here we are now, amid of new flood of instability and violence, wondering how far this dangerous situation will deteriorate.

It seems clear that Trump is totally justified in his claim that he would not have today’s turmoil if he still held office. The lesson from the Trump regime teaches that the best policy for stability is strength, engagement and clarity about right and wrong — exactly the opposite of we are getting from Biden.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Mike Johnson advanced a package of aid for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan. The version passed in Senate totals \$95 billion. Let’s note that the price of oil is up \$30 per barrel since Biden took office. This costs U.S. consumers annually some \$200 billion.

What’s the price of peace? Is it worth \$95 billion?

The world is small, and evil forces are clearly aggressive. The lesson of the Biden administration is that there is no escape from passivity in the face of evil.

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What's happening at the Wells County Public Library

The Wells County Public Library takes its mission to "provide the community with access, knowledge and growth" very seriously and offers a variety of events each week for kids, teens, and adults. Registration is preferred at most events. To sign up, go to www.wellscollibrary.org, click on the Library Event Calendar, navigate to the date of the event, and view more to get to the registration screen. Alternatively, call 260-824-1612 (Bluffton) or 260-622-4691 (Ossian) to register.

Bingo with Jason

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, May 6 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Adults. Enjoy a lively game of Bingo for a chance to win a candy bar with everyone's favorite librarian named Jason! Registration required.

Teen Gaming Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, May 6 from 6 to 7 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Enjoy a variety of different games each month, including video games, trading card games, and board games. No registration needed.

Cooking Basics by the Book at Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Tuesday, May 7 from 6 to 7 p.m.
Adults. Join us as we focus on a different cookbook each month and make an easy recipe to taste. This month will be decorating cupcakes. Registration required.

Teen Fun with Food at Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Thursday, May 9 from 3 to 4 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Get hands-on experience with making ice cream and decorating cupcakes. Registration appreciated.

Book Discussion: "Chestnut Street"

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m.
Adults. Pick up a copy of the book-of-the-month at the library before the discussion each month. This month's book for discussion is "Chestnut Street" by Maeve Binchy. Registration appreciated.

Brown Bag Book Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, May 13 at 1:30 p.m.
Adults. Pick up a copy of the book-of-the-month at the library before the discussion each month. The group is meeting one week later this month due to the eclipse. The book for discussion is "The Indianapolis Anthology" by Norman Minnick. Registration appreciated.

Crafty Kids at Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Monday, May 13 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Grades K-6. Drop-in for a craft and snack.

Computer and iPad Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, May 14 from 1 to 3 p.m.
Adults. Start with Computer Club and then go or stay for iPad Club. Each month

has a different tech focus and there is plenty of time for questions. All skill levels are welcome. Registration appreciated your first visit.

Cook, Talk, Taste

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, May 14 from 6 to 7 p.m.
Adults. Join the tastiest club at the library. Enjoy foods prepared by a variety of hosts each month. Registration appreciated.

Theater Thursday

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, May 16 at 10 a.m.
Adults. Join us for a movie, popcorn, and snacks. Sponsored by the Bluffton Parks & Recreation and the Friends of the Library. No registration needed.

Board Game Night at Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Thursday, May 16 from 6 to 8 p.m.
Adults (18+). Join us for a night of tabletop games at the Ossian Branch. Registration appreciated.

Saturday Movies

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Saturday, May 18 at 11 a.m.
All ages. Drop-in for a family-friendly movie under the stars in the Story Hour Room. This month is "Charlotte's Web" (PG).

Trivia Night At The Parlor

City Brewing Company
Sunday, May 19 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.



Adults (21+). Grab a team of up to four people and test your knowledge on a variety of subjects, from pop culture, sports, local history, and other trivia categories. Prizes awarded; space is limited. Sign up at the library or online at wellscollibrary.org.

Library Hours

At the main library in Bluffton — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
At the Ossian branch library — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.
Access the library online at www.wellscollibrary.org for digital books, magazines, online databases, event info, and more.

Master Gardener plant sale at 4-H Park, May 18

Wells County's Master Gardeners will be holding their annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 18, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Wells County 4-H Park.
Annual and perennials will be available in addition to bulbs. Planting information also will be available from one of the Master Gardeners.



Blessing presented Excellence in Teaching award

Wells County's Eric Blessing, at right, is shown accepting an "Excellence in Teaching" award from Nadir Adilov, at left, Dean of the Doerner School of Business and Finance at Purdue Fort Wayne. Blessing, who has taught at PFW since 2012, was recognized for his teaching of an Advanced Equity & Fixed Income Investing class. He also arranges for Zoom classes for his students with colleagues from his 37 years of experience on Wall Street in New York. He also is a Financial Advisor and Money Manager for PNC Investments in Bluffton. (Photo provided)

Norwell ICE Spotlight award Braxten Millard

Senior Braxten Millard has been selected to receive the Norwell ICE Spotlight award. He has been doing his experience the entire school year at Millard Financial Group of Fort Wayne. Braxten's mentor is the owner Josh Millard. He is the son of Josh and Natalie Millard of Craigville.

financial reports for current clients. He has also assisted with organizing files and supplies in the office. Another key responsibility has been the greeting of clients as they come in to Millard Financial for individual meetings.

Upon graduation, Braxten plans to attend Taylor University to study finance. His ultimate career goal is to become a financial advisor.



Braxten Millard

Black Pine Animal Sanctuary opens for the season

Black Pine Animal Sanctuary, near Albion, is now open for the summer season as they introduce five new animals to visitors.
New residents at the exotic animal rescue sanctuary include: Whiskey (a 2 year old male African Serval); Mowgli (a 2 year old mail Ring-tailed Lemur); Marily and Julianne (female mother and daughter Snow Macaques); and Susan (a female 11 year old

F1 Savannah Cat).
The site offers a variety of tours May through October on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Admission is \$10 ages 1-4; \$12.50 ages 5-17; adults \$17.50 and seniors 62 and over \$15. Speciality tours, needing reservations to 260-636-7383, include: behind the scenes and mealtime.

Zanesville News

by Melba Edwards

This is the last month of school and soon the kids will be on vacation. That means there will be more kids playing along the Zanesville streets so remember to watch out for them walking or riding their bikes.

Remember that it is primary voting time now. Registered voters on the Allen County side vote at the Southwest Fire District at 11609 Lower Huntington Road. Residents of Zanesville on the Wells County side vote at the Tower Life Center Church on Wayne Street in Zanesville. The poles are open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7.

Don't forget to come over to Zanesville on Saturday, May 11, for the Grand Opening celebration at our new restaurant Sis & Bubs. They have lots of things planned for the day.

You can now register your pet at the town hall as they have a new pet registry paper for you to fill out. This will enable them to identify the owner, etc. of the pet in case they are lost or running loose.

Coming this month is

town clean-up day. There will be dumpsters for trash and for metals at the town building. Look for information on the town's website or Facebook page.

Plans are getting set in place for the Zanesville Lions Club's annual 5K Walk & Run for all ages I will give you more information next week or you can go to the Zanesville Lions Facebook page. The date is Saturday, May 25, at 8 a.m. at the Tower Life Center.

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WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL AT-LARGE

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Warren Buffett says AI may be better for scammers than society

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Warren Buffett cautioned the tens of thousands of shareholders who packed an arena for his annual meeting that artificial intelligence scams could become “the growth industry of all time.”

Doubling down on his cautionary words from last year, Buffett told the throngs he recently came face to face with the downside of AI. And it looked and sounded just like him. Someone made a fake video of Buffett, apparently convincing enough that the so-called Oracle of Omaha himself said he could imagine it tricking him into sending money overseas.

The billionaire investing guru predicted scammers will seize on the technology, and may do more harm with it than society can wring good.

“As someone who doesn’t understand a damn thing about it, it has enormous potential for good and enormous potential for harm and I just don’t know how that plays out,” he said.

EARNINGS BEFORE MUSINGS

The day started early Saturday with Berkshire Hathaway announcing a steep drop in earnings as the paper value of its investments plummeted and it pared its Apple holdings. The company reported a \$12.7 billion profit, or \$8,825 per Class A share, in first the quarter, down 64% from \$35.5 billion, or \$24,377 per A share a year ago.

But Buffett encourages investors to pay more attention to the conglomerate’s operating earnings from the companies it actu-

ally owns. Those jumped 39% to \$11.222 billion, or \$7,796.47 per Class A share, led by insurance companies’ performance.

None of it that got in the way of the fun.

Thongs flooded the arena to buy up Squishmallows of Buffett and former Vice Chairman Charlie Munger, who died last fall. The event attracts investors from all over the world and is unlike any other company meeting. Those attending for the first time are driven by an urgency to get here while the 93-year-old Buffett is still alive.

“This is one of the best events in the world to learn about investing. To learn from the gods of the industry,” said Akshay Bhansali, who spent the better part of two days traveling from India to Omaha.

A NOTABLE ABSENCE
Devotees come from all over the world to vacuum up tidbits of wisdom from Buffett, who famously dubbed the meeting ‘Woodstock for Capitalists.’

But a key ingredient was missing this year: It was the first meeting since Munger died.

The meeting opened with a video tribute highlighting some of his best known quotes, including classic lines like “If people weren’t so often wrong, we wouldn’t be so rich.” The video also featured skits the investors made with Hollywood stars over the years, including a “Desperate Housewives” spoof where one of the women introduced Munger as her boyfriend and another in which actress Jaimie Lee Curtis swooned over him.

As the video ended, the arena erupted in a prolonged standing ovation honoring Munger, whom Buffett called “the architect of Berkshire Hathaway.”

Buffett said Munger remained curious about the world up until the end of his life at 99, hosting dinner parties, meeting with people and holding regular Zoom calls.

“Like his hero Ben Franklin, Charlie wanted to understand everything,” Buffett said.

For decades, Munger and Buffett functioned as a classic comedy duo, with Buffett offering lengthy setups to Munger’s witty one-liners. He once referred to unproven internet companies as “turds.”

Together, the pair transformed Berkshire from a floundering textile mill into a massive conglomerate made up of a variety of interests, from insurance companies such as Geico to BNSF railroad to several major utilities and an assortment of other companies.

Munger often summed up the key to Berkshire’s success as “trying to be consistently not stupid, instead of trying to be very intelligent.” He and Buffett also were known for sticking to businesses they understood well.

“Warren always did at least 80% of the talking. But Charlie was a great foil,” said Stansberry Research analyst Whitney Tilson, who was looking forward to his 27th consecutive meeting.

NEXT GEN LEADERS

Munger’s absence, however, created space for shareholders to get to know better the two executives

who directly oversee Berkshire’s companies: Ajit Jain, who manages the insurance units; and Abel, who handles everything else and has been named Buffett’s successor. The two shared the main stage with Buffett this year.

The first time Buffett kicked a question to Abel, he mistakenly said “Charlie?” Abel shrugged off the mistake and dove into the challenges utilities face from the increased risk of wildfires and some regulators’ reluctance to let them collect a reasonable profit.

Morningstar analyst

Gregory Warren said he believes Abel spoke up more Saturday and let shareholders see some of the brilliance Berkshire executives talk about.

Abel offered a twist on Munger’s classic “I have nothing to add” line by often starting his answers Saturday by saying “The only thing I would add.”

“Greg’s a rock star,” said Chris Bloomstran, president of Semper Augustus Investments Group. “The bench is deep. He won’t have the same humor at the meeting. But I think we all come here

to get a reminder every year to be rational.”

A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Buffett has made clear that Abel will be Berkshire’s next CEO, but he said Saturday that he had changed his opinion on how the company’s investment portfolio should be handled. He had previously said it would fall to two investment managers who handle small chunks of the portfolio now. On Saturday, Buffett endorsed Abel for the gig, as well as overseeing the operating businesses and any acquisitions.

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Wells and Adams County competed in the annual Bi-County golf meet over the weekend at Wabash Valley Golf Course. At left, Norwell's Cooper Sloan takes a peek at his chip during the meet. Middle, Bluffton's Declan Grieser begins his drive. At left, Southern Wells' Chandler Oswalt starts his drive. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

Adams tops Wells County in 2024 Bi-County golf meet

The annual Bi-County golf meet was this past Saturday at Wabash Valley Golf Course between Wells and Adams County.

Only three strokes came between first and second and from second to third, but Adams County got the best of Wells County.

Bellmont and Adams Central went 1-2, finishing with scores of 331 and 334. Norwell was third at 337, Bluffton tied for fourth with South Adams (344) and Southern Wells sixth (383).

Between the counties, Adams had the lowest total score of 1,009 and Wells 1,064.

Declan Grieser was the top golfer in Wells County and finished second overall with a score of 72. He was behind Bellmont's Owen Minnick at 68. Following Grieser for the Tigers were Conner Klopfenstein (87), Kade Abbett, Max White (97) and Anthony Hartman (102).

Cooper Sloan was the top golfer for Norwell and third overall at the meet, scoring a 72. Following him was Derek Smith in eighth at 84, Ashton Federspiel (86), Bodie Zim-

mer (90) and Cavin Smithley (91).

Southern Wells' top golfer was Gabe McElhaney was at 90, followed by Tristen Worster (94), Dirk Frauhiger (99) and Chandler Oswalt and Cash Banter (100).

Bluffton will be back to conference play at home against Heritage at 4:30 p.m. Monday, May 6.

Norwell will get back to conference play at DeKalb at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8.

Southern Wells will host Jay County in conference play at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7.

Knights win Angola Invitational, Hoover and Saalfrank take home individual singles championships

Norwell was a first place finisher on Saturday in the Angola girls' tennis Invitational.

The Knights took home the grand prize with a team score of 34 points, a format that rewards each of the five spots in the lineup for their performances. Fairfield was second with 28 points and Valparaiso in third at 19.

Norwell won two of the five positions: Delaney Hoover at No. 2 singles and Macie Saalfrank at No. 3 singles.

Individual results:

- Addy Heyerly defeated Bishop Luers 6-0, 6-1. Defeated Calparaiso 6-0, 6-1. Fell to Fairfield in the finals 6-0, 6-0.
- Hoover defeatd Fremont 6-4, 6-2 at No.

1 singles. Defeated Angola 6-0, 6-0. Defeated Valparaiso 6-0, 6-3 in the finals.

- Saalfrank defeated Fairfield 6-0, 6-0. Defeated Blackhawk Christian 6-0, 6-0. Defeated Valparaiso 6-0, 6-3 in the finals.

- Annabelle Johnson and Macy Felger defeated Valparaiso 6-2, 6-2 at No. 2 doubles. Defeated Blackhawk Christian 6-1, 6-1. Fell to Angola 6-0, 4-6, 10-2 in the finals.

- Jordyn Xayyachack and Ciera Hiester defeated Angola 6-2, 6-0 at No. 2 doubles. Fell to Fairfield 6-3, 7-5. Defeated Blackhawk Christian 8-1 in the third place match.

Norwell will be at Leo at 5 p.m. Monday, May 6.



Norwell's tennis team holds up their ribbons and madalions after winning the Angola Invitational over the weekend. (Photo provided)

Sports Roundup

Raiders beat Owls in baseball

Southern Wells defeated Muncie Burriss 10-6 at home on Saturday.

The win improves the Raiders' record to 4-11.

Of the 10 hits, Jakob Gearheart, Robby Freimuth and Landon Johnson had two hits each. Johnson's went for a triple, and Wyatt Yoder also recorded a triple. Freimuth and Gearheart had a double and an RBI. Rugar Holmes scored two runs and had an RBI. Johnson and Holmes also stole three bases, and Case Boxell and Yoder stole two.

Holmes earned the victory on the mound, throwing 5.1 innings and allowing five runs on five hits with five strikeouts. Peyton Bertsch threw 1.2 innings and allowed one run on one hit and struck out three.

Southern Wells will be at Daleville for a 5 p.m. game Monday, May 6.

Norwell falls in close games with No. 2 Guerin Catholic

Norwell's baseball roadtrip was a hard-fought one at No. 2 Guerin Catholic on Saturday.

The Knights fell in both games by one run each, falling in the first game 4-3 and 3-2 in the second. The two losses drops them to 11-6 on the year.

In Game 1, Norwell's six-hit effort in the nine-inning game was led by Lane Lewis who tallied two in the game with an RBI. Drew Graft doubled and drove in a run, while Cade Shelton went 1-2 with an RBI.

Noah Turk got the loss, throwing eight innings, allowing three runs on seven hits.

In Game 2, Norwell had eight hits and was led by multi-hit performances by Graft and Cayden Cassel. Graft had an RBI as did Shelton.

Cassel got the loss, throwing 4.1 innings and only allowing one run, four hits, one walk and nine strikeouts.

Norwell will be at South Adams at 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 6.

Knights split with Patriots in softball doubleheader

Norwell's softball team split at home against Heritage over the weekend.

The Knights won 16-3 in the first game 16-3 and lost 15-4 in the second.

The split moves the Knights' record to 7-5 on the season.

In Game 1, the Knights had 16 hits and was led by three-hit games from Jordan Markley, Kara Brown and Sami Lemler who both had home runs. Brown had a double and five RBIs as well and Lemler had five RBI. Reese Frauhiger went 2-2 with four RBI. Markley had a triple.

Lemler picked up the win, tossing three innings and allowing one run on two hits. Brown pitched two innings in relief and allowed two runs.

In Game 2, Heritage had 10 runs come across that were unearned. Brown threw 1.22 innings and allowed one earned with four strikeouts, while Kayla Watkins picked up the loss and tossed 3.1 innings and four strikeouts.

Norwell was led by Leah Werling with three hits, one was a double. Hayden Herman went 2-2 with two RBI and a double. Kaydance Clark went 1-3 with an RBI.

Tigers split with Norseman in softball

Bluffton split the road weekend softball (Continued on Page A2)

High School Calendar

MONDAY, MAY 6 BASEBALL: Norwell at South Adams, 5 p.m.; Eastbrook at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at Daleville, 5 p.m. BOYS GOLF: Heritage at Bluffton, 5 p.m. GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at Leo, 5 p.m.; Bluffton at Belmont, 4:30 p.m. SOFTBALL: DeKalb at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.	TUESDAY, MAY 7 BASEBALL: Norwell at DeKalb, 5:30 p.m.; Heritage at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Jay County, 5 p.m. BOYS GOLF: Jay County at Southern Wells, 4:30 p.m. GIRLS TENNIS: DeKalb at Norwell, 4:30 p.m. SOFTBALL: Heritage at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Jay County, 5 p.m. TRACK AND FIELD (CO-ED): Norwell/Eastbrook at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.	WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 BASEBALL: Snider at Norwell 5:30 p.m. BOYS GOLF: Norwell at DeKalb, 4:30 p.m.; Northfield at Bluffton, 5 p.m. GIRLS TENNIS: Bluffton at Jay County, 5 p.m.	SOFTBALL: Norwell at Huntington North, 5:30 p.m. THURSDAY, MAY 9 BASEBALL: Huntington North at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.; Woodlan at Southern Wells, 5:30 p.m. BOYS GOLF: Bluffton at Woodlan, 4:30 p.m.; Eastbrook/Southwood at Southern Wells, 4:30 p.m. GIRLS TENNIS: Huntington North at Norwell, 4:30 p.m.; Carroll at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m. SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Norwell, 5 p.m.; Woodlan at Southern Wells, 5:30 p.m. TRACK AND FIELD (CO-ED): Norwell/Bellmont at Adams Central, 5 p.m. FRIDAY, MAY 10 SOFTBALL: Northrop at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Southwood, 5 p.m. SATURDAY, MAY 11 BASEBALL: St. Mary's Memorial at Bluffton, 12:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Canterbury, 11 a.m. BOYS GOLF: Norwell at Angola Invitational, 12:30 p.m. SOFTBALL: Norwell at Belmont, 10 a.m.; Southern Wells at Liberty Christian, 11 a.m.
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Magic crumble in second half, lose Game 7 to Cavaliers

CLEVELAND (AP) — Paolo Banchemo's first taste of the NBA playoffs ended bitterly. The Orlando Magic couldn't finish what they started. After opening an 18-point lead in the first half, the Magic caved under pressure as the Cleveland Cavaliers rallied for a 106-94 win in Game 7. Banchemo scored 38 points — his third game with

at least 30 in the series — but it wasn't enough as the Magic couldn't stop Donovan Mitchell when they needed to and had their season end in disappointment. Still, it was valuable experience for a young Magic team led by the 21-year-old Banchemo, who averaged 27 points in his first postseason as a pro.

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Sports Roundup

(Continued from Page 1)

doubleheader with Northfield.

The Tigers got the win in Game 1, winning 8-5 in eight innings and fell 8-7 in Game 2.

The split moves their record to 7-9.

In Game 1, the Tigers 10 hits were led by Claire Craighead, who went 3-4 with an RBI. Averi Petty drove in three runs with one hit, and other RBI went to Tyrah Shaw and Cayah King. Isabella Stout had three stolen bases in the game.

Madyson Sonnigsen earned the win, throwing eight innings and allowing five

runs (one earned), six hits and struck out a whopping 16 batters.

In Game 2, Madison Smith was the only Tigers with more than one hit and drove in a run. Tressa Renner went 1-3 with a double and an RBI. Ella Borrer and King had RBI.

Shaw picked up the loss, throwing five innings and allowing four runs (three earned) walked two and struck out five.

Bluffton will finish the final inning of the Southern Wells double rain delay contest Monday at 5 p.m. The two teams will then play a nonconference game to follow.

Mystik Dan wins 150th Kentucky Derby by a nose in the closest 3-horse photo finish since 1947

By BETH HARRIS
AP Racing Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The 150th Kentucky Derby produced one of the most dramatic finishes in its storied history — three noses at the wire.

Mystik Dan desperately fought to hang on with two challengers coming to him in the closing strides. He did, too, after a delay of several minutes while the closest three-horse photo finish since 1947 was sorted out.

That year, Jet Pilot won by a head over Phalanx, who was another head in front of Faultless.

This one was much tighter.

Mystik Dan, an 18-1 shot, edged Sierra Leone by a nose, with Forever Young another nose back in third on Saturday. Sierra Leone was the most expensive horse in the race at \$2.3 million.

Long shots Track Phantom and Just Steel led the field through the early going, with 3-1 favorite Fierceness racing three-wide just off the leaders.

At the top of the stretch, everything changed.

Track Phantom drifted off the rail, opening a hole that Hernandez squeezed Mystik Dan through, and the bay colt suddenly found another gear. He quickly opened up a daylight advantage on the field.

“When he shot through that spot, he was able to cut the corner and I asked him to go for it,” Hernandez said. “He shot off and I’m like, ‘Oh man, I’ve got a big chance to win the Kentucky Derby.’”

To Mystik Dan’s outside, Sierra Leone and Forever Young took up the chase in the middle of the track.

As Mystik Dan sped along the rail, Sierra Leone lugged in and bumped Forever Young three times in the stretch, but jockey Ryusei Sakai didn’t claim foul.

Mystik Dan got so close to the rail that Hernandez’s boot struck it.

“But I think we can buy another pair of boots,” he said.

The winner’s share of the record \$5 million purse was \$3.1 million, with the jockey and trainer typically earning 10% each.

“Just a brilliant, brilliant, brilliant jockey and ride,” McPeck said. “Brian is one of the most underrated jockeys, but not anymore, right?”

Sierra Leone, the second choice at 9-2 odds, and Forever Young from Japan came up just short at the wire in front of 156,710 at Churchill Downs, the largest crowd since

2018.

“You get beat a nose in the Kentucky Derby, it’s a tough one,” said Chad Brown, trainer of Sierra Leone. “But I’m so proud of the horse.”

It was just the 10th Kentucky Derby decided by a nose — the closest margin in horse racing — and the first since Grindstone edged Cavonnier to wear the garland of red roses in 1996.

The crowd waited several minutes in the heat and humidity as the result was reviewed by the stewards and declared official.

“The longest few minutes of my life,” Hernandez said, after he and Mystik Dan walked in circles while the stunning result was settled. “To see your number flash up to win the Derby, I don’t think it will sink in for a while.”

Fierceness finished 15th in the field of 20 3-year-olds. Owner Mike Repole is 0 for 8 in the derby. He had the favorite in 2011 with Uncle Mo, who was scratched the day before the race with an illness. Last year, Forte was scratched the morning of the race as the favorite with a bruised foot.

Mystik Dan ran 1 1/4 miles over a fast track in 2:03.34 and paid \$39.22, \$16.32 and \$10.

Hernandez and trainer Kenny McPeck had teamed for a wire-to-wire win in the Kentucky Oaks for fillies on Friday with Thorpedo Anna. McPeck is the first trainer to sweep both races since Ben Jones in 1952.

McPeck’s only other victory in a Triple Crown race was also a shocker: 70-1 Sarava won the 2002 Belmont Stakes — the biggest upset in that race’s history. The colt spoiled the Triple Crown bid of War Emblem.

The winning owners are cousins Lance and Brent Gasaway and Daniel Hamby III, all from Arkansas. They bred Mystik Dan.

“We’ve done it with what I call working-class horse,” McPeck said, explaining the colt’s sire and dam weren’t big names.

Sharilyn Gasaway, Brent’s wife, said, “It is surreal for sure. We feel like we’re just ordinary people and we’ve got an amazing horse.”

Sierra Leone returned \$6.54 and \$4.64. Forever Young was another nose back in third and paid \$5.58 to show.

Catching Freedom was fourth, followed by T O Password of Japan, Resilience, Stronghold, Honor Marie and Endlessly. Dornoch was 10th and then came Track Phantom, West Saratoga, Domestic Product, Epic Ride, Fierceness, Society Man, Just Steel, Grand Mo the First, Catalytic and Just a Touch.

Pacers set for 2nd round against the Knicks, an old-school playoff rival who play a new-age game

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Back when the New York Knicks would annually march on in the playoffs, they’d almost always run into the Indiana Pacers.

With the teams set to renew their playoff rivalry Monday in the Eastern Conference semifinals, it’s easy to think back to those rough and rugged tussles in the 1990s. But while the matchup may be old school, Jalen Brunson and the Knicks are bracing for an opponent who plays a new-age style.

Tyrese Haliburton runs the NBA’s highest-scoring offense, with Indiana putting numbers on the scoreboard that make the ones in the past Knicks-Pacers contests look like a different sport, not just a different century.

“I guess whenever you have the original teams from back then, there’s always going to be some type of history,” Brunson said. “But you have two good teams who play very, I don’t want to say different, but like, they play their own style of basketball. And so it’s going to be a grind of who’s going to go out there, who’s going to want it more who’s going to try to get it.”

Brunson led the No. 2-seeded Knicks past Philadelphia in the first round, sending the Knicks into the East semifinals in consecutive seasons for the first time since making nine straight trips between 1992 and 2000.

He scored 40 or more points in the final three games, just the seventh player in NBA history with three straight 40-point games in the playoffs. The league’s No. 4 scorer in the regular season tops all players in the postseason with 35.5 per game.

Indiana’s big numbers come as a team. The Pacers led the league with 123.3 points per game, sixth highest in league history, and also were tops in field goal percentage and assists. They reached 140 points 11 times, an NBA record.

The sixth-seeded Pacers haven’t slowed down too much in the playoffs. They averaged 113 while knocking off No. 3 Milwaukee and reached at least 120 in all four victories during the six-game series.

The Knicks and Pacers met three straight times from 1993-95 — exchanging Game 7 victories in the latter two — then again from 1998-2000, with the last two of those in the Eastern Conference finals. Indiana won the most recent meeting, ousting the No. 2-seeded Knicks in the 2013 East semifinals.

Neither team ever reached 120 points in any of the 41 games.

“It’s just a very intense matchup, that’s really the simple truth about it,” Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. “There’s a lot of stuff with Reggie Miller for five or six years and

I know in 2013 there was another matchup. We’re going to have to be very resilient and we’re going to have to be very together.”

THIS SEASON

Indiana went 2-1 against New York and was right at its season average with 123.3 points per game, including 140 in a Dec. 30 victory when the Knicks were short-handed after a

trade. Brunson averaged 35.7 points.

BRUNSON VS. HALIBURTON

The point guards were U.S. teammates last summer playing in the Basketball World Cup, then went on to have their best NBA seasons. Both were All-Stars, with Haliburton the Eastern Conference starter in his home arena en route to leading the league with 10.9 assists per game.

EX-RAPTOR VS. EX-RAPTOR

Pascal Siakam and OG Anunoby were starters in Toronto to begin the season before the forwards were traded, with Anunoby going to the Knicks in December and Siakam to Indiana in January. The Knicks are 24-5 with Anunoby in the lineup and may need him now to defend his former teammate, who opened the playoffs with consecutive games of at least 35 points and 10 rebounds.

BRUNSON VS. CARLISLE

Brunson began his career in Dallas playing for Carlisle, who praised his former player’s character and said they had a great three years together. Brunson was asked if he had extra motivation after an ESPN podcast referenced his frustration in getting only 10 minutes of playing time in a Game 7 loss to the Clippers in 2021.

“In all honesty, I said this last time, you’re in the playoffs now, there is no extra motivation,” Brunson said. “It is what it is, the past is the past. Rick, he welcomed me into this league and he helped me become the player and he helped me grow from day one. So a coach has got to make decisions that suit their team. So whatever happened, happened and we’re moving forward from there.”

OBI’S OPPORTUNITY

Obi Toppin was the Knicks’ first-round pick in 2020 and became a fan favorite, though rarely got extended playing time behind All-Star Julius Randle. He scored a career playoff-high 21 points off the bench in the clinching victory over Milwaukee and now heads back to his original NBA home.

“They’re one of the most physical teams in the league,” Toppin said. “They’ve had that identity for many years and we’ve got to come in there and match that physicality and play our style of basketball, and I think we’ll be good at that.”



News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

NBA

FIRST ROUND

Thursday, May 2

Indiana 120, Milwaukee 98, Indiana wins series 4 - 2

New York 118, Philadelphia 115, New York wins series 4 - 2

Friday, May 3

Orlando 103, Cleveland 96

Dallas 114, L.A. Clippers 101, Dallas wins series 4 - 2

SECOND ROUND

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

Saturday, May 4

Minnesota 106, Denver 99, Minnesota leads series 1 - 0

FIRST ROUND

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

Sunday, May 5

Cleveland 106, Orlando 94, Cleveland wins series 4 - 3

SECOND ROUND

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

Monday, May 6

Indiana at New York, 7:30 p.m.

Minnesota at Denver, 10 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7

Cleveland at Boston, 7 p.m.

Dallas at Oklahoma City, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 8

Indiana at New York, 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 9

Cleveland at Boston, 7 p.m.

Dallas at Oklahoma City, 9:30 p.m.

HOCKEY

NHL

FIRST ROUND

Thursday, May 2

Toronto 2, Boston 1

Friday, May 3

Vancouver 1, Nashville 0, Vancouver wins series 4 - 2

Vegas 2, Dallas 0, Dallas wins series 4 - 3

Saturday, May 4

Boston 2, Toronto 1, OT, Boston wins series 4 - 3

SECOND ROUND

(Best-of-7)

(x-if necessary)

Sunday, May 5

N.Y. Rangers 4, Carolina 3, N.Y. Rangers leads series 1 - 0

Dallas 2, Vegas 1

Boston at Florida, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7

Carolina at N.Y. Rangers, TBA

Wednesday, May 8

Boston at Florida, TBA

Thursday, May 9

N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, TBA

BASEBALL

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	23	11	.676	—
New York	23	13	.639	1

Boston	19	16	.543	4½
Tampa Bay	17	18	.486	6½
Toronto	16	19	.457	7½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	22	12	.647	—
Minnesota	19	14	.576	2½
Kansas City	20	15	.571	2½
Detroit	18	16	.529	4
Chicago	8	26	.235	14

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	19	15	.559	—
Texas	19	16	.543	½
Oakland	17	18	.486	2½
Houston	12	22	.353	7
Los Angeles	12	22	.353	7

Saturday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 5, Detroit 3
Minnesota 3, Boston 1
Chicago White Sox 6, St. Louis 5, 10 innings

Oakland 20, Miami 4
Toronto 6, Washington 3
Cleveland 7, L.A. Angels 1
Baltimore 2, Cincinnati 1

Seattle 5, Houston 0
Texas 15, Kansas City 4
Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Mets 1

Sunday's Games

Cleveland 4, L.A. Angels 1
N.Y. Yankees 5, Detroit 2, 8 innings
Washington 11, Toronto 8
Texas 3, Kansas City 2, 10 innings
Chicago White Sox 5, St. Louis 1
Boston 9, Minnesota 2
Seattle 5, Houston 4
Tampa Bay 7, N.Y. Mets 6, 10 innings

Baltimore 11, Cincinnati 1
Miami 12, Oakland 3

Monday's Games

Detroit (Flaherty 0-1) at Cleveland (McKenzie 2-2), 6:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Anderson 2-3) at Pittsburgh (Keller 2-3), 6:40 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Soroka 0-3) at Tampa Bay (Alexander 1-1), 6:50 p.m.
Milwaukee (Wilson 2-1) at Kansas City (Ragans 2-2), 7:40 p.m.

Seattle (Castillo 3-4) at Minnesota (Woods Richardson 1-0), 7:40 p.m.
Texas (Heaney 0-4) at Oakland (Wood 1-2), 9:40 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Texas at Oakland, 3:37 p.m.
Detroit at Cleveland, 6:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.
Toronto at Philadelphia, 6:40 p.m.
Baltimore at Washington, 6:45 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m.

Houston at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Boston at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
Milwaukee at Kansas City, 7:40 p.m.
Seattle at Minnesota, 7:40 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	24	11	.686	—
Atlanta	20	12	.625	2½
Washington	17	17	.500	6½
New York	16	18	.471	7½
Miami	10	26	.278	14½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	20	13	.606	—

Chicago	21	14	.600	—
Cincinnati	16	18	.471	4½
Pittsburgh	16	19	.457	5
St. Louis	15	19	.441	5½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	23	13	.639	—
San Diego	18	19	.486	5½
Arizona	15	20	.429	7½
San Francisco	15	20	.429	7½
Colorado	8	26	.235	14

Saturday's Games

Chicago Cubs 6, Milwaukee 5
Chicago White Sox 6, St. Louis 5, 10 innings

Pittsburgh 1, Colorado 0
Oakland 20, Miami 4
Toronto 6, Washington 3
Baltimore 2, Cincinnati 1
Philadelphia 14, San Francisco 3
Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Mets 1
San Diego 13, Arizona 1
L.A. Dodgers 11, Atlanta 2

Sunday's Games

Pittsburgh 5, Colorado 3
Washington 11, Toronto 8
Chicago Cubs 5, Milwaukee 0
Chicago White Sox 5, St. Louis 1
Tampa Bay 7, N.Y. Mets 6, 10 innings

L.A. Dodgers 5, Atlanta 1
Baltimore 11, Cincinnati 1
Arizona 11, San Diego 4
Miami 12, Oakland 3
Philadelphia 5, San Francisco 4

Monday's Games

San Francisco (Black 0-0) at Philadelphia (Wheeler 3-3), 4:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Anderson 2-3) at Pittsburgh (Keller 2-3), 6:40 p.m.
Milwaukee (Wilson 2-1) at Kansas City (Ragans 2-2), 7:40 p.m.

San Diego (Darvish 1-1) at Chicago Cubs (Steele 0-0), 7:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Manaea 1-1) at St. Louis (Gibson 2-2), 7:45 p.m.
Miami (Murtoz 1-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Buehler 0-0), 10:10 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Arizona at Cincinnati, 6:40 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.
Toronto at Philadelphia, 6:40 p.m.
Baltimore at Washington, 6:45 p.m.
Boston at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
Milwaukee at Kansas City, 7:40 p.m.
San Diego at Chicago Cubs, 7:40 p.m.

N.Y. Mets at St. Louis, 7:45 p.m.
San Francisco at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.

Midwest League

The Classifieds

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.

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

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

Farming

2017 WILSON HOPPER, 40 foot, 102 inches wide, 72-inch sides, \$35,000. 2019 Timpte hopper, 40 foot, 102 inches wide, 72-inch sides, elec., roll tarp, \$40,000. Both have disc brakes and super single tires, great shape. Call or text 260-820-0121, leave message if no answer.

Lottery Numbers

Saturday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 01-08-27-38-41

Cash4Life — 05-10-23-26-35, Cash Ball: 04

Lotto Plus — 06-25-26-32-37-44

Quick Draw Midday — 09-10-12-28-39-45-46-47-48-49-51-54-59-61-62-68-73-76-77-78, BE: 77

Daily Three-Midday — 01-05-08, SB: 01

Daily Three-Evening — 08-07-07, SB: 00

Daily Four-Midday — 00-09-03-05, SB: 01

Daily Four-Evening — 09-04-07-00, SB: 00

Quick Draw Evening — 01-03-04-08-16-18-20-21-28-34-43-47-51-52-54-67-72-73-76-80, BE: 73

Hoosier Lotto — 01-03-14-26-37-39

POWERBALL

14-20-23-53-69; Powerball: 04; Power Play: 2X

Sunday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 09-21-23-28-43

Cash4Life — 03-15-37-40-52, Cash Ball: 01

Quick Draw Midday — 01-04-21-22-28-36-38-40-47-50-52-57-60-62-63-66-7-74-75-76, BE: 60

Daily Three-Midday — 03-08-01, SB: 05

Daily Three-Evening — 04-04-01, SB: 08

Daily Four-Midday — 06-06-05-01, SB: 05

Daily Four-Evening — 01-05-03-04, SB: 08

Quick Draw Evening — 01-06-13-14-18-20-23-25-30-32-37-39-40-45-50-52-57-62-67-70, BE: 50

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$11.7 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$306 million

POWERBALL

Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$214 million

SUDOKU ANSWER

9	7	9	2	8	7	6	1	8
7	8	2	6	8	1	4	9	9
1	8	6	9	1	9	7	2	8
8	9	7	9	6	2	7	8	1
8	6	1	7	2	8	9	9	2
2	9	1	1	9	8	8	7	6
6	1	8	8	7	2	9	2	9
9	7	9	1	6	8	8	2	7
2	2	8	8	9	9	1	6	7

Sporting Goods

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

Wanted to Buy

WANTED : ANTIQUES & OLD TOYS Cash Paid for old toys! Gi Joe, Transformers, Tin toys, Robots, Pressed Steel Cars/trucks, Action Figures, Antiques of all kinds, etc. Searching for attics, basements, barns, etc to go through. Call or Text! 260-223-8083

RENTALS

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SERVICES

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

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

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This Week's Garage Sales

Clip & Save

GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE
May 9 & 10, 9-5, May 11, 9-2 sack sale, Forgotten Children Worldwide, 650 N. Main St., Bluffton. Dining table & chairs, kitchen appliances, large screen TV, end tables, floor & table lamps, 2 living room side chairs, side table, bookshelves, 2 office desks, wooden rocking chair, 2 twin beds, baby strollers, twin bed frame set, too much more to list.

HELOISE HINT: If you are having a big summer garage sale. Be sure to let all of your neighbors know so that they can be prepared for lots of cars and people coming in and out of the neighborhood. Write to HELOISE@Heloise.com.

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★ 5/6

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Public Sale Calendar

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, 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.

Read & recycle this newspaper

Public Notices

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Wells Superior Court of Wells County, Indiana, in Cause No. 90D01-2312-MF-000032, wherein PennyMac Loan Services, LLC was Plaintiff, and Russell W. Carrick Jr, Jennifer C. Miles, United States of America Department of Housing and Urban Development and Discover Bank C/O Discover Products were Defendants, required me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 12th day of June, 2024, at the hour of 1:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 102 W Market St, Bluffton, IN 46714, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wells County, Indiana. Lot Numbered 49 as known and designated on the recorded plat of Hi-Lo Addition No. 2 to the City of Bluffton, according to the recorded plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 3 page 208, in the Office of the Recorder of Wells County, Indiana. More commonly known as 515 W Central Ave, Bluffton, IN 46714-2411

Parcel No. 90-08-04-530-049,000-004

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

/s/ BRYAN K. REDMOND
BRYAN K. REDMOND, Plaintiff Attorney

Parcel No. 90-08-05-509-049,000-004

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

/s/ MATTHEW S. LOVE
MATTHEW S. LOVE, Plaintiff Attorney

Parcel No. 90-08-05-509-049,000-004

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

/s/ BRYAN K. REDMOND
BRYAN K. REDMOND, Plaintiff Attorney

Parcel No. 90-08-05-509-049,000-004

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

/s/ MATTHEW S. LOVE
MATTHEW S. LOVE, Plaintiff Attorney

Parcel No. 90-08-05-509-049,000-004

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

/s/ BRYAN K. REDMOND
BRYAN K. REDMOND, Plaintiff Attorney

Parcel No. 90-08-05-509-049,000-004

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

/s/ MATTHEW S. LOVE
MATTHEW S. LOVE, Plaintiff Attorney

May

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