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Paddlefish Solar pulls project zoning application

By HOLLY GASKILL

Representatives from Paddlefish Solar announced the company's decision to rescind their zoning application from Wells County on Monday.

Citing the increased pushback from community members over the last eight weeks, Project Manager Jesse Laniak said the company will regroup and focus on education and communication.

The solar company had applied for an "overlay district" to permit electrical production on 49 agriculturally-zoned parcels. After four hours of presentation from Paddlefish representatives and community members, the Area Plan Commission unanimously agreed on a "do not pass" recommendation for the Wells County Commissioners.

The commissioners were met by a similarly overwhelming turnout from community members and ultimately delayed their vote on the matter. However, each commissioner has since expressed negative sentiments about the project.

"I think that I've been a bit frustrated that some of the recent discourse has been rooted in the misinformation ... I think we

have to be humble here with what the Area Plan Commission has said, which is there's a lack of a majority public sentiment for utility-scale solar," Laniak told the commissioners Monday.

Paddlefish's announcement did not appear on the agenda, as it was a part of public comments. However, that did not prevent a full audience from attending to share their opinions.

Megan Dunham, Craigville, pushed back against Laniak's statements about misinformation, saying the people against the project had done their research and didn't like what they had found. She also questioned if the company was genuinely attempting to increase communication and transparency since they had recently limited some of their past comments on Facebook.

Polly Wymer, Markle, also doubted if the company had done its due diligence in notifying residents, claiming no residents had received letters about the project. These complaints were echoed by Michelle Bowman, Craigville, who said she had only recently learned about the project on Facebook.

"Unfortunately, here in Wells County,



Paddlefish Project Manager Jesse Laniak told Wells County Commissioners Monday that the company has decided to rescind their zoning application. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

right now it's been all about Paddlefish, Paddlefish, Paddlefish — that's only the beginning," Bowman said, referring to other solar leases alleged in other parts of the

county. Additional comments came from Fred Wymer, Markle, who said the company

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Interurban Trail and Lancaster Park progress

Wayne Asphalt is preparing to lay down asphalt for the new parking lot at Lancaster Park. Currently, they are leveling out the area. The Interurban trail is still being dug and leveled out, with dirt being dumped near Superior Auto on North Main Street. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



Wells County opts-in to Health First Indiana

By HOLLY GASKILL

Wells County will participate in Health First Indiana in 2025 after being only one of six counties that did not join the program for 2024.

During their meeting Monday, the commissioners unanimously approved a recommendation to opt-in from the health board. In 2025, Wells County will receive at least \$549,510 from the state's Local Health Maintenance Fund — the county currently receives \$51,777.15 from the fund.

This additional funding is intended to target a number of key performance indicators, including immunizations, vital records and chronic disease prevention. The Wells County Health Department and Board of Health will now embark on the process of forming a budget proposal for the funding. The board has scheduled a special meeting

for 6:30 a.m. on Thursday to begin their discussions.

The commissioners had unanimously voted against HFI in 2023, citing skepticism of the program and the Wells County Health Department's instability at the time. Commissioner Jeff Stringer referenced this time before voting on Monday, asking Public Health Nurse Lynn Blevins, "Is it safe to say the timing is much better this time around?" Blevins replied, "That would be an understatement, actually."

"Last year it was a hard no, for the reasons we've been saying here ad nauseam," added Commissioner Mike Vanover. "But the Health Department, the board, you guys, as a whole, have kept your word — that matters. So, thank you for pulling it together. I appreciate the leadership, and I feel a lot more com-

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Bestselling author to speak at Norwell for men's conference

By JONATHAN SNYDER

New York Times bestselling author Jefferson Bethke is coming to Norwell High School as part of Tower Life Center's Community Conference Men's Night at Norwell High School on May 9.

The free event will include Christian worship songs, a message from Bethke, a time for fellowship and a pulled pork nacho bar, according to the event's Facebook page. Bethke will be talking about masculinity in the modern era, specifically how men should step into Jesus' vision for them. Men over 16 years-old are encouraged to attend.

"If you're a man who's wondering what to do with your strength, your longings and your gifts, it's time to step out of the shadows. Jesus has a vision for you," the event

description states.

Doors will open for dinner at 6 p.m., with the conference starting at 7 p.m. and ending at 9:15 p.m.

Bethke's new book, *Fighting Shadows: Overcoming 7 Lies That Keep Men From Becoming Fully Alive*, dissects the temptations that modern men face and harmful sins that hinder men.

Bethke has authored *Jesus > Religion*, a bestselling title about Jesus' love for others versus a works based religion. Bethke also made a video on YouTube titled "Why I Hate Religion but Love Jesus", which was released in January 2012 and has garnered over 35 million views.

Register at towerlife.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2251905. jonathan@news-banner.com

Who votes? Here is who decides Indiana's elections

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana voter turnout rates have long lain among the lowest in the country. Despite that, some Hoosier voters cast ballots year after year.

And political parties rely on them.

"These are people that wouldn't

miss an election, even if there was very little competition, very few things on the ballot, you know, (a) general, (a) primary, whatever. They are there for it," said Laura Merrifield Wilson, a political science professor at the University of Indianapolis.

It's a small percentage of people, particularly in Indiana, which

ranked second-last in the country for turnout in the 2022 election. That's according to the most recent state Civic Health Index.

But the "overwhelming" indicator of a "sustained political participant" is age, per Wilson.

"The 50-plus are reliable," said Sarah Waddle, the state director for Indiana's branch of the AARP,

formerly the American Association of Retired Persons.

"They're the driving force behind almost every election," she added.

That's because in Indiana, voters 50 and older are often the majority of the electorate, according to AARP data: 67% in 2022, a midterm year, and 56% in 2020, a

presidential year.

Voters older than 65 were particularly enthusiastic. Wilson said they may have more skin in the game after moving to fixed incomes or using government programs like Medicare. And, they've typically got more time.

"For someone who is retired

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Outside

April showers have moved their way into May

Today	Wed.	Thursday
High 75	High 80	High 68
Low 57	Low 59	Low 46

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Paddlefish Solar

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should abide by the same process as utilities, and Tabby Fate, Warren, who said everyone has to make concessions to live in community with others.

"I did get asked (to sign a lease), and I said no, because I would never do that to my neighbors," Fate said. "They matter. We all matter. I just felt like it's kind of irresponsible to sign up good farm ground (for) solar panels."

Laniak said the company "takes their investment seriously" and highlighted multiple times Paddlefish has promised above developmental require-

ments, worked with the county on previous agreements, and donated locally. The company holds land leases for 3,000 acres in southern Wells County and crossing into Huntington County.

"I do genuinely feel really confident that Wells County is a good place for utility-scale solar ... And I just want to make sure we take the time to really broaden our educational platform and make sure there's time to have the right discourse and a stable environment for making an informed decision," Laniak concluded.

Outside of the debate, Commis-

sioner Jeff Stringer asked the public to remain civil in their conversations and remember to treat one another as people.

"I'm a pretty thick-skinned guy, but we're learning as we go too," Stringer said. "So when you talk to one another, when you talk to (Laniak) and his team, when you talk to people that are pro-solar, when you talk to people that are anti-solar, pro the health department, anti the health department — or whatever the issues are, just remember, we are a small community of civility."

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Health First Indiana

(Continued from Page 1)

fortable with that today than what I did a year ago."

Commissioner Blake Gerber also thanked the board for their "due diligence" and recognized that the program would come with a learning curve. "We don't expect to make it perfect the first year," he said.

Blevins presented a drafted budget, which allocated just under \$25,000 for department vehicles. Currently, Blevins and Environmental Specialist Ryan Bennett use their own vehicles to respond to needs throughout the county.

The department will also use a large portion of fund-

ing for grants, which will support local organizations that already have the infrastructure to address the KPIs.

Stringer added that it seemed the department has a "pretty good backbone" now. Board President Chris Esterling, who presented the recommendation alongside board member Molly Hoag,

said the additional funding would facilitate continued growth.

Blevins said the Health Department staff, board and Health Officer Brandon Huggins will discuss the grant application process during their Thursday meeting at the Carnegie Annex.

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Who decides Indiana's elections

(Continued from Page 1)

and now has a tremendous amount of free time, they have time to research the candidates; they have time to pay attention to the debates and forums," Wilson said. "But they also have just — period — more time to be engaged, more time to vote, more time to be engaged in the democratic process, compared to anyone with any type of job or (dependent children)."

Still, voters 50-plus aren't "a uniform" voting bloc, according to Waddle, despite facing similar issues, like caretaking and saving for retirement.

The vast majority of voters over age 50 are white (91%), slightly more are women (52%), most haven't gone to college (66%) and most live in suburbs (63%) or rural areas (35%), per AARP data.

Waddle dubbed the organization's "Our voices decide" slogan an "empowering internal reminder" to older voters and a "message to candidates that you need to be talking about the everyday issues that affect people at home."

But political parties also count on other voters.

Broad appeal starts somewhere

Indiana's two major political parties say widespread appeal powers their efforts.

"I don't think there's any one or two or three demographics," Indiana Republican Party Executive Director Joe Elsener said.

The party typically remains neutral during primary elections. But for the

general election, Elsener said, the party "works hard," through its candidates and platform, to "tell the story of the last 20 years of leadership."

"We really appeal to all voters," Indiana Democratic Party Executive Director Dayna Colbert similarly said.

While older voters are among the most dependable, Democrats still look to younger residents.

"Each of the last two presidential primaries, we have more 18- to 25-year-old Hoosiers pick a democratic ballot than a GOP ballot," Colbert said. "We do have a lot of strengths there, even though, in general, voter turnout among younger Hoosiers is low."

That's although younger voters are more "transient" — away at college or otherwise establishing themselves — and because they may struggle to make or update their registrations, Colbert added.

Hoosier Democrats also find non-white voters — and specifically Black voters — a strength.

"We've seen that the strongest support for Democrats in the in Indiana are our Black voters, not only in the voting population, but also with the elected officials that we have across the state," Colbert said. "All but one of our state's Black mayors are Democrats. ... Every Black and Latino member of the Statehouse is a Democrat as well."

That's changing. In October, GOP precinct committee members overwhelmingly caucused Cyndi Carrasco, a Latina, into the state Senate.

And that's where Republicans want to progress.

Asked which demographic groups his party was working to draw, Elsener pointed to the organization's Diversity Leadership Series. He said the training program is on its fourth class and already multiple current or former members ran for office in the last election.

He highlighted two victors — town of Marion Mayor Ronald Morrell, Jr., Fishers City Council member Tiffanie Ditlevson — that achieved firsts for Black Hoosier Republicans.

"We want to really get into every community ... we possibly can and try to build legitimate relationships and explain why we feel Republican policies work best for all users," Elsener said.

Democrats, meanwhile, highlighted inroads with female and suburban voters.

"I think getting that message out to Hoosier women ... will help build that coalition, as well as just getting the message out to other demographics in general, making sure that they understand that the Democratic Party is here to fight for them," Colbert said.

Mobilization particularly matters for narrowly decided down-ballot races.

"A lot of folks across the state don't believe that their voice matters. But you can see in a lot of these races, recently, that a lot of these margins were decided ... by 250 or less votes," Colbert continued. "So making that case to Hoosiers, that their vote really does count in a lot of these races — a lot of these more local races — is going to be key for us."

Hamas accepts Gaza cease-fire; Israel says it will continue talks but presses on with Rafah attacks

JERUSALEM (AP) — Hamas announced its acceptance Monday of an Egyptian-Qatari cease-fire proposal, but Israel said the deal did not meet its "core demands" and that it was pushing ahead with an assault on the southern Gaza city of Rafah. Still, Israel said it would continue negotiations.

The high-stakes diplomatic moves and military brinkmanship left a glimmer of hope alive — but only barely — for an accord that could bring at least a pause in the 7-month-old war that has devastated the Gaza Strip. Hanging over the wrangling was the threat of an all-out Israeli assault on Rafah, a move the United States strongly opposes and that aid groups warn will be disastrous for some 1.4 million Palestinians taking refuge there.

Hamas's abrupt acceptance of the cease-fire deal came hours after Israel ordered an evacuation of some 100,000 Palestinians from eastern neighborhoods of Rafah, signaling an invasion was imminent.

The Israeli military said it was conducting "targeted strikes" against Hamas in

eastern Rafah. Soon after, Israeli tanks entered Rafah, reaching as close as 200 meters (yards) from Rafah's crossing with neighboring Egypt, a Palestinian security official and an Egyptian official said. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. The reported incursion came a day after Hamas militants killed four Israeli soldiers in a mortar attack that Israel said originated near the Rafah crossing.

The Egyptian official said the operation appeared to be limited. The Associated Press could not independently verify the scope of the operation.

Israeli airstrikes also hit elsewhere in Rafah late Monday, killing at least five people, including a child and a woman, hospital officials said.

The Israeli military declined to comment.

Shortly after Hamas said it had accepted the Egyptian-Qatari truce proposal, Israel's War Cabinet decided to continue the Rafah operation, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said. It also said that while the pro-

posal Hamas agreed to "is far from meeting Israel's core demands," it would send negotiators to Egypt to work on a deal. Late Monday, Qatar announced it was sending a team to Egypt as well.

President Joe Biden spoke with Netanyahu and reiterated U.S. concerns about an invasion of Rafah. U.S. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said American officials were reviewing the Hamas response "and discussing it with our partners in the region."

It was not immediately known if the proposal Hamas agreed to was substantially different from one that U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken pressed the militant group to accept last week, which Blinken said included significant Israeli concessions.

An American official said the U.S. was examining whether what Hamas agreed to was the version signed off on by Israel and international negotiators or something else.

Egyptian officials said

that proposal called for a cease-fire of multiple stages starting with a limited hostage release and partial Israeli troop pullbacks within Gaza. The two sides would also negotiate a "permanent calm" that would lead to a full hostage release and greater Israeli withdrawal out of the territory, they said.

Hamas sought clearer guarantees for its key demand of an end to the war and complete Israeli withdrawal in return for the release of all hostages, but it wasn't clear if any changes were made.

Israeli leaders have repeatedly rejected that trade-off, vowing to keep up their campaign until Hamas is destroyed after its Oct. 7 attack on Israel that triggered the war.

Netanyahu is under pressure from hard-line partners in his coalition who demand an attack on Rafah and could collapse his government if he signs a deal. But he also faces pressure from the families of hostages to reach a deal for their release.

Weather

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

(24-hour observations at 9:37 p.m. Monday)

High: 70; Low: 55; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.29 feet at 8:45 p.m. Monday

Wells County forecast

Today: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 1 p.m. High near 75. East wind 10 to 15 mph becoming south in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between three quarters and one inch possible.

Tonight: Showers and thunderstorms likely before 11 p.m., then a slight chance of showers between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Wednesday: A slight chance of showers between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after 5 p.m. Sunny, with a high near 80. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday Night: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 8 p.m. Low around 59. East wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New rainfall amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.

Thursday: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 8 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 68. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Thursday Night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 8 p.m., then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Friday: A 20% chance of showers after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 62.

Friday Night: A slight chance of showers before 8 p.m., then a slight chance of showers after 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Saturday: A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Saturday Night: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 46.

Wells County primary election voting locations

Election Day vote centers are open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 7. Voting locations are:

- Wells County 4-H Park, 1240 4-H Park Rd. in Bluffton
- Presbyterian Church, 215 E Dustman Rd. in Bluffton
- Lighted Gardens, 10794 N S.R. 1 in Ossian
- Zanesville Tower Life Center, 11811 N Wayne St. in Zanesville
- Southern Wells Community Church, 9450S 300W in Poneto

Sample ballots can be viewed on at wellscounty.org/election or indianavoters.in.gov.

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OBITUARIES

Jack Abenath, 76

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

He was born on Oct. 8, 1947, in Cedar Lake, Indiana, to Theodore and Blanch (Jones) Abenath. Jack served our county in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He worked for many years at Wayne Metals and retired from KITCO Company in Bluffton. Jack enjoyed fishing, working with his hands, and riding his motorcycle. Most of all, Jack enjoyed spending time with his family. He was a long-time member of the American Legion Post #111 of Bluffton.

Survivors include his companion of over 20 years, Nina Stultz of Bluffton, a sister Cindea (Fred) Frantz of Liberty Center and many nieces and nephews.

Jack is preceded in death by a son, Daniel E. Abenath on March 27, 2011, and eight brothers and sisters.

Visitation will be held from 3-7 p.m.

on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton and for one hour prior to the service on Wednesday.

Funeral services will take place at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at the funeral home with Pastor Alan Crull officiating. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton with military honors by the U.S. Army Honor Guard and American Legion Post #111 Honor Guard of Bluffton.

Memorials may be made to the American Legion Post #111 of Bluffton.

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



Mary Ann Dale, 96

Mary Ann Dale, 96, of Decatur, passed away on Sunday, May 5, 2024, at Adams Woodcrest.

Mary was born on July 30, 1927, in Decatur; she was the daughter of the late August T. and Ellen M. (Rumschlag) Lengerich. On Jan. 26, 1946, she married Franklin E. Bender; he preceded her in death on July 24, 1954. After the death of her first husband, Mary married Donald F. Dale, he also preceded her in death.

Mary was a parishioner of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church and member of the Rosary Society. She retired from Corning Glass Works in Bluffton.

Mary enjoyed sewing, baking and doing crafts. She loved her family, especially cooking for them and sending home the leftovers. She would always send Christmas packages to her grandkids who were out of state.

She is survived by four sons, Allen E. Bender of Decatur, Larry D. (Donna) Bender of Convoy, Ohio, Kenneth F. (Sue) Bender of Decatur, and Eugene L. (Leanna) Bender of Decatur; two daughters, Debra E. (Ronald Joe) Irwin of Craigville and Emily R. Dale of Bluffton; 16 grand-

children; 33 great grandchildren and 10 great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by seven brothers and six sisters.

Visitation will be from 3-6 p.m. Thursday, May 9, 2024, at Haggard-Hirsch & Zelt Funeral Home with reciting of the Holy Rosary at 2:30 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, May 10, 2024, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, with Father David Ruppert officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to Mass from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the St. Mary's Parish Hall. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

Preferred memorials are to St. Joseph Catholic School or Masses.

Arrangements were Entrusted to Haggard-Hirsch & Zelt Funeral Home

To sign our guest book, click on www.hzfurneralhome.com



Abby Helmke, 48

Abby R. Helmke, 48, of rural Markle, passed away Monday morning, May 6, 2024, at her residence.

Abby was born in Bluffton on Nov. 10, 1975, to Duane and Debra "Debby" (Gaunt) Hill. Her father survives in Markle. She married Brian Helmke in Markle on June 20, 1998; he survives.

A 1994 Norwell High School graduate, Abby later worked for NESCO/Custom Truck One Source in Bluffton for over ten years. She enjoyed crocheting, gardening, reading, and she especially enjoyed watching her boys play football. For the past three years, her pride and joy were her two grandkids.

In addition to her father and husband, Abby is survived by two sons, Devin Helmke of Markle and Titan Helmke (fiancée Taylor Asher) of Marion; two grandchildren, Parklynn and Knox Helmke; a grandmother, Thelma Hill of Bluffton; and

a sister, Stephanie (Kent) Hanauer of Anderson.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Debby Hill.

Visitation will be from 2-7 p.m. Thursday, May 9, 2024, at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 10, 2024, with visitation one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Pastor Todd Rupp will officiate.

Memorial contributions in memory of Abby may be made to Friends Who Care Cancer Relief Foundation.

Online condolences may be made at www.goodwincaleharnish.com.



Ted Johnson, 88

Ted L. Johnson, 88, of Bluffton, passed away Monday morning, May 6, 2024, at Bluffton Regional Medical Center.

Ted was born in Bluffton on Feb. 28, 1936, to Harry W. and Helen W. (Johnston) Johnson. He married Margie Hahn in Auburn on Feb. 6, 1954, and they just celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

Ted attended Bluffton High School and served his country in the U.S. Air Force from 1953 until 1962. While serving in the Air Force, Ted was stationed in several different states and countries. Ted worked as a foreman for Mobile Aerial Towers in Fort Wayne for 14 years. He later helped a friend establish Teco Inc. in Fort Wayne, where he was honored to serve as a supervisor for 30 years.

Ted was a family man and loved going on vacation. He planned the vacations as a learning tool for his children and it was always about history. For many years Ted and his family would take trips to Mantrap, Minnesota, for fishing trips, and when returning home, he was always able to fill the freezer. He and his wife and family would travel all over, and enjoyed camping and going to festivals. When he was not traveling, he and Margie enjoyed riding their motorcycles and were members of the Gold Wing Club - Chapter 12 of Fort Wayne.

Ted attended the First Reformed Church in Bluffton for many years and was also a member of the American Legion Post 111 in Bluffton. He will be deeply missed by

all who loved him.

In addition to his wife, Ted is survived by two daughters, Cindy Cunningham of Bluffton, and Jackie (Dan) Hoffman of Decatur; a son, Doug Johnson of Bluffton; and three grandchildren, Jason Johnson of Craigville, Jeremy Turner of Bluffton, and Myles Hoffman of Berne.

Aside from his parents, Ted was preceded in death by two sisters, Mary Lou Baumgarner and Sally Miller.

Per Ted's wishes, a public graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton, with military graveside rites conducted by the American Legion Post 111 in conjunction with the United States Air Force Honor Guard. Pastor Dan Eckelbarger will officiate.

Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel of Bluffton has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Legion Post 111 of Bluffton or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and can be mailed directly to Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel, 3220 East State Road 124, Bluffton, IN 46714.

Online condolences may be made at www.goodwincaleharnish.com.



Thomas Woodard, 89

Thomas "Tom" E. Woodard, 89, of Bluffton, passed away Saturday evening, April 6, 2024, at Bluffton Regional Medical Center.

Tom was born in Bluffton on May 31, 1934, to Paul R. and Noravieve (Bowen) Woodard; both parents preceded him in death.

A 1952 graduate of Bluffton High School, Tom went on to serve in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956. He worked at Franklin Electric in Bluffton as an inspector, retiring after 45 years of service. He was a member of the American Legion Post 111 and the Bluffton Elks Lodge #796. Tom enjoyed NASCAR, playing cards, and hanging out with friends on Saturdays. He also loved his cat, "Wolf".

Tom is survived by many close friends, including his extended family, the Pauley

and Hatfield families of Bluffton.

A public graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, Apr. 12, 2024, at Six Mile Cemetery in Bluffton. American Legion Post 111 chaplain Dr. Bryson E. Bell will officiate, with military rites being conducted by the American Legion Post 111 and the United States Army honor guard.

Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Legion Post 111.

Online condolences may be made at www.goodwincaleharnish.com.



Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Friday, 2:09 p.m., 200 block of Colombian Avenue. Report of an unwanted subject on property.

Friday, 4:26 p.m., South Oak Street and West Wiley Avenue. Caller reported her daughters tires were blown out by construction in the city.

Friday, 5:49 p.m., 500 block of Eastmoor Drive. Report of a stolen bike.

Friday, 6:16 p.m., Dollar General. Report of a man in a red hat and brown boots talking to someone near a car and dancing in the street.

Friday, 7:09 p.m., Top-pings. Report of a man in red

hat and brown boots making people uncomfortable, warned for trespassing.

Friday, 8:10 p.m., Walmart. Clifford Koch from Ohio arrested at Walmart for attempting to meet a 14-year-old for sex.

Friday, 9:24 p.m., Walmart. Seth Waxman from Michigan arrested at Walmart for attempting to meet a 14-year-old for sex.

Friday, 9:29 p.m., 1400 West South Street. Noise complaint reported.

Saturday, 9:38 a.m., Bargain Hut. Trespassing warning requested.

Saturday, 7:25 p.m., Americas Best Value Inn. Search warrant executed,

evidence seized.

Saturday, 11:20 p.m., Bluffton-Harrison Middle School. Caller complained about two kids riding motor bikes in parking lot at the school.

Sunday, 11:43 a.m., West Market and North Morgan streets. Report of an improperly parked car. Ticket issued for parking too close to fire hydrant for several days.

Sunday, 6:34 p.m., Wells County Public Library. Report of a man. No concerns found.

(Continued on Page 8)

VISITATION & SERVICES

Joyce A. Smith-Shady

Calling: 1 - 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 8.

Service: 3 p.m., Wednesday, May 8 at the funeral home.

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Women in Leadership breakfast to be May 15

Wells County Women in Leadership will host their next breakfast from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Wells County Commerce and Visitors Centre, 211 Water St. in Bluffton. The workshop will center on "The Power of Meaningful Relationships."

Cost is \$12, which can be paid at the door or online. Register by May 10 at business.wellscoc.com/events/.

'Desserts with the New Director' is Thursday

Bluffton High School will host an event to meet their new band director, Mr. Berlin, this Thursday. The public is invited to join for 'Desserts with the New Director' beginning at 7 p.m. in the cafetorium.

Corrections and clarifications

The total awarded in scholarships to Norwell High School seniors was misreported by the school. Students received over \$2.3 million, not over \$2.5 million.

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A break from election overload: Exploring Columbus

Heading into election week, I wanted to slow it down with a focus on what Indiana has to offer Hoosiers and tourists. Last year, I visited Madison and was taken by the quaint town. I also promised to do more things that Indiana has to offer. And that led me to Columbus, Indiana.

My sister-in-law Julie met me in between our two homes for a much-needed girls trip.

We started these trips after my brother, her husband, died in 2016. The first one was on the one-year anniversary of his passing and was meant to be a way to cope with that difficult time.

Washington, D.C., was the first of the sojourns and we've been going strong ever since. Sometimes the trips are small and more local, such as French Lick or Chicago. And sometimes they are farther away, like Toronto and Philadelphia.

Julie had no idea what I was roping her into with this one, but we found a cute Airbnb and had a blast.

I crowdsourced some restaurant recommendations and we ended up at Upland's Pump House on Friday night. The place was hopping, and I can't recommend the whipped feta enough. It was a great atmosphere in a historic refurbished building.

There are also some lovely photos to be had if you venture down by the water the restaurant overlooks. But please be smarter than me and wear proper footwear.

Architecture history

The next day we headed to a tour of Columbus. I had been hearing for years about how the city of around 50,000 had become a surprising hub of architecture. And I was fascinated to find out how that happened.

The American Institute of Architects ranked it 6th in the nation for architectural innovation and design — right behind Chicago, New York, Boston, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

In Greek mythology the winged Eos was the goddess of the dawn. This sculpture by Dessa Kirk was part of the 2006 Sculpture Invitational. The piece was so popular with the community that a fund drive raised the money to ensure she had a permanent home in Columbus. (Niki Kelly/Indiana Capital Chronicle)

The visitor's guide lists over 90 buildings and pieces of public art by internationally noted architects and artists. The two-hour tour introduced us to the likes of Eliel Saarinen, Eero Saarinen, Kevin Roche, I.M. Pei, Harry Weese, and Deborah Berke.

But mostly, I was fascinated by the public-private partnership created by the Cummins Foundation.

Cummins' former Chairman and CEO J. Irwin Miller wanted to help the community by providing an alternative to the standard, but uninspired, school buildings being built across the U.S. in the late 1950s and early 1960s. So in 1957, the Cummins Foundation made its first grant to support architecture fees, for the Lillian C. Schmitt Elementary School, designed by Weese.

The Architecture Program became a formal part of the Cummins Foundation in 1960 with a grant for Northside Middle School. It began with schools, but later grew to encompass all facilities in the county owned and operated by public tax dollars.

Everywhere you turn there is an interesting structure in Columbus. It's a feast for the eyes. Now, not all of them were my aesthetic. The churches — First Christian Church and North Christian Church — were striking architecturally but not as warm as you would hope.

The love of architecture has also morphed to the city embracing art around the city as well, my favorite being the sculpture "Eos." The Bartholomew County Memorial for Veterans was also remarkable.

Ice cream and pizza

My one complaint about Columbus — uneven sidewalks — took me out, so we missed our second tour of the famed Miller House while I iced a knee.

The original wood of Zaharakos ice cream parlor highlights this Columbus institution. (Niki Kelly/Indiana Capital Chronicle)

But we made it back out later for a little shopping and ice cream at Zaharakos. I have been there several times to cover political events, whether it be a meet and greet with Mike Pence or Ted Cruz and his daughters choosing their favorite flavors. But I hadn't learned about its history or enjoyed the amazing ice cream itself until now.

For dinner I followed another restaurant recommendation, and we had pizza and breadsticks from ZwanzigZ. So tasty.

Here's hoping you take the opportunity to learn more of what your own state has to offer with trips like this.

Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a non-profit newsroom. nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com



Niki Kelly

Hoosier Opinions



It's not about you, MTG

What a good week it should have been for Republicans.

Dozens of campuses from UCLA to Columbia University were being wracked by pro-Palestinian protestors who set up "Gaza Solidarity" encampments, spewed antisemitic hate speech, took over buildings and intimidated Jewish students.

The protestors demanded their schools condemn Israel's invasion of Gaza, come out in support of Palestinians or divest themselves of any Israeli investments.

The riots were so heavily covered by the national media and criticized by conservatives that some spineless "progressive" university presidents were finally shamed into calling in the cops to clear the campgrounds and restore order.

The campus riots of the last two weeks should have been a sweet political bonus for Republicans.

They should have been another issue to hang around the necks of Democrats, a party that will never criticize any part of their base no matter how criminally or idiotic they behave or hatefully they chant.

But instead of pounding President Biden, Sen. Chuck Schumer and New York Gov. Kathy Hochul in the media for their cowardly silence over the pro-Palestinian riots, what did the Republican Party do to get into the headlines?

Marjorie Taylor Greene announced she was going to go through with her attempt to oust Mike Johnson as Speaker of the House.

A narcissist who always wants the media spotlight on her, Rep. MTG is the leader of the GOP's right-wing fringe. She and her ilk think now is a great time to try to get rid of Johnson.

But it isn't the right time, and she's apparently too much of a narcissist to know better.

What all Republicans should be doing right now is ripping into the Blue State governors for their failure to immediately address and end the college riots.

They all should be blasting Biden for waiting until Thursday to wake up and tell the American people what he should have been saying a week ago — violent protest is wrong.

And by the way, does anyone think Biden would

have stayed quiet for so long if white supremacists had rioted on Columbia's campus and chanted "Death to blacks"?

Biden would have ordered in the National Guard in 30 seconds and Gov. Hochul would have been leading them — wearing a helmet and carrying a carbine.

Hochul, like Gov. Newsom of California, Gov. Whitmer of Michigan and Gov. What's-his-name of Illinois, has been MIA since the campus riots began spreading.

Don't they have any wise moral lessons to impart to college students about the responsible use of our greatest freedom, free speech?

Can't they tell students that although peacefully calling for the death of all Jews is protected by the First Amendment, it's not a good or moral or American thing to do?

And can't Blue State governors tell students that violent protest that hurts people and destroys property is never protected by law — no matter how holy or woke the cause?

Of course, we know from what happened during the BLM riots and the bloody and destructive riots in dozens of cities following George Floyd's death that some violent protestors get a stay-out-of-jail pass under Democrat justice.

We also know that the 1,000 college kids who've been arrested so far will be free in a couple hours, won't have to post bail and are likely to never be prosecuted.

There's only one way to stop this madness and return the country to sanity — vote these dangerous Democrats out of office in November.

It's got to be much more than just trading Trump for Biden.

If you elect Trump president, you've got to give him a Republican Senate and House, too, or he'll get nothing done for four years.

In other words, there's no hope for the future of the country or my grandchildren unless there's a massive Republican wave in the fall.

And one of the best ways to help ensure a Red Wave happens is for MTG to sit down, shut up and realize it's not about her, it's about America.

Reagan@caglecartoons.com • X: @reaganworld



Michael Reagan

Hungary's Orban loves China. Why do CPAC and Heritage love him?

What do the nationalist right and the Chinese Communist Party have in common? They both love Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

Last week, the Conservative Political Action Conference continued its shameful embrace of Orban, holding its third annual meeting of the European right in Budapest. Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts says he is "especially proud" of his group's relationship with Orban, whom he calls "a model for conservative governance."

Really? Put aside the fact that Orban is a Hungarian David Duke, and who openly declared that, in his country, "we do not want to become peoples of mixed race" — a comment that would have rightly ended the political career of an American politician. Put aside the snowballing child sex-abuse scandal that has roiled Orban's government. And put aside the fact that Orban has openly endorsed Russian tyrant Vladimir Putin — who has massacred countless innocent civilians in his unlawful invasion of Ukraine — flying to Moscow to proudly shake Putin's hand at a time when other Western leaders were shunning Putin as a pariah.

If that is not enough to make Orban radioactive to the American right (and shame on those for whom it is not), how about Orban's embrace of Chinese dictator Xi Jinping?

If there is one thing that supposedly unites all branches of American conservatism, it is the recognition that China poses an existential threat to the United States and the free world. Well, Orban has turned Hungary into the Chinese Communist Party's closest ally in Europe.

Just before joining CPAC's gathering in Budapest, Orban hosted China's minister of public security, Wang Xiaohong, the government official responsible for counterintel-



Marc Thiessen

ligence, political repression and the political security of the Chinese Communist Party, and who signed agreements to deepen the two countries' cooperation on public security issues.

The new pacts permit Chinese police to patrol within the country, allowing them to more easily hunt down Chinese dissidents in Europe. And Hungary recently announced that Xi will visit Budapest this month and presumably shower Orban's cash-strapped government with CCP largesse.

At a time when U.S. conservatives are pushing for economic decoupling from China, Orban has made Beijing his country's largest trading partner outside the European Union and one of its major investors. "We are proud that Hungary is now the No. 1 destination for Chinese business investment in Central Europe. We thank President Xi for this!" Orban enthused during a speech in Beijing in October.

Not only is Orban turning his nation into an outpost for Chinese intelligence, he made Hungary the first European country to sign a Belt and Road cooperation agreement with China — a Chinese Communist Party initiative to buy economic and political influence in countries around the world through massive infrastructure investments. Orban has taken \$7.6 billion from Beijing, more than any other country. China is financing a high-speed Budapest-to-Belgrade railway, the Belt and Road Initiative's most important project in Europe.

At a time when Republicans in Congress are rightly castigating American universities for accepting money from Communist China and allowing Beijing to establish Confucius Institutes on U.S. college campuses, Orban has invited Beijing to build a \$1.8 billion satellite cam-

pus for Shanghai's Fudan University — the first Chinese university in the European Union — with 80 percent of the funding reportedly coming from a Chinese source.

If Orban wants to embrace a brutal Communist dictator, that is his choice. But why would U.S. conservatives then embrace him? Even Trump, a staunch opponent of China and its expanding influence, has praised Orban and hosted him recently at Mar-a-Lago (though he wisely rejected Orban's advice, as well as that of Heritage, to oppose Ukraine aid). Meanwhile, those on the anti-Ukraine right — of which Heritage has become a leader — claim they are not pro-Putin, they just think the war in Ukraine is a distraction from the real threat posed by Communist China. Well, if that's the case, why are they backing Xi's closest friend and ally in Europe?

So-called national conservatives look past Orban's love for anti-U.S. tyrants because they see him as a champion of antiglobalist, anti-open-borders, pro-family policies. Well, so are Polish President Andrzej Duda and Italian Prime Minister Georgia Meloni. They both manage to fight for strong family policies and defend the importance of the nation-state without simultaneously standing by genocidal dictators.

Orban's blood-and-soil nationalism is inimical to U.S. conservatism, because what we are trying to conserve is not race or ethnicity but an idea: the idea of human freedom and the principles contained in our Declaration of Independence. Orban has embraced the enemies of those principles. By embracing Orban, the Heritage Foundation and CPAC are supporting the spread of Communist China's malevolent influence in the West and undermining the national security interests of the United States.

Sorry, but there is nothing conservative about that.

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Amish Cook Rewind: Getting ready for a baby in 2020

Editor's Note: This is an "Amish Cook Rewind" taking us to May 2020 when Gloria and her family were preparing for the arrival of a baby and she shares a special spring recipe. Gloria will return next week!
- Kevin Williams, Editor

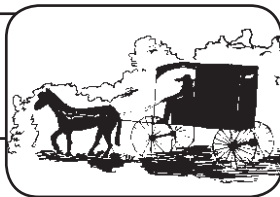
We're working on organizing closets, cleaning out neglected corners, and getting things in order before the baby comes. I'm enjoying every bit of it. You know organizing is a hobby of mine but there are, unfortunately there are no brag stories of keeping everything that way.

Why the other day when my brother Micah stepped inside the entrance door he graciously reached up and proceeded to remove a light shade. Taking it to the kitchen sink he washed out the diseased bugs that have been camping there since last fall. "Julia do you have a rag for me to dry this?" he asked

I laughed outright. "You are my type!" I told him, "I just love when people feel at home in our house." As a matter of fact 'Micah style' he told me he just saw that it could

The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



use a cleaning so he decided to do it. Not only did I have the satisfaction of a clean light shade, but also knew that he is relaxed when he steps into our home. By the way, if you happen to travel through our area you are all more than welcome to pop in! Just let us know ahead of time so you'll find us at home.

Back to getting ready for baby. The children all have their own way of showing their excitement. Little Elijah will ask many times throughout the day, "Do you have a baby?" As I once more give him the assurance he's asking for, his entire face lights up with pure delight.

Rayni is a little mother hen for sure. She is making all sorts of plans on how she will be a big sister and help care for the baby.

Julia is all excited to help me paint the changing table Daniel made for her before she was born. Last week as the two of us helped

each other clean it out she was awed as I told her the story of how Daddy had made it for her. Back then it was painted white. Julia would now like to make it a soft baby color of some kind so that's probably what we'll do. I'm not sure what we'll settle with as we don't know whether it will be a boy or girl. At any rate once we get a nice sunny day Daddy will carry it outside and we'll give it a fresh look.

We're all so eager to meet this new family member; the children aren't sure how they'll be able to wait another seven weeks. I feel the same way, but then I also feel the responsibility of things that really should be done before then. Not only that, I also do enjoy each stage with our little ones. Like a few minutes ago when I had gone outside where Daniel and the chil-

dren are in the yard looking after the purple martin nests; bending down Jesse picked a dandelion. "A Daniel-lion for you, 'cause you're happy- 'kay!'" he exclaimed handing it to me. How precious. He won't be 2 years old forever. Yes, I do want to enjoy each stage with both the good times and the challenging times.

We as a family also want to make a trip to visit Daniel's family in Danville, Ohio, before Baby comes. The children are all excited about it and constantly talk about it. Daniel's only and beloved sister Mary from Danville plans to come to help us for a few months after Baby is born. We are most thankful for her willingness to move in with us and look forward to having her a part of our family over that time. She's like a magnet to children; they just love her to pieces, and besides that, I have yet to find a more capable worker!

Perhaps I'll wind down with one of our family favorites during strawberry season. Ya, the children are watching the strawberries like little hawks. Today they declared

that they really are starting to look a wee bit tinted with orange.

Mmm... this can't be beat on a spring day, it's been a family favorite for years!

HOMEMADE STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

- ½ cup butter
 - 1½ cup white sugar
 - ½ teaspoon salt
 - 1 cup water
 - 2½ teaspoons baking powder
 - 2½ cup flour
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
 - 3 egg whites
 - Crumbs:
 - 1 cup white sugar
 - 1 cup flour
 - 6 tablespoons butter, softened
1. For batter, mix butter and sugar, add salt and water, mix well. Next add baking powder and flour, mix thoroughly. Now beat egg whites until stiff peaks form, fold into batter along with vanilla. Pour into a 9 by 13 inch cake pan.
 2. Next mix up crumb ingredients. Sprinkle over cake batter. Bake at 350 for 30-35 minutes. Serve warm with fresh chopped strawberries and milk.

Sorority donates to Summer Reading Program

Pam Tuttle, left, from Sigma Phi Gamma sorority presents a \$200 check to Cindy Burchell, Children's Services Manager, for the Summer Reading Program at the Wells County Public Library. The Summer Reading Program helps promote the importance of reading for all ages during June and July each year. Registration begins on May 28 at the library. (Photo submitted)



Events at Promenade Park

During the month of May the following events will be happening at Fort Wayne's Promenade Park.

Firefly Tour: Wednesday, May 15, 7 p.m., free, dancers from the Fort Wayne School of Ballet.

An information session about **Dragon Boat Racing** will be held on Thursday, May 23, 6-7 p.m. at the Park Foundation Pavilion. RSVP to Sarah.umbdenstock@city

offortwayne.org.

Sunday Sweat on the Riverfront: May 12 (2nd Sundays), kickboxing with 9round: 9-10 a.m. and Yoga: 10:30-11:30 a.m., free at Park Foundation Pavilion.

Sunday Heritage Concert: Sunday, May 12, 2 p.m., Kyla J (high vibrational: i.e. positive, uplifting spoken word, free, Park Foundatoin Pavilion.

Reduce your exposure to microplastics

Also: Get smart about AI

Question: I am freaked out about all the talk of microplastics everywhere. What's the bottom line and how can I reduce my exposure? — Casey T, Baltimore

Answer: We are discovering just how insidious plastics are -- in oceans, lakes and rivers, in soil, and in our bodies. So, let's review what we know so far and then explore what you can do to limit your exposure.

Around 380 million tons of plastic are produced annually, according to Plastic Oceans International. It is used to package food, drinks and medicines, and in making fabrics, toys, tools, housewares, hospital equipment and much more.

Once scientists started looking at what happens to plastic when it begins to break down into tiny micro — and super-tiny nanoparticles, they discovered it in human blood, lungs, guts, feces — even in the placenta and breast milk. Little wonder, since a National Institutes of Health study found that a liter of bottled water contains nearly 250,000 plastic bits, mostly nano-plastics.

Now, an observational study reveals "jagged-edged" bits of micro-and macro plastics were lodged in the lining of blood vessels of 58 percent of patients who came in to have a procedure to clear plaque from their carotid artery. And those folks had a 4.5 times higher risk of a heart attack, stroke or dying during the next three years than those without plastic in their arterial plaque.

Clearly it's important to avoid plastic packaging for foods you buy, to use glass to store food at home, and avoid plastic water bottles.

You can also remove up to 90 percent of micro-and nano-plastics from your drinking water with a simple two-step process of boiling and then filtering the cooled water, according to a study in NEJM. Boiling hard water produced the best results (plastics clump around certain minerals in the water), but boiling soft water helped remove 25 percent of plastics. Then all you need is a non-bleached coffee filter to pour the water through — and drink it!

Question: What I hear about artificial intelligence



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

is confusing. Is it the end of the world as we know it or the answer to all our health care worries? — Elise R., Lexington, Kentucky

Answer: Great question. There are lots of potential hazards with AI (artificial intelligence) that have to do with deceiving people, manipulating information, and the fact that its conclusions may be based on data that are not representative of the people they are being applied to. For example, a predicted health outcome of a medication or procedure may have been determined from information on a pool of white men but is then applied to young, non-white women.

However, it is undeniable that what the American

Medical Association is calling Augmented Intelligence — not artificial intelligence — can, in the hands of knowledgeable, trained scientists, speed the analysis of vast amounts of data and allow for the discovery of new ways to diagnose and treat a wide variety of conditions.

For example, at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital, physicians say that when AI is applied to neurosurgery, doctors can better create personalized treatment plans by analyzing patient data, improving surgical precision and improving post-operative care. Another study indicates that when used correctly, AI can protect patients from medical errors. And some lab tests indicated that AI can distinguish between cancerous and noncancerous changes seen on a CT scan better than humans can, helping avoid false positives and unnecessary treatments. Across the globe, pharmaceutical companies are using AI to speed drug discovery and identify new uses for already approved

medications.

However, AI is in its infancy and scientists are still analyzing what its risks and advantages may be. As a patient, you can always ask your doctor what role AI is playing in your care or scheduled surgery, how well-studied its particular application is, and if there are non-AI-powered options that might be better for you. And remember, a compassionate, knowledgeable physician is always the most important part of your health care plan.

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Thornton throws shutout, Neuenschwander's arm leads Knights past the Starfires

By RYAN WALKER

BERNE — Ryne Thornton looked as if he had been pitching at the varsity level for much longer than two starts.

The junior righty dealt a complete game shutout, allowing only two hits and three walks in a 4-0 win for Norwell (12-6) over South Adams (7-8) Monday night. The most he allowed per inning was five batters — a result of pounding the strike zone and taking advantage of the Starfires' .211 season batting average.

Thornton hasn't had the opportunity after two straight years of sub-3.00 ERA work on the junior varsity bump. This year on varsity, he has been frustrated by rainouts and postponements that has taken starts away from some of the inexperienced pitchers.

But, considering Norwell's recent doubleheader with Guerin Catholic and four-game schedule this week, when he was called up, he delivered.

"We asked him come in and throw strikes and that's what he did," Norwell head coach Christian Bohata said of Thornton, who threw 62 strikes out of 95 pitches. "He took advantage of his only second start of the season. I'm sure he would like more, but with the rainouts in the way that schedules turned out, he took advantage of this opportunity."

"His off-speed was working well," Bohata continued with Thornton striking out nine. "He was able to keep their hitters off balance. They had no idea what was coming."

Thornton's arm was aided by his catcher Korben Neuenschwander, a JV buddy for the last two years. Of the five baserunners, Neuenschwander sniped three of them on the bases. The first on a stolen base attempt, the second after a ball hit the dirt and he

fired it to second, and the third on a back pick to second base to end the game.

"It's just when (South Adams) starts getting something going or thinking they're getting something going and Korben just pops out of a stance, and I think tonight, he was finally able to show off that he's got a hose back behind the plate," Bohata said.

As good as the defense was, the offense was a bit dry.

Three Starfire errors piled up with mental mistakes in the outfield, resulting in a pair of triples by Collin Burnes and Noah Turk. Drew Graft led the game with a double in front of the warning track, and later scored on a throwing error stealing third base.

Outside of the mistakes, Norwell scored one run that wasn't via an error or outfield mistake. That came in the second inning off the bat of Graft, who drove home Neuenschwander.

Though in spots, the Knights can score runs, but the strength is pitching and defense.

Bohata wasn't entirely impressed with his hitter's approach Monday night, but also attributed the South Adams pitching for its location and offspeed stuff.

"Our approach all last week was great offensively," Bohata said. "I talked previously — we're working to strike approach, just putting the ball in play and making (South Adams) make plays. I thought today, maybe a couple guys weren't totally focused at the plate. Our approaches were a little off, but I like to call these trap games on Mondays before we know we have a big week ahead and conference with traveling to DeKalb tomorrow."

Norwell will return to conference play at DeKalb at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7.

ryan@news-banner.com



Norwell starting pitcher Ryne Thornton throws on the South Adams mound during his third of seven innings Monday night. His complete game shutout led the Knights to a 4-0 win in the cross-county showdown. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Knights' catcher Korben Neuenschwander pegs a Starfire runner after a ball hits the dirt. This was the second of three assists he had to halt South Adams' baserunners.

High School Calendar

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.



Habegger makes Lake Michigan Cup

Miken Habbeger qualified for the Lake Michigan Cup after his performance at the Northwest Indiana Junior Tournament Players Association. The bowling tournament took place in Dyer, Indiana, and was held at Star Dust Bowl III. He shot a perfect 300 game during the tournament and an 800 series to earn him sixth place. Above, Habegger holds his two rings earned at the event. The Lake Michigan Cup will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan in June to represent team Indiana against Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin. (Photo provided)

Sports Roundup

Tigers beat Panthers in baseball, now 8 wins in a row

Bluffton continued its winning ways on the baseball diamond Monday night, defeating Eastbrook at home 17-7 in five innings.

The win is now eight in a row for the Tigers, and 10 of their last 11. Bluffton is also 7-1 at home and has improved to an 11-5 overall record.

The Tigers put together 16 hits and took advantage of four Panther errors. Dane Schlagenhaut went 4-4 to lead the Tigers, hitting a double and driving in two. Lukas Gehrett ripped his second home run of the season and went 3-4 with four RBI. Braxton Betancourt, Eli Garrett and Axton Beste had two hits in the game.

Beste got the win on the mound, throwing three innings and allowing three runs on two hits and struck out four.

Bluffton will play for the ACAC championship at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, pending weather.

Knights improve to 3-1 in NE8 softball play over Barons

Norwell shut out DeKalb in home NE8 softball Monday night.

The Knights improved their conference record to 3-1 and overall record to 8-5.

Of the 14 hits, Kara Brown had four of them and drove in one. Brown's average is now up to .590 on the season. Jordan Markley went 3-4 with a solo home run. Leah Werling drove in two with a home run. Kaydance Clark and Nevada Lenwell added doubles and an RBI.

Sami Lemler picked up the win, throwing four innings, two hits and no runs, striking out seven and walked one. Brown threw a perfect inning and struck out two.

Norwell will be at Huntington North at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8.

Knights edge Lions in road NE8 girls tennis victory

Norwell edged out Leo 3-2 in Northeast 8 Conference girls' tennis on the road Monday night.

Norwell's record improves to 11-2 with the victory.

Individual results

- Leah Marquardt (L) defeated Addy Heyerly 6-4, 7-6(5) at No. 1 singles.

- Hannah Staedtler (L) defeated Delaney Hoover 6-0, 6-2 at No. 2 singles.

- Macie Saalfrank (N) defeated Farrah Norman 6-1, 6-0 at No. 3 singles.

- Annabelle Johnson and Macy Felger (N) defeated Sophie Amstutz and Madeline Lomont 6-4, 6-0 at No. 1 doubles.

- Jordyn Xayyachack and Ciera Hiester (N) defeated Grace Keener and Ashley Stopher 6-1, 6-1 at No. 2 doubles.

The junior varsity team also won by a score of 6-1.

Results for JV:

- Kendall Melchi (L) defeated Lucy Gersbers 8-3.

- Aubrey Meyer defeated Ava Fuller 8-1.

- Gabbi Hoepfner defeated Lauren Cogdell 8-3.

- Hope Mitchell and Emmaline Johnson defeated Isabella Scherschel 8-1.

- Sam Evans and Aubryn Keller defeated Marin Emch and Jillian Scherschel 8-4.

- Aubrey Meyer and Gabbi Hoepfner defeated Ellie Livingston and Sarah Harhigh 8-1.

- Hope Mitchell and Emmaline Johnson defeated Alana Doty and Grace Reith 6-0.

Norwell will be at home against DeKalb at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7.

Tigers top the Patriots in boys golf at Timber Ridge

Bluffton won the solo contest with Heritage in boys' golf Monday at Timber Ridge Golf Course.

The Tigers scored a 192 and the Patriots 202.

Leading Bluffton was Conner Klopfenstein with a score 45, followed by Declan Griser Kade Abbett (46), Anthony Hartman (55) and Max White (56).

Bluffton's junior varsity team also won by a score of 202-216. Leading the way on JV was Chris Castenada with a score of 52, followed by Kyler Potter and Will Ault (53), Hutch Craigh-

(Continued on Page 6)

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Raider girls win the middle school tri meet with Patriots, Starfires

The Southern Wells girls' track and field team kept its hot streak to Monday night. The girls defeated both South Adams and Heritage, while the boys finished in third to the same teams. The Raider girls scored a 62, followed by the Starfires (35) and Patriots (26). The Starfire boys scored a 60, Patriots (34) and Raiders (29).

Event winners:

- Boys**
- Adam Aulbach in the 100m with a time of 12.50.
 - The 4x100m relay team of Hunter Durham, Isaac Van-Deman, Trenton Heshner and Aulbach with a time of 53.0.
 - Durham in the high jump at 5-0.
- Girls**
- Grace Rogers in the 800m with a time of 2:53.59.
 - Aubree Neuenschwander in the 1600m with a time of 6:25.
 - Leighann Carpenter in the 200m hurdles with a time of 32.70, breaking the school record.
 - The 4x100m relay team of Kameron Hawkins, Kyan Johnson, Carpenter and Bailey Jenkins with a time of 57.30.
 - The 4x400m relay team of Laren Schneider, Reese Prible, Holly Pearson and Rogers with a time of 4:54.94.
 - The 4x800m relay team of Neuenschwander, Tenley



Southern Wells' hurdler Leighann Carpenter (right) races Ana Lehman in the 200m hurdles Monday night. (Photo provided)

Fiechter, Prible and Rogers with a time of 11:38, breaking the school record.

- Abbie Powell in the high jump at 4-2.

Sports Roundup

(Continued from Page 6)

head (58) and Landon Crist (60). Connor Collins (62) and Graham Linderwell (66) also participated.

Bluffton will host Northfield at 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 8.

Tigers fall to Braves in girls' tennis match

Bluffton fell to Belmont 4-1 on the road in girls' tennis Monday night. The loss puts the Tigers at 5-9 on the season.

Individual results:

- Leila Jin (BE) defeated Hazel Pfister 6-3, 6-4 at No. 1 singles.
- Eve Corkwell (BI) defeated Lillian Jim 6-2, 6-1 at No. 2 singles.
- Emma Fuelling (BE) defeated Gretchen Crist 6-2, 6-2 at No. 3 singles.
- Ella Ross and Lilyana Suarez (BE) defeated Emma Schwartz and Kinzie Fiechter 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 at No. 1 doubles.
- Alyssa Coffey and Lucie McIntire (BE) defeated Emily Drayer and Sophie Eisenhut 6-0, 6-3 at No. 2 doubles.

Belmont also won the junior varsity match 7-1.

Results for JV:

- Madison Murray and Olga Jardan (BL) defeated Veronica Franz and Larissa Reed 6-4.
- Averie Cooks defeated Alexis Grover 6-3.

Brunson scores 43, rallies Knicks over Pacers in Game 1 of Eastern Conference semis

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Jalen Brunson scored 43 points, becoming the fourth player in NBA history with four straight 40-point games in the postseason, and the New York Knicks beat the Indiana Pacers 121-117 on Monday night in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Brunson had 21 in the fourth quarter, rallying the Knicks after they trailed by nine early in the period, and joined Hall of Famers Jerry West, who had six consecutive 40-point games in the postseason, and Michael Jordan and Bernard King (both with four).

Donte DiVincenzo hit the tiebreaking 3-pointer with 39 seconds remaining and scored 25 for the Knicks, who opened the second round with the type of close finish that their first-round victory over Philadelphia was full of. Josh Hart added a playoff career-high 24 points and added 13 rebounds and eight assists.

The No. 2-seeded Knicks will host Game 2 on Wednesday.

Myles Turner scored 23 points for the sixth-seeded Pacers, who got strong play from their bench and were in good shape to follow their first-round ouster of Milwaukee by jumping to the lead against the Knicks.

But Brunson guided New York through another tight finish, after it outscored Philadelphia by one total point over six games in the first round.

Brunson soundly outplayed fellow All-Star point guard Tyrese Haliburton, the NBA's assists leader who finished with six points and eight assists after being listed as questionable with back spasms.

Pascal Siakam scored 19 for Indiana and T.J. McConnell added 18, leading a bench that finished with a whopping 46-3 advantage over its New York counterparts.

The bench isn't a big priority for the Knicks, who will ride Brunson, Hart and DiVincenzo as far as they can take them.

Hart played all 48 minutes, DiVincenzo 44 and Brunson 43.

It was all enough to get the Knicks

one perfect inning in relief.

Tigers and Jets play in middle school tennis

Bluffton competed at Adams Central in a middle school tennis Monday night. The rounds were of 20 minutes each.

Round winners:

Round 1: Eli Seago and Heath Gerber. Round 2: Parker Christal and Dane Fiechter, Carter Williams and Jordan Simpson-Barkley, Carter Lehman and Heath Gerber, Ithan Rinkenberger and Cooper Dunnuck and Bryce Martin and Derek Sickafus.

Round 3: Dane Fiechter, Cooper Dunnuck, Ethan Ribich and Bear Sprunger, Ethan Brown and Eli Seago and Namine VanHyfte and Charlotte Rhoderrick.

Round 4: Dane Fiechter and Ethan Ribich, Parker Christal and Bear Sprunger and Brooklyn Coratti and Violetta Tarasova.

Round 5: Ethan Ribich and Ava Trexler, Cooper Dunnuck and Derek Sickafus, Aiden Martin and Eric Rinkenberger and Brooklyn Coratti and Namine VanHyfte.

Round 6: Parker Christal and Dane Fiechter, Eli Seago and Ava Trexler Carter Lehman and Ithan Rinkenberger and Emily Maggard and Jordan Simpson-Barkley.

the early lead, their first in a series later than the first round since the 2000 East semifinals against Miami.

They lost Eastern Conference finals to the Pacers that year as part of their fierce playoff rivalry that began in the 1990s. The teams met three straight times from 1993-95 and again from 1998-2000 — when Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau and Indiana's Rick Carlisle were assistants with their current teams.

The renewal is off to a pretty eye-pleasing start.

McConnell's basket made it 94-85 with about 10 1/2 minutes remaining and signaled an early end to what was supposed to be a rest for Brunson. He returned to spark an 8-0 run that got the Knicks right back into it, and when Indiana went back ahead 109-104 with 4:27 to go, he scored seven points in a 9-0 burst that gave New York a 113-109 lead.

The Pacers went back ahead 115-113 before Brunson tied it and DiVincenzo hit from behind the arc for the lead, just as he did in a Game 2 rally to beat the 76ers.

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

- NBA**
- SECOND ROUND**
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
- Monday, May 6**
New York 121, Indiana 117, New York leads series 1-0
Minnesota at Denver, late
- 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.
- Friday, May 10**
New York at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Denver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
- Saturday, May 11**
Oklahoma City at Dallas, 3:30 p.m.
Boston at Cleveland, 8:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 12**
New York at Indiana, 3:30 p.m.
Denver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
- Monday, May 13**
Boston at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 14**
x-Indiana at New York, TBA
x-Minnesota at Denver, TBA

BASEBALL

- MLB**
- AMERICAN LEAGUE**
- 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

- SECOND ROUND**
(Best-of-7)
(x-if necessary)
- Monday, May 6**
Boston 5, Florida 1
- Tuesday, May 7**
Carolina at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 8**
Boston at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
- Thursday, May 9**
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, TBA
Colorado at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.
- Friday, May 10**
Florida at Boston, TBA
Edmonton at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
- Saturday, May 11**
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, TBA
Dallas at Colorado, TBA
- Sunday, May 12**
Florida at Boston, TBA
Vancouver at Edmonton, TBA
- Monday, May 13**
x-Carolina at N.Y. Rangers, TBA
Dallas at Colorado, TBA
- Tuesday, May 14**
x-Boston at Florida, TBA
Vancouver at Edmonton, TBA

- NATIONAL LEAGUE**
- 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
- Monday's Games**
Philadelphia 6, San Francisco 1
Pittsburgh 4, L.A. Angels 1
Kansas City 3, Milwaukee 2
N.Y. Mets 4, St. Louis 3
San Diego 6, Chicago Cubs 3 p.m.
Miami at L.A. Dodgers, late
- Tuesday's Games**
Arizona (Gallen 3-2) at Cincinnati (Montas 2-2), 6:40 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Sandoval 1-5) at Pittsburgh (Priester 0-2), 6:40 p.m.
Toronto (Berríos 4-2) at Philadelphia (Sánchez 1-3), 6:40 p.m.
Baltimore (Burnes 3-1) at Washington (Williams 3-0), 6:45 p.m.
Boston (Crawford 2-1) at Atlanta (López 2-1), 7:20 p.m.
Milwaukee (Rea 3-0) at Kansas City (Lugo 5-1), 7:40 p.m.
Seattle (Hancock 3-3) at Minnesota (Ober 3-1), 7:40 p.m.
- Wednesday's Games**
L.A. Angels at Pittsburgh, 12:35 p.m.
Toronto at Philadelphia, 1:05 p.m.
Detroit at Cleveland, 1:10 p.m.
Milwaukee at Kansas City, 2:10 p.m.
Texas at Oakland, 3:37 p.m., 1st game
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.
Texas at Oakland, 7:07 p.m., 2nd

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Police Notebook

(Continued from Page 3)

Sunday, 10:27 p.m., 700 block of South Marion Street. Caller reported loud music.

Monday, 11:51 a.m., Dollar General South. Report of a truck parked in lot for over an hour. Subject left.

County:
Friday, Ind. 3 and S.R. 218, Warren. Officer assisted driver with gas.

Friday, 3:27 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Gary Allgood.

Friday, 11:24 p.m., 5800 North Miller Street, Uniondale. Report of a loud music.

Saturday, 5:28 a.m., 9100 West 750 South, Warren. Report of loud knocking and light shining in window.

Saturday, 1:56 p.m., 1000 West and West 900 South, Marion. Caller reported large group of subjects attempted

to drive a vehicle with three tires. Vehicle was towed due to expired registration and being in the roadway.

Saturday, 6:58 p.m., 3200 South Hoosier Highway, Bluffton. Report of a driver in a white Chevy Traverse that shot a handgun out of the driver side window several times.

Saturday, 11:58 p.m., North Main Street and Charles Deam Court, Bluffton. Officer stopped vehicle according to FLOCK camera notice of a suspended driver. Driver was cited for driving while suspended.

Sunday, 12:00 a.m., 1800 East 200 South, Bluffton. Report of a bat in the house. Animal safely removed.

Sunday, 1:50 p.m., Walmart. Report of fighting.

Sunday, 11:02 p.m., 5900 North Main Street, Uniondale. Officer responded to a

domestic dispute.

Ossian:
Friday, 5:40 p.m., 800 block of North Jefferson Street, Ossian. Welfare check requested for neighbor who had not been seen for some time. Everything was fine.

Sunday, 7:43 p.m., Silo Farms. Officer responded to a domestic dispute involving couple breaking a no contact order.

ARRESTS
Deonte Marquis Young, 27, Fort Wayne; invasion of privacy, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$25,000.

Ollie HD Puckett, 23, Bluffton; robbery, a Level 3 felony, possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon, a Level 4 felony, battery committed with a deadly weapon, a Level 5 felony. Bond set at \$20,000.

Seth Waxman, 48,

Mason, Michigan; child solicitation, a Level 4 felony, deception — legend drug, a Level 6 felony, and possession of marijuana, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$11,500.

Clifford Dale Koch, 39, Bellville, Ohio; child solicitation, a Level 4 felony, and resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$6,500.

Angela Lee Rowles, 26, Bluffton; possession of a hypodermic needle or syringe and possession of methamphetamine, both Level 6 felonies, possession of marijuana, a Class A misdemeanor, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$13,000.

Sasha Renea Copeland, 29, Bluffton; possession of methamphetamine and possession of a hypodermic needle, both Level 6 felonies, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$10,500.

Jerron Mickle Jackson, 30, Bluffton; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, operating a vehicle while intoxicated and possession of paraphernalia, both Class A misdemeanors, and operating with a controlled substance in body, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$8,500.

Trenton Lee Puterbaugh, 28, Ossian; possession of methamphetamine, a Level

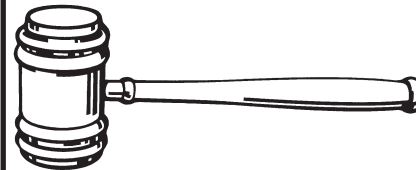
6 felony, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$6,500.

Gary Lewis Allgood, 57, Indianapolis; forgery, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

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

Kierami Shay Puckett, 19, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage, a Class C misdemeanor.

Jawna Maeann Tyree, 32, Bluffton; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor.



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 collectables. "An Auction of the Year." Extensive cast iron skillet collection, early candy scales, primitives, salesman samples, early rare gum dispenser, De Laval signs, beer signs, firearms, butter churns, large Westmorland glass collection, much more. Preview: May 9 and 16 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 1556 Shadow Run Trail, Bluffton. *Steffen Group*, www.steffengrp.com, 824-3006, Pat Carter, sale manager.

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

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.

Gene thought to only raise risk for Alzheimer's may cause some cases

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first time, researchers have identified a genetic form of late-in-life Alzheimer's disease — in people who inherit two copies of a worrisome gene.

Scientists have long known a gene called APOE4 is one of many things that can increase people's risk for Alzheimer's, including simply getting older. The vast majority of Alzheimer's cases occur after age 65. But research published Monday suggests that for people who carry not one but two copies of the gene, it's more than a risk factor, it's an underlying cause of the mind-robbing disease.

The findings mark a distinction with "profound implications," said Dr. Juan Fortea, who led the study the Sant Pau Research Institute in Barcelona, Spain.

Among them: Symptoms can begin seven to 10 years sooner than in other older adults who develop Alzheimer's.

An estimated 15% of Alzheimer's patients carry two copies of APOE4, meaning those cases "can be tracked back to a cause and the cause is in the genes," Fortea said. Until now, genetic forms of Alzheimer's were thought to be only types that strike at much younger ages and account for less than 1% of all cases.

Scientists say the research makes it critical to develop treatments that target the APOE4 gene. Some doctors won't offer the only drug that has been shown to modestly

slow the disease, Leqembi, to people with the gene pair because they're especially prone to a dangerous side effect, said Dr. Reisa Sperling, a study coauthor at Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Sperling hunts ways to prevent or at least delay Alzheimer's and "this data for me says wow, what an important group to be able to go after before they become symptomatic."

But the news doesn't mean people should race for a gene test. "It's important not to scare everyone who has a family history" of Alzheimer's because this gene duo isn't behind most cases, she told The Associated Press.

More than 6 million Americans, and millions more worldwide, have Alzheimer's. A handful of genes are known to cause rare "early-onset" forms, mutations passed through families that trigger symptoms unusually young, by age 50. Some cases also are linked to Down syndrome.

But Alzheimer's most commonly strikes after 65, especially in the late 70s to 80s, and the APOE gene — which also affects how the body handles fats — was long known to play some role. There are three main varieties. Most people carry the APOE3 variant that appears to neither increase nor decrease Alzheimer's risk. Some carry APOE2, which provides some protection against Alzheimer's.



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Congressional Ag chairs unveil bipartisan farm bill priorities

By AGDAILY

The nation's farm bill, which officially expired in 2023 and has been floundering in Congress for months, is finally seeing some tangible momentum — at least from the outside looking in. House Committee on Agriculture Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson of Pennsylvania has released a title-by-title overview of the bipartisan policies and priorities he hopes are included in the 2024 farm bill.

"This bill is a product of an extensive and transparent process, which included soliciting feedback from members of both political parties, stakeholder input from across the nation, and some tough conversations," he said in a statement. "Each title of this farm bill reflects a commitment to the American farmer and viable pathways to funding those commitments, and is equally responsive to the politics of the 118th Congress. The Committee on Agriculture will mark up this bill on May 23, and I hope for unanimous support in this endeavor to bring stability to producers, protect our nation's food security, and revitalize rural America."

This coincides with Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) also releasing framework documents.

The five-page document from Thompson that was sent to members of the ag media spans 12 Titles, from topics that impact production growers through regulatory overhauls, trade, and crop insurance to those that don't directly connect with food production itself, like

conservation, forestry, and SNAP. At the high level, they are:

Title I: Commodities. Aids farmers in managing risk and provides assistance following precipitous declines in commodity prices. Through the reauthorization and enhancement of commodity, marketing loan, sugar, dairy, and disaster programs, producers are provided some certainty in times of unpredictability.

Title II: Conservation. Provides farmers, ranchers, and growers with financial and technical assistance to address a variety of natural resource concerns such as soil health and erosion, water quality and quantity, and wildlife habitat. The 2024 farm bill continues to support our proven system of voluntary, incentive-based, and locally led conservation through various improvements.

Title III: Trade. Agriculture is the backbone to most of the world's economies, and robust promotion programs not only create market access, but protect our agricultural interests and act as a catalyst for innovation and economic growth. By expanding the reach and impact of the Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development program, the 2024 farm bill will mitigate global food insecurity while providing U.S. producers new markets, improving local economies, and lessening the damage of this Administration's ineffective trade agenda.

Title IV: Nutrition. Supports access to families formerly disallowed to receive benefits, refocuses work

programs to support upward mobility, invests in and modernizes food distribution programs to create parity with urban programming, promotes program integrity and State accountability, and advances policies related to healthy eating, healthy behaviors, and healthy outcomes.

Title V: Credit. Our nation's producers borrow more capital in a single harvest season than most Americans do in their entire lives. Interest rates have exploded under the Biden Administration, resulting in skyrocketing borrowing costs which fall especially hard on our nation's younger, less established producers. Programs within the credit title are instrumental in helping producers both start and maintain their operations.

Title VI: Rural Development. Programs offered by the USDA's Rural Development play a vital role in enhancing rural life and fostering economic growth. The 2024 farm bill continues the long history of bipartisan support for rural development initiatives and implements important improvements to ensure a robust rural economy.

Title VII: Research, Extension, and Related Matters. Keeps American agriculture at the forefront of innovation and productivity through cutting-edge research and supports the nation's land-grant and non-land-grant colleges of agriculture.

Title VIII: Forestry. Promotes active forest management through incentivizing public-private partnerships creating new market oppor-

tunities and revitalizing rural communities while reducing wildfire risk and improving forest health to ensure healthy and productive Federal, State, Tribal and private forests.

Title IX: Energy. Increases access to energy system and efficiency updates for farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses while encouraging growth and innovation for biofuels, bioproducts, and related feedstocks.

Title X: Horticulture, Marketing, and Regulatory Reform. Critical investments to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops and protect plant health. Delivers common-sense regulatory reforms necessary to relieve American farmers and ranchers from overregulation by the Biden Administration.

Title XI: Crop Insurance. Agricultural producers are greatly affected by numerous factors outside of their control, ranging from extreme weather to geopolitical instability. Crop insurance — a vital risk management tool — is available to help producers manage the unique risks of farming and is delivered through an effective public-private partnership in which the Federal government shares in the cost of the premiums, which would otherwise be unaffordable for most farmers.

Title XII: Miscellaneous. Brings together provisions related to livestock health and management, foreign animal disease preparedness, young and beginning farmers, and other key areas. Directs additional resources towards the three-legged stool to protect the

entire livestock and poultry industry in the U.S. from foreign animal diseases.

Congress narrowly passed a stopgap bill that has extended funding for the 2018 farm bill programs for one year. But we are already on the fifth month of 2024, and committees need to start considering new agriculture and nutrition legislation.

"Dairy farmers are heartened that today, both House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn 'GT' Thompson, R-PA, and Senate Agriculture Committee

Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, D-MI, each released documents providing an overview of their farm bill priorities and plans," said National Milk Producers Federation President and CEO Gregg Doud. "Dairy farmers and the cooperatives they own are better served by the certainty provided under a five-year farm bill, and as both chairs point the way toward important dairy priorities across multiple farm bill titles, all of dairy is eager to see this process get moving."

U.S. Department of Energy taps Purdue Extension to lead new state collaborative for renewable energy

By NANCY

ALEXANDER

Purdue University

A developer approaches a local plan commission, seeking approval to locate a wind or solar farm in the community. But the community may not have an ordinance that regulates a commercial solar or commercial wind development. Or, because the technology has changed so rapidly, the existing ordinance needs review and rewriting.

Perhaps a locality is further along, on its way to permitting a renewable energy development. But local officials are unsure how to negotiate an economic development agreement that best serves their community.

Purdue Extension — already an informational resource for issues like these — has received a three-year, \$1.9 million award to lead an Indiana Renewable Energy Planning and Technical Engagement Collaborative. The collaborative will be a hub to help Indiana communities with renewable energy planning, evaluation and decision-making.

Purdue Extension was one of six state-based projects that received funding through the Renewable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning program. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office and Wind Energy Technologies Office, R-STEP supports statewide initiatives that provide expertise, trainings and technical resources to help local governments and communities plan for and evaluate large-scale renewable energy and energy storage projects.

Many renewable energy projects are in rural areas because of the space that commercial solar and commercial wind development require. "A lot of communities are getting approached," says Tamara Ogle, community development regional educator with Purdue Extension. "For many, this is a new land use, and understanding the implications of that land use, as well as what it brings into the community, is really important."

"The way that Indiana works is that local communities can make the decision on their own whether or not they want to have planning

and zoning for renewable energy," explains Kara Salazar, assistant program leader for community development with Purdue Extension. "But they need to consider a lot of different factors to decide if and how they want to regulate renewable energy land uses, and it can be challenging for a community to have all of the expertise locally to guide them through these decisions."

By supporting data-driven, local decision-making, the collaborative will help communities understand the effects of renewable energy development on the local economy, land rights and use, local workforce, and the broader energy landscape.

Communities sometimes ask Purdue Extension how to bring a wide range of viewpoints into their decision-making process. This is especially important in rural communities that don't often see large-scale development, Salazar says. "It's a big decision to make. It's not as much about the technology itself; it's more about how the community is going to look and feel and grow into the future. So when residents and other interested parties who live there and work there are able to help make decisions, you can have the placement of these different types of projects in areas that make sense locally."

"Purdue Extension has been doing this kind of process and technical assistance work in communities for a

long time," Ogle adds. "Our goal is to support informed local decision making — helping them to weigh alternatives and consequences and have the information to make the best decision for their community."

One area in need of attention is Indiana's patchwork of inconsistent local ordinances. The grant will allow Purdue Extension to update the state's ordinance inventory to include the many changes that have occurred since it was compiled in 2021. "The ordinance inventory helps communities and plan commissions throughout the state look at and compare ordinances so that they can craft their own for renewable energy," Salazar explains.

Other help will be hands-on. Landowners and planners alike may benefit from new webinars, site tours of renewable energy projects, workshops, networking opportunities and presentations. Extension is also working with technical experts and planners on a renewable energy guidebook, fact sheets and web-based resources like case studies. A statewide summit in year three will offer insight into how the collaborative can continue to support communities.

In 2023 the Indiana Legislature approved voluntary guidelines for wind and solar standards that local communities can adopt, and established the Commercial Solar and Wind Energy

Ready Communities Development Center as a resource for wind and solar energy development. Through the R-STEP grant, Purdue Extension is working with the Indiana Office of Energy Development to assist communities interested in becoming certified as Commercial Solar Energy Ready, Wind Energy Ready or both.

"The Indiana Office of Energy Development is excited to partner with Purdue University on this program. R-STEP will support local communities in making informed decisions about Indiana's important energy resources, including wind and solar," says Ryan Hadley, executive director of the Indiana OED. Other partners in the collaborative include the Association of Indiana Counties, Ball State University Center for Business and Economic Research, Center for Energy Education, Center for Infrastructure & Economic Development, Clean Grid Alliance, EDP Renewables, Indiana Agriculture Coalition for Renewable Energy (IN-ACRE), Indiana Chapter of American Planning Association, Indiana University Public Policy Institute, Myerson Consulting, JMW Co., and The Nature Conservancy in Indiana.

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The impact of good-mannered children

Dear Annie: You recently said you rarely get letters praising mothers-in-law. Well, here is one!

I grew up in an abusive family with a mother who has severe borderline personality disorder and refuses to get medication or therapy.

I would love to see the narrative on mothers-in-law change! — Change the Narrative

Dear Change: I love your letter. Thank you for bringing up such a great point. Many mothers-in-law are wonderful and deserve to be praised.

Dear Annie: "Eighty-One Years Wise," who wrote in about feeling uncomfortable around poorly behaved children, was spot on, but I've also been known to pause by a table in a restaurant where a family of total strangers are enjoying a meal to compliment the children and parents on well-mannered children.

I tell the children how important it is to have nice manners, and I tell the parents what a joy it is to see a lovely family and that clearly they are good, caring parent(s).

Raising children is tough, now more than ever, so words of encour-

agement are so welcome. Plus it gives them reinforcement, proving to their children that people notice.

My husband died on active military service, so I was a single parent. I raised my boys to always treat people well, even annoying kids in school, as I told them, you might want a job from their dad or to marry their sister.

I also told them, and their friends, never to do anything they wouldn't want to see splashed on the front of a tabloid if they're ever famous. Because someone will sell their story.

Dear Well-Mannered: Thank you and your husband for his military service. I am very sorry for your loss. You have wonderful values and seem to have instilled them in your children.

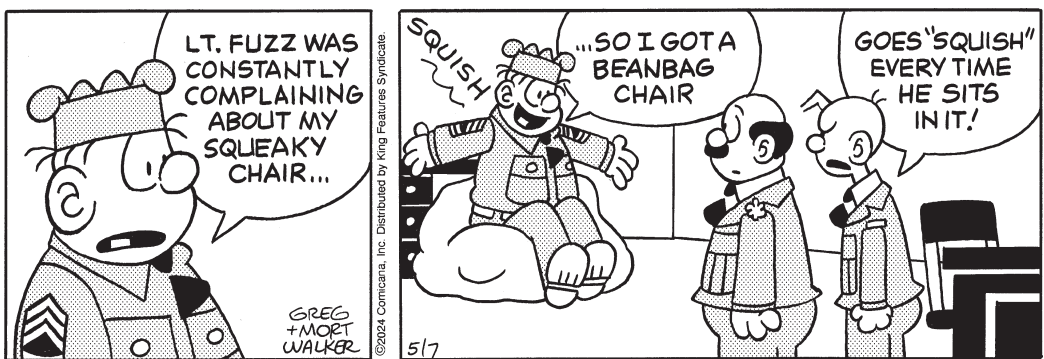
"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book.

Dear Annie



by Annie Lane

BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



God speaks to people through the Bible

Question: I am studying philosophy and specifically about the various gods that govern the world — and that we can actually be a god. The curriculum says that no one can absolutely say there is one God, or what gods are like. I don't believe this but I'm not sure how to back up my claim. — O.G.

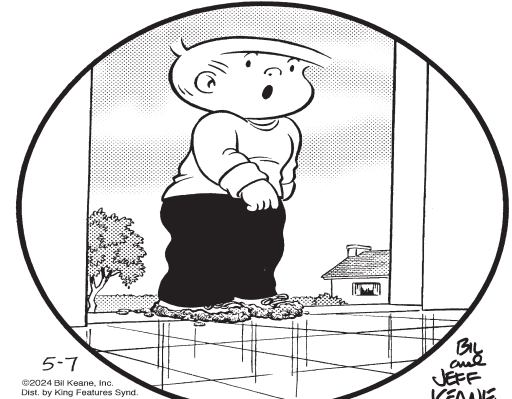
Answer: Man has rejected the revelation of the Bible concerning the true and living God and has substituted gods of his own making.

and psychologists also try to make it appear that there is some other way to God, but Jesus is the only way. The Bible gives us a full revelation of what God is like. If people do not believe that we have a revelation that is sufficient to give us an answer, they may well go from one place to another for mere speculation.

is not body-bound. He is eternal, with no beginning and no ending. The Bible teaches that there was never a time when God was not. The Scripture declares God to be light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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

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Daily Three-Midday — 07-01-03, SB: 04
Daily Three-Evening — 04-07-08, SB: 05
Daily Four-Midday — 04-00-02-05, SB: 04
Daily Four-Evening — 03-05-06-00, SB: 05
Quick Draw Evening — 01-05-07-08-14-20-21-22-33-35-47-48-53-55-64-65-67-70-71-77, BE: 14
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$11.7 million
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PROBATE DIVISION)
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF:)
RICHARD W. STULTZ,)
DECEASED.)

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that David W. Stultz, on the 3rd day of May, 2024, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Richard W. Stultz, deceased, who died on the 12th day of April, 2024. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 3rd day of May, 2024. Beth Davis, Clerk, Wells Circuit Court. Andrew P. Simmons (Atty No. 27349-49) ROTHBERG LOGAN WARSCO LLP 505 E. Washington Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46802 Phone: (260) 422-9454 Fax: (260) 422-1622 Attorneys for the Personal Representative nb 5/7, 5/14 hspaxlp

90C01-2404-EU-000014
STATE OF INDIANA)
COUNTY OF WELLS) SS:
IN THE WELLS)
CIRCUIT COURT)
IN THE MATTER OF THE)
UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF)
PATRICIA A. MADEJ,)
Deceased)

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

Notice is given that CHRISTOPHER M. MADEJ, on May 3, 2024 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of PATRICIA A. MADEJ, deceased, who died on March 1, 2024. The Personal Representative is authorized to administer the estate without Court supervision. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated May 3rd, 2024 BETH DAVIS, Clerk, Wells County Court. Natalie J. Boocher, Schwarz Law Office, PC 310 N. Chicago St., PO Box 637 Royal Center, Indiana 46978 574/643-9999 Supreme Court I.D. No. 33965-71 Attorney for the Estate nb 5/7, 5/14 hspaxlp

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Superior Court of Wells County, Indiana, in Cause No. 90D01-2312-MF-000035 wherein PHH Mortgage Corporation was Plaintiff, and Shanden Sliger; Alfred D. Albers, Jr. were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 12th day of June, 2024, at the hour of 1:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as is possible, at Courthouse 102 W. Market St., 1st Fl. Bluffton, IN 46714, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wells County, Indiana. The North half of Lot Number 117 as known and designated on the recorded plat of the Town, now City of Bluffton, in the Office of the Recorder of Wells County, Indiana. More commonly known as: 218 Liberty Street, Bluffton, IN 46714 State Parcel No.: 90-08-04-539-370.000-004 Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisalment laws. Plaintiff Attorney ATTORNEY NO. 15-23-01778 Codilis Law, LLC 8050 Cleveland Place Merrillville, IN 46410 (219) 736-5579 Scott Holliday, Sheriff of Wells County HARRISON TOWNSHIP 218 Liberty Street, Bluffton, IN 46714 Street Address The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein. NOTE This law firm is a debt collector. nb 4/30, 5/7, 5/14 hspaxlp

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Circuit Court of Wells County, Indiana, in Cause No. 90C01-2311-MF-000024 wherein NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing was Plaintiff, and Terry L. Griffith; Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 12th day of June, 2024, at the hour of 1:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as is possible, at Courthouse 102 W. Market St., 1st Fl. Bluffton, IN 46714, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wells County, Indiana. Lots Numbered 70 and 71 in the recorded Plat of Merchants Addition to the City of Bluffton, as recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Wells County, Indiana. More commonly known as: 1327 West Cherry Street, Bluffton, IN 46714 State Parcel No.: 90-08-05-505-103.000-004; 90-08-05-505-102.000-004 Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisalment laws. Plaintiff Attorney ATTORNEY NO. 15-23-01500 Codilis Law, LLC 8050 Cleveland Place Merrillville, IN 46410 (219) 736-5579 Scott Holliday, Sheriff of Wells County HARRISON TOWNSHIP 1327 West Cherry Street, Bluffton, IN 46714 Street Address The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein. NOTE This law firm is a debt collector. nb 4/30, 5/7, 5/14 hspaxlp

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



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

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