Page 6

Homemakers hold



Uniondale fire

Emergency personnel responded to a structure fire at 5757N 100W in Uniondale around 7 p.m. on Monday. While smoke damage was seen from the front of the home. the bulk of damage was centered in the back of the building. The fire was considered under control shortly before 8 p.m. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



County fills engineer position after extended vacancy

By HOLLY GASKILL

After a nearly seven-month vacancy, the Wells County Commissioners unanimously approved a contract for a full-time engineer

Commissioner Jeff Stringer said Nate hitacre of Huntington is expected to begin in the role on May 28. Whitacre studied engineering at Trine University and has worked with the Indiana Department of Transportation since 2008.

"He's got a great background," Stringer said. "He's going to jump in and hopefully take us to that next level.

Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar also announced plans to hold an open house for the new garage building on June 11. Government employees will be able to tour the site — located at 828 E 200 S in Bluffton from 7-11 a.m., Bluffton Rotary from 12-2 p.m., and the general public from 3-6 p.m.

Bonar had mentioned several items for completion on the garage at the commissioners' May 6 meeting and stressed again

on Monday that the building is continuing to have HVAC issues.

Meanwhile, Bonar reported that Bridge 170 on County Road 900S, between 750 East and 800 East, will open in approximately three weeks. He also said dust control will be applied to participating gravel roads on May 30-31.

The commissioners also met as the county drainage board before their regular meeting to hear updates from Surveyor Jarrod Hahn. By and large, Hahn reported that summer repair work was continuing as planned, albeit a bit delayed due to more rain in April.

Stringer and Commissioner Vanover also asked about damage to a tile after a possible derailment on Wabash Central Railroad on County Road 200 South. Hahn said he had not heard about that incident, and Vanover referred to an email received from an area resident on Friday. They agreed to follow up on the matter.

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War crimes prosecutor seeks arrest of Israeli, Hamas leaders

By JOSEF FEDERMAN **Associated Press**

JERUSALEM (AP) — The chief prosecutor of the world's top war crimes court sought arrest warrants Monday for leaders of Israel and Hamas, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, over actions taken during their seven-month war.

While Netanyahu and his defense minister, Yoav Gallant, do not face imminent arrest, the announcement by the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor was a symbolic blow that deepened Israel's isolation over the war in Gaza.

The court's prosecutor, Karim Khan, accused Netanyahu, Gallant, and three Hamas leaders — Yehya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif and Ismail Haniyeh - of war

crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip and Israel.

Netanyahu and other Israeli leaders condemned the move as disgraceful and antisemitic. U.S. President Joe Biden also lambasted the prosecutor and supported Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas.

A panel of three judges will decide whether to issue the arrest warrants and allow a case to proceed. The judges typically take two months to make such decisions.

Israel is not a member of the court, so even if the arrest warrants are issued, Netanyahu and Gallant do not face any immediate risk of prosecution. But the threat of arrest could make it difficult for the Israeli leaders to travel abroad.

(Continued on Page 2)

Opposition continues against solar energy

By HOLLY GASKILL

A tidal wave of protestors has continued to push back against solar energy in Wells County, including flooding the audience of Monday's County Commissioner meeting.

The agenda didn't include anything relative to Paddlefish Solar, a group with land leases in Wells and Huntington counties, was on the agenda, but Polly Wymer, Markle, expressed her skepticism of the county's communication about solar-related items during the meeting's time for public comment. She cited the county's May 6 meeting, where Paddlefish did not appear on the agenda, but representatives announced they were rescinding their zoning application.

Wymer also alleged that Claudia Mounsey, a property owner who has leased land to Paddlefish, is attempting to rezone her land separate from the project.

"Do you have an application (showing) that she's actually done this?" asked Commissioner Blake Gerber.

Wymer responded, "We do have that information, and I'll let you know, so this is the process we had at the last —'

"I've never heard of this," Gerber interjected. Commissioners Jeff Stringer and Mike Vanover signaled agreement. Area Plan Commission Executive Director Mike Lautzenheiser, who was in the audience, shook his head to signal the claim was inac-

"Well, OK, good, that's why I'm here," Wymer said.

'You're bringing things up that I've had no knowledge (of), and I think you're trying to have a 'get you' moment," Gerber

"No, no, no, no, I want to apologize to you because I don't want to leave you guys in the same position that we've been in and not being aware of what's going on," (Continued on Page 2)

Four arrested on counterfeit money and drug charges

By SYDNEY KENT

Four people were arrested for allegedly producing counterfeit money and dealing or possessing methamphetamine in Ossian on

Zachary Andrew Osborn, 32, Ossian, was charged with dealing methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony, possession of paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor, and possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Osborn's bond is set at \$32,000.

Jodi Ann Sluder, 47, Ossian, was charged with counterfeiting and application fraud and possession of methamphetamine, both Level 6 felonies, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor. Sluder's bond is set at \$11,500.

Jeremy Scot Jackson, 43, Fort Wayne, as charged with counterfeiting and application fraud and possession of methamphetamine, both Level 6 felonies, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Jackson's bond is set at \$10,500.

Jerron Mikel Jackson, 30, Bluffton, was arrested on a warrant for possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony.

According to police reports, a caller reported that an individual named Jerron Jackson had a warrant for his arrest. The caller advised Jackson was located at a residence near 11000 North S.R. 1. Officers spoke to the owner of the resi-

dence, Osborn, who confirmed that Jackson was inside. Osborn allegedly gave permission for officers to search for Jackson inside of the residence. Once inside, Osborn reportedly attempted to conceal a glass bubble pipe with white

phernalia to the officer. Jerron Jackson was located on the toilet seat in the bathroom. A protective sweep of the residence was onducted due to the presence of paraphernalia. Jeremy Jackson, Sluder, Osborn, and

residue. He was instructed to hand the para-

one additional subject were all detained. A search of the property revealed seven (Continued on Page 2)



BHS senior walk

Bluffton High School seniors started this week the same way they will end it - in their graduation caps and gowns. The seniors took a turn around the middle school and elementary school on Monday morning, greeted by cheers and congratulations from younger students and teachers. Seniors will have several more events to close their high school career this week, culminating with commencement at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

Local/Area Local news.....3 Police Notebook . . . 3

Opinion Justin Peeper 4

Also...

Sports. 6-7 Classifieds 9 Diversions 8



Mostly sunny and hot, chance of rain tonight

Wed. Thursday Today High 83 | High 77 High 89 Low 70 | Low 61 | Low 58

More Weather on Page 2

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Solar energy opposition

Wymer continued. "I'm just letting you know that these are going to be issues that come up.

"I think what Commissioner Gerber was trying to say is that I think we need to be very careful saying someone is doing something we don't have any sort of official application actually before us," Vanover concluded.

Vanover went on to explain that Paddlefish had not been on the previous agenda because representatives had shown up just as Wymer had with public comments. He stressed that if the board were voting on anything, it would be included on the meeting's agenda.

Vanover did note that if there were a future zoning conversation, it would

Plan Commission. Wymer asked matters concerning Paddlefish would be clearly advertised on APC agendas, which the board confirmed.

Wymer was ultimately unsatisfied with this, however, saying the county needed to do more to notify residents of important matters.

"(The Paddlefish project) isn't moving forward right now, but we just want to make sure that this is on tape, on video, and that you guys have this information, just in case anything comes up that we might need to be concerned about or notified about before it happens, and we don't realize it," Wymer

"So, it's in the paper, we do put the signs up, we put it on the agenda — where else do we need to notify?"

be a matter for the Area Stringer asked. "Because even when I put it on Facebook, (there's) still the allegation of there's not enough information out there. Right? Show me the key of where's the one spot everybody looks."

Wymer said the Huntington County Commissioners had briefly discussed a text alert system for important community information, and Stringer expressed some interest. However, he noted that texting may still not work for everyone, nor would everyone enjoy or pay attention to those kinds

Wymer also presented a slew of criticisms for solar panels, including the visual impact on the countryside and potential effects on property values. She also referenced stories of solar

farm fires and said that panel training exacerbates the workload of local fire departments.

While Wymer was the only individual to speak on the matter Monday, her comments concluded with applause from others present to show their opposition to solar energy.

Paddlefish had applied for an "overlay district" to allow for electrical production on 49 parcels of agriculturally zoned land. The company pulled their application following immense public opposition, including opposition from multiple public officials. The commissioners said Monday that Paddlefish will have to wait approximately one year before reapplying for the zoning change.

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Weather

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 (24-hour observations at 9:01 p.m. Monday) High: 88; Low: 65; Precipitation: None Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.14

feet at 9:45 p.m. Monday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 89. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Wednesday: A slight chance of showers and thunder-

storms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 83. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. Wednesday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely

before 11 p.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thun-

Thursday: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 77.

Thursday Night: A slight chance of showers before 8 p.m., then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Friday: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 a.m., then a slight chance of showers between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Friday Night: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.

Saturday: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 a.m., then a slight chance of showers between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Saturday Night: A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.

Sunday: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 82.

Sunday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.

Memorial Day: Showers and thunderstorms likely.

Mostly cloudy, with a high near 78.

Counterfeit money

(Continued from Page 1)

glass vials, each containing a white crystal substance, a digital scale, and additional paraphernalia — all located in Osborn's bedroom.

In the living room and kitchen of the residence, officers located a scanner and printer combo with one sheet of computer paper with copied \$10 and

In a bedroom in the middle of the home, officers located counterfeit money, additional smoking devices, and a clear plastic bag containing a white crystal substance.

During booking at the jail, staff also located a counterfeit \$5 bill on Sluder's person. Sluder claimed she believed that the money was authentic. The additional subject detained in the

search of the residence did not receive any charges.

Sluder, Jerron Jackson and Jeremy Jackson's cases will be tried in the Wells Superior Court. Osborn's case will be tried in the Wells Circuit Court. No date is available for Osborn's case as of the time of publication.

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War crimes prosecutor

(Continued from Page 1)

Netanyahu called the prosecutor's accusations against him a "disgrace," and an attack on the Israeli military and all of Israel. He vowed to press ahead with Israel's war against Hamas.

Biden said the effort to arrest Netanyahu and Gallant over the war in Gaza was "outrageous," adding "whatever this prosecutor might imply, there is no equivalence — none between Israel and Hamas."

Hamas also denounced the ICC prosecutor's actions, saying the request to arrest its leaders "equates the victim with the execu-

Netanyahu has come under heavy pressure at home to end the war. Thousands of Israelis have joined weekly demonstrations calling on the government to reach a deal to bring home Israeli hostages in Hamas captivity, fearing that time is running out.

other members of his war Cabinet, Gallant and Benny Gantz, have threatened to resign if Netanyahu does not spell out a clear postwar vision for Gaza.

But on Monday, Netanyahu received wall-to-wall support as politicians across the spectrum condemned the ICC prosecutor's move. They included Israel's president, Isaac Herzog, and his two main political rivals, Gantz and opposition leader Yair Lapid.

It is unclear what effect Khan's move will have on Netanyahu's public standing. The possibility of an arrest warrant against Netanyahu could give him a boost as Israelis rally behind the flag. But his opponents could also blame him for bringing a diplomatic catastrophe on the country.

Yuval Shany, an expert Hebrew University and the Israel Democracy Institute, a Jerusalem think tank, said

Netanyahu's already troubled international standing could be further weakened.

"This is going to make Netanyahu an outcast, and his ability to move around the world will be seriously compromised," said Shany. Even if the ICC does not issue the arrest warrant, other countries may now be more reluctant to provide support and assistance, he said.

Hamas is already considered an international terrorist group by the West. Both Sinwar and Deif are believed to be hiding in Gaza. But Haniyeh, the supreme leader of the Islamic militant group, is based in Qatar and frequently travels across the region. Qatar, like Israel, is not a member of the ICC.

The latest war between Israel and Hamas began on Oct. 7, when militants from Gaza crossed into Israel and on international law at killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 250 others hostage.

In recent days, the two it was far more certain that waged a brutal campaign to of failing to distribute aid.

dismantle Hamas in Gaza. More than 35,000 Palestinians have been killed in the fighting, at least half of them women and children, according to the latest estimates by Gaza health officials.

The war has triggered a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, displacing roughly 80% of the population and leaving hundreds of thousands of people on the brink of starvation, according to U.N.

Speaking of the Israeli actions, Khan said "the effects of the use of starvation as a method of warfare, together with other attacks and collective punishment against the civilian population of Gaza are acute, visible and widely known."

The United Nations and other aid agencies have repeatedly accused Israel of hindering aid deliveries throughout the war. Israel denies this, saying there are no restrictions on aid entering Since then, Israel has Gaza and accusing the U.N.

Iran's president and foreign minister die in helicopter crash at moment of high tensions in Mideast

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the country's foreign minister were found dead Monday hours after their helicopter crashed in fog, leaving the Islamic Republic without two key leaders as extraordinary ten-

sions grip the wider Middle East. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say in the Shiite theocracy, quickly named a little-known vice president as caretaker and insisted the government was in control, but the deaths marked yet another blow to a country beset by pressures at home and abroad.

Iran has offered no cause for the crash nor suggested sabotage brought down the helicopter, which fell in mountainous terrain in a sudden, intense fog.

In Tehran, Iran's capital, businesses were open and children attended school Monday. However, there was a noticeable presence of both uniformed

and plainclothes security forces. Later in the day, hundreds of mourners crowded into downtown Vali-e-Asr square holding posters of Raisi and waving Palestinian flags.

black chadors gathered together holding photos of the dead leader.

We were shocked that we lost such a character, a character that made Iran proud, and humiliated the enemies,'

said Mohammad Beheshti, 36. The crash comes as the Israel-Hamas war roils the region. Iranbacked Hamas led the attack that started the conflict, and Hezbollah, also supported by Tehran, has fired rockets at Israel. Last month, Iran launched its own unprecedented drone-and-missile attack on Israel.

A hard-liner who formerly led the country's judiciary, Raisi, 63, was viewed as a protege of Khamenei. During his tenure, relations continued to deteriorate with the West as Iran enriched uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels and supplied bomb-carrying drones to Russia for its war in Ukraine.

His government has also faced years of mass protests over the ailing economy and women's rights.

The crash killed all eight people aboard a Bell 212 helicopter that Iran purchased in the early 2000s, according to the state-run IRNA news agency. the governor of Iran's East Azerbaijan province, a senior cleric from Tabriz, a Revolutionary Guard official and three

crew members, IRNA said. Iran has flown Bell helicopters extensively since the shah's era. But aircraft in Iran face a shortage of parts because of Western sanctions, and often fly without safety checks. Against that backdrop, former Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif sought to blame the United States for the crash.

"One of the main culprits of vesterday's tragedy is the United States, which ... embargoed the sale of aircraft and aviation parts to Iran and does not allow the people of Iran to enjoy good aviation facilities," Zarif told The Associated Press.

Ali Vaez, Iran project director with the International Crisis Group, said that while U.S. sanctions have deprived Iran of the ability to renew and repair its fleet for decades, "one can't overlook human error and the weather's role in this particular accident."

Richard Aboulafia, an aerospace analyst and consultant, said Iran likely is tapping the black market for parts, but questioned whether Iran has the





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Cemetery dedication

A special dedication service was held at the renovated Old Ossian Cemetery on Saturday. The ceremony included Baird Hatfield on the bagpipes (shown right), raising of the flag performed by the American Legion Post III (top) and an address from State Representative Matt Lehman (above). Lehman wore a Civil War uniform for his address, highlighting Civil War veterans. (Photos provided)





Top candy sellers

Pictured are top sellers for New Life Christian School's World's Finest Chocolate candy sale with their teachers: Preschool teacher Shara Kuhns, 1st place seller Renly Braatz, Director Linda Glenn, toddler teacher Faith Blair, and Grayson Lehman and Alex Irelan, who tied for second in sales, and Pre-K/kindergarden teacher Carole Neuenschwander. (Photo submitted)

IHA names interim president Blake Dye

By WHITNEY DOWARD **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

Former senior vice president of IU Health Blake Dye will serve as the interim president for the Indiana Hospital Association starting Monday, the organization's

board of directors announced in a release.

"Blake is a visionary leader whose passion for health care aligns seamlessly with IHA's mission," said Steve Holman, chair of the IHA Board of Directors and president and CEO of Union Health. "As we begin the search for our next leader, I have every confidence that Blake will guide the association with a steady hand and amplify our efforts to advance Indiana's health care system."

Dye spent 31 years with Henry Commu-

nity Health — including a decade as president and CEO — and was also president of St. Vincent Heart Center. He retired from IU Health in 2022.

"It is a privilege to be given this opportunity to lead the incredible team at IHA," said Dye in a release.

Dye holds two degrees from Indiana University: a bachelor's in public health administration and a master's in health administration. Additionally, he is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, a former member of the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board and previously served on the executive committee of the Suburban Health Organization Board of Directors, according to the release.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County:

Friday, 2:06 p.m., S.R. 218 and 500 West, Poneto. Report of a black cow on the side of the road. Subjects reported animal welfare concerns. Officer spoke with owners and noted that food and water was provided, advised to fix enclosure as this is the second incident in four days.

Friday, 4:12 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Joseph Brindle.

Friday, 4:28 p.m., 5500 West S.R. 218, Poneto. Caller reported someone opened barn doors and let animals

Friday, 5:22 p.m., 950 South and 700 East, Keystone. Deceased deer removed from roadway.

Friday, 6:37 p.m., 2400 West 100 South, Liberty Center. Report of fraud.

Saturday, 3:33 p.m., North 800 East and U.S. 224, Craigville. Caller reported someone dumped trash in the area and gave license plate number. Trash bags contained six bags of dead chickens.

Saturday, 4:52 p.m., North 75 East and U.S. 224, Uniondale. Deer removed from roadway.

Sunday, 4:01 a.m., North Main Street and 300 North, Bluffton. Officer conducted traffic stop on driver that was swerving and driving left of center. Driver admitted to just leaving the bar, breath test was .116% BAC. Samuel Walker arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Sunday, 4:07 a.m., South Adams and West Lancaster streets, Bluffton. Officer checked on man walking on side of road before being picked up. Subject advised he was picked up by a woman he knew, and he was walking because he did not like the woman "liking other guys" social media posts.

Sunday, 4:27 p.m., 5600 West 100 North, Markle. Warrant served on Adam Carew.

Sunday, 11:28 p.m., 2400 North West Street, Craigville. Caller reported that their landlord was calling them racial slurs, making threats and driving over the property. Officer parked and exited his vehicle, intoxicated driver then drove into officers vehicle. Driver Daniel Hunt blew a .206% BAC. Hunt was arrested for battery against officer, intimidation and operating while intoxicated.

Ossian:

Friday, 12:12 p.m., Silo Farms. Search warrant con-

Friday, 8:29 p.m., 5700 North 450 East, Ossian. Report of subjects dumping furniture on property.

Saturday, 4:43 a.m., 800 East 1100 North, Ossian. Caller reported juveniles driving in neighbors field.

Sunday, 12:56 a.m., Silo Farms. Officers assisted with a domestic altercation.

Sunday, 6:36 p.m., Ossian Deli. Officer conducted traffic stop on vehicle that showed registered driver had a suspended license. Driver's license was suspended due insurance. Driver was asked to call someone to retrieve her vehicle and pick up her child before she was arrested for driving while suspended.

6500 North 100 East, Ossian. Caller reported they were bit by a dog.

ACCIDENTS County:

Friday, 3:40 p.m., 400 South and 200 West. Chancellor Baldauf, 19, Bluffton, advised he was observed a vehicle approach the stop sign and fail to come to a complete stop. Baldauf's Chevrolet Trailblazer collided with a Ford Transit driven by Jacob Cotchin, 37. Fort Wayne. Colchin advised he did not see the oncoming vehicle. Damages did not

exceed \$25,000. Saturday, 11:57 a.m., S.R. and 1100 North. David Hummer, 57, Bluffton, advised he was going to turn left when he changed his mind and decided to make a right turn onto County Road 1100 North. Hummer's Honda Pilot collided with a Dodge Caravan in the right run off-lane, driven by Karissa Allen, 33, Ossian. Bond set \$5,000.

ARRESTS

Joseph Donald Edward Brindle, 27, Uniondale; possession of child pornography, sex offender registration violation, and invasion of privacy, all Level 6 felonies. Bond set at \$35,000.

Jeffrey Allen Goodwin, 46, New Castle; child solicitation, a Level 4 felony, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Level 6 felony, and operating with a controlled substance in body, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$15,500.

Zachary Andrew Osborn, 32, Ossian; dealing methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony, possession of paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor, and possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$32,000.

Jodi Ann Sluder, 47, Ossian; counterfeiting and application fraud and possession of methamphetamine, both Level 6 felonies, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$11,500.

Jeremy Scot Jackson, 43, Fort Wayne; counterfeiting a Class A misdemeanor.

Monday, 10:02 a.m., and application fraud and possession of methamphetamine, both Level 6 felonies, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$10,500.

Erick Jose Ruiz, 27, Fort Wayne; operating while intoxicated - endangerment, a Level 6 felony, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class A misde-

meanor. Bond set at \$5,000. Zachary Jacob Brantley Lyon, 31, Greenwood; probation violation, a Level 6 felony.

Tristan Mikkal Pharr, 31, Bluffton; theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at

Tabitha Renee Batchelor, 28, Decatur; resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor, and refusal to identify self while stopped for infraction/ordinance, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,000.

Samuel Christopher Walker, 22, Ossian; operating a vehicle while intoxicated — endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Kendrick Traveon Maydwell, 19, Fort Wayne; operating without ever obtaining license, a Class C misdemeanor.

Demontre Dejuan Fuqua, 26, Fort Wayne; deception identity, a Level 6 felony, and operating a vehicle without ever obtaining license, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$5,500.

Adam Lee Carew, 37, Markle; child molesting, a Level 4 felony. Bond set at

Kaitlynn Janette Benedict, 24, Fort Wayne; driving while suspended — prior suspension, a Class A misdemeanor.

Daniel Wayne Hunt, 68, Markle; battery against a public safety official and intimidation, both Level 6 felonies, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$11,500.

Douglas William Parks-Schauer, 29, Bluffton; theft,







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A quick response stopped a California criminal

The meeting that I was leading two weeks ago had only started about 10 minutes earlier when I heard my phone vibrate on the table.

Normally I would let the call go to voicemail but the caller ID caused me to react differently two Fridays ago when it came up as "Fraud Division."

Nine times out of 10 — or more likely 9.9 times out of 10 — such a call would not even get my attention, as I receive so many spam calls and junk text messages each week. This

time, however, I knew the number wasn't spam or a robocall, as the caller ID came up with a number that I had manually entered into my contact list some time

Jen and I travel a lot. One of the phone numbers that I keep in my contact list is my bank's fraud division. It's the number I would call if I ever had a problem either domestically or overseas when traveling — and it's the number that would call me if there were ever a problem with my account.

Prior to May 10, I had never needed to call the number and no one from the bank's fraud department had ever needed to call me. That's the type of relationship I would have liked to have maintained with the bank's fraud department.

Someone in California, however, bursted my bubble. And thanks to my bank's quick response time, I was able to shatter Mr. or Ms. California's hopes of an easy payday on a Friday afternoon.

I apologized to the teachers I was meeting with as I stepped out of the room to answer the call that was about to go to voicemail if I didn't pick up soon.

A friendly voice on the other end shared the news that I feared as soon as I saw the caller ID on my iPhone's screen: "Mr. Peeper, your account has been compromised."

Someone had stolen our checking account number and our bank's routing number. Next, they had checks made with our names and our banking information.

On May 10, that person decided to try to write or to cash some of those checks in California with the bogus checks tied to our bank account. Thankfully, the security measures that the bank has in place prevented the person from being able to do anything. Technology is an

Shortly after the incident happened in the Golden State, I received the call from my bank saying that we needed to change our account number to be safe. An hour later, my wife and I were sitting across from one of the bank's employees making the changes. The whole process was so easy that I had to ask if what happened to us was a frequent occurrence.

Unfortunately, the answer was yes.

About 20 minutes after we arrived, we stood up to leave the bank with new debit cards and new account information. The process was easy and efficient something that I appreciate but that also frustrates me at the same time because of how many people out there prey on others as they attempt to steal.

The most frustrating part, however, is the time it has taken me to update all of the accounts we have that are tied to our checking account.

Like most of you, we pay so many of our bills online each month instead of writing checks. Having to update all of those accounts with our new information has taken a considerable amount of time that I would be preferred to have spent on almost any other task.

It's frustrating to have to spend so much time making those changes because of a criminal's failed attempt to steal from us.

While we hope something like this doesn't happen to us again, we're almost certain that it will since we have also had something similar happen with a credit card.

We're grateful for our bank's quick response and their ability to stop the criminal before he or she could access our accounts. Today's technology certainly is amazing when you think about how quickly it stopped a criminal and then created a new account for us — all within a matter of a few hours.

That is something to celebrate.

jdpeeper2@hotmail.com

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, May 21, the 142nd day of 2024. There are 224 days left in Today's Highlight in

History: On May 21, 1881, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross.

On this date:

In 1542, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto died while searching for gold along the Mississippi River.

In 1924, in a case that drew much notoriety, 14-year-old Bobby Franks was murdered in a "thrill killing" carried out by University of Chicago students Nathan Leopold Jr. and Richard Loeb (Bobby's cousin).

In 1927, Charles A.

Lindbergh landed his Spirit of St. Louis monoplane near Paris, completing the first solo airplane flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 33 1/2

In 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean as she landed in Northern Ireland, about 15 hours after leaving Newfoundland.

In 1941, a German U-boat sank the American merchant steamship SS Robin Moor in the South Atlantic after the ship's passengers and crew were allowed to board lifeboats.

In 1955, Chuck Berry recorded his first single, "Maybellene," for Chess Records in Chicago.

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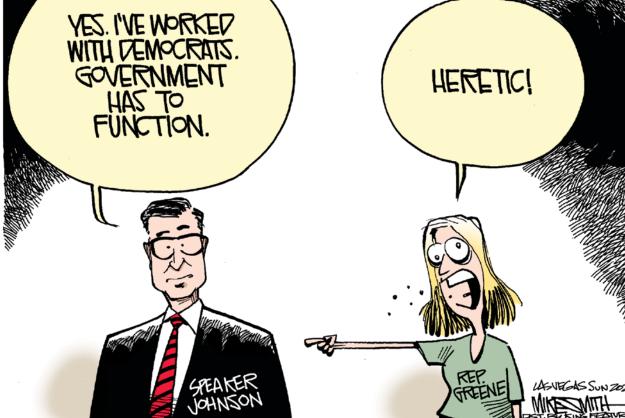
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> Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor









Mike Johnson, the accidental speaker, is among the most consequential

In a matter of six months, Mike Johnson has gone from accidental House speaker to one of the most

consequential House speakers in a generation.

That's not hyperbole. Despite presiding over one of the smallest and most restive House majorities in history, he has managed to navigate the warring factions of his party to pass a raft of critical legislation, including a government funding bill that averted a catastrophic shutdown; reauthorization of a foreign surveillance law critical to disrupting terrorist attacks; a lethal-aid package for Ukraine that staved off imminent defeat, plus vital military assistance for Israel and Taiwan; legislation that allows the United States to seize Russian assets and use them to aid Ukraine; bipartisan legislation to ban TikTok in the United States if it is not sold to a new parent company that is not Chinese within about a year; and new sanctions against China, Iran and Russia. And in the wake of those legislative victories, accomplished with bipartisan support, he defeated an effort by Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) to oust him, which was rejected by a 359-43 vote amid a cacophony of boos from her GOP colleagues.

Name me another speaker who has accomplished so much, in so short a time, against such overwhelming odds.

He wasn't even supposed to be in the job. Johnson was chosen only after a three-week standoff in which three other nominees failed. When he ascended to the speaker's post, few in Washington had even heard of him. Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) told CNN she planned to do a Google search to learn who he was. Johnson had never even chaired a congressional committee and went from serving as vice chairman of the House Republican Conference (the No. 6 leadership position) to second in the line to the presidency virtu-

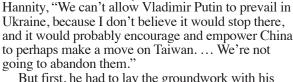
From the moment Johnson assumed the speakership, many assumed his job was doomed. Just weeks after he was elected, Politico reported that Republicans were "already asking behind closed doors whether Johnson might meet the same fate as the deposed [former speaker Kevin] McCarthy." Later, he was described as a "leader in name only" whose "grip on his fractious conference appears to be slipping" and who was having a "bad, very, very bad, awful time leading the House Republican conference," which had become a "hot mess, devoid of ideas and accomplish-

No one is saying that today.

Getting there was not easy. After Johnson took office, his already historically small majority narrowed further because of GOP resignations, leaving him little room for error in steering his party to pass controversial legislation. He moved deliberately and sequentially from bill to bill — tackling government spending first, then foreign-surveillance reauthorization, before finally moving forward on Ukraine aid.

The Biden administration has sought to claim

credit for getting Johnson on board with Ukraine aid. But while Johnson had voted against previous aid packages, he had been clear from the beginning of his speakership on his intention to pass aid to Israel, Ukraine and Taiwan. In his speech accepting the gavel (which he wrote himself), he declared, "We stand at a very dangerous time.... Turmoil and violence have rocked the Middle East and Eastern Europe. We all know tensions continue to build in the Indo-Pacific. The country demands strong leadership of this body, and we must not waver." The next day, he told Sean



Thiessen

But first, he had to lay the groundwork with his conference. He invited members to attend intelligence briefings showing how, without U.S. aid to Ukraine, Russian forces would begin breaking through the nation's defenses, carpet-bombing Ukrainian cities, slaughtering civilians and marching toward Kyiv. To his chagrin, many anti-Ukraine Republicans declined to attend. "They're making monumental decisions with global implications not completely informed about the facts," he told Ben Shapiro before the vote. "I think that's dereliction of duty."

Johnson also needed to win the support of Donald Trump, who could have killed the Ukraine aid package if he had come out against it. Many — including Greene and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban - were lobbying Trump to do just that. But Trump wisely backed Johnson against the anti-Ukraine faction of the GOP, appearing side by side with him at a news conference at Mar-a-Lago and declaring that Johnson was "doing a really good job." Trump's hardwon endorsement was critical

As the moment of truth arrived, Johnson was the epitome of resolve. "History judges us for what we do," he declared at the Capitol. "This is a critical time right now. ... I can make a selfish decision and do something that is different, but I'm doing here what I believe to be the right thing. ... I think providing lethal aid to Ukraine right now is critically important. ... I'm willing to take personal risk for that."

Johnson did exactly that. He put his speakership on the line — knowing that his predecessor had been ousted for less — in order to do the right thing. That is the essence of leadership.

"I never aspired to be speaker of the House," Johnson recently said. "This was not on my bucket list." Though he might not have aspired to the job, he has become one of the most courageous and effective leaders to hold it in modern times.

Not bad for an accidental speaker.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen @marcthiessen on X

Fix Social Security with ownership

The trustees for Social Security recently issued their annual report. And, as we have learned annually over recent years, the system cannot meet its obligations.

According to this latest report, the Social Security system will not be able to meet its obligations to retirees by 2035. In 2035, the system will be adequate to meet just 83% of its obligations. This is supposedly good news because the projected shortfall occurs one year later than reported last year.

But the change simply reflects the fact that the system is so massive — it's the single largest government program, with annual expenditure of \$1.2 trillion — that small changes in assumptions in the planning model produce big changes in the projected

Young people today start working and immediately have 6.2% of their paycheck deducted in payroll tax for Social Security, with their employer matching this with another 6.2% – all paid into a system that is bankrupt.

Our political leaders, to the extent they choose to speak about this issue, reiterate their commitment to "save the system." But "saving the system" means just taking a bad situation and making it worse. Who wants to "save the system" by raising taxes, raising the retirement age or cutting benefits?

Many still believe that Social



Security is some kind of retirement investment program, but it's not. It is a government tax and spending program. Individuals are forced to pay the payroll tax. And those payroll taxes are used to pay retirement benefits for those currently

retired. Even if you think this is a good idea, it no longer Parker works. When the system began in the 1930s, there were over 40 working Amer-

icans per retiree. Today, because of longer life spans and declining birthrates, there are just a little over three working for each retiree. Worker's taxes soon won't be enough.

I have been writing for years that the system should not and cannot be saved, and I make this same declaration now. It is quite reasonable for the government to insist that individuals take steps to secure their future in retirement. But it is not reasonable for government to step in and take away an individual's freedom on how to take care of themselves.

Individuals should be allowed to take ownership of the payroll tax they are forced to pay and use these funds to invest in their own personal retirement account.

The benefits of giving individuals freedom to take ownership of their own earnings and invest are huge. For one thing, putting funds into the equity markets over a 45-year working life yields far higher returns than Social Security provides.

In one study, done a number of years ago at the Cato Institute, they looked at a theoretical averageincome couple that retired in 2009, one year after a huge crash in the

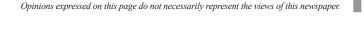
stock market. Despite a 37% market decline in 2008, the cumulative returns they received since they started investing when they were 21 in 1965 yielded savings of \$855,175. This is based on the actual market returns over those years, not theory. This is 75% more than what they would have gotten from Social Security, per the study.

Lack of ownership in stocks greatly accounts for the huge difference in household wealth between Black households and white households. Whereas, per the Federal Reserve, 65.6% of white households own stocks, only 39.2% of Black households do. As a result, average household wealth in assets among white households is approximately \$1.5 million compared to \$297,000 among Black households.

Plus, investing gives everyone "skin in the game" to limit government and keep our American system of capitalism alive and healthy.

No move could do more to restoring economic vitality and individual freedom in our country than transforming our broken Social Security system into a nationwide personal investment program.

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Extension Homemakers celebrate spring with a 'Picnic in the Park'

By BARBARA **BARBIERI**

It was a Picnic in the Park for the Extension Homemakers as they celebrated their spring festival on Thursday evening at the Wells County Community Center and named Vicky Lewis their Homemaker of the Year.

Those attending were greeted by the group's President Charolett Gehring and selections sung by the County Chorus. Carol Lochtefeld offered an inspiration before dinner was served by members of the UYB Club.

Shara Kuhns sang "Through It All" followed by Molly Hoag telling the homemaker's what they truly mean to the community and should be celebrated. Recognized for having been club members for 50 years were Letty Stauffer (UYB Club). Pat Wade (UYB Club) and Charolett Gehring (ODO Club).

Eve Bowman of the ODO Club was recognized as a 90-year old member. Vicky Lewis read a poem titled "She Was Different" as deceased Carol Meeks (ODO Club) and Ellen Snow (Loyal Neighbors Club) had candles lit in their memory.

Club officers for 2023 were recognized as Charolett Gehring, president; Linda Huseman, secretary; Jean Reef, treasurer; and Mary Ann Ripperger, advisor. Officers for 2024 will be Linda Huseman, president; Charolett Gehring, president elect; Jean Reef, treasurer; and Mary Ann Ripperger, secretary.

Cultural Arts awards were presented to Vicky Lewis for her lap robe and to Kay Sutherland for her table runner.

The celebration ended with the awarding of a door prize of picnic items and the reciting of the Homemaker's Creed.



Recognized for having been extension club members for 50 years were left to right Letty Stauffer (UYB Club), Pat Wade (UYB Club) and Charolett Gehring (ODO CLub). (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)



Eva Bowman was recognized for being a 90-year old mem-



Shara Kuhns shared a special song—"Through it All."



Homemaker of the Year Honors went to Vicky Lewis, at right of the Rockford Friendship Club and was surprised as members of her family came to congratulate her. Making the announcement and [presentation was Jean Reef, at left.



Cultural Arts awards went to Kay Sutherland, at left, for her table runner and to Vicky Lewis, at right, for her lap robe.

Gloria settles into a daily routine at the cabin in Ohio

We rounded the cor- for devotions which usually ner and started up the long, winding lane. We had arrived at our destination. The usual six to seven-hour trip to Danville, Ohio, was done in less than six hours. I smiled as the children cheered all the way up to the top of the driveway. Rounding the last corner, we were in full view of the cabin, which would be called home for a couple of weeks.

"Look at that!" exclaimed. On the patio next to the log cabin tucked among the pines, there was a fire in the fire ring. A picnic supper was spread on the stone bar, and three of Daniel's siblings, David, Joseph, and Mary, were waiting for us. The minivan circled on up close to the cabin. Six children scampered off and began carrying in our belongings.

The driver got a sandwich and headed back home to Illinois, with the agreement that we'd notify him once we were ready to go back.

The grilled burgers, served with sourdough bread baked by Mary's friend Nettie, were a hit. The evening passed quickly, and soon, it was time to decide who would sleep where in the cabin. The children were impressed with the loft, and were delighted when I told them we'd find space for all of them to sleep up there. Fleetingly, I thought of being by myself on the main floor where Daniel and I were two ½ years ago when we all

came for Christmas. You know how it goes with little ones, once the lights were out and everything was said and done, half of them were downstairs with Mom.

The following morning, I briefly explained to the children that during our stay in Ohio, we would be settling into a summer routine, which we would then take

back home to Illinois. The first step was a nobrainer and is something that we've been working on at home: if you wake up earlier than your siblings, speak softly so as not to awaken

them. Getting dressed and ready for the day has tended to be a drag in the past, so we're doing that first on the list to keep it from lagging into the forenoon. The first ones to be dressed and combed sit on the couch and recliners with books until the rest of the family has gathered

Community Harvest Farm Wagon

on Tuesdays The Community Harvest Farm Wagon visits Life Community Church every Tuesday at 9 a.m. to give FREE fresh food to needy families. The church address is 428 S. Oak St. in Bluffton. Enter the parking lot at the south entrance off of Oak Street and park facing North.

consists of Bible reading, a little discussion, followed with a song and praying together.

They all look forward to breakfast, which comes next. I don't know if they'd ever get tired of granola, even if I told them they could eat it three times a day. A sincere thanks to Nettie for providing us with lots of granola for our stay in Ohio. Breakfast is a fun time. The children talk, come up with big ideas, and yes, get a bit noisy if not monitored.

Exercises follow the breakfast song and table clearing. The exercises will vary from week to week. One that we're doing currently is toe touches with legs crossed, breathing with them, and counting to five while touching toes. The exercises are targeted toward coordination, body balance, and focus. Along with this we often have some sort of practice like acting out a little play of kindly asking for a turn with a sibling's toy tractor or doll instead of demanding a right to have what I want 'because it's

for the preschool boys to do their preschool work and the other children to brush up on flashcards, help their younger siblings, and such.

Once the books are shut and the cards stacked, it is time for the children to go run off some energy.

By midday, we usually get out and go see some-one. We've been blessed with many precious times with family and friends. On Thursday, we were especially thankful to spend time with Johnny's family, who lost their mother six weeks ago. The evening passed quickly as we shared and had supper together.

The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder

That night when I went to bed I was unusually tired, and it seemed like it was an endless battle to get everyone settled down. On this particular evening I didn't know how I could go on. I had sat up in bed and told Hosanna that Mom is tired enough that it hurts. I was unsure if I should have even said it as I did not want my children to feel responsible for me. At that instant Hosanna said, "There's an

Sizing up her statement, I replied, "That's nice, where do you see it?"

'Right up above your head," came the straightfor-

ward answer. "Where, where?" Little

Joshua wanted to know. "Now it vanished," Hosanna stated.

There was not the slightest bit of commotion after that, Hosanna was now ready to sleep, the reality that we were guarded by an angel was real to her heart.

The next day I asked Hosanna about it. She said it After practice is our time was so beautiful she couldn't really say how it looked. "It was between white and golden in color and had a crown. I was not scared a bit," she explained.

What more can I say than, "Thank you God, you know and provide for all of our needs all of the time!"

Yes, God sends people too, that remind me of angels. On Friday evening when we came home there was a plate of fresh donuts and note on the table, from our neighbor lady. I marveled at such kindness. Why, she has eight children herself including a special needs child. So, whether or not you are privileged to see an angel

today, you can be there for

another who needs an angelic touch!

Enjoy some fresh donuts!



MASHED POTATO **DOUGHNUTS**

- ½ c. shortening
- ½ c. sugar
- 1 tsp. salt 6½ c. flour
- 3 egg yolks
- ½ c. mashed potatoes 2 c. scalded milk
- 2 cakes yeast 1 tsp. nutmeg

- 3 tablespoons water 1 cup powdered
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- Instructions 1. Blend shortening into

sifted dry ingredients

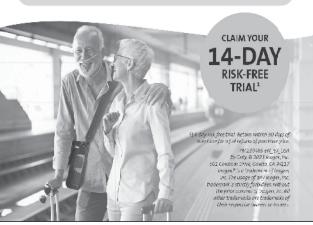
- with potatoes.
- 3. Add to dry ingredients. 4. Add yeast to cooled
- 5. Gradually blend into other mixture.
- 6. Let rise for 40 minutes.
- 7. Cut and let rise again. 8. Roll dough 3/8-inch

9. Cut into rings (a wide 2. Combine egg yolks mouth jar ring works well) and remove a circle from the

> 10. Fry in 350 degree oil or fat until each side is golden, about 1 minute on each

11. Mix glaze ingredients in a bowl and then dip hot doughnuts into the glaze and









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Raiders pound 25 hits, 15 runs to win first sectional softball game since 2018

By RYAN WALKER

"We've struggled all year getting some runs in the first inning. We always seem to start a little late," Southern Wells head coach Jason Riley said. "I told (my team) 'Hey, we just saw this team, we know what they've got, but we can't be hesitant. We're the visiting team, we're on our own diamond, let's come out and put it right to 'em in the beginning.' We wanted to get out there and get going.'

hits, 10 extra-base knocks and 15 runs later, and the

Southern Wells Raiders are moving on to the sectional semifinal.

It was the Raiders' (7-15) first sectional victory since 2018, and they made sure it happened quickly.

In the top of the first inning, Southern Wells poured on 11 runs and three in the next. Since it's the postseason, the Raiders were able to bat first against a struggling Liberty Christian Lions' team, who finished with a 1-12 record.

The Lions were dealing with a small roster — just nine players listed on the program. One of the players was removed from the game and left second base wide-open from the second inning and beyond.

Every Raider in the starting lineup produced at least two or more hits, and only two batters did not come away with one for extra bases. To pick out which player had the best night is challenging, but perhaps Kyah Thomas' two triples earned the top

Twenty-five Raider baserunner Kyah Thomas (left) holds her spot on third base while Lions' third baseman Abigail Ray. Thomas led the Raiders with three triples.

spot. Others that had solid nights were: Emma Parks 3-3 with a triple, Kenzie Paxson 3-3, Morgan Jones 2-2 with a double. Kim McCune 3-3 with two doubles, Gracie Reeves 3-4 with two doubles and two RBI, Bristal Chapman 2-4 with a triple, Remi Holmes 2-2, Collena Reeves 3-3 and Kaylea Coffel 1-1 with a triple.

"We're hitting the ball really hard right now," Riley said.

The Raiders are starting to find a little bit of offensive momentum, scoring at least eight runs in three of their last four games. Two

of the games coming against Liberty Chris-

The momentum could continue to roll, as the Raiders' next opponent comes down to the winner of Tri-Central (1-10) and Cowan (2-20). Both teams average about 11 runs allowed per game.

Southern Wells hasn't faced either team this season, so the comfortable feeling of winning the first game will come right back down about 24 hours after the first.

"Now, I'm not so nervous. Until tomorrow — I'll be nervous tomorrow," Riley shared. "These girls deserve it. They've worked hard. We've built up for this whole season, and our goal all year was to win sectionals. We got a great draw, and we've got to take one every day, one at a time."

The Raiders will play the winner at approximately 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 21. ryan@news-banner.com



Southern Wells player Collena Reeves (right) jumps in the air with head coach Jason Riley during introductions before the sectional first round against Liberty Christian Monday night. The Raiders had a blast, putting up 25 hits on the Lions and scoring 15 runs to win 15-0. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Southern Wells pitcher Maddy Sutton (right) throws to Kenzie Paxson behind the plate. Sutton, not to be overshadowed by the offense's 15 runs, tossed a one-hitter against the Lions in a fiveinning shut out.

Norwell tops Blackhawk Christian

in junior varsity baseball game

High School Calendar

TUESDAY, MAY 21

BOYS GOLF: South Adams at Norwell, 4:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Huntington North, 4:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Northfield, 4:30 p.m. GIRLS TENNIS: (Regional semifinal) Norwell vs. Manchester at Bluffton, 5 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD (Girls): Bluffton, Norwell

at Carroll, 6 p.m. SOFTBALL: (Sectional) Norwell vs. Peru at Oak Hill, 7 p.m.; Cowan at Southern Wells,

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

BASEBALL: (Sectional) Peru at Norwell,

THURSDAY, MAY 23

BOYS GOLF: Bluffton at Norwell, 4 p.m.; Heritage at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD (Girls): Bluffton, Norwell at Carroll, 6 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Bluffton vs. TBD at South Adams, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 24

BASEBALL: (Sectional) Bluffton at South Adams, 5:30 p.m.; Southern Wells vs. Liberty Christian at Wes-Del, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 25

BASEBALL: Southern Wells vs. Liberty

Christian at Wes-Del, 5 p.m. **MONDAY, MAY 27**

BOYS GÓLF: Bluffton, Southern Wells at TUESDAY, MAY 28

BOYS GOLF: Adams Central at Norwell, 4:30 p.m.: Southern Wells at Bluffton, 4:30



Tigers compete at middle school state meet

The middle school track team of Bluffton competed in the state meet at Indiana State University on Saturday. Parker Barnes ran in the 200m hurdles and placed in third, while also finishing in seventh in the 110m hurdles. The girls' 4x800m relay team of Abby Ramseyer, Addison Sonnigson, Cora Kunkel and Grace Fry ran and finished in 11th place. Pictured are the five Tigers' athletes who competed in the event from left to right Abby Ramseyer, Addison Sonnigson, Parker Barnes, Cora Kunkel and Grace Fry. (Photo provided)

Pfister, Eisenhut and Schwartz make all-ACAC girls' tennis awards

The ACAC released its selections for the all-conference tennis teams.

Bluffton had Hazel Pfister and Sophie

Eisenhut earn first-team doubles, while Emma Schwartz earned second-team for From his entertaining

pitching style to his trips to Dunkin' Donuts — "Either I order a small iced latte or a medium," he said

Noah Comer led the way with three hits, including three RBI. Will Case had a double and three RBI. Brayden Huffman and Jax-

Cade Thornton got the win, throwing three innings and allowing two runs (one earned) on three hits and struck out six. Huffman threw three innings and allowed two runs (one earned) on one hit, no walks and four strikeouts

Ray and Lincoln Schafer also had RBI.

'Constantly learning' Imanaga off to impressive start with the Cubs

By JAY COHEN **AP Baseball Writer**

road Monday night.

Norwell's junior varsity baseball team

defeated Blackhawk Christian 14-6 on the

son Dohrman had a hit and an RBI. Josiah

CHICAGO(AP) - Theroad for Shota Imanaga from Japan to the major leagues included at least one sharp observation that has served him well in his transition to life with the Chicago Cubs.

"Watching foreign players in Japan and how they try to figure out how to get support from the fans, essentially I'm just doing the opposite of that, coming over here," Imanaga said through a translator. "It was something I thought about."

Imanaga has moved with a purpose in his acclimation to the big leagues. And he is making it look easy at the moment.

Relying on a deceptive four-seam fastball that he usually locates at the top of the strike zone, along with a splitter that plays at the bottom, Imanaga is 5-0 with a 0.84 ERA for the contending Cubs. The left-hander also has 58 strikeouts and nine walks in 53 2/3 innings - thrusting himself into the early conversation for NL Rookie of the Year and the Cy Young Award.

Imanaga's ERA is the lowest for a major leaguer

for his first nine career starts excluding openers since baseball started tracking earned runs in 1913. Fernando Valenzuela had the previous mark at 0.91 in his second year with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1981.

It's the fourth-lowest ERA since 1920 for any pitcher in his first nine starts in a season, trailing Jacob DeGrom (0.62 in 2021), Hall of Famer Juan Marichal (0.69 in 1966) and Zack Greinke (0.82 in

So far, Imanaga has been better than Chicago ever could have expected when it

(Continued on Page 7)







News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL NBA

Sunday, May 19 Indiana 130, New York 109, Indiana Minnesota 98, Denver 90, Minnesota

CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-7; x-if necessary) Tuesday, May 21 Indiana at Boston, 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 22 Dallas at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 23 Indiana at Boston, 8 p.m.
Friday, May 24

Dallas at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 25 Boston at Indiana, 8:30 p.m. Sunday, May 26 Minnesota at Dallas, 8 p.m.

-	/NE	IFERENCE	
	W	L Pct	GB
New York	4	0 1.000	_
Connecticut	3	0 1.000	½ 2 2
Atlanta	1	1 .500	2
Chicago	1	1 .500	2
Washington	0	3 .000	31/2
Indiana	0	4 .000	4
WESTER	I COI	NFERENCE	
	W	L Pct	GB
Las Vegas	2 2 1	0 1.000	_
Minnesota	2	0 1.000	_
Phoenix	1	1 .500	1
Dallas	1	1 .500	1
Seattle	1	3 .250	1 2 2
Los Angeles	0	2 .000	2
	av's (Games	
Seattle 84 Wa	shino	ton 75	

Monday's Games New York 74, Seattle 63 Connecticut 88, Indiana 84 Tuesday's Games
Dallas at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. Phoenix at Las Vegas, 10 p.m. Washington at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games Indiana at Seattle, 10 p.m. Thursday's Games Chicago at New York, 7 p.m. Minnesota at Connecticut, 7 p.m. Washington at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

HOCKEY

Saturday, May 18 Edmonton 5, Vancouver 1, series

Monday, May 20 Edmonton at Va CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-7)

Wednesday, May 22
Florida at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m.
Friday, May 24
Florida at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m.
Sunday, May 26 N.Y. Rangers at Florida, 3 p.m.

BASEBALL

MLB

IVILD											
AMERI											
East Division											
	W	L	Pct	GB							
New York	33	16	.673	_							
Baltimore	29	16	.644	2							
Tampa Bay	25	24	.510	8							
Boston	24	24	.500	81/2							
Toronto	21	25	.457	101/2							
Cent	ral D	ivisio	on								
	W	L	Pct	GB							
Cleveland	31	17	.646	_							
Kansas City	30	19	.612	11/2							
Minnesota	24	23	.511	61/2							
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24 27 29 30 24 21 19 19 Texas Houston Los Angeles Sunday's Games Boston 11, St. Louis 3 Cleveland 5, Minnesota 2 Baltimore 6, Seattle 3 Toronto 5, Tampa Bay 2 N.Y. Yankees 7, Chicago White Sox 2 Kansas City 8, Oakland 4 L.A. Angels 4, Texas 1 Houston 9, Milwaukee 4 Arizona 6. Detroit 4

Monday's Games Toronto 9, Chicago White Sox 3 Cleveland 3, N.Y. Mets 1 Boston 5, Tampa Bay 0 Washington 12, Minnesota 3

Kansas City 8, Detroit 3 St. Louis 6, Baltimore 3 L.A. Angels 9, Houston 7
Tuesday's Games

N.Y. Mets (Houser 0-3) at Cleveland (Carrasco 2-4), 6:10 p.m. (Carlasco 2-4), 6.10 p.m. Texas (Gray 2-1) at Philadelphia (Suárez 8-0), 6:40 p.m. Minnesota (Ryan 2-3) at Washington (Corbin 1-4), 6:45 p.m. Boston (Criswell 2-1) at Tampa Bay

Boston (Čriswell 2-1) at Tampa Bay (Littell 2-2), 6:50 p.m. Seattle (Woo 1-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Schmidt 5-1), 7:05 p.m. Chicago White Sox (Crochet 4-4) at Toronto (Kikuchi 2-3), 7:07 p.m. Detroit (Mize 1-2) at Kansas City (Marsh 3-1), 7:40 p.m. Baltimore (Bradish 0-0) at St. Louis (Lynn 1-2), 7:45 p.m. L.A. Angels (Canning 2-4) at Houston (Javier 3-1), 8:10 p.m. Colorado (Quantrill 3-3) at Oakland (Brooks 0-1), 9:40 p.m.

(Brooks 0-1), 9:40 p.m. Wednesday's Games Minnesota at Washington, 1:05 p.m. N.Y. Mets at Cleveland, 1:10 p.m. Baltimore at St. Louis, 1:15 p.m. Detroit at Kansas City, 2:10 p.m. L.A. Angels at Houston, 2:10 p.m. Texas at Philadelphia, 6:40 p.m. Boston at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m. Seattle at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m. Chicago White Sox at Toronto, 7:07

Colorado at Oakland, 9:40 p.m

NATIONAL LEAGUE **East Division** 14 17 GB Philadelphia 5 .614 .457 Atlanta 12 12½ 21 26 33 .447 New York .327 18½ **Central Division** 20 22 26 26 GB Pct .574 .542 Milwaukee 1½ Chicago Pittsburgh

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Boston 11, St. Louis 3 Philadelphia 11, Washington 5 N.Y. Mets 7, Miami 3 Houston 9, Milwaukee 4 Pittsburgh 3, Chicago Cubs 2 San Francisco 4, Colorado 1 Arizona 6. Detroit 4 L.A. Dodgers 3, Cincinnati 2, 10

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San Diego 9, Atlanta 1

Monday's Games
San Diego 6, Atlanta 5, 1st game
Cleveland 3, N.Y. Mets 1
Atlanta 3, San Diego 0, 2nd game
Washington 12, Minnesota 3
Miami 3, Milwaukee 2, 10 innings St. Louis 6. Baltimore 3 Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, late

Tuesday's Games
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(Carrasco 2-4), 6:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Gasser 2-0) at Miami
(Rogers 1-6), 6:40 p.m. San Diego (Musgrove 3-3) at Cincinnati (Abbott 2-4), 6:40 p.m.

San Francisco (Webb 4-4) at Pitts-burgh (Pérez 1-3), 6:40 p.m. Texas (Gray 2-1) at Philadelphia (Suárez 8-0), 6:40 p.m. Minnesota (Ryan 2-3) at Washington

(Corbin 1-4), 6:45 p.m. Atlanta (Morton 3-1) at Chicago Cubs (Assad 4-0), 7:40 p.m. Baltimore (Bradish 0-0) at St. Louis

(Lynn 1-2), 7:45 p.m. Colorado (Quantrill 3-3) at Oakland (Brooks 0-1), 9:40 p.m. Arizona (Pfaadt 1-3) at L.A. Dodgers (Stone 4-1), 10:10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Minnesota at Washington, 1:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Cleveland, 1:10 p.m.
Baltimore at St. Louis, 1:15 p.m.
Mithoushea & Miseri, 6:40 p.m. Milwaukee at Miami, 6:40 p.m. San Diego at Cincinnati, 6:40 p.m San Francisco at Pittsburgh, 6:40

Texas at Philadelphia, 6:40 p.m Atlanta at Chicago Cubs, 7:40 p.m. Colorado at Oakland, 9:40 p.m. Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

Midwest League Monday's Games

Tuesday's Games Lansing at Fort Wayne, 6:35 p.m. Wednesday's Games Lansing at Fort Wayne, 6:35 p.m.

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Imanaga off to impressive start

signed him to a \$53 million, four-year contract in January.

'The way he thinks about himself as a pitcher, the way he talks through his first few starts here, he's thoughtful about everything," said Jed Hoyer, the president of baseball operations for the Cubs. "I think he knows he can continue to get better and continue to refine stuff. It's been a great start, and I am glad people have sort of gravitated towards watching him."

Have they ever.

Imanaga, who takes the mound in throwback-style high socks, is already a fan favorite in sports-crazy Chicago. But his early success is only part of the growing connection between the Japanese lefty and the passionate residents of Wrigley Field.

It started when Imanaga — wearing No. 18 in honor of Ben Zobrist, who was the World Series MVP when the Cubs won the title in 2016 — recited a couple of lines from the song "Go Cubs Go" during his introductory news con-

He warms up to The Fratellis' "Chelsea Dagger," the goal-scoring song for the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks. He alarm to the sound of cheering fans at Wrigley to help him get started in the morning.

"What impresses me the most is how (much) fun he's having here," San Diego Padres pitcher Yu Darvish said through a translator. "Not just pitching ... but how he's adjusting to life in the U.S. I think he's really taking it in and enjoying it, so that part makes me happy, too.'

As Imanaga prepared for life in the majors, he spoke with Darvish about his experience. Imanaga and Darvish were teammates when Japan won last year's World Baseball Classic, beating the U.S. in the final. The 37-yearold Darvish, who played for Chicago for three seasons, made his big league debut with Texas in 2012.

Imanaga, 30, also did his homework on Chicago and the Cubs organization before signing with the team.

"He's in a place in life where he's very sure who he is, and that's been evident kind of from early on," Cubs manager Craig Counsell said. "He's very confident in his choices, very confident in the people he puts around him. ... I think he is looking for the experience of what can I enjoy from a new countive and it makes the experience a really good one."

Imanaga went 7-4 with a 2.80 ERA in 22 starts in his final season with the Yokohama BayStars of Japan's Central League, finishing with 174 strikeouts and 24 walks in 148 innings. Nicknamed "The Throwing Philosopher," he also wrote a book on pitching that was published last year.

"I'm always constantly learning," Imanaga said about the book-writing process. "But the fact that I'm trying to put out all the information, I think that helped me understand more about myself.'

The 5-foot-10 Imanaga averages 92 mph on his four-seamer — not exactly noteworthy in a sea of high-90s fastballs — but it has a high spin rate and an unusual amount of vertical movement. Hitters likely will adjust over time, forcing Imanaga to take a closer look at his approach.

But Imanaga and the Cubs are confident he is up to the challenge, especially with how he embraces the advanced metrics of the sport.

"Compared to Japan, I mean they do hand out data, but here, they'll give us data and they'll have a plan going along

The next steps involve

detailed policy discussions.

Thompson in the House is

moving toward a markup of

the proposed text, an excit-

ing development as it initi-

ates specific policy debates.

ate will soon follow suit.

However, time is a criti-

cal factor, with presidential

politics and close margins in

the House making it increas-

ingly challenging to pass a

tee will mark up the farm

bill on Thursday, May 23.

The current farm bill exten-

sion expires at the end of

The House Ag Commit-

new farm bill this year.

September.

The hope is that the Sen-



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Agriculture

Farm Bill 2024: Key steps forward amid stakeholder input

By AGDAILY

Farmers and ranchers are still waiting for a new farm bill, but the release of a discussion draft means forward progress.

"The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 is the product of extensive feedback from stakeholders and all Members of the House, and is responsive to the needs of farm country through the incorporation of hundreds of bipartisan policies," wrote House Committee on Agriculture Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson. "The release of this draft is a significant step forward in a years-long, deliberative process. The markup is one step in a greater House process that should not be compromised by misleading arguments, false narratives, or edicts from the Senate. I look forward to engaging with colleagues on both sides of the aisle as we move to markup.'

This new draft covers key issues such as crop insurance and securing farm safety nets through programs, addressing legislative issues created by California's contentious Proposition 12 and the SOLAR Act, which protects farmland from solar development.

However, some of the draft has caused concern. Feeding America, the nonprofit food bank network. said that while improvements have been made to nutrition programs, the bill also contains provisions that may weaken resources provided to those facing hun-

"Feeding America is particularly concerned by provisions that would prevent future benefits of the

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program from reflecting costs associated with updated nutrition guidance and the ways people shop and cook," it wrote in a statement.

The draft version has also drawn the attention of the Former CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, Pacelle. Pacelle argues that the EATS Act, included in the updated farm bill, undermines progress in improving

animal welfare standards. The 2018 farm bill expired last year, and Congress passed a one-year extension. There is a major push to get a new bill through Congress.

Currently, operations are based on the extension of the 2018 farm bill, but there is hope that the new bill will be addressed by the agriculture committees and eventually reach the President's desk.

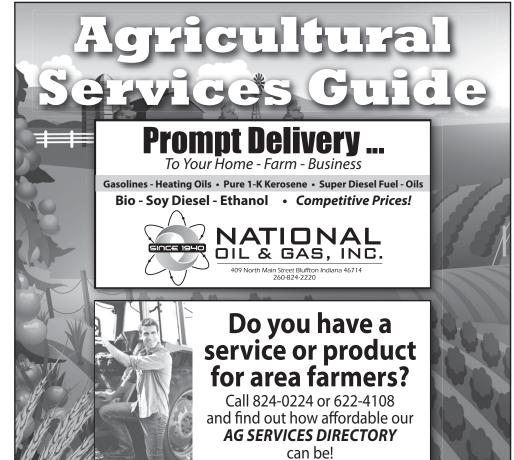
"Signing a farm bill into law is vital to the food and agriculture sector, which benefits our economy, accounting for roughly onefifth of U.S. economic activity and supporting nearly 23 million jobs," wrote the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

A key aspect of the farm bill's success is its bipartisan reached.

nature. Historically, farm bills have garnered support from both parties due to their wide-reaching impact on agriculture and nutrition. Despite anticipated debates on specific policies across all 12 titles of the bill, there is confidence that a bipartisan agreement will be

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Recovering from wife's infidelity — 25 years later

Dear Annie: More than 25 years ago, my wife cheated, likely multiple I'm 70, and my times with multiple men. She wanted to divorce me, but I convinced her to go to couples therapy. I won't go into all the same dynamic as details, except this: The therapist recommended that she not share who the affair partner(s) were. They were a husband-and-wife team of therapists, and I still remember them saying that normal- trolling criticism ly they recommend sharing information, stems from is a but in this case, they do not.

Because of this, I have constant fear and resentment that any male acquaintance is him. This is not good way to live, or stay married.

Repeatedly, she has said I have never met or spoken to any of the men she was with, nor has she seen or had any contact with any of them whatsoever in the last 25 years. This really is hard to believe, since we live in a fairly small metropolitan area, and it seems unlikely we never crossed paths. Should we return to counseling so either I can accept this or she can actually share this information? Should I just go alone to learn to accept? - Frustrated and Angry Husband

Dear Frustrated and Angry Husband: Twenty-five years is a long time to stay in a marriage where you still don't fully trust your partner. It is understandable that you have some fears, but you can't let them rule over your relationship. You have to ask yourself, can I forgive her for her indiscretions 25 years ago? If you can, then you have to truly forgive and let go of your anger and hurt over the past. The rearview mirror is a lot smaller than the front windshield for a reason.

With that being said, if you can't forgive and are constantly mistrusting, then yes, you have to go back into therapy. Living in fear or doubt is no way to live and does not lead to a healthy relationship. In the end, it really hurts you.

mother is 93. and we have the a writer described to you of her criti-

cizing everything. What this conpersistent low

level of anxiety and a narcissistic tendency. She's not going to respect anything I say, no matter how I say it.

Dear

Annie

by Annie Lane

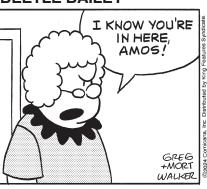
Hence, I have learned to keep my visits with my mom short and focused on something external: a meal out with shopping or a movie (which she always criticizes). I keep the conversation focused on external interests. For instance, we both like nature, so news on climate change or PBS shows are a good topic for her.

Most importantly, I tell her nothing personal. If she disapproves, I deflect. If she persists, the visit is over. She will never validate or approve. My advice to everyone in a similar situation is: Stop driving yourself nuts. — Struggling for Independence

Dear Independence: It sounds like you have a good system in place to protect yourself from your mom's negativity while at the same time spending time with her.

"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. Visit http:// www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

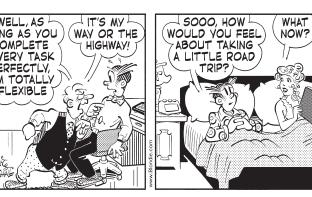






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Мy Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: It is disturbing to observe so many people today lacking common courtesy. There seems to be a spirit of depression; frowns instead of smiles, and a general unhappiness in people's countenance. Is there an explanation? - P.C.

Answer: Although many social customs differ from one culture to another, the Bible makes it clear that such things as courtesy and thoughtfulness should be part of our lives, no matter where we live. It is perhaps best summed up in the words of Jesus (which have come to be called the Golden Rule): "In everything, do to others what you would have

PARSHO

351 851 318 545 (3:00) ♥★★★★ Saving A Gentleman in Moscow "Adieu

375 859 327 553 (4:30) ₹★ Switchback ('97) Danny Glover, Jared Leto, Dennis Quaid.

We live in a society that encourages selfishness

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Notice that this is a positive command; that is, we are not simply to refrain from doing evil to others, but we are to go out of our way to do what is good. Courtesy and kindness are part of this.

Why does courtesy seem to be declining in our society? One reason is that we have lost sight of the Bible's teachings about how we should live and act toward others. We also live in a society which has encouraged selfishness – the "me first" attitude – and that destroys common courtesy and kindness. Many people strive to achieve success in order to be happy, only to find that once they get there they are shallow and

But the real problem is a spiritual problem. When people leave God out of their lives, there is a bareness that is hard to fill. Self-indulgent goals are often driven by selfcentered motives. It can happen to people without them even realizing it. When God is at the center of our thoughts, our perspective changes. Those who have actually experienced daily fellowship with Christ know that it surpasses all worldly activities.

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

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"How could he pull out a plum with just his thumb?

The LOCKHORNS



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*★ Baywatch (2017, Comedy) Zac Efron, Priyanka | The Chi

Wolves of War (2022, War) Rupert Graves, Matt Willis, Ed Westwick.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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*** ★★ John Grisham's The Rainmaker (1997, Drama) Claire Danes, Jon Voight, Matt Damon.

24 Peevish sound 6 High fit 26 Soaks tennis shots (ups) 27 — Jima **7** Sports drink 28 Squad suffix **29** Pop 31 Frat party

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47 Finale

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

King Classic Sudoku

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Difficulty: $\star\star$ 5/2									

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

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

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Read & recycle

Help Wanted

EMPLOYMENT

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

SERVICES

cations due June 14th.

Services

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

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for just \$5 more One item per ad

GUARANTEED SOLD

Your ad runs 'til your item is sold! (6-month maximum) Private party only, one-item in ad. Limited to "For Sale" and "Automotive" categories (Real Estate excluded)

> 20 words \$39 Add'l Lines: 88 cents each

ADD A PHOTO!

Your "Guaranteed Sold" ad (up to 20 words) with a Photo: \$44 Addt'l Lines, 88 cents each

GARAGE SALES

Put your Garage Sale in Wells County's Easy-to-Use Garage Sale Guide!

Get a **FREE GARAGE SALE KIT**

when you place your Garage Sale ad in The News-Banner for 3 days or more.

SELL **YOUR** WHEELS!

HOT DEAL!

20 Words, 10 Days

just \$25 **ADD A PHOTO** for just \$5 more One item per ad

GUARANTEED SOLD

Your ad runs 'til your item is sold! (6-month maximum). Limited to one-item, private party only.

> 20 words \$39 Add'l Lines: 88 cents each

ADD A PHOTO! Your "Guaranteed Sold" ad (up to

20 words) with a Photo: \$44 Addt'l Lines, 88 cents each

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Advertise Your Services EVERY DAY in Wells County's Most Popular Daily Marketplace!

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ATTENTION GRABBERS!

Add a photo or artwork to any ad! You can also add a headline or other attention-getters for less than you'd expect! Place your ad ON-LINE and explore the possibilities!

Miscellaneous

CEMETERY LOTS FOR SALE The McFarren Cemetery association has lots for sale in the McFarren Cemetery. Lots include a concrete foundation for headstone. 260-750-5609 mcfarrencemetery@gmail.com

Wanted to Buy

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

RENTALS

Office Space Rental

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

Public

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

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 1 - 11:30 a.m. - Ardith**

Smith estate, Cheryl Heral estate & Sonja Bartlett, sellers. 320 Sparks St., Markle, IN. Live on-site. One story, two bedroom home on 1.6 acres, 1,144 sq. ft., 10x18 detached garage. Steve Ness, auction manager, 260-417-6556, SteveNess@NessBros.com,

SUDOKU ANSWER

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Ness Bros. Realtors & Auctioneers. www.NessBros.com. JUNE 4 - (Online Only Auc-

tion) - 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

BIDDING STARTS CLOSING JUNE 9 - 6 p.m. EST - Berry estate, owner. Online only real estate & personal property! 6 p.m. real estate: 1 1/2 story craftsman style home w/covered porch, 1,700+/- square ft. w/ornate woodwork throughout, partial basement, 3-4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath, detached 24x24 two-car garage, several older outbuildings all sitting on 6+/- acres, Adams Central School District. 6:30 p.m. personal property: Antique tractors, farm machinery, tools, antiques, primitives, vehicles, furniture, household items, more! Preview May 30, 5-6 p.m., 4854 N 400 W, Decatur. Pick up June 10, 2-6 p.m. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.

Public Notice

90C01-2403-EU-000010 STATE OF INDIANA

COUNTY OF WELLS)
IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF FERN E. GOULD, deceased NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that Vicki L. Hoffmaster was on the 6th day of March 2024, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Fern E. Gould, deceased, who died on the 11th day of February, 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 6th day of March, 2024

Attorney for the Estate: Michael D. Harmeyer. HARMEYER LAW FIRM LLC 200 East Main Street, Suite 550

Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802-1914 (260) 423-4565

Attorney #14258-02 Beth Davis Clerk, Wells Circuit Court nb 5/14 5/21

Monday's Drawings

Lottery Numbers

HOOSIËR LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 05-29-33-40-45 **Cash4Life** — 05-28-43-44-50, Cash Ball: 04 **Quick Draw Midday** — 04-18-19-21-24-25-34-44-46-

52-53-56-57-59-60-63-66-68-73-78, BE: 52 **Daily Three-Midday** — 06-03-00, SB: 07 **Daily Three-Evening** — 06-04-06, SB: 06 **Daily Four-Midday** — 06-05-05-05, SB: 07 **Daily Four-Evening** — 03-04-09-07, SB: 06

29-46-50-52-56-62-68-69-70-76-77, BE: 25 **Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$12.6 million

Quick Draw Evening — 07-09-19-21-22-24-25-28-24-

MEGA MILLIONS Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$421 million

POWERBALL 01-07-48-64-68 Powerball: 05: Power Play: 2X

May ODS & S

As a resident of the Wells County As a resident of the Wells Councy, 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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Attorney Gerret J. Swearing

• Wills, Living Wills, &

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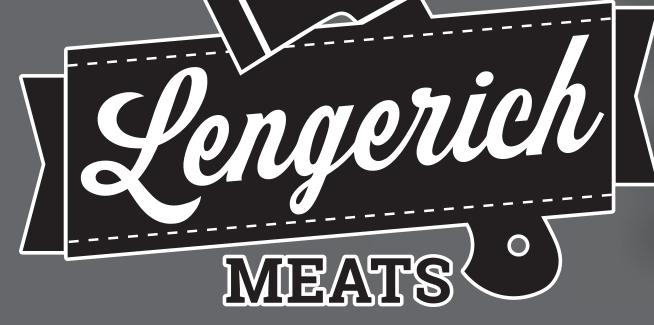
June deadline is Tues., May 28!

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BLURFTON MAY 24, 2024

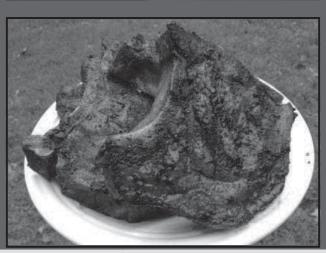
FT. WAYNE
SOUTHSIDE
JUNE 1, 2024

HOMESTEAD
JUNE 9, 2024









Area Graduations

HUNTINGTON NORTH

MAY 26, 2024

SOUTHERN WELLS JUNE 2, 2024

NORWELL JUNE 2, 2024

WAYNE H.S.
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