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THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024

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Bluffton High School Class of 2024 receive honors, scholarships

By HOLLY GASKILL

With graduation just around the corner, Bluffton High School seniors were honored for their academic and athletic achievements Wednesday morning.

The annual Class Day celebration includes the presentation of numerous scholarships and a rehearsal for the commencement ceremony. BHS graduation will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

Among those honored were:

- Ashton Arnett: CTE Award.
- Brandy Beer: Wells County Elks Scholarship.
- Katelyn Bedwell: Wells County Elks Scholarship, SMAD Award, CTE Award and Science Department Award.
- Alydia Bertsch: BHS 50-Year Legacy Scholarship, LIGHT The Way Gifting Scholarship and BHS Blanket Award with nine varsity letters.
- Keturah Bradford: SMAD Award, BHS 50-Year Legacy Scholarship, Harry and Dorothy Lindstrand, Bernard Hookanson & Phoebe Lindstrand Hookanson Memorial Scholarship, and Art Department Award.
- Lillian Broderick: Fraternal Order of Police Scholarship.
- Rehgyun Brooks: Jean and Joe W. Gil-

liam Scholarship, Edwina Patton Memorial Scholarship and Social Studies Department Award.

- Devynn Brown: Business Department Award.
- Allyeha Brubaker: Sigma Phi Gamma Sorority Award.
- Connor Collins: Indiana 4-H Foundation Scholarship, Forrest D. Ramseyer Memorial Scholarship, James W. Stogdill Memorial Scholarship and Business Department Award.
- Lucia Corkwell: American Legion Women's Auxiliary Athletic Award and BHS Blanket Award with 12 varsity letters.
- Kristopher Cortez: Irene W. and Fred Park Scholarship and Joe Smekens Tiger Spirit Scholarship.
- Claire Craghead: P.A. Allen Memorial Scholarship, Rotary Athletic Award, Outstanding Senior Award and English Department Award.
- Hutchenson Craighead: Bluffton-Harrison Elementary Staff Scholarship, Paul and Phyllis Dotterer Memorial Scholarship and Business Department Award.
- Kiara Crosbie: CTE Award.
- Kyle Crosbie: CTE Award.

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After the awards presentation on Wednesday, the Bluffton High School Class of 2024 took part in the annual tradition to toss their caps together for a photo, shown above. At left is Gissel Martinez standing for a recognition during the Class Day awards ceremony. Additional photos on Page 5. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



Color run fun

Bluffton-Harrison Middle School celebrated the end of the school year with a mad dash through brightly colored paints and powder on Tuesday. Students wore white t-shirts and ran through a brief course where teachers were stationed with bottles of pigment — above left, teacher April Dunwiddie sprays red powder in Aubrey Walker's hair. Teaching aide April Studabaker eggs on students with her squirt bottles in hand, at right. Reid Harris, above right, and Corban Wheeler and Armson Georvilma, far right, are shown going through the course, covered in color. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

Council on Aging requests county funding increase

By HOLLY GASKILL

A financial request from the Wells County Council on Aging was tabled by the County Commissioners Monday night.

The Council on Aging requested the county increase its contribution by just less than a quarter — from \$40,000 to \$49,200 annually. Executive Director Betsy Collier said the increase is necessary due to the rising costs of Wells on Wheels and local match requirements for other funding.

Collier had made a similar request last in April 2023, which had been rejected by the commissioners.

"I did revisit with the city, they increase their annual contribution by 23%," Collier said Monday. "So I'm asking that the county at least consider increasing at least 23%, if not more, to get us back to a more viable amount to help keep our local match for (Indiana Department of Transportation) programs, so that we're not always having to either dip into our reserves or go red."

According to Collier, the city's contribution increased from \$13,000 to \$16,000. She said this was the first increase in local matching since 2005.

Commissioner Blake Gerber suggested the board of commissioners delay their vote, saying, "I'm not unsupportive, but I think we need to take it under advisement and try to have an answer at one of the next two meetings."

Gerber noted that the request was coming outside the board's annual budget process, which begins with the County Council in August. Collier said she would return with the request in June. The commissioners' next meeting is at 5 p.m. on June 3.

Commissioner Jeff Stringer also asked if Collier knew

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Four-year sentence given to Bluffton woman dealing meth

By SYDNEY KENT

A woman from Bluffton was sentenced to four years in prison — with two years suspended — for selling methamphetamine to a confidential informant.

The sentence was issued after Cassie Abercrombie, 34, pled guilty to one count of dealing methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony. One count of dealing in a narcotic, a Level 4 felony, was dismissed as part of a plea agreement

with the state.

Abercrombie was also ordered to pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$940.

According to a probable cause affidavit, a confidential informant arranged to meet with Abercrombie to purchase \$90 worth of methamphetamine on Nov. 29. Abercrombie reportedly requested an additional \$20 from the subject upon meeting. The weight of the drugs seized from the CI totaled

3.33 grams.

According to Wells County Deputy Prosecutor Jeffrey Stineburg, Abercrombie was previously convicted for neglect of a dependent in South Carolina and she has a high risk of reoffending. These were the primary factors Stineburg presented to prevent Abercrombie's bond from being reduced.

During a January hearing, however, Abercrombie's bond was reduced to \$10,000. She received

156 days of jail credit for time awaiting disposition in her case.

In October, several months before the sting, Abercrombie was involved in a separate case involving drugs. Howard Michael Bryant, 35, Bluffton, was identified as the subject who stole drinks from the Shell gas station with a knife in hand.

While police questioned Bryant, he requested to give his fiancé — Abercrombie — his backpack.

Police located 33.8 grams of methamphetamine in an orange pill bottle, as well as drug paraphernalia and stolen drinks inside the bag.

However, Abercrombie did not sustain any charges.

During a December hearing in Bryant's case, he told the court he needed to be released to continue "working maintenance" at his place of residence. The primary reason given by Bryant was so

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Outside



Sunny and warm today, cloudy and cool tonight

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 79	High 84	High 78
Low 60	Low 64	Low 56

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Council on Aging

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how many “county residents” used the service, meaning residents outside of Bluffton. Collier said it was difficult to track which areas used the service most, as some of their ridership is from outside of Bluffton but may make several errands within the city in a day, and vice versa.

Joining Collier Monday was Preston Kaehr, a member of the board of directors, who emphasized the value Wells on Wheels brings to Wells County, particularly

the senior population. Mick Cupp and Gary Merritt were also present representing the board.

Stringer later reported there are no updates in the hiring process of a new director for economic development. He said there had been prospects with one applicant, but the individual backed out.

Also during the meeting, the commissioners appointed County Council member Brandon Harnish to a Community Plan Steering Committee. They will also

appoint a community member but did not hear interest from anyone at the time.

Area Plan Commission Executive Director Mike Lautzenheiser said the committee will begin meeting later this summer and would “zoom in” on the direction of the Wells County Vision 2035 plan to identify ways to achieve community goals.

Those interested in the appointment were encouraged to contact the commissioners.

The commissioners also approved a request from

Bluffton NOW! to use a portion of the Washington Plaza for Parlor City Market overflow vendors. The market will begin for the summer season on June 1 and continues from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays through Sept. 5.

Tourism Coordinator Audry Dudley said Bluffton NOW! plans to host concerts at Parlor City Plaza at 7 p.m. on June 21, July 19, Aug. 8 and Sept. 5, which may need overflow seating.

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Local woman sentenced

(Continued from Page 1)

that Abercrombie would not be homeless.

The request was redundant as Abercrombie's initial hearing for her arrest took place hours before in the same

courtroom.

Bryant was charged with dealing methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony, intimidation using a deadly weapon, a Level 5 felony, and possession of methamphetamine,

a Level 4 felony. Bryant was convicted of the Level 4 felony with all other charges dismissed. He was sentenced to six years in prison for the crime.

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5 dead and at least 35 hurt as tornadoes ripped through Iowa, officials say

By HANNAH FINGERHUT and MARGERY A. BECK Associated Press

GREENFIELD, Iowa (AP) — Five people died and at least 35 were hurt as powerful tornadoes ripped through Iowa, with one carving a path of destruction through the small city of Greenfield, officials said Wednesday.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety said Tuesday's tornadoes killed four people in the Greenfield area, and local officials said a fifth person — a woman whose car was swept away in the wind — was killed by a twister about 25 miles away. Officials did not release the names of the victims because they were still notifying relatives.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety said Wednesday it's believed that the number of people injured is likely higher.

The Greenfield tornado left a wide swath of obliterated homes, splintered trees and crumpled cars in the town of 2,000 about 55 miles southwest of Des Moines. The twister also ripped apart and crumpled massive power-producing wind turbines several miles outside the city.

Greenfield resident Kimberly Ergish, 33, and her husband dug through the debris field Wednesday that used to be their home, looking for family photos and other salvageable items. There wasn't much left, she acknowledged.

“Most of it we can't save,” she said. “But we're going to get what we can.”

The reality of having her house destroyed in seconds hasn't really set in, she said.

“If it weren't for all the bumps and bruises and the achy bones, I would think that it didn't happen,” she

said.

Tuesday's storms also pummeled parts of Illinois and Wisconsin, knocking out power to tens of thousands of customers in the two states. The severe weather turned south on Wednesday, and the National Weather Service was issuing tornado and flash flood warnings in Texas as parts of the state — including Dallas — were under a tornado watch.

The National Weather Service said initial surveys indicated at least an EF-3 tornado in Greenfield, but additional damage assessment could lead to a more powerful ranking.

The tornado appeared to have been on the ground for more than 40 miles, AccuWeather Chief Meteorologist Jon Porter said. A satellite photo taken by a BlackSky Technology shows where the twister gouged a nearly straight path of destruction through the town, just south of Greenfield's center square.

The deadly twister was spawned during a historically bad season for tornadoes in the U.S., at a time when climate change is heightening the severity of storms around the world. April had the second-highest number of tornadoes on record in the country.

Through Tuesday, there have been 859 confirmed tornadoes this year, 27% more than the U.S. sees on average, according to NOAA's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma. So far, Iowa's had the most, with 81 confirmed twisters.

On Tuesday alone, the National Weather Service said it received 23 tornado reports, with most in Iowa and one each in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The tornado that deci-

mated parts of Greenfield brought to life the worst case scenario in Iowa that weather forecasters had feared, Porter said.

“Debris was lifted thousands of feet in the air and ended up falling to the ground several counties away from Greenfield. That's evidence of just how intense and deadly this tornado was,” Porter said.

People as far as 100 miles away from Greenfield posted photos on Facebook of ripped family photos, yearbook pages and other items that were lifted into the sky by the tornado.

About 90 miles away, in Ames, Iowa, Nicole Banner found a yellowed page declaring “This Book is the Property of the Greenfield Community School District” stuck to her garage door like a Post-It note after the storm passed.

“We just couldn't believe it had traveled that far,” she said.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said FEMA's administrator would head to Iowa on Thursday and that the White House was in touch with state and local officials. She said they were “praying for those who tragically lost their lives” and wished those injured a “speedy recovery.”

Greenfield's 25-bed hospital was among the buildings damaged, and at least a dozen people who were hurt had to be taken to facilities elsewhere. Hospital officials said in a Facebook post Wednesday that the hospital will remain closed until it can be further assessed and that full repairs could take weeks or months. The hospital, with the help of other providers, set up an urgent care clinic at an elementary school with primary care services

to start there Thursday, the post said.

Residential streets that on Monday were lined with old-growth trees and neatly-appointed ranch-style homes were a chaotic jumble of splintered and smashed remnants by Wednesday. Many of the homes' basements where residents sheltered lay exposed and front yards were littered with belongings from furniture to children's toys and Christmas decorations.

Dwight Lahey, a 70-year-old retired truck driver, drove from suburban Des Moines to Greenfield to help his 98-year-old mother. She had taken refuge from the twister in her basement, then walked out through her destroyed garage to a nearby convenience store, Lahey said.

“I don't know how she got through that mess,” he said. His mom was staying in a hotel, uncertain about where she'll end up with her home gone, he said.

Roseann Freeland, 67, waited until the last minute to rush with her husband to a concrete room in her basement. Seconds later, her husband opened the door “and you could just see daylight,” Freeland said. “I just lost it. I just totally lost it.”

Tuesday's destructive weather also saw flooding and power outages in Nebraska, damage from tornadoes in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and dust storms in Illinois that forced two interstates to be closed.

The devastation in Iowa followed days of extreme weather that ravaged much of the middle section of the country, including Oklahoma and Kansas. Last week, deadly storms hit the Houston area, killing at least eight and knocking out power to hundreds of thousands.

Sun's magnetic field may form close to surface — this finding could improve solar storm forecasts

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — New research indicates the sun's magnetic field originates much closer to the surface than previously thought, a finding that could help predict periods of extreme solar storms like the ones that slammed Earth earlier this month.

The magnetic field appears to generate 20,000 miles beneath the sun's surface. Previous calculations put the roots of this process more than 130,000 miles below, an international team reported Wednesday.

The sun's intense magnetic energy is the source of solar flares and eruptions of plasma known as coronal mass ejections. When directed toward Earth, they can create stunning auroras but also disrupt power and

communications.

“We still don't understand the sun well enough to make accurate predictions” of space weather, lead author Geoffrey Vasil of the University of Edinburgh said in an email.

The latest findings published in the journal Nature “will be an important step toward finally resolving” this mysterious process known as solar dynamo, added co-author Daniel Lecoanet of Northwestern University.

Galileo was among the first astronomers to turn a telescope skyward and study sunspots, back in the early 1600s. Solar flares and coronal mass ejections tend to occur near sunspots, dark patches as big as Earth that are located near the most intense portions of the sun's shifting

magnetic field.

Vasil and his team developed new models of the interaction between the sun's magnetic field and the flow of plasma, which varies at different latitudes during an 11-year cycle. They fed their calculations into a NASA supercomputer in Northern California — the same one used in the 2015 movie “The Martian” to verify the best flight path to rescue the main character. The results suggested a shallow magnetic field and additional research is needed to confirm this.

The modeling was “highly simplified,” University of Wisconsin-Madison's Ellen Zweibel, who was not part of the team, said in an accompanying editorial.

The results are intriguing and “sure to inspire

future studies,” Zweibel said.

The new knowledge should improve long-term solar forecasts, allowing scientists to better predict the strength of our star's future cycles. The sun is approaching its peak level of activity in the current 11-year cycle, thus the recent flareups.

Strong solar flares and outbursts of billions of tons of plasma earlier this month unleashed severe solar storms that produced auroras in unexpected places. Last week, the sun spewed out the biggest solar flare in almost 20 years, but it steered clear of Earth.

Better understanding of the sun can ensure “we are prepared for when the next storm — potentially much more dangerous — hits Earth,” Lecoanet said.

Weather

Thursday, May 23, 2024

(24-hour observations at 9:43 p.m. Wednesday)
High: 84; Low: 70; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.99 feet at 9:45 p.m. Wednesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. East wind around 5 mph becoming south in the afternoon.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Friday: A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday 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 64. South wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Saturday: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 78.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 56.

Sunday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 78. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Sunday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely before 2 a.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Memorial Day: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 72. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Monday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Tuesday: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 71.

Tuesday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 52.

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Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Monday, 4:24 p.m., Walmart. Caller reported additional case of theft for Tristan Pharr.
Monday, 4:33 p.m., 100 block of South Union Street. Caller was irate over phone calls and letters in the mail about selling her home because it isn't for sale. Advised to delete the messages and discard letters.
Monday, 5:09 p.m., Animal Shelter. Officer located pillows, sleeping bag, tent and personal items near the water tower behind the shelter. Owner of items advised she would remove her things and now had a place to stay.
Monday, 9:32 p.m., Pak A Sak North. Report of unruly male shouting.
Monday, 10:45 p.m., Arby's. Caller reported daughter on probation refused to go home with father.
Tuesday, 4:16 a.m., 3000 block of Broadway Street. Search warrant conducted.
Tuesday, 9:42 a.m., 400 block of North Williams Street. Report of tall grass.
Tuesday, 9:52 a.m., Wells County YMCA. Report of tall grass in the side of a field.
Tuesday, 10:00 a.m., 400 block of East Silver Street. Report of grass in the street.
Tuesday, 10:24 a.m., 400 block of West Wabash Street. Report of a white passenger car driving by caller's house repeatedly and at the store at the same time.

Tuesday, 3:55 p.m., AutoZone. Driver cited for no valid license.
Tuesday, 4:17 p.m., 800 block of Avondale Drive. Caller reported she was possibly scammed at Walmart.
Tuesday, 8:10 p.m., All American Gas Station. Report of a man outside talking to himself, possibly on drugs.
Tuesday, 8:21 p.m., Johnston Street and Central Avenue. Partially broken cell phone located.
Tuesday, 8:55 p.m., Main Street and Willowbrook Trail. Driver cited for speeding.
Wednesday, 12:09 a.m., Market and Mulberry streets, Bluffton. Caller reported a vehicle slow rolled from Main and Wabash streets to Market Street. Driver cited for learner permit violation.
Wednesday, 12:37 a.m., Pak A Sak North. Officer escorted lost driver to destination.
Wednesday, 1:43 a.m., Wings ETC. Report of a dumpster fire.
Wednesday, 5:40 p.m., Harrison Road and Main Street. Driver cited for speeding.
Wednesday, 9:07 a.m., 200 block of East Washington Street. Officer requested to standby while landlord spoke to tenant about a door.
Wednesday, 12:01 p.m., Linger Inn. Officer helped subject get his license.
County:
Tuesday, 3:38 p.m., North 300 West and S.R. 124, Bluffton. Caller reported dump truck speeding and

driving with no license plate.
Tuesday, 9:48 p.m., 500 block of North Oak Street Ext, Bluffton. Report of an abandoned bicycle along guard rail at the river.
Tuesday, 10:40 p.m., 5800 South Grape Street, Poneto. Caller reported family member's former boyfriend pulled a gun out during a verbal altercation.
Wednesday, 12:38 a.m., Pak A Sak North, Bluffton. Officer assisted lost driver.
Wednesday, 3:04 a.m., 1100S 100E, Montpelier. Officer assisted with locating a loose dog.
Wednesday, 7:58 a.m., Main and Spring streets, Bluffton. Driver cited for disregarding red light.
Wednesday, 9:42 a.m., 1100 North and North Marzane Road, Markle. Report of improperly parked farm equipment.

FIRES
County:
Monday, 6:55 p.m., 5700 North 100 West, Uniondale. Report of a fire in corner of house. Fire was under control approximately 55 minutes later.

ARRESTS
Joseph Donald Edward Brindle, 27, Uniondale; sexual misconduct with a minor, a Level 4 felony. No bond set.
O Mer, 22, Fort Wayne; obstruction of justice and resisting law enforcement using a vehicle, both Level 6 felonies, and possession of paraphernalia and reckless driving, both Class A misdemeanors. Bond set at \$11,000.



Cynthia and Doug Ingle are seen alongside their family, FCS Board Members and staff, Chamber Ambassadors, and Board Members, celebrating the opening of this new community asset. (Photo submitted)

Chamber of Commerce celebrates ribbon cutting of new playground at Family Centered Services

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce, along with Ambassadors and community supporters, proudly attended the Ribbon Cutting Celebration for the new playground at Family Centered Services, located at 1515 N. Sutton Circle Drive in Bluffton. This event marks the culmination of a four-year effort to provide a dedicated play space for children in the community.

Paige Hamilton, Executive Director of Family Centered Services, shared the journey of bringing this dream to life. "This playground has been in the works for over four years. Previous staff members, such as Amy George and Sarah Schwartz, who were instrumental in the initial idea, and we are so thankful they are present for this special dedication."

Hamilton highlighted the importance of the playground for the families they serve. "When parents and children come into our programs, they may be in a session for up to four hours or more, and kids need an outlet. Our rooms are very small, and to ask children to be in a confined area for an extended time is asking a lot. The playground will not only help children release energy but also provide a space where we can coach parent-child interaction. Every parent wants to be a good parent, but they might not know

how. We can help them engage and create or rebuild a parent-child bond. It's a space to engage families together."

The creation of this playground was made possible through the generous support of the community. "We received a grant from the Wells County Foundation, Lowe's provided numerous resources, and the Bluffton Rotary Club contributed labor to assemble the playground. Our Board of Directors have been incredibly supportive, organizing and preparing everything for the space. We couldn't have done this without them," Hamilton expressed with gratitude.

The Ingle family attended the Ribbon Cutting and dedication of the playground to their late son, Daekota. "It is an honor to dedicate this playground to Daekota, who meant so much to Family Centered Services and our staff. The Ingle family has been very supportive and an intricate part of our organization," said Hamilton.

The playground is open to the public, and Family Centered Services has plans to enhance the area further. "As we increase our funding capabilities, we will add more equipment and additional picnic tables for gatherings. Our goal is to install a drinking fountain on the side of the building in the near future," Hamilton announced.

Parkview Wabash to host check-up day

Parkview Wabash Hospital and the Parkview Center for Healthy Living invite area residents in need of lab testing to sign up for Check-Up Day at the hospital Thursday, June 13.

The event will take place from 7 to 9:30 a.m. in Classrooms A and B on the first floor.

Participants must register for a Check-Up Day event in advance by calling 260-266-6500. Make sure to leave a voicemail if a Parkview Center for Healthy Living team

member is unavailable to take your call. Payment must be made in advance by credit card only.

For questions about which lab test options may be appropriate for you, please talk with your medical provider.

Information on this event and other Check-Up Days can also be found at parkview.com/checkupdays.

The hospital is located at 10 John Kissinger Dr., just off U.S. 24 in Wabash.

Breakfast this Saturday for American Legion

The American Legion Post 111 will host its monthly all-you-can-eat breakfast from 8-10 a.m. Saturday, May 25. The cost

is \$11 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, and free for children under 5 years-old.

State to host its second Global Economic Summit

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb's administration will once more tout its economic successes — and play the role of global convener — as far-off dignitaries and business leaders gather in Indianapolis this week for the state's second Global Economic Summit.

Individual states rarely host their own global economic summits, the Indiana Economic Development Corp. said ahead of the inaugural summit two years ago.

But Hoosier officials have marketing on the mind.

"Our state represents a new frontier for those who are bold and visionary," the IEDC's website declared ahead of the two-day event, which begins Thursday. "We're creating a landscape where sustainable solutions in business, sports and energy are not just imagined but actively realized."

The quasi-public agency highlighted recent solar and electric vehicle manufacturing investment announcements. More are expected to coincide with the summit.

Holcomb will open the convention on Thursday with a virtual assist from U.S.

Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimundo, according to the event's agenda.

Thursday attendees can expect to learn about health innovation — from pharmaceuticals and animal health to agriculture — as well as the interplay between human creativity and artificial intelligence.

Also on the agenda are global trade and supply chain resiliency — because, per the agenda, "ship happens." Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Oksana Markarova, will talk sub-national diplomacy while Hoosier sports leaders will plan to speak on the global reach of sports.

Only those with invites Thursday will be able to sit in on a diplomatic breakfast and a roundtable about how technological advancements are "reshaping" the workforce, but all will be able to snack on Hoosier treats and international food between sessions.

IEDC leader David Rosenberg will kick Friday off with an international economic session featuring leaders from Indianapolis, Italy and Japan. Holcomb, meanwhile, will return for a session on public-private sector collaborations.

All 92 Indiana counties opt in for 2025 public health funding

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Every county in Indiana seems to have signed onto a state effort to provide \$150 million in enhanced funding for public health departments in the coming year in exchange for providing "core" public health services.

The Indiana Capital Chronicle called six holdout counties who opted out of the program in 2024, each of which will be participating in the 2025 cohort. Barring any changes to the 86 counties who participated last year, every county will get additional funding from the Indiana Department of Health's Health First Indiana program.

To see county-specific details, including health metrics and funding amounts, visit healthfirstindiana.in.gov.

For Theresa Baysinger, a county commissioner from Whitley County, the decision to opt out last year was due to concerns about "regionalizing health departments" and worries about needing to hire new employees to meet grant requirements.

"Obviously what works for one county doesn't work for another. So we wanted to hold that autonomy for us to make decisions for our county," Baysinger said. "But the more we're learning from surrounding counties, and just seeing how the programs are working and really diving deep into it, we are going to give it a try."

Should lawmakers decide to renew funding for 2026 and beyond, counties like Whitley can revisit their decision and opt back out.

"We just really hope that it works out and that we can provide a better health department for all Whitley County residents," Baysinger concluded.

Funding coincides with the fiscal year, which starts on July 1, rather than the calendar year. The Indiana Department of Health didn't respond to a request for comment.

ranged from \$83 to \$1.25 per Hoosier, depending on their county of residence.

The first \$75 million went to public health departments in 86 counties that covered nearly 96% of the population.

"Core" public health services include maternal and child health, tobacco and vaping cessation, chronic disease management, trauma and injury prevention, and more, as defined by state law. More than three-quarters of the funding must cover prevention and health outcome core services while the remaining 22% can be used for regulatory expenses.

Local public health departments have a myriad of duties, including restaurant inspections, certifying tattoo parlors and managing cases of lead exposure.

But six counties — Whitley, Wells, Fountain, Johnson, Crawford and Harrison — all declined to join 2024 efforts for various reasons. Those counties passed up a combined maximum of nearly \$3.9 million and instead accepted \$387,000 in legacy funding.

The Indiana Capital Chronicle confirmed participation with five of the six counties listed above, with the exception of Harrison County. However, local media report that Harrison County opted into funding last week.

Johnson County, the most populous county of the bunch, gave up the bulk of that funding and could have received \$2.1 million in 2024. It qualifies for a minimum of \$3.6 million in 2025, with a county match of \$789,000, or a maximum of \$4.2 million, with a county match of \$1.1 million.

In comparison, its legacy funding amounted to \$132,000.

Betsy Swearingen, the director of Johnson County's Public Health Department, said that commissioners voted unanimously to accept funding in 2025 after declining last year.

"My commissioners the year prior had been very thoughtful, waiting to see how the funds rolled out and what it looked like and whether or not it would behoove Johnson to take the money," Swearingen told the Indiana Capital Chronicle. "And so we revisited it throughout the year, and we realized that we're doing a lot of programs and not getting paid for it."

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Teachers challenge added literacy-training requirement

A TV commercial for a vaccine is aimed at folks 50 and older who naively believe their healthy lifestyle shields them from the shingles virus.

The narrator repeatedly reminds them, “Shingles doesn’t care.” Bike riding, trail walking and good citizenship cannot stop the varicella virus from emerging.

Hoosier Opinions

That phrase, with a slight twist, could be used to describe the efforts of Indiana teachers to get the legislature to treat them as educated, qualified professionals.

The educators’ long-running predicament bubbled up again last week at a State Board of Education meeting in Indianapolis. Teachers from around the state, including several from Vigo County, packed into the May 8 session. They pushed back against a new law requiring all pre-K to Grade 6 and special-education teachers to complete 80 hours of professional development on “science of reading” concepts, and to pass a written exam. Teachers will not be able to renew their licenses without completing the 80-hour Keys to Literacy training and passing the exam by 2027.

Teachers would get a stipend of \$1,200, amounting to \$15 an hour, for earning their “early literacy endorsement.”

Legislators in the Indiana General Assembly passed the law earlier this year as part of an effort to remedy falling literacy scores, based on science of reading principles. The science of reading encompasses a body of research in education, psychology and neuroscience that explains how people learn to read and details best practices for teaching reading.

At last week’s meeting, teachers spoke out about the added time burden, given that many work second jobs to make ends meet during the summers. Teachers described the extensive education and degrees they already have invested time and resources into completing. Special-education teachers pointed out that they already go through multiple requirements for licenses. Others complained there were not enough open spots in the training, delaying their attempts to complete it.

A Fort Wayne educator testified that teachers agree with the need to improve, and do not expect the science of reading approach to disappear. They just want it to be relevant to the classroom. As a Vigo County elementary music teacher stated, the 80 hours of her off time devoted exclusively to the science of reading “will not make me a better music teacher, and it will certainly not allow me time to seek out professional development in ways that will benefit my classroom environment.”

The Indiana General Assembly doesn’t care.

The law was not concocted and passed with teachers’ burdens and concerns in mind. The legislature’s leadership has a track record of not trusting teachers to do their jobs and has periodically added complications to their duties. Lawmakers’ disrespectful approach has compounded Indiana’s teacher shortage. Much of that attitude stems from a dislike of teachers unions, such as the Indiana State Teachers Association. Indeed, the ISTA encouraged teachers to attend last week’s meeting, and they came with valid objections to the application of the literacy teaching requirements.

A fourth-grade teacher explained that she had completed more than 85 hours of professional development, by choice, in her first two years on the job. “You’re dangling this \$1,200 stipend in front of my face, telling me it’s worth it,” she said. The implication from the state toward teachers is, as she put it, “We respect you. Here’s a little crumb.”

“I don’t want a crumb. I want respect,” she concluded.

The training is free through 2025 via a third-party professional development program, Chalkbeat Indiana reported. State Secretary of Education Katie Jenner said she will collaborate with legislators to keep the teachers’ course free beyond 2025. Jenner also said she, the state board and education officials want to create more flexibility for teachers to complete the training.

That flexibility should have been a prime consideration when legislators enacted the teaching requirements.

TERRE HAUTE TRIBUNE-STAR

Who’s Who

A continuing series on how to contact government officials

Zanesville.

The three **Town Council members** are:
 • John Schuhmacher, phone 260-602-2391.
 • Barb O’Connor, phone 260-403-6184.
 • Isaac Zent, 260-251-1353

The **Town Clerk-Treasurer** is Tera Bowersock. The Town Hall is at 17736 Wayne St., phone 638-0051.

Carl Collins is the **Zanesville Town Marshal**. The police non-emergency number is 638-4080. **Zanesville Sewage:** customer service, 427-1234; repair, 427-8311.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 23, the 146th day of 2024. There are 220 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History: On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a Black man, was killed when a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee on Floyd’s neck for about 9 1/2 minutes while Floyd was handcuffed and pleading that he couldn’t breathe; Floyd’s death, captured on video by a bystander, would lead to worldwide protests, some of which turned violent, and a reexamination of racism and policing in the U.S.

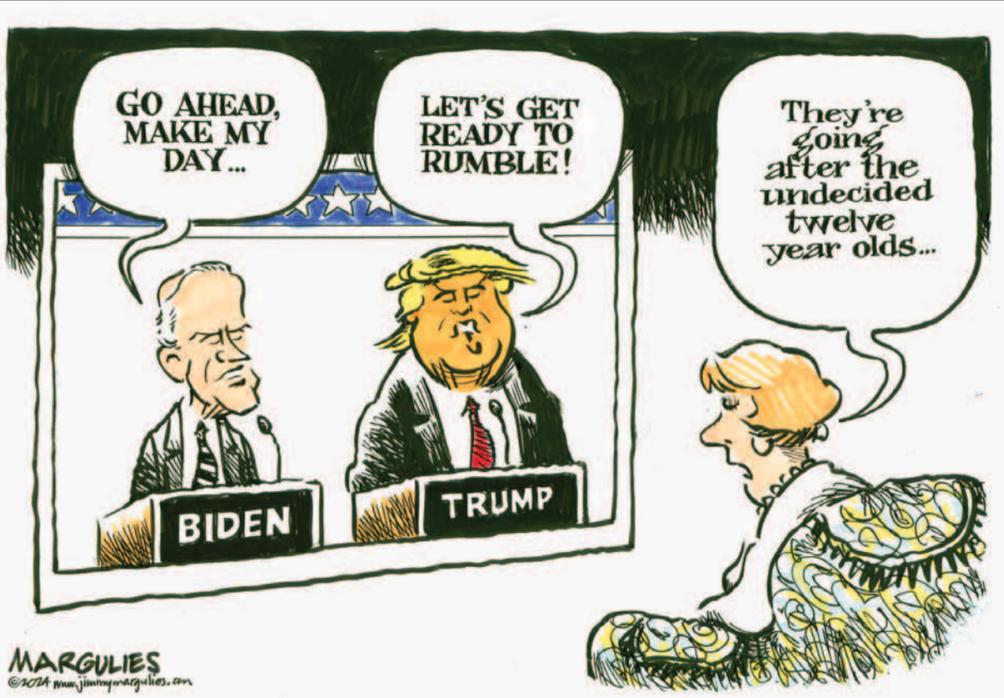
On this date:
 In 1787, the Constitutional Convention began at the Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall) in Philadelphia after enough delegates had shown up for

a quorum.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy told Congress: “I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth.”

In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Griffin v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*, ordered the Virginia county to reopen its public schools, which officials had closed in an attempt to circumvent the Supreme Court’s 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* desegregation ruling.

In 1968, the Gateway Arch in St. Louis was dedicated by Vice President Hubert Humphrey and Interior Secretary Stewart Udall.



As election approaches, policy and party as important as personalities

Although the focus in the upcoming elections is on the presidential candidates, it’s worth keeping in mind that of at least equal importance is which party has the controlling hand on policy in Washington.

Because the country is becoming increasingly polarized, which party controls will lead in dramatically different directions. This has profound implications for the country’s future.

Consider the judicial branch.

The conservative majority on the Supreme Court has changed the course of the nation’s history. Overturning *Roe v. Wade* was a major game changer. But not so many years earlier, in a court less conservative, same sex marriage became law of the land. The chances that that decision would have occurred in the current court are minimal.

But now the two oldest justices are part of the conservative majority — Clarence Thomas is almost 76, and Samuel Alito is 74. That their replacements will be conservative will depend more on which party controls rather than which particular Republican sits in the White House.

Regarding the appointment of judges, the values defining the two parties are worlds apart. Republicans want faithfulness to the Constitution. Democrats want diversity. Of the 197 judges appointed by President Joe Biden, as reported by *The Washington Post*, 125 are not white, and 72 are white. Regarding gender, 63% of Biden appointees are women and 37% men.

Per *The Washington Post*, “Just 13% of Biden’s Senate-confirmed appointments so far are white men.” Regarding this record, Biden noted “I’m particularly proud that these judges reflect the diversity that is our country’s strength.”

In contrast, of 237 judges appointed by Trump, 200 were white and 37 not white. Seventy-six percent of Trump appointments were men and 24% women. Inevitably, those on the left will say Trump’s appointment criterion was white male supremacy. But the difference between Trump and Biden appointments is putting the Constitution front and center as opposed to ethnicity.



Star Parker

Of course, there is more to the picture than the judiciary. The fiscal situation of the nation is frightening and dangerous. Our only hope for turning this around is Republican control on Capitol Hill.

For the first seven months of fiscal year 2024, expenditures of interest payments on our massive national debt exceeded both spending on Defense and on Medicare.

The Senate is on a razor’s edge, with Democrats controlling 51-49. Estimates are that retiring Democrat Sen. Joe Manchin will be replaced by a Republican. In a 50-50 Senate, with a Republican in the White House, a Republican vice president will cast the deciding

vote.

Of the 34 Senate seats up this year, estimates are the most vulnerable are Manchin and four other Democrats. Certainly, on the social issues of great concern to the country — abortion, our dangerously declining birth rates and marriage rates — Republicans bring a pro-life, pro-family agenda to Washington.

And then, of course, is the position of our nation in an increasingly dangerous world. Per the American Enterprise Institute, “China also now boasts the largest navy in the world, alongside the biggest coast guard and maritime militia.” This while U.S. Defense spending flirts with a historic low, at half as a percentage of GDP where it stood in the 1980s.

Hudson Institute scholar Walter Russell Mead writes in *The Wall Street Journal*, speaking about the aggressive advancement globally of Iran, Russia and China, “Many Americans still don’t fully grasp how serious the international situation has become. ... Team Biden, unfortunately, would rather starve the military and embrace the diplomacy of retreat.”

So, yes, every presidential contest is a battle of personalities. But let’s not lose perspective that party is what draws the dividing line in Washington. And perhaps there has never been a time where the gap between the worldviews of Republicans and Democrats has been this gaping.

So, the mindset going into this election season should be about policy as well as about individual candidates.

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Tall bearded iris ground zero for six continents

Angelkeep possesses a black thumb when it comes to a perfect iris garden. The fault cannot be passed off to the plants. It’s the planter, the caretaker. The gardener is to blame for tall bearded iris failure at Angelkeep.

This year brought an Angelkeep iris facelift — meaning weeding, lifting of rhizomes, and replanting. Gifted plants with a treasured history as having come from a garden known around the world, Longfield Iris Farm, were planted in a new bed with ample sunshine. Prayers followed for success. Praise was remembered for those that set the world aglow with iris blooms across the globe.

The iris-man, E. B. Williamson, yet has his biography available at the News-Banner office.

Lent A. Williamson, a nearly indestructible tall bearded iris of Angelkeep, named by E. B. after his father, failed to bloom here in 2023. Much needed weeding may have been the cause. Failing to periodically lift and separate rhizomes can also cause a drought of bloom.

Before 2024’s bloom season ends, Angelkeep recommends everyone within a reasonable distance of the Bluffton Wabash River Park make their way to view up close the astonishing blooms of hybrid iris created in Wells County. Back in the days of hybridizers E. B., his daughter Mary Williamson, and mail carrier Paul Cook, gardeners from six continents felt it was not too far to travel to see the iris wonderland of Bluffton. Honest, it’s in the book.

Angelkeep attempts the continuation of iris from all three of those hybridizers that laid claim to the best

iris bloom in a particular year of any in the entire world. Mary created “Wabash.” It won the 1940 world’s top honor, Dykes Medal. Join Angelkeep in seeing it in Wabash River Park. Angelkeep’s former plants of this variety seems to have died out. No fault of Mary. It’s an Angelkeep black thumb failure.

That tall bearded iris named Lent A. Williamson continues at Angelkeep and likely at many homes throughout the area. It was dubbed granddaddy of all iris, the “Great Progenitor.” It was first introduced in 1918 only four blocks from the Wells County Courthouse. Gardeners came from Europe, South America, Asia, and even Kingsland, Indiana, to see and buy the flowers. It’s in the book.

Did I mention Harvest of Health, retailing out of the former Villa North Longfield residence of Lent A. Williamson and son E. B., have the iris and Bluffton history book available?

Poneto’s Paul Cook, later building his own iris farm just north of Bluffton, partnered with Williamson’s of Longfield Iris Farm in 1920. Cook won the Dykes Medal three times. These medals and more can be observed in a special case at the Wells County Historical Museum on West Market Street, across the street from where the iris hybridization history began. It was the destination of iris lovers from six of the world’s seven



Alan Daugherty

continents. You may correctly assume the museum grows iris beds.

Iris are represented on the two largest Bluffton murals for a good reason. A third mural honors E. B. for becoming world famous for dragonflies. One carries a Wabash name. E. B.’s dragonfly history fills some of the book.

May is the month for iris bloom. Who can top what has been done by Wells County’s father-and-daughter team, plus friend Paul Cook? The team of Roger and Lynda Miller, that’s who. They work as a married team. Introductions are now registered under Lynda’s name only. They began their own iris farm on the northeast corner of the Kingsland crossing at Ind.1 and U.S. 224. Roger worked for Cook and obtained iris rhizomes from Longfield Iris Farm. If you want perfection, start with the best of the best.

How successful were the Millers? Just two years ago Lynda won the biggie — the top award, the Dykes — for her hybrid “Football Hero.” She’s also won four Williamson-White Awards plus the Cook-Douglas Medal. Those awards were named after the great world-renown, but local, iris hybridizers. Sadly, the Miller achievements were unknown when the E. B. Williamson book was printed.

Did you know First Bank of Berne helped fund the book’s printing so all proceeds could go to benefit Loving Shepherd Ministries? Bluffton branch has copies available.

Angelkeep offers a gardener’s bow to the iris growers who went before and who put Wells County on the global iris stage.

Mr. Daugherty is a Wells County resident who, along with his wife Gwen, enjoy their backyard and have named it “Angelkeep.”

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

BHS Class of 2024

- Juan Cruz: Robert Baumgartner Award for Outstanding Male Athlete, BHS Blanket Award with nine varsity letters and Physical Education Award.
- Caleb Dailey: Claude and Helen Decker Scholarship.
- Zara Eisenhut: Wells County Elks Scholarship, Bluffton-Harrison Elementary Staff Scholarship, BHS 50-Year Legacy Scholarship, Forrest D. Ramseyer Memorial Scholarship and Lou Ann C. Stogdill Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship.
- Kylie Frauhiger: Margaret J. McPheeters & Nancy Sprague Williams Trade/Technical Scholarship.
- Eli Garrett: BHS Athletic Booster Scholarship.
- Caleb Gerber: Bluffton-Harrison Elementary PTO Scholarship, Forrest D. Ramseyer Memorial Scholarship, William J. & Phyllis (Zehr) Stogdill Memorial Scholarship and Wells County Pilots Association Scholarship.
- Haley Gibson: Ronald E. DeWitt Memorial Scholarship, Christian Care Retirement Community Scholarship, Margaret J. McPheeters & Nancy Sprague Williams Trade/Technical Scholarship, Outstanding Female Athlete Award, BHS Blanket Award with 11 varsity letters and Physical Education Award.
- Tyler Godwin: BHS Blanket Award with eight varsity letters.
- Alexis Grover: Lions Club Scholarship, Indiana 4-H Foundation Scholarship and Math Department Award.
- Alyssia Heffern: Wells County Turnaround Scholarship and Social Studies Department Award.
- Andrew Hunt: BHS Blanket Award with nine varsity letters.
- Kayla Kiefer: Indiana 4-H Foundation Scholarship, G. Robert and Emma W. Studabaker Agriculture Scholarship and BHS Athletic Booster Scholarship.
- Cayah King: BHS Athletic Booster Scholarship, Janet Baker Memorial Award and BHS Blanket Award with eight varsity letters.

- Maksym Laishevkin: Perseverance Award and Skills Trade Award.
- Brody Lewis: Zadylak Family Wrestling Scholarship, Rotary Athletic Award and BHS Blanket Award with 12 varsity letters.
- Laura Mann: Wells County Elks Scholarship, Indiana 4-H Foundation Scholarship, Claude and Helen Decker Scholarship, Montpelier Pony and Saddle Club Scholarship, BHS Athletic Booster Scholarship and Student Publications Award.
- Sam Mechling: Sellers Family Memorial Scholarship for Manchester University.
- Nicholas Pastore: First Presbyterian Church Hunt-Manning Award.
- Zach Pemberton: Art Department Award and CTE Award.
- Corina Rader: K. Robert Ehrman Trade/Technical Scholarship, Physical Education Award
- Ben Ramseyer: Emshwiller Cup Award, Robert Hannie Award, Forrest D. Ramseyer Memorial Scholarship, BHS Athletic Booster Scholarship and Physical Education Award.
- Isa Rhoderick: Art Department Award.
- Cruz Rinkenberger: Business Department Award.
- Hattie Reinhard: Foreign Language Award, Social Studies Department Award and Math Department Award.
- Isaiah San Juan: Ralph and Sandy Garcia Award, Wells County Elks Scholarship, Painter-Webber Scholarship, Forrest D. Ramseyer Memorial Scholarship and Math Department Award.
- Dalton Rodgers: CTE Award.
- Zoey Schmidt: Art Department Award.
- Elsie Schaden: Art Department Award.
- Olivia Schreiber: Psi Iota Xi Alpha Eta Award and Bluffton-Harrison Elementary PTO Scholarship.
- Sophia Schwartz: Fraternal Order of Firefighters and BHS 50-Year Legacy Scholarship.



Pictured are the Top 10 students of the Bluffton High School Class of 2024. Pictured in front, from left to right, Elijah Spencer, Hutchenson Craighead, Connor Collins, Isaiah San Juan and Claire Craighead; back, from left to right, Caleb Gerber, Katelynn Bedwell, Hattie Reinhard, Jonah Cole and Zara Eisenhut. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



Above are seniors who received circle "B" blankets in recognition of having received varsity letters for nine or more semesters. Pictured in front, from left to right, Andrew Hunt, Lucia Corkwell and Alydia Bertsch; back row, from left to right, Juan Cruz, Brody Lewis and Haley Gibson.



Connor Collins and Claire Craighead are co-valedictors for the Class of 2024. They will both be giving speeches to their peers at commencement on Friday.

- Tyler Shaw: BHS Athletic Booster Scholarship.
- Lily Sheets: Gaylord & Crystal Mounsey Scholarship.
- Kaden Simpson: CTE Award.
- Elijah Spencer: Social Studies Department Award.
- Madison Smith: Balamohan Family Memorial Scholarship, Painter-Webber Scholarship and English Department Award.
- Elijah Spencer: Fry-

- back Memorial Scholarship, Janet Baker Memorial Scholarship and Math Department Award.
- Cameron Straub: Robert E. Pence Work Based Learning Scholarship, Business Department Award and Math Department Award.
- Clayton Straub: Brickley Farm Foundation Scholarship.
- Ayden Teeple: Wells County Elks Scholarship, Terry Burns Positive Tiger Award, BHS Student Council Scholarship, Ronald E. DeWitt Memorial Scholarship,

- Dr. Tom Stogdill Community Service Award, Ignite Your Future Scholarship, Outstanding Senior Award, Business Department Award, English Department Award, Student Publications Award and Social Studies Department Award.
- Jordan Troyer: Social Studies Department Award.
- Fletcher Wenger: Indiana 4-H Foundation Scholarship, Adam Ault Memorial Scholarship and BHS Athletic Booster Scholarship.
- Hunter Wenger: BHS Athletic Booster Scholarship.

- Hudson Werich: Indiana 4-H Foundation Scholarship.
- Elizabeth Wheeler: Beta Associate Chapter of Tri Kappa Art Award, Indiana 4-H Foundation Scholarship and Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship.
- Noah Zoll: Foreign Language Award and Math Department Award.
- Mary Zurcher: Gaylord & Crystal Mounsey Scholarship.

holly@news-banner.com

Norway, Ireland and Spain say they will recognize a Palestinian state

By **JOSEPH WILSON, MELANIE LIDMAN and JOSEPH KRAUSS**
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Norway, Ireland and Spain said Wednesday they would recognize a Palestinian state, a historic but largely symbolic move that further deepens Israel's isolation more than seven months into its grinding war against Hamas in Gaza. Israel denounced the decisions and recalled its ambassadors to the three countries.

Palestinian officials welcomed the announcements as an affirmation of their decades-long quest for statehood in east Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip — territories Israel seized in the 1967 Mideast war and still controls.

While some 140 countries — more than two-thirds of the United Nations — recognize a Palestinian state, Wednesday's cascade of announcements could build momentum at a time when even close allies of Israel have piled on criticism for its conduct in Gaza.

The timing of the move was a surprise, but discussions have been underway for weeks in some European Union countries about possibly recognizing a Palestinian state. Proponents have argued that the war has shown the need for a new push toward a two-state solution, 15 years after negotiations collapsed between Israel and the Palestinians. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government opposes Palestinian statehood.

It was the second blow to Israel's international reputation this week after the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said he would seek arrest warrants for Netanyahu and his defense minister. The International Court of Justice is also considering allegations of genocide that Israel has strenuously denied.

In addition to recalling the ambassadors to the three countries, Israel summoned their envoys, accusing the Europeans of rewarding the militant Hamas group for its Oct. 7 attack that triggered the war. Foreign Minister Israel Katz said the European ambassadors would watch grisly video footage of the attack.

In that assault, Hamas-led militants stormed across the border, killing 1,200 people and taking some 250 hostage. The ICC prosecutor is also seeking arrest warrants for three Hamas leaders. Israel's ensuing offensive has killed more than 35,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, and has caused a humanitarian crisis and a near-famine. The ICC prosecutor has accused Israeli leaders of using starvation as a weapon.

"History will remember that Spain, Norway, and Ireland decided to award a gold medal to Hamas murderers and rapists," Katz said.

In response to the announcements in Europe, Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir paid a provocative visit Wednesday to the Al-Aqsa mosque compound — a flashpoint in Jerusalem that is sacred to Muslims and Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount.

"We will not even allow a statement about a Palestinian state," he said.

In further retaliation, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said he would stop transferring tax revenue earmarked for the Palestinian Authority, a move that threatens to handicap its already waning ability to pay salaries to thousands of employees.

Under interim peace accords in the 1990s, Israel collects tax revenue on behalf of the Palestinians, and it has used the money as a tool to pressure the PA. After the Oct. 7 Hamas attack, Smotrich froze the transfers, but Israel agreed

to send the money to Norway, which transferred it to the PA. Smotrich said Wednesday that he was ending that arrangement.

U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the cutoff was "wrong" because it "destabilizes the West Bank" and undermines "the search for security and prosperity for the Palestinian people."

The international community has viewed the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel as the only realistic way to resolve the conflict.

The United States and Britain, among others, back the idea of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel but say it should come as part of a negotiated settlement. Netanyahu's government says the conflict can only be resolved through direct negotiations.

The formal recognition by Norway, Spain and Ireland — which all have a record of friendly ties with both the Israelis and the Palestinians, while long advocating for a Palestinian state — is planned for May 28.

Their announcements came in swift succession. Norway, which helped broker the Oslo accords that kicked off the peace process in the 1990s, was the first. "There cannot be peace in the Middle East if there is no recognition," said Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre.

The country plans to upgrade its representative office in the West Bank to an embassy. Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris called it a "historic and important day for Ireland and for Palestine," saying the announcements had been coordinated and other countries might join.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, who announced his country's decision before parliament, has spent months touring European and Middle Eastern countries to garner support for recognition and a cease-fire in Gaza.

"This recognition is not against anyone, it is not against the Israeli people," Sánchez said. "It is an act in favor of peace, justice and moral consistency."

President Mahmoud Abbas, the leader of the Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, welcomed the decisions and called on other nations to "recognize our legitimate rights and support the struggle of our people for liberation and independence."

Hamas, which Western countries and Israel view as a terrorist group, does not recognize Israel's existence but has indicated it might agree to a state on the 1967 lines, at least on an interim basis. Israel says any Palestinian state would be at risk of being taken over by Hamas, posing a threat to its security.

The announcements are

unlikely to have any impact on the war in Gaza — or the long-running conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

Israel annexed east Jerusalem and considers it part of its capital, and in the occupied West Bank it has built scores of Jewish settlements that are now home to over 500,000 Israelis. The settlers have Israeli citizenship, while the 3 million Palestinians in the West Bank live under seemingly open-ended Israeli military rule.

Netanyahu has said Israel will maintain security control of Gaza even after any defeat of Hamas, and the war is still raging there. An Israeli airstrike early Wednesday killed 10 people, including four women and four children, who had been displaced and were sheltering in central Gaza, according to hospital authorities.

Hugh Lovatt, a senior policy fellow at the European

Council on Foreign Relations, said "recognition is a tangible step towards a viable political track leading to Palestinian self-determination."

To have an impact, he said, it must come with "tangible steps to counter Israel's annexation and settlement of Palestinian territory — such as banning settlement products and financial services."

Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide defended the importance of the move in an interview with The Associated Press, saying that while the country has supported the establishment of a Palestinian state for decades, it knew that recognition is "a card that you can play once."

"We used to think that recognition would come at the end of a process," he said. "Now we have realized that recognition should come as an impetus, as a strengthening of a process."



Belinda Ziko



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What families can do to honor fallen veterans

The freedoms people living in the United States are afforded would not have been possible to provide if not for the brave efforts and undying commitment of the many individuals who have served in the nation's armed forces. American military personnel have played vital roles in securing freedoms for their fellow citizens as well as individuals overseas.

Each year on the final Monday in May, the United States commemorates military personnel who lost their lives while serving in the armed forces. Those individuals made the ultimate sacrifice, and Memorial Day is a way to honor them and thank their families for their selfless acts. This Memorial Day, families can embrace various measures to honor fallen veterans.

- Visit a local veterans cemetery. The United Service Organization (USO) notes that most states have national veterans cemeteries. Though some veterans cemeteries are open only to family members of service personnel, others are open to the general public. Visiting a veterans cemetery is a great way to honor fallen military members and ensure the memory of their service and sacrifice is not forgotten on Memorial Day.
- Celebrate veterans over Memorial Day weekend. Memorial Day weekend is now synonymous with getaways and backyard barbecues. By taking time out during the weekend to honor fallen veterans, families can ensure the meaning behind the holiday is not lost in the midst of celebrations with family and friends. Take time out during a family barbecue to discuss a family member who served or, if traveling, make an effort to visit a veterans memorial along your travel route.
- Help raise funds for veterans organizations. Fun runs or community Memorial Day walks may benefit local veterans organizations that help service members in need. Many service members may need help dealing with the deaths of friends or family members who died while serving in the armed forces, and veterans organizations may provide such help or direct funds to groups that do. That makes participation in events that benefit veterans organizations a great way to honor current military personnel and those who have served in the past, including those who died in service of their country.
- Teach youngsters about the role of the armed forces. There's a lot competing for the attention of today's young people, and that can make it easy to overlook the very freedoms that make the United States such a unique country throughout world history. Parents and guardians can emphasize the role the armed forces play in procuring and protecting freedoms in the United States and emphasize the significance of the sacrifices of those who gave their lives to ensure a higher quality of life for all U.S. residents.

Memorial Day commemorates military personnel who died while serving in the armed forces. There is much families can do to ensure those sacrifices are never forgotten or taken for granted.

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Interesting facts related to Memorial Day

Memorial Day is celebrated annually on the last Monday of May across the United States. The proximity of Memorial Day to the summer solstice has led many to view the weekend preceding the holiday as the unofficial kickoff to summer. However, Memorial Day is about more than backyard barbecues and weekend getaways.

Memorial Day honors service members who died while serving in the United States military. Though Memorial Day traces its origins to the years following the American Civil War in the mid-nineteenth century, it did not become an official federal holiday until 1971. That's one of just many interesting facts about Memorial Day that are worth noting as the United States prepares to commemorate the sacrifices of military personnel who died in service of the country.

- Memorial Day began as something of a grass roots movement. According to History.com, by the late 1860s individuals in towns across the war-ravaged United States began holding springtime tributes to soldiers who lost their lives during the American Civil War.
- Among the more notable postwar commemorations was one organized by former slaves in Charleston, South Carolina. That commemoration occurred less than a month after the Confederate forces surrendered in 1865. Despite that, History.com notes that in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the birthplace of Memorial Day.
- Postwar commemorations also were organized by northern veterans of the Civil War. General John A. Logan, who led an organization of Union veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance in May 1868. General Logan referred to the holiday as Declaration Day and chose May 30 because it was not the anniversary of any specific battle and therefore unlikely to be viewed by some as controversial.
- Early commemorations of Decoration Day, which gradually came to be known as Memorial Day, initially honored only those soldiers who died during the American Civil War. However, that changed over time as American servicemen fought in various wars, including both World Wars, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, and other conflicts.
- The red poppy has become a symbol of Memorial Day. That red poppy can be traced to a poem by Canadian John McCrae, who served as a Lieutenant Colonel in World War I. "In Flanders Field" notes the red poppies that grew in fields where countless soldiers had been buried in modern-day Belgium. The poem was published in 1915, three years before the war ended. Sadly, McCrae himself was a casualty of the war, succumbing to pneumonia in France in 1918 while still in the service.

Memorial Day honors service personnel who lost their lives while serving in the U.S. military. The holiday's inspiration and lengthy history merits consideration as the nation prepares to commemorate countless soldiers' sacrifices once more.

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Neuenschwander's, Graft's late-inning RBI lift Knights to sectional victory

By RYAN WALKER

Norwell had to gut out a 6-4 victory over Peru in the first round of the baseball sectional Wednesday night.

The Knights, who are hosting their first-ever sectional in baseball, got clutch hits in front of a packed crowd to rally behind a 3-0 deficit.

Peru got on the board first, plating three runs in the second inning on a two-RBI single by Gavin Eldridge, who later scored on a wild pitch.

Outside of Cayden Cassel's RBI single in the third inning, Norwell found itself in some trouble until the fifth inning. That was when Drew Graft slammed home an RBI triple to inch closer with a 3-2 score. Then, Cade Shelton blasted his second home run of the season to the batting cages in left field for a two-run home run that gave the Knights the lead.

Following the home run, the Tigers tied the game up when Reis Bellar reached base, legging out an infield single. He rounded second, third, and came home a few pitches later on passed balls and wild throws.

In the seventh, Graft reached first on a leadoff walk, stole second and represented the go-ahead run for the Knights. But the Tigers' relief pitcher Ian Potts recorded the next three outs to send the game to extra innings.

Leading off the eighth inning, Logan Cotton was plunked by Potts and was awarded first base. Pinch runner Garry Riley ran for him and ended up on second on a stolen base. Drew Jolley's sacrifice bunt was executed to perfection, getting Riley to third. Then, Korben Neuenschwander came in clutch, hitting a single back up the Tigers' middle of the infield to regain the lead.

For insurance, Graft drilled a double to left field to drive in another run.

Cade Shelton, throwing in relief for Lane Lewis in the seventh inning, recorded three outs in a row for the second straight inning to seal the win.

Norwell will host Belmont in the second round at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 25.

ryan@news-banner.com



Norwell's Korben Neuenschwander (right) tags Peru base runner Isaac Braley during the second inning of the sectional quarter-final Wednesday night at Norwell High School. Neuenschwander's go-ahead RBI single came in clutch in extra innings, leading the Knights to a 6-4 victory over the Tigers. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



At left, Cade Shelton (back) gets a big hug from Korben Neuenschwander after recording the final out of the game to keep their season alive. At right, Knights' starting pitcher Lane Lewis yells toward his dugout in excitement after striking out a Tiger batter early in the game.



High School Calendar

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: (Sectional) Bluffton at South Adams, 5:30 p.m.; Norwell vs. Belmont at Oak Hill, 7 p.m.
FRIDAY, MAY 24
BASEBALL: (Sectional) 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.; Belmont at Norwell, 11 a.m.; Bluffton at South Adams, 1 p.m.
MONDAY, MAY 27
BOYS GOLF: Bluffton, Southern Wells at Southwood Knights Invitational, 10 a.m.

Spartans end Knights' tennis run, Johnson and Felger continue

By RYAN WALKER

Norwell's tennis season came to a screeching halt at the hands of No. 26 Homestead Wednesday night in the regional championship match. But like the first meeting between the two teams, it wasn't without a fight.

The Knights gave the Spartans another 3-2 game, this time on a neutral site at Bluffton. In the beginning, all but No. 1 singles was ahead for Norwell at the time before Homestead came back and stole the first set from No. 2 singles and doubles.

Homestead's Macy Parker got the Spartans on the board first at No. 1 singles, but was quickly followed by Norwell's Macie Saalfrank with a win at No. 3 singles.

All matches between the two winners were tight and nearly took a full three hours to complete. But Homestead clinched a team victory, winning at No. 2 singles and doubles.

"We came in as underdogs, and we gave him everything that we had we think made it close and really made Homestead really nervous," Norwell head coach Holly Kimball said after the match. "To come out with a two-three loss against state-ranked Homestead team is really good for us. Still proud of them."

The second point was the most difficult for Norwell, but meant the most.

Annabelle Johnson and Macy Felger were fighting for team points for the majority of the match, but after realizing the match

was out of hand, they were both solely playing to keep their individual tournament hopes alive.

The No. 1 doubles team was unbeaten in the postseason and, therefore, eligible to advance in the sectional individual tournament as was Homestead's team.

Johnson and Felger locked up the first set 6-2, but the Spartans' team of Grace Hansen and Caroline Meier won the second by one point. The match went all the way down to a tiebreaker in the third and final set. After many tries, the Knights' duo got it done and conquered victory 6-2, 6-7, 7-6 (8-6). Johnson and Felger will now play Maconaquah's No. 1 doubles team in the sectional at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 23 at Bluffton.

"You're always excited for the seniors, when they win, and they get to go on," Kimball said. "So, the fight that they had, especially to come back after they lost three games is phenomenal. And to pull it out in a tiebreaker was great. Everybody's really proud of them, and I'm looking forward to bringing a whole team tomorrow to support him again."

As a team, Norwell's group was led by five seniors: Johnson and Felger, Jordyn Xayyachack, Ciera Hiester and Addy Heyerly, who will be dearly missed both on and off the court. The core five were leaders and lifted the Knights' program to four Northeast 8 Conference titles and three sectional championships in their tenure. But they made an



Knights' No. 3 singles player Macie Saalfrank returns a shot during her match. Saalfrank was the first of two points for Norwell in the match with Homestead.



Norwell's Macy Felger (left) encourages her No. 1 doubles partner Annabelle Johnson in the late stages of their match with Homestead's Grace Hansen and Caroline Meier in the regional final Wednesday at Bluffton. The two got the win in a third-set tiebreaker, advancing to the sectional portion of the individual doubles tournament to extend their season. The Knights fell as a team 3-2. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

impact off the court as well.

"I think part of what they leave is just a good culture," Kimball said. "They welcome in the new people, we don't have any juniors, so hopefully the sophomores will step up next year and continue that culture of acceptance and try to grow the program and invite anybody who wants to play. Because you can see during a lot of these matches, it's a team when the other girls weren't on the court, but they're cheering for one doubles and it makes a huge difference when you have a team around you."

Individual results:

- Macy Parker (H) defeated Addy Heyerly 6-1, 6-0 at No. 1 singles.
- Layla Kelly (H) defeated Delaney Hoover 7-5, 6-1 at No. 2 singles.
- Macie Saalfrank (N) defeated Stella Adams 6-2, 7-5 at No. 3 singles.
- Annabelle Johnson and Macy Felger (N) defeated Grace Hansen and Caroline Meier 6-2, 6-7, 7-6 (8-6) at No. 1 doubles.
- Elaina Schilt and Nadie Cowan (H) defeated Jordyn Xayyachack 7-5, 6-2 at No. 2 doubles.

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News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

NBA
Sunday, May 19
 Indiana 130, New York 109, Indiana wins series 4 - 3
 Minnesota 98, Denver 90, Minnesota wins series 4 - 3

CONFERENCE FINALS
 (Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
Tuesday, May 21
 Boston 133, Indiana 123
Wednesday, May 22
 Dallas 108, Minnesota 105
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.

WNBA
EASTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pct	GB
New York	4	0 1.000	—
Connecticut	3	0 1.000	½
Atlanta	2	1 .667	1½
Chicago	1	1 .500	2
Washington	0	4 .000	4
Indiana	0	5 .000	4½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	2	0 1.000	—
Las Vegas	2	1 .667	½
Phoenix	2	1 .667	½
Seattle	2	3 .400	1½
Los Angeles	1	2 .333	1½
Dallas	1	2 .333	1½

Tuesday's Games
 Atlanta 83, Dallas 78
 Phoenix 98, Las Vegas 88
 Los Angeles 70, Washington 68

Wednesday's Games
 Seattle 85, Indiana 83

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

Friday's Games
 Indiana at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.

Saturday's Games
 New York at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Connecticut at Chicago, 8 p.m.
 Indiana at Las Vegas, 9 p.m.
 Washington at Seattle, 9 p.m.
 Dallas at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

NHL
Saturday, May 18
 Edmonton 5, Vancouver 1, series tied 3 - 3

Monday, May 20
 Edmonton at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

CONFERENCE FINALS
 (Best-of-7)
 (x-if necessary)
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
AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

W	L	Pct	GB
New York	34	17 .667	—
Baltimore	29	18 .617	3
Boston	26	24 .520	7½
Tampa Bay	25	26 .490	9
Toronto	22	26 .458	10½

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	33	17 .660	—
Kansas City	32	19 .627	1½
Minnesota	26	23 .531	6½
Detroit	23	26 .469	9½
Chicago	15	35 .300	18

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	27	23 .540	—
Texas	24	26 .480	3
Houston	22	28 .440	5
Los Angeles	20	30 .400	7
Oakland	20	30 .400	7

Tuesday's Games
 Cleveland 7, N.Y. Mets 6
 Minnesota 10, Washington 0
 Boston 5, Tampa Bay 2
 Philadelphia 5, Texas 2
 Chicago White Sox 5, Toronto 0
 Kansas City 10, Detroit 3
 Seattle 6, N.Y. Yankees 3
 Houston 6, L.A. Angels 5, 10 innings
 Oakland 5, Colorado 4
 Baltimore at St. Louis, sus.

Wednesday's Games
 St. Louis 3, Baltimore 1, 1st game
 Minnesota 3, Washington 2
 Cleveland 6, N.Y. Mets 3
 St. Louis 5, Baltimore 4, 2nd game
 L.A. Angels 2, Houston 1
 Kansas City 8, Detroit 3
 Philadelphia 11, Texas 4

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	36	14 .720	—
Atlanta	28	18 .609	6
Washington	21	27 .438	14
New York	21	28 .429	14½
Miami	17	34 .333	19½

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	28	21 .571	—
Chicago	27	23 .540	1½
St. Louis	23	26 .469	5
Pittsburgh	23	27 .460	5½
Cincinnati	20	29 .408	8

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	33	18 .647	—
San Diego	26	26 .500	7½
San Francisco	24	26 .480	8½
Arizona	23	26 .469	9
Colorado	15	32 .319	16

Tuesday's Games
 Cleveland 7, N.Y. Mets 6
 Cincinnati 2, San Diego 0
 Minnesota 10, Washington 0
 Philadelphia 5, Texas 2
 Milwaukee 7, Miami 5
 Pittsburgh 7, San Francisco 6, 10 innings
 Chicago Cubs 4, Atlanta 3, 10 innings
 Oakland 5, Colorado 4
 Arizona 7, L.A. Dodgers 3
 Baltimore at St. Louis, sus.

Wednesday's Games
 St. Louis 3, Baltimore 1, 1st game
 Minnesota 3, Washington 2
 Cleveland 6, N.Y. Mets 3
 St. Louis 5, Baltimore 4, 2nd game
 Miami 1, Milwaukee 0
 San Diego 7, Cincinnati 3
 Philadelphia 11, Texas 4
 Atlanta 9, Chicago Cubs 2
 San Francisco 9, Pittsburgh 5, 10 innings
 Colorado at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.
 Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

Thursday's Games
 San Francisco (Black 0-1) at Pittsburgh (Skenes 1-0), 12:35 p.m.
 Texas (Heaney 0-5) at Philadelphia (Wheeler 5-3), 1:05 p.m.
 San Diego (Waldron 2-5) at Cincinnati (Montas 2-3), 1:10 p.m.
 Atlanta (TBD) at Chicago Cubs (TBD), 2:20 p.m.
 Colorado (Feltner 1-4) at Oakland (Estes 1-1), 3:37 p.m.

Friday's Games
 Atlanta at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.
 Seattle at Washington, 6:45 p.m.
 L.A. Dodgers at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.
 Milwaukee at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
 San Francisco at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.
 Chicago Cubs at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.
 Miami at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.
 N.Y. Yankees at San Diego, 9:40 p.m.

Dayton at Quad Cities, ppd.
 Cedar Rapids 8, Peoria 6, 10 innings

Wednesday's Games
 Wisconsin 4, South Bend 2
 Quad Cities 5, Dayton 2, 1st game
 Dayton 8, Quad Cities 6, 2nd game
 Great Lakes 14, Beloit 13, 10 innings
 Lake County 12, West Michigan 3
 Fort Wayne 12, Lansing 5
 Peoria 3, Cedar Rapids 2

Thursday's Games
 Beloit at Great Lakes, 6:05 p.m.
 West Michigan at Lake County, 6:35 p.m.
 Wisconsin at South Bend, 7:05 p.m.
 Lansing at Fort Wayne, 7:05 p.m.
 Dayton at Quad Cities, 7:30 p.m.
 Cedar Rapids at Peoria, 8:05 p.m.

Friday's Games
 Beloit at Great Lakes, 6:05 p.m.
 West Michigan at Lake County, 6:35 p.m.
 Wisconsin at South Bend, 7:05 p.m.
 Lansing at Fort Wayne, 7:05 p.m.
 Dayton at Quad Cities, 7:30 p.m.
 Cedar Rapids at Peoria, 8:05 p.m.

Optioned RHP Cole Winn to Round Rock (IL). Agreed to terms with RHP Nabil Crismatt on a minor league contract and assigned him to Round Rock.

National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Recalled LHP Brandon Hughes from Reno (PCL). Optioned RHP Slade Cecconi to Reno.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Recalled RHP Chris Roycroft from Memphis (IL).
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Selected the contract of LF David Peralta from El Paso (PCL). Transferred RHP Luis Patino from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL. Placed SS Xander Bogaerts on the 10-day IL, retroactive to May 21.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Reinstated LHP Blake Snell from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Nick Avila to Richmond (EL).

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ATLANTA FALCONS — Waived TE Tucker Fisk with an injury designation. Signed WRs Daylen Baldwin and Odell Hiltari.
BALTIMORE RAVENS — Named George Kokonis vice president of player personnel, David McDonald vice president of research and development, Mark Azevedo director of player personnel, Andrew Raphael director of college scouting, Derrick Yam director of data and decision science, Joey Cleary assistant director of college scouting and Corey Frazier assistant director of pro personnel. Released DT Bravvion Roy.
LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Signed WR Alex Bachman.
NEW YORK JETS — Signed TE Kevin Foelsch. Waived QB Colby Suits.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed draft pick TE Theo Johnson.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Placed WR DeVante Parker on the reserve/retired list.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Signed draft pick S Tykee Smith. Signed DL Earnest Brown. Waived RB Patrick Laird.
National Hockey League
SAN JOSE SHARKS — Signed D Luca Cagnoni to a three-year, entry-level contract.
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Signed D Dylan Gill to a three-year, entry-level contract.
WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Returned D Vincent Iorio to Hershey (AHL) from loan.

TRANSACTIONS

Wednesday's Transactions
BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Recalled LHP Nick Vespi from Norfolk (IL) and added as the 27th man for a doubleheader. Acquired C Blake Hunt from Seattle in exchange for RHP Mike Baumann and C Michael Perez and optioned him to Norfolk (IL).
BOSTON RED SOX — Sent RHP Isaiah Campbell to Worcester (IL) on a rehab assignment.
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Recalled OF Zach DeLoach and RHP Nick Nastirini. Placed OF Eloy Jimenez on the 10-day IL. Placed RHP Steven Wilson on the 15-day IL, retroactive to May 20.
NEW YORK YANKEES — Reinstated RHP Tommy Kahnle from the 15-day IL. Optioned LHP Clayton Andrews to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).
SEATTLE MARINERS — Selected the contract of LHP Jhonathan Diaz from Tacoma (PCL) and optioned him to Tacoma.
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Reinstated RHP Ryan Peipot from the 15-day IL. Designated RHP Erasmo Ramirez for assignment.
TEXAS RANGERS — Reinstated RHP Dane Dunning from the 15-day IL.

Midwest League

East Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
Great Lakes	23	18 .561	—
Lake County	23	18 .561	—
West Michigan	21	20 .512	2
Lansing	20	21 .488	3
Dayton	19	22 .463	4
Fort Wayne	19	22 .463	4

West Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
Wisconsin	27	14 .659	—
Cedar Rapids	25	15 .625	1½
Quad Cities	20	21 .488	7
Beloit (Miami)	19	21 .475	7½
South Bend	15	26 .366	12
Peoria	14	27 .341	13

Tuesday's Games
 Beloit 8, Great Lakes 4
 South Bend 7, Wisconsin 1
 West Michigan 11, Lake County 7
 Fort Wayne 12, Lansing 1

Raiders get golf win on Senior Night over Patriots

Southern Wells hosted its Senior Night at Dogwood Glen Golf Course Wednesday night. The Raiders defeated Heritage in the solo match with a team score of 185-190. Dirk Frauhiger was the medalist and

led the Raiders with a score of 43, followed by Gabe McElhaney and Cash Banter (44), Chandler Oswald (54) and Tristen Worster (55). Southern Wells will be at Southwood at 10 a.m. Monday, May 27.

Max Fried throws gem over Cubs

CHICAGO (AP) — Max Fried was almost unhittable — once again. Fried has carried a no-hitter into the sixth inning in three of his last five starts for Atlanta. The left-hander retired his first 15 batters in a three-hitter Wednesday night, leading the Braves to a 9-2 victory over the Chicago Cubs. “It’s something I pride myself in, on going to deep into games,” Fried said. “The nights where you’re efficient, you’re not walking guys and not wasting pitches, it’s more about just putting your foot on the gas pedal and just keep going, rather than thinking about it.” The 30-year-old Fried struggled early in the season, recording a 7.71 ERA through his first four starts. But he has been much better of late. He struck out six while throwing a three-hitter in a 5-0 victory over Miami on April 23. He struck out seven while pitching six

hitless innings in a no-decision at Seattle on April 29. He tossed seven more hitless innings in a 4-1 victory over the New York Mets on May 11. After a shaky outing against San Diego last week, he turned in another gem against the Cubs. “Fortunately I get to witness it and be a part of it,” Atlanta catcher Travis d’Arnaud said. “I think him understanding his delivery so well is a big part of it. Being able to put his fastball where he wants to, it opens up every other off-speed pitch I think is the biggest thing.” Fried, who went 8-1 with a 2.55 ERA in 14 starts for Atlanta last year, struck out nine and walked none in his sixth career complete game. He threw 105 pitches, 72 for strikes. Ian Happ hit a leadoff double in the sixth for Chicago’s first baserunner. Happ and Dansby Swanson singled in the eighth for the Cubs’ other two hits.

Doncic leads strong close by Mavericks for win over Wolves in Game 1 of WCF

By DAVE CAMPBELL
 AP Sports Writer
 MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Luka Doncic had 15 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter to lift the Dallas Mavericks to a 108-105 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals on Wednesday night. Kyrie Irving scored 24 of his 30 in the first half for the Mavericks, who trailed 102-98 after a 3-pointer by Anthony Edwards with 3:37 left before an 8-0 run the Wolves didn’t stop until a tip-in with 10.5 seconds to go. For the first time in six tries under coach Jason Kidd, the Mavericks won the first game of a series. Jaden McDaniels had his third straight 20-plus-point game with 24 points for the Wolves, but Edwards — who earned his first All-NBA selection prior to the game, on the second team — was stifled for 19 points in a team effort from the Mavericks. Karl-Anthony Towns needed a late burst to get to 16 points and finished 6 for 20 from the floor. The star power in this series is strong, and for the first night at least the Mavericks got what they needed from their leading duo while the Wolves largely struggled to run the offense around theirs. Dallas had a 62-38 advantage in points in the paint to offset a 6-for-25 shooting performance from deep. “Terrible offense down the stretch: bad shots, turnovers, no composure,” Wolves coach Chris Finch said. “We’ve got to be better in clutch moments.” Towns came to life with a long jumper, a lob to Rudy Gobert for a slam and a 3-pointer on a 2-minute burst to give the Wolves the lead back with 4:39 to go on the way to a 10-0 run that Doncic ended with a 3-pointer. P.J. Washington, who had 13 points and seven rebounds, hit from deep to put the Mavericks back in front with 1:56 to go. Towns thought he tied the game with a putback dunk on the next possession, but that was waved off for basket interference. Edwards, who went scoreless in the third quarter, added 11 rebounds and eight assists. Neither team led by more than nine. Minnesota hosts Game 2 on Friday night. Doncic was relatively quiet until he scored seven straight points over 63 seconds early in the fourth quarter, and the Mavericks stretched that to a 13-0 run for a 97-89 lead that Edwards finally ended with a 3-pointer after another helter-skelter pos-

session. The Wolves had two days off after dethroning defending champion Denver with a Game 7 comeback from a 20-point deficit to win the second-round series, and the transition was sharp from the Nuggets and NBA MVP Nikola Jokic’s deliberate and powerful style to the pick-and-roll-heavy Mavericks. The Wolves frequently lost their opponents off screens for wide-open dunks, and the Mavericks moved with a purpose that kept the Wolves from consistently setting their half-court defense around the NBA Defensive Player of the Year Gobert at the rim. Irving’s stunning burst on the break and on the drive presented a unique challenge the Wolves and their league-leading defense didn’t face in the last round, when they held the Nuggets to an average of 85 points over their four wins. “He got us going. Without him, we would probably be down 20 at halftime,” Doncic said. “I had to help him in the second half a little bit. So we switched roles this time.” McDaniels, who played his usual relentless defense on the perimeter, was the catalyst on the other end of the court too with five 3-pointers in the first half, but Towns had trouble getting shots to fall and Edwards found his driving lanes constantly clogged. “He’s an amazing player. We have to put multiple bodies on him,” Doncic said. “If he’s going 1-on-1, it’s kind of tough to stop him.” The Mavericks have cranked up their defense since adding Daniel Gafford and Washington at the trade deadline, as top-seeded Oklahoma City can attest after losing in six games in the last round. The Wolves have had the superior depth in each round so far, and Kyle Anderson gave them a vital 11 points in the first half. Naz Reid had 15 points, including a fast-break layup followed by a steal from Doncic to set up a 3-pointer by Edwards at the end of the first quarter that put the Wolves up 33-27 and had the crowd roaring. The Wolves and these long-frustrated fans have reached unfamiliar territory with this team that has given the franchise just its second Western Conference finals appearance ever. The Mavericks were here just two years ago, but before Irving arrived. He’s the only player of significance in this series with a championship ring, having helped Cleveland win it all in 2016.



NASCAR CUP SERIES
Coca-Cola 600
Site: Concord, North Carolina.
Schedule: Saturday, practice, 5:05 p.m., and qualifying, 5:50 p.m.; Sunday, race, 6 p.m. (FOX).
Track: Charlotte Motor Speedway.
Last race: Joey Logano started on the pole at North Wilkesboro, led 199 of the 200 laps and won the non-points All-Star race for the second time, earning \$1 million.
Next race: June 2, Madison, Illinois.

NASCAR XFINITY SERIES
BetMGM 300
Site: Concord, North Carolina.
Schedule: Friday, practice, 3:35 p.m., and qualifying, 4:05 p.m.; Saturday, race, 1 p.m. (FOX).
Next race: June 1, Portland, Oregon.

NASCAR TRUCK SERIES
North Carolina Education Lottery 200
Site: Concord, North Carolina.
Schedule: Friday, practice, 1:30 p.m., qualifying, 2:05 p.m., and race, 8:30 p.m. (FS1).
Next race: June 1, Madison, Illinois.

FORMULA ONE
Monaco Grand Prix
Site: Monaco.
Schedule: Friday, practice, 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Saturday, practice, 6:30 a.m., and qualifying, 10 a.m.; Sunday, race, 9 a.m. (ESPN).
Track: Circuit de Monaco.
Last race: Verstappen held off a challenge from Lando Norris to win in Italy, his fifth victory in seven races this season.
Next race: June 9, Montreal, Canada.

INDYCAR
Indianapolis 500
Site: Indianapolis, Indiana.
Schedule: Friday, final practice, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Sunday, race, 12:30 p.m. (NBC).
Track: Indianapolis Motor Speedway.
Next race: June 2, Detroit.

NHRA DRAG RACING
Last event: Antron Brown won in Top Fuel and Matt Hagan won in Funny Car in Illinois.
Next event: June 2, Epping, New Hampshire.

WORLD OF OUTLAWS
Next events: May 24 & 25, Chillicothe, Ohio; May 27, Fremont, Ohio.

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7		9	5	2				3
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2			9				5	
		1		4	7			

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Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 18-26-27-30-35
Lotto Plus — 17-19-21-33-35-38
Cash4Life — 07-13-19-22-40, Cash Ball: 02
Quick Draw Midday — 01-05-09-07-10-28-29-31-33-35-37-40-44-47-54-56-62-66-75-80, BE: 06
Daily Three-Midday — 04-01-02, SB: 04
Daily Three-Evening — 08-03-04, SB: 03
Daily Four-Midday — 03-08-00-01, SB: 04
Daily Four-Evening — 09-01-03-09, SB: 03
Quick Draw Evening — 04-06-07-13-22-24-30-34-37-41-42-43-44-54-55-59-66-67-70-71, BE: 37
Hoosier Lotto — 03-14-29-34-42-43
MEGA MILLIONS
 Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$453 million
POWERBALL
 05-16-18-26-67 Powerball: 04; Power Play: 3X

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EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

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

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ANNUAL BARN SALE Thurs., Fri., Sat. (May 23, 24, 25), 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 2750 N. State Rd. 1. Kitchen, electronics, patio and other furniture, air conditioner, name brand clothes (children to adult), puzzles, books, Christmas, curtains, bedding, toys.

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Public Sale Calendar

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. *Troy 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, *Ness Bros. Realtors & Auctioneers*, www.NessBros.com.
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.
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/orinate 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. *Krueckeburg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

Public Notices

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS 05/10/2024

Notice is hereby given that the AREA PLAN COMMISSION will hold a Public Hearing in Conference Room 105 in the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St., in the City of Bluffton, IN at 7:00 o'clock P.M. on the 13th day of June, 2024, for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comments on the petition(s) listed below.

1. Request of Daniel Dubach, 505 S Main St., Bluffton, IN 46714 for the purpose of a Development Plan.

Current Zoning: B-1 Proposed Development Plan: Proposed building addition, sidewalks, and parking.

Common Location: The subject property is located at 505 S Main St., Bluffton, Indiana, 46714
 Brief Legal: The subject property is described as .35 ac in the NE/4 4-26N-12E in Harrison Township of Wells County.

2. Request of Almco Steel Products Corporation, 59 N Oak St Ext., Bluffton, IN 46714 for the purpose of a Rezoning.

Current Zoning: A-R Proposed Zoning: I-2
 Common Location: The subject property is located at Lancaster St., Bluffton, Indiana, 46714

Brief Legal: The subject property is described as 38.82 acres SW/4 33-27N-12E in Lancaster Township of Wells County.

Dated this 10th day of May, 2024

WELLS COUNTY AREA PLAN COMMISSION
 Michael Lautzenheiser, Jr., Director

oj, nb 5/23 hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

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7	6	8	8	9	2	9	2	1
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NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Wells County, Indiana, that the County Council of said County, will meet at the Courthouse Annex in Bluffton, Indiana at 7:00 O'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the 4th day of June 2024, to consider the following additional appropriations more than the budget for the current year.

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