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MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024

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Above, the traditional turning of tassels and throwing caps into the air commenced as the ceremony came to a close. (Photos by Sydney Kent)

Norwell grads share sentimental send-off

• More photos on Page 10
 By SYDNEY KENT

There were no empty seats as friends and family members of the Norwell High School Class of 2024 filled the gymnasium on Sunday.

Not many eyes were dry as students John Pepler, Gage Bradburn and Trey Bodenheimer began with a tribute to classmate Degan Davidson. Davidson passed away after finishing his sophomore year at Norwell. Principal Kam Meyer presented Davidson's parents with an honorary diploma, cap and gown. A moment of silence also honored student Michael Small, who passed away in 2019.

During his address, Connor Lewis acknowledged the ability of his fellow classmates to persevere.

"We have experienced a lot," Lewis said. "From managing stress of our everyday lives to being shown into our freshman year after a nationwide COVID quarantine. There are many moments that we will remember, such as when our Lady Knights' basketball team made it to the state game this year, finding out that our internet connection on our phones had been cut off, the strain of bathroom



Dakota Hubble accepting her rose after she received her diploma.

events, such as the trash can catching on fire, and the terrors of the infamous "poop bandit" — and even when Mr. Weinert was gifted the iconic "I heart hot grandmas" t-shirt. These moments will allow us to remember one another for years to come. To conclude, I ask that you not be afraid of what's next — you are ready."

The traditional passing down of the class president gavel was conducted by Eli Ingle with Hudson Gerbers, president of the NHS Class of 2025. During the

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Southern Wells celebrates 54 seniors

• More photos on Page 9
 By JONATHAN SNYDER

Serene weather was a perfect backdrop for the memories shared by faculty and students as Southern Wells Jr./Sr. High School officially graduated its Class of 2024 on Sunday.

After the Southern Wells band played the processional music and everyone sat down, Superintendent Trent Lehman addressed the class. Lehman urged the class to intensely pursue their goals while diligently keeping up with the steps required to achieve them. While Lehman wants his students to chase their dreams, he also told the class that developing good character is more important than those goals.

"Enjoy the moment, celebrate moments like these throughout your life," Lehman said. "As important as these goals are, the process (to those goals) and the adjustments in the process ... the life lessons learned, the character developed, the people you meet, how you go after some of your goals ... even sacrificing some of your daily commitment in goals to help someone in need. All these things are more important ultimately than your goals. What you become is more important than what you accomplish."

Students receiving academic, technical and distinction honors were then announced to those in attendance. Fifteen students from the class graduated with a 3.5 Grade Point Average or higher, with four students achieving a 4.0 GPA or higher.

Ella Lahr was announced as the class valedictorian. Lahr mentioned her faith in Christ during her speech, stating that if the graduates set their minds on glorifying God with their work, work becomes more enjoyable and impactful to others.



Valedictorian Ella Lahr gives her speech. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

"Looking ahead into our future schooling, careers or whatever we do, it is important to strive to live a life that will allow for us to be a light to those that we interact with," Lahr said. "Don't let yourself get caught up in the distractions that the world carries ... instead look to honor God in all of your actions."

Malaina Culbertson earned honors as the class salutatorian. Culbertson challenged the class to embrace the uncomfortable aspects of life. She acknowledged that new adventures and opportunities come with a fear of what may happen next. Culbertson urged the class to take on the opportunities that come their way with an earnest desire to learn.

"Today marks the end of an era for us all but the beginning of a lifetime of new adventures and an abundance of knowledge," Culbertson said. "Let us start our incredible journey now with excitement and optimism as we go out into the world to make our dreams of today become our

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The graduating Class of 2024 tosses their caps into the air.

U.S. students are recovering from pandemic-era setbacks

But millions are making up little ground

By COLLIN BINKLEY
 AP Education Writer

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — On one side of the classroom, students circled teacher Maria Fletcher and practiced vowel sounds. In another corner, children read together from a book. Scattered elsewhere, students sat at laptop

computers and got reading help from online tutors.

For the third graders at Mount Vernon Community School in Virginia, it was an ordinary school day. But educators were racing to get students learning more, faster, and to overcome setbacks that have persisted since schools closed

for the COVID-19 pandemic four years ago.

America's schools have started to make progress toward getting students back on track. But improvement has been slow and uneven across geography and economic status, with millions of students — often those from marginalized groups — making up little or no ground.

Nationally, students made up one-third of their pandemic losses in math during the past school year and one-quarter of the losses in reading, according to the Education Recovery Scorecard, an analysis of state and national test scores by researchers at Harvard and Stanford.

But in nine states, including Virginia, reading scores continued

to fall during the 2022-23 school year after previous decreases during the pandemic.

Clouding the recovery is a looming financial crisis. States have used some money from the historic \$190 billion in federal pandemic relief to help students catch up, but that money runs out later this year.

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Israel seeks a 'governing alternative' to Hamas in Gaza

By MELANIE LIDMAN
 Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel is looking into an alternative local governing body for Gaza, the defense minister said Sunday, proposing a future beyond Hamas but giving no idea who those challengers might be.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant's comments came at a time

of new uncertainty in the eight-month war. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is under growing pressure from many Israelis to accept a new cease-fire deal proposed by U.S. President Joe Biden, while far-right allies threaten to collapse his government if he does.

Gallant, part of Israel's three-member War Cabinet who recently

urged the government to have a detailed postwar plan for Gaza, said in a briefing that "we seek a governing alternative to Hamas. The framework for this includes isolating areas, removing Hamas operatives in these areas and bringing in other forces that will enable the formation of a governing alternative."

That will achieve Israel's goals

of removing Hamas' military and governing authority in Gaza and returning home the remaining hostages taken in the Oct. 7 Hamas attack that sparked the war, Gallant said. He stressed that "we will not accept the rule of Hamas at any stage in any process aimed at ending the war."

In response to questions, an Israeli defense official told The

Associated Press that Gallant hopes to enable isolated, Hamas-free areas in Gaza to become "hubs of local government" and identify forces that can enable a longer-term formation of a government.

Israel is looking for "local non-hostile actors," the official said, adding that Gallant believes that

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Outside

Sunny and hot today, cool and breezy tonight

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 84	High 87	High 79
Low 65	Low 68	Low 62

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Norwell High School graduation

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ceremony, Ingle recounted his experience and offered a few words of wisdom to Gerbers.

"Being a leader is more than just being in charge," Ingle said. "It is a lifestyle that one must learn to understand, challenge, and overcome. While it might feel like forever before you'll be standing where I am now, time goes in a flash. Take time to embrace the people around you. Take time to have fun. Take time to

be a kid. Sometimes life can feel impossible like you don't know where you are going. It is in these moments, especially, when it is important to lean on one another as a class. Together you are stronger."

The NHS show choir performed "For Forever" with the NHS band playing "Fly to Paradise" during the ceremony.

Meyer asked specific students to stand to recognize their outstanding achievements — including honor

roll, high GPAs and military enlistment. Students then walked across the stage to accept their diplomas before receiving a rose and a handshake from Superintendent Mike Springer.

Addyson Heyerly concluded the ceremony with a few words.

"Today we come full circle to celebrate our high school journey," Heyerly said. "Perhaps today is not just about receiving a diploma but acknowledging

the hard work, friendships, and experiences that have brought us to this moment. The best is yet to come, and your future is bright. Just think — in 47 years we will all be seniors again."

The 2024 class motto was "Never back down, never give up." The class colors were purple and white, and the class song was "24k Magic" by Bruno Mars. The class flower was a purple-tipped white rose.

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Southern Wells graduation

(Continued from Page 1)

realities tomorrow. We are ready for it — all we have to do is welcome the uncomfortable and embrace the fear."

Principal Kim Conner then spoke to the class. In an emotional speech, she recalled many great memories the class has given to the faculty, from cheering on Raider sports teams to senior pranks in her office.

"Your class may be small, but you

are definitely a mighty memorable group," Conner said. "We thank you for everything you've done for Southern Wells and wish you luck in your future endeavors."

After the class made the walk to receive their diplomas, Class President Joshua Bricker gave a final address. He thanked the students for their hard work and the parents for their sacrifices in helping raise the now-graduated

men and women and charged the class to embrace the memories they have made over their many years at Southern Wells Schools.

The class' motto is "Looking ahead, but remembering our past." The class song is "You're Gonna Miss This" by Trace Adkins. Their colors are blue and silver, and the class flower is the white lily.

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U.S. students

(Continued from Page 1)

"The recovery is not finished, and it won't be finished without state action," said Thomas Kane, a Harvard economist behind the scorecard. "States need to start planning for what they're going to do when the federal money runs out in September. And I think few states have actually started that discussion."

Virginia lawmakers approved an extra \$418 million last year to accelerate recovery. Massachusetts officials set aside \$3.2 million to provide math tutoring for fourth and eighth grade students who are behind grade level, along with \$8 million for literacy tutoring.

But among other states with lagging progress, few said they were changing their strategies or spending more to speed up improvement.

Virginia hired online tutoring companies and gave schools a "playbook" showing how to build effective tutoring programs. Lisa Coons, Virginia's superintendent of public instruction, said last year's state test scores were a wake-up call.

"We weren't recovering as fast as we needed," Coons said in an interview.

U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona has called for states to continue funding extra academic help for students as the federal money expires.

"We just can't stop now," he said at a May 30 conference for education journalists. "The states need to recognize these interventions work. Funding public education does make a difference."

In Virginia, the Alexandria district received \$2.3 million in additional state money to expand tutoring.

At Mount Vernon, where

classes are taught in English and Spanish, students are divided into groups and rotate through stations customized to their skill level. Those who need the most help get online tutoring. In Fletcher's classroom, a handful of students wore headsets and worked with tutors through Ignite Learning, one of the companies hired by the state.

With tutors in high demand, the online option has been a big help. Mount Vernon principal Jennifer Hamilton said.

"That's something that we just could not provide here," she said.

Ana Marisela Ventura Moreno said her 9-year-old daughter, Sabrina, benefited significantly from extra reading help last year during second grade, but she's still catching up.

"She needs to get better. She's not at the level she should be," the mother said in Spanish. She noted the school did not offer the tutoring help this year, but she did not know why.

Alexandria education officials say students scoring below proficient or close to that cutoff receive high-intensity tutoring help and they have to prioritize students with the greatest needs. Alexandria trailed the state average on math and reading exams in 2023, but it's slowly improving.

More worrying to officials are the gaps: Among poorer students at Mount Vernon, just 24% scored proficient in math and 28% hit the mark in reading. That's far lower than the rates among wealthier students, and the divide is growing wider.

Failing to get students back on track could have serious consequences. The researchers at Harvard and

Stanford found communities with higher test scores have higher incomes and lower rates of arrest and incarceration. If pandemic setbacks become permanent, it could follow students for life.

The Education Recovery Scorecard tracks about 30 states, all of which made at least some improvement in math from 2022 to 2023. The states whose reading scores fell in that span, in addition to Virginia, were Nevada, California, South Dakota, Wyoming, Indiana, Oklahoma, Connecticut and Washington.

Only a few states have rebounded to pre-pandemic testing levels. Alabama was the only state where math achievement increased past 2019 levels, while Illinois, Mississippi and Louisiana accomplished that in reading.

In Chicago Public Schools, the average reading score went up by the equivalent of 70% of a grade level from 2022 to 2023. Math gains were less dramatic, with students still behind almost half a grade level compared with 2019. Chicago officials credit the improvement to changes made possible with nearly \$3 billion in federal relief.

The district trained hundreds of Chicago residents to work as tutors. Every school building got an interventionist, an educator who focuses on helping struggling students.

The district also used federal money for home visits and expanded arts education in an effort to re-engage students.

"Academic recovery in isolation, just through 'drill and kill,' either tutoring or interventions, is not effective," said Bogdana Chkounbova, the district's chief education officer. "Students

need to feel engaged."

At Wells Preparatory Elementary on the city's South Side, just 3% of students met state reading standards in 2021. Last year, 30% hit the mark. Federal relief allowed the school to hire an interventionist for the first time, and teachers get paid to team up on recovery outside working hours.

In the classroom, the school put a sharper focus on collaboration. Along with academic setbacks, students came back from school closures with lower maturity levels, principal Vincent Izuegbu said. By building lessons around discussion, officials found students took more interest in learning.

"We do not let 10 minutes go by without a teacher giving students the opportunity to engage with the subject," Izuegbu said. "That's very, very important in terms of the growth that we've seen."

Olorunkemi Atoyebi was an A student before the pandemic, but after spending fifth grade learning at home, she fell behind. During remote learning, she was nervous about stopping class to ask questions. Before long, math lessons stopped making sense.

When she returned to school, she struggled with multiplication and terms such as "dividend" and "divisor" confused her.

While other students worked in groups, her math teacher took her aside for individual help. Atoyebi learned a rhyming song to help memorize multiplication tables. Over time, it began to click.

"They made me feel more confident in everything," said Atoyebi, now 14. "My grades started going up. My scores started going up. Everything has felt like I understand it better."

Weather

Monday, June 3, 2024

(24-hour observations at 11:06 p.m. Sunday)

High: 75; Low: 62; Precipitation: 0.13 inches of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.09 feet at 9:45 p.m. Sunday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. South wind around 5 mph.

Tuesday: A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 87. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tuesday Night: A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 68. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. High near 79. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Wednesday Night: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 8 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 62.

Thursday: A slight chance of showers between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Thursday Night: A slight chance of thunderstorms before 8 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 56. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

Friday: A 20% chance of showers after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 70.

Friday Night: A 10% chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Saturday: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 74.

Saturday Night: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 57.

Sunday: A slight chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 77.

U.S. veterans depart to be feted in France as part of D-Day anniversary

By SHARON JOHNSON and JEFF AMY
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Hilbert Margol says he didn't look on himself as a hero when his U.S. Army artillery unit fought its way across Europe during World War II. But he will be feted in France as one of 60 American veterans of that conflict traveling to Normandy to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

"I know my brother and I never looked at it as we were any kind of heroes, nothing like that," Margol said recently of himself and his twin brother Howard, who served with him. "It was just our time. That we were asked to serve. And we did."

The 100-year-old Margol, who lives in suburban Atlanta, is among the dwindling band of veterans of the conflict leaving Atlanta on Sunday on a chartered flight for Deauville, Normandy. The veterans will take part in parades, school visits and ceremonies — including the official June 6 commemoration of the landings by soldiers from across the United States, Britain, Canada and other Allied nations on five beaches.

Margol didn't land at D-Day, but the Jacksonville, Florida, native was among those who liberated the Dachau Concentration Camp on April 29, 1945.

The trip also includes high school and college students selected to escort the veterans and learn about their experiences. Charter flights also took veterans from Atlanta to France in 2022 and 2023.

On Sunday, the group of 60 veterans, donning customized jackets commemorating the anniversary,

arrived at the Atlanta airport to the clapping and cheering from the flight crew and the Dutchtown High School marching band from Hampton, Georgia. The veterans were then guided through the airport to their terminal in a parade headed by the marching band.

World War II veteran Jake Larson, a 101-year-old American best known on social media under the name "Papa Jake," said he joined the national guard when he was 15 for the money and landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day. Reflecting back on the three years he was in Europe, Larson said he is "no hero."

"I'm just a survivor, but I'm here to honor those people who gave their life so I can be here," Larson said Sunday before the flight.

He also had a message to world leaders: "Make peace not war."

Andy Negra of Helen, Georgia came ashore with the 6th Armored Division at Utah Beach on July 18, 1944, about six weeks after D-Day. It is his second trip back to France after also taking part in last year's flight.

"Well to me, we fought for freedom, and we fought for peace, and we fought for a good life," Negra, a native of Avella, Pennsylvania, said in a recent interview.

The trip is being organized by Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines, the Best Defense Foundation and the North American branch of French tire maker Michelin.

"It is our privilege to celebrate and honor these heroes by flying them directly to Normandy and recognizing their incredible sacrifices and contributions to the world," Delta CEO Ed Bastian said in a statement.

'Governing alternative'

(Continued from Page 1)

"Palestinians should be governing Palestinians." Israel would facilitate surges of aid to the areas, and the local forces would be responsible for distributing it to strengthen their authority.

But that approach is challenging and has failed before, one expert said.

"I haven't heard of any local players that are brave enough to present themselves as an alternative to Hamas," said Michael Milshtein, an Israeli analyst of Palestinian affairs at Tel Aviv University and a former military intelligence officer.

Milshtein said Gallant's "wishful thinking" would amount to a suicidal mission for any local leader. Hamas has threatened anyone cooperating with Israel's government.

"Although Hamas suffered severe damage over the past eight months, their impact on the public is still very strong," he said.

Milshtein noted that Israel has tried this approach in the past. In the 1970s and '80s, Israel tried to establish "village leagues," empowering local Palestinian leaders.

"They were considered

in the eyes of Palestinians as collaborators, and it ended in a very tragic manner," he said. Unless Israel maintains a constant presence in Gaza, any "alternative forces" they try to install will be too fragile, he added.

Netanyahu has said Israel will maintain security control over Gaza but delegate civilian administration to local Palestinians unaffiliated with Hamas or the Western-backed Palestinian Authority, which governs parts of the occupied West Bank. He has ruled out a path to Palestinian statehood.

Top ally the U.S. has proposed that a reformed Palestinian Authority would govern Gaza with the assistance of Arab and Muslim nations.

The Hamas attack on

Oct. 7 in southern Israel killed around 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducted about 250. About 100 hostages remain in Gaza, along with the bodies of around 30 more.

Over 36,430 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza by Israel's offensive, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Its count doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants. Israel blames Hamas for civilian deaths, accusing it of operating from dense residential areas.

At least five people including a young girl were killed Sunday in a strike on a street in Zawayda, central Gaza, according to Palestinian health officials and AP journalists at al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital who counted the bodies.

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OBITUARIES

Beverly Ann Urshel, 67

Beverly Ann Urshel, 67, of Ossian, passed away Saturday, June 1, 2024, at Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne, surrounded by her loving family.



Bev was born Dec. 10, 1956, in Bluffton to Gerald and Marilyn Sue (Tyndall) Cobbum. She was a 1975 graduate of Bluffton High School. Bev worked a variety of jobs, including a realtor for Century 21, Gray & Associates and then housekeeping at Christian Care, eventually retiring, and working with her husband on the family farm. She enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Bev enjoyed family get-togethers with all of her family, including her 13 nieces and nephews.

On June 7, 1975, in Bluffton, Bev and Brent Urshel were married. They shared the last 49 years together.

Survivors include her husband Brent Urshel of Ossian; and three sons, Kent (Terri) Urshel of Markle, Jeremy (Tony) Urshel of Springhill, Fla., and Blake Urshel of Decatur. Bev was a proud and loving grandma to three grandsons and a granddaughter, Tyler Urshel, Dylan Urshel, Colt Urshel and Summer Urshel.

She is also survived by her siblings, Linda (Mike) Smith of Van Buren, Pam (Tom) Hamilton of Bluffton and Brenda (Jim) Fair of Garrett and Darren Cobbum; and her step-mother, Peg Cobbum of Ossian.

Visitation will be held from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 6, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton and for one hour prior to the service on Friday.

Funeral services will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, June 7, 2024, at the funeral home with Pastor Rich Secor officiating. Burial will follow at Oak Lawn Cemetery in Ossian.

Memorials may be made in Bev's memory to the Moffitt Cancer Center for Research and can be directed to the funeral home.

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



BHMS donates to Grace and Mercy

Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools recently delivered items to Grace and Mercy Transitional Housing on Clark Avenue through grant funds as part of the American Rescue Plan for children who qualify for McKinney Vento (homeless). The items include personal hygiene products like toothpaste and soap, as well as fun items like books, markers and stuffed tigers. A basketball goal was also purchased for the facility. Late last year, funds were also used to purchase bunk beds and bedding for the facility. Pictured are, from left to right, Cindy Marshall of Grace and Mercy, BHMSD Assistant Superintendent Julie Meitzler, BHMSD school counselors Sebastian Baxter, Kole Meyer, Jodi Leas and Ashley Kilgore, and Community Care of Northeast Indiana Executive Director Christine Walker. (Photo provided)

Rokita threatens legal action against locals with 'sanctuary city' laws

By **LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ**
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita on Friday publicly threatened four local units of government with legal action unless they repeal so-called "sanctuary city" ordinances by July.

Lawmakers last session gave his office the power to enforce a state ban on local policies that restrict immigration-related cooperation with federal authorities.

"The flood of illegal immigrants entering the United States is a problem that harms all of us," Rokita said in a news release. "The ones paying the price for this lawlessness are Hoosier taxpayers, who must bear increased costs for health care, education and other services used by illegal immigrants."

His office said it sent letters to East Chicago, Gary, West Lafayette and Monroe County.

In a letter to the East Chicago Common Council, dated May 14, Rokita asked if a "welcoming city" ordinance was still in effect and said a repeal was due by July 1.

That's because, in Senate Enrolled Act 181, lawmakers empowered Rokita's office to enforce a 13-year-old "sanctuary city" ban.

Indiana Code has long barred local governments and their employees from refusing to communicate or cooperate with federal immigration authorities about the immigration status — lawful or unlawful — of an individual.

The General Assembly approved that ban in 2011, but it didn't stop some local units from passing "sanctuary city" ordinances.

Last session's proposal came after Indiana's two highest courts dismissed, for lack of standing, resident-led lawsuits against two cities. The law goes into effect July 1.

After that day, Rokita warned East Chicago and the other units. "I will be statutorily required to bring an action to compel the city ... to comply" Having an ordinance still on the books would constitute probable cause, he added.

In a statement, Gary Mayor Eddie Melton asked Rokita to "help us out or leave us alone."

Melton described Gary's "welcoming city" ordinance as "thoroughly litigated and upheld by the Indiana Supreme Court" but said he'd work with the city's lawmakers to address the legal threat.

West Lafayette Common Council President Larry Leverenz said via email that he was out of the country and hadn't seen Rokita's letter.

A potential political opponent, meanwhile, criticized Rokita's actions.

Destiny Wells, an Indiana Democratic Party executive, lawyer and veteran, called Rokita's approach to immigration "divisive and detrimental to the unity and safety of our communities." She is running for the nomination to face Rokita in the fall.

Norwell High School releases honor rolls for second semester

Norwell High School has announced its honor roll and distinction for the second semester of the 2023-24 school year.

SENIORS Distinction

Joshua Adam, Morgan Batdorff, Eli Baumgardner, Logan Bennett, Timothy Bonjour, Collin Burns, Sophia Campbell, Riley Dettmer, Anna Dodane, Emma Dodane, Lucas Dunwiddie, Emily Edmiston, Ashton Federspiel, Makenzie Fuess, Haley Green, Coby Hartzler, Addyson Heyerly, Ciera Hiester, Jake Hoover, Olivia Hull, Elijah Ingle, Annabelle Johnson, Addison Keller, Ella Krug, Samantha Lemler, Alyssa Lenwell, Nevada Lenwell, Connor Lewis, Madeline McCabe, Jillian Melcher, Lauren Merritt, Grant Mishler, Ashton Mounsey, Lillian Norris, Jaden Payne, Milanna Pepper, Kabyn Peterson, Haleigh Reinhard, Ali Riley, Brooklyn Riley, Michaela Rinehart, Emma Roembke, Hudson Roller, Hannah Shane, Spencer Smith, Bree Ulfing, Marlee Wenger, Zachary Willson, Isabella Winget, Jordyn Xayyachack and Cayden Young.

High Honor

Alex Baker, Faith Bales, Hayden Bennett, Garrett Boomershine, Jack Brown, Ava Cavanaugh, Lilly Crone, Aiden Curry, Austin Deleon, Peyton Dunwiddie, Kailey Eccles, Macy Felger, Renee Frazee, Logan Freiburger, Grace Gerber, Taylor Grant, Jessica Haag, Alexis Hartup, Addyson Heindel, Chase Hulvey, Luke Johnson, Jacob Kelley, Daphne Lantz, Lane Lewis, Braxten Millard, Grace Oden, Lillian Penrod, Faith Putman, Gracie Rinkenberger, Kaden Rittmeyer, Evan Rolston, Delaney Sessions, Ashlyne Shanks, Cade Shelton, Ryan Smith, Sophia Smith, Noah Stoppenhagen, Drew Thomas, Kate Tudor, Taylor Werling, Kennody Williams, Willem Wooster and Bodie Zimmer.

Honors

Quentauris Jones and Dawson Ward.

JUNIORS Distinction

Maxwell Babcock, Johnathon Baxter, Mekynzi Beck, Elise Boomershine, Katherine Bradford, Shae Brooks, Jessica Bynum, Astrid Claussion, Logan Cotton, Cassandra Coyne, Landon Diver, Kendall Dunwiddie, Grace Fausz, William Gerber, Emmerson

Hammond, Zack Herrell, Isabel Isch, Jasper Kreigh, Teagan Lesley, Hattie Lewis, Dominick Lyon, Nicole Maldeney, Madison Mashuda, Jacquelyn Mayer, Adam McBride, Parker McCartney, Emerson Meredith, Kale Meredith, Kyler Morris, Evan Nuttle, Kaedyn Quintanilla, McKenna Rigby, Hannah Rusu, Aktan Satybaldiev, Rebecca Settle, Ridley Sheets, Jordyn Shroyer, Derek Smith, Ryne Thornton, Gavin Threewits, Noah Turk, Ethan Williamson and Colby Winkler.

High Honor

Sophia Baird, Chloe Borkholder, Faythe Bowyer, Jalisa Bristow, Alana Cady, Cody Cox, Jasmine Donaldson, Luke Dreiband, Madison Fisher, Jacob Francioni, Philip Gaier, Hudson Gerbers, Drew Graft, Ryland Graft, Maximus Klotz, Alyssa Krinn, Conner Lothamer, Nolan Martin, Hadley McSorley, Karrigan Melcher, Kylee Nevius, David Nunn, Jenna Osborn, Jason Prough, Eli Randol, Austin Renninger, Gavin Reynolds, Katherine Rickerd, Garry Riley, James Simerman, James Springer, Ian Todd and Braysen Wilson.

SOPHOMORES Distinction

Isabella Anderson, Eva Aschliman, Kara Brown, William Case, Emily Davis, Evelyn Davis, Madeline Dean, Kaylee Eicher, Rilynn Ervin, Samantha Evans, Kale Fuess, Cohen Garrett, Tristen Gase, Ellie Gattton, Harman Goraya, Jaycie Grzych, Leland Hammond, Gabrielle Hoepfner, Delaney Hoover, Elijah Jacob, Emmaline Johnson, Asher Knell, Kaydence Krumma, Addison Lyons, Grace Mann, Madison Mason, Aubrey Meyer, Emma Miller, Hope Mitchell, Elizabeth Norris, Addilynn Page, Caiden Petrie, Kaitlee Reinhard, Addison Roembke, Vanessa Rosswurm, Ava Schlemmer, Alison Simerman, Campbell Sloan, Brady Smith, Hallie Smith, Larkin Smith, Lora Smith, Nolan Smith, Cristin Springer, Colten Strunk, Lucile Thompson, Emma Vachon, Abigail Wagner, Ashley Waldman, Delaney Wathen, Christian Werling, Mason Wills, Kinsley Young and Makayla Young.

High Honor

Franklin Bales, Alaina Barnhart, Hunter Bauman, Kedric Borne, Payton Brown, Maxwell Carpenter, Cayden Cassel, Gavin Crail, Allison Crow, Olivia Daniel, Emmerson Delaney, Gabriel Dettmer, Avery Drerup,

Brayson Gehring, Abigail Gerber, Mark Golden, Nathan Heinkel, Katelyn Henslee, Cory Hudson, Braxton Hull, Ella McIntosh, Brooklyn Meyer, Dana Minnich, Sawyer Peterson, Ava Pynaert, Cameron Reed, Kyra Rhoads, Macie Saalfrank, Lincoln Schafer, Noah Schamerloh, Layne Seslar, Grant Shelton, Savanna Simerman, Gabrielle Smith, Sydney Soares, Madelyn Tanner, Greyson Taylor, Tyler Weaver, Nolan Weedman and Brock Zent.

Honors

Jada Dale, Magdalen Ferrell, Reese Frauhiger, Vincent Freiburger, Madison Garland, Kayleigh Hartup, Easton Heckber, Ryleigh Huffman, Autumn Lee, Addison Meyer, Addison Norris, Macy Richmond, Dawson Smith and Luke Ward.

FRESHMENS Distinction

Grant Adam, Lily Bailey, Avery Baird, Michael Baker, Ashlyn Bertsch, Keaton Blinn, Stella Butcher, Addison Case, Allie Dillion, Jaxson Dohrman, Jersey Donaldson, Kaylynn Fairchild, Emma Fey, Addison Gaier, Sophie Gerber, Gabriella Gill, Alivia Green, Elizabeth Haggard, Audrey Hand, Kylee Hannie, Rylan Heyerly, Braden Hoag, Jaeli Johnson, Aubryn Keller, Hazel Lewis, Adam Mahnensmith, Marlee Meredith, Lucas Millard, Shyanna Morrow, Isla Moses, Elias Musselman, Aiden Privett, Bria Reinhard, Gage Reinhard, Jack Richardson, Ella Smith, Eden Stoppenhagen, Charlotte Swindell, Isabella Swineford, Cade Thornton, Molly Threewits, Braylon Troutt, Jade-Lin Volz, Max Ward, Haley Williamson and Carley Wolf.

High Honor

Maddox Affolder, Dani-Lyn Allen, Miguel Alvarez, Madilyn Autry, Samuel Balkema, James Baxter, Chace Behning, Rhilyn Bouvier, Abigail Bridges DeLaruelle, Dallas Brinson, Jud Crow, Camden Fisher, Ryden Gerber, Lucy Gerbers, Anne Haiflich, Brooke Harder, Luke Harkless, Avery Heban-Keeran, Kylie Huffer, James Hughes, Maysie Johnson, Lyanna Kelley, Jacob Ketting, Mariah Kline, Bridget Lantz, Luis Loyola, Nicholas McBride, Mikah McCartney, Eden Nash, Addisyn Ormsby, Trendon Privett, Dylan Randol, Josiah Ray, Zachary Roberts, Olivia Tieman and Ella Williams.

Honors

Ella Hinton.

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The constant and irresistible draw of small towns

“Counterurbanization,” a term new to me, is the phenomenon that Americans increasingly are moving from large cities to rural areas. This reverses a trend in the other direction, one that began with the Industrial Revolution and continued until just recently.

So why the change? And more important, what will its effect be 20 years down the road?

The first question is obvious; one need only peruse an Internet news feed to see what is going on in our large cities.

Unchecked crime, homelessness and the plight of urban schools all paint a rather apocalyptic picture of city life. And now we

must indulge squatters, property thieves who for some unknown reason are protected by local laws over against the property owners. I wouldn't want to live there.

But then I am a small-town boy at heart. I grew up around Waynedale, back then an independent town south of Fort Wayne. Eventually we were annexed by Fort Wayne but the small-town environment survived, at least while I lived there.

What brought my thinking back to my childhood was this topic at a monthly Socratic discussion group to which I belong: Do small towns matter?

Of course they do, we quickly agreed. What's not to like, especially compared with Chicago or Seattle? Our group has its own history with small towns in northeast Indiana, specifically Roanoke, Hoagland and my now dated memory of Waynedale.

The DNA of a small town is quite different from that of the big cities. Just stroll down Main Street — all small towns have a main street by whatever name — and it will be obvious. You will see a local bank, businesses like a hardware store or funeral home which are still family owned and operated, and a lot of churches. And there will be a barbershop, with a barber who probably cut your father's hair when he was a boy.

Locals will be congregated at the coffee shop or just sitting on public benches, talking about the town's current affairs or the good old days. The houses on the residential streets have front porches, always occupied on pleasant evenings. Neighbors matter.

Disney used to make movies about towns and people like this.

So why has this idyllic lifestyle become suddenly popular with urbanites? There are no night clubs, no ethnic restaurants, no all-night bars, no major entertainment venues, nothing that conventional wisdom instructs us urbanites must have to be content.

Remember Richard Florida's focus on attracting the “creative class”? His advice to cities, no doubt with cities like my hometown of Fort Wayne in mind, was to change their cultural environment such that they would be attractive to this young and with-it generation. How these changes would sit with the multi-generational residents of Middletown USA was not part of the social engineering calculus.

So what do small towns offer ex-urbanites? Are they merely trying to escape unlivable living conditions or do they see something worth fleeing to? The answer to this question is critical as it will inform what happens to these newly popular small towns.

To ask the question another way, are these relocators progressives who hope to transplant progressive ideology on conservative towns or are they attracted to a place that is a safe harbor from extreme progressivism and its culturally destructive effect?

It will take years or decades to confidently answer this question. For now we have only anecdotal evidence, inconsistent as is all anecdotal evidence. One always has plenty of one-off examples to prove one's point . . . as does one's opposite in any debate.

And since I have disparaged the value of anecdotes, I toss out one of my own. In the 2018 Senate race in Texas, new Texans voted for the Republican Ted Cruz at a significantly higher rate than native Texans. This is just one data point but it tells us these California expatriates checked their progressive baggage at the state line.

Many would intuit that counterurbanization represents a potential threat to small town America but I don't see it as an existential one. My sense, and it is only that in light of my anecdote mentioned above, is that people move to where they want to live. Something attracts them there, an environment which makes the cost of moving worthwhile, be it employment, housing, schools or overall lifestyle. If this migration is gradual, its effect will be insignificant for the foreseeable future. Perhaps all we will see is that the red on the political map will get redder and the blue bluer.

Change happens; how we introduce it and control its effects is what matters. My faith is unabated in small towns like Roanoke and Hoagland and other Hoosier towns. They are beacons for those who want a simpler, saner and safer community of neighbors.

Mark Franke, an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review, is formerly an associate vice chancellor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, June 3, the 155th day of 2024. There are 211 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 3, 2016, heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali, whose athletic feats and activism put him among the most revered athletes of all time, died at a hospital in Scottsdale, Arizona, at age 74.

On this date: In 1621, the Dutch West India Co. received its charter for a trade monopoly in parts of the Americas and Africa.

In 1888, the poem “Casey at the Bat” by Ernest

Lawrence Thayer was first published in the San Francisco Daily Examiner.

In 1935, the French liner Normandie set a record on its maiden voyage, arriving in New York after crossing the Atlantic in just four days.

In 1937, Edward, The Duke of Windsor, who had abdicated the British throne, married Wallis Simpson in a private ceremony in Monts, France.

In 1962, Air France Flight 007, a U.S.-bound Boeing 707, crashed while attempting to take off from Orly Airport near Paris; all but two of the 132 people aboard were killed.



Mark Franke

Hoosier Opinions

Mike Braun continues a DC-to-Indianapolis trend

JASPER, Ind. — There have been varied breeding grounds for future Indiana governors.

After the American Civil War, Govs. Conrad Baker, Isaac Gray, Alvin Hovey, Ira Joy Chase, James Atwell Mount and Winfield T. Durbin used their battlefield experiences at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Chickamauga and Sherman's March to the Sea to forge political careers that brought them to ultimate power at the Statehouse.

Following World War I, Govs. Paul V. McNutt and George N. Craig became commanders of the American Legion based in Indianapolis before being elected to helm of the state. After World War II, Govs. Matthew Welsh, Roger D. Branigin, Edgar Whitcomb and Robert Orr parlayed their military experiences for politics.

And there was a spate of lieutenant governors — Orr, Frank O'Bannon, Joe Kernan and, finally, Eric Holcomb — who rose to the top spot.

With the May Republican primary nomination of Mike Braun, a new trend is taking shape: The path to the Statehouse second floor begins in our nation's capital, dysfunctional Washington, D.C.

Braun joins Govs. Mike Pence and Mitch Daniels as Hoosiers who have left the warrens of power on or near Capitol Hill to win the Indiana governorship. Braun is finishing up a single term in the U.S. Senate. Pence spent 12 years in Congress before returning to Indianapolis to run for governor in 2012. Daniels served on the staff of U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar, on the National Republican Senatorial Committee, as political advisor to President Reagan and was White House budget director under President George W. Bush when he decided to return in 2003 to end a 16-year Democratic dynasty.

This trend might not end with Braun. U.S. Rep. Jim Banks is the odds-on favorite to win Braun's Senate seat in November. Had Braun not run for governor, Banks almost certainly would have and will likely be positioning for the 2032 race. When reporters asked Braun's senior advisor Joshua Kelley earlier this week whether the senator would seek reelection in '28 if he wins in November, Kelley answered, “Absolutely.”

Last November in an interview in Braun's Jasper office of Meyer Distributing, I observed that in Indiana history, from Gov. Oliver P. Morton to Evan Bayh, ex-governors ended up in the U.S. Senate. “You're attempting to do the opposite.”

“You know why?” Braun responded. “Because they're from the farm system of politics. The people who got done being governor just weren't done with politics. They wanted to continue. My blessing is I did something in the real world first before I decided to get into politics at a level of significance.



Brian Howey

Politicking

think the difference basically is if you come from the typical farm system political background, you get a law degree, pivot almost immediately into elected or appointed politics and even practice your trade. But most people who end up wanting to become a senator picked politics in elected or appointed office as their career. I think that's a big mistake.

“I don't think you learn near enough once you get there,” he said. “If you don't have the real experience you're going to depend heavily on your chief of staff.”

He cited Gov. Mitch Daniels, who mixed his political resume working with mayor and senator Lugar along with an executive position at Eli Lilly Company. “Mitch knew business along with government,” Braun said. “That's why he felt comfortable on what to do when he became the state's CEO.”

Braun likes to tell the story of how he took on spiraling health insurance costs to his employees, and switched to a self-insurance plan that turned them into “consumers” who have “skin in the game.” It saved his employees and company hundreds of thousands of dollars. He believes he can do the same with Indiana's 30,000 state government workforce.

Braun is now beginning to put his stamp on the Indiana GOP. A unity event in Carmel on June 24 will include Braun's primary opponents Suzanne Crouch, Brad Chambers and Eric Doden along with much of the Republican establishment.

Republican Chairwoman Anne Hathaway has an open invitation from Braun to keep her current (and temporary) job ... if she wants it.

“I don't want to speak for Anne,” said Kelley. “She's probably working through a process of where she wants to go next. She can write her own ticket on when she decides to move on to the next step.”

And then there are Fridays in Jasper, when Braun invites Hoosier folks to stop by for a chat. Kelley told reporters that will continue, though there is now a lengthy waiting list.

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



Biden's democracy smokescreen

President Joe Biden makes no speech without mentioning the importance of democracy in our nation.

We would like to believe this comes from deep ideals about human liberty lodged within our president. But more accurate is that Biden, a politician all his adult life, is defined by just that — politics. No word, no act emanates from our president that does not emerge from some political calculation.

In the case of the ongoing reminders about the importance of democracy, the subliminal message Biden wishes to convey is to always remind of the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the Capitol and to brand Donald Trump as an anti-democratic autocrat.

But let's go beyond this and examine Biden's premise about democracy itself. In Biden's latest speech on Memorial Day, he said, “Our democracy is more than just a system of government. It is the very soul of America.”

Hanging on a wall in my offices in Washington, D.C., is a picture of Booker T. Washington, with his quote saying, “A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right, and evil doesn't become good just because it is accepted by the majority.”

An important reminder from Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee University, is that there is good and evil in this world, and they are transmitted to us through the Bible and our faith. Democracy can only be the means through which a nation accepts or does not accept these eternal truths. But Democracy



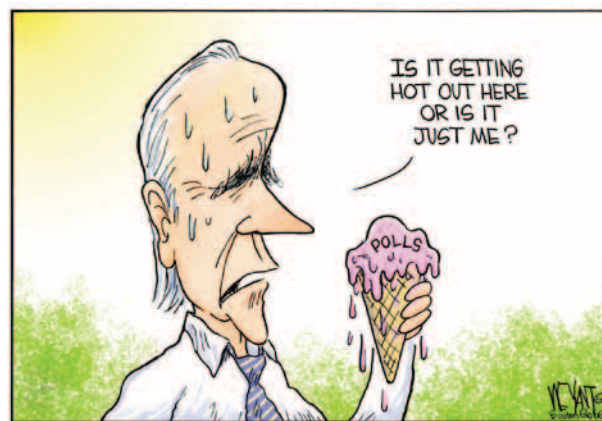
Star Parker

does not invent them.

We should recall, again, the words of President George Washington in his farewell speech in 1796.

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. ... Whatsoever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”

In the 1850s, Sen. Stephen Douglas of Illinois proposed to use democracy to solve the problem of whether slavery would be permitted in new states entering the union. The Kansas-Nebraska Act provided that new



states would determine by the vote whether it would be a slave state.

Abraham Lincoln rejected this proposition.

Per Lincoln, “Judge Douglas interrupted me to say that the principle of the Nebraska bill was very old, that it originated when God made man and placed good and evil before him, allowing him to choose for himself,

being responsible for the choice he should make.

“The facts of this proposition are not true as stated,” said Lincoln. “God did not place good and evil before man, telling him to make his choice. On the contrary, he did tell him that there was one tree, of the fruit of which he should not eat, upon pain of certain death.”

What really interests Biden is growing government to advance his left-wing agenda, thereby diminishing individual freedom.

In 1950, shortly after World War II, federal government spending accounted for 14.1% of GDP. Per the Congressional Budget Office, in 2024 federal government spending will consume 23.1% of GDP; in 2034, 24.1%; in 2044, 25.7%; and in 2054, 27.3%.

Social Security trustees now project bankruptcy of the system by 2033. Revenues will fall short by 21%. Why doesn't Biden support letting every American choose to opt out and instead invest in their own private retirement account? Why doesn't Biden support the right of parents to send their child to whatever K-12 school they choose?

The only place where Biden wants more choice is to hide behind his religion and give women the right to destroy their unborn child until the final moments of her pregnancy.

The founders of our country conceived of a nation rooted in core truths, which, by limiting government, would enable individual liberty.

They would not recognize our politicized nation today under Joe Biden.

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What's happening at the Wells County Public Library

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

Summer Reading

"Adventure Begins at the Library" is the theme for this year's Summer Reading, which is going on now through July 31 for children, teens, and adults. All ages can earn prizes for reading books and participating in events featuring the adventure theme. Prizes include Chamber Bucks, Amazon Gift Cards, children's toys, books, and more depending on your age level. Also, sign up for a variety of summer events and weekly story sessions. Get more info at wellscollibrary.org/summer.

Hometown Tourist To-Go Kit

Pickup at the Main Library (Bluffton) or the Ossian Branch: June 3-8

Grades 6-12. Sign up for Summer Reading, then pick up a kit that will help you find adventures close to home this summer! Each kit will have info about spots around the county worth visiting and games to complete for a small chocolate prize. No registration needed.

Bingo with Jason

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, June 3 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Adults. Enjoy a lively game of Bingo for a chance to win a candy bar with everyone's favorite librarian named Jason! Registration required.

Teen Gaming Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, June 3 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Enjoy a variety of different

games each month, including video games, trading card games, and board games. No registration needed.

"Ab-READ-Cadabra"

Magic Show with Jim Barron

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, June 4 at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.



All ages. Help us kick off the start of Summer Reading 2024 and enjoy Jim Barron's fast-paced and family-friendly magic show. Everyone will be laughing aloud one minute and gasping at astounding illusions the next. No registration needed.

Genealogy/Local History Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, June 6 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Ages 12+. Members help each other learn new things and obtain a greater appreciation for local history and genealogy research. Bring your own laptop or share one of ours. Registration appreciated.

Backyard Journaling At Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Monday, June 10 at 1 p.m. or 3 p.m.

Grades K-5. Make observation journals and explore the library's backyard for the first journal entry. Snacks will be provided. Registration required.

Brown Bag Book Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, June 10 at 1:30 p.m.

Adults. Pick up a copy of the book-of-the-month at the library before the discussion each month. The book for discussion is "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek" by Annie Dillard. Registration appreciated.

Chalk Adventures

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday,

June 11 from 10 a.m. to noon

All ages. Draw and create in chalk on the sidewalk outside. No registration needed.

Computer and iPad Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, June 11 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Adults. Start with Computer Club and then go or stay for iPad Club. Each month has a different tech focus and there is plenty of time for questions. All skill levels are welcome. Registration appreciated your first visit.

Cook, Talk, Taste

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, June 11 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Adults. Join the tastiest club at the library. Enjoy tasting recipes from a different host each month. Registration appreciated.

Teen Perfect

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, June 11 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 6-12. If you've ever watched Dude Perfect and thought, "I could probably do that," now's your chance to find out. Try your hand at trick shots like the Longboard Triple Flip or the

No-Looker Pringles Pyramid Shot. Test your skills and endurance in games like All-Sports Bowling Battle and Oreo Roulette! Registration recommended.

Book Discussion: "Nine Perfect Strangers"

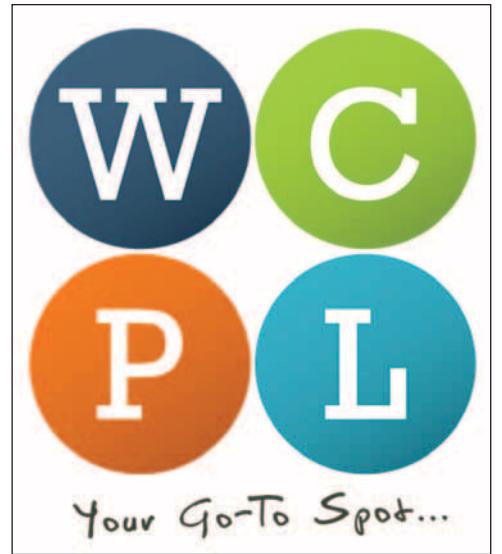
At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Adults. Pick up a copy of the book-of-the-month at the library before the discussion each month. This month's book for discussion is "Nine Perfect Strangers" by Liane Moriarty. Registration appreciated.

Laser Tag at the Library

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Friday, June 14 at 6 p.m.

Grades K-6. Bring your family and friends and join us for laser tag and games in the library after hours. Registration required



(may be waitlist only).

Saturday Movies

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Saturday, June 15 at 11 a.m.

All ages. Drop-in for a family-friendly movie under the stars in the Story Hour Room.

Armchair Travel Adventures to Thailand

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, June 18 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Adults. Travel along with us to Thailand, without leaving the library. This event will feature desserts/light refreshments and activities from the country, along with a travel video of the location. Registration required.

Library Hours

At the main library in Bluffton — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At the Ossian branch library — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Access the library online at www.wellscollibrary.org for digital books, magazines, online databases, event info, and more.

by Melba Edwards

Cancer Services Ribbon Walk earns \$113,823

The May 4th Ribbon Walk, hosted by Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana raised a total of \$113,823 to help area residents with cancer.

650 community members attended the event to honor cancer survivors in their life or remember loved ones who passed away from cancer. This year's

event boasted the highest turnout the walk has ever seen.

Funds raised will help thousands of families throughout northeast Indiana who will be impacted by cancer this year. For more information about the organization check out www.cancer-services.org

Zanesville News

Our Lions 5K was blessed with a great day to run and we had 18 runners. Participants, winners, and volunteers will be reported soon along with a list of sponsors.

June 4 the Read-It program begins at the Zanesville Community Church of God. The time is 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and this is the first meeting of this group.

On Saturday, June 8, there will be a 90th birthday celebration for Dave Frick from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Zanesville Community Church of God. You have time to send Dave a card at Dave Frick, P.O. Box, Zanesville, IN 46799.

Long time resident, of just southwest of Zanesville, Karl Bolinger passed away on May 18 at his home at the age of 63. Our condolences

to his family and friends.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Robert Jackson who passed away at Heritage Pointe in Warren on May 19. "Bob" was a member of the 1952 graduating class of East Union Center.

Coming up is the Zanesville Youth Program (ZYP) at the Tower Life Center, Let's Read It and Centershot at the Zanesville Community Church of God.

ZYP June 4 will be games, snacks, stories and crafts at the church. Wear old clothes non-marking gym shoes (no flip flops). Individually wrapped snack and drink donations are appreciated. Meet at the Tower Life Center (TLC) at 9 a.m. sharp for field trips and special events. Pick up is at noon. Thursday, June 6

is Pizza at the Park. Enjoy pizza and time with friends at Markle Park. Wear your ZYP shirt and tennis shoes. You may want to bring a basketball, kite, tennis racket and ball, frisbee, etc.

Centershot is Mondays beginning July 8 at the Zanesville Church of God and Tuesdays beginning July 9 at the Nine Mile United Methodist Church. Centershot is an eight-week outreach ministry that brings families together to study God's Word, while learning the life-skill of target archery. Each week we conclude our evening with a snack as well as a study of God's Word. If you have questions, contact Pastor Steve at the Zanesville Community Church of God at 260-638-4239 or email at pastor@zanesville.cgcc.org.

Area Philharmonic Patriotic Pops concerts

Wells County will not be the site of a Fort Wayne Philharmonic Patriotic Pops concert this summer, but several are being presented in the area.

The schedule includes:
Pokagon State Park: Wednesday: June 26, 7:30 p.m.
DeKalb Outdoor Theater: Friday, June 28, 7 p.m.

Muensterberg Plaza/Clock Tower in Berne: Saturday, June 29, 7 p.m.

Oakwood Resort at Syracuse: Sunday, June 30, 7 p.m.

Parkview Field in Fort Wayne: Tuesday, July 2, 8:30 p.m.

Bixler Lake Park in Kendallville: Thursday, July 4, 8:30 p.m.

Area Things to See and Do

ARENA DINNER THEATER, FORT WAYNE

"The Drowsy Chaperone," June 14-29. www.arenadinnertheatre.org

CLYDE THEATRE, FORT WAYNE

ClydeTheatre.com or at 1-800-514-3849.

EMBASSY THEATER, FORT WAYNE

Blippi: June 12; Nurse Blake: Nov. 15; <http://fwembassytheatre.org/events>

FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATER

"Something Rotten," July 21-30. Arts United Center box office 260-424-5220; info at www.fwcvic.org.

FORT WAYNE MUSEUM OF ART

"Lucky Monster" work by Jiha Moon. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (until 8 p.m. on Thursdays, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. www.fwmoa.org

HONEYWELL CENTER WABASH

Killer Queen: July 12; Sawyer Brown: Aug. 1; Tusk: Aug. 3; Happy Together Tour: Aug. 18; HoneywellArts.org.

EAGLES THEATRE, WABASH

Duke Tomato: July 11; Twitty & Lynn: July 18; Lynch Mob with George Lynch: Aug. 22; War Hippies: Aug. 23; <https://www.boxofficeticketsales.com/honeywell-center>

SCIENCE CENTRAL, FORT WAYNE

1950 N. Clinton St. in Fort Wayne. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Info at 260-424-2400 or at www.sciencecentral.org

SWEETWATER SOUND, FORT WAYNE

Performance Pavilion
Zach Williams: Aug. 1; Rival Sons, Clutch: Sept. 22; Tickets: 800-514-3849 or eTix

FOELLINGER THEATRE, FORT WAYNE

Rockin the 80s: Aug. 2; Lee Bice: Aug. 8; Blue Monster Tour: Aug. 13; Gladys Knight: Aug. 17; The Mighty Tour: Aug. 21; Tesla: Sept. 25; The Rocky Horror Show: Sept. 13-14; Ticketmaster or 260-427-6000

BAKER STREET CENTER, FORT WAYNE

Fleetwood Gold: June 10; www.bakerstreetcentre.com

PARKVIEW FIELD, FORT WAYNE

Middle Waves Music Festival: June 15; ticketmaster.com

LERNER THEATRE, ELKHART

Big Bad Voo Doo Daddy: June 4; Voices of Rock Radio: Oct. 5; TheLerner.com

WAGON WHEEL, WARSAW

Disney's Beauty & the Beast: June 5-15; Kiss Me Kate: June 20-29; The Wedding Singer: July 4-13; Murder on the Orient Express: July 18-27; Beautiful (Carol King musical): Aug. 1-10; Miracle on 34th Street: Dec. 6-22; wagonwheelcenter.org

ABCINEMA, DECATUR

130 W. Monroe St., Decatur. Information: www.abcinemainc.com or 260-724-SHOW

NISWONGER CENTER, VAN WERT

Whoa Man: June 7; The POrobables: June 14; Get Poison'D: Hune 21; Lee Warren Band: June 28; Johnny GFolseom: July 5; Side Car Band: July 12; vanwertlive.com

KEHOE PARK, BLUFFTON

Bayou County — CCR Tribute: June 7, 8-10 p.m.

A John Mellencamp Tribute: June 14, 9-10 p.m.

Def Legend Tribute: June 28, 8-10 p.m.

Community Worship: June 30, 7-8:30 p.m. (Sunday)

Hotel California — Eagles Tribute: July 12, 8-10 p.m.

The Insiders — Tom Petty Tribute: July 26, 8-10 p.m.

Woomblies Rock Orchestra: Aug. 2, 8-10 p.m.

MUSIC ON THE PLAZA, BLUFFTON

Parlor City Plaza, 118 W. Market St., Bluffton

Fleetwood 2 The Max: June 21, 7-10 p.m.

Rylie Lynn Band: July 19, 7-10 p.m.

Whoa, Man!, Aug. 8, 7-10 p.m.

The Electric Cars, Sept. 5, 7-10 p.m.

WELLS COUNTY 4-H FAIR

Hubie Ashcraft Band: July 16
Trevor Hunt: July 17

MARKLE SUMMER SOUNDS

Markle Fish & Game Club Park, 220 S. Clark St.

Hubie Ashcraft Band: June 14, 7 p.m.

Whoa, Man!: July 12, 7 p.m.

New Frontiers: Aug. 9, 6-9 p.m.

DECATUR CONCERTS

Making Music on Madison Avenue, downtown stage for these free concerts.

Duke Tomato: June 6, 6-9 p.m.

Hubie Ashcraft (with horns): June 13, 6-9 p.m.

ESC4P3 (Journey): June 20, 7-9:30 p.m.

The Broken Hearts (Tom Petty): June 27, 7-9 p.m.

July 4: TBA

Hairbangers Ball: July 11, 7-9 p.m.

The remainder of the July and August concerts are still to be announced.

Online Directory

Check out these websites of local & area companies and businesses.

Genesis Pest Services genesispestservices.com	MR. KOOL Heating and Cooling mrkoolheatingandair.com	DAZEY'S SUPPLY dazeys.com/bluffton-in
STEFFEN Financial Group stefffinancial.com	JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE jcsgaragedoor.com	Daniel's JEWELERS daniels-jewelers.net
INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE Bluffton Office (260) 824-2234 infarmbureau.com	3 RIVERS 3riversfcu.org	Myers FUNERAL HOMES myersfuneralhomes.com
WELLS COUNTY 4-H GROWS HERE extension.purdue.edu/wells	RiverStone DENTAL riverstonedental.net	Bluffton Tire blufftontire.com
Goodwin-Cole & Hornish MEMORIAL CHAPEL A Tradition of Caring thegmcfamily.com	HIDAY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP hidaymotors.com	Edward Jones EdwardJones.com
INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING icav.us	Jerry Flack & Associates jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com	LaFontaine Center A RHF Community lafontainecenter.org
Lengerich MEATS lengerichmeats.com	Still Waters FAMILY DENTISTRY stillwatersfamilydentistry.com	Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home thomarich.com
		State Farm Erin Daugherty 260.827.0527 www.MyBlufftonSFAgent.com myblufftonsfagent.com
		HOME COURT HOME CARE homecourthomecare.com
		NBDigital nb-digital.com

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No. 2 Panthers end Knights softball run at Semi-State

By RYAN WALKER

MONTICELLO — Norwell's magical softball run came to a close Saturday in the opening round of the Semi-State, dropping 12-5 to the No. 2 ranked Western Panthers.

Western (27-2) advances to the Semi-State championship against No. 5 New Prairie (22-6) on June 3, a make-up from Saturday's rainout.

The Knights (18-8) knew what they were up against with the Panthers — a group that can mash. And they were met with it right away in the first inning.

An error and a walk with nobody out created a golden opportunity to Brynley Erb, who is hitting .640 on the season. She took the first pitch she could smack and belted her 13th home run of the season and put Western up 3-0.

A few batters later, Kamryn Garber went deep with another three-run blast.

That first inning was just about enough for Western to pull through for a win going up 6-0. It put Norwell into shell shock, a team that hasn't given up more than five runs in a single game of the entire state tournament.

A perhaps anxious Knights squad made two defensive errors following a 1-2-3 first inning on offense, and the Panthers put a hurt on them in a hurry.

"We've got some young girls out here on this team — nerves ended up being a factor for us," Norwell head coach Kevin Baird said. "(We) definitely got some nervous kids making nervous mistakes and to be expected a little bit. It's a big game — a big situation for us not being there for 21 years. Just one of those things where you live and you learn, and we'll do better next time."

The Semi-State lights were the brightest any Norwell Knight had played under in softball. Western, on the other hand, has hit for the moon this season. The Panthers are hitting over .400 with 38 total home runs and have scored over 300 on the season now.

"We had a plan with certain kids, especially with Erb," Baird said. "We threw a ball that shouldn't have been anywhere near the plate. But it was like, 'I had a bad sign I read it wrong.' And I'm like, 'Well, that's something we just need to grow softball IQ stuff where a pitcher should know when you face a good hitter, you don't throw that ball anywhere near the plate.'"

Though that first inning stung, Norwell

got back off the mat and fought back for six more innings.

For the rest of the game, the Knights didn't commit another error or allow another home run, and chipped away at the deficit for three straight innings.

In the third inning, Jordan Markley plated in the first run on a double, and Kara Brown drove another in on a sacrifice fly.

In the fourth, Leah Werling hit the warning track and brought home another run. And in the fifth, Kaydance Clark knocked in two more with a base hit.

"For our team being young, we always settle down right after we get our first hit and we can run," Baird said. "If we score a run, we settle down. I do think that once we plated a run it kind of settled the nerves little bit and people start making plays. It just kind of started falling into the flow of the game."

Unfortunately, Western's bats were enough to elude any serious comeback. But after the first inning, it was only a 6-5 advantage for the Panthers, but the sticks kept them too far ahead.

"And hats off to their team. I mean, they hit the ball. There's a couple of spots where our pitcher threw it exactly where we wanted it, and they still hit the ball hard," Baird said.

Norwell's season coming to an end in the Semi-State was the first time it went that far since 2003. The path wasn't easy, either, defeating all winning clubs in the four-game win streak in the sectional and regional, including a win over No. 6 Yorktown.

The Knights will return a healthy core of players to the roster next season that had meaningful innings, including Brown, Reese Frauhiger, Clark, Leah Werling, Kayla Watkins, Makayla Young and Teagan Lesley.

The losses will be tough to replace with an all-conference centerfielder in Markley and pitcher Sami Lemler, along with starters Nevada Lenwell and Addison Keller.

Baird was quick to mention the Knights will be hit by graduation hard, but the four seniors were also a lot of fun to have around.

"Our seniors have such a good attitude, and this team are really good friends," Baird said. "We're top to bottom pretty close, and this team just has a lot of fun together top to bottom."

ryan@news-banner.com



Norwell's Nevada Lenwell (middle) kneels down and catches Leah Werling's (left) throw from third base during the Semi-State vs. Western at Twin Lakes High School. The Knights lost 12-5 to the No. 2 team in 3A, ending their state tournament run with eight teams remaining. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Norwell head coach Kevin Baird (back) talks with catcher Kaydance Clark (left), pitcher Sami Lemler (second) and Nevada Lenwell (far right) during the six-run first inning Western put up.

Sports Roundup

Four events run for Knights in state meet, Cruz for Tigers

Norwell's track and field team and Bluffton's Johnny Cruz completed its run in the boys' state finals on Saturday at Indiana University.

The Knights sent four events to the meet and four total athletes in all sprinting categories. Cruz went for shot put.

Below are the individual event results:

- Trevon Stoppenhagen 23rd in the 100m preliminaries with a time of 11.46 and Devin Dale 30th at 11.64.
- Stoppenhagen 14th in the 200m preliminaries with a time of 23.01 and Dale 21st at 23.26.
- The 4x100m relay team of Jase Harmon, Ryan Smith, Stoppenhagen and Dale 19th with a time of 43.783.
- Cruz 15th in the shot put at 51-02.75.

Johnson, Felger fall to Delta in individual doubles tournament

Norwell's doubles team of Annabelle Johnson and Macy Felger fell in two sets to Delta's Kate Manor and Kelsey Vest on Saturday in Kokomo.

The Knights' duo fell 6-2, 6-3 to end the season after winning sectionals last week.

Pennville Soccer League Week 2 results and leaders

Week No. 2 of the Pennville Soccer League finished off for the three age groups over the weekend at Pennville Park. Below are the results from each league and the scoring leaders.

Stinger Division (ages 4-6)

Patriot Sportswear Hornets 3, AgBest Express Bees 1. Raelyn McClain two goals. A Place to Grow Wasps 4, Patriot Sportswear Hornets 2. Mabel Leonhard three goals.

Caitlin Clark and Indiana edge Angel Reese and Chicago

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana Fever rookie Caitlin Clark tossed the ball high into the air as time expired Saturday. Veteran guard Kelsey Mitchell just started clapping.

Finally, after four consecutive home losses, the Fever were celebrating.

In the latest matchup between college rivals Clark and Angel Reese, and on a day former South Carolina star Kamilla Cardoso made her regular-season pro debut in front of another sellout crowd at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, Clark finished with 11 points, eight rebounds and six assists in a 71-70 victory over the Chicago Sky on Pride Day.

"It was great, and I think it came at a really great time," Clark said after winning the inaugural Commissioner's Cup game. "Our fans were awesome. They were energized. You know we really didn't shoot the ball well at all collectively as a team and you know sometimes that's hard for the fans, like that's what they come to see. But I think they really appreciated our great defense tonight."

Clark had plenty of help from her teammates even before Marina Mabrey missed

the first of two free throws for the Sky with 6.6 seconds left to make it a one-point game before Clark's ball toss.

Mitchell scored 18 points, NaLyssa Smith had 17 points and nine rebounds while Kristy Wallace and Aliyah Boston each scored 10. Boston, Cardoso's former teammate at South Carolina, also had eight rebounds as the Fever (2-8) snapped a three-game losing streak.

This contest was about much more than scores or stats, though.

It featured three of the top seven picks from this year's draft — three players in a generational rookie class who could all become the new faces of the WNBA — and a week in which Fever fans were treated to seeing each of the top four draft picks and five of the top seven.

This time, Clark got the upper hand on two of the women who prevented her from winning an NCAA championship even as she took a shoulder shot from Chennedy Carter before an inbound pass during the third quarter. The refs called it an away-from-the-ball foul.

Goal leaders: Mabel Leonhard and Raelyn McClain, 5 goals. Anniston Hammond, 4 goals. Phebe Love, 3 goals.

Space Division (ages 7-9)

Dave's Heating and Cooling Asteroids 1, Ohio Valley Gas Stars 1. Addi McClain and Vinny New one goal.

Vinson Rental Properties Galaxy 1, New Beginnings Holiness Church Rockets 0. Raul Martinez one goal.

Bro Shadow Meteors 6, Dave's Heating and Cooling Asteroids 1. Neymar Carreno three goals, Liam Phipps two goals.

Goal leaders: Neymar Carreno, 6 goals. Liam Phipps, 4 goals. Owen Ehrhart 3 goals.

Wild Cat Division (ages 10-12)

Penrod Monuments Jaguars 1, WPGW Lions 1. Camden Vinson and Charlee Peters one goal.

Portland Insurance Cougars 5, POET Biorefining Cheetahs 1. Lyle Beiswanger five goals.

Penrod Monuments Jaguars 1, Pennville General Store Tigers 1. Gabrielle Gibson and Kendrick Teegarden one goal.

Goal leaders: Lyle Beiswanger, 5 goals. Blake Jellison, 3 goals.

Standings

Stinger: 1. Patriot Sportswear Hornets 2-1-0, 6 points. T2. AgBest Express Bees 1-2-0, 3 points. T2. A Place to Grow Wasps 1-1-0, 3 points.

Space: 1. Bro Shadow Meteors 3-0-0, 9 points. 2. Dave's Heating and Cooling Asteroids 1-1-1, 4 points. 3. Vinson rental Properties Galaxy 1-1-0, 3 points. 4. Ohio Valley Gas Stars 0-1-1, 1 point. 5. New Beginnings Holiness Church Rockets 0-2-0 0 points.

Wild Cat: 1. WPGW Lions 1-0-1, 4 points. T2. Portland Insurance Cougars 1-1-0, 3 points. T2. Penrod Monuments Jaguars 0-0-3, 3 points. T2. Pennville General Store Tigers 1-1-0, 3 points. 3. POET Biorefining Cheetahs 0-1-1, 1 points.

High School Calendar

MONDAY, JUNE 3

No events scheduled.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

No events scheduled.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

No events scheduled.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

BOYS GOLF: (Regional) Bluffton, Norwell at The Players Club in Muncie, 8 a.m.

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

NBA FINALS

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

Thursday, June 6

Dallas at Boston, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 9

Dallas at Boston, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, June 12

Boston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Friday, June 14

Boston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Monday, June 17

x-Dallas at Boston, TBA

Thursday, June 20

x-Boston at Dallas, TBA

Sunday, June 23

x-Dallas at Boston, TBA

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pct	GB	
Connecticut	8	0	1.000	—
New York	7	2	.778	1½
Atlanta	4	3	.571	3½
Chicago	3	4	.429	4½
Indiana	2	9	.182	7½
Washington	0	8	.000	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	6	2	.750	—
Las Vegas	4	2	.667	1
Seattle	5	3	.625	1
Phoenix	4	5	.444	2½
Dallas	3	4	.429	2½
Los Angeles	2	6	.250	4

Saturday's Games

Indiana 71, Chicago 70

Sunday's Games

Connecticut 69, Atlanta 50

Phoenix 87, Los Angeles 68

New York 104, Indiana 68

Minnesota 87, Dallas 76

Monday's Games

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's Games

Washington at Connecticut, 7 p.m.

New York at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Phoenix at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Las Vegas at Dallas, 8 p.m.

Minnesota at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Dallas at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games

Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Monday's Games

x-Dallas at Edmonton, TBA

Tuesday's Games

x-Florida at N.Y. Rangers, TBA

Wednesday's Games

x-Edmonton at Dallas, TBA

Thursday's Games

x-Edmonton at Dallas, TBA

Friday's Games

x-Edmonton at Dallas, TBA

Saturday's Games

x-Edmonton at Dallas, TBA

Sunday's Games

x-Edmonton at Dallas, TBA

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	39	20	.661	—
Kansas City	36	25	.590	4
Minnesota	33	26	.559	6
Detroit	29	30	.492	10
Chicago	15	45	.250	24½

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Seattle	34	27	.557	—
Texas	29	30	.492	4
Houston	26	34	.433	7½
Oakland	24	37	.393	10
Los Angeles	21	38	.356	12

Saturday's Games

Pittsburgh 8, Toronto 1

Cleveland 11, Atlanta 9

Philadelphia 6, St. Louis 1

Chicago Cubs 7, Cincinnati 5

N.Y. Yankees 7, San Francisco 3

L.A. Dodgers 4, Colorado 1

Sunday's Games

Washington 5, Cleveland 2

Atlanta 3, Oakland 1

Texas 6, Miami 0

Arizona 5, N.Y. Mets 4

Toronto 5, Pittsburgh 4

Milwaukee 6, Chicago White Sox 3

Cincinnati 5, Chicago Cubs 2

Kansas City 4, San Diego 3

L.A. Dodgers 4, Colorado 0

N.Y. Yankees 7, San Francisco 3

St. Louis 5, Philadelphia 4, 10 innings

Monday's Games

Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 6:40 p.m.

Washington at Philadelphia, 6:40 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Miami, 6:40 p.m.

N.Y. Mets at Washington, 6:45 p.m.

Atlanta at Boston, 7:10 p.m.

Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.

St. Louis at Houston, 8:10 p.m.

Cincinnati at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.

San Diego at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.

San Francisco (TBD) at Arizona (Nelson 0-0), 9:40 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

L.A. Dodgers at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.

Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 6:40 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Miami, 6:40 p.m.

N.Y. Mets at Washington, 6:45 p.m.

Atlanta at Boston, 7:10 p.m.

Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.

St. Louis at Houston, 8:10 p.m.

Cincinnati at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.

San Diego at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.

San Francisco at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.

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Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Saturday's Games

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

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FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

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

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Services

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This Week's Garage Sales



GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE June 6 & 7, 9 am-5 pm, June 8, 9 am-2 pm sack sale. Forgotten Children Worldwide, 650 N. Main St., Bluffton. Gently used and new clothes and shoes, air mattresses, bar and 2 chairs set, material, games, puzzles, books, home decor, kitchen items, dining table and chairs, DVDs, purses, much more. Next sale in September. New items every sale. Follow us on Facebook.

Receive a free garage sale kit when placing a three day line classified ad.

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A 20 word, "For Sale" or "Automotive", line classified ad runs until your item is sold for only \$39! (six-month maximum, excludes real estate). Limited to one-item, private party only.

HOT DEAL! A 20 word, line classified for 10 days is just \$25. One item per ad.

Add a graphic or photo to any line classified for an additional \$5.

Mark your Calendar for this event

ITALY TOUR PRESENTATION Thurs, June 6, 6:15pm. Bluffton Wells Library. Discover highlights/facts of this 2025 trip. All Welcome! Terri Worden grouptoursite.com/tours/mig-worden

(Using WCPL meeting facility does not constitute WCPL's endorsement/sponsorship of the program or organizer's policies/beliefs.) saratworden@gmail.com

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.

LINE CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINES:

Monday editions: Friday by 4 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday editions: day-before by 4 p.m.
Saturdays: Friday by noon

Public Sale Calendar

JUNE 4 - (Online Only Auction) - Bidding Opens at 9 a.m. and will close at 6 p.m. - Holbrook estate, seller. 300 W, Markle, IN. Explore the potential of this property! 6.79+/- acre tract of land in Northern Wells, Union Township, easy access to I-69, 435' of road frontage on Wells County Road, rare opportunity for homesite or mini-farm. Inspection: Feel free to walk the property at any time. Patrick Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, TheSteffenGroupInc.com, 260-824-3006.

JUNE 5-JUNE 12 - (Online Only Personal Property Auction) - Huston Watters, seller. 2003 Chevy Impala, well cared for modern furniture, holiday decor, glassware, household, woodworking tools, air compressor, hand & power tools, lawn & garden, Toro snowblower, Toro push lawn mowers, much more! Auction preview & online bidding assistance: June 10 from 4-6 p.m., 1338 Manor Dr., Bluffton, IN. Sale manager Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, TheSteffenGroupInc.com, 260-426-0633.

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

JUNE 15-JUNE 22 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Glen Bowen, seller. Clean 2005 Buick Lesabre Custom with 77,000 miles, 2004 Toyota Sienna mini van, 1987 Riviera Cruiser 24' pontoon, 2004 Yamaha XLT jet ski, floating WaveRunner dock, modern furniture, tools. Open House: June 9 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and June 22 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 500 Lane 101 Jimmerson Lake, Angola, IN. TheSteffenGroupInc.com, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

JUNE 16-JUNE 23 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Marilyn McQueary, seller. 2023 GMC Terrain Denali, AWD Edition with 2,130 miles (like new), clean like new modern furniture, antiques, collectibles, tools, jewelry, designer purses, much more. Open Houses: June 18 and June 20 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN. TheSteffenGroupInc.com, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

JUNE 23 - (Online Only Auction) - Bowen Family, sellers. Well cared for 2 bedroom lake cottage of Jimmerson Lake with 36' of frontage, three sea room, 1 car garage, deck with outstanding views of Jimmerson Lake/Part of the Lake James Chain. Open House: June 9 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and June 22 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 500 Lane 101 Jimmerson Lake, Angola, IN. TheSteffenGroupInc.com, 260-824-3006.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUFFTON (RESOLUTION NO 2024-08)

On June 18th at 5:30 p.m. in the City of Bluffton Common Council Chambers, a public hearing will be held on the matter of a waiver of noncompliance with the procedural requirements of I.C. 6-1.1-12.1, relating to the deduction from assessed valuation of the improvements to the real property at 350 E State Street.

The public hearing on the waiver will be held pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-12.1-11.3.

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard at the public hearing.

"Reasonable accommodations" for persons with a known disability condition will be considered in accordance with the state and federal law. Any person needing a "reasonable accommodation" should notify the City of Bluffton at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the public hearing.

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Lottery Numbers

Saturday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 03-22-28-34-37

Cash4Life — 17-29-38-40-59, Cash Ball: 03

Lotto Plus — 09-14-17-22-36-42

Quick Draw Midday — 02-03-10-14-16-19-22-27-31-32-33-35-38-43-50-57-59-67-69-72 BE: 02

Daily Three-Midday — 01-07-01, SB: 05

Daily Three-Evening — 00-00-00, SB: 04

Daily Four-Midday — 01-00-00-04, SB: 05

Daily Four-Evening — 06-06-03-00, SB: 04

Quick Draw Evening — 01-02-05-13-15-20-22-24-36-37-42-46-54-55-57-62-69-72 BE: 22

Hoosier Lotto — 02-07-08-11-14-28

POWERBALL
28-38-52-54-68; Powerball: 08; Power Play: 2X

Sunday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 03-12-14-34-39

Cash4Life — 09-23-25-38-56, Cash Ball: 02

Quick Draw Midday — 01-03-10-11-14-17-25-29-30-33-34-37-38-53-55-59-62-66-67-77, BE: 59

Daily Three-Midday — 06-03-08, SB: 04

Daily Three-Evening — 06-06-03, SB: 01

Daily Four-Midday — 07-09-06-02, SB: 04

Daily Four-Evening — 08-08-02-03, SB: 01

Quick Draw Evening — 01-06-07-10-15-20-21-23-24-25-28-35-39-52-53-62-66-70-71-77, BE: 35

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$14 million

MEGA MILLIONS
Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$560 million

POWERBALL
Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$171 million

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

SOUTHERN WELLS CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATION



Malaina Culbertson addresses the senior class. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



Principal Kim Conner gives a diploma to Mya Kinsey, while class president Joshua Bricker smiles in the background.



Principal Kim Conner gives a diploma to Andrew Aker.



At right, Perrin Gates poses with his dad Mark Gates to celebrate his graduation.

Being a patient is getting harder in strained, complex U.S. health care system

By TOM MURPHY
AP Health Writer

Tamika Davis couldn't nap on her couch during cancer treatment. She kept worrying one of her toddlers would wander over and pull out the needle delivering chemotherapy.

Friends and family watched her kids when they could during her treatment last year for colon cancer. But Davis had gaps with no help because she couldn't afford child care and didn't know where to look for assistance.

"I did not have the strength nor the energy to try to navigate these things myself," the San Antonio, Texas, resident said.

Patients are not getting enough help dealing with a healthcare system that is growing increasingly complex, according to researchers and other experts in care delivery. They say more frequent insurance complications, doctor and drug shortages, and a lack of communication all make life harder for people with serious or chronic illnesses.

"Just about anything you can think of, it's now harder to get it done, basically," said Elisabeth Schuler, founder and president of Patient Navigator, a business that helps people get through the system.

More care providers and employers are offering help guiding people, a practice the federal Medicare program has started to cover. But that assistance has limits.

Patients with serious or chronic illnesses face a web of challenges. They include:

- Coordinating doctor appointments and tests, often while working or undergoing treatment.
- Dealing with coverage denials or care delays due to insurer pre-approval requirements.
- Figuring out how to fill a prescription if they can't get coverage or their medication lands on a growing list of drugs in shortage.
- Acting as a go-between for doctors and specialists who don't talk to each other.
- Paying medical bills and getting help with rent or utilities. That assistance has been harder to find since the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Beth Scott of the non-profit Patient Advocate Foundation.

All of this can be compounded for patients who don't speak English or have no experience navigating the health care system, noted Gladys Arias, a policy principal with the American Cancer Society

Cancer Action Network.

Davis, the San Antonio cancer patient, said she was in the hospital when she asked for help finding community resources.

She said a case manager set a book of available resources on her bedside table and did nothing else. Davis, a nursing professor, found the book confusing. The programs it detailed had different qualifications based on things like income or diagnosis. The 44-year-old wound up losing her car and leaving her home after care bills piled up.

"I feel like there was some type of help out there for me," she said. "I just didn't know where to look."

Ali DiGiacomo said she wishes that she learned in college how to deal with insurance companies. She often has to do that while coping with side effects from rheumatoid arthritis treatments.

The 30-year-old personal trainer said she's spent years trying to get a diagnosis for bouts of intense chest pain, which doctors think may be tied to her condition. That requires imaging tests that insurers often decline to cover.

"Dealing with them with brain fog and fatigue and being in pain is just like the cherry on top," DiGiacomo said.

DiGiacomo said her formulary, or list of covered drugs, has changed three times. That can force her to hunt for a place that carries the newly covered drug, which puts her behind on her medication schedule.

She figures she talks to her insurer at least four times a month.

"I have to hype myself up," she said. "Then you talk to a million different people. I wish I just had like one person that helped me deal with all this."

Care delays due to insurer pre-approval requirements have grown more common, many experts say. More plans also have made it challenging to get coverage outside their networks of doctors and hospitals.

A typical appeal for a denial can easily involve 20 to 30 phone calls between the patient, the insurer and the doctor's office, said Scott, director of case management for Patient Advocate Foundation, which helps people with chronic or debilitat-

ing illnesses.

She said some patients give up.

"Sometimes you are sick, and you don't want to fight it anymore," she said.

Case managers at hospitals are often overworked, which limits how much help they can provide, noted Schuler, who became a patient advocate about 20 years ago after her 2-year-old daughter went through cancer treatment.

Overall, help for patients is "very patchy everywhere," according to Harvard Medical School researcher Michael Anne Kyle.

"I think we have a lot of Band-Aids that are necessary," she said.

Many cancer centers offer patient navigators who can help coordinate appointments, get answers to coverage questions, find rides to the doctor and provide other support. Some insurers provide similar assistance.

And more employers are offering navigation or advocacy help for people on their insurance plans, according to the benefits consultant Mercer.

But these services still aren't widespread. Alzheimer's disease patients and their caregivers lack consistent access to such help, said Sam Fazio, a senior director with the non-profit Alzheimer's Association.

"People are having trouble finding their way," he said.

Making the system better for patients requires big change, said Dr. Victor Montori, a Mayo Clinic researcher who studies care delivery.

He said the system must focus more on minimally disruptive medicine, which makes care fit into patient lives. That means things like cutting unnecessary paperwork and surveys, making appointments more flexible and giving patients more time with doctors.

He noted that the burden that falls on patients is not just the time and effort they spend navigating the system. It's also what they give up to do that.

"If you waste people's time on silly things, you are being unkind to (their) main purpose, which is to live," he said. "We have to stop thinking of the patient as a part time employee of the healthcare system that we don't get to pay."

Democrats wanted an agreement on using artificial intelligence. It went nowhere

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic National Committee was watching earlier this year as campaigns nationwide were experimenting with artificial intelligence. So the organization approached a handful of influential party campaign committees with a request: Sign onto guidelines that would commit them to use the technology in a "responsible" way.

The draft agreement, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, was hardly full of revolutionary ideas. It asked campaigns to check work by AI tools, protect against biases and avoid using AI to create misleading content.

"Our goal is to use this new technology both effectively and ethically, and in a way that advances — rather than undermines — the values that we espouse in our campaigns," the draft said.

The plan went nowhere.

Instead of fostering an agreement, the guidelines sparked a debate about the value of such pledges, particularly those governing fast-evolving technology. Among the concerns expressed by the Democratic campaign organizations: Such a pledge might hamstring their ability to deploy AI and could turn off donors with ties to the AI industry. Some committee officials were also irked that the DNC gave

them only a few days to agree to the guidelines.

The proposal's demise highlighted internal divisions over campaign tactics and the party's uncertainty over how to best utilize AI amid warnings from experts that the technology is supercharging the proliferation of disinformation.

Hannah Muldavin, a senior spokesperson at the Democratic National Committee, said the group is not giving up on finding a consensus.

The DNC, she said, "will continue to engage with our sister committees to discuss ideas and issues important to Democratic campaigns and to American voters, including AI."

"It's not uncommon for ideas and plans to shift, especially in the midst of a busy election year, and any documents on this subject reflect early and ongoing conversations," Muldavin said, adding the "DNC and our partners take seriously the opportunities and challenges presented by AI."

The wrangling comes as campaigns have increasingly deployed artificial intelligence — computer systems, software or processes that emulate aspects of human work and cognition — to optimize workloads. That includes using large language models to write fundraising emails, text supporters and build chatbots to answer voters' questions.

That trend is expected to continue as November's general election approaches, with campaigns turning to supercharged generative AI tools to create text and images, as well as clone human voices and create video at lightning speeds.

The Republican National Committee used AI-generated images in a television spot last year predicting a dystopian future under President Joe Biden.

Much of that adoption, however, has been overshadowed by concerns about how campaigns could use artificial intelligence in ways that trick voters. Experts have warned that AI has become so powerful that it has made it easy to generate "deep fake" videos, audio snippets and other media targeting opposing candidates. Some states have passed legislation regulating the way generative artificial intelligence can be used. But Congress has so far failed to pass any bills regulating artificial intelligence on the federal level.

In the absence of regulation, the DNC sought a set of guidelines it could point to as evidence the party was taking seriously the threat and promise of AI. It sent the proposal in March to the five Democratic campaign committees that seek to elect House, Senate, gubernatorial, state legislative and state attorneys general candidates to office, according to the draft agreement.

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NORWELL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATION



Class President Eli Ingle (pictured) after addressing his fellow seniors for the last time. (Photos by Sydney Kent)



Alyssa Lemwell as she accepted her diploma.



The Class of 2024 were an excited group as they lined up in the hallway outside of the gymnasium.



Renee Fraze (center) stands with proud parents Chris Fraze (left) and Julie Fraze (right) outside after the ceremony.

Trump joins TikTok and calls it 'an honor'; He once tried to ban the app

By JILL COLVIN, WILL WEISSERT and MEG KINNARD
Associated Press

Donald Trump has joined the popular video-sharing app TikTok, a platform he once tried to ban while in the White House, and posted from a UFC fight two days after he became the first former president and presumptive major party nominee in U.S. history to be found guilty on felony charges.

"It's an honor," Trump said in the TikTok video, which features

footage of him waving to fans and posing for selfies at the Ultimate Fighting Championship fight in Newark, New Jersey, on Saturday night. The video ends with Trump telling the camera: "That was a good walk-on, right?"

By Sunday morning, Trump had amassed more than 1.1 million followers on the platform and the post had garnered more than 1 million likes and 24 million views.

"We will leave no front undefended and this represents the continued outreach to a younger

audience consuming pro-Trump and anti-Biden content," Trump spokesman Steven Cheung said in a statement about the campaign's decision to join the platform.

"There's no place better than a UFC event to launch President Trump's Tik Tok, where he received a hero's welcome and thousands of fans cheered him on," he added.

Democratic President Joe Biden signed legislation in April that could ban TikTok in the U.S., even as his campaign joined in

February and has tried to work with influencers.

Trump received an enthusiastic welcome at the fight at Newark's Prudential Center, where the crowd broke into chants of "We love Trump!" and another insulting Biden with an expletive.

It was Trump's first public outing since a jury in New York found him guilty Thursday on 34 charges of falsifying business records as part of a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election by covering up hush money payments made to

a porn actor who claimed she and Trump had sex. Trump has maintained he did nothing wrong and plans to appeal the verdict. He will be sentenced on July 11.

Throughout his campaign, Trump has used appearances at UFC fights to project an image of strength and to try to appeal to potential voters who may not closely follow politics or engage with traditional news sources. It's also part of a broader effort to connect with young people and minority voters, particularly Latino and Black men.

DR. GARY CHAPMAN

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