Page 6

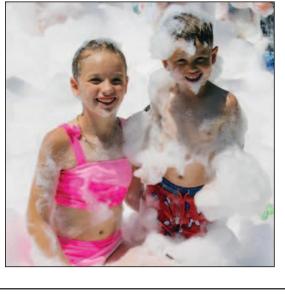


Page 3

Suds 'n Buds

Over 200 people came to Pickett's Run Park on Wednesday for the Bluffton Parks Department's annual foam party, shown above. With perfect sunny weather, kids could have fun in the bubbles for about an hour and rinse off in the nearby park

At right, Uriah Schlichter (right) dances with brother Miles in the suds. Siblings Brielle and Emmett Lortie are pictured enjoying the bubbles below left, and Kynslie Pole at below right. More photos on page 8. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)





Supreme Court has a lot of work and little time to do it with case backlog

By MARK SHERMAN and LINDSAY WHITEHURST **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is headed into its final few weeks with nearly half of the cases heard this year still undecided, including ones that could reshape the law on everything from guns to abortion to social media. The justices are also still weighing whether former President Donald Trump is immune from criminal prosecution in the election interference case against him, more than a month after hearing arguments.

The court heard 61 cases this term, and 29 remain unresolved, with some decisions expected Thursday and Friday. Here's a look at some of the major undecided

Presidential immunityDonald Trump is arguing that former presidents are immune from prosecution for official acts they took in office and that the indictment he faces on charges of election interference must be dismissed.

The Supreme Court has previously ruled that former presidents can't be sued in civil cases for what they did in office, but it has never weighed in on criminal immunity.

The timing of the decision may be as important as the outcome. Trump's trial in Washington, D.C., may not take place before the November election, even if the court rules he is not immune.

Jan. 6, 2021A former Pennsylvania police officer is challenging the validity of obstruction charges brought against hundreds of people who took part in the violent assault on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Trump faces the same charge of obstructing an official proceeding.

The issue is whether a law meant to discourage (Continued on Page 2)

Solar abatement ban expected in July

By HOLLY GASKILL

The Wells County Council was unable to vote on an ordinance to ban tax abatements for solar energy companies on Wednesday, as the legal documents were not finalized by its special session.

At the beginning of the session, Council President Seth Whicker told the council that the county attorney needed more time to prepare the ordinance.

"(County Attorney Ted Storer) sent out an ordinance (to the council) that was actually written pretty

well — I think most of us may have seen that," Whicker said. "But with some developments that have occurred, he's asked us (the council) to give a little bit more

Whicker stated that Storer plans to meet with attorney Rick Hall, who had helped prepare the economic development agreement with Paddlefish Solar. The prospective ordinance will not retroactively affect the Paddlefish agreement, but Whicker said Stor-

(Continued on Page 2)

DORA may offer local tourism opportunities

By HOLLY GASKILL

A potential Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area poses a unique opportunity for the Wells County Convention and Visitors Commis-

The board discussed the proposed DORA during their meeting Wednesday, noting that it could play well in cross-promoting downtown Bluffton businesses. Created by the state last year, a DORA allows individuals to hold and consume alcoholic beverages openly within the boundary.

The proposal is ultimately in

early development — Tourism Coordinator Audry Dudley said there's no defined timeline to create the area.

Dudley said that within Bluffton, it could allow someone to take a beverage from one establishment into another or to a Parlor City Plaza event. It would also simplify the process for alcohol permitting for downtown events.

However, each business has the option to join the DORA. These businesses will also have to display signage for the DORA

(Continued on Page 2)

IEDC gets OK to spend \$88M on LEAP project

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

approval to spend about \$59 million buying out Boone County holdouts who — thus far — have resisted selling their farmland for a massive industrial park.

The quasi-public agency will use funds "repurposed" from a stalled deal to fill gaps in ownership. An additional \$29 million will be used for area infrastructure improvements.

Three unnamed companies in advanced computing, biopharmaceutical manufacturing and information technology component manufacturing and — have expressed interest in building at LEAP, according to the State Budget Committee agenda.

IEDC officials were on defense over an hour of intense question-

Rep. Ed DeLaney, an Indianapolis Democrat, asked why IEDC needed more land: "So, the 9,000 acres was not enough?'

IEDC Senior Vice President Mark Wasky said the land buys would be part of that total. "Some" acres are "within the site" envisioned for the Limitless Exploration/Advanced Pace Innovation District, he added.

You have holes in that? ... You're trying to close that off?" DeLaney asked.

Wasky said the IEDC needed control of the land "in order to make the investments work.

That's despite not having "an accepted commitment" from the firms, said Brock Herr, IEDC's senior vice president of business retention, expansion and attrac-

IEDC would spend about \$500,000 on options on 1,400 new The Indiana Economic Develacres of land. It would use \$58.5 opment Corp. on Tuesday won million to buy 1,100 acres of land already under contract.

> That averages out to more than \$53,000 per acre — lower than the \$88,000 Wasky said the IEDC has paid on average for LEAP land.

The money isn't new.

The State Budget Committee, during a December meeting. approved \$100 million to lure an advanced manufacturing project, dubbed Project Nora, to Indiana.

But that deal hasn't come together — yet.

"It has not disappeared. Due to company and industry changes, they have delayed a decision,' Herr said. "We were very candid and clear with that company that it had an expiration date, should the project not proceed. ... The funds would be de-obligated and potentially repurposed, which is what we're here today to do."

Wasky said the IEDC learned it should wait to seek State Budget Committee funding approval until agreements are finalized.

"The company made clear that they needed to have the confidence, and having all the legal approvals taken care of, before they made a final decision," he added.

DeLaney said the company 'didn't have the confidence it should've had" in December. He said he wanted to "learn from this mistake ... so we don't do that

Water worries reemerge Skeptical lawmakers also

pinned IEDC officials on water supply for LEAP.

Indiana has targeted advanced (Continued on Page 2)

Local/Area

Obituaries.....3 Police Notebook . . .3

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Sports. 6-7 Diversions 5



Don't put away the pool floaties or sunscreen

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 90	High 85	High 84
Low 65	Low 58	Low 61

More Weather on Page 2

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Solar abatement

(Continued from Page 1) er wanted to practice due diligence in preparing the ordinance.

Whicker anticipates the council will vote on the ordinance during its next meeting, 7 p.m. on July 2.

"Let's do it once and do

it right," Council member Brandon Harnish said.

Following that update, the council unanimously approved a 10-year total tax abatement agreement with Heartland REMC and a waiver for an application deadline error.

Zoom with William Dye of Heartland REMC, who explained the proper paperwork was late due to a clerical error in his first year at the company. Dye reported that Heartland REMC had invested \$6.6

The council met via million in Wells County in 2023 and planned to complete a \$10 million project in the next 18 months. Multiple council members expressed their appreciation for Dye taking responsibility for the error.

holly@news-banner.com

(Continued from Page 1)

and use special cups with the DORA logo for drinks taken from the estab-

The proposed area draws boundaries around most of downtown and may include Kehoe Park; the Bluffton Parks board is slated to discuss the DORA during their meeting on Thursday. A similar DORA has been implemented in Fort Wayne's down-

Meanwhile, Dudley told the commission she's seeking quotes from

printers for various tourism map styles, with hopes of finding a local partner. Dudley said it's been difficult to find the best map form, balancing between cost and utility. Board member Zane Herr referenced a map from Huntington County as a possible model — the map is one sheet of paper with highlighted tourism attrac-

Dudley said she's also continued to work with local groups for grants to advertise their events to out-ofcounty areas. These grants are made

possible through revenue from the local innkeepers' tax on short-term overnight accommodations, which accrued \$22,014.26 in the first quar-

Board members present were Herr, Scott Elzey, Jeff Reed, Brandy Fiechter, Michelle Blount and Jon Winne; Steve Higgins, Jay Esparza and Justin Osborne were absent.

The board will meet next at 8 a.m. July 10 at the Wells County Commerce & Visitors Center.

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Tourism opportunities

town.

between 10 and 25 million gallons a day from existing

But as other companies join LEAP, water need could

Across current and prospective companies, and when operating at full capacity in 18 to 20 years, LEAP could need as much as 55 to 60 million gallons of water per day, according to Herr. He said most would be "non-contact" — or used

The state hoped to pipe

The IEDC, in early results from a study, claimed there was enough water to support the diversion. Still, Gov. Eric Holcomb directed the Indiana Finance Authority to take over the study and widen it for a more compre-

Preliminary data were expected in late spring or summer, but IEDC officials indicated that the study's not

cal supply isn't a concern, capacity

ally requested to repurpose \$29 million from Project Nora to use on infrastructure

The money would go toward local road improvements, engineering and design for interchange improvements and road realignment, utility improvements and relocations and other site prep and planning efforts for infrastructure and sites within the district. It would support five projects, according to the meeting

The State Budget Committee approved requests by voice vote, in one lump

adoption of the agenda. Rep. Greg Porter, who has been openly critical of the IEDC's

"I've never heard of a voting member abstaining from a vote on a State Budget Committee agenda. But I felt like I had to be the first one to abstain today, Porter said in a statement. "I couldn't move myself to vote for the agenda when I have no clue what I'm investing in. We've given the IEDC billions of state dollars for projects, but they've shared no information. We don't know the investors, and we don't have answers on the utility situation.'

Thursday, June 13, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:14 p.m. Wednesday) High: 86; Low: 61; Precipitation: None

Weather

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.62 feet at 8:45 p.m. Wednesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny and hot, with a high near 90. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tonight: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: A slight chance of thunderstorms before 8 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. North wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 58. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northeast after midnight.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. **Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 61. Sunday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 93.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 73. **Monday:** Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 97.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. **Tuesday:** A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 93. **Tuesday Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 71.

Juneteenth: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 91.

Leap projects (Continued from Page 1)

and batteries, but they're water-intensive industries. Wasky, during further questioning from DeLaney, said an initial investment phase by homegrown pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly &

manufacturing firms for the

district, like semiconductors

Co. "essentially has brought the capacity of Lebanon Utilities to its fullest." Lilly in 2022 said it would spend \$2.1 billion into a project on 600 acres of land, but increased that to \$3.7 billion at the ground-

breaking in 2023. Last month, the company added a whopping \$5.3 billion — for a total of \$9 billion — all on the original 600-acre lot.

Asked about projected water need on non-Lilly land, Wasky said, "We've been in discussion with water utilities about capacity they can bring to the area, and it's ... somewhere water resources."

increase, he said.

for cooling.

up to 100 million gallons of water a day from the Wabash River in Tippecanoe County to LEAP, but residents have pushed back.

yet ready. They also said electri-

as long as utilities have enough time to build new IEDC officials addition-

improvements at LEAP.

agenda.

plans, abstained.

"My goal is to protect the taxpayers and how their dollars are spent. Hoosier taxpayers deserve to know how we're using their money," he continued. "Once I get those answers, I'll vote to approve a State Budget Committee

Supreme Court

(Continued from Page 1) tampering with documents sought in investigations can be used against the Capitol rioters.

Abortion pillAbortion opponents are trying to make it harder for pregnant women to obtain medication abortions. They want the Supreme Court to roll back changes made by the FDA that have made it easier to obtain mifepristone, one of the two drugs used in nearly two-thirds of abortions in the United States last year. Those include eliminating the need for in-person visits and allowing the drug to be mailed.

Most Republican-led states have severely restricted or banned abortion since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022. The high court's decision in this case will affect abortion even in states where it remains legal.

Emergency abortion-There's a second abortion case on the docket this year: whether doctors can provide that medical procedure in emergencies in states that banned abortion after the court overturned Roe v. Wade.

In a case out of Idaho, the Biden administration says abortions must be allowed in emergencies where a woman's health is at serious risk.

The state argues that its strict abortion ban does allow abortions to save a woman's life, and doesn't need to expand exceptions for health risks.

GunsThe justices are weighing whether to uphold a federal law that seeks to protect domestic violence victims by keeping guns away from the people alleged to have abused them. An appeals court struck down

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a law that prohibits people under domestic violence restraining orders from possessing firearms. That court found that the law violated the 2nd Amendment right to "keep and bear arms" following the Supreme Court's 2022 ruling that expanded gun rights and changed how courts are supposed to evaluate gun restrictions.

HomelessnessThe most significant Supreme Court case in decades on homelessness centers on whether people can be banned from sleeping outdoors when shelter space is lacking.

A San Francisco-based appeals court decision said that amounts to cruel and unusual punishment.

Leaders from California and across the West say that the ruling makes it harder for them to regulate homeless encampments encroaching on sidewalks and other public places.

Advocates say it would criminalize homelessness just as rising costs have pushed the number of people without a permanent place to live to record levels.

Bump stocksThe Trump administration banned bump stocks, a gun accessory that allows rapid fire like a machine gun, after they were used in the deadliest mass shooting in modern

U.S. history. The ban is being challenged by a Texas gun shop owner who says the Justice Department was wrong to reverse course and declare them illegal machine guns after the 2017 Las Vegas

The Biden administration argues banning them after the shooting that left 60 people dead was the right call.

ChevronThe justices could overturn a 40-yearold decision that has been cited thousands of times in federal court cases and used to uphold regulations on the environment, public health, workplace safety and consumer protections. The decision colloquially known as Chevron calls on judges to defer to federal regulators when the words of a statute are not crystal clear. The decision has long been targeted by conservative and business interests who say Chevron robs judges of their authority and gives too much power to regulators.

Social mediaThree cases remain unresolved at the intersection of social media

and government. Two cases involve social media laws in Texas and Florida that would limit how Facebook, TikTok, X, You-Tube and other social media platforms regulate content posted by their users. While the details vary, both laws aimed to address conservative complaints that the social media companies were liberal-leaning and censored users based on their viewpoints, especially on the political right.

Fort Wayne, IN

In the third case, Republican-led states are suing the Biden administration over how far the federal government can go to combat controversial social media posts on topics including COVID-19 and election security. A federal appeals court sided with the states in finding that administration officials unconstitutionally coerced the platforms to limit con-

servative points of view. Purdue PharmaThe Supreme Court controls the fate of a nationwide settlement with OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma that would allocate billions of dollars to combat the opioid epidemic, but also provide a legal shield for members of the Sackler family who own the company. The settlement has been on hold since last summer after the Supreme

Court agreed to weigh in. Wealth taxA businessbacked challenge to a tax on foreign income is being watched closely for what it might say about the fate of a wealth tax, an often discussed but never implemented tax on the wealthiest Americans.

Fri & Sat 11am - 4pm

Blinken: some of Hamas' proposed cease-fire changes are workable

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Wednesday that mediators would keep trying to close an elusive cease-fire deal for Gaza after Hamas proposed changes to a U.S.-backed plan, some of which he said were 'workable" and some not.

The back-and-forth laid bare frustration over the difficulty of reaching an accord that could end eight months of war that has decimated the territory, killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and left scores of Israeli hostages still languishing in militant captivity. Previous moments of optimism have been repeatedly dashed by the differences between the two sides.

The cease-fire proposal has global support but has not been fully embraced by Israel or Hamas. Blinken did not spell out what changes Hamas sought, but he said the mediators — Qatar, Egypt and the U.S. — will keep trying to "close this deal." He put the onus on Hamas, accusing it of changing its demands.

"Hamas has proposed numerous changes to the proposal that was on the table. ... Some of the changes are workable. Some are not," Blinken told reporters in Qatar. "I believe that they (the differences) are bridgeable, but that doesn't mean they will be bridged because ultimately Hamas has to decide.

Blinken's comments came as Lebanon's Hezbollah fired a massive barrage of rockets into northern Israel to avenge the killing of a top commander, further escalating regional

Hezbollah, an Iran-backed ally of Hamas, has traded fire with Israel nearly every day since the Israel-Hamas war began and says it will stop only if there is a truce in Gaza. That has raised fears of an even more devastating regional conflagration. Air-raid sirens sounded across northern Israel, and the

military said about 215 projectiles were fired from southern Lebanon, making it one of the largest attacks since the fighting began. There were no immediate reports of casualties as some rockets were intercepted while others ignited brush Hamas conveyed its official reply to the proposal to

mediators on Tuesday. Hamas spokesman Jihad Taha told the Lebanese news outlet ElNashra that the "amendments" requested by the group aim to guarantee a permanent cease-fire and complete Israeli troop withdrawal The proposal announced by U.S. President Joe Biden includes those provisions, but Hamas has expressed wari-

ness about whether Israel will implement the terms. While the U.S. says Israel has accepted the proposal, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has given conflicting statements, saying Israel is still intent on its goal of destroying Blinken, on his eighth visit to the region since the start

of the war, said the deal on the table was "virtually identical" to one Hamas put forth on May 6. The U.N. Security Council voted overwhelmingly in favor of the plan on Monday.

'At some point in a negotiation, and this has gone back and forth for a long time, you get to a point where if one side continues to change its demands, including making demands and insisting on changes for things that it already accepted, you have to question whether they're proceeding in good faith or not," he said.





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OBITUARIES

Grace Herman, 92

Grace Herman, 92, of Keystone, passed away on Wednesday afternoon, June 12, 2024, at her home surrounded by her family.

Funeral arrangement are currently pending under the direction of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Ag denies IDOH first-choice attorneys in abortion lawsuit

By CASEY SMITH, Indiana Capital Chronicle

Amid an ongoing legal battle over abortion-related records, the Indiana Department of Health has clarified its legal representation in the case.

At issue is a lawsuit filed last month by anti-abortion group "Voices for Life," which seeks to regain access to Terminated Pregnancy Reports that are no longer being released by the state health department.

Court records show IDOH and Dr. Lindsay Weaver, the state health commissioner, are currently represented by Indianapolis-based Lewis and Wilkins LLP. Three attorneys with the firm — Paul O. Mullin, Joshua Thomas Martin and Eric Ryan Shouse — filed their appearance on behalf of the defendants on May 31.

IDOH originally asked for different outside counsel. Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita declined the request. But rather than handling the case with in-house state attorneys, Rokita chose Lewis and Wilkins — already under contract with his office — to represent the state agency.

'We did not give them permission to hire their own counsel at all — in fact, our office assigned Wilkins to represent our client, IDOH, on behalf of the Attorney General's office, as we often do," said Ben Fearnow, a spokesperson from the attorney general's office, in a statement to the Capital Chronicle.

Before publication, IDOH officials did not respond to numerous requests for comment from the Capital Chronicle starting last week.

The agency declined to provide a copy of the request sent to the attorney general's office, but confirmed in a Wednesday morning statement that the attorney general's office assigned the case to Lewis and Wilkins, which represents IDOH and other state agencies in other matters.

"Communication regarding the assignment of Lewis and Wilkins is deliberative, attorney work product, and subject to attorney-client privilege," the statement said, adding that IDOH "will not be commenting further on this matter as the agency does not comment on pending litigation."

Indiana law specifically stipulates that no state agency can hire an attorney to represent it and the state without written consent from the attorney general.

The dispute evokes a separate, recent power struggle between Gov. Eric Holcomb, Rokita and the General Assembly that began in 2020, after the governor issued COVID-19 emergency orders that some conservative law-

The following year, Holcomb vetoed a bill that would limit his powers during a state of emergency, like a pandemic. Shortly after, state lawmakers overrode his veto, prompting Holcomb to file a lawsuit against the General Assembly.

Though Rokita, who sided with lawmakers, maintained the governor was not allowed to hire an outside lawyer without his consent, the Marion County Superior Court disagreed.

Judge Patrick Dietrick wrote at the time that — because the lawsuit involved state entities on both sides of the issue - Rokita "cannot represent two opposing parties in the same lawsuit" and that the attorney general had had "an irreconcilable conflict of interest" in the situation.

Health department disregards AG's office

The South Bend-based "Voices for Life" group is suing the IDOH after it stopped releasing individual TPRs, while still compiling statewide public data quarterly. The change in procedure went into effect in December.

Before then, the reports — while redacted — were regu-

larly released under Indiana's Access to Public Records Act. The lawsuit, filed in Marion County Superior Court, came just weeks after Rokita called out IDOH and Indiana's Public Access Counselor for "collusion" and issued a nonbinding advisory opinion saying TPRs are public records.

In the past, anti-abortion groups have used the reports to file medical licensing complaints against specific doctors for procedural issues, such as filing a TPR late.

The state health department changed its policy after Indiana's new, near-total abortion ban went into effect, which meant providers performed fewer abortions. State health officials were worried that information on the report could indirectly identify the women getting the procedure and sought a ruling from Indiana's Public Access Counselor.

Among the data collected on the terminated pregnancy reports is the age, education and marital status of the woman, the date of the abortion, gestational age of the fetus, race and ethnicity of the woman, as well as the city and county where the abortion occurred.

Public Access Counselor Luke Britt agreed that the report could be "reverse engineered to identify patients — especially in smaller communities."

He found the required quarterly reports of aggregate data should suffice in terms of satisfying any disclosure and transparency considerations. Britt additionally said the records, created by doctors, fall under the provider-patient

relationship as medical records. Britt's ruling isn't binding, though.

Lewis and Wilkins LLP has received dozens of state contracts in the last two decades — totaling more than \$32 million — to provide various legal services for the attorney general's office, including defense work for state agencies involved in litigation, according to records maintained by the Indiana Department of Administration.

The firm currently holds a multi-year \$13 million con-

tract "to provide legal services approved by the OAG." Other developments in the lawsuit

No court dates have so far been set in the TPR case. IDOH has until July 3 to respond to the plaintiff's complaint.

On Tuesday, however, two Indiana physicians who provide abortion services filed a motion to intervene, seeking to prevent Voices for Life from obtaining their patients' private

Dr. Caroline Rouse and Dr. Caitlin Bernard said in their filing that even if the attorney general's office does not make an official appearance in the case, IDOH is still strained by Rokita's "political pressure campaign" to make TPRs public.

"The attorney general has taken the position that, in enacting the TPR statute, the legislature intended to authorize anti-abortion groups like Voices for Life to act as private attorneys general, surveilling doctors who provide abortion care and acting in concert with the attorney general's office to regulate them," the doctors wrote.

"But the statute makes no mention of this, and Indiana's abortion laws are generally enforced through criminal proceedings brought by local prosecutors," they continued. "As abortion providers, the doctors have an interest in demonstrating to the court why this position is incorrect and thereby avoiding unauthorized surveillance by a private organization with no relevant expertise and a stated mission 'to end abortion.'

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Monday, 3:05 p.m., Spring and Main streets. Report of fluid in the roadway making road extremely slick. INDOT crew cleaned

Monday, 3:45 p.m., 500 block of South Morgan Street. Caller reported concerns over subject possibly running away soon.

Monday, 7:16 p.m., Baldwin Street and Central Avenue. Report of loose pit bull, dog returned to owner. Owner cited for dog running at large.

Monday, 7:58 p.m., 1400 block of West Central Avenue. Report of issues with children outside. Monday, 8:57 p.m., 80 block of Sunset Drive.

Report of a noise complaint. Tuesday, 6:35 a.m., Main

and Wabash streets. Driver cited for using cell phone while driving and running a

Tuesday, 12:29 p.m., 400 block of Westfield Drive. Caller reported receiving inappropriate photos.

Tuesday, 2:10 p.m., 300 block of West Horton Street. A nurse practitioner requested police perform welfare check for mom who missed appointment and call.

Wednesday, 2:35 a.m., Main Street and Sutton Circle Drive. Driver cited for exhibition driving and warned for curfew violation.

Wednesday, 7:14 a.m., 1100 block of South Liberty Street. Caller reported juveniles in shed nearby, noticed the shed doors were shut and worried the juveniles were trapped inside.

Wednesday, 10:52 a.m., Pretzels Inc. Report of stolen

Wednesday, 11:04 a.m., Hoosier Highway and Farmington Drive. Driver cited for speeding.

5900 North Miller Street, Uniondale. Caller reported neighborhood kids on bikes taunting her. Miscreants asked to stay on their side of the street.

Report advised the jail has this area with just coughing in the background.

Tuesday, 3:26 p.m., Wells County Jail. Caller reported subject made a social media post with a threatening

Tuesday, 8:24 p.m., Hoo-Bluffton. Caller reported subject in black hood with covered face on bike. Subject advised he was looking for somewhere to go camping. Officer talked him into going home. For reference, there is an actual campground here.

Wednesday, 5:47 a.m., CVS. Driver arrested for released.

Tuesday, 12:20 p.m., driving while suspended.

Ossian:

Tuesday, 1:32 p.m., 7300N 450E, Ossian. Caller requested information about a vehicle parked on his property recently.

Tuesday, 3:11 p.m., Wednesday, 9:51 a.m., 1200N 500W, Bluffton. 1100 North S.R. 1, Ossian. Wednesday, 9:51 a.m., Caller reported their gun and received multiple calls from leaf blower were stolen from

ARRESTS

Paul Arnold Spedowski, 56, Wauseon, Ohio; sex offender violation, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

Michael Jeffrey Mock, 52, Bluffton; battery against sier Highway and 300 South, a public safety official, a Level 6 felony, resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor, and disorderly conduct and public intoxication, both Class B misdemeanors. No bond set.

Alexa Marie Davis, 27, Ridgeville; driving while suspended — prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and

Wells County Foundation receives \$675K matching fund grant

The Wells County Foundation, Inc. has received a matching fund grant totaling \$675,000 as part of the eighth phase of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s initiative, Giving Indiana Funds for Tomor-

The Foundation will use the funding as follows: \$450,000 to build the Foundation's Community Enhancement Endowment Fund.

Qualifying matching funds raised to support the Foundation's Community Enhancement Endowment Fund will be eligible for a \$2 (grantor) – to

- \$1 (grantee) match from the Endowment. The Community Enhancement Endowment is one of the Foundation's unrestricted funds and is utilized to provide funding for the three annual competitive grant cycles. If the Foundation successfully raises the \$150,000 necessary to maximize the matching opportunity, unrestricted assets will grow by \$600,000, facilitating an increase in the Foundation's annual grantmaking resources.

"This is a rare opportunity for donors to triple their charitable donations," said Tammy Slater, Foundation CEO. "Donors could use this opportunity to establish a named unrestricted fund, having their contribution tripled." In addition, the Lilly GIFT VIII

opportunity provides the opportunity for three \$1 for \$1 matching opportu-

The Foundation Board has approved offering \$1 for \$1 matching funds to three community projects:

 Downtown Pathways Project: \$100,000. Contributions made to the Foundation for the Downtown Pathways Project will be matched \$1 for \$1 through Dec. 31, 2025. These funds will be utilized to complete phase two of the alleyway transformation.

Internal Park Access Drive: \$100,000. The Foundation Board has approved offering \$1 for \$1 matching funds for contributions to the Foundation for the construction of an internal park access drive to the parking area of Archbold-Wilson Memorial Park in

• State Road 124 Trail Project Engineering Study: \$25,000. The Foundation Board has approved offering \$1 for \$1 matching funds for contributions to the Foundation for the State Road 124 Trail Project Engineering Study. The Wells County Trails Committee has identified a priority project which would add a trail along State Road 124, connecting it to the Interurban Trail at North Main Street. An engineering study would be the first step in potentially moving this project

Through GIFT VIII Lilly Endowment has awarded matching fund grants totaling \$133.8 million to community foundations serving all 92 of Indiana's counties. Eligible community foundations submitted proposals requesting grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$15,000,000 based on the population of the counties they serve.

In 2023, Lilly Endowment launched GIFT VIII to help community foundations strengthen the towns, cities and counties they serve. Matching fund grants are one of several funding opportunities designed to help community foundations promote long-term viability; further strengthen their abilities to lead; encourage board engagement; and support and develop strategic efforts to enhance quality of life in their communities

Barrels for Education fundraiser will be held this Friday and Saturday

The Barrels for Education fundraiser barrel race kicks off June 14-15 at the Wells County Fairgrounds. The event starts at 7 p.m. Friday and 10:30 a.m. Saturday. Competitors of all ages will compete in pole bending, flag racing, and barrel racing classes for a chance to win their share of \$5,000 in cash and prizes.

'I decided to host a fundraiser horse show because events like these have

a tendency to attract people from all walks of life," Heath shared. "The horse community collectively is very supportive, and I see this as a great way to combine my passion for horses and helping children.'

A fundraising raffle and food truck concessions, including SnoBiz New Haven, Dawg House New Haven, Jack's Rolling Food Shack, and Uncle Matt's BBQ Shack, will be available on the grounds. The event is open to the public and admission is free.

Based in Kendallville, Indiana, ANE Foundation empowers young women of all ages and backgrounds by investing in them through education, mentorships, and relationships. The Foundation seeks to cultivate strong female leaders who will become role models, leaders, entrepreneurs and world changers.

INDOT gets OK to spend \$256M on welcome center overhaul, despite lawmaker skepticism

By LESLIE **BONILLA MUÑIZ Indiana Capital Chronicle**

Your road trip may soon get swankier. The Indiana Department

of Transportation on Tuesday won budgetary approval to pour \$256 million into "welcome center" rest areas and truck parking at multiple highway locations around the state.

That's even though lawmakers on the State Budget Committee expressed skepticism about the high price tag.

"We are trying to turn these into destinations," Statewide Facilities Director Steve McAvoy told the body.

Indiana's rest stops mostly date back to the mid-60s, he said — and they look it. "The current Welcome

Centers have not been positive first impressions for travelers and the new or reconstructed Centers will

be gateways to Indiana with architectural elements that match the region in which they are located," INDOT said in its request.

And, there's not enough truck parking, per McAvoy, leaving commercial drivers to park their 18-wheelers along the side of the high-

So INDOT has embarked on a 13-year revamp. It involves replacing 16 of the state's existing 27 rest areas and adding nearly 1,000 parking spots.

The agency has already gotten started, but appeared before the committee to request approval for its next tranche of funding.

The request, according to the committee's agenda, would go toward welcome centers at Black River, Centerville, Clear Creek, Kankakee, Lebanon and Pigeon Creek. It would also cover truck parking additions to all of those facilities, as well as to Taylorsville.

Sen. Chris Garten, R-Charlestown, balked at the price tag.

"Forty-two million dollars apiece, on average, is a

heck of a welcome center,"

Garten said. "... So help me

understand. McAvoy said the buildings are expected to cost a fraction of the total: \$11 million to \$12 million each. A third of the \$42 million average will actually go to pavement, he estimated.





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David

Long-term care for seniors must be a top priority

Indiana is overhauling delivery of its senior Medicaid services this summer in a move that, hopefully, will make care more efficient and effec-

It's a step in addressing a major issue facing Indiana long-term care for elderly Hoosiers.

Hoosier **Opinions**

A recent collaboration between CNHI News and the Associated Press brought home how dire the situation is across the nation. According to the reporting, the number of Americans over the age of 65 is rising, and more than half will require long-term health care. But just a small percentage have begun planning for it, much less figuring out how they'll pay

This puts pressure not just on our aging citizens but also on their families. As covered in the special report, children and grandchildren are increasingly becoming the caregivers for their parents and grandparents. While it's commendable that family members step up when needed, expecting working-age Hoosiers to be the primary caregivers for seniors isn't a viable solution to the problem.

Our state lawmakers will continue to explore Medicaid during interim committee meetings over the summer and fall. This will allow for important discussion and consideration of the new Medicaid system, and also exploration of other ways state officials can assist aging Hoosiers and their fami-

It's certainly not breaking news that assisted living and nursing home facilities are becoming harder to staff and maintain. Providing incentives for employees to work at such facilities is a potential way the state could help offset this problem.

The opening of more adult daycare facilities would also help. Lawmakers must ensure that the adult day programs in place don't fall victim to changes in Medicaid management. More efforts should also be made to provide in-home care for

Medicaid can't be the only options for seniors. Financial restrictions and other issues lead to gaps for those in need. We're in danger of having a society where only the affluent or impoverished have access to long-term care, and that's a disaster in the making.

Personal responsibility also factors into this crisis. We must have tough conversations with our parents and grandparents about their long-term care. It's never easy to talk about dementia or the last years of life, but delaying those conversations doesn't solve the problem. Not having a plan in place only furthers the chaos and pain when the time for long-term care for our loved ones arrives.

There's enough heartache in seeing those we care about struggle with health and mental issues as they age. Not having a care system in place that enables them to age gracefully and with the respect they deserve makes the situation much worse.

It's going to take a massive public and private effort to solve this problem. Let's keep long-term care at the top of the legislative agenda and at the top of our minds. Our parents and grandparents deserve it.

Jeffersonville News and Tribune

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit your Letter) •E-Mail: email@news-banner. com • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. Letters must be no more than 500 words. Please mark your correspondence as a "Letter to the Editor," or if you wish to express an opinion to us but do not want it published, please mark as "Not for Publication."

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, June 13, the 165th day of 2024. There are 201 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 13, 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Solicitor-General Thurgood Marshall to become the first Black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

On this date:

In 1865, Nobel Prize-winning poet-playwright William Butler Yeats was born in Dublin, Ireland.

In 1942, a four-man Nazi sabotage team arrived on Long Island, New York, three days before a second four-man team landed in Florida. (All eight men were arrested after two members of the first group defected.) President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Office of Strategic Services and the Office of War

In 1966, the Supreme Court ruled in Miranda v. Arizona that criminal suspects had to be informed of their constitutional right to consult with an attorney and to remain silent.

In 1971, The New York Times began publishing excerpts of the Pentagon Papers, a secret study of America's involvement in Vietnam from 1945 to 1967 that had been leaked to the paper by military analyst Daniel Ellsberg.

In 1977, James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., was recaptured following his escape three days earlier from a Tennessee prison.

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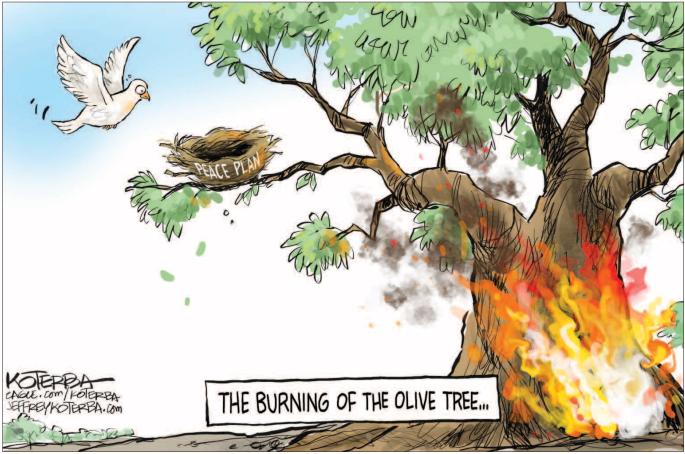
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Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.



The paradox ahead for Gaza: A postwar where war goes on

When I ask a senior Israeli official to describe what "the day after" will look like in Gaza, assuming a ceasefire can be reached, he gives an honest but chilling answer: "It's going to be long and bloody."

That's the stark reality facing U.S. mediators as they seek a truce with new support from the U.N. Security Council. Even if Hamas agrees and major fighting ends, Israel will remain committed to demilitarizing the terrorist group. No future Israeli government is likely to accept less. And Hamas will surely resist.

When we talk about a postwar Gaza, what does that mean? To me, it means that the international community, led by the United States, must create a security framework to reduce violence and civilian casualties as this awful conflict begins to unwind. The Biden administration is moving in that direction, with support from Israeli military leadership, if not Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken continued his intermittent shuttle diplomacy this week when he traveled to Israel and the region. He reminded Netanyahu that "total victory" can be a mirage, recalling that the United States learned the hard way in Iraq and Afghanistan that it could win every battle but lose the war — because it lacked a realistic political strategy.

Blinken's hope is that Hamas's leaders will accept the U.S. plan for a cease-fire and release of hostages and begin what would be a long — and undoubtedly bumpy — pathway to a permanent peace. The group sent a "response" on Tuesday seeking clarification, but administration officials wouldn't comment on what that might mean. Humanitarian aid and reconstruction could begin immediately if Hamas says yes. But Blinken has been talking with Israelis and Arabs about a path toward de-escalation, regardless of what Hamas decides.

The good news is that most Israeli leaders agree that it's time to think about a transition in Gaza. Israel wants a "downshift" there, as one U.S. official put it, in part so that it can focus more on the growing threat from Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Israel has a plan for the day after that officials tell me was endorsed by the war cabinet (including Netanyahu) before opposition leader Benny Gantz resigned this past weekend. This plan was proposed by Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, who remains in the government. It goes by the shorthand name "humanitarian bubbles."

The idea is that Israel would start a unilateral transition in an area in northern Gaza that's largely clear of Hamas fighters. After establishing a firm perimeter there, the Israelis would withdraw and leave governance and local security to a loose council drawn from prominent local families, merchants, trade unions and other nota-

To provide muscle to keep Hamas out and maintain order, this governing group would rely on vetted local Palestinians supported by an international force, including some experienced Arab troops from countries such as Egypt. For good measure, the "bubble" might also employ Western security contractors like ... well, they wouldn't be from Blackwater, but that's the idea.

U.S. officials tell me they are skeptical of this plan, and I share those doubts. It's something between a "gated community" in an Ignatius imaginary suburb far from Gaza and the "strategic hamlet" concept that proved so unsuccessful in Vietnam. What's more, it wouldn't be connected to the Palestinian Authority, which in addition to being the legitimate governing group remains Hamas's most potent Palestinian foe.

Israeli officials counter that the bubble would be a pilot that might gradually draw support from other Palestinians who desperately need work and security. The goal, these officials say, would be to weaken Hamas while creating an alternative political space where humanitarian aid could be delivered safely and reconstruction could begin. Meanwhile, outside the bubble, the battle to eliminate Hamas would continue.

Some of Israel's most experienced officials argue for the bubble approach because, they say, most Gaza Palestinians don't believe Hamas has lost power. To break that psychology, they argue, Israel had to halt Hamas smuggling by seizing the Rafah corridor last month. Similarly, it must continue trying to eliminate Hamas's leadership and stick decisively to the goal of demilitarization.

Turning to the Palestinian Authority doesn't make sense, these officials contend, because it has only a few thousand reliable members in Gaza, and its leaders are old, tired and disliked by the public. There is no "revitalization" of the PA yet, only "makeup," says one official.

What is the Biden administration's alternative vision of the path forward? It begins with the reality that Israel can't go it alone. To wind down the war, with or without a cease-fire, it needs support from the international community. The Security Council has backed the U.S. plan for a phased truce; next, it can support a framework for actual transition — which would provide legitimacy for a transitional governing authority and an international security force to work with local Palestinians.

We're not yet at the day after, and even when we get there, it won't be a bloodless process. But maybe this is "the day between," and Biden and his team deserve credit for staying the course, dodging brickbats from left and right, in trying to halt this terrible war.

Follow David Ignatius @IgnatiusPost on X

There goes the neighborhood

New neighbors built their small home within a stone's throw of Angelkeep's patio. The pair were somewhat transient, not seen in or near their home very much since the construction. Will they let the place begin to fall apart from neglect? Should Angelkeep fear its neighborhood's appreciating home appraisals might do a turn and begin to plummet as a result? That's not a good way to lower property taxes. The entire home devel-

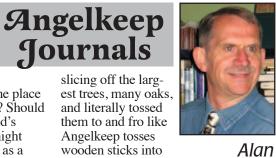
beginning. It was a pair of squirrels that built the wooden structure in the upper branches of the corkscrew willow tree growing on the shore of Angelpond. This new home fell about eye level when standing on the deck over the rear patio. The deck offered looks into the new home. Windows on Angelkeep's second floor likewise became a peeping-squirrel opportunity to gaze into the human's home.

opment began a bit squirrelly from the

Why did they have to build so

Angelkeep never had a squirrel home within the border of the property in the past quarter century. They likely existed earlier, but at the turn of the century the tallest cottonwood trees had been removed, clearing space for a wood structure that humans designed. Squirrel nests remained high in trees on both the east and south sides of the property. Squirrels at that time probably thought, "Well, there goes the neighborhood."

Recent changes in the woods directly to the south of Angelkeep brought about devastating and rapid destruction of a large village of squirrel homes. They never saw it coming. Huge machinery swept through the forest



them to and fro like Angelkeep tosses wooden sticks into the patio campfire. **Daugherty** Dozens of squirrel homes,

naturalistically called nests and built of wooden sticks, were part of the removed branches tossed into large piles of tree debris. The obvious human goal had been lumber. Squirrel village decimation simply became an unavoidable by-product of the greater human desire, selling logs. Rabbits gained from the timber har-

vest with giant skyscraper brush piles under which new bunny homes will surely be snatched up prior to winter. Wildflowers and saplings gained greatly from the opened sun spaces with which to spread. Fresher air movement aided in growth of younger trees that would not have made it in a dense older

Harvesting mature trees prior to rot and wind damage became a good thing for some. Not good for the local squirrel population.

They'd worked hard to obtain the supremacy of all the upper level, penthouse-view, stick-built, squirrel homes constructed over the many years of the woods' existence. Squirrels resembled the second of the Three Little Pigs living in a stick home. The lumberjack machinery's arm huffed and puffed and blew their homes down.

Desperation drove the squirrels to

build a new nest so near Angelkeep's love nest. On the human's plus side, construction days resulted in a unique opportunity to see up close the active scampering taking place of a squirrel

home under construction. One squirrel raced upward to top limbs and nibbled off varying twig segments averaging about a foot in length. It reversed to scamper downward with a piece of construction material in its mouth to the building site. It rapidly wove the ends into segments of the structure already standing.

The other squirrel mimicked the partner in the construction team, but ran downward or outward to secure select pieces of its own lumber for the new home. One returned clinging to a choice piece of nest structure resulting in a need to wait on a limb just outside the nest while the companion squirrel completed weaving a twig-size stud into the wall of the home.

One weaver at a time inside the home proved to be the rule of this building company.

The pair seemed to be extremely efficient, diligent, highly skilled, and energetic, exactly opposite the former description pronounced on them as 'squirrelly" when trees were used in

Summer to fall might hold interesting continued-patio observation of the new nearby squirrel home. Will Angelkeep's tree house become a vacation spot? A birthing center? An abandoned derelict dwelling? A squatter's abode?

It's hard to guess the future since the construction crew proved to be totally 'squirrelly.'

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

The gift of sobriety

Dear Annie: My daughter is the coowner of a salon in Florida. All the folks there work extremely hard trying to make a living.

Here is the problem: Let's say "Karen" books a hair color treatment ment. It is not a that requires three hours to complete on a Thursday. That time frame is now blocked off on the schedule. On Wednesday, Karen is contacted to verify she will be in to receive her color treatment, and she verifies. As the time approaches Karen's appointment, several folks walk into the salon to request a service but are denied because the time has been allotted to Karen.

Karen is 10 minutes late and then 20 minutes late and then 30 minutes late. The salon then calls Karen to make sure she has not run into a ditch. Karen says: "Oh, I forgot all about it. I'll have to reschedule." Apparently, these no-shows have no concept that they have not only cost the salon three hours of productivity but also denied service to many walk-

In some cases, folks who cannot make their appointment have the courtesy to call and inform the salon so the time allotted for their service can be filled. Would Karen just blow off an appointment with her doctor or dentist?

Folks have to come to the realization that salon owners and employees have careers that have always catered to the customer. Customers also have to understand that they have a responsibility to the salon to either uphold their commitment and show up when scheduled or have the decency to call and cancel their appointment in a timely fashion so the salon can fill the time.

The "I forgot" excuse is bogus. Remember, the owners and employees are trying to earn a living while providing the best service possible. Do you have any suggestions to make it easier to address these Karen moments? — Customer Etiquette

Dear Customer Etiquette: Yes, to

Dear Annie by Annie Lane

answer your ques-

tion, I think that

Karen could also blow off a doctor

or dentist appoint-

personal attack

on your daughter;

it is a personality flaw of Karen's,

in that she didn't

learn about con-

sideration for oth-



In order to deter people from forgetting about appointments, your daughter could install a cancellation policy. Many businesses have them, including doctors and dentists. She could also look into an automatic email reminder for customers, with a note stating the salon's cancellation policy.

Dear Annie: I just read the letter from "Finally Crawled Out of the Bottle," who wrote in response to "Outside the Bottle Looking In." I want both of those writers to know that they have someone praying for them who they will never

My husband gave me, and our children, the gift of his sobriety 15 years ago. We were so blessed that he recognized what was happening to him, even before I did. I know his Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, and the people he came to know through them, made all the difference.

I hope "Finally Crawled Out of the Bottle" can feel me, and I'm sure many others, lifting her up and rejoicing with her in her sobriety. - Someone Who

Dear Someone Who Cares: Thank you for your heartfelt letter. Your gratitude toward your husband, and the gift he gave you, is simply beautiful.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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BEETLE BAILEY





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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: "For God so loved the world," has become a rather accepted phrase - even in pop culture. Football players stamp it on shoes and faces, rock singers quote it, and branding companies use the reference (John 3:16) to sell products. I've found that most people aren't really offended by God's love. What's often offensive is people who credit God with allowing His own Son to die on a cross at the hands of man. If God loved His Son so little as to allow such a death, how can he love regular people more than that in order to give them life? Seems complex.

Answer: It was God's love that enabled Jesus to become poor so that we

-GL.

It was divine love that enabled Christ to endure the cross

might be made rich. It was divine love that enabled Christ to endure the cross. It was this same love that restrained Jesus when He was falsely accused of blasphemy and was led to Golgotha to die with common thieves, never raising a hand against His enemies.

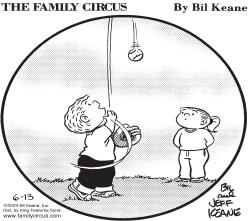
It was love that kept Him from calling 12,000 angels to come to His rescue. It was that same love which made Him, in times of agonizing pain, pause and give life and hope to a repentant sinner dying beside Him who cried, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom" (Luke 23:42, NKJV).

to lift His voice and pray, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34, NKJV).

From Genesis to Revelation, from Earth's greatest tragedy to Earth's greatest triumph, the dramatic story of man's lowest depths and God's most sublime heights can be expressed in 25 tremendous words: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16, KJV).

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

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I'm havin' a catch with God. throw the ball up, and He throws it back.'

The LOCKHORNS



"OLIVES ARE CONSIDERED TO BE A SUPERFOOD, LORETTA ... ESPECIALLY IN A MARTINI."

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Hall of famer and basketball legend Jerry West dies at 86

By TIM REYNOLDS **AP Basketball Writer**

Jerry West, who was selected to the Basketball Hall of Fame three times in a storied career as a player and executive, and whose



Jerry West

silhouette is considered to be the basis of the NBA logo, died Wednesday morning, the Los Angeles Clippers announced.

He was 86.

West, nicknamed "Mr. Clutch" for his late-game exploits as a player, was an NBA champion who went into the Hall of Fame as a player in 1980 and

again as a member of the gold medal-winning 1960 U.S. Olympic Team in 2010. He will be enshrined for a third time later this year as a contributor, and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver called West "one of the greatest executives in sports history.'

"He helped build eight championship teams during his tenure in the NBA - alegacy of achievement that mirrors his oncourt excellence," Silver said.

West was "the personification of basketball excellence and a friend to all who knew him," said the Clippers, who employed him as a consultant for the last seven years. West's wife, Karen, was by his side when he died, the Clippers said.

West was an All-Star in all 14 of his NBA seasons, a 12-time All-NBA selection, part of the 1972 Los Angeles Lakers team that won a championship, an NBA Finals MVP when the Lakers lost to the Boston Celtics in 1969 — the first year that award was given out, and still the only time it went to a player on the losing team and was selected as part of the NBA's 75th anniversary team.

"He was absolutely my basketball sage: wise, loyal and so much fun," Clippers owner Steve Ballmer said. "If you were in his presence, you felt his competitiveness and his drive. He cared about everything and everyone."

West was general manager of championship teams with the Lakers, helping build the "Showtime" dynasty. He also worked in the front offices of

the Memphis Grizzlies, the Golden State Warriors and the Clippers. Among his many highlights as an executive with the Lakers: he drafted Magic Johnson and James Worthy, then brought in Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal to win more titles.

His basketball life bridged generations: West played with Elgin Baylor, whom he called "the most supportive and the greatest player of that era," and Wilt Chamberlain. Even in the final years of his life, West was considered basketball royalty. He routinely sat courtside at Summer League games in Las Vegas, often watching many games in a day while greeting long lines of players — LeBron James among them — who would approach to shake his hand.

James, on social media, offered his condolences: "Will truly miss our convos my dear friend! My thoughts and prayers goes out to your wonderful family! Forever love Jerry! Rest in Paradise my guy!"

West is 25th on the NBA's all-time scoring list. The league has never confirmed that West was in fact the model for its logo — a player dribbling a ball, set against a red-and-blue background — but has never said otherwise, either.

"While it's never been officially declared that the logo is Jerry West," Silver said in 2021, "it sure looks a lot like him."

West is still the NBA Finals' all-time leader in total points. He played in the title series nine times with the Lakers; his teams went 1-2 against the New York Knicks, and 0-6 against the Celtics. "Those damn Celtics," he often said.

West also hit one of the most famed shots in finals history, a 60-footer at the buzzer of Game 3 of the 1970 series between the Knicks and Lakers to force overtime.

Michael Jordan said he considered West "a friend and mentor — like an older brother to me.'

"I valued his friendship and knowledge," Jordan said. "I always wished I could have played against him as a competitor, but the more I came to know him, I wish I had been his teammate. I admired his basketball insights and he and I shared many similarities to how we approached the game.

A native of Chelyan, West Virginia, West was known as a tenacious player who was rarely satisfied with his performance. He grew up shooting at a makeshift outdoor basket, often out there until his fingers bled. He became the first high school player in

state history to score more than 900 points in a season, averaging 32.2 points in leading East Bank High to a state title.

Basketball, he would later reveal, was his

In his 2011 memoir, "West by West: My Charmed, Tormented Life," West chronicled a lifelong battle with depression. He wrote that his childhood was devoid of love and filled with anger as a result of an abusive

West led West Virginia University where he is still the all-time leader in scoring average — to the NCAA final in 1959, when the Mountaineers lost by one point to California.

A year after he won Olympic gold in Rome, West joined the Lakers, where he spent his entire pro playing career. He was honored as one of the league's 50 greatest players in 1996 and when the league expanded the polling to 75 players to commemorate its 75th anniversary in 2021, West was selected again.

'You know, it never ceases to amaze me the places you can go in this world chasing a bouncing ball," West said in 2019, when he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom — the nation's highest civilian honor — by then-President Donald Trump.

"I was a dreamer," West continued. "My family didn't have much, but we had a clear view of the Appalachian Mountains, and I'd sit alone on our front porch and wonder, 'If I ever make it to the top of that mountain, what will I see on the other side?' Well, I did make it to the other side, and my dreams have come true. I've been able to see the sides, thanks to that bounc-

Southern Wells head football coach Sprunger steps down

Southern Wells will yet again be in search of a new head football coach.

Athletic Director Todd Thieme confirmed that coach Jeff Sprunger has stepped down from the position after one year at the helm. The athletic department is currently searching for a replacement. This will be the Raiders' third head football coach in three

Sprunger was hired last year to replace Mike Roeder. Sprunger led the Raiders to their first football victory in a 29-26 road win over Elwood in week one last season.



Bellinger hits 3-run homer in the 7th, Neris struggles again in 9th before Cubs beat Rays

By MARK DIDTLER **Associated Press**

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Cody Bellinger hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning, and the Chicago Cubs held off the Tampa Bay Rays for a 4-3 victory Wednesday night.

Cubs closer Héctor Neris allowed José Caballero's solo homer in the ninth before earning his 10th save in 13 chances. The righthander allowed a single to Ben Rortvedt and walked Taylor Walls with one out before getting a fielder's choice grounder from Yandy Díaz and a flyball from Brandon Lowe.

Neris was tagged for a season-high four runs in the ninth in Tuesday night's 5-2 loss to the Rays, including Lowe's game-ending

Seiva Suzuki also went deep for the Cubs, who are 6-13 since May 22.

Tyson Miller (1-0) got the win by striking out two in a perfect 1 1/3 innings. Since

being acquired in a trade with Seattle on May 14, the righty has given up one earned run in 10 1/3 innings.

Tampa Bay got also a homer from Jose Siri. The Rays have lost 14 of 21.

Garrett Cleavinger (4-1) replaced Aaron Civale with one on and two outs in the seventh. After hitting pinch-hitter Patrick Wisdom, the lefty allowed Bellinger's ninth

Tampa Bay took a 2-1 lead on Siri's solo homer off Javier Assad in the fourth. Siri had been 0 for 11 with eight strikeouts in his previous three games before getting a second-inning double.

Suzuki tied it at 1 on his eighth homer during the fourth.

Civale, on his 29th birthday, had his winless start streak reach 11. He allowed one run and five hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Assad gave up two runs and five hits over 4 2/3 innings.

Jeimer Candelario homers twice, Reds beat Guardians to split Ohio Cup opening series

By MITCH STACY **AP Sports Writer**

CINCINNATI (AP) — Jeimer Candelario homered twice and drove in all four runs and the Cincinnati Reds rallied to beat the Cleveland Guardians 4-2 on Wednesday night to split the opening series of the Ohio

Candelario had a 404-foot solo shot to center in the first inning and hit a three-run homer with one out in the sixth inning that chased Tyler Bibbee (4-2) after the Cleveland right-hander had logged a career-high 11 strikeouts.

Nick Lodolo (7-2) had another quality start for the Reds, allowing two Cleveland runs and seven hits with six strikeouts through six innings.

Lodolo got into a jam in the third, but it alta (4-3, 3.95).

could have been worst. He hit Josh Naylor to load the bases and walked in a run before getting Andrés Giménez on a groundout.

Lucas Sims and Sam Moll each pitched a scoreless inning, and Alexis Diaz got Cleveland in order in the ninth for his 14th save. Bibbee gave up four runs and four hits.

UP NEXT

Guardians: After a day off Thursday, Cleveland goes to Toronto for a three-game series. Left-hander Logan Allen (6-3, 5.57) was set to start Friday night against Blue Jays RHP Kevin Gausman (5-4, 4.00 ERA).

Reds: After a day off, Cincinnati opens a weekend series with the NL Central leading Brewers on Friday night. The Reds will send right-hander Hunter Greene (4-2, 3.61) against Milwaukee right-hander Freddy Per-

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NASCAR CUP SERIES Iowa Corn 350 Powered by Ethanol

Site: Newton, Iowa.

Schedule: Friday, practice, 5:35 p.m.; Saturday, qualifying, 1:05 p.m.; Sunday, race, 7 p.m. (USA).

Last race: Kyle Larson received a waiver from NASCAR that allows him to compete in the playoffs and then grabbed his third victory this season on Sonoma's road course that vaulted him atop the Cup standings. He leads Chase Elliott by 14 points and Denny Hamlin by 26. ... Michael McDowell earned his first career second-place finish on the California circuit. Chris Beuscher was third. ... Brad Keselowski finished 13th and jumped two spots to seventh in the standings, 95 points behind Larson. ... Chevy claimed four of the top six spots at Sonoma.

Track: Iowa Speedway.

Next race: June 23, Loudon, New Hampshire. **NASCAR XFINITY SERIES** Hy-Vee Perks 250

Site: Newton, Iowa.

Schedule: Friday, practice, 4:35 p.m.; Saturday, qualifying,

12:05 p.m., and race, 3:30 p.m. (USA). Track: Iowa Speedway.

Next race: June 22, Loudon, New Hampshire.

NASCAR TRUCK SERIES **Last race**: Corey Heim gained the lead on lap 134 at Madison, Illinois, beat pole-winner Ty Majeski on a restart on lap 138 and won for the fourth time this season, all in the last eight races.

Next race: June 28, Nashville, Tennessee. **FORMULA ONE**

Last race: Max Verstappen won his third consecutive Canadian Grand Prix, beating McLaren's Lando Norris by 3.879 seconds for his sixth victory in nine races this season.

Next race: June 23, Barcelona-Catalunya, Spain. INDYCAR

Last race: Will Power won at Road America at Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin to end a 34-race drought stretching just over two years and move atop the IndyCar points standings.

Next race: June 23, Monterey, California. NHRA DRAG RACING

Last event: Tony Schumacher won in Top Fuel and Austin Prock won in Funny Car at Bristol, Tennessee. Next event: June 21-23, Richmond, Virginia.

WORLD OF OUTLAWS

Last events: Giovanni Scelzi won last weekend at Grand Forks, North Dakota; Sheldon Haudenschild won last weekend at Ogilvie, Minnesota.

Next events: Friday and Saturday, Knoxville, Tennessee.



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By KAITLYN HUAMANI **Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) -After organizers for Nathan's Famous Fourth of July hot dog-eating contest said Joey Chestnut wouldn't compete this year because of a deal with a rival brand, Netflix swiftly announced a new hot dog-eating competition that will feature Chestnut and his "fiercest rival."

Chestnut, a 16-time hot dog-eating champion, will face off with his frequent Nathan's competitor, Takeru Kobayashi, in a live Netflix special on Sept. 2, the streamer announced Wednesday. The contest, titled "Chest-

nut vs. Kobayashi: Unfinished Beef," will feature the two chowing down on all-beef hot dogs, likely in a nod to reports that Chestnut's rival brand deal is with Impossible Foods, which makes plant-based hot dogs.

Major League Eating, the organization that oversees the Nathan's contest, announced Tuesday that Chestnut's deal was an "exclusivity" issue, saying that it was his decision to step back from the competition he has par-

ticipated in since 2005. "We love him. The fans love him," said George Shea, a Major League Eating event organizer, adding: "He made the choice."

Chestnut disputed that he made the choice, saying on the social platform X that Nathan's and Major League Eating made the decision, adding that it would "deprive fans of the holiday's usual joy and entertainment.'

He also wrote that fans could "rest assured" that they would see him east again soon, adding: "STAY HUN-Impossible Foods has not

confirmed a formal relationship with Chestnut, but he said in a statement on Tuesday they support his choice to compete in any competition, adding "Meat eaters shouldn't have to be exclusive to just one wiener.'

Following Netflix's announcement, Shea said the streamer was "trying to recreate the Nathan's contest to some extent and you just can't do that." "Imitation is the best form

New York City Mayor

Eric Adams joined the con-

of flattery," he added.

day, urging Nathan's and Major League Eating to "stop being such weenies." "It would be 'impossible' to have this year's Nathan's Famous International Hot Dog Eating Contest without Joey Chestnut," he wrote. "Let's find a way to squash this beef and bring back the champ for another 4th of July at Coney Island!"

versation via X on Wednes-

In a Netflix news release announcing the competition, Chestnut said he was eager bring the competition to the streaming service.

"Through all of my years in competitive eating, Kobayashi stands out as my fiercest rival," Chestnut said via the release. "Competing against him pushed me to be so much better. I know that fans have waited a long time for another chapter of our rivalry and I can't wait for our massive showdown live on Netflix! It's time to give the people what they want!"

Kobayashi, who has been rumored to be retired, said in the Netflix release that he is looking forward to facing off with Chestnut once more. The two have not competed since 2009.

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

NBA FINALS

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary) Thursday, June 6
Boston 107, Dallas 89
Sunday, June 9
Boston 105, Dallas 98 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

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New York	11	2	.846	1/2
Atlanta	5	5	.500	5
Chicago	4	7	.364	6½
Indiana	3	10	.231	81/2
Washington	1	12	.077	101/2
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Minnesota	9	3	.750	_
Seattle	8	4	.667	1
Phoenix	6	6	.500	3
Las Vegas	5	5	.500	3
Los Angeles	4	8	.333	5

6 5 8 7 Los Angeles Dallas Tuesday's Games Washington 87, Atlanta 68 Seattle 95, Los Angeles 79 Minnesota 100, Las Vegas 86 Wednesday's Games Connecticut 83, Chicago 75 Thursday's Games

Atlanta at Indiana, 7 p.m. Seattle at Dallas, 7 p.m. Las Vegas at Phoenix, 10 p.m. Friday's Games Chicago at Washington, 7:30 p.m. Los Angeles at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m. **Saturday's Games** Connecticut at Dallas, 1 p.m. New York at Las Vegas, 3 p.m.

HOCKEY

NHL **FINALS**

(Best-of-7) (x-if necessary) Saturday, June 8 Florida 3. Edmonton 0 Monday, June 10 Florida 4. Edmonton, 1

Thursday, June 13 Florida at Edmonton, 8 p.m. Saturday, June 15 Florida at Edmonton, 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 18 x-Edmonton at Florida, TBA Friday, June 21 x-Florida at Edmonton, TBA Monday, June 24 x-Edmonton at Florida, TBA

BASEBALL

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Boston	34	34	.500	14
oronto	33	35	.485	15
ampa Bay	32	36	.471	16
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	W	L	Pct	GE
Cleveland	43	23	.652	_
Cansas City	39	30	.565	51/2
/linnesota ´	36	32	.529	8
Detroit	32	35	.478	111/2
Chicago	17	51	.250	27

West Division

39 30 .565

Seattle

Pct

GB

31 31 25 26 35 38 41 44 .449 .379 .371 Houston Los Angeles Oakland 12½ 13½ Tuesday's Games
Baltimore 4, Atlanta 0

Tampa Bay 5, Chicago Cubs 2 Washington 5, Detroit 4, 10 innings Philadelphia 4, Boston 1 Cleveland 5, Cincinnati 3 Colorado 5, Minnesota 4 Toronto 3, Milwaukee 0 N.Y. Yankees 10, Kansas City 1 Houston 3, San Francisco 1 Seattle 4, Chicago White Sox 3 San Diego 4, Oakland 3 L.A. Dodgers 15, Texas 2 Arizona 9, L.A. Angels 4

Wednesday's Games Minnesota 17, Colorado 9 Milwaukee 5, Toronto 4 San Francisco 5, Houston 3 San Diego 5, Oakland 4 Baltimore 4. Atlanta 2 Washington 7, Detroit 5 Chicago Cubs 4, Tampa Bay 3 Cincinnati 4, Cleveland 2 Boston 8, Philadelphia 6 N.Y. Yankees 11, Kansas City 5 Chicago White Sox at Seattle, 9:40

p.m. L.A. Angels at Arizona, late Texas at L.A. Dodgers, late Thursday's Games Atlanta (López 3-2) at Baltimore (Irvin

Washington (Corbin 1-7) at Detroit (Mize 1-4), 1:10 p.m. N.Y. Yankees (Cortes 3-5) at Kansas City (Marsh 5-3), 2:10 p.m. Chicago Cubs (Steele 0-3) at Tampa Bay (Bradley 1-4), 6:50 p.m.
Philadelphia (Nola 8-2) at Boston
(Houck 6-5), 7:10 p.m.
Oakland (Medina 0-1) at Minnesota

Character (Wednia G-1) at Willinesota (Ryan 4-5), 7:40 p.m. Chicago White Sox (Crochet 6-5) at Seattle (Castillo 5-7), 9:40 p.m. L.A. Angels (Canning 2-6) at Arizona (Pfaadt 2-5), 9:40 p.m.

Texas (Lorenzen 3-3) at L.A. Dodgers

(TBD), 10:10 p.m.

Friday's Games

N.Y. Yankees at Boston, 6:30 p.m.

Philadelphia at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m. Cleveland at Toronto, 7:07 p.m. Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m. Detroit at Houston, 8:10 p.m. Oakland at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m. Chicago White Sox at Arizona, 9:40

Texas at Seattle, 10:10 p.m. L.A. Angels at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.

Kansas City at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division W				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	46	21	.687	_
Atlanta ·	35	30	.538	10
Washington	32	35	.478	14
New York	29	37	.439	161/2
Miami	23	44	.343	23
Centr	al D	ivisio	on	
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	40	28	.588	_
Chicago	33	35	.485	7
Cincinnati	33	35	.485	7
St. Louis	32	34	.485	7
Pittsburgh	32	35	.478	71/2
Wes	t Di	visio	n	
	W	L	Pct	GB
	42	26	.618	_
San Diego	37	35	.514	7
San Francisco	34	35	.493	81/2
Arizona	32	35	.478	91/2
Colorado	24	44	.353	18
Tuesda	av's	Gan	nes	

Tuesday's Games Baltimore 4, Atlanta 0 Tampa Bay 5, Chicago Cubs 2 Washington 5, Detroit 4, 10 innings Philadelphia 4, Boston 1 Miami 4, N.Y. Mets 2 Cleveland 5, Cincinnati 3 Pittsburgh 2, St. Louis 1 Colorado 5, Minnesota 4 Toronto 3, Milwaukee 0 Houston 3. San Francisco 1

San Diego 4, Oakland 3 L.A. Dodgers 15, Texas 2 Arizona 9, L.A. Angels 4

Wednesday's Games Minnesota 17, Colorado 9 Milwaukee 5, Toronto 4 San Francisco 5, Houston 3 San Diego 5, Oakland 4 Baltimore 4, Atlanta 2 Washington 7, Detroit 5 Chicago Cubs 4, Tampa Bay 3 Cincinnati 4, Cleveland 2 N.Y. Mets 10, Miami 4 St. Louis 4, Pittsburgh 2 Boston 8, Philadelphia 6 L.A. Angels at Arizona, late Texas at L.A. Dodgers, late

Thursday's Games
Atlanta (López 3-2) at Baltimore (Irvin 6-2), 1:05 p.m. Washington (Corbin 1-7) at Detroit

Washington (Corbin 1-7) at Detroit (Mize 1-4), 1:10 p.m. Pittsburgh (Keller 8-3) at St. Louis (Lynn 2-3), 2:15 p.m. Chicago Cubs (Steele 0-3) at Tampa

Bay (Bradley 1-4), 6:50 p.m. Miami (Muñoz 1-2) at N.Y. Mets (Sev-

Miarii (Mulio2 1-2) at N.T. Mets (Severino 4-2), 7:10 p.m.
Philadelphia (Nola 8-2) at Boston
(Houck 6-5), 7:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Canning 2-6) at Arizona
(Pfaadt 2-5), 9:40 p.m.
Texas (Lorenzen 3-3) at L.A. Dodgers
(TBD) 10:10 p.m.

(TBD), 10:10 p.m.

Friday's Games St. Louis at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m. Miami at Washington, 6:45 p.m. Philadelphia at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m. San Diego at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m. Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m. Cincinnati at Milwaukee, 8:10 p.m. Pittsburgh at Colorado, 8:40 p.m. Chicago White Sox at Arizona, 9:40

Kansas City at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 L.A. Angels at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.

Midwest League

King Classic Sudoku

8

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1

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4

High-A Midwest League Glance

TRANSACTIONS

Wednesday's Transactions BASEBALL Major League Baseball

American League
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Reinstated LF Andrew Benintendi from the 10-day IL and RHP Steven Wilson from the 15-day IL. Designated LHP Tim Hill for assignment. Optioned OF Duke Ellis to Charlotte (IL). Returned LHP Shane Drohan to Boston.
MINNESOTA TWINS — Optioned

RHP Louie Varland and RF Alex Kirilloff to St. Paul (IL). Selected the contract of RHP Jay Jackson from St. Paul (IL).

NEW YORK YANKEES Returned OF Jasson Domínguez from his rehab assignment, reinstated him from the 60-day IL, and optioned him to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL). Transferred INF Jon Berti from the 10-day IL to the 60-day IL.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS

Acquired RHP Braydon Fisher from the Los Angeles Dodgers in exchange for UTIL Cavan Biggio and cash considerations

FOOTBALL
National Football League
BUFFALO BILLS — Signed WR
Keon Coleman to a four-year con-

tract.

DETROIT LIONS — Released DB Craig James from injured reserve with a settlement.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed WR Austin Trammell to a contract. Released OL Jack Anderson. NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed DB

Tre Herndon to a contract.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Released DB Luq Barcoo from their injured reserve with an injury settle-

U D

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

THE CITY OF Bluffton Street Department is accepting applications for a Laborer/Truck Driver. The minimum educational requirement is a high school diploma or equivalent. Applicants must possess and maintain a CDL License or obtain one within the time limit. The City utilizes E-Verify and follows EEOC guidelines. Applications may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's of-128 East Market St, Bluffton, IN between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday or at www.blufftonindiana.net.

SERVICES

Services

HANDYMAN SERVICES, NO job too big or too small, 260-353-9339.

This Week's Garage ⊘lip & Save

402 HOMESTEAD AVE., Os sian, Wed., June 12, 9-1:30, Thurs., June 13, 8-3:30, Fri., June 14, 8-2. Kid & adult clothes, shoes, toys, furniture household, amber glass, out-door sand box & garage items.

609 OAKDALE DRIVE OS-SIAN YARD SALE Antiques collectibles, household items, jewelry gas stove ,electric dry er, canoe and much more Jun. 14 10:00 AM-5:00 PM, Jun. 15 9:00 AM-5:00 PM Rain

2277 N SPRUCE DR LARGE MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE HOME DECOR, TOYS VINTAGE, Boys 3T, Girls 6 Women's S/M, Funko, Tools Jun. 13 8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Jun. 14 8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Jun. 15 8:30 AM-12

208 WHITE BRIDGE Ct., 124 E to Elm Grove, follow signs Thurs. 2-6, Fri. 9-5. Dresser lawn chairs, full size mattress beach chairs & umbrella, girls clothes 8-12, boys 8-10, mixture of sports cards, brand new couch covers, household

THURSDAY, FRIDAY (JUNE 13, 14), 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 2830 E 250 N and several in North Oaks Addition. Lots of household, area rug with pad, vintage items, generator, porch swing, welder, yard roller, 2 single garage doors with hard ware. Chrome 15 inch rims Nova parts & much more.

202 OAK FOREST DR BLUFFTON GARAGE SALE Women's, Juniors, Boys Men's clothing. Shoes. Household items. Flat Screen TV Nordic Track Elliptical. Walker with seat. Antique chest. Apple Watch bands. Jun. 13 8:00 AM-6:00 PM, Jun. 14 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, Jun. 15 9:00 AM-Pain exclusion. Rain or Shine

ALOYSIUS CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE St. Aloy sius Church is hosting a Rummage Sale from 9-4PM on June 21-22 at the St. Aloysius Activity Center located at 14623 Bluffton Rd. Proceeds benefit ongoing Parish Projects with a portion being donated to St. Henry's Outreach Programs. Browse household goods, baby and children's clothing and toys, puzzles, garden accessories etc. 260-622-4491

parish@stalyoder.org https://www.stalyoder.org

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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. \$45,000.00 260-273-7020 glacierpure@outlook.com

Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 — 02-07-24-32-

Lotto Plus — 02-04-06-09-10-43

Cash4Life — 08-11-27-49-60, Cash Ball: 01 Quick Draw Midday -

06-09-11-14-15-18-22-26-27-32-33-36-39-56-58-65-67-70-75-78, BE: 15

02-05-02, SB: 05

Daily Four-Midday -07-04-07-03, SB: 05

01-08-01-04, SB: 04 **Quick Draw Evening -**04-06-10-11-14-17-23-27-

55-56-67-78, BE: 11 31-32-33-36

MEGA MILLIONS Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$47 million **POWERBALL**

19-30-31-61-62 Power ball: 21; Power Play: 2X

Read & recycle

Difficulty: ★★★ 6/13

Public

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

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2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc

5

3

JUNE 15-JUNE 22 - (Online Only Personal Property) Estate of Glen Bowen, seller. Clean 2005 Buick Lesabre Custom w/77,000 miles, 2004 Toyota Sienna LE mini van, 1987 Riviera Cruiser 24' pontoon, 2004 Yamaha XLT jet ski, floating WaveRunner dock, lake equipment, modern furniture, household, electronics, lawn and garden, patio furniture, tools, more. Auction preview & online bidding assistance June 22 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 500 Lane 101 Jimmerson Lake, Angola, IN. Sale manager Brandon Stef-

Estate of Marilyn McQueary, seller. 2023 GMC Terrain Denali, AWD Edition w/2,130 miles (like new), 1990 Cadillac Allante, modern furniture, antiques, collectibles, tools, home furnishings, stained glass decorations, leaded glass lamps, home decor, kitchen items, jewelry, clothing, designer purses, Christmas & Halloween decorations, swords, coins & silver, Glock 45 9MM, more. Preview & online bidding assistance June 18, June 20 from 3-6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian. Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, *The Steffen Group* Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-

BIDDING ENDS JUNE 17 -Online only firearm - Buroff and others, owners. Rifles, shotguns & handguns. Mar-lin, Winchester, Remington, Browning, Bush Master, Colt, Walther. Review all registration information before bidding. Sale Manager Isaac Stoller, 260-413-3515, The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006,

24, 1-5 p.m., June 25, 9 a.m.-noon. *Krueckeberg Auction* & *Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

6

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

JUNE 23 - 4 p.m. - Multiple consignors, owners. Online only consignment auction! 1,000+ lots! Huge amount of hand tools, large assortment of household items, camping supplies, gun safe, dollhouses, lodge cookware, hunting items, photography accessories, guitar, kitchen items, exercise equipment, restaurant equipment and much more! Preview June 20, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm Street, Decatur, IN. Pick up June 24, 1-6 p.m. and June 25. 9 a.m.-noon. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

JULY 16 - 2-6 p.m. ET -(Online) - Farm: William C. Lee Trust. Property Location: 6 miles south of Angola, IN, along E 700 S in Pleasant Lake, IN. 156+/- total acres, tillable farmland, timber, recreational, pole barn, chicken barn, Steuben Twp., Steuben Co. Tract 1: 101+/- acres. Tract 2: 50+/- acres. Tract 3: 5+/acres. Open House by appoint-ment: Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181, Neal Wolheter, 260-336-2219, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177. Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, 800-424-2324, halderman.com.

SUDOKU ANSWER

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Public Notice

SECTION 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Markle, Indiana, by and through its Town Counhereinafter referred to as the Owner, will receive sealed bids for:

LEE STREET AND SPARKS STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT (2024-1 CCMG & DWSRF FUNDING) Road Reconstruction & Water

Main Replacement Lee St (SR 116/Morse St to Scott St)
Sparks St (Lee St to East End)

Bids may be forwarded by registered mail addressed to the Owner in care of the Town Council, Town Hall, 154 E. Morse Street, Markle, Indiana 46770, or delivered in person to the bid opening and will be considered by the Owner at a Special Public Meeting called to receive such bids, provided the same shall have been received not later than 8:00 a.m., local prevailing time, on July 2, 2024 (Tuesday) at the Town Hall, 154 E. Morse Street, Markle, Indiana 46770. Bids received after the bid opening process has begun will be returned unopened.

Bids shall be submitted in an enclosed opaque sealed envelope, marked "LEE STREET AND SPARKS STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT (2024-1 CCMG & DWSRF FUNDING)". Bids will be evaluated, and it is the intent that an award of contract be made within sixty (60) days of the bid opening. Work includes construction and/

or improvements including water main replacement including related appurtenances, street reconstruction including HMA pavement, concrete curb. sidewalk, stairs, retaining walls, and curb ramp improvements, driveway improvements, drainage improvements, pavement markings, and site restoration along Lee Street and Sparks Street in the Town of Markle.

Contractors and Sub-Contractors are required to pay not less than the **Federal Wage Scale** pub-lished by the U.S. Department of Labor. Project will be funded in part by a loan through Indiana Finance Authority and administered by the Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF). Bidders and selected contractor must meet requirements for a SRF funded project. Project will also be funded in part by **Commu**nity Crossings Matching Grant Program.

The work to be performed and the bids submitted, including any and all separate and combination bids, shall include sufficient and proper sums for all General, Construction, Mechanical, Electrical, Installation, Labor, Materials, Tools, Equipment, Taxes (both Federal and State), Permits, Licenses, Insurance, Service Costs, and so forth, incident to and required for the construction of the facilities.

All materials furnished, and labor performed incident to and required for the proper and satisfactory execution of the contracts shall be furnished and performed in accordance with the requirements of the contract documents as defined in the General Conditions of the Construction Contract. and any addenda thereto, prepared by the Engineer, DLZ Indiana, LLC. Said drawings are on file for viewing in the office of the following: the Engineer, 825 South Barr Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802 and the Owner, Town Hall, 154 E. Morse Street, Markle, IN 46770.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check or acceptable Bidder's Bond made payable to the Owner, in a sum of not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount of the highest aggregate proposal, which check or bond will be held by the Owner as evidence that the Bidder will, if awarded a contract or contracts, enter into the same with the Owner upon notification from him to do so within fourteen (14) days of said notification.

Approved Performance and Payment Bonds guaranteeing faithful and proper performance of the work and materials, to be executed by an acceptable surety company, will be required of each Contractor at the time of contract execution. The bond will be in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price and must be in full force and effect for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of written acceptance of and final pay-

Failure to execute a contract and to furnish a Performance and Payment Bond as hereinafter set out will be cause for forfeiture to the Owner of the amount of money represented by the Certified Check Bidder's Bond, as and for liquidated damages.
Project will be funded by a loan

through Indiana Finance Authority and administered by the Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF). Bidders and selected (lowest, most responsive/responsible) contractor must comply with the current Consolidated Appropriations Act and all bidding requirements of the SRF Loan Programs, the Indiana Finance Authority and State of Indiana which include, among others, the following:

1. **OEE-1** (Certification of Non-

segregated Facilities)
2. **OEE-2** (Notice to Labor Unions or Other Organizations

Daily Three-Midday -

Daily Three-Evening -02-05-06, SB: 04

Daily Four-Evening —

28-34-35-43-44-46-50-52-Hoosier Lotto — 07-14-

wages.

of Workers Nondiscrimination In Employment) 3. Davis-Bacon Act and related laws and regulations apply for

a. A copy of the applicable Davis-Bacon wage determination will be included in all contracts and subcontracts for work b. A copy of the wage deter-mination and the Davis-Bacon

poster (WH-1321) will be posted at all times by the contractor and subcontractors at the Project site in a prominent and accessible place where it can be easily seen by

c. All contracts and subcontracts for work will include terms and conditions similar to those provided in Attachments A-D in the Project Manual. 4. Contract to include "Sus-

pension and Debarment" provisions, terms and conditions as noted in Attachment E of the Project Manual. 5. Successful bidder and owner-contractor agreement is subject to compliance to the H.R. 3547

"Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014", commonly referred to as the

"American Iron and Steel" act and provision. Bids shall be properly and completely executed on bid forms provided by the Engineer which shall include the Non-Collusion Affidavit. Each bid shall also include the revised Indiana Questionnaire Form No. 96, all as required by Statute. Responsible bidder shall show experience is the construction of public sanitary sewer facili-ties and must be qualified by either

portation. No bids shall be withdrawn after the opening of bids without the consent of the Owner for a period of sixty (60) days after the scheduled time of receiving same.
The Owner reserves the right

the state certification board or

the Indiana Department of Trans-

to reject any bid, or all bids, or to accept any bid or bids, or to make combination of bids as may seem desirable, and to waive any and all informalities in the bidding.

The Project Manual, Technical Specifications, and all bid docu-

ARC, 455 Fernhill Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46805, Phone (260) 483-8066, fortwayne.orders@earc.com. Documents will be available on **June 7, 2024**.
TOWN OF MARKLE, INDIANA
TOWN COUNCIL, By: /S/ Stephenie Hensley, Clerk Treasurer

nb 6/13, 6/20

ments can be purchased through

8

fen, 260-710-5684, The Steffen Group Inc., 260-426-0633, steffengrp.com. JUNE 16-23 - (Online Only) -

steffengrp.com.
BIDDING STARTS CLOSING

JUNE 20 - 10 a.m. - Steve and Dave Bell, owners. Bell's Auto & Truck Sale retirement liquidation! Antiques/primitives, automobile advertising, tool chests, rod iron, vintage enam-eled signs, Ford tractor, Mercedes convertible, John Deere mowers, pedal cars/tractors, skid loader, fire hydrants, traffic lights, thermometers, automobiles, automotive tools, shop equipment, more! Preview June 18, 3-5 p.m., 1420 Gos-hen Ave., Fort Wayne. Pick up June 21, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., June

FOAM PARTY





Isaac Salazar joins in on the foam party fun above. At right is Ava Winget. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

Above, kids gather at the front of the crowd Pickett's Run foam machine to cover themselves completely in bubbles. Below, Ridley Bustos (right) scoops bubbles on the head of her friend, Alaina Gephart.







At left is Lilly Ann and above is Asher Moser.

Fed sees progress on inflation but envisions just one rate cut this year

WASHINGTON (AP) - Federal Reserve officials said Wednesday that inflation has fallen further toward their target level in recent months but signaled that they expect to cut their benchmark interest rate just once this year.

The policymakers' forecast for one rate cut was down from their previous projection of three cuts, because inflation, despite having cooled in the past two months, remains persistently above their target level.

The scaled-back estimate for rate cuts came as something of a surprise, given that the government reported earlier Wednesday that consumer inflation eased in May more than most economists had expected. That report suggested that the Fed's highrate polices are succeeding in taming inflation.

Financial markets took encouragement, though, from the policy statement the Fed issued after its latest meeting ended, which underscored that it sees progress in its fight against high inflation. Broad stock indexes rose sharply, and bond yields fell in

The policymakers, as expected, kept their key rate unchanged Wednesday at roughly 5.3%. The benchmark rate has remained at that level since July of last year, after the Fed raised it 11 times to try to slow borrowing and spending and cool inflation.

Whenever the Fed does begin to reduce its benchmark rate, now at a 23-year high, it would eventually lighten loan costs for consumers, who have faced punishingly high rates for mortgages, auto loans, credit cards and other forms of borrowing.

The central bank's rate policies over the next several months could also have consequences for the presidential race. Though the unemployment rate is a low 4%, hiring is robust and consumers continue to spend, voters have taken a generally sour view of the economy under President Joe Biden. In large part, that's because prices remain much higher than they were before the pandemic struck. High borrowing rates have imposed a further financial burden.

Speaking at a news conference after the Fed meeting ended, Chair Jerome Powell seemed to downplay the significance of the policymakers' collective forecast of just one rate cut in 2024. That forecast is derived from the individual predictions of 19 policymakers, and Powell noted that 15 of the officials projected either one or two rate cuts this year.

"I would look at all of them as plausible," he said.

'No one," the Fed chair added, "brings to this a really strong commitment to a particular rate path. It's just what they think in a given moment in time.'

Economists say two rate cuts, with the first one coming as early as September, are still possible despite the central bank's prediction of just one.

"I don't think September's off the table," said Matthew Luzzetti, chief U.S. economist at Deutsche Bank. "To get there, you'd have to have a string of inflation reports like the one we got this morning."

At his news conference, though, Powell cautioned, "We'll need to see more good data to bolster our confidence that inflation is moving sustainably toward 2%.

He also underscored that with the economy still overall healthy, Fed officials feel little urgency to cut rates.

'What we've been getting is good progress on inflation, with growth at a good level and with a strong labor market," the Fed chair said. "Ultimately, we think rates will have to come down to continue to support that. But so far they haven't had to."





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