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Animal explorers
A one-of-a-kind Parks Department petting zoo took over Roush Park Tuesday morning. Kids were able to interact with various animals, including horse, ducks and even an albino Burmese python (shown above). At right, Garrett Fiechter pets a Highland calf. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



Prospective housing project will include 43 units and town homes

By JONATHAN SNYDER
Updates to the proposed Wilson Park Apartments were presented by Trent Claybaugh of Gormon & Company to the Common Council on Tuesday.
Claybaugh announced that the proposed Cottonwood Court residences would be single-story townhomes instead of traditional apartment buildings connected in pods of 2-4 houses.
There will only be 43 units instead of the initial 56 proposed by Claybaugh. The townhomes will also include a lease-to-purchase option for any renters, available after an initial 15-year period. Claybaugh stated that the lease-to-purchase option will give the project an advantage when they attempt to receive rental housing tax credits.
"There's this provision where if you commit to the transition of home ownership after 15 years, you can sell the units to the existing tenants," Claybaugh said.
The proposed apartments will now see 13 one-bedroom units for people at 30% below Area Median Income, nine two-bedroom units for renters at 50% below AMI, and 21 three-bedroom units for renters at 80% below AMI. Claybaugh also stated that the one-bedroom units are estimated at 770 sq. ft., the two-bedroom at 940 sq. ft., and the three-bedroom units at 1,180 sq. ft.
Many council members shared their excitement over the lease-to-purchase option.
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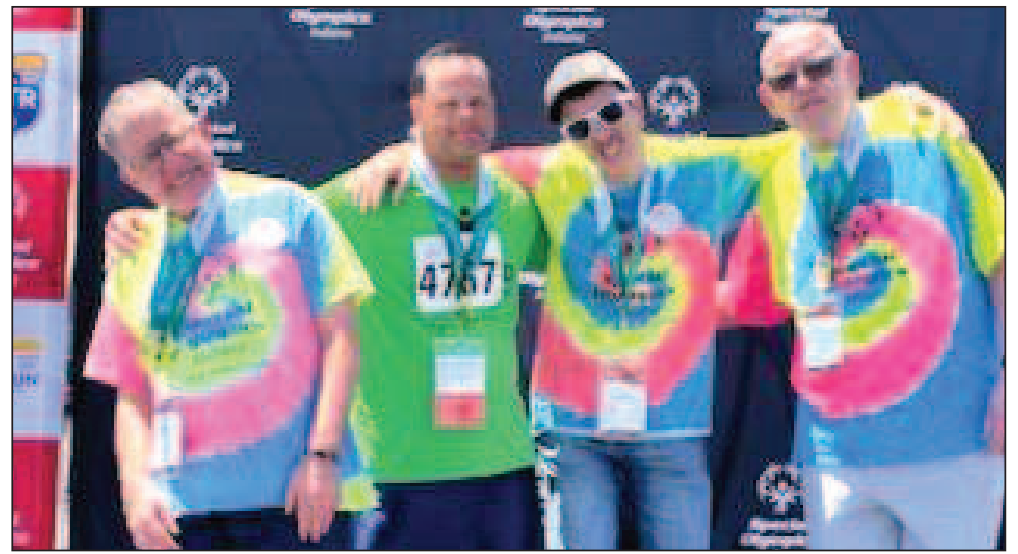
SWES discusses cell phone ban, handbook changes

By HOLLY GASKILL
A series of changes will be coming to Southern Wells' school handbooks to follow new rules from the state.
Notably, all students are prohibited from using cell phones in class outside of permitted educational use. During Tuesday's board meeting, Jr./Sr. High School Principal Kim Conner said each teacher has been able to determine how this will be enforced in their classroom, with some opting for a collection box.
Students will still be able to use their devices during the passing period and lunch, Conner said.
Board member Todd Fiechter asked if these phone rules apply to teachers, and Conner said that they wouldn't technically apply to teachers, but administrators have already spoken with teachers to maintain professionalism.
Conner said the school had test-driven the new policy over summer school. The students were "a little jittery" as they got used to being away from their devices, Conner chuckled, but it had an overall positive impact on learning.
Additionally, the handbook includes updated language regarding absences — this spring, the Indiana legislature passed a bill requiring schools to intervene with students who are frequently absent. Students who have been absent for 10 or more days
(Continued on Page 2)

BOW approves change orders for three projects

By JONATHAN SNYDER
Three work change orders for city projects were approved by the Board of Public Works and Safety Tuesday.
A wastewater treatment plant change order included a new generator breaker and segregation barriers for the electrical switchgear on site. Casey Irwin of DLZ explained that the switchgear is a breaker panel that switches the new wastewater facility to generator power, should an outage occur. The segregation barriers act as "a breaker panel on steroids" according to Irwin. The not to exceed \$79,700 directive approved by the Board of Works will come out of the general work allowance fund, meaning there is no change to the total contract price.
Spot repairs for the sewer lining project were also approved by the board. Spot repairs will occur at South Bennet, West South, East Arnold, South Johnson, West Wabash and South Main streets. \$197,925 will be taken out of the \$400,000 budget in the work allowance to pay for the additions, meaning no change to the final cost of the project. Irwin reported that the estimated costs for the sewer lining work are \$300,000 to \$380,000 below budget, including the most recent additions.
USI Consulting's Rich Ansel reported to the board that when the curb work documents were put out for grants, some needed

curbs were not added into the original document. While the expectation was that the bid was 20% under USI's estimate, according to Ansel, the new additions mean that the bid is only 10% under the estimate. Board member Josh Hunt clarified that the city will still be getting grant funding for the project and the \$249,475 expense is still within the city's budget.
Ordinance Control Officer Melissa Zirkle also came to the board to discuss three garbage and rubbish complaints. The violations are on 226 West South St., 527 West Arnold St. and 521 South Marion St. Zirkle also wanted to discuss the next steps if fines are needed for these violations. Board Member Scott Mentzer and City Attorney Tony Crowell stated that the fine structure is \$25 per day, with a \$2,500 cap for the first violation and a \$7,500 cap for any additional violations.
Mayor John Whicker also announced that Bluffton NOW! President Mike Lautzenheiser will meet with the board to discuss who is responsible for paying the bills for electricity used at the plaza. While the plaza is owned by the Bluffton NOW!, according to the board, he agreed that the electric power used in the new alleyway project could be handled by the city.
Additional actions are as follows:
• Paid a \$59,337 SRF Claim to DLZ for
(Continued on Page 2)



Bi-County Services athletes Bill Reagan, Anthony Pfister, Tanner Ginger-Farmer and Robert Wassil celebrate their success at the Indiana Special Olympics Summer Games in Terre Haute June 7-9. (Photos provided)

Bi-County athletes earn medals at State Special Olympics event

Four Bi-County Services athletes won medals at the 55th annual Indiana Special Olympics Summer Games on June 7-9, at Indiana State University and the Rose Hullman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute.
Nearly 3,000 athletes gathered for the three-day event, according to BCS Special Olympics Coordinator Coralee Bowley. Each athlete competed according to their skill level.
Anthony Pfister won gold medals in both the 100-meter and 200-meter races, as well as a sixth-place ribbon in the mini Javelin throw.
Tanner Ginger-Farmer won a gold medal in the 50-meter dash, a silver medal in the softball throw and a fourth place ribbon in the standing long jump.
Robert Wassil won a gold medal in the 400-meter walk and a bronze medal in the softball throw.
Bill Reagan won a silver medal in the softball throw and a bronze medal in the 400-meter walk.
BCS transportation, entry fees and accommodations were funded by a generous donation from the Special Olympics Supporters at Amishville Camp-
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Outside

Small chance of showers, heat advisory continues

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 94	High 95	High 96
Low 74	Low 72	Low 72

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Prospective housing

(Continued from Page 1)

"I appreciate you (Claybaugh) ... incorporating some ideas that I had along with others on this," Council member Chandler Gerber said. "I had been very apprehensive the first week (you presented) ... but as I've learned more about this now and I've talked with you through this, I think this specific program is a good option, and I appreciate you taking the time to craft this back and listen to some of the feedback."

Claybaugh also stated that the second proposed apartment area on Dustman Road, near the YMCA building, will have 52 total units in a three-story setting. The Dustman Road area will be for senior living apartments, with elevators and a short-term drop-off parking area helping seniors traverse the area.

In response to the new apartments, the council passed a new ordinance that allows the city to enter Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreements. The PILOT agreement gives the project the best opportunity to earn the necessary rental housing tax credits to build these two

projects.

Furthermore, the council discussed tightening up the wording and reviewing the municipal code. Gerber stated that Ordinance Compliance Officer Melissa Zirkle has had trouble enforcing certain ordinances due to unclear working or loopholes in the code itself.

Zirkle stated that she has received many calls about junk vehicles, boats, RVs and camper vans in residential yards, a sentiment that the council agreed with. The council discussed looking at the code and potentially making fines heavier for those in violation.

"This is the perfect example of the 80/20 rule where 20% of the people cause 80% of the problems except (in this case) it's even less," Gerber. "It's probably 3% of the homeowners that this is an issue for."

While vehicles and campers are a part of the problem, Council member Rick Elwell cautioned the board about creating new regulations. Elwell cited his own camper he keeps in his driveway, which he stated is maintained well.

"I think we have to be careful ...

I'm just saying we probably do need to tighten things up ... (but) I would be careful of the lines that we're drawing," Elwell said.

Mayor John Whicker noted that a stat sheet containing the types of violation calls Zirkle receives would give the council a starting point in reviewing their code. No official action was taken regarding reviewing the ordinance.

The council also approved an SB-1 tax abatement form for improvements to AD Home Properties. AD Home is building a 6,600-square-foot expansion for bulk storage and blending. They will also expand the parking lot behind their current building and widen their road access. The abatement was approved for five years, with the first year being a 100% abatement on the improvements and going down 20% every other year.

Additionally, the council approved a CF-1 tax abatement continuation for JR Wood Products for a new sander, laser engraver, wire cutter, pipe bender and upgrades to their dust collection, among other items.

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Weather

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:39 p.m. Tuesday)
High: 88; Low: 76; Precipitation: 0.01 inches of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.39 feet at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday

Wells County forecast

Today: A slight chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy and hot, with a high near 94. Heat index values as high as 98. Southwest wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11 p.m., then a slight chance of showers between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. South wind around 5 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Thursday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 95. Calm wind.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 72. Calm wind.

Friday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 96.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 72.

Saturday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 97.

Saturday Night: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 76.

Sunday: A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 8 a.m. Partly sunny and hot, with a high near 92.

Sunday Night: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly clear, with a low around 66.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 87.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 64.

Tuesday: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 94.

Southern Wells

(Continued from Page 1)

without an excuse will be reported to the county prosecutor's office.

Conner said the school will consider eight absences as one day for the school's attendance-taking purposes. These eight absences account for each period of the school day.

Specific to Southern Wells, Conner said students must be present by 8:30 a.m. through the end of the school day to participate in extracurricular activities unless excused. Conner said the school has previously had issues with students sleeping in or leaving early and still participating in after-school activities.

Elementary Principal Kristen Wall said many of the changes in the high school handbook are reflected in the elementary's as is

appropriate.

Other proposed changes in the high school handbook included Chromebook repair fees, requirements to "earn" a weighted grade in Advanced Placement classes, and differentiating between tobacco and THC use.

The board of trustees reviewed these changes Monday and will vote on the 2024-25 school handbooks at their next meeting on July 16.

Other updates were:

- The district received resignations from former social studies teacher Jeff Sprunger, custodian Brian Klarer, head football coach Jeff Sprunger, assistant softball and assistant football coach Chris Duncan, and Allison Blevins-Wenzel as the elementary girls' basketball coordinator.

- The board approved

employment recommendations for Mia Dominguez as a third grade teacher and Julie Berry as a sixth grade teacher. Approved coaching recommendations were: Dale Miller as varsity assistant coach for boys' basketball, Tyler Houk for junior varsity, Caleb Sleppy for seventh grade and Mike Carter for eighth grade; Ross Palmer as varsity assistant coach for girls' basketball, Erin McKinley for junior varsity and Megan Slusher for elementary; Mallory Nussbaum as varsity assistant coach for Cross County and Cory Leas for junior high; Allison Blevins-Wenzel as varsity assistant coach for volleyball; Chad Eltzroth as assistant for football and Ron Cherry and Mark Rickerd for junior high; Jason Riley as varsity softball coach and Karadyn Riley as varsity assistant; Ross Palm-

er as varsity girls' and boys' golf coach; Jacob Duncan as varsity and junior varsity coach for wrestling; Megan Williams as junior varsity cheerleading coach and Ashley Junk as junior high coach; Evan Huffman as head baseball coach; and Mark Gates as varsity head coach for track.

- The board approved fundraising requests for girls' basketball summer shootout games for June 21 and cheerleading to hold mini cheer from Aug. 27-30.

- The district renewed its contract for food services.

- A request was approved for Youth For Christ to use the cafeteria for their annual banquet on Oct. 14.

- An assortment of outdated textbooks were declared "no value" items for the district.

holly@news-banner.com

What's a heat dome? Here's why so much of the U.S. is broiling this week

FENTON, Mich. (AP) — With much of the Midwest and the Northeast broiling — or about to broil — in extreme summer heat this week, meteorologists are talking about heat waves and heat domes.

Both mean it's really hot — and people will hear those terms a lot more as the world heats up. What's the difference?

Here's what to know: What's a heat dome?

It's helpful to think of a heat dome as what's happening in the atmosphere. A heat wave is how that affects people on the ground, said Ken Kunkel, a research professor of atmospheric sciences at North Carolina State University.

When a high-pressure system develops in the upper atmosphere, it causes the air below it to sink and compress. That raises temperatures in the lower atmosphere.

Because hot air expands, it creates a bulging dome.

The boundaries of this week's heat dome are not well-defined, Kunkel said, but the National Weather Service has said that the most extreme heat is expected in the Ohio Valley and the Northeast.

The eastern heat dome follows an earlier-than-usual one this month in the South-

west. Last year, there were 645 heat-related deaths in Phoenix.

What is a heat wave?

A heat wave is defined by how intense the heat is, how long it lasts and where it occurs, said Jeff Masters, a meteorologist with Yale Climate Connections.

In general, several days of 90-plus degree temperatures in Texas are "no big deal," Masters said. But farther north, it is forecasted to be in the mid- to high-90s over the Midwest and Northeast this week, with heat indexes of 100 F or greater.

"The population's just not conditioned to that sort of heat," he said.

The National Weather Service said that some areas likely will reach daily records, with the heat wave lasting all week and into the weekend in some places.

The combination of clear skies and the higher summertime angle of the sun can result in high heat index readings, a measure of temperature combined with humidity. Humidity makes the weather feel hotter because the body cools itself by sweating and has to work harder when the air's already moist.

The Detroit area will be in the mid-90s, with a heat index around 100 Fahrenheit in some urban areas

for the next few days. The normal high temperature for this time of year in Detroit is in the low 80s. Specifically, June 18th's normal high is 81 F, meteorologist Brian Cromwell said.

Chicago broke a 1957 temperature record on Monday with a high of 97 degrees F. Hot and muggy conditions will continue this week, with peak heat indexes near 100 F, said the National Weather Service in Chicago.

In Cincinnati, Ohio, Tuesday's high will be around 96 F, but will feel like 104 F, according to the weather service. The high heat will continue through the weekend.

Albany, New York, will see temperatures of 95 F or hotter from Tuesday through Thursday, when it will peak at 97 F, with heat indexes at 100 F or more, the weather service forecasted. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said Tuesday that she has activated the National Guard to assist in any heat emergencies.

The U.S. last year experienced the most heat waves since 1936, experts said. An Associated Press analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data found that the excessive heat contributed to more than 2,300 U.S. deaths, the highest num-

ber in 45 years of records.

Who's under the heat dome?

The heat dome will affect a broad swath of the eastern half of the country, from roughly the Great Plains states up through Maine.

Some locations could see their hottest temperatures on record for any month, Masters said. A new study found that climate change is making giant heat waves move more slowly and affect more people for a longer time, with higher temperatures over larger areas.

Almost 77 million people in the United States were under extreme heat alerts Tuesday.

Another excessive heat warning, caused by a heat dome, is expected in the Phoenix area on Thursday and Friday, when the highs could reach 114 F and 116 F, respectively, said National Weather Service meteorologist Ted Whittock. Tuesday's forecasted high of 105 F, meanwhile, is normal for this time of year.

He said his office has issued two excessive heat

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Ethics probe into Gaetz reviewing allegations of sexual misconduct and illicit drug use

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Ethics Committee on Tuesday gave an unusual public update into its long-running investigation of Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., saying its review now includes whether Gaetz engaged in sexual misconduct and illicit drug use, accepted improper gifts and sought to obstruct government investigations of his conduct.

The committee also announced that it was no longer reviewing four other allegations involving the congressman, including that he shared inappropriate images or videos with colleagues on the House floor or that he accepted a bribe or converted campaign funds to personal use.

Gaetz has categorically denied all the allegations before the committee.

In a tweet Monday pre-empting the committee's announcement, Gaetz noted that the ethics panel closed four probes and said

those investigations had "emerged from lies intended solely to smear me."

"Instead of working with me to ban Congressional stock trading, the Ethics Committee is now opening new frivolous investigations. They are doing this to avoid the obvious fact that every investigation into me ends the same way: my exoneration," Gaetz said on the social platform X.

Gaetz led the effort to oust then-Speaker Kevin McCarthy from office last fall. Seven Republicans joined him in depositing McCarthy, along with 208 Democrats. Many House Republicans remain angry with Gaetz, arguing that McCarthy's ouster was a selfish and destructive act that hurt the party.

Gaetz blamed McCarthy for the Ethics Committee's review, even though the investigation began before Republicans took the majority in the House.

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OBITUARIES

Alice Shannon, 98

Alice L. Shannon, 98, formerly of rural Poneto, passed away at 1:15 a.m. on Sunday, June 16, 2024, at Five Star Residences of Fort Wayne.

She was born on Saturday, Jan. 2, 1926, in Lafayette. She married Donald Shannon on Sunday, June 18, 1944, in Wabash. Alice was a 1944 graduate of Chester Center High School. She had attended the Church of Christ in Montpelier. Mrs. Shannon was a homemaker. She had worked as a meat cutter at Warren Locker for 30 years. Alice had been a resident of Chester Center Township for 54 years before moving to Bluffton in 2007.

She is survived by her son, Richard (Karen) Shannon of La Otto, Indiana; daughter, Dixie (Dale) Easton, Florida; son, Edward (Kathy) Shannon of Fort Wayne; four grandchildren, Craig (Michelle) Shannon of Huntertown, Indiana, Julie (Dan) Roberts of Litchfield, Michigan, Stephanie (Jeremy) Wagner, Arlington, Texas, and Stacey (Darrin) Mullis, Boise, Idaho; 10



great-grandchildren; four great-great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald; parents, Ernest Reeve and Margaret Edna (Pickering) Reeve; and her brother, Ernest Reeve.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember from 3-7 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2024, and Friday, June 21, 2024, one hour prior to the service, at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home 109 W Windsor St. in Montpelier.

A service to celebrate her life will be at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 21, 2024, at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home. Interment will follow in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Montpelier.

Preferred memorials may be sent to: Heart to Heart Hospice 5646 Coventry Ln. Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

Online condolences may be made at www.glancyfuneralhomes.com

Margaret J. "Jo" Spade, 99

Margaret J. "Jo" Spade, 99, of Warren, passed away on Monday afternoon, June 17, 2024, at Heritage Pointe in Warren.

Jo was born April 10, 1925 in Garrett to Bert A. and Georgia M. (Conrad) Milks. She graduated from Garrett High School in 1943, then attended IU where she studied Home Economics and Physical Education. She and Bill owned and operated a dime store in Chelsea, MI for 12 years before retiring in 1984 and moving to Uniondale. She was a manager at the Bluffton Department of Motor Vehicles for 5 years and worked at Bertsch's Jewelry Store in Bluffton for five years. Jo was a member of Garrett Methodist Church, United Church of Christ in Bluffton, United Church of Christ in Chelsea, Mich., St. Paul Lutheran Church in Uniondale and at the First Christian Church of Warren. She was very active in the community. She was a member and Past President of Tri Kappa, she was active in the women's fellowship groups at the churches that she attended. She volunteered at Heritage Pointe in Warren and at the Bargain Hut in Bluffton. She was a Secretary and President of the Women's club at United Church of Christ in Chelsea, Mich.

On June 19, 1947, Jo and William "Bill" Max Spade were married in Garrett. They shared 55 years of marriage before his passing on Sept. 5, 2002.

Survivors include her children, Meg (Kent) Ulery of Arlington Heights, Ill., Connie (Craig) Mounsey of Markle,



Jackie (Dan) Norris of Markle and David (Sandy) Spade of McCordsville, Ind.; eight grandchildren, Gray (Allison) Ulery, Nathan (Kristen) Ulery, Karianne (Doug) Bryant, Sarah (Kevin) Thiele, Jeni (Ryan) Tolle, Amy (Tyler) Tedford, Matthew (Angie) Norris and Danielle (Jake) Adam; along with 19 great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband Bill; a great-grandson Gabe Norris; along with her sisters, Ruth White, Lucille Fair and Mary Alford.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 23, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home and for one hour prior to the service at the church on Monday.

Funeral services will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, June 24, 2024, at First Christian Church in Warren with Rev. Dr. Kent Ulery and Pastor Troy Drayer officiating. A graveside service will take place at 1 p.m. on Monday at Horeb Cemetery in Uniondale.

Memorials may be made to Renaissance Charitable Foundation with #FlyHighGabe, in the memo line or First Christian Church of Warren and can be sent to the funeral home.

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

Patricia J. Adams, 86

Patricia "Pat" J. Adams, 86, of Bluffton, passed away on Tuesday afternoon, at Stillwater Hospice Home in Fort Wayne, surrounded by her fam-

ily. Funeral arrangements are pending at this time with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

John E. Barnes, 72

John E. Barnes, 72, of Bluffton passed away Tuesday morning, June 18, 2024, at River Terrace Estates.

Funeral arrangements are pending at this time with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City: Friday, 6:54 p.m., West Lancaster and North Bond streets. Caller requested welfare check for man walking with a woman, propping her up. Officer transported intoxicated woman back to her residence.

Friday, 7:27 p.m., 400 block of Cedar Road. Caller reported theft.

Friday, 8:10 p.m., West South and South Marion streets. Caller reported an SUV occupied by two women for several hours. Women advised they were waiting on someone to finish visiting a nearby house.

Saturday, 1:27 p.m., North Main Street and S.R. 124. Car versus bridge. No injuries.

Saturday, 3:36 p.m., 400 block of East Arnold Street. Report of a theft.

Saturday, 4:03 p.m., North Main Street and East 250N. Driver cited for speeding.

Saturday, 4:19 p.m., 400 block of Autumn Court. Officer requested to assist with civil dispute.

Saturday, 7:08 p.m., Walmart. Report of theft.

Saturday, 7:13 p.m., 1300 block of Clark Avenue. Caller reported a man and a woman walked through their yard and looked into daughters window, caught on camera.

Saturday, 8:39 p.m., 70 block of Sunset Drive. Caller reported someone opened back door.

Saturday, 11:58 p.m., Christian New Light Church. Report of man and woman fighting. Subjects were banging on the door of the church due to their autistic daughter being locked inside.

Sunday, 7:01 a.m., Bluffton Police Department. Waller located.

Sunday, 10:09 a.m., 600 block of West Cherry Street. Report of dogs running loose and attacking callers dog.

Sunday, 10:15 a.m., CVS. Report of a woman yelling at staff and throwing items, woman reportedly had young children with her.

Sunday, 3:16 p.m., Kroger. Report of a small dog in vehicle for over an hour.

Sunday, 8:28 p.m., Kroger. Report of a 32-year-old man that came to meet a 14-year-old decoy for sexual purposes. Subject arrested.

Monday, 1:09 p.m., Kroger. Report of theft.

Monday, 4:06 p.m., 800 block of South Marion Street. Caller reported subjects borrowed vehicle and has not returned it yet.

Monday, 4:40 p.m., Walmart. Report of two women attempting to get others to pay for their groceries. Unable to locate.

Monday, 8:14 p.m., Elm Grove Road and Wildwood Lane. Report of 10/11 year old riding ATV.

Monday, 8:48 p.m., Wells Community Pool. Caller reported three juveniles and two adults threatened a

4-year-old for pulling someone's hair at the pool.

Monday, 11:45 p.m., Linger Inn. Report of people screaming. Parties separated.

Tuesday, 3:53 a.m., Villa North Mall. Report of people laying on the ground. Officer spoke to three homeless people, two males sleeping on a blanket and one woman sleeping in a car. Advised to move along.

County: Monday, 3:15 p.m., South Meridian Road and South Hoosier, Bluffton. Officer transported subject who ran out of gas.

Monday, 4:26 p.m., 3400 West Kilgore Avenue, Muncie. Officer transported juvenile to Delaware County Juvenile Detention Center on active detention order.

Monday, 5:30 p.m., North Marzane Road and West 1000N, Markle. Officer assisted driver with getting fuel.

Monday, 9:54 p.m., 2100S S.R. 1, Bluffton. Report of a subject driving by ex-girlfriends house with a gun in hand.

Monday, 9:57 p.m., East 200S and South Hoosier Highway, Bluffton. Trailer lost a tire.

Tuesday, 5:52 a.m., West 900S and South 600W, Warren. Car versus deer.

Ossian: Tuesday, 3:26 a.m., North Jefferson and West Mill streets, Ossian. Driver cited for speeding 55 in a 35 mph zone.

Letter reveals federal prosecutors declined to charge man who threatened Indiana congressman

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle

A Fort Wayne man convicted for harassing and intimidating U.S. Rep. Jim Banks was given a pass by federal prosecutors, who declined to act on the case despite apparently pursuing similar cases in other districts — according to a December letter Banks sent to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland.

Banks' office publicized the letter following an op-ed written by Garland condemning political violence, noting that Garland never responded to his concerns about the threats against the Banks family. Meanwhile, a Texas man who threatened California U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters was sentenced to 33 months imprisonment by federal prosecutors this week and fined \$10,000.

"... (The U.S. Attorney's Office) declined to prosecute despite clear evidence that (Aaron) Thompson violated federal law," Banks wrote in December. "... I have no doubt that you, as a husband and father yourself, would do anything to protect your family, but I want to know why you have refused to protect mine."

Aaron L. Thompson pleaded guilty in October to a Level 6 felony as well as a Class B misdemeanor following repeated threatening calls to Banks' congressional office in April 2023 and was ultimately sentenced to probation. Thompson told Capitol Police he was intoxicated and threatened Banks and his family because he disagreed with his political views.

In his messages, Thompson said he owned a gun as allowed by the Constitution and told Banks to choose between himself or his daughters, according to filings from last year.

"Here's the choice. Your daughters grow up without their dad or you grow old without your daughters," Thompson allegedly said. "... boom, boom you pick ..."

To Banks specifically, Thompson said he hoped the representative died in a car crash or "(got) his brains blown out," in an expletive-filled series of messages.

According to Banks' letter, the Office of the U.S. Attorney of Northern Indiana, which Garland oversees, declined to file federal charges against Thompson. But the Allen County Pros-

ecutor's Office moved forward with a state case. According to the plea agreement, Thompson received a sentence of 2 years and 180 days for the felony charge of intimidation, and another 180 days for the misdemeanor charge of harassment. Both sentences were suspended in favor of placing Thompson on probation.

While the sentence included a provision barring Thompson from communicating with Banks or the Third Congressional District offices — with an exception for letters related to Congressional services that must be shared with his probation officer — it doesn't include any prohibition on contacting Banks in future offices. Banks is the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate.

Banks concluded the letter by asking why federal prosecutors declined to pursue charges against Thompson and whether Garland had specifically communicated with the office about cases related to threats and political violence. Additionally, he requested a full list of individuals prosecuted by the office for threatening federal officials.

Ossian Health Communities to host annual Freedom Fest Event

Ossian Health Communities will be hosting the 15th annual Freedom Fest Event at their healthcare and assisted living center on Thursday, June 20, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of community fun with fan favorite food trucks like, Uncle Matt's BBQ, Sweet Creations, Whip N' Chill, D & D Fish and Tenderloin and more. Kick up your heels Nashville star Rylee Lyn Band will provide live music. This year will host the famous Hooley Horses, formerly from the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, giving free

horse and pony rides for children and a petting area for all. There will also be face-painting, free popcorn, free hotdogs, handmade vendors, caricatures and fun activities for all ages.

There will also be a display of vehicles to peruse in our Vintage Wheels car show. Don't forget to end your night with an out of this world fireworks display at dusk.

For more information, contact Tomi Cobb at 260-622-7821 x 2262 or Kathy Boles at 765-661-0178

American Legion breakfast on Saturday

The American Legion Post 111 will host its monthly all-you-can-eat breakfast from 8-10 a.m. Saturday, June 22. The cost is \$11 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, and free for children under 5 years-old.

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Board Appointments for 2024

The Wells County Board of Commissioners and/or the Wells County Council are accepting applications for a Board Appointment to:

Wells County Library Board

The appointment to this board is a 4-year term and is effective August 15, 2024 – August 15, 2028. If you are interested in serving on this board, please contact the Wells County Auditor's Office at 260-824-6470 for an application. Applications can also be downloaded by going to the Commissioner or County Council page of the County Website at www.wellscounty.org. Send completed applications to Wells County Auditor, 102 W Market St., Suite 205, Bluffton, IN 46714 or email to auditor@wellscounty.org. Applications will be accepted through June 28, 2024.

Wells County, Indiana prohibits discrimination and/or the exclusion of individuals from its governmental facilities, programs, activities, and services based on the individual person's race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, low-income status, sexual orientation or limited English proficiency. **Wells County, Indiana** affirms its commitment to providing meaningful opportunities and access to government facilities, programs, activities and services in an effort to comply with all laws including; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended.

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A big (and growing) issue no one's talking about

Though the pace won't really pick up until the fall, federal election campaigns are well under way. And we're hearing a lot about a welter of key issues like abortion, immigration, the ethics of the Supreme Court, wars in Europe and the Middle East, and the like. But at a time when candidates should be engaging the electorate on the country's biggest challenges, here's something they're not talking about: the national debt.



Lee Hamilton

Hoosier Opinions

We've been in uncharted territory on this front for years, and the issue is only growing more pressing. It was super-charged by the pandemic, and total public debt in early June stood at about \$34.6 trillion, which puts the US among the top countries with the highest debt-to-GDP ratios. Given that we've made it this far without a crisis, it's possible this could go on for years. But it's equally possible everything could come crashing down a year or two from now, regardless of who's president.

Even if we escape a crisis, it's growing harder to ignore the toll that growing federal debt is taking on Americans and our economy. Its sheer size is raising questions among debt-holders — investors and other countries chief among them — about the US's long-term reliability. Spending to service the debt dampens economic growth by diverting billions of dollars from more productive uses. And many economists argue that we've already reached the point where the sheer size of the debt has held back Americans' financial standing.

"There's a palpable sense of not having the same opportunities we had before," prominent economist Douglas Holtz-Eakin said at a conference a few months ago. "I believe a lot of that is the headwinds provided by debt."

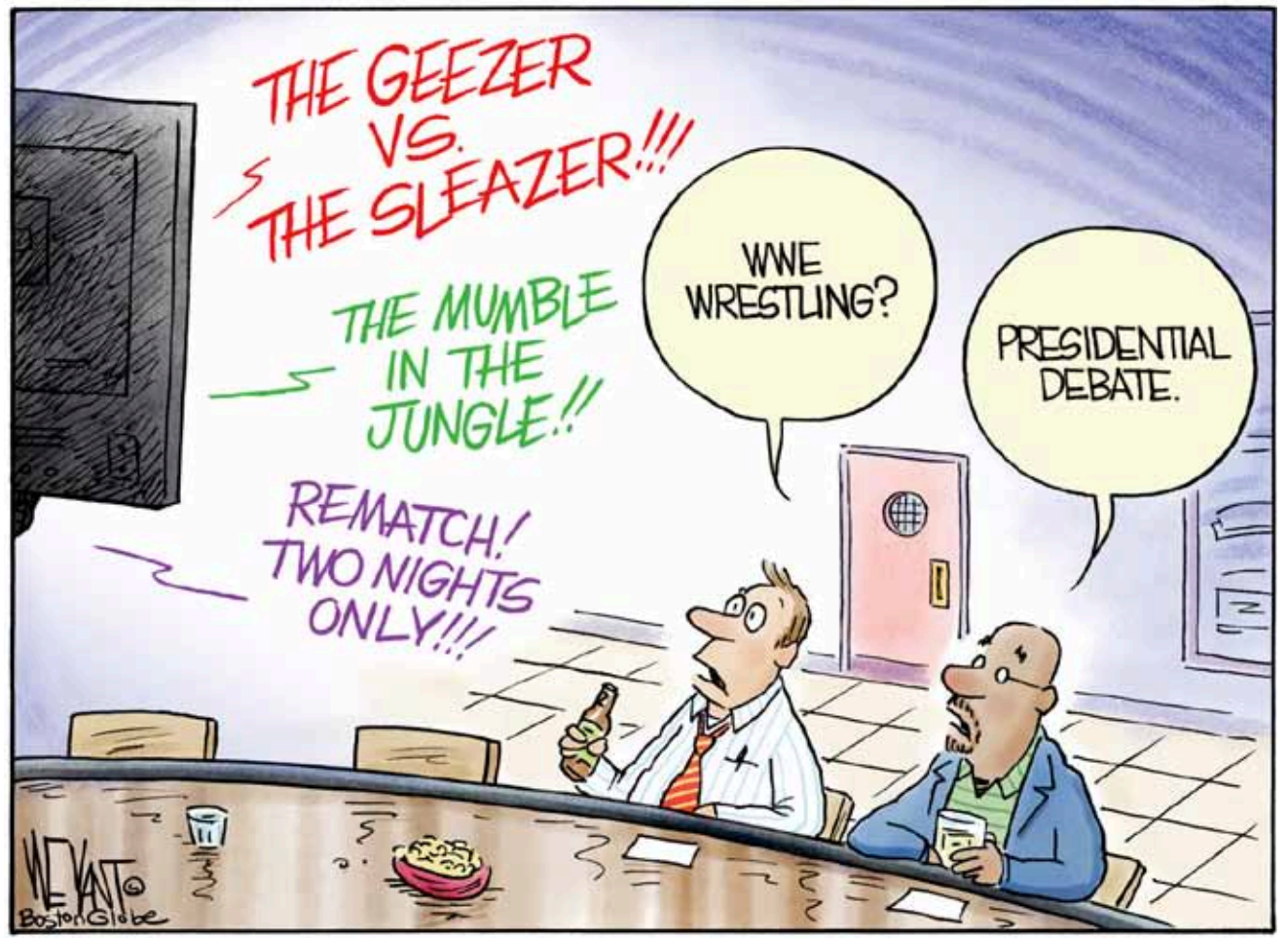
The problem is not quite that no political leaders are talking about the debt. Some are. Yet even when they do, it's not an especially productive discussion. Instead, for the most part, they lob partisan charges at each other — and then continue to press tax cuts or spending increases of all kinds and descriptions. Politicians like to say that economic growth spurred by their pet policies will save us. But if it's done so, we have yet to see it. The government is still spending far more than it takes in, which is why we have this problem.

What we really haven't seen are politicians who are willing to level with us and ask us to face the challenges like adults. A big part of the issue we'll have to confront is entitlement reform, especially to Social Security and Medicare. These are political third rails, yet as Baby Boomers retire, federal spending has had to grow to keep up with them — made harder because the share of wages subject to the payroll tax has been declining even as wage growth in certain sectors of the economy has boomed. At the same time, a series of tax cuts dating back decades — under both Republican and Democratic presidents — have contributed substantially to the rise in debt relative to GDP.

What we need to do is no secret: We have to spend less and tax more. No wonder politicians aren't talking about that this election season. But like a lot of problems, the longer we wait to act, the more disruptive any solution will need to be. Waiting until we're actually in a crisis seems like a very bad idea.

So, if American politicians are reluctant to bring it up on the campaign trail, American voters will need to make sure they do by pressing them on the question at campaign events. And if they give you any answer that doesn't include both efforts to rein in spending and to make sure that revenues rise to meet our needs, don't accept it. You deserve a clear-eyed view of the problem, not partisan talking points.

Lee Hamilton is a distinguished scholar with the IU School of Global and International Studies. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



Questions for the Biden-Trump 'debate' that might be useful

The Joe Biden-Donald Trump collisions, although dignified as "debates," are dark alleys where the remnants of America's political dignity are mugged by both participants. Voters might, however, glean useful information if certain questions are asked on June 27.

- The Social Security Trust Fund will be exhausted by 2033. Under current law, benefits then will be reduced 21 percent. The Biden-Trump consensus includes vowing not to diminish the entitlements (Social Security, Medicare) that are producing deficits that just added \$1 trillion to the national debt in eight months. Would you favor a multitrillion-dollar tweak: infusing Social Security with more borrowing, meaning debt? (Tax revenue is insufficient to cover the other government expenditures.) If not that solution, what?

- The Biden-Trump consensus encompasses protectionism (you, President Biden, have intensified Mr. Trump's), which is industrial policy — government management of the economy, picking economic winners and losers. Because communities and industries become dependent on protection, is it forever?

- The Biden-Trump consensus includes impatience with the Constitution. Mr. Trump, when Congress refused to fund your border wall, you "repurposed" money Congress had appropriated for other uses. And you reportedly plan to claim a presidential power to impound appropriated funds when you dislike Congress's choices. President Biden, you tried to spend, unilaterally, more than \$400 billion on student debt forgiveness, and when the Supreme Court said this violated Congress's constitutional prerogatives under the appropriations clause, you said, "The Supreme Court blocked me from relieving student debt, but they didn't stop me." What other constitutional requirements do you two consider flimsy legal cobwebs?

- President Biden, twice you have expressed a U.S. commitment to the military defense of an attacked Taiwan. Twice your underlings "clarified" your remarks to restore ambiguity. Should not a commitment so momentous be made by Congress? Would either of you favor a congressional declaration making the commitment explicit?

- Mr. Trump, you say that if you are elected, Russia's war against Ukraine will be "solved" in "24 hours." How, without validating George Orwell's axiom that the quickest way to end a war is to lose it? Would you, President Biden, agree that the minimal criterion of not losing is restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty over all territory it controlled before Russia's Feb. 24, 2022, invasion?

- President Biden, during your 36 Senate years, both parties embraced the filibuster as now practiced,

requiring 60 votes to pass significant legislation. If you are reelected and Democrats control the Senate, would you favor abolishing the filibuster? Mr. Trump, if you are elected and Republicans control the Senate, will you use their canine loyalty to speed enactment of your agenda by abolishing the filibuster?

- Mr. Trump, there are 10.5 million (down from 12.2 million in 2007) illegal immigrants. According to the Migration Policy Institute, 62 percent have been here at least 10 years, 22 percent at least 20 years, 21 percent for less than five years. Twenty-eight percent own their homes. Do you favor deporting them? Might this reduction of the workforce, during full employment, injure America? Describe the police measures necessary for expelling a cohort larger than Michigan's population.

- President Biden, are nine Supreme Court justices enough? You favor statehood for the District of Columbia. Do you agree that, given the 23rd Amendment, statehood would require a constitutional amendment? Do you know that only 16 states ratified (38 are required) such an amendment proposed in 1978?

- In World War II, the United States pursued "unconditional surrender" of the Axis powers by, among other measures, "dehousing" Germans and Japanese — bombing urban residential areas. Do either of you think Israel's goal of destroying Hamas less defensible than was "unconditional surrender"? Are Israel's military measures more disproportionate or indiscriminate than U.S. tactics were?

- President Biden, the armed services are experiencing serious enlistment shortfalls. Could this be a consequence of schools teaching that the nation is systemically racist, hostile to "equity" and not worth defending?

- Mr. Trump, the 2017 tax cuts you signed will expire next year. Extending them would, the Congressional Budget Office says, have a 10-year lost-revenue cost of \$3.9 trillion (\$4.5 trillion including servicing the debt increase). Worrisome?

- But, President Biden, expiration of the \$10,000 per filer cap on deducting state and local taxes, disproportionately paid by blue-state and Biden voters, would raise \$1.2 trillion. Copacetic?

- President Biden, you say our democracy hangs by a thread, that you are the thread, and that Mr. Trump is a pair of scissors in human form. How exactly do you envision Mr. Trump destroying democracy — canceling elections, scrapping the Constitution, neutering the judiciary?

georgewill@washpost.com.



George Will

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 Wednesday, June 19, the 171st day of 2024. There are 195 days left in the year. This is June-tenth.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 19, 1964, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was approved by the U.S. Senate, 73-27, after surviving a lengthy filibuster.

On this date:

In 1865, Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War was over, and that all remaining slaves in Texas were free — an event celebrated to this day as "June-

teenth."

In 1910, the first-ever Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane, Washington. (The idea for the observance is credited to Sonora Louise Smart Dodd.)

In 1917, during World War I, King George V ordered the British royal family to dispense with German titles and surnames; the family took the name "Windsor."

In 1944, during World War II, the two-day Battle of the Philippine Sea began, resulting in a decisive victory for the Americans over the Japanese.

Once in America — and in some parts of the world — we were gifted by great orators, men and women who could by the power and content of their words inspire, motivate and sometimes unify their nations.

Today, we have politicians who mumble, slur their words, repeat themselves and in other ways make no sense. They neither inspire, nor unite.

I don't just mean President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, who recently added to her list of non sequiturs by saying community banks are good because "they're in the community."

One of the articulate members in the Biden administration is Jared Bernstein, c hair of the president's economic group. One sees him on TV spinning bad economic numbers, attempting to demonstrate that "Bidenomics" is working, despite visible evidence it is not. Still, he appears confident and speaks in complete sentences. Sometimes.

In a recent social media interview, Bernstein was flummoxed trying to answer a simple question that anyone with a minimal knowledge of economics should know. His answer also exposes the phoniness many feel is projected from Washington instead of honest answers that give the public confidence that our leaders know what they are doing.

What follows is a transcript of the exchange.



Cal Thomas

Bernstein begins by saying the government can't go bankrupt "because we can print our own money."

Interviewer: "It obviously begs the question: why exactly are we borrowing in a currency that we print ourselves...?"

Bernstein (after a long pause): "Well, um, the uh, I mean, again, some of this stuff gets ... some of the language and concepts

are just confused. The government definitely prints money and it definitely lends that money which is why the government definitely prints money and then lends that money by selling bonds. Is that what they do?" (seems confused.) "They, they um, they yeah, they, they sell bonds, they sell bonds, right, so they sell bonds and people buy the bonds and lend them the money, yeah." (seeming more confident about his disconnected answer.) "So, so, a lot of times, a lot of times at least to my ..." (unintelligible) ... "the language and the concepts these concepts can be have unnecessarily confusing, but there is no question that the government prints money and uses that money to, um, uh, uh, so um, yeah I guess I'm just ... I ... I can't really." (unintelligible) "I don't get it. I don't know what they're talking about 'cause, it's like ... the government clearly prints money. It does it all the time and it clearly borrows, otherwise you wouldn't be having this debt and deficit conversation, so I don't think

there is anything confusing there."

Got that? Given our \$34 trillion national debt, the refusal of Congress to cut anything, and demands by the administration to raise taxes on "the rich" and corporations, Bernstein's stream of consciousness performance does not instill confidence that these people are capable of putting our economy back on the right track.

China and Saudi Arabia have pulled back on the amount of U.S. debt they are buying. I asked financial adviser Ric Edelman what effect this might have. He responded: "It could cause our interest rates to rise. But any such attempt would likely fail, partly because they really have nowhere else to go and because of the rise in stablecoins, which are already the ninth largest holder of U.S. debt and growing fast."

Still, no nation in history has been able to survive with such massive debt. Add to that the fact that Social Security and Medicare will soon run out of money unless reforms are made, an open border and the refusal by many to accept a shared moral value system and you have what happened to Rome and other empires that went from prosperity to decline, to the dustbin of history.

Nothing in history indicates the U.S. can escape a similar fate if we don't change our ways. Heed the warning of Thomas Jefferson: "... to preserve their independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt."

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The Blue-Eyed Crew has taken over the Ballinger home

They arrived near dusk, bleary eyed and exhausted from travel. Clinging to their mother, they were confused and reticent. Smiles veiled by bewilderment over time and place. Yes, they knew we were their grandparents, but “Where are the mountains?” asked Charlie.



Ken Ballinger

“Go home.” Piper demanded. Zoe cried softly in her mother’s arms. She has not cried softly since that time. Rather she cries at a consistently high and piercing pitch when she is not distributing warm hugs and bright smiles.

Newly arrived from Denver, their father would not arrive for yet a few days. He left us as empty nesters in 2007 for adventures in West Lafayette, Houston, Fort Worth, and lastly Denver. Along the way he managed to hide his faults sufficiently to find a lovely wife who now cradled one child and comforted the other two. Their

stay with us will total three months in all until their newly purchased home is available. We are a month in as we speak, with dad working his new job and mom working from home.

Charlie, Zoe, and Piper. Ages 4, 3 and 1 respectively. Three girls who share many common traits, such as crying and hugging willfully, but what defines this trio is their steely blue eyes. All three. Or six, as it were. Though their story has only begun, they take their place in the pantheon of notable trios in history, from Tinker, Evers, and Chance to Charlie’s Angels, I have dubbed them the Blue-Eyed Crew. Move over Three Amigos, there is a new trio in town.

If you will allow me, let me share some observations as one well trained by life and experience. All members of the Blue-Eyed Crew are devious and shrewd beyond their years. They cry and smile to get what they want when they want it. Master



manipulators all. They purposely throw food under the table. They make messes. Their hands are dirty. They fight sleep, even though the importance of sleep has been thoroughly explained to them. They are all ticklish.

Surprisingly, they are not particularly political, as they whine and complain in unison if I have the news on or if I pontificate on my political views while blocking the TV screen. And they pretend not to hear well, as my instructions and requests are always met with fakey quizzical stares.

While Piper happily parades in her diaper all day, Charlie and Zoe are typically costumed in flowing silk dresses fronted with princess images and pretending to be characters named, Elsa, Anna, Asha, and Moana. They are quite theatrical and sing songs from movies I have little knowledge of.

By some odd quirk of fate, each girl prefers their grandmother over their grandfather. I’ve inquired of my good wife why this may be



and she just smirks, smiles, and looks away. I think she’s giving them chocolate. I don’t know what else it could be.

No matter, the Blue-Eyed Crew is in town for an extended stay. Two more months, but I am guessing we will look back on this experience as a sweet spot in time, when those blue eyes mesmerized all who had the good fortune to encounter them.

Here’s the thing: I know it is the season for Father’s Day celebration, but this experience of living with these delightful tykes and observing their mother meet

their needs at every turn is one of wonder. How do mothers do it? I will never fully know, but I have observed the best now from up-close for 73 years. I declare sainthood upon all mothers. Let it be so.

ken.ballinger@yahoo.com

Editor’s Note: This is one of a series of articles and opinions written by a group of retired and current teachers — Ken Ballinger, Billy Kreigh and Kathy Schwartz, and Anna Spalding. Their intent is to spur discussions at the dinner table and elsewhere. You may also voice your thoughts and reactions via The News-Banner’s letters to editor.

Master Gardeners host garden walk

By BARBARA BARBIERI

On Saturday, June 22, from noon to 4 p.m. four area gardens will be open to visitors, with hosts and hostesses to be the Wells County Master Gardeners.

A \$5 ticket will get admission to any of the four in any order. (Rain date will be Sunday, June 23, noon to 4 p.m.)

The gardens include:

Rick & Beth Fiechter: 11722 S SR 1,

Montpelier (1st home after 1150 S)

Kathy Geisel: 1008 Ranch Rd. Bluffton (Riverview)

Jerry & Kathy Rauch: 1550 Treyburn Ct. (Bell Brook)

Kerry & Carol Schamerloh: 2176 E 350 N, Bluffton

The photos below are from the Schamerloh and Geisel gardens.

Kerry & Carol Schamerloh - 2176 E 350 N, Bluffton



At the Schamerloh’s the composting bin is hidden behind the sunflower artwork of their friend Wendy Deverell. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)



Vegetables are raised in above ground beds that also have an overhead irrigating system. The area also is fenced to keep deer and other “visitors” from sampling the plants.



A Fairy Garden has taken up residence in the base of a broken fountain and if one looks very closely they will find a little pond with ducks.

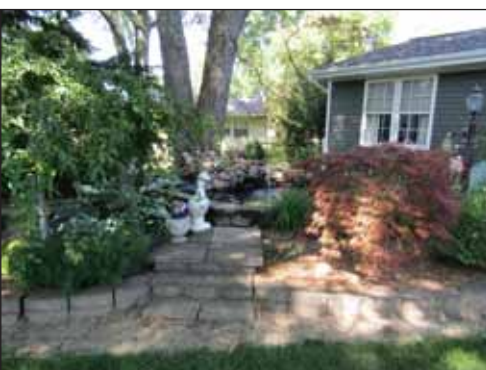


A fountain, in above photo, as well as a fire pit are features of the back patio area. The area also has an outdoor grilling space. The flagstone wall, in the rear of the photo, was hand constructed by Kerry over a number of years.

Kathy Geisel - 1008 Ranch Road, Bluffton



Colorful flowers in window boxes and climbing on an antique garden gate are part of the front yard plantings at the home of Kathy Geisel. Another item to check out would be the copper penny covered ball in an urn, a project of one of Kathy’s grandsons, Lincoln Reimschisel.



A Koi Pond also finds a corner in the Geisel garden, complete with a real live frog. In another area of the yard there is a vegetable garden and two flower-filled cement planters, rescued as throwaways from a backyard neighbor.



The Geisel back yard is full of fun surprises to check out from the angel statues to the antique washing machine filled with flowers to the little outhouse that serves as a tool shed for the hibiscus plants contained in wire cages made of fencing. In this photo Kathy is with grandson Lincoln Reimschisel, who enjoys helping her with lawn projects. A stepping stone path through the garden was one of Lincoln’s creations.



Beside the home’s back entry Kathy has a “potting shed” area, complete with running water from an antique sink. Look closely at the lower left glass pane in the door and you will see one of the resident dogs checking out the yard’s activity.

Concerts at Fort Wayne’s Promenade Park

Fort Wayne’s Promenade Park will be hosting the Muddy River Concerts this summer.

All concerts will begin at 6 p.m. and snacks and drinks will be available for purchase from Ted’s Snacks

and the bar in the Promenade Park Cafe.

The schedule includes:
June 20: Wallen Road
July 10: School of Rock
July 24: We Are Checkmark
Aug. 7: Rachel Brooke

Aug. 21: Left Lane Cruiser

Community Band Concert
On Thursday, June 20 at 7 p.m. the Fort Wayne Area Community Band will play a free concert at the Auer Lawn at Promenade Park.

Local students named to Manchester’s Dean’s List

Eight area students have earned a place on Manchester University’s Spring 2024 Dean’s List for their academic achievements.

Anna Wilson of Bluffton, studying Exercise Science & Fitness.

Bo Morgan of Bluffton, studying Business Management.

Colleen Caylor of Ossian, studying Environmental Studies & Biology.

Connor Hamilton of Bluffton, studying Biology-Chemistry & Chemistry.

Jadyn Holloway of Roanoke, studying Social Work & Educational Studies.

Alexis Jones of Hartford City, studying Criminology.

Reece Colclesser of Roanoke, studying Exercise Science & Fitness.

Andrew Pressler of Montpelier, studying Exercise Science & Fitness.

At the end of each semester, the Office of Academic Affairs publishes the list. Undergraduate students earning a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher who have completed at least 12 semester hours with no more than three hours of Pass/Not Pass grades are included on the Dean’s List.

5 Points School pancake event

On Saturday, June 22, the supporters of the 5 Point School will host a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast fundraiser, beginning at 8 a.m. The site’s Fall Festival will be held in September.

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Record breakers

The Wells Community Swim Team had two records broken during its meet against the Blackford-Marion Swim Team on Tuesday, June 11. Kenzie Kopp, pictured in the above right photo, broke the 25 freestyle 8 and under age group — a team record set in 2019 by Vivian Reidenbach. The new team record is 18.82 seconds. Ellie Coyne (left) broke the 50 breaststroke 13/14 age group — a team record set in 2023 by herself. The new team record is 40.26 seconds. The Wells team won the meet, 805-230. (Photos provided)

Sports Roundup

Wells Community Swim Team stomps out Blackford-Marion

The Wells Community Swim Team beat the Blackford-Marion Swim Team 805-230 at their Tuesday, June 11, meet.

Event winners:

Girls

Ages 8 and under:

- Kenzie Kopp 50-meter freestyle, meter backstroke, 25-meter breaststroke, 25-meter freestyle, 25-meter fly.

Ages 9-10:

- Jamie Roby, Kyla Nusbaumer, Kennedy Krug and Bridget Evans, 200-meter medley relay.

- Kyla Nusbaumer, 50-meter freestyle, 25-meter breaststroke.

- Amelia Burman, 25-meter fly.

- Kennedy Krug, 25-meter backstroke, 25-meter freestyle.

- Jamie Roby, Amelia Burman, Ruby Leimgruber and Bridget Evans, 200-meter freestyle relay.

Ages 11-12:

- Emma Holte, Mackenzi White, Ady Atkins and Lanie Evans, 200-meter medley relay.

- Mackenzie White, 50-meter freestyle.

- Ady Atkins, 50-meter fly, 200-meter IM.

- Elaina Scott, 50-meter freestyle.

- Emma Holte, Mackenzie White, Elaina Scott and Ady Atkins, 200-meter freestyle relay.

Ages 13-14:

- Ellie Coyne, 200-meter freestyle, 50-meter breaststroke, 50-meter freestyle.

- Dessie Fritts, Ellie Coyne, Emma Easley and Mackenzie Leyse, 200-meter medley relay.

- Layken Mialkowski, 100-meter freestyle.

- Emma Easley, 50-meter fly, 200-meter IM.

- Eden Gerber, 50-meter backstroke.

- Maresa Gomez, Eden Gerber, Kianna Linderwell and Ellie Coyne, 200-meter freestyle relay.

Ages 15 and up:

- Annalise Cornett, Cassie Coyne, Ryleigh Huffman and Molly Threewits, 200-meter medley relay.

- Annalise Cornett, 100-meter freestyle, 100-meter backstroke.

- Cassie Coyne, 100-meter fly, 100-meter breaststroke, 50-meter freestyle.

- Rilynn Ervin, 200-meter IM.

- Ryleigh Huffman, Rilynn Ervin, Molly Threewits and Cassie Coyne, 200-meter freestyle relay.

Boys

Ages 8 and under:

- Harry Burman, 50-meter freestyle, 25-meter breaststroke, 25-meter freestyle, 25-meter fly.

- Cory Burfiend, 25-meter fly.

- Peter Burfield, 25-meter backstroke.

Ages 9-10:

- Abram Nusbaum, Zeke Ehrhar, Sam Burfield and Miles O'Dell, 200-meter medley relay.

- Abram Nusbaum, 50-meter freestyle, 25-meter freestyle.

- Sam Burfield, 25-meter fly.

- Jackson Craig, 25-meter breaststroke.

- Barrett Oakleaf, Dean Evans, Jackson Craig and Bridger Smith, 200-meter freestyle relay.

Ages 11-12:

- Logan Craig, Parker Kopp, Liam Evans and Korbin Fritts 200-meter medley relay.

- Logan Craig, 50-meter fly.

- Parker Kopp, 50-meter backstroke.

- Parker Kopp, 200-meter IM.

- Wyatt Gomez, 50-meter breaststroke.

- Parker Kopp, Logan Craig, Korbin Fritts and Liam Evans, 200-meter freestyle relay.

Ages 13-14:

- Hudson Withes, Elia Nussbaum, Riley Hank and Tyler Zent, 200-meter medley relay.

- Foster Monticue, 100-meter freestyle, 50-meter breaststroke.

- Riley Hank, 50-meter fly, 50-meter freestyle.

- Jaxon Mosser, 50-meter backstroke.

- Tyler Zent, 200-meter IM.

- Ryan Heyerly, 200-meter IM.

- Jack Leimgruber, Elias Nussbaum, Foster Monticue and Jaxon Mosser, 200-meter freestyle relay.

Ages 15 and up:

- Ethan Williamson, 200-meter freestyle.

- Noah Brooks, Graham Linderwell, Cole Gosser and Griffin Linderwell, 200-meter medley relay.

- Trenton Singleton, 100-meter freestyle, 50-meter freestyle.

- Colton Strunk, 100-meter fly.

- Noah Brooks, 15+ 100-meter backstroke.

- Griffin Linderwell, 100-meter breaststroke.

- Ethan Williamson, Lincoln Rodgers, Griffin Linderwell and Ryan Heyerly, 200-meter freestyle relay.

Green Valley Senior Golf League Results

Steve Folk had the low gross with a 36 in the Green Valley Tuesday Senior Golf League, while Rick Oatess had the low net of 26.

Rich Borrer had the closest to pin, and Doug Scher had the longest putt.

The winning team was Rick Oatess, Wayne Close, George Thomas and Mike Pursifull.

Oilers fend off elimination, top Panthers 5-3 in Game 5 of Stanley Cup Final

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Connor McDavid had two goals and two assists

to added to his historic postseason, Evan Bouchard added three assists and the Edmonton Oilers fended off elimination yet again by beating the Florida Panthers 5-3 in Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Final on Tuesday night.

Connor Brown, Zach Hyman and Corey Perry also had goals for the Oilers, who scored the game's first three goals to take control — then held on late to cut Florida's lead in the title series to 3-2. Stuart Skinner stopped 30 shots for the Oilers, and McDavid sealed it with an empty-netter in the final seconds.

Evan Rodrigues and Matthew Tkachuk each had a goal and an assist for Florida, and Oliver Ekman-Larsson also scored for the Panthers. Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 19 shots for Florida, which will see its 30-years-and-counting wait for the franchise's first Stanley Cup title last at least three more days.

Game 6 is in Edmonton on Friday

night. The four points gave McDavid 42 in these playoffs, the fourth-most in a single postseason in NHL history. The only players ahead of him are the ones everyone would expect: Wayne Gretzky had 47 points in 1985, Mario Lemieux had 44 in 1991 and Gretzky had 43 in 1988.

McDavid will have at least one — and, he hopes, two — games to add to that total. If there is a Game 7, it'll be in Sunrise

on Monday night.

It was the first time in Panthers history that they played a home game with a chance to win the Cup. Another sellout crowd came, some of the paying more than \$1,000 apiece for tickets on the secondary market — the crowd pushing Florida's total attendance for the season over 1 million for the first time.

They came to see the trophy.

The Oilers wouldn't let it happen.

Edmonton came into the night having scored 10 of the series' last 11 goals — a 2-0 third period in its Game 3 loss, then the 8-1 romp in Game 4.

And the Oilers picked up right where they left off, with an absolute

clinic of special-teams hockey.

Game 5 started just as Game 4 did, with Edmonton getting a short-handed goal. Brown assisted it on Saturday night; he scored it unassisted in this one, and the Oilers were on their way. Florida took a penalty — interference by Niko Mikkola — as time expired in the first and it proved costly.

Hyman made it 2-0 with two seconds left in the second-period-opening power play, and McDavid pushed Edmonton's lead to 3-0 from a ridiculously tough angle that he made look easy three minutes later.

The three-goal lead has been infallible in the Stanley Cup Final for almost two decades; no team had lost after leading by three in a title-series game since Edmonton against Carolina in 2006. Every team since then, 39-0 in such games.

Make it 4-0. But the Panthers made it interesting.

It was 4-2 by the end of the second, Tkachuk and Rodrigues sandwiching goals around Perry's first of the playoffs — set up by a brilliant pass from McDavid. Ekman-Larsson scored early in the third, but the equalizer never came. Skinner stood tall, time and time again, and sent the series back to his hometown for Game 6.



Regan Smith sets world record for 100m backstroke

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer
INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — This world record was five years in the making for Regan Smith.

What an up-and-down journey it's been.

Bouncing back from a close-but-no-Olympics call in her first race, Smith set a world record in the women's 100-meter backstroke at the U.S. swimming trials on Tuesday night.

The 22-year-old Minnesota native touched in 57.13 seconds, easily beating the mark of 57.33 set a year ago by Australia's Kaylee McKeown.

Smith was just 17 years old when she first set a world record in the 100 back at the 2019 world championships. But she struggled to deal with the sudden, newfound fame, ceding dominance in the event to McKeown.

"A long time coming," Smith said. "It's about time."

There was never any doubt about Smith's talent, but a lack of confidence was almost crippling at times.

She's been working with a sports psychologist since October, which helped turn things around from mental standpoint. Her coach, Bob Bowman, best known for his work with 23-time gold medalist Michael Phelps, took care of the physical side with a grueling training regimen.

"This is incredibly rewarding," Smith said. "When I was a teenager, I had not done much. There was no pressure on me. I was always the youngest. No one expected much from me. I could go into it fearlessly."

Once she tasted success, it was hard to get back on top. She made the U.S. team for the Tokyo Olympics, but finished third in the backstroke as McKeown took the gold.

"I've always had it physically, but I didn't have it mentally," Smith conceded. "I just didn't have it up here," pointing toward her head.

Showing how much her confidence has grown, Smith bounced back emphatically after getting edged for a spot on the U.S. team in the 100 butterfly, where she finished third behind Gretchen Walsh and Torri Huske.

Flipping to her back, Smith set the second world record of the trials, following Walsh's mark in the semifinals of the 100 fly.

Katharine Berkoff claimed the second expected Olympic spot for the U.S. with a time of 57.91.

In the night's other final, Bobby Finke earned the right to defend the 800 freestyle gold he won in Tokyo with a time of 7 minutes, 44.22 seconds.

Finke had to work hard to get to the wall ahead of 18-year-old Indiana phenom Luke Whitlock, who set a national age-group record at 7:45.19 and will likely head to his first Olympics with the second U.S. spot.

No one else was within 4 seconds of the top two.

"I find I need pressure to do well, at least in my eyes," Finke said. "So I feel like the more pressure I feel, then the more likely I am to do well. Happy with the time we got."

Whitlock splashed the water emphatically after going virtually stroke-for-stroke with the reigning Olympic champion, who swept the 800 and 1,500 free in Tokyo.

He is expected to become the youngest male swimmer to make the U.S. team since that guy named Phelps, who was 15 when he qualified for his first Olympics in Sydney in 2000.

"It's really just over the last, especially the last two months, my training has really picked up and now just talking to my coach, we just had a really good plan," Whitlock said. "We kind of got everything planned out like a month and a half before this and I was just really confident with the work I've been putting in, so I knew I could execute it."

Two of America's biggest swimming stars, Caeleb Dressel and Simone Manuel, had impressive debuts at the trials, though there's still work to do to make it back to the Olympics.

Dressel was the third-fastest qualifier in the preliminaries and semifinals of the men's 100 freestyle, both times finishing behind Jack Alexy and Chris Guiliano. The tattooed Floridian will have to beat at least one of them in the final Wednesday night to earn a chance to defend his Olympic title in that event.

Former Giant Willie Mays dies at 93

NEW YORK (AP) — Willie Mays, the electrifying "Say Hey Kid" whose singular combination of talent, drive and exuberance made him one of baseball's greatest and most beloved players, has died. He was 93.

Mays' family and the San Francisco Giants jointly announced Tuesday night he had "passed away peacefully" Tuesday afternoon surrounded by loved ones.

The center fielder was baseball's oldest living Hall of Famer. His signature basket catch and his dashes around the bases with his cap flying off personified the joy of the game. His over-the-shoulder catch of a long drive in the 1954 World Series is baseball's most celebrated defensive feat.

Over 22 seasons, virtually all with the New York/San Francisco Giants, Mays batted .302, hit 660 home runs, totaled 3,283 hits, scored more than 2,000 runs and won 12 Gold Gloves.

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Celebrating summer

Dear Annie: I feel you overlooked an important point in your response to "Inheritance Issues," which has been an occasional topic in your column. Elder financial abuse is all too common. If the mother can't make bill payments without help, the implication is that the brother prepared, or had a lawyer prepare, the paperwork to transfer the beach property to himself. Was the mother acting as a well-informed and independent agent in this transaction? The mother's excuses could be hiding a very real struggle with declining abilities. The other two siblings might be well advised to be less judgmental of their mother, converse with each other about their mother's state of health and, if possible, talk with her doctor. If her abilities are declining, she will need their understanding and possibly legal protection.

Dear Inheritance Issues: Thank you for your letter and commonsense suggestions.

Dear Annie: I love your column and read it every day. I am a firm believer in positive vibes. I believe in waking up every day in gratitude. I believe in helping others. I believe that we all have a purpose. Thank you for living your purpose. Your purpose is helping others by giving your positive advice to those in need.

Have a great day. — Positive Vibes

Dear Positive: Thank you for your letter. It made me smile.

Dear Readers: Below are some poems to help you enjoy the beginnings of the summer months.

"The Lake Isle of Innisfree"

By William Butler Yeats

"I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,

And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;

Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,

And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,

Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;

There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,

And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day

I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;

While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,

I hear it in the deep heart's core."

"Fireflies in the Garden"

By Robert Frost

"Here come real stars to fill the upper skies,

And here on earth come emulating flies,

That though they never equal stars in size,

(And they were never really stars at heart)

Achieve at times a very star-like start.

Only, of course, they can't sustain the part."

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



We do not prepare to meet God

Question: Troubled times are unfolding worldwide. A person cannot watch the news for five minutes without realizing that nations are in turmoil and people's hearts are weary and fearful. The politicians debate and argue, claiming they can solve the issues that batter us. But we know that isn't possible. What can people do to better prepare ourselves and our families for the uncertainties of the future? — F.U.

Answer: It is strange that we prepare for everything except meeting God. We prepare for marriage and for a career. We prepare for athletic contests. A person attempting to

be on an Olympic team anywhere in the world practices his or her sport several hours a day, perhaps for years, before feeling prepared. But we do not prepare to meet God. Even though many see the storm clouds gathering on the horizon, by and large we are making few preparations to meet God. This is a time for repentance and faith. It is a time for soul-searching, a time to see if our anchor holds.

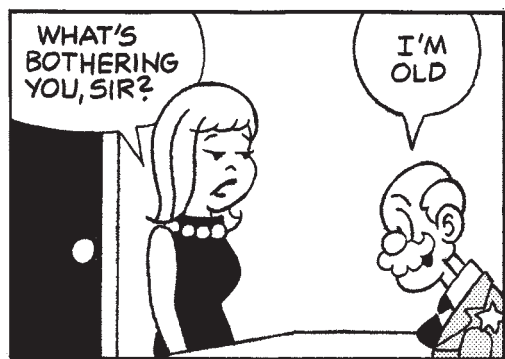
We must make sure of our relationship with God. As Amos the prophet said the day of judgment fast approaching for Israel, he warned the people to prepare to meet God (see Amos 4:12). The word preparedness should be a key word for everyone.

But we get so distracted by the problems that we forget where to look — up! It doesn't mean that God will keep His people from adversity. God has not promised to deliver us from trouble, but He has promised to go with us through the trouble. If we are not strengthening the inner man now by daily walking with God, when a crisis comes we will quake with fear and retreat, having no strength to stand up for Christ — for He stands with His people.

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

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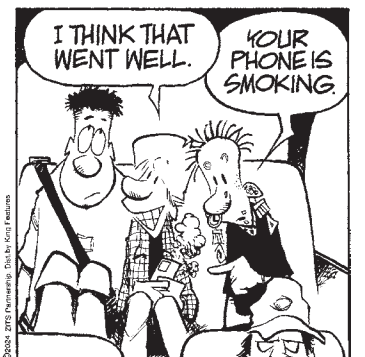
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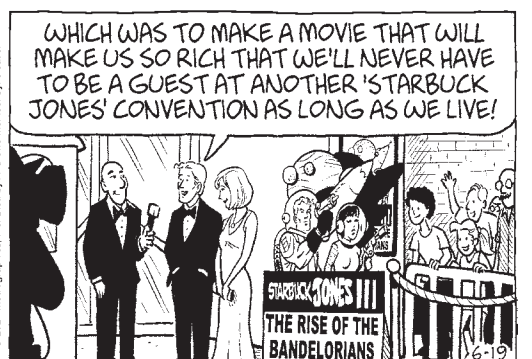
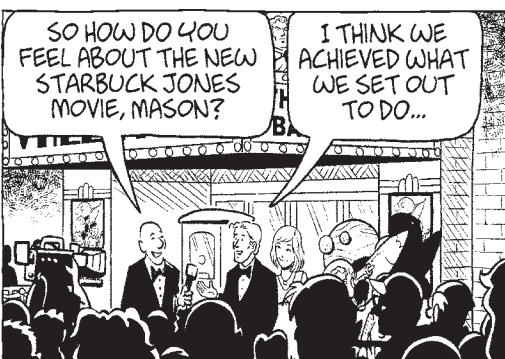
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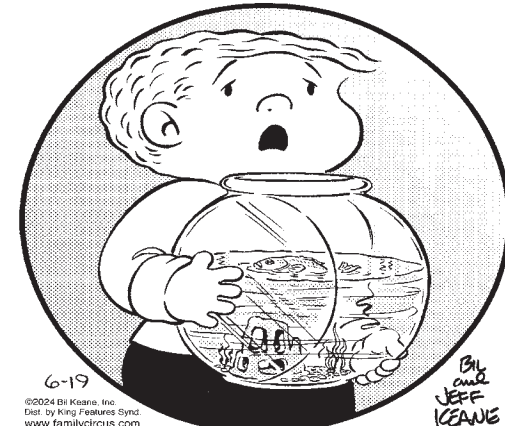


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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS

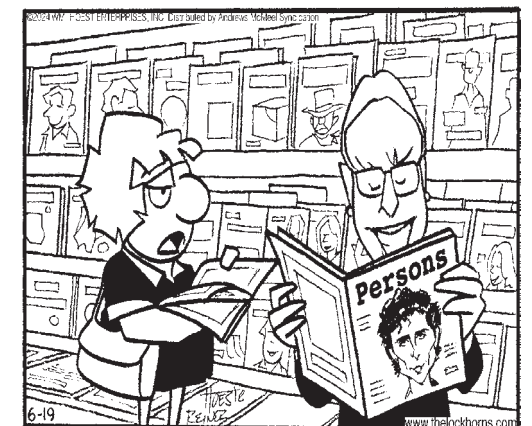


Table with columns for date, time, and program details. Includes channels like WINM, CBS, ABC, NBC, FOX, PBS, etc. and programs like Washington Watch, News-at 6, Blue Bloods, etc.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 23 mins. and Yesterday's answer 6-19.

Table with columns 1-11 and rows 1-59, representing a crossword puzzle grid.

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

6/19

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

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Services

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

Lottery Numbers

Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 12-13-28-34-44
Cash4Life — 06-10-12-19-36, Cash Ball: 04
Quick Draw Midday — 01-06-12-19-23-24-28-32-33-40-50-56-58-61-63-72-75-76-77-79, BE: 32
Daily Three-Midday — 00-08-05, SB: 05
Daily Three-Evening — 07-03-04, SB: 00
Daily Four-Midday — 00-05-00-07, SB: 05
Daily Four-Evening — 04-09-09-02, SB: 00
Quick Draw Evening — 07-13-24-29-30-32-34-36-40-44-46-47-50-51-52-56-62-63-64-70, BE: 30
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$14.8 million
MEGA MILLIONS 21-22-50-55-67; Mega Ball: 20; Megaplier: 2X.
POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$56 million



Swiss Village

Contracted Evening Swimming Lesson Instructor

Contracted Swimming Lesson Instructor position opening at the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion. Evening hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and some Wednesdays. Previous teaching experience preferred; must enjoy teaching children; must be comfortable in water. Next available teaching opportunity would be October 2024.
Application deadline: July 14, 2024

Interested applicants may send resumes to:

Briana Eicher, Director

Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion | 1201 Emmental Drive | Berne, IN 46711
 Or email: brianae@swissvillage.org



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Kinder Haus Daycare at Swiss Village is now seeking a Full-Time Team Teacher to work 32+ hours/week! Varied hours from 6am-5pm M-F. Responsibilities include providing high quality childcare services and assisting the Lead Teacher with supervision of the classroom. Must have a high school diploma or GED and be at least 21 years of age. Strong desire to work with children required. Educational background in early childhood is preferred.

Apply online at www.swissvillage.org or send Resume to:

Kayla Reilly, HR Specialist

Swiss Village | 1350 W. Main St. | Berne, IN 46711
 or email: careers@swissvillage.org
 EOE

This Week's Garage Sales

Clip & Save

GARAGE SALE WITH neighbors, 4688 E 100 N, Friday, June 21, Saturday, June 22, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Many items, little girl table and chairs, dolls, household items, women's clothing, Christmas tree. Too many items to mention.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL gym, 7545 N 650 E, Ossian, IN, garage sale fundraiser June 20, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., June 21, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$5 bag sale, June 22, \$2 bag sale, 8 a.m.-noon. Rain or shine. No reasonable offers refused! Proceeds benefit students and teachers at the school.

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

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 office, 128 East Market St, Bluffton, IN between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday or at www.blufftonindiana.net.

NEED MORE EMPLOYEES! A 20 word, line classified for a month in the Bluffton News-Banner is \$52. Contact the office, 125 N. Johnson St., 824-0224, or submit to classifieds.news-banner.com.

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Public Sale Calendar

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 enameled signs, Ford tractor, Mercedes convertible, John Deere mowers, pedal cars/tractors, skid loader, fire hydrants, traffic lights, thermometers, automobiles, automotive tools, shop equipment, more! Pick up June 21, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., June 24, 1-5 p.m., June 25, 9 a.m.-noon, 1420 Goshen Ave., Fort Wayne. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

JUNE 22 - 10 a.m. - Charles Uptgraft, deceased, and Dee Uptgraft. 3295 E 450 S, Bluffton, Indiana. 1931 Model A car with soft top, rumble seat, 1962 Galaxy, nonrunning, 1986 Chevy flatbed truck, nonrunning, Chrysler 3.6 outboard motor, mowers, tools, Craftsman tool box, Arco 250 amp single phase welder, lawn and garden, household, furniture, ice cream freezer, Noritake Gold Stein china, service for 12, old items, many other items. Vehicles will be sold at 12:30 p.m. both live and on Hi Bid. **Loy Auction.**

BIDDING ENDS 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 Steffen, 260-710-5684, **The Steffen Group Inc.**, 260-426-0633, steffengrp.com.

BIDDING ENDS JUNE 23 - (Online Only) - 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 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, 260-426-0633.

JUNE 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 handouts, 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 14-JULY 21 - (Online Only Auction) - Dave and Brenda Double, seller. 40 Year collection of trains, 2 real-

istic model train railway layouts, professionally milled lumber, downsizing custom craft store, shop tools, porcelain & other dolls, antiques, furniture, McCoy cookie jars, Hull pottery, Sure-Trac utility tractor. Preview: July 11 and 18 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 540 W US 224, Uniondale. Pat Carter, sale manager, **Steffen Group**, www.steffengrp.com, 824-3006.

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 appointment: Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181, Neal Wohlter, 260-336-2219, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177. **Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management**, 800-424-2324, halderman.com.

Public Notices

NOTICE
 In accordance with Indiana Code 5-15-6-3 requiring prior notification to individuals when records will be destroyed:
 Notice to any individuals born in the year 2002, who received special education services in Adams and/or Wells Counties. Please contact Adams Wells Special Services no later than August 9, 2024 if you wish to receive copies of your special education records. All records requested for pick-up and not picked up and non-requested records for persons born in the year 2002 will be permanently destroyed after August 16, 2024. If you wish to request records, you must call (260)824-5880 to do so. Records must be picked up by the person who received services unless otherwise legally designated.
 nb 6/18 through 8/7
 hspaxlp

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
 COUNTY OF WELLS)
 IN WELLS CIRCUIT COURT
 CAUSE NO.
 90C01-2406-EU-000022
 IN THE MATTER OF THE)
 UNSUPERVISED STATE OF:)
 JEFFREY W. BROWN)
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
 Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of June, 2024, Delaney Cook was appointed personal representative of the estate of Jeffrey W. Brown, deceased, who died on the 12th day of May, 2024.

All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of Wells County within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
 Date June 5th, 2024
 Beth Davis
 Clerk of the Wells Circuit Court
 nb 6/12, 6/19
 hspaxlp

90C01-2406-EU-000021
 STATE OF INDIANA)
)
 WELLS COUNTY)
 IN THE WELLS)
 CIRCUIT COURT)
 IN THE MATTER OF THE)
 ESTATE OF)
 CARLYA. SCOTT,)
 Deceased)
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that **DUANE L. SCOTT** was, on the 5th day of June, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of **CARLY A. SCOTT**, deceased, who died on May 10, 2024, and was authorized to administer said estate without court supervision.
 All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
 Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 5th day of June, 2024.
 Beth Davis
 Clerk, Wells Circuit Court
 Timothy K. Babcock
 Attorney No. 21526-90
 DALE, HUFFMAN & BABCOCK
 30 Premier Avenue
 Bluffton, Indiana 46714
 (260) 824-5566
 Attorney for Estate
 nb 6/12, 6/19
 hspaxlp

90C01-2406-EU-000021
 STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
 COUNTY OF WELLS)
 IN WELLS CIRCUIT COURT
 CAUSE NO.
 90C01-2406-EU-000022
 IN THE MATTER OF THE)
 UNSUPERVISED STATE OF:)
 JEFFREY W. BROWN)
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
 Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of June, 2024, Delaney Cook was appointed personal representative of the estate of Jeffrey W. Brown, deceased, who died on the 12th day of May, 2024.

All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of Wells County within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
 Date June 5th, 2024
 Beth Davis
 Clerk of the Wells Circuit Court
 nb 6/12, 6/19
 hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

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-OSSIAN-
 1645 Hillcrest Dr., Suite 2A
 Ossian, IN 46777
 Gerret J. Swearingen
 Attorney

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