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WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

County bans abatements for commercial solar

By HOLLY GASKILL
Commercial solar companies will no longer be able to receive tax abatement benefits in Wells County.

The Wells County Council voted unanimously in favor of an ordinance instating this moratorium on Tuesday. A second reading was also waived, and the ordinance went into effect immediately.

In contrast to previous conversations about the ordinance and solar energy, there was no discussion from the council or public comment. A copy of the ordinance was later provided to The News-Banner.

The ordinance states that the council has found a "lack of public support for commercial solar facilities themselves and the suggestion of offering tax incentives for

commercial solar facilities even less popular," particularly "with the most recent discussions with and within the Wells County community."

Furthermore, the document states that the council "believes that all tax incentives for commercial solar development in rural areas of the County should be prohibited, subject to any comprehensive plan and/or zoning ordinance."

The ordinance cannot affect the tax abatement and economic development agreements approved by the council with Paddlefish Solar in December 2022. Should Paddlefish receive the necessary zoning in Wells County, they would receive a 10-year total abatement and issue economic development payments of at least

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Pictured are council members Todd Mahnensmith and Brandon Harnish during Tuesday's meeting. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

Markle awards water main replacement project bid

By JONATHAN SNYDER

API Construction was given a preliminary award to work on the water main replacement project for Lee and Sparks Streets in a special Tuesday meeting for the Markle Town Council.

API Construction had the low bid at \$2,436,982.50 for the project. The need for a preliminary award stems from the need for a State Revolving Fund loan to help fund the project. VTF Excavation also bid at \$2,836,811.88.

Additionally, Operations Manager Mike Grant stated that Sortera Technologies has seen an increased zinc in its

wastewater, exceeding what is allowed. Council member Matthew Doss stated they previously requested whichever offending company to put in a pre-treatment or some other system that helps prevent hazardous metals from entering their treatment plant.

Grant also announced that the Markle Fire Department would like to purchase another pickup truck. Grant stated that the plan is to replace a recently sold truck with a one-ton capacity Chevy truck and upgrade it to department standards. The matter now heads to the

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Bids approved for new electric substation, council discussed junk vehicles

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Virginia Transformer Corporation and Meiden America Switchgear were awarded the transformer and breaker bids, respectively, for the Cherry Street electric substation project, the Board of Public Works and Safety decided Tuesday.

The Board of Works followed the recommendations of Bluffton's contracted consultant Brad Edler and Power System Engineering. Both Edler and PSE reviewed all the received bids after their opening at the board's June 25 meeting.

VTC's bid for the transformers totaled \$5,151,645, which includes offloading, assembly and testing of the transformers once they are delivered. WEG Transformers had the low bid at \$4,759,800 for their quote, but WEG's delivery time would be in March 2027. Virginia's transformers are expected to arrive between October and November of 2025.

Meiden America Switchgear's bid for the breakers was the low bid, totaling \$210,822.22. Their breakers are expected to arrive between March and April 2025. Siemens' bid totaled \$216,955.56, while their expected delivery time was sometime between December 2025 to March 2026.

The reason to add the offloading, assembly and testing costs to VTC's bid stemmed from a wish to avoid the risks involved with offloading. Utility Director Jon Oman understood the board's plight, stating that VTC will stand by their warranty should something happen during the offloading process.

"I know there's good crane operators around," board member Josh Hunt said. "But this is definitely a specialized piece of machinery. This is not an everyday job."

"If we choose to save \$10,000 on offloading and we go back to this board and say something happens, that's going to be a bad deal," board member Scott Mentzer stated.

A discussion about municipal code relating to vehicle parking was also brought to the board by building commissioner Richard Triplett. Triplett took an ordinance control officer role before Melissa Zirkle's hiring, during which he researched a way to prevent junk vehicles, boats, campers and trailers from being parked on the grass.

Currently, the municipal code states that a vehicle must be inoperable for it to be considered junk. Triplett presented that the wording makes it hard to prove that a car is junk. Triplett and the board have seen boats and campers parked on the grass in residential areas that have not been used for years at a time. Triplett cited Fort Wayne's City Code which states that operable vehicles shall only be parked on an approved parking surface, such as a driveway or a connected surface to the driveway like a gravel patch.

Hunt recognized that ensuring a vehicle is registered would be "step one" in ensuring that the vehicles are up to date. While no official action was taken, the board agreed with the spirit of the Fort Wayne Code, with Mentzer and Hunt agreeing to refer the matter to the city attorney Tony Crowell.

"We have a responsibility to help keep our town maintained, but I don't want to be heavy-handed," Hunt said. "It's a balancing act."

Bluffton NOW! President Mike Lautzenheiser also discussed who picks up the electric bill for both the plaza and the recently completed Downtown Pathways project. Mayor John Whicker noted that when the plaza was built, a gentlemen's agreement was made where Bluffton NOW! would pay the bill for one year, then revisit the issue later. That meeting never materialized until Tuesday's meeting.

Lautzenheiser stated that since both projects aren't owned by Wells County Revitalization, he thought the city would pay the

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Council reaches agreement for city housing projects

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Two payment in lieu of taxes agreements relating to the proposed Bluffton Family Townhomes and Bluffton Senior Apartments projects were approved by the Common Council Tuesday.

City Attorney Tony Crowell stated that while an ordinance allowing the city to enter PILOT agreements was adopted on July 17, there needs to be a separate ordinance for each PILOT agreement they enter. One ordinance for each housing project was approved by the council.

Trent Claybaugh of Gorman and Company also provided another update about the Bluffton Family Townhomes Project. Originally called the Wilson Park Apartments, Bluffton Family Townhomes will now see only 40 units for rent. Negotiations on a small parcel of land south of the proposed site will not be completed in time for

the project's required submission for Rental Housing Tax Credits.

While negotiations have been fruitful for that parcel, according to Claybaugh, he acknowledged that the quick turnaround needed for the project's submission made for a tight deadline for striking a deal. The townhomes will be a mix between one and two-story configurations. Claybaugh noted that the percentages of homes available for different levels below area median income rates have not changed.

Forty-six units will be available at Bluffton Senior Apartments. Claybaugh presented a 3-D render of the proposed site but noted that the look of the site could still change. In particular, the council briefly discussed a gabled roof for the site but did not make an official request for the change.

Additionally, the council also fielded a

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Powell: Inflation cooling again, it isn't time to cut rates

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inflation in the United States is slowing again after higher readings earlier this year, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said Tuesday, while adding that more such evidence would be needed before the Fed would cut interest rates.

After some persistently high inflation reports at the start of

2024, Powell said, the data for April and May "do suggest we are getting back on a disinflationary path."

Speaking in a panel discussion at the European Central Bank's monetary policy conference in Sintra, Portugal, Powell said Fed officials still want to see annual price growth slow further toward their 2% target before they would feel confident of having fully defeated high inflation.

"We just want to understand that the levels that we're seeing are a true reading of underlying inflation," he added.

Powell also acknowledged that the Fed is treading a fine line as it weighs when to cut its benchmark interest rate, which it raised 11 times from March 2022 through July 2023 to its current level of 5.3%. The rate hikes were intended to curb the worst streak of inflation in four decades by slowing

borrowing and spending by consumers and businesses. Inflation did tumble from its peak in 2022 yet still remains elevated.

If the Fed cuts rates too soon, Powell cautioned, inflation could re-accelerate, forcing the policymakers to reverse course and impose punishing rate hikes. But if the Fed waits too long to reduce borrowing costs, it risks weakening the economy so much as to potentially cause a recession.

"Getting the balance on monetary policy right during this critical period — that's really what I think about in the wee hours," Powell said in response to a question about his top worries.

On Friday, the government reported that consumer prices, according to the Fed's preferred measure, were unchanged from April to May, the mildest such reading in more than four years.

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Outside

Chance of showers today and tomorrow

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 86	High 82	High 82
Low 70	Low 68	Low 64

More Weather on Page 2

Online

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County bans abatements

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\$8.5 million.

Paddlefish had applied for a “zoning layer” on 49 parcels in southern Wells County and received a unanimous “do not pass” recommendation from the

Area Plan Commission in March. Following immense public opposition, Paddlefish announced they would “regroup” before further pursuing the zoning.

Unless their application includes significant

changes, Paddlefish cannot re-apply until after March 8, 2025.

A ban on tax abatements for utility-scale solar was first discussed publicly at the council’s June 4 meeting, hoping to deter future

companies from pursuing development in Wells County. However, the moratorium does not prohibit companies from developing commercial solar without tax benefits.

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Markle water main

(Continued from Page 1)

trustees, who will decide how much will be paid equally amongst the four townships and Markle. Grant estimated that Markle’s expenses would be about \$9,500.

Furthermore, Police Chief John Markley stated the department is purchasing four new replacement tasers from Axon Systems to replace their 18-year-old units. The department will

pay \$20,457.77 for the equipment over five years.

Markley also announced the department’s intent to purchase a new in-car video camera and body camera system from Axon. The new police interceptor purchased by the town needs both systems, with the in-car system costing \$9,737.59 over five years and the body camera system costing \$7,737 over five years.

The department currently uses systems provided by Digital Ally, but software issues were cause for concern for Doss, prompting the provider switch. While the Axon systems will only be in the newly purchased car, Doss and Markley noted that the systems will be changing with every new police car the town purchases.

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Electric substation

(Continued from Page 1)

discussions. Since the bills are averaging about \$50 a month for the alleys, along with the electricity used for events and activities held at the plaza being relatively low, the city approved a decision to pay for the electricity.

“It’s (the bill) is consistently low,” Hunt said. “It kind of surprised me how low it is, for as long as the lights are on.”

The board also approved a \$4,300 transfer from the Fire Department’s Professional Meetings and Train-

ing line item to the Travel line item. Craig stated that both line items essentially do the same thing, with Travel covering out-of-state training.

Additionally, The board approved Street Commissioner Tim Simpson to hire

Grant Nash for general labor in the Street Department. An SRF Claim for James S. Jackson totaling \$1,341,896 for the wastewater treatment plant project was also approved by the board.

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Bluffton housing projects

(Continued from Page 1)

discussion from Fire Chief Don Craig about using incoming Local Option Income Tax funds for Fire Department needs. Craig stated that an estimated \$90,000 is coming to Bluffton in response to the creation of the Fire Protection Territory in January. Craig stated that previously, LOIT funds were used to regularly cover expenses for new firefighter gear as it phases out of date over ten years.

Craig stated that while the territory’s formation has helped generate

revenue, there are still struggles in paying for necessary equipment, such as radios, apparatuses and different trucks. Since those LOIT funds were acquired through the territory, Council member Scott Mentzer believed that the \$90,000 should go to the territory and requested that the council remember Craig’s statements when the time to budget comes.

Council Member Rick Elwell stated that inflation has not been kind to anybody, and Mentzer agreed that another conversation about the territory was

needed.

“I’m not saying it’s anybody’s fault ... (but) the reality is the funding mechanisms that are set up for fire are not sufficient,” Council member Chandler Gerber said. “This \$90,000 in LOIT money is great, but it’s sort of a needle in a haystack of what we actually need to find to solve the problem. Barring something unforeseen in a great direction, this is going to have to be reworked at some point to some degree to be able to get the funding corrected.”

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Inflation cooling again

(Continued from Page 1)

And compared with a year earlier, inflation dropped to just 2.6% in May, from 2.7% in April, the government said.

Excluding volatile food and energy costs, “core” prices also barely rose from April to May. On a year-over-year basis, core inflation fell to 2.6% from 2.8% in April. The latest inflation figures were a sharp improvement from early this year.

In his appearance Tuesday, Powell said the U.S. economy and job market remain fundamentally healthy, which means the Fed can take its time in deciding when rate cuts are appropriate. Most economists think the Fed’s first

rate cut will occur in September, with potentially another cut to follow by year’s end.

The Fed chair also said the job market is “cooling off appropriately,” which likely means that it won’t heighten inflationary pressures through rapid wage gains.

“It doesn’t look like it’s heating up or presenting a big problem for inflation going forward,” Powell said of the job market. “It looks like it’s doing just what you would want it to do, which is to cool off over time.”

Powell declined to signal any time frame for a rate cut. Investors are betting that there is nearly a 70% chance for a reduction at the

Fed’s meeting in September.

Fed officials have expressed a range of views on inflation and interest-rate policy since their last meeting a little over two weeks ago.

John Williams, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and vice chair of the central bank’s rate-setting committee, said last week, “I am confident that we at the Fed are on a path to achieving our 2% inflation goal on a sustained basis.”

Mary Daly, president of the San Francisco Fed, cautioned last week, though, that it was “hard to know if we are truly on track to sustainable price stability.”

In his appearance Tues-

day in Portugal, Powell spoke at a panel along with Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank, and Roberto Campos Neto, the head of Brazil’s central bank.

The ECB has already made a quarter-point cut to its key rate this year, with inflation in the 20-nation eurozone having sunk from above 10% to just 2.5%.

In her remarks Tuesday, though, Lagarde reiterated that the ECB is not on any “predetermined path” and that its recent rate cut “would be followed by further review of data.”

Such comments have led many analysts to conclude that the ECB’s next rate cut won’t occur until September at the earliest.

Closures listed for July 4th holiday

Thursday, July 4, brings with it a host of closures.

The offices of the City of Bluffton and Wells County governments will be closed. The Ossian and Bluffton locations of the Wells County Public Library are closed from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, July 3, and all day Thursday, July 4.

There is no mail delivery and The News-Banner does not publish Thursday. The office will not be open. Normal publication and office hours will resume Friday.

Weather

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:26 p.m. Tuesday)
High: 84; Low: 55; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.42 feet at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday

Wells County forecast

Today: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 86. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tonight: A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 70. West wind around 5 mph.

Independence Day: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 a.m., then a slight chance of showers between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 82. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Thursday Night: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 68. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 2 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 82. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Friday Night: A 30% chance of showers before 8 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 78.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 61.

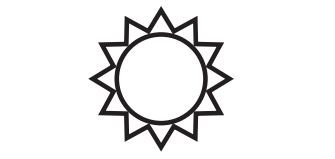
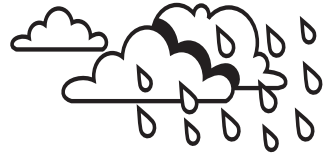
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 83.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 65.

Monday: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 85.

Monday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67.

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



Judge delays Trump’s hush money sentencing until September after high court immunity ruling

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ
and JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

In a major reprieve for former President Donald Trump, sentencing for his hush money convictions was postponed Tuesday until at least September — if ever — as the judge agreed to weigh the possible impact of a new Supreme Court ruling on presidential immunity.

Trump had been scheduled to face sentencing July 11, just before the Republicans’ nominating convention, on his New York convictions on felony charges of falsifying business records. He denies any wrongdoing.

The postponement sets the sentencing for Sept. 18 at the earliest — if it happens at all, since Trump’s lawyers are arguing that the Supreme Court ruling merits not only delaying the sentencing but tossing out his conviction.

“The impact of the Immunity Ruling is a loud and clear signal for Justice in the United States,” Trump crowed on his Truth Social media site after the sentencing was delayed.

Using all capital letters, he claimed the Supreme Court’s decision netted him “total exoneration” in this and other criminal cases he faces.

There was no immediate comment on the sentencing postponement from Manhattan prosecutors, who brought the hush money case.

Though the Sept. 18 date is well after this month’s Republican National Convention, where Trump is set formally to accept the party’s nomination for president in this year’s race, it is far closer to Election Day, which could put the issue top-of-mind for voters just as they seriously tune into the race. Because of absentee voting timelines in certain states, some voters may

already have cast ballots before anyone knows whether the former president will have to spend time in jail or on home confinement.

The delay caps a string of political and legal wins for Trump in recent days, including the Supreme Court’s immunity ruling and a debate widely seen as a disaster for Democratic President Joe Biden.

The immunity decision all but closed the door on the possibility that Trump could face trial in his 2020 election interference case in Washington before this November’s vote. The timeline in itself is a victory for the former president, who has sought to delay his four criminal cases past the balloting.

An appeals court recently paused a separate election interference case against Trump, in Georgia; no trial date has been set. His federal classified documents case in Florida remains bogged down by pretrial disputes that have resulted in an indefinite cancellation of the trial date.

Monday’s Supreme Court ruling granted broad immunity protections to presidents, while also restricting prosecutors from citing any official acts as evidence in trying to prove a president’s unofficial actions violated the law.

The high court held that former presidents are absolutely immune from prosecution for actions that fall within their core constitutional duties, such as interacting with the Justice Department, and at least presumptively immune for all other official acts. The justices left intact the longstanding principle that no immunity exists for purely personal acts.

It’s not clear how the decision will affect the New York hush money case.

Its underpinnings involved allegations that a pre-presidency Trump participated in a scheme to stifle sex stories that he feared would be damaging to his 2016 campaign. But the actual charges had to do with payments made in 2017 to his then-lawyer, Michael Cohen, who had shelled out hush money on Trump’s behalf. Trump was president when he signed relevant checks to Cohen.

Trump’s lawyers sought unsuccessfully before the trial to keep out certain evidence that they said concerned official acts, including social media posts he made as president.

New York Judge Juan M. Merchan said in April it would be “hard to convince me that something that he tweeted out to millions of people voluntarily cannot be used in court when it’s not being presented as a crime. It’s just being used as an act, something he did.”

When Trump vied unsuccessfully last year to get the hush-money case moved from state court to federal court, U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein rejected the former president’s claim that allegations in the hush money indictment involved official duties.

“The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the matter was a purely personal item of the president — a cover-up of an embarrassing event,” Hellerstein wrote last year.

Hours after Monday’s Supreme Court ruling, Trump’s attorney requested that Merchan set aside the jury’s guilty verdict and delay the sentencing to consider how the high court’s ruling could affect the hush money case.

Merchan wrote that he’ll rule Sept. 6, and the next date in the case would be Sept. 18, “if such is still necessary.”



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Upcoming Events

July 6 - Live music from The Mountain Dewe Boys w/ Texas Tenderloin
July 20 - Live music from Bob Thompson
July 27 - JB's Cuisine Machine

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OBITUARIES

Judy L. Pinkerton, 85

Judy L. Pinkerton, 85, passed away on Tuesday afternoon, July 2, 2024, on the family farm just south of Domestic, surrounded by her loving family. Funeral arrangements are currently pending at this time with the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

PathWays for Aging launches for 123,000 eligible senior Hoosiers

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration on Monday announced its PathWays for Aging program launched for more than 123,000 eligible Hoosiers aged 60 and over.

"This is an exciting day for Indiana as we go live with this transformative program," Indiana Medicaid Director Cora Steinmetz said. "We thank our partners across the state who have been instrumental in helping us design a program that will make a difference for this population, and the state."

FSSA said PathWays for Aging is a Medicaid managed care program designed to improve the health and wellbeing of the Hoosiers it serves, provide choice for those members who want to age in their homes or communities, and better manage the rising costs of providing Medicaid coverage to the aging population.

This becomes the state's fourth managed care program in addition to the Healthy Indiana Plan, Hoosier Healthwise and Hoosier Care Connect.

"Before PathWays, the aging individuals on Medicaid had to navigate a complicated healthcare and supports system on their own," FSSA Secretary Dr. Dan Rusyniak said. "Now, individuals need only one point of contact for assistance, making it easier for more Hoosiers to stay in their homes, surrounded by family and friends."

Managed Care Entities will now administer long-term supports and services, meaning the state will pay a flat rate to cover member health benefits rather than individually paying for claims. On PathWays, individuals contact a care coordinator who can help them access services or find other resources to meet their needs.

"I am glad to hear that FSSA has heard from people who are having success and no issues with the transition taking place today with the new waivers," said Kim Dodson, CEO at Arc of Indiana. "However, we know there are some individuals and families in our state who are not having success and remain concerned about how they or their loved one will continue to get important services."

She said some families have yet to hear from their care manager, don't have a transition plan approved, or didn't hear from their provider on how to log in to start structured family caregiving.

"The crisis of a workforce shortage has plagued our state for several years and we should be looking for ways to resolve this conference - allowing legally responsible individuals to provide necessary and appropriate care should be allowed under guidelines and restrictions," Dodson said.

Waiver services also change

July 1 also marks the end of the Aged and Disabled Waiver. Two new waivers, the PathWays Waiver for individuals aged 60 and older and the Health and Wellness Waiver for individuals 59 and younger, will provide home and community-based services to eligible Hoosiers who need nursing facility level of care.

Per the federal approvals, both waivers have a designated number of slots available:

PathWays for Aging Waiver: 39,842 slots, of which 29,268 are filled by Hoosiers already receiving services. 10,574 slots will remain for newly eligible individuals.

Health and Wellness Waiver: 16,127 slots, of which 13,190 are filled by Hoosiers already receiving services. 2,937 slots will remain for newly eligible individuals.

A slot can only be used by one person during the July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 waiver year. The slot cannot be re-used by a different person if a member no longer needs services, like if the member moves out of state.

In April, FSSA established a waiting list for the former Aged and Disabled Waiver. Beginning this month, the agency will begin inviting eligible individuals on the waiting list to continue the process to access either the PathWays Waiver or Health and Wellness Waiver.

At this time, 9,015 people are on the waiting list for the PathWays Waiver, and 3,762 are on the waiting list for the Health and Wellness Waiver.

Dodson said there are real concerns with the health and wellness waiver waiting an estimated 30 months for services. She said this is because only 125 people will be targeted to transition per month.

"The state used to target 300 people per month on the Family Support Waiver ... This is concerning as people who are in need of services will not have access for nearly 3 years. We do not want to see moved into nursing homes or group homes because HCBS waiver services are not available," she said.

No waitlist will exist for the overall PathWays program; only individuals eligible for waiver services under PathWays may be placed on a waitlist.

Structured care move

Also starting Monday, legally responsible individuals are no longer permitted to provide attendant care. Two options were offered: Structured Family Caregiving or Attendant Care from a caregiver who is not a legally responsible individual.

This change saves the state money but has been opposed by parents of medically complex disabled children who can't find nurses or home health aides to provide all the needed care.

More than 1,700 members, or the vast majority of those affected, had completed a newly approved service plan and can begin their new services. After July 1, all Health and Wellness waiver members 17 and younger who select Structured Family Caregiving for the first time will be assessed by care managers to determine the appropriate tier of service. Families who transitioned to Structured Family Caregiving before the July 1 start were placed in a tier based on the Attendant Care hours they were already utilizing.

In mid-2025, a new Structured Family Caregiving Level of Service Assessment will be in place.

Rusyniak acknowledged that some families will be paid less than they were under the previous attendant care program but said the state has to balance state fiscal constraints with members' needs.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County:
Monday, 1:03 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served at the jail.

Monday, 1:39 p.m., S.R. 218 and S.R. 3, Warren. Car versus deer.

Monday, 5:31 p.m., 1400E 400S, Bluffton. Deputy requested to drive by abandoned home to check if

juveniles are present.

Monday, 6:43 p.m., 1000W 1100N, Markle. Report of glass in roadway causing safety issue. Officer advised it is a citable offense and to clean it sooner rather than later.

Monday, 7:31 p.m., River Terrace Estates. Report of employee that was fired calling and harassing other

employees.

Tuesday, 5:48 a.m., South Merchant and West Cherry streets, Bluffton. Motorcycle driver arrested for driving while suspended with a prior history.

Ossian:
Monday, 5:30 p.m., Ossian Subway. Report of theft, subjects stole employee's phone.

ARRESTS

Patricia Abigail Mankey, 32, Bluffton; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor and operating while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Jeremy Lee Stephen, 35, Bluffton; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

FSSA halts POWER Account contributions after federal ruling

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Family and Social Services Administration will stop enforcing collections of premium-like payments — the agency announced Monday, the same day it was set to restart the program. The action comes after a Thursday ruling from a federal judge striking contributions to POWER Accounts for Indiana's Medicaid expansion enrollees.

"The implications of the decision handed down are far reaching. FSSA is still evaluating the impact for the state and the 762,000 Hoosiers who rely on health care coverage through our Healthy Indiana Plan," said Cora Steinmetz, the state's Medicaid director, on Monday at a press conference.

The Healthy Indiana Plan, otherwise known as HIP 2.0, provides coverage for non-disabled, moderate-income adults between the ages of 19 and 64 and was first introduced in 2007 under the Daniels administration — with the federal government covering 90% of costs for enrollees.

However, the federal government granted the state a special waiver to require a monthly, variable POWER Account contribution that reportedly confused many enrollees and disproportionately caused Black Hoosiers to lose access to the life-saving coverage.

The judge ruled that federal regulators erred when they granted the state authority to charge the contributions, alongside state rules regarding retroactive coverage and non-emergency medical transports.

Advocacy groups applauded the ruling, which community organization group Hoosier Action called a burdensome barrier to care. Hoosier Action coordinated hundreds of public comments and testimonies cited in the judge's ruling.

"I'm overjoyed," said Hoosier Action leader and HIP member Mulugeta Wolfe. "I just got back on HIP and paying my POWER Account payment on time was one of the things I was concerned about. It's not even making the payment amount that's hard, it's remembering."

"HIP is important to me as someone working part time here and part time there and going to school and HIP gives me that flexibility as a younger person to do the things I want to do with my life."

HIP members will still have coverage, Steinmetz said, and the state will be pursuing "all" legal remedies in consultation with state and federal attorneys. The ruling doesn't impact the premiums charged for disabled Hoosiers using MedWorks or minors relying on the Children's Health Insurance Plan.

"Indiana disagrees with the ruling and believes these actions have unintended consequences for our program ... (and) the agency will provide additional updates as appropriate," Steinmetz concluded.

Impact of the ruling

Chief Judge James E. Boasberg, of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, included some of the submitted comments in his final ruling, observing the "rather earthy language" and pleas to halt the program.

"(I've) seen 1st hand the many harms the power account has done to those

who are trying to both link to and retain health care as well as ensure medication compliance and hold a job. Get rid of the (expletive) power account," one HIP user wrote.

Boasberg cited submitted evidence that found 60,000 Hoosiers, or 29% of those subject to premiums, were disenrolled due to nonpayment — whether it was failing to make the first payment or not making a later payment and getting their coverage reduced. Over half of all beneficiaries missed at least one payment during 2015 to 2016, he said.

Steinmetz repeated an argument on Monday that failed to sway Boasberg, namely that state law requires FSSA to administer the POWER Accounts program.

"... while HIP members remain covered today for Medicaid, the ruling creates uncertainty regarding which services are covered and removes authority for certain administrative aspects of the program's operation," Steinmetz continued. "The ruling also has implications that conflict with Indiana state law."

Imposing POWER Accounts stems from Senate Enrolled Act 165 passed in 2016. The wide-ranging bill addresses an assortment of directives for FSSA, including POWER Accounts, and strips authority from FSSA's secretary to make changes to the program, unless it is "required by federal law or regulation."

Adam Mueller, part of the team of attorneys for the plaintiffs suing HIP, likened the exception to an "escape hatch."

"My interpretation of the ruling is that the POWER Account contribution requirement is going to be on hold. It has been on hold for four years," said Mueller, with the Indiana Justice Project. "It appears that ... people will not lose coverage or have downgraded coverage based on POWER Account payments."

The state paused POWER Account contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic and the managed care entities overseeing such coverage haven't collected those payments since 2020. Previously, someone within a certain income bracket who failed to pay would be moved to a lower tier health plan while others would have a "lockout" period spanning several months.

The managed care entities will bear the responsibility of communicating with members, so Steinmetz couldn't specify how enrollees would be notified of the change.

The ruling alone doesn't threaten the entire HIP program because that approval is part of the state's amended Medicaid plan while the POWER Account contributions fell under a separately approved waiver, Mueller noted.

But attorneys arguing for the state in the case disagreed.

FSSA didn't respond to a question about whether Dan Rusyniak, the secretary for FSSA, had used his power from the law to strike the rule.

Reaction to the ruling

Hoosier Action, the entity that organized HIP enrollees to submit comments to the federal judge, updated a Friday comment with addition context from Fran Quigley, a law professor at Indiana University and the director of the law



Indiana Medicaid Director Cora Steinmetz responds to lawmaker questions on a multimillion shortfall in the Medicaid budget, at a State Budget Committee meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023. (Photo by Leslie Bonilla Muñoz)

school's Health and Human Rights Clinic.

"In our law school clinic, we see Hoosiers every day who have to make horrible choices between paying rent, putting food on the table, and other bills. Judge Boasberg recognized that they and tens of thousands of Hoosiers like them were likely to lose their healthcare under the previous rules for the Healthy Indiana Program," Quigley shared.

"On behalf of our clients and those Hoosiers across the state, not to mention the broader state economy and healthcare system, we are deeply grateful for this ruling and the advocacy of the Indiana Justice Project, Hoosier Action, and the National Health Law Program. This ruling and their advocacy saved lives, and vastly improved the HIP program."

Rep. Ed Clere, a Republican representing New Albany, has repeatedly voiced concerns about the state's administration of the HIP program, including the lack of retroactive eligibility available in other Medicaid programs.

A four-year pause could have shown how necessary and vital POWER Accounts were to the operation of HIP, he said, especially in light of extra scrutiny of the Medicaid budget following a nearly \$1 billion shortfall, but fell short.

"The pandemic provided an opportunity to demonstrate that POWER Accounts don't add anything — other than confusion, administrative expense and disenrollment," said Clere, who chairs the Health and Medicaid subcommittee for the state's Ways and

Means Committee.

"There has never been any evidence that POWER Accounts or any of the other financial contribution requirements improve outcomes ... we should be willing to step back and look at ways to tweak the design of HIP 2.0 in a way that eliminates this unnecessary administrative expense and look for new opportunities."

Mueller, the attorney and advocate, also saw the ruling as a chance to improve the Medicaid program. The 66-page ruling — which includes a reference to pop icon Taylor Swift — made it clear to Mueller that Boasberg "really under(stood) this program."

"... the judge took an opportunity to really listen to what people thought and what people said in the administrative record. To me, that is really heartening," Mueller said. "The judge has sort of given the (federal regulators) and Indiana an opportunity to make HIP work in accordance with Medicaid law. And that could be a lot of things. You know Hoosiers — we pride ourselves on being innovative."

An area where Medicaid could potentially fill a need, Mueller said, are Hoosiers exiting Indiana's prison system, who aren't currently auto-enrolled in contrast to other states. Another area to explore could be housing assistance.

"There's an opportunity here to see a post-pandemic future (where) this program could be really, really great," Mueller concluded. "I hope that's an opportunity that the state seizes in partnership with the (federal regulators)."

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Fifty years of Indiana property tax policy

Indiana voters elected Otis Bowen as Governor in 1972 on a pledge of “visible, lasting and substantial” property tax relief. The slogan appealed to voters because property taxes had been growing rapidly for two decades. Growth between 1951 and 1972 averaged 8.5% per year, raising the share of taxpayer incomes paid to the tax from 3% in 1951 to 5% in 1972. Indiana had the 11th highest property taxes as a percent of income in the United States. We were a high property tax state.



Larry DeBoer

Capitol Comments

Today we rank 40th. The property tax as a percentage of income is 2.1%. Property owners are unhappy, though, because tax increases have averaged 8.6% for the past two years. The tax percent of income had been 1.9% in 2022.

Last year the General Assembly established a State and Local Tax Review Task Force (SALTR, pronounced “salter”), to study issues in Indiana taxation. This year SALTR will look at property tax policy. You can see the exhibits and watch the meetings on the General Assembly’s website.

Some history might be helpful. Indiana was a high property tax state in 1972. Over the next 50 years we became a low property tax state. What policies did we use to make that happen?

Otis Bowen’s property tax relief bill passed on April 13, 1973. The vote was tied in the Senate, so Lt. Governor Orr cast the deciding vote in favor.

The bill took three main approaches. First, it provided an immediate 20% credit for all property owners. The credit was funded by doubling the state sales tax from 2% to 4%. Second, it allowed counties to adopt a local income tax for further property tax relief. Third, it froze property tax levies or rates. Counties adopting the local income tax had their levies frozen and non-adopting counties had their rates frozen.

It worked. Property taxes as a percentage of income fell from 5% in 1972 to 2.5% in 1980. Indiana policy makers have used this 3-part approach for property tax relief ever since.

The legislature increased the sales tax rate to 5% in 1983 to make up revenue losses from the 1979-82 recession. In 2002, though, the rate rose to 6% to fund property tax relief for homeowners, who were about to see large increases in tax bills resulting from the court-ordered market value reassessment. In 2008 the sales tax rate was increased to 7%, to provide revenue to replace property taxes for the school general fund. All told, 4 percentage points of our 7% sales tax originated to fund property tax relief.

In the 1980s two new local income taxes were created. These mostly provided added local revenue, but they reduced the need to tax property. New local income taxes authorized in 2007 did offer added property tax relief, and the LIT reform of 2017 made explicit the share of local income taxes devoted to property tax relief. As of 2024 the local income tax provides more than half a billion dollars in property tax credits, and for counties and cities LIT provides almost as much revenue as property taxes.

Counties with frozen rates would have received a big boost in revenues with the 1980 statewide reassessment of property, so the General Assembly reformed the tax controls in 1979. Levies were limited by a maximum levy. It could rise with average assessed value growth, with a minimum of 5% and a maximum of 10%.

During 1980s and 1990s, though, the share of property taxes in income crept upwards towards 3%. So, in 2002 maximum levy growth was linked directly to Indiana income growth. Controlled property taxes would remain stable as a share of income. Then, in 2010, we amended the state Constitution to create new caps on the percentage of assessed value that taxpayers could pay. Between 2007 and 2024 the share of income paid to property taxes dropped from 3% to 2.1%.

What will the SALTR task force recommend? We don’t know, but it’s a good guess that some of the policies they consider will be in the tradition of Otis Bowen’s 1973 reform.

Larry DeBoer is a Purdue University economist. He wrote this for Indiana newspapers.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, July 3, the 185th day of 2024. There are 181 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History: On July 3, 1863, the pivotal three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania ended in a major victory for the North as Confederate troops failed to breach Union positions during an assault known as Pickett’s Charge.

Also on this date:

In 1775, Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental Army at

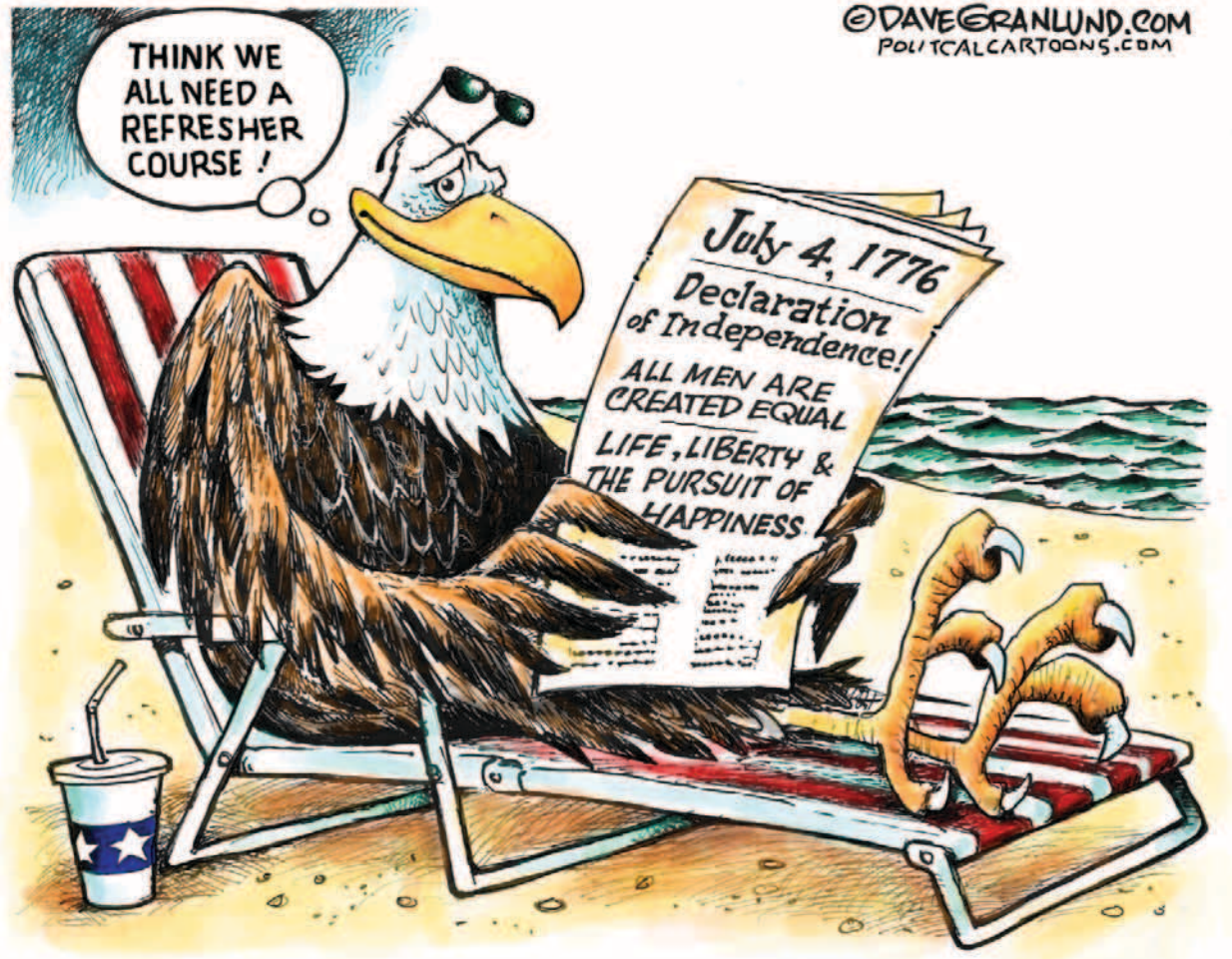
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In 1944, during World War II, Soviet forces recaptured Minsk from the Germans.

In 1950, the first carrier strikes of the Korean War took place as the USS Valley Forge and the HMS Triumph sent fighter planes against North Korean targets.

In 1971, singer Jim Morrison of The Doors died in Paris at age 27.

In 2011, Novak Djokovic won his first Wimbledon, beating defending champion Rafael Nadal.



NATO at 75: A personal perspective

As a young lieutenant, I served in a very atypical assignment, for which I was sent to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, to learn German, followed by the Individual Terrorism Awareness Course at Fort Bragg (now Fort Liberty), North Carolina. This was in preparation for being sent to a joint unit at the grassroots level of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. We were 40 U.S. Army soldiers stationed at a remote site, which was actually a Bundeswehr Kaserne (German Army base) with 2,000 German soldiers.

There was no PX, nor commissary, no American housing compound. I lived “on the economy” on the top floor of an apartment building with entirely German neighbors. Serving as liaison/linguist officer with our German Army hosts, around 80% of my time was spent speaking German. In a position with top secret clearance, I was occasionally in civilian clothing, instead of a uniform, and with longer hair, during and after the Gulf War.

Under the Status of Forces Agreement, the Bundeswehr provided each U.S. Army soldier at joint remote sites up to two free train tickets per month anywhere in Germany on the Deutsche Bahn (German Rail) — the best rail system in the world, as it serves almost every corner of the country! On weekends not in the field or serving as duty officer, it allowed me to explore Germany from top to bottom (I also visited every neighboring country). As the Iron Curtain and Berlin Wall had fallen, I often visited Berlin and parts of former East Germany. Traveling well beyond tourist sites, and often getting out of my comfort zone (i.e. — exploring abandoned Soviet bases), gave me a deep appreciation not only for the defeat of Naziism, but also for the defeat of Communism in Europe.

Headquartered in Brussels, NATO was founded in 1949 as an alliance to counter the former Soviet Union, and its fellow Communist satellite countries in Eastern Europe. Now 32 countries strong, NATO



Nate LaMar

Hoosier Opinions

today includes all of these former satellites throughout Eastern Europe, along with some constituent parts of the former Soviet Union itself, such as Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. NATO’s most recent members include Finland and Sweden, historically neutral countries spooked by Russia’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine, who therefore immediately applied for NATO membership.

Having an 832-mile border with Putin’s Russia, Finland is now NATO’s “front-line state” (*National Defense*, June 2024). Others with NATO membership interest include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and Ukraine. With exceptions of Cyprus, Kosovo, and Russian satellite, Belarus, European countries who are not members of NATO are members of NATO’s Partnership for Peace, which also includes the three countries of the Caucasus and the five “stans” of former Soviet Central Asia.

As a young lieutenant serving in a joint unit, never did I dream that someday I would represent a civilian employer on NATO’s Industrial Advisory Group, where we engaged in deep-dive studies of emerging technologies for interoperability among NATO members’ militaries. For another previous employer, I dealt with NATO’s Support & Procurement Agency in Luxembourg.

This year’s 75th NATO Summit will take place in Washington D.C., from July 9-11. The summit will happen amidst the dual specter of isolationism and protectionism infecting a Presidential election between two elderly non-veterans representing the extremes of each of their parties.

Politics *must* stop at the water’s edge. We cannot sell-out Ukraine, Israel, or Taiwan. As I keep a close eye on the proceedings of the summit, I pray that cooler heads will prevail, and that the U.S. will, to paraphrase Matthew 5:14, continue to serve as the shining city on a hill, as leader of NATO and the Free World.

Nate LaMar, an international manager by profession and a West Point graduate, also served as Henry County Council President from 2009-2019.

Another fail-safe institution proves not so safe

Between 1998 and 2003, the budget of the National Institutes of Health was doubled. This was an extraordinary enterprise after the multi-year, post-Cold War decline in defense spending and at a time when government agency budgets tended to be increased marginally or carried over from previous years.

It was a bipartisan project put into effect by two Senate appropriators, Republican Arlen Specter and Democrat Tom Harkin, with the support of the Clinton and Bush administrations — and during years when, except for one 18-month interval, Republicans had majorities in both houses of Congress.

At the time, I thought this was a good idea. Hadn’t health research produced cures and improved treatments for many diseases and conditions? Wasn’t health research the best thing for the government to spend money on after national defense?

Now I’m not so sure. After watching the public health agencies flounder and flail during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in light of testimony and retrospective evidence coming mainly out of Republican-run House hearings, it has struck me that putting all those huge piles of money in a small cluster of government bureaucracies was not such a good idea.

Centralization is supposed to prioritize competence and produce efficiency. But it can also squeeze out intellectual diversity and serve the selfish interests of those in charge.

Case in point: the question of whether COVID-19 resulted from a leak from the Wuhan, China, communicable diseases laboratory, financed in large part by Francis Collins’ NIH and Anthony Fauci’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious



Michael Barone

Diseases. I’ve returned to this matter multiple times, in June 2021, March 2023, July 2023, Nov. 2023, Dec. 2023 and Feb. 2024.

Obviously, Fauci and Collins’ centralized control over vast sums of research money produced this change of view among scientists with professional credentials but the personal ethics characteristic of a much older profession.

Then, with breathtaking dishonesty, Fauci referred the press to the article as if he had nothing to do with it.

The question remains open, although it seems increasingly likely that a lab leak was responsible. However, given Chinese secrecy, there isn’t and may never be an indisputable answer. Nevertheless, Fauci and Collins sought to supply one almost instantly. They instructed NIH-supported scientists, including some who thought the lab leak theory likely, to write a “scientific” paper claiming a lab leak was not “plausible.” Facebook and other social media platforms chimed in to suppress and discredit the disfavored theory.

Why the lies and dissembling? The facts point to the conclusion that Fauci, with Collins in tow, wanted to divert attention from the “gain of function” research that NIAID had sponsored and financed at the Wuhan laboratory in the past.

Such research is intended to make a virus more transmissible, presumably to help scientists learn how to fight it. But, with hospital wards crammed with COVID-19 patients, Fauci evidently didn’t want to make the argument for it. Instead, in later testimony before Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), he advanced slippery definitions and argued he had never pushed “gain of function” research at all.

It should not be surprising that

an institutional leader capable of such dishonesty would, as Fauci has recently admitted, support 6-foot distancing and mandatory masking of schoolchildren with no scientific evidence at all. Others, especially poor students in union-run public school systems, have paid the price.

Not once during the pandemic, as Joseph Nocera and Bethany McLean have reported, did the U.S. government’s vast health research apparatus conduct or finance any random control tests of COVID-19 treatments or protocols.

Others did better. Former New York Times reporter Nicholas Wade and British journalist Matt Ridley have kept probing and, in articles and books, making arguments and turning up evidence in favor of the lab leak theory. In time the FBI and Biden Energy Department have concluded COVID-19 was likely spread by a lab leak.

The matter has become partisan, with Democrats defending Fauci, and left-wing journalists like the Times’ Apoorva Mandavilli claiming the theory has “racist roots,” even though the only significant racism against Asians today comes from selective colleges’ admissions offices, and street and subway thugs.

The inconvenient fact for Republicans is former President Donald Trump acquiesced in Fauci’s recommendations. The inconvenient fact for Democrats is that their defense of Fauci and scorn for the lab leak theory is undercut by the review of the evidence President Joe Biden ordered.

The problem is not so much partisan as institutional. The centralization of health research in a huge NIH and Fauci’s dominance of NIAID for 38 years produced, in an emergency system, not good but bad science. As often happens, attempts to create a fail-safe system ended up creating a system sure to fail.

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Holly Gaskill, Editor
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Let freedom ring

Dear Readers: Wishing you all a very happy Fourth of July. I hope you enjoy the following quotes celebrating independence and freedom.

"We shall go wild with fireworks ... and they will plunge into the sky and shatter the darkness." — Natsuki Takaya

"Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out, because this is your country. This is your democracy. Make it. Protect it. Pass it on." — Thurgood Marshall

"In America, nobody says you have to keep the circumstances somebody else gives you." — Amy Tan

"I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his freedom." — Bob Dylan

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." — Nelson Mandela

"Independence Day: freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed — else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die." — Dwight D. Eisenhower

"We on this continent should never forget that men first crossed the Atlantic not to find soil for their ploughs but to secure liberty for their souls." — Robert J. McCracken

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same." — Ronald Reagan

"True patriotism springs from a belief in the dignity of the individual, freedom and equality not only for Americans but for all people on earth." — Eleanor Roosevelt

"Freedom is nothing but a chance

to be better." — Albert Camus
"The essence of America — that which really unites us — is not ethnicity, or nationality, or religion — it is an idea — and what an idea it is: That you can come from humble circumstances and do great things." — Condoleezza Rice

"Freedom is the open window through which pours the sunlight of the human spirit and human dignity." — Herbert Hoover

"Who ever walked behind anyone to freedom? If we can't go hand in hand, I don't want to go." — Hazel Scott

"What was important wasn't the fireworks, it was that we were together this evening, together in this place, looking up into the sky at the same time." — Banana Yoshimoto

"The fact is, with every friendship you make and every bond of trust you establish, you are shaping the image of America projected to the rest of the world." — Michelle Obama

"I believe in America because we have great dreams, and because we have the opportunity to make those dreams come true." — Wendell L. Wilkie

Annie Lane's second anthology — "How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" — 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. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

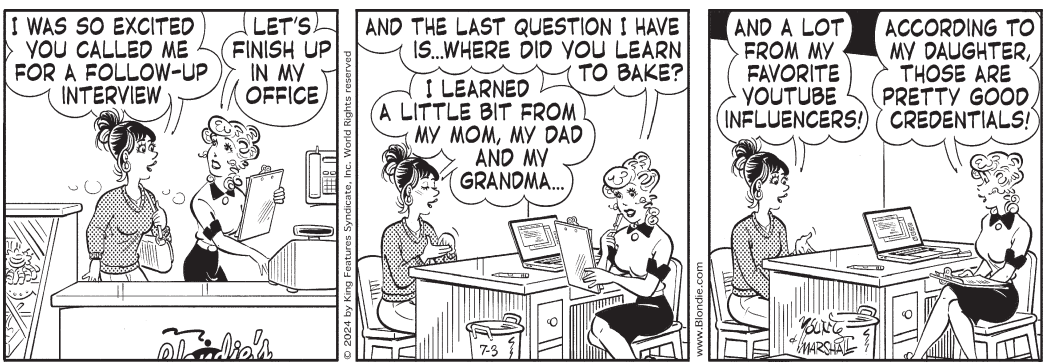
Dear Annie



BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer by Dr. Billy Graham

Faith is the only approach that we have to God

Question: I'm dating a guy and I believe we will be married one of these days. He has a wonderful Christian family and comes from a solid home. I've never known the happiness of a loving family but I want to fit in. I think they are wanting me to become a Christian but, in a sense, I believe I have because I feel such joy when I'm in their presence. Is there something more I should do? — A.C.

Answer: The Bible teaches that faith is the only approach that we have to God. No one has sins forgiven, or assurance of peace and happiness, until each person has put their faith in Jesus Christ.

Joy is a feeling. Inward

peace is a feeling. Love for others is a feeling. Someone may say, "I believe the historic facts of the Gospel." Perhaps so, but faith that saves has one distinguishing quality: Saving faith is a faith that produces obedience — it is a faith that brings about a way of life, making Christ the center.

Some have quite successfully imitated this way of life for a time, but for those who trust Christ for salvation, that faith brings about in them a desire to live out that inward experience of faith. It is a power that results in godly living and surrender.

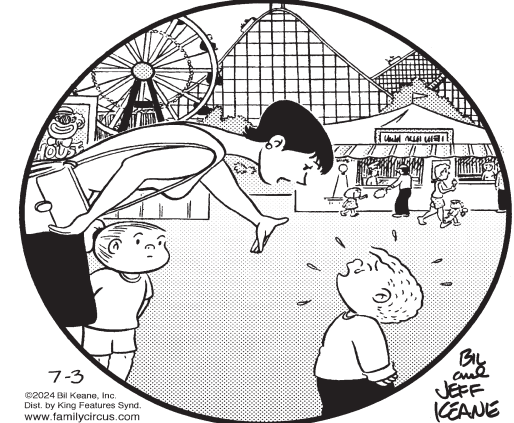
Let that intellectual faith that you may have now yield itself to Christ

in full surrender, earnestly desiring His salvation, and upon the authority of the Word of God you will become a child of God. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12, NKJV).

Saving faith involves an act of commitment and trust, in which a person commits their life to Jesus Christ and trusts Him alone as personal Savior and Lord.

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

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Prego products rival 5 Invoice fig. 8 — bitty 12 Object of worship 13 Actress Vardalos 14 Antitoxins 15 Soccer player's skill 17 "The Rookie" actor Julia 18 — de corps 19 Paint type cry 21 German cry 22 Not many 23 Attorney's field 26 Small barrel 28 Andrew — Webber 31 Sci-fi race 33 British rule of India 35 Pressing need

Solution time: 23 mins.

Crossword grid with letters J A I L A A S M A S K A B L E M L I U L A N M U S I C B O X N I L E S T A L E E A G A T E M E R S I B Y A H O O F I R E P I I T O L A V B A R A A R E M I N I V A N A N T E D E A T P R S M S N B C B O A S T E A L O U M U D B A T H S C O I F A N I W E E P S E R F A K A E W A N

Yesterday's answer 7-3 crossword grid

Table with columns for date, channel, time, and program name. Includes programs like Washington Watch, News-at-5, CBS News, etc.

Mitchell agrees to a 3-year, \$150.3M extension with Cavs

By TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Donovan Mitchell isn't taking his talents anywhere. Not yet, anyway.

The five-time All-Star guard has agreed to a three-year, \$150.3 million contract extension with the Cleveland Cavaliers, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Mitchell's choice to commit to the Cavaliers had been expected for some time. Still, there was plenty of anxiety inside Cleveland's fanbase, which cannot forget LeBron James leaving the franchise as a free agent in 2010 for Miami.

The 27-year-old Mitchell spent much of this past season saying he's happy playing with Cleveland, which acquired him in a 2022 trade from Utah. The Cavs have made the playoffs in both seasons with Mitchell, one of the league's best all-around guards.

He agreed to the extension in Los Angeles over the weekend, according to the person, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the NBA prohibits deals from being announced until its moratorium ends on Saturday. ESPN was first to report Mitchell's agreement.

The extension includes a \$54 million player option for the 2027-28 season, the

person said. Mitchell was under contract for one more season. Technically, Mitchell's new deal means he can become a free agent in three years, raising the Cavs' urgency to compete for a title.

The new deal also allows Mitchell to reach a 10-year criteria, making him eligible for a next extension worth \$380 million.

Shortly after word of Mitchell's extension emerged, he posted a video on social media from the film "The Wolf of Wall Street" in which actor Leonardo DiCaprio profanely announces to his colleagues, "I'm not leaving."

Mitchell also went on Instagram to reiterate his commitment to Cleveland with a video of him driving and discussing his extension.

"All year I've been saying the same (stuff)," Mitchell said while driving. "I'm saying how much I like it every day. It's like, 'Oh, he going to do this. He going to do that.' I don't get it. I don't understand it. I think it's hilarious."

"It's what it is, but I'm glad I got this (stuff) done, man. Glad I got this (stuff) done in Cleveland. Now to get focused. You know what I'm saying? Let's get to it."



Donovan Mitchell

Mitchell was in LA hosting his "Spida Elite" basketball camp for some of the nation's top high school guards. He was visited by Cavs president of basketball operations Koby Altman and Cavs coach Kenny Atkinson, who was formally introduced by the team at a news conference on Monday.

Atkinson, who was Golden State's top assistant the past three seasons, said he and Mitchell chatted mostly about family during their time together. Altman said Mitchell reaffirmed his commitment to the Cavs.

"We feel good about Donovan," Altman said Monday. "He's in a great space mentally. He's healthy. Really enjoyed the fact that him and Kenny could sit down and talk about the future, talk about the team."

"He's invested. He's really invested in what we're doing. Hopefully soon we'll have more of a decisive answer on that for you, but he's been great. He's been super involved and super collaborative and very, very much pro-Cleveland."

The Cavs' bold move — they traded three unprotected first-round picks, forward Lauri Markkanen and guard Collin Sexton to Utah — to get Mitchell two years ago was a surprise.

It appeared he was on his way to play for his hometown New York Knicks before Cleveland swooped in. Mitchell's arrival accelerated the Cavs' rebuild, which began when James left as a free agent for the second time in 2018 for the Lakers.

Mitchell averaged 26.6 points, 6.1 assists and 5.1 rebounds this past season, but he was limited to just 55 games because of a left knee injury. Mitchell was slowed by the injury in the playoffs and pushed through before sitting out Cleveland's final two games in the Eastern Conference semifinals with a calf injury.

The Cavs were eliminated in five games by the eventual champion Boston Celtics and fired coach J.B. Bickerstaff a week later.

In two seasons with Cleveland, Mitchell has averaged 27.5 points, 5.2 assists and 4.6 rebounds. He scored a career-high 71 in his first season in a game against Chicago.

Atkinson understands his charge is to get the most out of Cleveland's "Core 4" of players — Mitchell, guard Darius Garland, forward Evan Mobley and center Jarrett Allen. He also believes there's another level to Mitchell's game and wants to make him one of the league's top five players.

"Why not?" Atkinson said. "With the skill level and the athleticism and the human being, I don't see why we can't."

Veteran, former White Sox SS Tim Anderson designated for assignment by Marlins

MIAMI (AP) — Veteran shortstop and former AL batting champ Tim Anderson was designated for assignment by the Miami Marlins on Tuesday.

Anderson struggled offensively throughout his 65-game stint in Miami, hitting .214 in 234 at-bats with three extra-base hits.

"It's never an easy day when you have to DFA one of your everyday players," Marlins manager Skip Schumaker said before a series-opening game against Boston. "Tim was awesome in the clubhouse. I didn't know him before this year and he was one of the hard-

er workers I've ever been around."

Anderson didn't fulfill the offensive expectations the Marlins anticipated when he signed a one-year free agent deal. The 31-year-old Anderson played his first eight seasons with the Chicago White Sox and batted over .300 four consecutive years. In 2019, Anderson hit .335 and won the AL batting title.

Injuries and a drop-off in production affected Anderson's final season in Chicago. The White Sox declined the \$14 million club option on Anderson's contract and he became a free agent.

First-year Marlins president Peter Bendix made Anderson his first notable free agent addition, signing him to a one-year \$5 million deal in February.

"It's one thing if the guy's not putting in the work and that's an easy move. This was not one of those cases," Schumaker said. "Tough day for us and I hope he lands on his feet somewhere because he's still young and still has a lot to give to the game."

The Marlins recalled infielder Xavier Edwards from Triple-A Jacksonville to take Anderson's spot on the roster.

Caitlin Clark, Angel Reese headline WNBA All-Star team that will face U.S. Olympic team

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese will team up on the WNBA All-Star team to play against the U.S. Olympic team led by A'ja Wilson and Breanna Stewart.

The pair of remarkable rookies were selected Tuesday by a combination of votes from the media, players and fans as well as the league's 12 coaches to play in the game in Phoenix on July 20. It's the 20th All-Star Game in the league's history.

Clark was the leading vote-getter from the fans, receiving 700,735 with her Indiana teammate Aliyah Boston finishing second 72,000 votes behind. Reese was fifth with 381,518 votes. Wilson and Stewart were third and fourth. Wilson gar-

nered 607,300 votes and Stewart had 424,135.

Clark and Reese have been a boon for the WNBA in ratings, merchandise sales and attendance. They are also playing well on the court with Clark third in assists with 6.9 and Reese leading the WNBA in rebounds at 11.4. It's only the eighth time that two rookies have been on the team. The last was Shoni Schimmel and Chiney Ogumike in 2014.

Joining the rookies on the WNBA team were DeWanna Bonner and Brianna Jones of Connecticut, Allisha Gray of Atlanta, Dearica Hamby of Los Angeles, Jonquel Jones of New York, Kayla McBride of Minnesota, Kelsey Mitchell of Indiana, Nneka Ogumike of Seattle and Arike Ogunbowale of Dallas.

Ogunbowale was the

MVP of the 2021 All-Star game which featured the same format of the U.S. team playing a league All-Star team. The WNBA team won that game.

The U.S. team, which will be going for an eighth consecutive Olympic gold medal in Paris later this month, also features Brittney Griner and Diana Taurasi. The pair of Phoenix players will get a chance to play in front of their home crowd in the exhibition game. Taurasi will be vying for a record sixth Olympic gold medal.

Three of Wilson's Las Vegas teammates — Chelsea Gray, Kelsey Plum and Jackie Young — are on the U.S. team. Gray was on the Tokyo Olympic squad while Plum and Young both helped the Americans win the inaugural 3-on-3 gold medal.

All-Star Futures Game headlined by last two No. 2 MLB draft picks

By The Associated Press

The last two No. 2 overall Major League Baseball draft picks will play for the National League in the All-Star Futures Game featuring top prospects.

Washington's Dylan Crews, the second pick in 2023, and Arizona's Druw Jones (2022) headline a group that includes a dozen former first-round selections on both the National League and American League rosters. The

teams were announced on Tuesday for the July 13 game at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas.

Crews is ranked as MLB's No. 4 overall prospect by Baseball America while Jones is the Diamondbacks' No. 3 prospect. The Detroit Tigers' No. 3 pick in last year's draft, Max Clark, is among the former first-rounders on the AL team. He is rated as the Tigers' top hitting prospect and the No. 10 overall prospect in the majors.

Green Valley Tuesday Golf results

This week was the Florida Scramble in the Green Valley Tuesday Senior Golf League.

The winning team was Steve Folk, Arlen

Atts, Ron McDonald and Lou Schorder at -5.

Rick Oates had the closest to pin and Scott Deoff had the longest putt.



Mental Attitude award winners
Concluding the tournament weekend in the Farm League and the Junior League, the mental attitude award was handed out to two players. At top, William Platt receives the Farm League plaque. At bottom, Bear Sprunger receives the Junior League plaque. (Photos submitted)

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

WNBA
Monday's Games
Connecticut 83, Phoenix 72
Seattle 95, Dallas 71
Tuesday's Games
New York 76, Minnesota 67
Chicago 85, Atlanta 77
Indiana at Las Vegas, late
Washington at Los Angeles, late
Wednesday's Games
Phoenix at Dallas, 8 p.m.

BASEBALL

MLB
AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division
W L Pct GB
Baltimore 53 31 .631 —
New York 54 33 .621 1/2
Boston 45 39 .536 8
Tampa Bay 42 42 .500 11
Toronto 39 46 .459 14 1/2

Central Division
W L Pct GB
Cleveland 53 30 .639 —
Minnesota 48 37 .565 6
Kansas City 47 39 .547 7 1/2
Detroit 38 47 .447 16
Chicago 24 63 .276 31

West Division
W L Pct GB
Seattle 47 39 .547 —
Houston 43 42 .506 3 1/2
Texas 39 46 .459 7 1/2
Los Angeles 36 47 .434 9 1/2
Oakland 30 56 .349 17

Monday's Games
Houston 3, Toronto 1
Tuesday's Games

Cleveland 7, Chicago White Sox 6
Boston 8, Miami 3
Toronto 7, Houston 6
Cincinnati 5, N.Y. Yankees 4
Minnesota 5, Detroit 3
Texas 7, San Diego 0
Tampa Bay at Kansas City, late
Baltimore at Seattle, late
L.A. Angels at Oakland, late

Wednesday's Games
Boston (Bello 7-5) at Miami (Rogers 1-8), 6:40 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Fedde 5-3) at Cleveland (Williams 0-0), 6:40 p.m.
Cincinnati (Abbott 7-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Rodon 9-5), 7:05 p.m.
Houston (Blanco 8-3) at Toronto (Kikuchi 4-8), 7:07 p.m.
San Diego (Mazur 1-2) at Texas (Gray 3-4), 8:05 p.m.
Detroit (Montero 0-2) at Minnesota (Festa 1-0), 8:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Peipiot 4-4) at Kansas City (Wacha 4-6), 8:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Daniel 1-0) at Oakland (Estes 2-3), 9:40 p.m.
Baltimore (Burnes 9-3) at Seattle (Gilbert 5-4), 10:10 p.m.

West Division
W L Pct GB
Los Angeles 52 33 .612 —
San Diego 46 43 .517 8
San Francisco 42 44 .488 10 1/2
Arizona 41 43 .488 10 1/2
Colorado 29 55 .345 22 1/2

Monday's Games
N.Y. Mets 9, Washington 7, 10 innings
Colorado 8, Milwaukee 7, 10 innings

Tuesday's Games
Boston 8, Miami 3
St. Louis 7, Pittsburgh 4
N.Y. Mets 7, Washington 2, 10 innings

Cincinnati 5, N.Y. Yankees 4
San Francisco 5, Atlanta 3
Texas 7, San Diego 0
Philadelphia 6, Chicago Cubs 4
Milwaukee at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
St. Louis (Mikolas 6-7) at Pittsburgh (Jones 5-6), 6:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Scott 0-2) at Washington (Parker 5-4), 6:45 p.m.
Cincinnati (Abbott 7-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Rodon 9-5), 7:05 p.m.
San Francisco (Hicks 4-4) at Atlanta (Sale 10-3), 7:20 p.m.
Philadelphia (Wheeler 9-4) at Chicago Cubs (Imanaga 7-2), 8:05 p.m.
San Diego (Mazur 1-2) at Texas (Gray 3-4), 8:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Rea 7-2) at Colorado (Hudson 2-11), 8:40 p.m.

Midwest League
High-A Midwest League Glance
Monday, July 1
Lansing 7, Fort Wayne 1
Tuesday, July 2
Fort Wayne 5, Lansing 0

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

7/3

Miscellaneous

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Lottery Numbers

Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 09-13-25-32-42
 Cash4Life — 02-16-18-32-48, Cash Ball: 03
 Quick Draw Midday — 03-07-08-11-12-28-29-30-32-37-42-47-48-62-65-67-72-73-76-78, BE: 03
 Daily Three-Midday — 05-05-07, SB: 08
 Daily Three-Evening — 08-05-00, SB: 09
 Daily Four-Midday — 01-02-00-02, SB: 08
 Daily Four-Evening — 09-03-06-02, SB: 09
 Quick Draw Evening — 09-12-14-18-19-23-25-29-30-36-38-44-47-48-52-54-63-71-75, BE: 71
 Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$15.9 million

MEGA MILLIONS

04-08-19-31-45; Mega Ball: 11; Megaplier: 4X.

POWERBALL

Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$138 million

LINE CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINES:

Monday editions: Friday by 4 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday editions: day-before by 3:30 p.m.; Saturdays: Friday by 11:30 a.m.

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

SOUTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY School is seeking a second shift custodian. \$20.31 per hour with benefits. Please send a resume of contact rkng@swraiders.com

WELLS COUNTY COMMUNITY

Corrections is seeking an exceptional Administrative Assistant to manage the administration of client files, front desk, and general fiscal accounting operations. Responsibilities include providing executive assistance to the Director and Administration Operations Coordinator and management of the day-to-day office operations. This position is ideal for a well-organized self-motivated individual who possesses outstanding administrative and clerical skills who wants a stable long-term position within a small operation. Our ideal candidate is a detailed oriented self-starter with the ability to take the initiative and work with minimal supervision in a team environment. Candidates applying must be dependable, a team player with a flexible attitude, and have the ability to prioritize the workload under pressure and multiple tasks in a fast-paced changeable environment and show Integrity and be sensitive to confidential information. The ideal candidate is professional and has excellent communication and technical skills. Candidate must have previous experience with small office or team operations and proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office professional software. The position requires detailed data entry as well as acuity working with numbers and budgets and the use of financial software as part of daily operations. Beginning Salary \$39,921 with benefits. Send resume to Attn: Executive Director Poindexter, Wells County Community Corrections, Suite 107, 102 West Market Street, Bluffton, IN. 46714 or blake.poindexter@wellsindiana.org.

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.

INTEVA PRODUCTS, LLC has the following opening in Bluffton, IN: Operations System Standardization Leader to provide IT support for production floor processes working closely with the plant business partners to support and interpret business process requirements into system design and development. 5% Domestic or International travel required. To apply mail resume to Attn: Julian DeBow 1805 W. Lancaster St, Bluffton, IN 46714 and reference job title.

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Miscellaneous

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JULY 11 - 10 a.m. - Online only - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. 100+ skid loader attachments, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 1 trip 40' high side shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter container, various truck take off parts, dump trucks, 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's, pickup trucks, 100+ skid steer attachments & much more! Accepting consignments, 815 Adams St., Decatur. **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 realistic 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 trailer, Commercial Cyclone Rake. Preview: July 11 and 18 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 540 W US 224, Uniondale. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, **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 Johnlok, 260-827-8181, Neal Wohlther, 260-336-2219, Jason Johnlok, 260-273-9177. **Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management**, halderman.com, 800-424-2324.

JULY 20 - 9 a.m. Real Estate, 9:30 Personal Property - Charles (Chuck) Bertsch Estate, owner. 3898E 400N, Bluffton. 1 1/2 story, 2-bedroom home, 36x56 pole barn, 1 acre, Lancaster Township. Hit & Miss engines (Fairbanks Morse 5 hp, Fairbanks Morse 1 1/2 or 2 hp, more), oil well display, 25-30 long guns and pistols, ammo, drill press, mill, snowblowers, trailer, M80 Military hot water heater, chain saws, welders, industrial 3 phase motors, tandem bike, yard tools, hand tools, Dixon ZTR zero turn mower, garden tractor, rear tine tiller, more. Open house July 9, 4-6 p.m. **Miz Lehman Realtors/Auctioneers**, Berne, www.mizlehman.com, 260-589-2903.

JULY 28 - 4 p.m. - Online Only - Multiple consignors, owners. 1,000+ lots! 50+ firearms, long guns & hand guns, large selection of ammo, gun safe, Honda generator, hand tools, household items, lawn & garden, 300 lots of collectible vintage dollhouses, mini dollhouse furniture sets with accessories and much more! Preview July 25, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm Street, Decatur. Pick up July 29, 1-6 p.m., July 30, 9 a.m.-noon. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

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8	2	7	8	6	2	9	9	1
1	8	2	9	4	9	6	2	7
9	6	9	2	7	1	8	2	8
9	7	9	1	2	6	2	8	4
2	1	6	8	7	9	9	2	7
2	8	8	9	2	7	1	6	7

A tale of two trucks: yesteryear and today

I have some very clear memories of the first truck I remember. It was a red 1950-something International Harvester pickup Dad had purchased "pre-owned." We used it for everything. We hauled livestock from an auction barn in Huntington and to market and to the butcher. Sharon or Brenda would back it up in the field to the



Anna Spalding

corn planter or grain drill Bobby or Dad was pulling with seed and fertilizer. Mom would take harvested corn, soybeans, or wheat to the granary for storage or sale, and she'd transport ground corn/pig feed from the granary in Ossian to the farm. The red beast served as Dad's transportation to General Electric on Broadway in Fort Wayne where he worked as a machinist. Mary and I often played school in the bed of the beast, using sacks of feed and the tailgate to serve as school furniture. That truck also provided excellent seating when we occasionally traveled to Waynedale for a drive-in movie.

On weekdays when hauling or transporting had to be done, Dad

drove the car to work and left the truck for Mom. Often she would load us five kids into the cab with her when leaving anyone home wasn't an option. (Twelve years separated the five of us.) Bobby rode shotgun with me on his lap, Brenda sat beside him with Mary on her lap, and Sharon wedged between Brenda and Mom and straddled the floor gear shift. To say we were cozy is an understatement. No need for seatbelts when cramped so tightly. I recall lots of complaining, especially in the summer when we were hot and sweaty and sticking to each other. Air conditioning wasn't a truck feature at the time.

Fast forward six decades.... On June 20, Jim and I purchased a 2020 Sierra 2500 Denali 4 WD pickup with standard bed, crew cab, and white exterior. It replaces our red 2008 long-bed 2500 Chevy Silverado with crew cab. (By the way, it is for sale.) We had been averaging 6-7 mpg when hauling our 31' travel trailer. The plan was to purchase a truck that would get better fuel mileage. Our new-to-us diesel powered pickup on the trip last week from Warsaw to Prophetstown State Park (West Lafayette)



Here's the Thing

and back, recorded 10.1 mpg. And it didn't struggle on any of our Hoosier hills.

This truck has more doodads and features than I could have ever imagined. Were

he alive today, my dad would say "Just more stuff to go wrong and need fixin'." He's not wrong.

Our Denali is equipped with Driver Alert Packages I and II. Jim felt, as we are growing older, we need a little help with our driving. There are cameras all over the exterior of this vehicle. We now have front and rear park assist, lane change alert with side blind zone alert, and rear cross traffic alert. We have forward collision alert, lane departure warning, automatic emergency braking, "intellibeam" headlamps (I'm not kidding when I tell you the headlamps detect lighting conditions and other vehicles and turns high beams on and off as needed.), and following distance indicator. The truck has a safety alert driver's seat that vibrates to warn Jim's butt when certain warnings should be heeded.

And get this....The vehicle has a multicolor head-up display (only one head sees it, the driver). "What's that?" you ask, especially

if you haven't purchased a newer vehicle in some time. On the windshield in the driver's line of sight, information in a 15" area appears: driver's speed, speed limit, active safety alert, navigation, audio, phone, cruise control, collision alert, lane departure, lane keep assist, and low fuel. God forbid one would have to look down at the speedometer and other gauges and read road signs.

Like many new vehicles but nothing like we've ever had before, we have 10-way power front bucket seats, ventilated front seats, and heated front and rear outer seats. The truck will remember where Jim sets his seat and where I prefer it when I drive. We are the same height, but Jim has longer legs and I have a longer torso—it makes a difference. Mirror memory is also a feature on the vehicle, handy when there are two possible drivers. The steering wheel is leather wrapped and heated. And did I mention, we have a sun roof?

We have a "multipro tailgate": it doesn't just fold out like the one on our farm pickup did. It can fold out in any one of four positions. And it extends with a push of a button from inside the cab. There are five pages in the owner's manual dedicated to the operation of the tailgate. What does that tell ya? Also on the exterior, we have

power fold and extend heated trailer mirrors with automatic dim feature. Very necessary for pulling our travel trailer. There's a window in the back of the crew cab looking into the truck bed. Since Java, our chocolate lab, would be the one most often riding in the backseat and she doesn't have thumbs for opening things, she needn't worry. We have a power rear sliding window we can open for her.

By the way, the truck is a classic white and matches our Palomino Solaire travel trailer—the only option I requested.

Here's the Thing: I have no clue what features and options trucks will offer in another half century. I'll leave that to the dreamers, the automotive designers and engineers. What I do know is that this is not a truck of the 1950s made for hauling livestock or moving grain or driving through fields during planting season, although it does have an off-road mode. Yes, we've come a long way, baby.

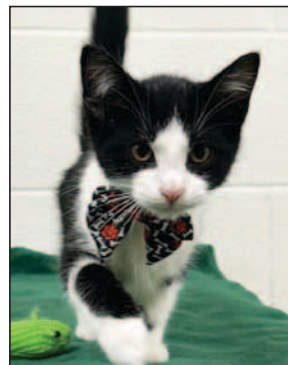
Let's talk.
annaspalding1956@gmail.com

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, 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.

A Talk with Tego



Misty is a 16-week-old, domestic short hair female.



Poncho is a 18-week-old, domestic short hair male.



Shadow is a 18-week-old, domestic short hair female.



Tego

Tego's Tips: These kittens are very sweet and playful!

These are just a few pets available for adoption at the Wells County Animal Shelter, 1613 W. Cherry St., Bluffton. For more information call 824-6063.

July festivals in Indiana

Angola Balloons Aloft: July 12-13, Angola High School for hot air balloon competition. 30 balloons at night illuminations, car show, food and entertainment, free. Info at angola-balloonaloft.com.

Three Rivers Festival: July 12-20, Headwaters Park in Fort Wayne, free. Info at threeriversfestival.org

Circus City Festival: July 13-20, Peru, admission charged for some events. Info at perucircus.com.

St. Joe Pickle Fest: July 18-20, Riverdale School in St. Joe celebrating Sechler's

Pickles. Food, music and more. Info at st.joeindiana.org/pickle-festival.

Quilters Hall of Fame Celebration: July 18-20, 926 S. Washington St., Marion. Exhibits, vendors, workshops, lectures and induction of newest honorees, admission charged. Info at quiltershalloffame.net.

Berne Swiss Days: July 25-27, food, vendors, entertainment, parade, free. Info at swissdaysberne.com

Rolling into Roanoke: July 27, downtown. Over 500 cars, special attractions. info at rollingintoroanoke.com.

ABCINEMA

130 W. Monroe St. Decatur, IN
260-724-SHOW

Despicable Me 4
Wednesday, July 3rd 6:20pm
Thursday, July 4th 2pm & 4:20pm
Friday, July 5th 6pm & 8:20pm
Saturday, July 6th
12:45pm, 1pm555, 3:15pm, 6pm, & 8:20pm
Sunday, July 7th 2pm & 4:20pm
Monday, July 8th 6:45pm
Tuesday, July 9th 6:45pm
Wednesday, July 10th 6:45pm

Horizon: An American Saga - Chapter 1
Wednesday, July 3rd 6pm
Thursday, July 4th 2:30pm
Friday, July 5th 6:30pm
Saturday, July 6th 3:30pm, & 7:15pm
Sunday, July 7th 2:30pm

Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot
Monday, July 8th 6:30pm
Tuesday, July 9th 6:30pm
Wednesday, July 10th 6:30pm

Free Family Film Festival
Trolls Band Together
Presented by ABC Real Estate & Travel and Pizza King of Decatur
Wednesday, July 10th 10am

www.abcinmainc.com

Thank you for reading your local newspaper *The News-Banner*

4th of July SALE

FRIDAY 6/28 - SATURDAY 7/6



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ALL BBQs & GRILLS
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