Russia bombs Kyiv,

hits children's hospital

LUFFTON, INDIANA · Wells County's Hometown Connection



Lewis Brown, middle, discusses how the apparatus works with Bruce Stinson listening intently. Nuts and bolts help keep the drill latched to the board. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

County RSD tackles lawn restoration and final pay request for Kinsland project

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Wells County Regional Sewer District Superintendent Lewis Brown expressed concerns about lawn restoration for various "not so obvious" areas during the RSD's meeting Monday.

After A.J. Springer shared concerns about the timeline of his lawn restoration by VTF Excavation, Brown stated that he is making a list of the areas that still need work done. According to Brown and Ryan LeFeld of ChoiceOne Engineering, VTF stated that the restoration work was done, but both Brown and LeFeld said they will stay on VTF and ensure they keep their end of the restoration deal.

"Lots of seeding has been done, but in my opinion ... they missed the not so obvious," Brown said.

Brown also notified the board that the last connection in Liberty Center has been made. He also noted that one of the pumps in Craigville went down for a short time. Brown believes that the pump started to run at exactly the same time the generator transferred over for its weekly exercise. Brown said the issue has been resolved.

Brown also noted that builders are considering putting duplexes in Craigville and Murray, which means that the RSD will have to decide on the structure of tap fees for the developers of those properties. Brown stated that most of the mainline for properties on 100N in Craigville have connected and in the last two weeks, approxi-

(Continued on Page 2)

Ossian council approves baseball league fee increase and firefighter gear update

By SYDNEY KENTBaseball parents in Ossian will see an increase in fees next year after a motion passed at the Ossian Town Council meeting

The subject was brought to the council's attention at last month's meeting by Crystal Chapman, the town manager. Chapman explained that the current fee is \$10 per player. She proposed an increase to \$40 per child instead to compete with surrounding counties, which range anywhere from \$65-\$80 per child.

On Monday, Chapman told the council that the league was not in agreement with the proposed increase as it would push the total cost to over \$100 per child.

"I wasn't aware they were charging them (more than \$10)," Chapman said. "They're only giving us \$10 (per child)."

The council approved a motion to increase the fee to \$35 per child.

Though the Ossian Parks Department has successfully completed the first concert

of the summer, no members were present at Monday's meeting. Council member Stephanie Tucker pointed out that the department has not met in several months.

"I don't know what's going on," Tucker said. "I think it is problematic with events and concerts going on. I think it's something that may have to be addressed."

President Josh Barkley asked Tucker to

check in with the group.

Ossian Fire Chief Ben Fenstermaker talked to the council about soon-to-beneeded gear for firefighters in order to align with state standards. The council approved a request totaling \$168,929.48 for air packs, masks, two RIT bags for emergency purposes and additional needed items.

Ossian Police Commissioner President Caleb Chichester requested additional funding towards the remodel of the Ossian Police Department. The council approved a motion for \$3,177.59 for new storage bins in cubicles.

(Continued on Page 2)

Breaking down budgets; Why Medicaid costs are growing

By WHITNEY DOWNARD **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

For Clark County's Eva Bell, getting her family on Medicaid's Healthy Indiana Plan was both a relief and an additional stressor. So many of the state's requirements and communications felt arbitrary and random to enrollees, she said.

Combined with the chance that the state could cancel coverage or enact another change, Bell said, "it was always a toss-up on whether — when we went to the doctor - whether we had Medicaid or not.'

"You're so thankful to have this service but at the same time you're so incredibly fearful that at any moment, you're going to find out that for some reason it's just disappeared. And you're just living in that," Bell

For Medicaid's 1.98 million Hoosier enrollees, the pandemic was a reprieve from the seemingly haphazard rules imposed by the Family and Social Services Administration that could put someone's insurance status at risk. But, with those rules either expired or expiring, the state will be revisiting the entitlement program repeatedly identified as the "fastest-growing part" of Indiana's biennial budget.

The 150-member General Assembly will meet again in January to start drafting a new spending plan for the next two years, taking a close look at Medicaid after last year's forecast missed the mark by nearly \$1 billion. The 2025 session will be the first time lawmakers have monthly expense reports alongside enrollment numbers after FSSA implemented the move earlier this year following legislator concerns.

But while state-level politicians decry Medicaid's growth, its underlying causes are less clear — though national experts say Medicaid is growing nationwide. Additionally, Medicaid's costs can't be divorced from local market rates - meaning that as long as Hoosiers pay above-average prices for health care, Medicaid will too.

"Medicaid is not its own health care system. Medicaid is buying services in the overall health care market from plans and providers just like private insurance, just like Medicare. So if overall health care costs are going up, Medicaid costs also might be going up," said Robin Rudowitz, the vice president and director for KFF's Program on Medicaid and the Uninsured.

KFF is a non-profit organization dedicated to health policy, including state decisions made concerning Medicaid.

Whatever the ultimate plan, Hoosier enrollees — all of whom are moderate- to low-income and often don't have another option — will bear the brunt of the state's decisions.

"Every time that you check the mail and you see a letter from FSSA, you're just like, 'Oh my God. They're going to tell me that I lost my health care because I didn't pay a POWER Account. But did I even get that letter this month? How was I supposed to know when to pay that? Or for some other technical reason or somehow they didn't process it. There was always a reason for you to suddenly not have health care," Bell said.

At one point, only one of her three children lost coverage — for a reason Bell still can't determine. The state's administration of HIP and "inconsistent communication" are additionally stressful for parents trying to navigate care for their children.

"When you've got to take your kids to the doctor, what do you do when they tell you that the Medicaid is no good?" Bell

(Continued on Page 2)

Feds approve initial Hoosier internet grant application

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

Indiana's initial application for its \$868 million share of a national "Internet for All" program has won approval, federal officials announced Monday in a joint call with Hoosier officials.

The initiative, dubbed the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment program, was created in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. President Joe Biden's administration has called the \$42 billion program the largest internet funding announcement in his-

"The internet is now the essential tool for communications in our modern world, and yet here we are in 2024 and there are still thousands and thousands of homes across Indiana ... where you cannot get good, high speed, reliable internet service," said Alan Davidson, leader of the National Telecommunications and Information Administra-

"We've been talking about the digital divide in this country for over 25 years, and now, thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we finally have the resources to do

something serious about it," Davidson con-

The approval "unlocks" Indiana's share of the funding, Indiana Chief Broadband Officer Steve Cox told reporters.

"We're ready to get busy," Gov. Eric Holcomb added.

A challenge process — in which Hoosiers and internet service providers can challenge or defend an area's classification as unserved or underserved — ends July 15. Indiana's broadband service map will change, Cox said, once the state submits its findings to the NTIA and wins approval.

His office will prioritize areas considered unserved: where speeds are too low to access the internet or where satellite is residents' only option. Areas considered underserved are next.

Cox said his office aims to begin picking subgrantees — the internet service providers that will build the new infrastructure — in the fall. Awards could be announced before the end of the year.

"The flow of the dough will be hitting go yet this year," Holcomb quipped.

(Continued on Page 2)

Israeli forces continue to advance deeper into Gaza City

Hamas warns escalation threatens cease-fire talks

By SAMY MAGDY and WAFAA SHURAFA **Associated Press**

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli forces advanced deeper into the Gaza Strip's largest city in pursuit of militants who had regrouped there, sending thousands of Palestinians fleeing on Monday from an area ravaged in the early weeks of the nine-monthlong war.

Hamas warned that the latest raids and displacement in Gaza City could lead to the collapse of long-running negotiations over a cease-fire and hostage release, after the two sides had appeared to have narrowed the gaps in recent Israeli troops were again bat-

tling militants in areas that the

army said had been largely cleared months ago in northern Gaza. The military ordered evacuations ahead of the raids, but Palestinians said nowhere feels safe. Most of the population of 2.3 million has been displaced, often multiple times. Hundreds of thousands are packed into sweltering tent camps.

Israel ordered the evacuation of northern Gaza in the first weeks of the war and has prevented most people from returning. But hundreds of thousands of Palestinians remain, living in shelters or the shells of homes.

"We fled in the darkness amid heavy strikes," said Sayeda Abdel-Baki, a mother of three who had sheltered with relatives in the Daraj neighborhood. "This is my fifth displacement."

Residents reported artillery and tank fire, as well as airstrikes. Gaza's Health Ministry, with limited access to the north, did not immediately report casualties.

Israel issued additional evacuation orders for areas in other neighborhoods of central Gaza City. The military said it had intelligence showing that militants from Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad group were in the area, and called on residents to head south to the city of Deir al-Balah.

Israel accuses Hamas and other militants of hiding among civil-(Continued on Page 9)

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Thunder and lightning and rain, oh my

Wed. Thursday **Today** High 82 High 75 | High 79 Low 67 | Low 62 | Low 63 More Weather on Page 2



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County RSD

mately seven properties on 400N near Kingsland connected, meaning that almost all the properties on that road have connected.

Brown also announced that he developed an inhouse solution for drilling weep holes into sewer lines. Weep holes are necessary to help drain the sewer line of any excess water and prevent water damage to property. In order to install the weep hole, however, they need to head down into the sewer pit with a three-man crew supervising.

Brown built an apparatus made of wood and a few nuts and bolts which allows them to attach a drill to the wood, drop it into the pit and drill the weep hole without

forcing any personnel to go into the hole. This will save cost on training personnel that head into the pit and save time in taking out check valves and clearing the way for the drilling process.

"A temporary solution to a \$10,000 problem," Brown

LeFeld also stated that the final pay request for the Kingsland project by VTF was requested and paid out by the RSD. The release of retainage totals \$155,619.92. While VTF still works seeding and yard restoration, a maintenance bond still keeps VTF around for various maintenance items, like concrete and sidewalk cracks that may pop up over the next year. Should VTF not follow through with maintenance, the RSD can pull the bond and get partially compensated for the money they invested into that bond.

"They're (VTF) not going to want their bond pulled because that's another strike on their record," LeFeld said. "I have a hard time seeing that they would want to damage their name on a bond over seven or eight properties."

LeFeld also stated that in order for SRF to accept the RSD's financing application for its new truck, it needs to add an equipment piece and classify it as a work truck, instead of just transport. LeFeld noted that the RSD can easily find a crane, making it a work truck and allowing SRF to finance the expense. The application

will need to be resent with the additions.

LeFeld also stated that a project priority list relating to the Tocsin project from SRF is expected to arrive sometime this week. While LeFeld noted that the official list does not come until August, this list gives the RSD an idea on where the Tocsin project falls in terms of importance and financing capabilities from SRF.

The RSD also paid \$15,976.83 as part of their monthly bills. They also approved three SRF Disbursement Requests, one for Miller, Burry and Brown, costing \$60, ChoiceOne Engineering costing \$805 and Wessler Engineering, costing \$8,450.

jonathan@news-banner.com

Weather

Tuesday, July 9, 2024 (24-hour observations at 10:03 p.m. Monday) **High:** 88; **Low:** 65; **Precipitation:** None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.37 feet at 8:45 p.m. Monday

Wells County forecast

Today: A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 11 a.m. Cloudy, with a high near 82. Southwest wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Tonight: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Low around 67. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New rainfall amounts between three quarters and one inch possible.

Wednesday: 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 75. East wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northwest in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.

Wednesday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11 p.m., then a slight chance of showers between 11 p.m. and $\bar{2}$ a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 63. **Friday:** A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Sunny, with a high near 83.

Friday Night: A 10% chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 p.m. Mostly clear, with a low around 65.

Saturday: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 85.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 68. Sunday: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 87.

Partly cloudy, with a low around 71.

Sunday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Ossian Town Council

The meeting came to a close with Barkley acknowledging the recent death of a beloved town employee, Sally Bracke.

Bracke served as a devoted deputy clerk-treasurer for 27 years until her retirement in April 2021. However, she continued to lend her expertise, love, and support in a part-time role as needed.

'Obviously she was a very valuable employee," Barkley said. "But also she personally helped me a lot over the years, and Angie and — just everybody. She will be deeply missed."

The council also:

• Approved pay application number two to API Construction Resources for work on Melching Court in the amount of \$139,533.47.

 Approved payment to API Construction in the amount of \$377,611.08 for work on "various streets."

 Approved a final payment to Ottenweller Construction for work on the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$32,569.93.

• Approved a utility adjustment for a resident with flooding issues. • Continued conversation about

potentially gifting back approximately two acres of land that was donated and used by OD, Inc.

Prior to the meeting, a public hearing was held for the approval of additional appropriations, during which no one gave public comment. The following appropriations were approved: \$190,000 for MVH unrestricted fund number 2201 as part of the Community Crossings Matching Grant, \$150,000 for the riverboat fund, \$40,000 for the park access drive at Archbold-Wilson Park, \$212,103.75 for the Local Road and Bridges fund as part of work on Melching and Hillside courts, and \$1,500 for Parks and Recreation as part of a tourism grant.

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Medicaid costs

(Continued from Page 1) What we know about Medicaid's growth

Short term, one reason why Medicaid is getting more expensive for states is that enhanced federal funding connected to the COVID-19 pandemic is expiring. During that time, Indiana couldn't boot any Hoosiers off of the program and the federal government increased its share of program costs.

For Indiana, that meant that even as its Medicaid rolls swelled it saved money because the federal government paid for three-quarters of the costs, rather than the traditional two-thirds. Indiana has mostly concluded its review of beneficiaries, which is higher than pre-pandemic norms. In a nationwide survey, state Medicaid directors reportedly expected state costs to go up 17.2% in this fiscal year "primarily due to the phase out of enhanced federal Medicaid matching funds.

"That is a one-time bump. It seems like a high rate but it's really because it's making up for the re-shift back to the regular match rate," Rudowitz said. "... when you look at total Medicaid spending, total Medicaid spending (growth) was actually expected to be quite moderate because enrollment is coming down."

Long-term growth is a different story that hinges on the country's aging and unhealthy population.

The tab for the 2024-2025 fiscal year came out to \$26 billion, including both federal and state dollars. For state spending alone, Medicaid cost \$8.2 billion. The state spends a lower percentage of its total state expenditures on Medicaid when compared to other states, or 11% compared

with a national average of

According to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, total Medicaid spending swelled to \$805.7 billion in 2022, or 18% of the national health expenditure, but trailed behind total spending for private health insurance and Medicare.

But Medicaid also grew the fastest that year, up 9.6% from the year before, while Medicare and private health insurance spending both grew by 5.9%.

On average, Indiana's Medicaid expenditure growth per enrollee has lagged behind the national average, averaging 1.5% from 1991 to 2020 versus 2.8% nationally — even though Indiana's rolls over that time grew faster than the national average, or 5.2% annually versus

Going forward, Medicare's growth is expected to eclipse other insurers due to the oncoming "silver tsunami," when the nation's Baby Boomer generation will all be at retirement age and start utilizing the program at higher rates. But experts still predict that Medicaid expenditures will grow faster than those in the private sector.

A KFF analysis of Medicaid spending per full-benefit enrollee by enrollment group found that Indiana stood out for its spending on two groups: adults and expansion adults. In both categories, it ranked secondhighest in the nation. In all other categories, including seniors and those with disabilities, Indiana paid less per enrollee than the national average.

One reason is because Medicaid is the primary payer for long-term services and supports, such as nursing homes, that Medicare doesn't cover. Over half of the \$438 billion spent nationally on long-term care in 2022 came from Medicaid, according to KFF. "Long-term services and

supports are extraordinarily expensive, whether you're in an institution or in the community," Rudowitz said. "... Basically, you're either paying out of pocket for these costs if you have the resources. But many people do not have those resources and wind up relying on the Medicaid program.'

Elderly and disabled Medicaid beneficiaries make up roughly one-third of the overall population but account for 94% of expenditures — making their health care more expensive than the average user.

By 2030, an estimated 20% of Hoosiers will be retirement age. The growing number of older Hoosiers was one of the reasons why FSSA pivoted to managed care for long-term services this summer, a move that makes expenditures more stable and predictable for states but may deliver mixed results to enrollees.

What Indiana controls in terms of Medicaid

The state does have some flexibility when it comes to the Medicaid program. For example, eligibility for children is at least 133% of the federal poverty level (\$25,820 for a family of three) but nearly every state has increased that minimum to include families earning slightly more, including Indiana.

'The federal government sets these broad rules for the program and then states have a lot of discretion in terms of flexibility in covering optional populations and optional services and how services are delivered," Rudowitz said.

Some of the tailoring is done in the state plan amendment, such as Indiana's decision to expand Medicaid to moderateincome families under HIP. Other changes need special approval from the federal government under a waiver, such as the state's decision to charge monthly fees to enrollees known as POWER Accounts. Some states have opted to use a waiver to expand payments to parents under attendant

Indiana isn't one of the handful of states that ease the transition process for the formerly incarcerated by enrolling them onto Medicaid 30 days before their release. Nor is it one of the dozen states that explicitly covers doulas - instead Indiana uses its Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant to cover services.

Other add-ons — such as work requirements are often approved and rescinded by presidential administrations. Under the Trump administration, states were encouraged to implement work requirements but the Biden administration reversed those approvals upon taking office.

Recent legislation has sought to address two potential areas of savings: reducing the state's overall high health care prices and improving the state's dismal public health met-

Work on the former has been slow going as stakeholders disagree on the best approach to reduce costs. The state will revisit a 2023 program in the upcoming session that invested \$225 million in local public health departments and funded initiatives focused on smoking cessation and infant health.

Internet grant

(Continued from Page 1) But it's unclear how quickly Hoosiers with no or bad internet could start seeing improvements.

Some areas of the state will be easier to connect.

'Some of the timeframe. as to how quickly (subgrantees) get those built out will probably depend more on on the individual (internet service providers) and the resources they have, and specifically what areas they begin building out," Cox said.

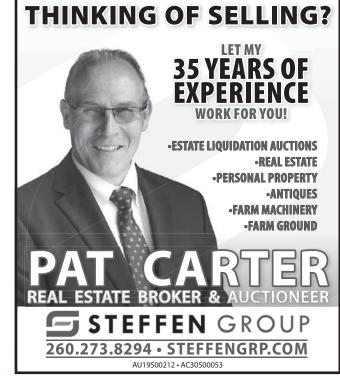
Parts of Southern Indiana, he noted, have limestone and bedrock close to the ground surface, which makes it harder and more expensive to add broadband infrastructure.

Holcomb's administration has already spent about \$600 million on broadband through its Next Level Connections and Indiana Connectivity programs. The efforts leveraged hundreds of millions more dollars from local units of government and the private

"When you add that all up, we've invested over a billion dollars of state and local, and private sector, skin in the game," Holcomb said. "Now along comes this \$868 million federal investment and ... we're going to put it to good use.'

Holcomb is term-limited, and will be out of office at the turn of the year. The federal program, however, will

"That work will go on, which is a real strength, knowing that work will go on for another steady three or four years," he said.





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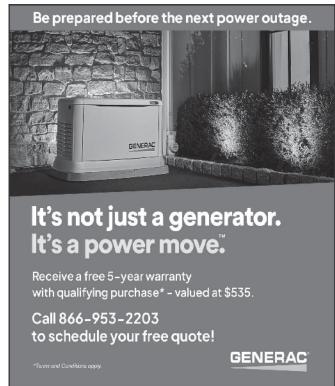
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Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County: Friday, 3:15 p.m., 1700E 250N, Bluffton. Woman reported someone using her

address to buy items. Friday, 8:45 p.m., 1200N 500E, Bluffton. Report of two men in a blue truck yelling obscenities about subject being a sex offender.

Friday, 9:12 p.m., North 400W and S.R. 116, Markle. Caller reported daughter ran vehicle into tree. No injuries.

Friday, 11:48 p.m., 600 block of Sandalwood Drive. Caller reported fireworks in

Saturday, 1:44 a.m., Main and Elm streets, Bluffton. Driver from Poland taken to hospital for blood draw after smelling of alcohol. Subject insisted his rights were violated because he could not vape in the hospital, and that he should not be treated that way because he was not Black or from Africa. Maksym Dudin arrested for operating without a license and operating while intoxicated.

Saturday, 8:30 p.m., 4300N 300W, Markle. Report of gunshots. Subjects were shooting in opposite directions.

Sunday, 10:15 a.m., 2700 block of Southwest Higgins Street, Bluffton. Report of theft of tools and items in the amount of \$7,414.25.

Monday, 8:14 a.m., South 300W and West 500S, Bluffton. Report of semi truck unable to turn around, traffic management allowed truck Bond set at \$1,500. to drive through safely.

Ossian:

Friday, 12:04 a.m., 500 Ossian. Report of fireworks

Friday, 2:11 p.m., 2900E U.S. 224, Ossian. Report of a subject hired to help but being nothing but trouble. Subject left before officer arrival.

Friday, 6:09 p.m., Silo Farms. Report of a custody

Friday, 11:18 p.m., Melching Drive and Davis Road, Ossian. Report of fire-

Saturday, 5:54 a.m., 1900E 800N, Ossian. Report of a single vehicle accident with possible head injury. Driver alert but confused, taken to hospital.

Saturday, 7:15 a.m., S.R. 1 and U.S. 224, Ossian. Officer changed a flat tire.

ARRESTS Richard Eugene Connett, 60, Bluffton; driving with no financial responsibility, a Class C misdemeanor.

Booked and released. April Mae Mahon, 51, Bluffton; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at

\$5,500. Nolan Lee Crump III, 19, Bluffton; possession of narcotics, a Level 6 felony, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$5,500.

Maksym Dudin, 21, Bluffton; operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor.

Samuel Fabian Fuentes, 39, New Haven; possession of marijuana, a Class A misblock of Morton Lane, demeanor, and operating while intoxicated, a Class C Booked and released.

after midnight. Subjects misdemeanor. Bond set at

Jason Thomas Woznicki, 18, Markle; operating without ever obtaining license, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Chad Michael Strubing, 44, Ossian; probation violation, a Level 6 felony. No

Kevin Arnoldo Hernandez Grijalva, 27, Bluffton; operating without ever obtaining a license, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and

Bryan Daniel Jaramillo, 28, Fort Wayne; operating without ever obtaining license, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and

Maiquitio Chevez McDaniel, 32, Marion; probation violation, a Level 6 felony. No bond set.

Chelsea Rae Ridley, 29, Fort Wayne; possession of marijuana, a Class A misdemeanor and providing alcohol to a minor, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at

Anijah Tyshae Matthews, 19, Fort Wayne; operating while intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor, possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, and operating with controlled substance in body and minor in possession of An alcoholic beverage, both Class C misdemeanors. Bond set at \$3,000.

Devon Wayne Denny, 23, Ossian; theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Richard Eugene Connett, 60, Bluffton; driving without financial responsibility, a Class C misdemeanor.



Hiking adventure at Ouabache

Ouabache State Park was the site of an adventure for families to enjoy on Monday morning as the Wells County Public Library and the park staff offered a guided hike of one of the park's five trails. Helping the hikers to identify trees was the park's Interpretive Naturalist Lydia Ade, at left. The activity was one of the library's summer reading themed programs for "Adventures Begin at the Library." (Photo provided)

Fort Wayne man arrested after **Pokagon State Park shooting**

Indiana Conservation Officers, the Steuben County Sheriff's Department and Indiana State Police are investigating a shooting incident Saturday at Pokagon State Park.

At approximately 10:45 p.m., officers responded to reports of a shooting in a parking lot at the park. The suspect was apprehended immediately.

A male victim suffered a gunshot wound to the

Optimists offer

leg. Two additional victims, including a 9-year-old female and a 38-year-old male, suffered injuries from bullet fragments.

Maung Oker Aung, 25, of Ft. Wayne, was taken into custody and booked into the Steuben County Jail. He faces preliminary charges of battery with a deadly weapon, a level 5 felony, and criminal recklessness, a level 6 felony.

The Indiana Department County Prosecutor's Office.

of Natural Resources is receiving collaborative support from several agencies in this investigation. Alongside the Steuben County Sheriff's Department and Indiana State Police, assistance was provided by the Angola Police Department, Fremont Police Department, Steuben County Communications, Angola Fire Department, and Steuben County EMS, and the Steuben

Local Roundup

Health board holds special session Thursday morning

The board of the Wells County Health Department will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 11, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

The board will hear from the Indiana Department of Health and Dr. Lindsay Weaver, chief medical officer for the IDOH, about Health First Indiana.

Visitors Commission reschedules meeting

The Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission will not meet Wednesday, July 10, and instead hold their monthly meeting the following week, at 8 a.m. Wednesday, July 17, at the Wells County Commerce and Visitors Centre, 211 Water St. in Bluffton.

Log Cabin hosts various events during 4-H fair

A variety of programs have been planned this year for the Log Cabin Area during the annual Wells County 4-H Fair, July 13 – 18. The pioneer cabin built in 1855 will be open for touring on Saturday, July 13, 6-8 p.m.; and Sunday, July 14, 2-8 p.m. The hours on Monday – Thursday, July 15-18 will be 4-8

Entertainment, speakers and demonstrations have been scheduled for each evening, Sunday – Thursday, in front of the Cabin. The music group "Standing Room Only", a trio of mountain dulcimer musicians, will play on Sunday, July 14 at 3-5 p.m. They will explain the mountain dulcimer instrument and demonstrate the unique music. In addition, local weaver Janel Franks and other volunteers will demonstrate pioneer fiber and crafts.

Back by popular demand on Monday, July 15, 6:30 p.m. is the Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehabilitation Center with their various raptors such as hawks, owls and falcons.

They will also have an American Bald Eagle which they will feature. The staff from the rehab center will explain the work that they do to help preserve these unique

Staff from Ouabache State Park will be presenting "Pioneer Games" on Tuesday, July 16, 6:30 p.m. On Wednesday, July 17, 6:30 p.m., local Native American Historian Ash Anderson will be presenting "Native American Way of Life." Anderson grew up in Wells County and will share some of his knowledge about Native Americans that lived in Indiana and the Midwest.

The Ouabache State Park staff will present "Owls of Indiana" on Thursday, July 18, 6:30 p.m. They will share information about how to identify owls by their sounds, their habitat and food sources.

The Wells County 4-H Fair is free and open to the public. Some bleacher seating is available at the Log Cabin Area, and you may bring lawn chairs for the programs.

pork chops at the 4-H fair The Bluffton Optimist

Club will be sponsoring a Pork Chop Dinner on Tuesday, July 16, 4-7 p.m. at the Cook House Patio/Food Pavilion, during the 4-H

The meal includes a smoked pork chip, cheesy potatoes, apple sauce and a beverage. Eat in or carry out is available. Cost of the meal is \$12.

Advance tickets are available from any Optimist Club member, at the Purdue Extension Office at the 4-H Park and from Steve Higgins (call or text 260-273-

Proceeds from the fund raiser will benefit Optimist youth projects including: Youth Leadership Forum, Miss Wells County Queen Pageant, Kids Fishing Derby, High School Career Day, Kids Pedal Tractor Pulls, Library Summer Reading Program Essay and Oratorical Contests and the Feeding Tomorrows Future Today (weekend food packs for hungry kids in Wells County).

For more information about the Kids Pedal Tractor Pull that the group sponsors or the Optimist Club contact Steve Higgins at 260-273-

Senior Gitizen's Lunch

Thursday, July 18th • 11:30^{am}

New Hone Lutheran Church

8824 N. State Road 1 • Ossian, IN 46777 **Performance by: Senior Saints**

i ne Senior Saints, an energetic group of 7 i retiree from 31 churches in the greater Fort Wayne area, will present Way to Go! A musical about methods of travel through the ages. The program includes songs and narration. Songs include Wait for the Wagon, Cruising Down the River, The Wabash Cannon Ball, Bicycle Built for Two, and In My Merry Oldsmobile. Songs of faith include Life's Railway to Heaven, Walking with the King, Just a Closer Walk, Precious Lord Take My Hand, Jesus Led me All the Way and I'll Fly Away.

Call or text 260-415-1462 or 260-223-4830 to reserve your spot.

Free will offering to defray cost.

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HIRING

Full-time

Historical walking tours of Bluffton available July 18

The Wells County Public Library in Bluffton and the Wells County Historical Society and Museum have teamed up to offer a walking tour to view the outside and inside of several downtown Bluffton buildings on Thursday, July

Two identical tours will be offered. The first will be at 4 p.m. and the second will be at 6 p.m. Plan to meet on Market Street, in front of the Courthouse. The tour is free, but reservations are needed. Reserve your spot for the tour at: wellscounty.librarycalendar. com/events/month. or by calling the library at 824-1612.

The tours will be led by Jim Sturgeon, Wells County Historian and President of the Wells County Historical Society and Museum. The walking tours will last approximately 1 hour.

For more information about Wells County Historical Society and Museum events, go to: wchs-museum.org or www.facebook. com/WellsCoHistory

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Enjoying the dog days of summer with two cool canines

Since we're now in the dog days of summer — the 40-day period that lasts from July 3 to Aug. 11 — it seems only appropriate to use today's space to write about the two 100-plus-pound pooches that make my wife and I smile every day.



"How are you doing today,

It's a question that I get asked a couple of times a month when I stop to pick up a chai at a coffee shop near where we live.

Santiago, however, is my 4-year-old golden retriever. He's named after the Camino de Santiago, a 500-mile hike across Spain that I completed with a friend during the dog days of summer in 2017.

The employees at the coffee shop think I'm Santiago; I haven't had the heart to tell them he's actually my 110-pound golden retriever who looks like a lion but acts like the lion from "The Wizard of Oz."

Let me explain.

The coffee shop allows you to order ahead of time from your phone so that your drink is ready by the time you get there. Since the account is under my wife's name, I always used to look for the cup labeled Jennifer. It never occurred to me, however, that Jennifer is a common name.

Just how common?

So common that two weeks in a row there were two Jennifers that put in orders at about the same time. And both weeks I walked out of the store with the wrong drink because I only looked at the name instead of also checking the drink label.

Oops. I hope the other Jennifer likes chai.

I convinced my wife to change our account name to Santiago — a logical choice since our golden retriever enjoys pup cups from the coffee shop much more than I savor my weekly chai.

While the change solved one problem, it has created another. The kind and gracious employees go out of their way to use first names when they see you on a regular basis. For me, that's every Friday a little after 6

I have been Santiago for almost a year and haven't shared with them yet that I'm Justin and that Santiago is out in the car drooling in anticipation of the pup cup I'm about to bring him. The employees are always so busy early in the morning that I never want to slow them down by telling them my Santiago story. Maybe I'll just leave a copy of today's News-Banner on the counter.

The Fourth of July has come and gone but the loud fireworks that accompany the holiday seem to start earlier and last longer each year.

I am by no means a curmudgeon when it comes to fireworks, as I enjoy them as much today as when I was a kid. Starting to hear the loud explosions several days before July 4 and several days afterward, however, seems a bit much.

Our 6-year-old Bernese mountain dog, Alicia, is petrified and rendered motionless as soon as she hears the first bang each night as the night sky is illuminated by

We rescued her from a puppy mill in February 2023; she has been scared of thunderstorms and fireworks since we brought her home.

She makes a dash for the basement, bathroom or closet as soon as she hears the first firework each night. The extra-long firework frenzy this year has caused us to give her some chill pills that our vet prescribed upon hearing how stressed and distressed she is. We're thankful they work to take off the edge.

Call me a party pooper, but it seems like a week-plus of fireworks detracts from the joy of celebrating the Fourth on July 4.

Alicia would agree.

jdpeeper2@hotmail.com

Today in History

By The Associated Press Today is Tuesday, July

9, the 191st day of 2024. There are 175 days left in the year. Ťoday's Highlight in

History: On July 9, 1868, the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified, granting citizenship and "equal protection under the laws" to anyone "born or naturalized in the United States," including formerly enslaved people.

Also on this date:

In 1850, President Zachary Taylor died of gastrointestinal illness after consuming a large amount of cherries and iced milk on a hot day five days earlier; Vice President Millard Fillmore was sworn in as president the following day.

In 1896, William Jennings Bryant delivered his famous "Cross of Gold" speech at the Democratic National Convention in Chi-

In 1918, 101 people were killed in a train collision in Nashville, Tennessee in the deadliest US rail disaster in

In 1943, during World War II, the Allies launched Operation Husky, the inva-

sion of Sicily. In 1944, during World War II, American forces secured Saipan as the last

Japanese defenses fell. In 1947, the engagement of Britain's Princess Elizabeth to Lt. Philip Mountbatten was announced.

In 1965, the Sonny & Cher single "I Got You Babe" was released by ATCO Records.

In 1982, Pan Am Flight 759, a Boeing 727, crashed in Kenner, Louisiana, shortly after takeoff from New Orleans International Airport, killing all 145 people aboard and eight people on the ground.

The News-Banner

Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929

News-Banner Publications, Inc.

George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board Doug Brown, President, Publisher Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714. Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St. Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

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

Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor



What we've already learned from the cognitive test Biden won't take

President Biden's refusal to undergo a cognitive assessment is wrong on the medical merits and wrong as a matter of political calculation — unless, of course, he fears testing would reveal problems that would further imperil his candidacy.

Biden's explanation for refusing testing is unconvincing. It is, frankly, an insult to voters who saw what they saw at the debate and in other settings, and who reasonably want assurances that the president is capable of serving another four years.

"Look. I have a cognitive test every single day. Every day I have that test. Everything I do. You know, not only am I campaigning, but I'm running the world," he told ABC's George Stephanopoulos on Friday.

Stephanopoulos asked, three times, about a full neurological and cognitive examination. Three times the president demurred. "No one said I had to. No one said," Biden offered. "They said I'm good."

Would you accept this answer from your elderly parent facing similar circumstances — or would you press them to seek medical attention? Of course you would make sure they had a full work-up, if only to ensure that they were receiving appropriate care. If Biden's family is resisting this step, they are doing him a terrible disservice.

By the way, this would be a reasonable request of any individual seeking election at Biden's age — or at Donald Trump's, for that matter. The presidency is uniquely stressful. Biden would be 82 on being sworn into a second term, 86 on leaving office. That's old, and older people decline, cognitively

and physically. This ineluctable fact requires additional safeguards before and after electing someone of that age to the presidency.

With the refusal to have a cognitive examination, Biden and his campaign are caught in a contradiction of their own making.

Before the debate disaster, Biden's repeated retort to age-related concerns was simple: watch me. We did and what we saw was worrisome.

So, the campaign has effectively acknowledged that it now has the burden of demonstrating Biden's fitness — but declined to take the most sensible step toward achieving that goal.

Why? What is the reasonable argument — other than avoiding politically inconvenient results — for not doing so? And declining to have testing is not like refusing to testify. It can and should be used against you in the court of public opinion.

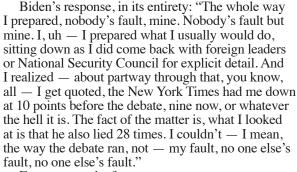
A scant 22 minutes with Stephanopoulos doesn't do it — and Stephanopoulos chose to limit his questions to the issues of Biden's fitness and whether he

would remain in the race. He didn't probe - and there have been few other opportunities for interviewers to engage in rigorous questioning to test Biden's ability to answer questions on economic policy, foreign affairs and other matters.

And though Biden's performance wasn't in any way disqualifying, it wasn't exactly reassuring either. "I don't think I did, no," is not the optimal answer to the question of whether Biden had re-watched the debate. And Biden's answer to whether he

grasped how badly it was going in real time — well, that could have been typical Biden rambling, something that those of us who have covered him have witnessed for years, or it could have

Marcus



Excuse me, what?

To be a politician, to run for and assume the presidency, is to inhabit a sphere of egocentrism and entitlement unfamiliar to most of us. There is an I-alonecan-fix-it aspect to every successful political figure.

Biden has been admirably clear about the enormity of the stakes in November, but he seemed resolutely unwilling to acknowledge the reality of his diminished capacities and the risks that presents. In Biden's telling, polls aren't as reliable as they used to be. Elected officials are always "a little worried." For his part, Biden said, "I don't think anybody's more qualified to be president or win this race than me.'

If Biden remains on the ticket, as he vowed to do unless "the Lord Almighty came down and said 'Joe, get out of the race," I will vote for Biden over Trump no matter what happens from now to Election Day. The risk of diminished Biden is far less than that of empowered and reelected Trump.

But many voters may be less certain than I about that choice. All of us deserve the fullest and most upto-date information about the president's health. His unwillingness to provide that speaks volumes.

ruthmarcus@washpost.com.

Jack Smith should go away

Even the Democratic deus ex machina is having a bad stretch.

No matter how favorable the presidential race has looked for Donald Trump, there's always been the possibility that Special Counsel Jack Smith would get to trial with his Jan. 6 case before the election and, at the very least, dominate the news cycle for weeks and, in all likelihood, convict Trump in a case involving more serious matters than hush money to a porn star.

Now that President Joe Biden stumbled so badly in the first presidential debate, lawfare is more important than ever to Democrats, but Jack Smith's J6 case is hanging by a

Democrats blame the Supreme Court, which has undercut Smith in two new decisions. In the belief that what the situation requires is a futile and stupid gesture, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez says she's going to file articles of impeachment against conservative justices.

Yet, it is Smith who has forced novel and sensitive legal issues to the fore. The Biden Justice Department and Democrats may believe that it's the role of the Supreme Court to expedite a politically motivated, legally dubious prosecution of a majorparty presidential candidate prior to a national election, but it's not.

Because what Smith is doing is unprecedented, it has raised questions



that haven't been answered before — such as, you know, whether a former president of the United States can be prosecuted at all.

If the Biden Justice Department wanted such questions decided well before the 2024 election, it needed to indict Trump earlier than August 2023

As it is, Jack Smith has **LOWIV** been in a race against the clock because the political

usefulness of his prosecution disappears after Election Day 2024, and if Trump wins, the prosecution itself goes away. This means that Smith, against Justice Department guidelines, is conducting his prosecution on a political timetable.

The Supreme Court just made Smith's hope to get the case to a jury sometime soon much harder by concluding that presidents have immunity for their official acts, and some of the Jan. 6 charges, indeed, involve official acts. The obvious play for Jack Smith would be to strip his case down to charges involving private acts, such as the so-called fake electors scheme. Since the Supreme Court majority said even that isn't clear-cut, though, the way would be open for Trump to appeal — with its attendant delays — an even more minimal case.

The majority opinion, written by Chief Justice John Roberts, is not unassailable, but neither is it wildly unreasonable or going to lead to future presidents droning their political opponents with impunity.

Meanwhile, two of Smith's charges rely on a provision passed as part of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act after the 2001 Enron scandal that doesn't obviously have applicability to the events of Jan. 6. Last week, a majority of the Supreme Court — in a decision joined by Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, by the way — adopted a narrow reading of the law, further complicating Smith's task.

It would be better if these matters of law were being decided as abstract questions without knowing who will be affected one way or the other before a national election, but Jack Smith has made that impossible.

A more modest prosecutor never would have gotten himself or the country in this fix.

It is very fitting that Smith's appointment as special counsel may itself be constitutionally defective, and is under serious challenge in the classified documents case he is pursuing in Florida.

By rights, he should go away. Smith represents the worst tendency of the law-enforcement and nationalsecurity establishment since Trump's rise to prominence in 2016. The basic idea has been that it's OK to stretch or break norms as long as it's in the cause of opposing Trump. Showing remarkably poor judgment, Smith assumed that everyone, including the Supreme Court of the United States, would go along.

Now that it hasn't, he's poorly positioned to assist Joe Biden when

he needs it most. Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

A neighbor's good deed was a gift from God

Summer is in full swing. It's not my favorite season, but I never would want to do without it. Just this afternoon. Joshua came running up to me with a fresh cucumber he picked for me. I took a bite off the end—the 'tail end', which is the sweetest. Mmm. Summer, yeah, I do like summer. Little boys with tanned cheeks, beads of sweat, and broad smiles over their latest find in the garden... it all marks the joys of summer.

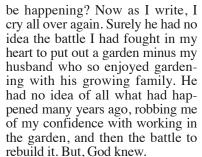
Surely we do nothing actually to deserve these goodies from the garden, it's like a touch from his hand of provision.

A couple of weeks ago, I had this profound reminder of the providence of God. It was one of those afternoons the children and I were outdoors. I asked the boys, ages nine and six, to take the little wagon to the barn, line it with a tarp, and scoop up a load of manure and straw mixture. We needed to do another hitch of mulching in the garden. At about that time our neighbor, Mr. Wengerd, stopped by with the tractor, I didn't think much about it, "He probably needs something in the shop," I thought to myself.

Though I never really found out what he needed, I did find out what happened next. A short time later he had pulled up to the garden with a load of mulch which he had scooped from the box stall in the barn and wondered where he could put it. My eyes widened. Could it what I need and how to fill it?

The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



Our neighbor didn't stop to tell me what I had done wrong or what I should do differently, he took the time to do what Jesus would do if he were still on earth.

Somewhat dazed, I pointed to the area I would do next and told him our plan. Soon he had our three young boys around him, they were all helping in their own way. Their voices rang with joy as they enjoyed working with an adult male figure. He is married to one of my cousins who has been there to simply stand with me many times over the past years, and as a couple they provide their own sense of strength to our family.

In the meanwhile I headed to the raspberry patch where weeds were pushing their way through. As I made my way around the patch I wiped tears and more tears. How did God know so precisely

When the row was completed and his load emptied he was on his way once more. I thanked him as he left. People may never know how they have been a touch of God, but when we have been

touched, we know it.

Later as I walked through the garden, which is becoming a place for me to unwind and relax as I pull weeds or spray fertilizer, I sincerely thanked God for all he has created to grow. No, it doesn't have to be perfect, and it doesn't need the variety and size Daniel would have, if he were here to add his energies into it, but it is a gift we will not take for granted. More than that, the memories of little hands placing seeds in the soil and watching it grow and helping with harvest will last a lifetime. Praise His name!

So yes, bring on summer days, it'll take the heat to bring growth.

Whether or not, you have your own plot to till and sow and grow, your plot in life matters to the Lord. He sees that silent pain and longing for safety, health, or wholeness of heart. When we feel like we stand alone, surely Jesus, our advocate, is speaking to the Father for us. He



will bring rest in his way, on his timetable and in the perfection of

As a family we enjoy trying new dishes with garden goodies. Last night we made a stove-top potato dish with fresh potatoes and various veggies diced on top. You may use your own imagination to make it suit your tastes. Since I was hosting guests, I didn't cover the entire pan with onions and peppers since not everyone enjoys them as much as we do!

Stove-Top Potatoes Au Gratin 4 tablespoons butter

3 large potatoes, sliced thin

1 large onion, sliced (opt) 1 bell pepper, sliced (opt)

2 teaspoons salt

1/2 teaspoon black pepper 1/2 cup milk or cream

1 cup fried bacon bits (opt) 1 1/2 cups shredded cheese of

your choice Melt butter in a 9 inch skillet. Layer potatoes, onions, bell pepper, salt and black pepper.

Pour milk over it and sprinkle with cheese.

Begin cooking on medium heat until cover is very hot.

Reduce to low and cook 20

Sprinkle with bacon and cheese.

Set lid aiar to allow some steam to evaporate and leave on low for another 5 minutes before serving.



'Shawshank Redemption' anniversary

It has been 30 years since the movie "The Shawshank Redemption" was filmed in Mansfield, Ohio at the Ohio State Reformatory and a 30th anniversary celebration is planned for Aug. 8-11. Many of the cast members plan to be present with guided and self-guided tours of the prison and other filming sites to be offered. Complete information is available at DestinationMansfield.com or at 800-642-8282. (Planners expect a sell-out.) Photo taken at the main entrance finds Tim Robbins (Andy Dufresne) and Morgan Freeman (Ellis Boyd Red) peeking out of a second floor window. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri while on a recent Mystery Tour of Ohio sites.)

Botanical Conservatory celebrates 40th

From now through Nov. 17, the Fort Wayne Botanical Conservatory will be celebrating their 40th anniversary with the "Raise a Glass" exhibit in the show-

To celebrate every Thursday will be \$1 night to enter, from 5 to 8 p.m. Over 3.000.000 tourists have visited since the opening in 1983.

Jazzworks will present the West Central Quartet with Phil Schurger and Ty Causey on Saturday, July 20. Doors will open at 5:30 with the concert from 6 to

İrish Folk Music will be presented on Friday, July 12, 8-9:30 p.m. featuring Carrie White and Matt Katinsky. (Appetizers from Jk O'Donnell's.)

Art work showcasing the history of the conservatory will be featured during the 40th anniversary celebra-

Daylily Show: Saturday, July 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., during Three Rivers Festi-

Iris Sale: Sunday, July 21, noon to 3 p.m. Presented by Northeast Indiana Iris Society.

Regular hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday (until 8 p.m. on Thursdays) and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$7 adults, \$5 ages 3-17 and free to those 2 and younger. Gift Shop and Conjure Coffee sites are free.

Three Rivers Festival events

Since 1969 Fort Wayne has hosted a Three Rivers Festival and this year will be held July 12-20 at Headwaters Park and other sites in he city.

Parade: Saturday, July 13, 10 a.m., downtown Fort Wayne beginning on Rockhill St. to downtown.

Emporium: Vendors at Headwaters Park offering all types of goods with varying hours (4 to 9 p.m. on weekdays and opening a 11 a.m. on weekends).

Junk Food Alley: Offering all types of food in Headwaters Park with varying hours.

Downtown Midway: Open from 5 to 11 p.m. week days at Headwaters Park. (A Sensory session will be held on Friday, July 19, from 10 a.m. until

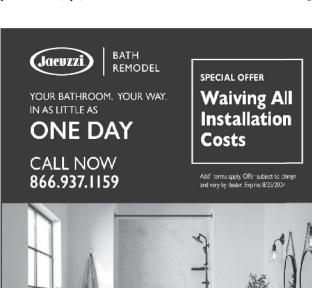
Art in the Park: Artists set up at Freimann Square on Saturday, July 13, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, July 14, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Family Fun: A day of events for families to enjoy at Headwaters Park on Wednesday, July 17, 11 a.m.

Children's Fest: These activities for those ages 3 to 9 at Purdue University campus, Friday, July 19 and Saturday, July 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

River Excursions: Pontoon Boat rides on Friday, July 12, 5 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, July 13, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, July 14, 4 to 6 p.m., from Headwaters

More information at ThreeRiversFestival.



AM MONTH

Recognizing vision problems in kids

Although vision loss is typically associated with aging, people of all ages can experience issues that contribute to diminished vision. Sometimes parents may be unaware that their children have low vision or other issues compromising their sight, particularly when children are too young to verbalize their impairments. The Mayo Clinic notes additional symptoms, such as squinting while reading or holding reading material closely may be

Parents, caregivers and even teachers can keep an eye out for these symptoms to determine if kids are having vision problems.

- Blurriness: A child may complain of things being blurry, whether that means words in a book or on a smart screen in the classroom.
- Headaches: Straining to see better can cause headaches. If a child starts complaining of frequent headaches, an eye exam may be in order.
- Attention span: If your child quickly loses interest in games or other lengthy activities, it may be that poor vision is making it more difficult to fully participate.
- Losing place: Someone with vision issues may experience difficulty keeping track of words while

- Eye rubbing: Prevent Blindness says rubbing tired eyes can be an indicator of a vision problem, as can
- tilting one's head or thrusting the head forward. • Feeling dizzy: Some people with vision problems feel dizzy or out of sorts at times.
- Physical symptoms: Sometimes vision problems may be apparent because you can see there is something amiss. Eyes that don't line up, eyes that appear crossed, redness in the eyes or rims, or red, inflamed eyes can be symptomatic of a vision problem.
- Eye exam results: Eye doctors conduct a series of tests during an eye exam. During an automatic refraction test, visual acuity can be measured when an autorefractor shines light into the eye and measures the eye's response. It's commonly used with children who cannot communicate what they're seeing and can help diagnose vision trouble.

Vision issues can present themselves in children and not be as readily apparent to the adults in their lives. Familiarizing oneself with certain symptoms is a way to diagnose vision trouble earlier.

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Did you know? Wearing eyeglasses is not strictly reserved for adults. In

fact, many children wear eyeglasses, and they may need them for different reasons. The American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus says children may benefit from glasses while their visual systems are still developing, within the first 12 years of life. Glasses can be important for the normal development of kids' vision, including providing better vision; straightening crossed or misaligned eyes; protecting one eye that sees better when the other eye has poor vision; and strengthening a weak (lazy) eye. The University of Rochester Medical Center says a child may get his or her first pair of glasses as young as a few months of age, but health care providers who specialize in pediatric eye care say kids usually become nearsighted or farsighted between the ages of six and 12. It's recommended children have an eye screening before they enter school. In addition, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Optometric Association recommends vision screening for all infants, preschoolers and schoolaged children.



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Keegan Bradley appointed U.S. **Ryder Cup captain after Tiger** Woods turns down the job

By DOUG FERGUSON **AP Golf Writer**

Keegan Bradley is assured of making another Ryder Cup team, this time as the U.S. captain. The PGA of America announced his selection on Monday after months of talking with Tiger Woods about taking the



Keegan Bradley

The PGA of America released the news on Instagram after word began to leak during the day that Bradley, who has played on

only two Ryder Cup teams and never was an assistant captain, was chosen to lead the 2025 matches at Bethpage Black in New

Bradley already was in New York going through media training, with a news conference to introduce him set for noon Tuesday at the NASDAQ building. At age 38, he will be the youngest American captain since Arnold Palmer was a playing captain in

1963 at East Lake. Sports Illustrated was first to report that Bradley would be the next captain.

Woods was the first choice of the Ryder Cup committee and had been in negotiations for months about what the job would entail and whether he had time to fulfill the duties, many of them involving promotion

While he plays only a limited schedule, Woods is the vice chairman of the commercial PGA Tour Enterprises board as it tries to hammer out an investment deal with the Saudi backers of rival LIV Golf.

He was a playing captain for the 2019 Presidents Cup when the Americans won at Royal Melbourne, and he served as an assistant Ryder Cup captain at Hazeltine in 2016.

"I'm dedicating so much time to what we're doing with the PGA Tour. I don't want to not fulfill the role of the captaincy if I can't do it," Woods had said in May at the PGA Championship.

Once Woods wasn't an option, the PGA of America went for some local flavor with Bradley. He is a New England native who played his college golf at St. John's.

"Keegan's past Ryder Cup experience, strong relationships and unwavering passion for this event will prove invaluable as he guides the U.S. team over the next year-anda-half," PGA of America President John Lindert said. "We are confident that with Keegan at the helm, the 2025 U.S. Ryder Cup team will compete at Bethpage with the same confidence and determination that has defined his career."

Bradley has six PGA Tour victories, including the 2011 PGA Championship. Two of those victories came last season, and Bradley figured it might be enough for him to make another Ryder Cup team. He was devastated when U.S. captain Zach Johnson overlooked him with his four captain's



Tiger Woods

picks, going with Rickie Fowler, Justin Thomas, Jordan Spieth and Brooks Koep-

The prototype of Ryder Cup captains typically is a player just outside the prime of his career, usually in the mid-40s. And ever since players

gained a stronger voice in selecting captains after the 2014 matches, the model has been for future captains to first serve as assistants at the Ryder Cup or Presidents Cup.

The template also is for the immediate past captain — Johnson in this case — to be an assistant at the next Ryder Cup. With so much outside-the-box thinking on the Bradley selection, it was not immediately clear if that was still true.

Bradley last played in the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles in Scotland in 2014, when Tom Watson benched him and Phil Mickelson for both Saturday sessions in another European victory.

Bradley made his Ryder Cup debut in Medinah in 2012, teaming with Mickelson to go 3-0 before losing to Rory McIlroy in singles in what turned out to be a European victory, the largest comeback by a visiting

He famously did not unpack his bag from the 2012 matches and said he would not open it until he was on a winning team. Now he might get that chance.

"My passion and appreciation for golf's greatest team event have never been stronger," Bradley said in a news release. "The Ryder Cup is unlike any other competition in our sport, and this edition will undoubtedly be particularly special given the rich history and enthusiastic spectators at this iconic course. I look forward to beginning preparations for 2025.'

This is the latest the Americans have selected a captain in more than 30 years. It was never supposed to take this long or be this complicated.

Mickelson had been the logical choice for this Ryder Cup ever since Bethpage Black was announced as the venue in $20\overline{13}$. New York loves Lefty, and he was the sentimental favorite in two runner-up finishes in U.S. Opens at Bethpage Black.

But he became a chief recruiter for LIV Golf and joined the Saudi league in 2022, falling out of favor with several PGA Tour players because of his promotion of the rival circuit. And then it fell to Woods, and that didn't work out after several months of dis-

Luke Donald only had 14 months to prepare for the 2023 matches outside Rome when he was picked to lead Europe after Henrik Stenson joined LIV and lost the captaincy. Europe won handily, and Donald was chosen to lead Europe again at Bethpage Black.

U.S. men's Olympic soccer team has announced three players to roster

By RONALD BLUM **AP Sports Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Tim Weah's red card against Uruguay and the United States' first-round exit from the Copa America should be a lesson for players as they head to the Olympics, according to likely captain Walker Zimmerman.

Zimmerman, fellow defender Miles Robinson and midfielder Djordje Mihailovic will be the three overage players as the U.S. men play in the Olympics for the first time since 2008.

Olympic soccer is limited to players under 23, with each team allowed three over the age limit. The U.S. wild card picks are all from Major League Soccer; FIFA does not require clubs to release players for the

"It was actually a really difficult process the last 10 months, first talking to the clubs and trying to get all the players released," Mitrović said on his 46th birthday during a joint news conference with the women's team.

The U.S. beat Japan 1-0 in its 2008 opener, allowed a goal in second-half injury time in a 2-2 draw with the Netherlands, then was eliminated with a 2-1 loss to Nigeria after Michael Orozco's third-minute red card for elbowing an opponent.

"We had an amazing talk with Sacha Kljestan at the last camp, where he came in and told us about his Olympic experience and ultimately how they didn't get out of their group because of some silly things: a red card, a late goal given up," Zimmerman said, referring to the former national team midfielder. "That's going to be a really key point for us, is how we can handle those small moments and make sure we don't slip up for a dumb reason."

Defender Maximilian Dietz was added

after missing the June training camp ahead of a 2-0 friendly loss to Japan because of a hamstring injury sustained on May 4 with second-division German club Greuther

Ten players were dropped from the June roster: defenders Jalen Neal, Bryan Reynolds and Jonathan Tomkinson; midfielders Cole Bassett, Aidan Morris and Rokas Pukštas; and forwards Esmir Bajraktarevic, Cade Cowell, Damion Downs and Johan

The U.S. men will train in Bordeaux starting Tuesday. They open on July 24 against host France, then meet New Zealand and Guinea. The top two nations in each group advance to the quarterfinals.

Fifteen players have appeared with the senior national team for a total of 114 international appearances.

Zimmerman took a red eye flight from Portland after Nashville's Sunday night loss in Major League Soccer. The 31-year-old has 42 international appearances and last played for the U.S. against Canada in the June 2023 CONCACAF Nations League final. Zimmerman captained the national team nine times and played in all four American matches at the 2022 World Cup, starting three.

Robinson, a 27-year-old on Cincinnati, was on the U.S. roster for the Copa America but didn't get any playing time. He has 29 international appearances, scoring the extra-time goal that beat Mexico in the 2021 CONCACAF Gold Cup final. He missed the 2022 World Cup while recovering from a torn left Achilles tendon.

Mihailovic, a 25-year-old on Colorado, has three goals in 11 international appearances but hasn't played for the national team since the loss to Panama in the July 2023 CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinals.



ship game on June 29. Above, the 11-12 age group team shows off their medals for a team photo. Team members from left to right, front row: Easton Schipper, Trace Zoda, Hudson Smith, Bradley Masterson and Nick Stanley; second row Jace Reinhard, Kreigh Ault, Derek Sickafus, Carter Elzey, Logan Krachtus, Nico Edwards and Liam Smith; back row coahes Mark Reinhard, Grant Thompson, Dorrance Stinson, Dan Williamson, Ron Kipfer, Skip Edwards and Spencer Harris. (Photo provided)

Former MLB outfielder Raúl Mondesi sentenced to 6 years in jail in the Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Former Major League Baseball outfielder Raúl Mondesi was sentenced Friday by a Dominican court to six years and nine months in jail and fined \$507,000 for corruption during his time as mayor in the city of San Cristobal.

Prosecutors accused the 53-year-old Mondesi of embezzling \$5 million during his time as mayor between 2010 and 2016. The sentence came after a deal with the prosecutors' office.

Mondesi, whose son Adalberto Mondesi was a big league shortstop, spent six years under house arrest, which means his sentence has already been completed.

With the Los Angeles Dodgers, Mondesi won the NL Rookie of the Year award in 1994 and played in the All-Star Game one year later. The Dominican was in MLB for 13 seasons and won two Gold Gloves.

Mondesi's career also includes stints with the Toronto Blue Jays, New York Yankees, Arizona Diamondbecks, Pittsburgh Pirates, Los Angeles Angels and Atlanta Braves. He finished his career with an average of .273, 271 homers and 860

Mondesi's political career started in San

Cristobal, which he represented as a lawmaker between 2006 and 2010. After his time as mayor, he bid for the senate but Dominican prosecutors brought several

charges against Mondesi, including falsification of documents, criminal association and malfeasance.

Adalberto, his son, started his career with the Kansas City Royals in the World Series they won in 2015. He is currently a free agent after he suffered a knee injury in

UConn, coach Dan Hurley agree to 6-year, \$50 million extension

STORRS, Conn. (AP) - UConn and men's basketball coach Dan Hurley have agreed to a six-year, \$50 million contract through the 2029-30 season that makes him one of the nation's highest paid college coaches nearly a month after he turned down a lucrative offer to coach the Los Angeles Lakers.

Hurley, who passed on guiding the storied NBA club to return to the two-time defending NCAA champions, can also earn more through performance-based incentives, a Monday release from the school stated. He will receive \$6.375 million next season in addition to his \$400,000 base annual salary, which includes compensation from speaking, consulting and media obligations.

The agreement, which includes a \$1 million annual retention bonus, will be covered by increased ticket sales revenue and donations from the Husky Athletic Fund, the release added. It replaces the six-year, \$32.1 million agreement reached in June 2023 after Hurley won his first national championship with UConn.

Hurley - 141-58 in six seasons with the

Huskies and 292-163 overall entering his 15th as a Division I head coach — acknowledged that the Lakers' six-year, \$70 million offer was "obviously tempting." He was also mentioned as a candidate for the Kentucky coaching vacancy after John Calipari left for Arkansas. But Hurley reiterated last month that he belongs at UConn and stated in the release that "it's an honor" to coach and represent the school and is proud of what the program has rebuilt for supporters

He added: "We will continue to obsessively pursue championships and historic success, while continuing to develop great young men. Bleed Blue!'

UConn President Radenka Maric called Hurley the nation's best men's basketball coach and said he was delighted Hurley will continue to call it home. Athletic director David Benedict praised Hurley and wife Andrea for pouring themselves into rebuilding the program added that the contract recognizes the "immense" effort that has produced the results and the dedication it will require for the program to sustain it

Tigers outlast AL Central-leading Guardians on Rocchio's error

By LARRY LAGE **AP Sports Writer**

DETROIT (AP) — Jake Rogers led off the eighth inning with a double and broke a scoreless tie on an error, helping the Detroit Tigers outlast the AL Central-leading Cleveland Guardians for a 1-0 win Monday night.

Guardians shortstop Brayan Rocchio was charged with the error when Mark Canha's grounder got under his glove, allowing Rogers to score from third after advancing on Wenceel Perez's single.

"Jake's a good baserunner, not necessarily the fastest, but you still put pressure on them to field it cleanly

throw," Tigers manager A.J. Hinch said. "We were fortunate."

Rocchio said through interan preter that he was hoping to start an inning-ending

double play, but the ball didn't bounce as much as he was expecting on the infield.

"That's a play he makes 99 out of 100," Guardians manager Stephen Vogt said.

innings. Detroit rookie righthander Keider Montero didn't give up a run in 6 1/3 innings and allowed just (Continued on Page 7)

"Just unfortu-

Holton (4-1)

picked up

the win and

Shelby Miller

pitched the

ninth for his

first save of

the season,

combining for

2 2/3 perfect

Tyler

nate timing."





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Tigers top Guardians

(Continued from Page 6)

three hits and one walk in the third start and fourth appearance of his career.

"The night starts with Keider," Hinch said. "He was amazing.'

Cleveland's starter was pretty good, too, and his performance was an encouraging sign for a team with a banged-up rotation.

Gavin Williams threw 5 1/3 scoreless innings. The right-hander gave up four hits and one walk while striking out five, one week after making a season debut that was delayed by a sore

"That was really exciting to see Gavin put together an outing like that," Vogt said.

The Tigers have won four straight, including three

By JEFF WALLNER

Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP)

Rece Hinds homered and

doubled in his major league

debut, Andrew Abbott

pitched seven innings of

three-hit ball and the Cin-

cinnati Reds beat the Colo-

rado Rockies 6-0 on Mon-

De La Cruz had an RBI

double and scored twice.

He also stole two bases in

the first inning, giving him

45 this season to pass Billy

Hamilton for the most in

Reds history before the All-

Cincinnati manager David

Bell said. "He's had a lot

of huge plays (but) that was

at the top of the list. He

has all kinds of energy and

he is doing everything in

his power to get us off to a

lier in the day from Triple-

A Louisville, where he was

hitting .216 with 13 hom-

ers and 126 strikeouts in

77 games. He was retired

on a diving stop by short-

Hinds was called up ear-

"Elly did it all tonight,"

All-Star shortstop Elly

day night.

Star break.

good start."

at Cincinnati where they earned a sweep for the first time since May and just the second time this season.

Detroit, the fourth-place team in the AL Central, has a long way to go to catch Cleveland in the division.

'We're going to play them 10 times in the next three weeks," Hinch said. "These games matter with where we're at on the calendar and we're staring at the team that is well ahead

Vogt is hoping his team takes advantage of the frequent meetings with Detroit the rest of the month. It can end up being a big

swing for either team," Vogt said. "These guys play us tough. It's a really good team."

Hinds homers in big league

stop Ezequiel Tovar in his

first at-bat, then doubled

in the fifth and launched

a 449-foot homer against

Tyler Kinley leading off the

it," Hinds said. "Obviously,

when I was driving up from

Louisville I was a wreck. I

teared up a couple of times.

I didn't eat anything all day.

I came in and saw all these

familiar faces. It made me

more comfortable, like I

ing catch in right field.

Hinds also made a slid-

Abbott (9-6) retired his

first nine batters with five

strikeouts, setting the tone

for an outstanding outing.

He struck out eight and

Two relievers finished

On the one-year anniver-

sary of De La Cruz steal-

ing second, third and home

in Milwaukee, he almost

repeated the feat. But after

swiping second and third

in the first inning, he was

thrown out trying to steal

home by second baseman

Brendan Rodgers.

was home.'

walked two.

the four-hitter.

"I'm still not believing

debut, Reds blank Rockies

The Tigers reinstated

infielder Javier Baez from the injured list and optioned rookie infielder Ryan Kreidler to Triple A-Toledo before the game, hoping the .183 hitter can provide some offense to go with his slick defense and veteran leader-

Baez was 1 of 3 with a leadoff double in the fifth, playing in his first game since June 8 when a back injury put him on the injured list.

"The good version of him at the plate is what we're searching for," Hinch

UP NEXT

Guardians RHP Ben Lively (8-4, 3.14) is scheduled to face RHP Kenta Maeda (2-5, 6.71) on Tuesday night at Comerica Park.

"Elly creates chaos."

After Rockies starter

Abbott said. "There is noth-

ing he can't do. He provides

Ryan Feltner threw a pitch

in the fourth, the return

toss from catcher Elias

Díaz deflected off Feltner's

glove, allowing Jeimer Can-

delario to score from third

to put Reds ahead 2-0. Díaz

was charged with an error.

Colorado manager Bud

Black said. "Catchable ball

that (Feltner) looked a touch

lackadaisical on. We talked

about it down in the tunnel.

In that type of game, one

seven innings and left trail-

ing 2-0. The Rockies have

scored 15 runs in their past

seven games. They were

shut out for the 10th time

the second half is to have

the offense pick up," Black

said. "Hopefully when KB

(Kris Bryant) comes back,

that helps. We've got some

younger guys pressing right

That's our challenge in

this season.

Feltner (1-8) pitched

run can make a difference.'

"That was frustrating."

us our spark.'

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASIERN		NFE	KENC	=
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	17	4	.810	_
Connecticut	17	4	.810	_
Indiana	9	13	.409	81/2
Chicago	8	12	.400	81/2
Atlanta	7	13	.350	91/2
Washington	5	17	.227	121/2
WESTERN	I CO	NFE	RENC	E
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	15	6	.714	_
Seattle	14	7	.667	1
Las Vegas	13	7	.650	11/2
Phoenix	11	10	.524	4

Los Angeles 5 16 .238 Sunday's Games Connecticut 80, Atlanta 67 Las Vegas 104, Dallas 85 Seattle 84, Chicago 71 Phoenix 84, Los Angeles 78

Monday's Games
No games scheduled.
Tuesday's Games
Minnesota at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.
Wednesday's Games

New York at Connecticut, 11 a.m Atlanta at Chicago, 12 p.m. Washington at Indiana, 12 p.m. Las Vegas at Seattle, 3 p.m. Dallas at Phoenix. 3:30 p.m. Thursday's Games Chicago at New York, 7 p.m.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE **East Division** L Pct

Baltimore	57	33	.633	_									
New York	55	37	.598	3									
Boston	49	40	.551	71/2									
Гатра Вау	44	46	.489	13									
Toronto		49		16									
Central Division													
	W	L	Pct	GB									
Cleveland		33		_									
/linnesota	51	39		5½									
Kansas City	49			81/2									
Detroit	43			14									
Chicago		66		31½									
Wes		/isio											
	W	L	Pct	GB									
Seattle		43		_									
Houston		44		2									
Texas		48		6									
		52		10½									
Dakland		58		15									
Sunda			1es										
Detroit 5, Cinc													
Cleveland 5, S													
Miami 7, Chica													
Chicago Cubs													
Minnesota 3, I													
Texas 13, Tam													
Kansas City 1			1 00										
Baltimore 6, C													
Toronto 5, Sea	attie 4	+, 10	irinings										

Boston 3, N.Y. Yankees 0 Monday's Games Detroit 1, Cleveland 0 Minnesota at Chicago White Sox, Texas at L.A. Angels, late

Tuesday's Games
Chicago Cubs (Imanaga 7-2) at Baltimore (Kremer 4-4), 6:35 p.m.
Cleveland (Lively 8-4) at Detroit (Maeda 2-5), 6:40 p.m. N.Y. Yankees (Rodón 9-6) at Tampa

Bay (Pepiot 4-5), 6:50 p.m.
Oakland (Estes 3-3) at Boston (Bello

8-5), 7:10 p.m.
Kansas City (Wacha 5-6) at St. Louis
(Pallante 4-3), 7:45 p.m.
Miami (Rogers 1-9) at Houston Miami (Rogers 1-9) at Houston (Blanco 8-3), 8:10 p.m. Minnesota (Ober 8-4) at Chicago White Sox (Fedde 6-3), 8:10 p.m. Texas (Scherzer 1-2) at L.A. Angels (Contreras 1-1), 9:38 p.m. Seattle (Gilbert 5-5) at San Diego (Mazur 1-2), 9:40 p.m. Toronto (Kikuchi 4-8) at San Fran-

Wednesday's Games
Minnesota at Chicago White Sox,

2:10 p.m. Chicago Cubs at Baltimore, 6:35

Cleveland at Detroit, 6:40 p.m. Seattle at San Diego, 6:40 p.m. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay, 6:50

p.m.
Oakland at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Kansas City at St. Louis, 7:45 p.m.
Miami at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
Texas at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.
Toronto at San Francisco, 9:45 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	58	32	.644	_
Atlanta [']	49	39	.557	8
New York	44	45	.494	131/2
Washington	42	49	.462	161/2
Miami	32	58	.356	26
Cent	ral D	ivisi	on	
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	53	38	.582	_
St. Louis	48	42	.533	41/2
Pittsburgh	43	47	.478	91/2
Cincinnati	43	48	.473	10
Chicago	12	40	462	11

West Division GB 36 Los Angeles San Diego Arizona 47 59 Cedar Rapids at Beloit, 7:35 p.m San Francisco 44 Colorado

Sunday's Games
Detroit 5, Cincinnati 1
Atlanta 6, Philadelphia 0
Cleveland 5, San Francisco 4 Miami 7, Chicago White Sox 4 St. Louis 8, Washington 3 N.Y. Mets 3. Pittsburgh 2 N.T. Mets S., Pittsburght 2 Chicago Cubs 5, L.A. Angels 0 Kansas City 10, Colorado 1 Arizona 9, San Diego 1 Milwaukee 9, L.A. Dodgers 2

Monday's Games
Pittsburgh 8, N.Y. Mets 2
St. Louis 6, Washington 0
Cincinnati 6, Colorado 0 Atlanta at Arizona, late

Tuesday's Games
Chicago Cubs (Imanaga 7-2) at Baltimore (Kremer 4-4), 6:35 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Miller 1-1) at Philadelphia (Wheeler 9-4), 6:40 p.m. Colorado (Quantrill 6-6) at Cincinnati (Montas 4-6), 7:10 p.m.

(Montas 4-6), 7:10 p.m.
Washington (Irvin 7-6) at N.Y. Mets
(Quintana 3-5), 7:10 p.m.
Kansas City (Wacha 5-6) at St. Louis
(Pallante 4-3), 7:45 p.m.
Miami (Rogers 1-9) at Houston
(Blanco 8-3), 8:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Pérez 1-4) at Milwaukee

(Rea 8-2), 8:10 p.m. Atlanta (Sale 11-3) at Arizona (Gal-

len 6-4), 9:40 p.m. Seattle (Gilbert 5-5) at San Diego

(Mazur 1-2), 9:40 p.m.
Toronto (Kikuchi 4-8) at San Francisco (Snell 0-3), 9:45 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Chicago Cubs at Baltimore, 6:35

p.m. Seattle at San Diego, 6:40 p.m. L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 7:05

Colorado at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m. Washington at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m Kansas City at St. Louis, 7:45 p.m. Miami at Houston, 8:10 p.m. Pittsburgh at Milwaukee, 8:10 p.m. Atlanta at Arizona, 9:40 p.m. Toronto at San Francisco, 9:45 p.m

Midwest League

High-A Midwest League Glance											
East Division											
	W	L	Pct.	GB							
West Michigan	10	5	.667	_							
x-Lake County	8	6	.571	11/2							
Dayton	8	7	.533	2							
Gréat Lakes	6	8	.429	31/2							
Lansing	6	9	.400	4							
Fort Wayne	5	10	.333	5							

Cedar Rapids 11 x-Wisconsin 9 Peoria 8 Ouad Cities 7 11 4 .733 9 6 .600 8 7 .533 7 8 .467 6 9 .400 5 10 .333 South Bend

x - First Half winner Friday, July 5 Lake County 20, Dayton 1
West Michigan at Great Lakes, ppd.
Lansing 9, Fort Wayne 3
Cedar Rapids 11, Quad Cities 5
Beloit 5, Wisconsin 1

Peoria 3, South Bend 2
Saturday, July 6
Lansing 7, Fort Wayne 5
Lake County 3, Dayton 0 West Michigan 2, Great Lakes 0, 8 innings, 1st game

West Michigan 5, Great Lakes 3, 2nd game Cedar Rapids 8, Quad Cities 2 Wisconsin 4, Beloit 5 Peoria 5, South Bend 2

Sunday, July 7 No games scheduled Monday, July 8 No games scheduled

Tuesday, July 9
Lansing at Lake County, 6:05 p.m.
South Bend at Dayton, 7:05 p.m. Fort Wayne at Great Lakes, 7:05 p.m. Peoria at Quad Cities, 7:30 p.m.

West Michigan at Wisconsin, 7:40 Wednesday, July 10
Lansing at Lake County, 11 a.m.
West Michigan at Wisconsin, 1:10

South Bend at Dayton, 7:05 p.m. Fort Wayne at Great Lakes, 7:05

p.m. Peoria at Quad Cities, 7:30 p.m.

Cedar Rapids at Beloit, 7:35 p.m

TRANSACTIONS

Monday's Transactions BASEBALL Major League Baseball

American League
BOSTON RED SOX — Traded RHP
CJ Weins to Detroit Tigers. Placed
OF Parker Meadows on the 10-day
IL. Optioned LHP Cam Booser to Worcester (IL)
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Recalled

RHP Jordan Leasure from Charlotte (IL). Optioned RHP Steven Wilson to

DETROIT TIGERS — Activated SS Javier Báez from the 10-day IL Optioned SS Ryan Kreidler to Toledo (IL). Recalled RF Akil Baddoo from

National League
CINCINNATI REDS — Recalled
OF Rece Hinds and RHPs Yosver Zulueta from Louisville (IL).
Optioned RHP Graham Ashcraft to Louisville. ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Rein-

stated LF Lars Nootbaar from the 10-day IL. Optioned SS José Fermín to Memphis (IL).

National Football League
NFL — Suspended Pittsburgh
Steelers DB Cameron Sutton 8 games
for violating the NFL's Personal Conduct Policy BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association

CHICAGO BULLS — Received G Chris Duarte and draft consideration from the Sacramento Kings.

DETROIT PISTONS — Signed F

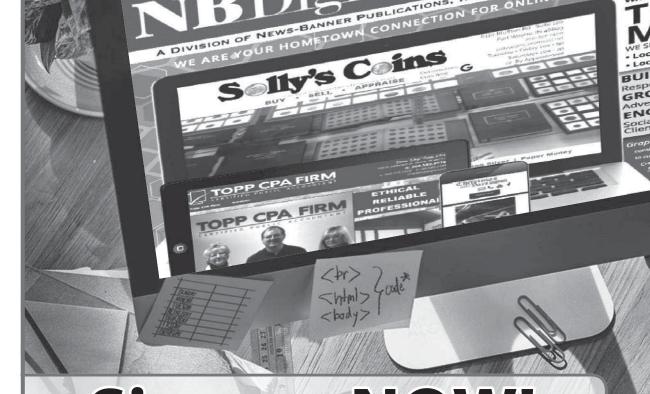
Tobias Harris to a contract.

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES

— Signed Gs Rob Dillingham and Terrence Shannon Jr. to rookie scale

SACRAMENTO KINGS — Received G DeMar DeRozan from the

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Tension at home

Dear Annie: I am part of a family that also has a woman renting a room in our house. I have always been extremely sensitive to smells and scents, but this woman's odors send me gagging out of the room. My son is also sensitive to the smell.

Now that the weather is getting warmer, the smells are becoming stronger. While she is OK with my occasional request for her to go take a shower, I also don't want to demand that she shower daily, although that is what is necessary to keep the smells manageable.

How would you suggest I broach this subject without offending her? — Sensorily Overloaded

Dear Sensorily Overloaded: The best way to deal with the stinky housemate is to be honest, kind but firm. Ask her what she thinks is causing the odor? The worst thing you can do is be passive aggressive about it. Instead, investigate together what could be causing the bad odor. You could even have a laugh about it. You might also help her in other areas of her life. For instance, maybe after she cleans up her act, she will be more willing to find a romantic partner.

Dear Annie: I met a wonderful man online in 2010. I moved from Maine to Pennsylvania with him in 2012. He has a nice family, which I grew close to, including a daughter and her small family. In September of last year, he passed away from a heart attack and left no

His family helped me pack up, and they took most of his stuff. Shortly before I moved, his daughter and her husband showed up unannounced to take more things. The day before, I had sold my car and put the money with my personal papers, plus money for the move, into a security box. They took the box and refused to give it back.

I've sought legal help but to no avail. I have been told that this is considered

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



as my partner and I did, but in Pennsylvania our relationship was not considered a common-law marriage because we got together after 2005. — Heartsick

a "domestic" case.

This has been a

nightmare. It has

given me anxiety

and loss of sleep. They promised

to return my stuff

if it was found to

be mine. Please,

people! Protect

your loved ones

and make a will!

These people live

in Pennsylvania,

Dear Heartsick: I am very sorry for your loss. You can only control what you can control, which is your peace of mind. They already took away your physical things; don't let them take away your peace. The best revenge when someone has wronged you that badly is to live that well! Focus on getting back to taking care of you. Make sleep a priority, and if your anxiety is really bad, seek the help of a trained professional. Meditation, yoga and exercise can all help with managing anxiety.

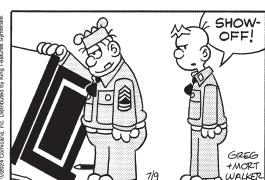
If the money was for your car, and your partner was not involved with the purchase, then you can take them to small claims court to force them to return that money and all the cash that you put into the security box, plus your personal papers, of course.

"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.

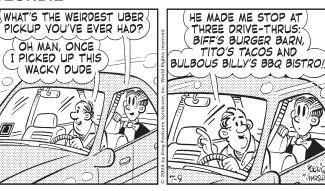
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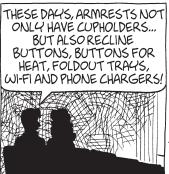






CRANKSHAFT







My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: My children were shown a film about the Puritans being the "killjoys of history." It's disturbing to me that our children's public education has become one of indoctrination of hostility, mocking the foundation of our nation's history and spiritual beliefs, while celebrating godless behavior in every part of life. The Puritans may have been too zealous in living godly lives, but I'd rather err on the side of goodness than the side of godlessness. -

Answer: The great 18th-century American preacher Jonathan Edwards wrote about the Puritans who settled in America, "The practice of religion is not only their business at certain seasons,

M A D1 D2 5 PM 5:30 6 PM 6:30

375 859 327 553 (4:30) **★★ The Harder They Come Jimmy Cliff. Tr

P.H.

Puritans knew that the life of faith is a struggle

but the business of their lives." The Puritans were ready to order their personal life, worship, church, business affairs, political views, and even recreation according to the Bible's commandments. What a contrast to the permissiveness of our day!

Millions want instant gratification. The whole world seems bent on pleasure, and the preoccupation with self is alarming. When people live only for pleasure, they begin to die morally and spiritually, oblivious to God's will and scornful of His judgment.

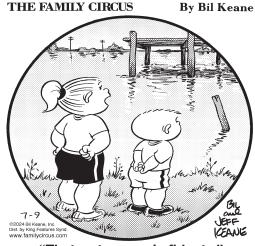
The Puritans knew that the life of faith is a struggle. They knew, too, that sin is a stubborn reality and that believers are not immune to affliction, poverty, and suffering. Still they persevered in their faith.

Like these spiritual forefathers, may it be said of us that our faith is "the business of our lives." The proverbs of Solomon says, "[Acquire] a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair" (Proverbs 1:3, 1984 NIV). Christians should be known in their neighborhoods and places of business as upright people. The Bible is the constant fountain for faith, conduct, and inspiration from which we drink daily.

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Gra-

ham.) ©2024 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.





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es, Ed *** True Grit (2010, Western) Matt Da

Israeli forces advance

(Continued from Page 1) ians. In Shijaiyah, a Gaza City neighborhood that has seen weeks of fighting, the military said troops raided and destroyed schools and a clinic that had been converted into militant compounds.

The war has decimated large swaths of urban landscape and sparked a humanitarian catastro-

Obstacles to a deal

Israel and Hamas seem to be the closest they have been in months to agreeing to a cease-fire deal that would pause the fighting in exchange for the release of dozens of hostages captured by

Hamas in the Oct. 7 attack that triggered the war.

CIA Director William Burns returned to the region Monday for talks in Cairo, according to Egypt's state-run Qahera TV, which is close to the security services. An Israeli delegation was also heading to the Egyptian capital, Israeli media reported.

But obstacles remain, even after Hamas agreed to relent on its key demand that Israel commit to ending the war as part of any agreement. A key part of that shift, officials told The Associated Press, is the level of destruction caused by Israel's rolling offensive.

Hamas still wants mediators to guarantee that negotiations conclude with a permanent cease-fire, according to two officials with knowledge of the talks. The current draft says the mediators — the United States, Qatar and Egypt -"will do their best" to ensure that negotiations lead to an agreement to wind down the war.

Israel has rejected any deal that would force it to end the war $\begin{array}{ll} \text{with Hamas intact} & -\text{ a condition} \\ \text{Netanyahu reiterated Sunday.} \end{array}$

Hamas on Monday said it is "offering flexibility and positivity" to facilitate a deal, while accusing Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu of "putting more obstacles in the way of negotiations."

Meanwhile, Hamas' top political leader, Ismail Haniyeh, warned mediators of "catastrophic consequences" if Israel continued its operations in Gaza City, saying Netanyahu and the army would bear "full responsibility" for the collapse of the talks, the group said in a subsequent statement.

The two officials said there's also an impasse around whether Hamas can choose the high-profile prisoners held by Israel that it wants released in exchange for

hostages. Some prisoners were convicted of killing Israelis, and Israel does not want Hamas to determine who is released. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the sensitive talks with the media.

Inside Gaza, residents saw no end to their suffering.

Maha Mahfouz fled her home with her two children and many neighbors in Gaza City's Zaytoun neighborhood. She said their area was not included in the latest evacuation orders but "we are panicked because the bombing and gunfire are very close to us.'



PRE-FAIR ACTIVITIES • SUNDAY, JULY 14

2PM 4-H Dog Show **6PM** 4-H Tractor Safety Workshop

SATURDAY, JULY 20

6AM - 6:30PM Livestock Check-In 10:30AM - 9PM Clover Center Open 8:30 - 10:30AM Ag Hort Check-In and Judging 3PM 4-H Horse & Pony Show **3:30PM** 4-H Tractor Operator Contest

FAIR ACTIVITIES • SUNDAY, JULY 21

7PM Battle of the Barns

9:30AM Sunday Morning Worship Songs 8AM - 9PM Clover Center Open 12PM 4-H Sheep Show 12 - 9PM 4-H & Commercial Exhibits Open

2:30PM 4-H Cat Show

3PM 4-H Horse & Pony Show - Riding Pleasure Classes 3:30PM 4-H Small Animal Judging

> **4PM** 4-H Dog Club Demonstration **4PM** Dining Hall Open - Pork Supper

5PM 4-H Stage Event - Final Year Member Recognition, 4-H Volunteer Recognition, Showcase of Fashion **5PM** 4-H Beef Show

6PM Featured Stage Performance - Swiss City Dance

MONDAY, JULY 22

8AM - 9PM Clover Center Open **8AM** 4-H Goat Show

9AM - 9PM 4-H & Commercial Exhibits Open 11AM - 8PM Dining Hall Open

3PM 4-H Starter Calf Show **4PM** Horse & Pony - Junior Contesting 6:30PM 4-H Stage Event - Grand Champion Presentation

TUESDAY, JULY 23

8AM - 10PM Clover Center Open **8AM** 4-H Swine Show **9AM** 4-H Poultry Show

9AM - 10PM 4-H & Commercial Exhibits Open 11AM - 8PM Dining Hall Open

12-2PM Horse and Pony Community Event

3PM FFA Pedal Pull

4PM 4-H Horse & Pony Show - Intermediate and Senior Contesting

7PM Parade

Following Parade 4-H Stage Event - Recognize Outgoing Mini 4-H'ers, Pedal Pull Tractor Winners, Grand Marshal & 4-H **Ambassadors**

8PM 4-H Horse & Pony Show - Intermediate and Senior Contesting

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

8AM - 9PM Clover Center Open **8AM** 4-H Horse & Pony English Show 8:45AM 4-H Dairy Show **9AM** 4-H Rabbit Show 9AM BINGO at the Fair 9AM - 9PM 4-H & Commercial Exhibits Open 11AM - 8PM Dining Hall Open **1PM** Horse and Pony Fun Show **2PM** Livestock Fitting Contest

5PM Greased Pig Contest **6PM** 4-H Supreme Showmanship **7PM** Featured Stage Performance - Razz M' Jazz

THURSDAY, JULY 25

8AM - 8PM Clover Center Open **9AM** Auction Set-Up - After Auction Set-Up All Livestock Released 9AM - 5PM 4-H Exhibits Released **4PM** 4-H Livestock Auction

FRIDAY, JULY 26

9AM Fair Clean-Up

DAILY EXCITING EVENTS

Join us for Delicious Homemade Food Dining Hall

Sunday (Pork Supper) 4PM Monday - Wednesday 11AM to 8PM

Clover Center

Saturday thru Thursday, Hours Vary

Sunday Morning Worship

Songs by: Ryan Hirschy and Brad Byerly Sunday, July 21 • 9:30-10:30AM @ 4-H Stage

Horse & Pony Rides

Tuesday, July 23 • 12-2PM @ Horse Arena

FFA Pedal Tractor Pull

Tuesday, July 23 @ Livestock Show Arena Registration 2-3PM Pedal Pull 3PM

BINGO at the Fair

Wednesday, July 24 @ 4-H Expo Hall Pick Up Cards 8:45-9AM BINGO Fun 9-10:30AM

Greased Pig Contest

Wednesday, July 24 @ Livestock Show Arena Registration 4-5PM Contest 5PM







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King Classic Sudoku

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FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

EVEREST VX3 ICE & WATER VENDING MACHINE This Everest VX3 water/ice vending machine is the perfect addition to any business looking to boost their profits. With the ability to dispense both water and ice, this unit is sure to be a hit with customers. The machine is in great working condition and has been slightly used, making it a cost-effective option for those looking to invest in a vending machine. This unit is made in the United States and comes with a unit quantity of 1. Included is an all season insulation package, ice shield ozone disinfection, and cold fusion energy recovery. It is perfect for placement in other beverage and snack vending locations, as well as in restaurant and food service settings. Don't miss out on the opportunity to make extra money with this Everest VX3 vending machine. \$45,000.00 260-273-7020

glacierpure@outlook.com

This Week's Garage

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE Thursday and Friday, July 11 and 12, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at The New Beginning Church, 2187 W. State Road 218, Bluffton, IN, two miles west of Poneto, five miles east of Highway 3.

THIS OU

PLACE A THREE day garage sale line classified ad in the Bluffton News-Banner and receive a free garage sale kit. Contact the office at 125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224, or www.news-banner.com click on classifieds.

Follow us at... twitter.com/newsbanner

Public Notice

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 nonrequested 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 desig-

nb 6/18 through 8/7

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Pets



FOR MINI **SALE** DACHSHUNDS Looking for loving homes for mini male and female dachshund puppies they are very playful and loving they have good personalities.I will be giving them their first shots and deworming and vet check. Äsking \$750.00 260 701 0666

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NOTICE

Personals

ROOMMATE NEEDED I am in need of a roommate. \$400 monthly W&D in unit. 260-228-9212

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

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

and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday or WELLS COUNTY COMMUNI-TY Corrections is seeking an exceptional Administrative Assistant to manage the administration of client files, front desk, and general fiscal accounting operations. Responinclude providing sibilities executive assistance to the Director and Administration Operations Coordinator management of the day-today office operations. This position is ideal for a well-organized self-motivated individual who possesses outstanding administrative and clerical skills who wants a stable longterm 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 entry as well as acuity working with numbers and budgets and the use of financial software as part of daily operations. Begin-

ning Salary \$39,921 with ben-

Executive Director Poindexter, Wells County Community Cor-

rections, Suite 107, 102 West

Market Street, Bluffton, In. 46714 or blake.poindexter@w

ellsindiana.org.

Public

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, util-

ity & semi trailers, SUV's, pickup trucks, 100+ skid steer attach-

ments & much more! Accepting consignments, 815 Adams St., Decatur. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402,

BIDDING ENDS JULY 14 - Online Only - Various consignors,

seller. Advertising, furniture, antiques, primitives, artifacts, band

instruments, Bluffton American Legion helmets, stereo equip-

ment, electronics, collectibles, sports memorabilia, retail video

games, tools, lawn & garden, household. Preview & online bid-

ding assistance July 9 & 11, 3-6 p.m., 102 South Jefferson St., Ossian. Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, *The Steffen*

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 Johnloz, 260-827-8181, Neal Wolheter, 260-336-2219, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177. Halder-

man Real Estate & Farm Management, halderman.com, 800-

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

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p.m. Miz Lehman Realtors/Auctioneers, Berne, www.mizlehman.

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Lottery Numbers

Monday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 — 12-20-27-28-

Cash4Life — 14-17-29-50-51, Cash Ball: 03

Quick Draw Midday — 08-10-12-21-25-26-30-32-37-42-43-45-48-62-73-74-

75-77-79-80, BE: 43 Daily Three-Midday — 01-08-02, SB: 09

Daily Three-Evening — 08-05-05, SB: 09

Daily Four-Midday — 06-07-08-07, SB: 09 **Daily Four-Evening** —

08-08-07-01, SB: 09 **Quick Draw Evening** - 03-05-10-11-13-20-23

28-36-38-42-56-59-60-62-69-73-75-76-80, BE: 23 **Hoosier Lotto** — Esti-

mated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$16.8 million **MEGA MILLIONS**

Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$181 million **POWERBALL**

20-22-31-33-45 Powerball: 01; Power Play: 3X

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Republicans move at Trump's behest to change how they will oppose abortion

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The Republican National Committee moved Monday to adopt a party platform that reflects former President Donald Trump's position opposing a federal abortion ban and ceding limits to states, omitting the explicit basis for a national ban for the first time in 40 years.

Trump imposed his priorities on the RNC's platform committee as he seeks to steer clear during his campaign of strict abortion language, even while taking credit for setting up the 2022 reversal of Roe v. Wade by the Supreme Court. Trump appointed three of the six justices who voted in the majority to overturn the 1973 precedent that established a national right to have an abortion.

The scaled-down platform — just 16 pages and with limited specifics on many key Republican issues — reflects a desire by the Trump campaign to avoid giving Democrats more material for their warnings about the former president's intentions if he wins back the White House. President Joe Biden's campaign has repeatedly highlighted the "Project 2025" document produced by Trump

allies as well as Trump's own promises to impose wide-ranging tariffs, replace thousands of government workers with party loyalists and stage the largest deportation operation in U.S. history.

The policy document sticks to the party's longstanding principle that the Constitution extends rights to fetuses, but removes language maintaining support for an "amendment to the Constitution and legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to children before birth," a passage in the party platform first included in 1984.

It asserts, "We believe that the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States guarantees that no person can be denied life or liberty without due process." The document also noted "that the states are, therefore, free to pass laws protecting those rights"

The abortion language was first reported by The New York Times.

Anti-abortion advocates who had criticized the Trump campaign's efforts leading up to the platform committee's meeting largely fell in line Monday.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of SBA Pro-Life America, praised the committee for reaffirming "its commitment to protect unborn life through the 14th Amendment."

Dannenfelser stopped short of endorsing the document's reflection of Trump's view that the matter rests entirely with states. Under the 14th Amendment, "it is Congress that enacts and enforces its provisions"

The platform committee began its meeting Monday, a week before the start of the Republican National Convention in Wisconsin where Trump is scheduled to accept his third straight nomination for president.

The platform is a statement of first principles traditionally written by party activists. In 2016, the platform included an endorsement of a 20-week national ban. Trump had supported federal legislation in 2018 that would have banned abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, though the measure fell short of the necessary support in

Trump this year has faced months of Democratic criticism

over abortion as Biden's reelection campaign has highlighted that Trump nominated half of the Supreme Court majority that struck down the nationwide right to abortion in 2022.

In promoting the platform document, the campaign released a statement highlighting 20 issues it addresses, including immigration, the economy, energy, taxes and crime, but omitted any mention of abortion in the subject titles.

Among the vocal abortion opponents on the platform committee, some say the aspiration of a federal ban on abortion after a certain stage in pregnancy must remain a party principle, even if it's not an immediately attainable policy or one that necessarily helps the Trump campaign in November.

"I see that as problematic. We still need these principles clearly stated. Some of these battles are not over," said Iowa state Rep. Brad Sherman, a platform committee member who supported Trump's winning Iowa caucus campaign in January and also supports a federal limit on abortion.

Conservative activists who were accustomed to having a seat

at the table fumed beforehand over what they said was a secretive process for selecting committee members and the meeting taking place behind closed doors.

"For 40 years, the Republican Party and the GOP platform have massively benefitted from an open and transparent process," said Tim Chapman, the incoming president of Advancing American Freedom, a foundation headed by Trump's former Vice President Mike Pence.

Trump's campaign has sought to reshape the Republican National Committee into a campaign vessel. It signaled in a memo last month from senior campaign advisers Chris LaCivita and Susie Wiles that "textbook-long platforms ... are scrutinized and intentionally misrepresented by our political opponents."

Trump ally Russ Vought is serving as the policy director of the Republican Party's platform writing committee while also leading the effort to draft the 180-day agenda for Project 2025, a sweeping proposal for remaking government that Trump said Friday he knew "nothing about" despite having several former aides involved.

Russia's recent bombing of Kyiv kills at least 31, hits children's hospital

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian missiles blasted cities across Ukraine on Monday, damaging the country's largest children's hospital and other buildings in a fierce assault that interrupted heart surgeries and forced young cancer patients to take their treatments outdoors. At least 31 people were killed, officials said.

The daytime barrage targeted five Ukrainian cities with more than 40 missiles of different types, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on social media. Ukraine's air force said it intercepted 30 missiles. More than 150 people were wounded.

It was Russia's heaviest bombardment of Kyiv in almost four months, hitting seven of the city's 10 districts. At least seven people were killed in the capital, including two staff members at the hospital. Strikes in Kryvyi Rih, Zelenskyy's birthplace in central Ukraine, killed 10.

The attack on the Okhmatdyt children's hospital caused debris to fall into heart patients' open chests in the middle of surgery. Cancer patients had their beds wheeled into parks and onto the streets.

"It is very important that the world should not be silent about it now and that everyone should see what Russia is and what it is doing," Zelenskyy said.

Russia denied attacking the hospital and said the strikes hit military targets.

The assault unfolded a day before Western leaders who have backed Ukraine were scheduled to begin a three-day NATO summit

in Washington to consider how they can reassure Kyiv of the alliance's unwavering support and offer Ukrainians hope that their country can survive Europe's biggest conflict since World War II.

Zelenskyy said during a visit to Poland that he hopes the summit will provide more air defense systems for Ukraine.

In a statement, U.S. President Joe Biden called Monday's missile strikes "a horrific reminder of Russia's brutality."

"It is critical that the world continues to stand with Ukraine at this important moment and that we not ignore Russian aggression," the statement said.

At the hospital in Kyiv, rescuers searched for victims under the rubble of a partially collapsed, two-story wing

of the facility. At the main 10-story building, windows and doors were blown out, and walls were blackened. Blood was spattered on the floor in one room. The intensive care unit, operating theaters and oncology departments all were damaged, officials said.

At the time of the strike, three heart operations were being performed, leading to the contamination of the patients' open chests with blast debris, Health Minister Viktor Liashko said.

The hospital lost water, light and oxygen, and the patients were transferred to other hospitals, he told Ukrainian television.

Rescuers formed a line, passing bricks and other debris to each other as they sifted through rubble. Smoke rose from the build-

ing, and volunteers and emergency crews worked in protective masks.

Some mothers carried their children away on their backs, while others waited in the courtyard with their children as calls to doctors' phones rang unanswered.

"Among the victims were Ukraine's sickest children," said Volker Türk, the U.N.

A U.N. team visited the hospital shortly after it was hit and saw the children receiving cancer treatments in hospital beds set up outdoors, he added.

human rights commissioner.

"This is abominable, and I implore those with influence to do everything in their power to ensure these attacks stop immediately," Türk said.

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Thanks to a \$1B gift, most Johns Hopkins medical students will no longer pay tuition

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN and THALIA BEATY AP Business Writers

Most medical students at Johns Hopkins University will no longer pay tuition thanks to a \$1 billion gift from Bloomberg Philanthropies announced Monday.

Starting in the fall, the donation will cover full tuition for medical students from families earning less than \$300,000. Living expenses and fees will be covered for students from families who earn up to \$175,000.

Bloomberg Philanthropies said that currently almost two-thirds of all students seeking a doctor of medicine degree from Johns Hopkins qualify for financial aid, and 45% of the current class will also

receive living expenses. The school estimates that graduates' average total loans will decrease from \$104,000 currently to \$60,279 by 2029.

The gift will also increase financial aid for students at the university's schools of nursing, public health, and other graduate schools.

"By reducing the financial barriers to these essential fields, we can free more students to pursue careers they're passionate about and enable them to serve more of the families and communities who need them the most," Michael Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies and Bloomberg LP, said in a statement on Monday. Bloomberg received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Johns Hopkins University in 1964. The gift will go to John Hopkins' endowment and every penny will go directly to students, said Ron Daniels, president of Johns Hopkins University.

"Mike has really been moved by the challenges that the professions confronted during the course of the pandemic and the heroic efforts they've made to protecting and providing care to American citizens during the pandemic," Daniels said in an interview. "I think he simply wanted to recognize the importance of these fields and provide this support to ensure that the best and brightest could attend medical school and the school of nursing and public health."

Bloomberg Philanthropies previously gifted \$1.8 billion to Johns Hopkins in 2018 to ensure that undergraduate students are accepted regardless of their family's income.

Johns Hopkins will be the latest medical school to offer free tuition to most or all of their medical students.





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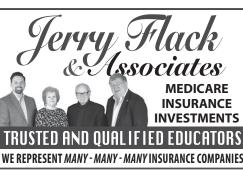
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PRE-FAIR SCHEDULE • FRIDAY - JULY 12

9:00 am-7:00 pm Industrial & Merchants Displays Set Up

11:00 am Food Vendors open

4:00 pm Antique Tractor Pull Weigh-In, Pulling Strip

5:00 pm Antique Tractor Pull Contest, sponsored by Wheels of Yesteryear (Bring lawn chairs)

5:00-8:00 pm Livestock Check-in (Use Spring Street Entrance)

FAIR SCHEDULE • SATURDAY, JULY 13

6:45 am 4-H 5K Run/Walk - Registration Spring Street Closed for

7:30 am 4-H 5K Run/Walk, Stage Area

8:30 am Awards, 4-H 5K Run/Walk, Stage Area

9:30 am Parade Line-up at Bluffton Regional, South Parking Lot 10:00 am Parade leaves Bluffton Regional, South Parking Lot

10:30 am Parade in front of Grandstands (4-H units, Floats, Bands, Merchants, etc)

11:00 am - 8 pm 4-H Foundation Activities: Mini Golf & Corn Hole

12:00 pm Expo Hall Opens, Community Center

12:00 pm TRSS Drum Corp, Midway (Will be in parade, drum line starts 30 minutes ofter parade ends)

12:00-8:00 pm Craft Bazaar, Quonset Hut

12:30 am Goat Olympics, Livestock Arena

1:00 pm Horse and Pony Versatility, Grandstand

1:30 pm Cat Show, Rooms I & 2, Community Center

3:00 pm Public Fashion Revue, Community Center Bldg.

4:30-6:30 pm Back Porch Beef BBQ, Food Pavilion

5:30 pm Presentation of 4-H Ten Year & Caley Memorial Awards, Announcement of Wells County 4-H Ambassadors, Stage Area (Bring lawn chairs)

6:00-8:00 pm Log Cabin Open

8:00 pm 4-H Spirit Night, Grandstand, \$1 / youth or 1 Canned Good for entry fee

SUNDAY - JULY 14

7:00 am-11:00 am Pancake & Sausage Breakfast, Food Pavilion

9:00 a.m. Alpaca & Llama Show, Livestock Show Arena

9:00 am Horse & Pony Show, Western Performance & Riding, Reining, Trail

10:00 am Praise in the Park, hosted by River of Life Church 12:00-8:00 pm 4-H Foundation Activities: Mini Golf & Corn Hole Toss

12:00-8:00 pm Craft Bazaar, Quonset Hut

1:00 pm Mini 4-H Rabbit, Rabbit & Poultry Barn 1:00 pm Horse & Pony Western, English Show Grandstand

2:00 pm 4-H Rabbit Ambassador Showmanship Contest, Rabbit & Poultry Barn

2:00-8:00 pm Log Cabin Open

3:00-5:00 pm Pionieer Crofters & Dulcimer Music, Log Cabin Area (Bring lawn chairs)

4:00 pm Sheep Show, Livestock Arena

5:00-7:00 pm The Keystones, Youth Rock Band, Stage Area (Bring

6:00 pm Mini 4-H Horse & Pony Show, Grandstand 6:30 pm Dairy Cattle Show, Livestock Arena

MONDAY - JULY 15

7:00-11:00 am Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast hosted by Sheep & Meat Goats, Food Pavilion

9:00 am Swine Show, Livestock Arena

11:00 am-8:00 pm 4-H Foundation Activities: Mini Golf & Corn

2:00 pm Photo Session for 4-H Champions, Community Center Expo Hall Stage

4:00-8:00 pm Log Cabin Open

4:00-5:00 pm Wells County Library doing a Storytime located at the playground near the Log Cabin



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CONT' MONDAY - JULY 15

4:30-7:30 pm Chick-fil-A Sandwiches, Food Pavilion; Hosted by Sheep & Meat Goat Clubs

5:00-8:00 pm Craft Show, Quonset Hut

5:00 pm Dairy Goat Show, Livestock Arena

6:30 pm Raptors and Eagles, presented by Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehabilitation, Log Cabin Area (Bring lawn chairs)

7:30 pm Miss Wells County Teen & Queen Pageant, Stage Area (Bring lawn chairs)

TUESDAY - JULY 16

8:00 am Rabbit Show, Rabbit & Poultry Barn

9:00 am Meat Goat Show, Livestock Arena

11:00-8:00 pm 4-H Foundation Activities: Mini Golf & Corn Hole

4:00 pm Dairy Beef Show, Livestock Arena

4:00-7:00 pm Pork Chop BBQ Supper

4:00-8:00 pm Log Cabin Open

6:00 pm Horse & Pony Show, Contesting

6:00 pm Dairy Feeder Calf Show, Livestock Arena

6:30 pm State Park Nature Program, Log Cabin Area (Bring Lawn Chair)

7:00-9:00 pm Hubie Ashcraft (Bring Lawn Chairs)

WEDNESDAY - JULY 17

9:00 am Poultry Show, Rabbit & Poultry Barn

10:00 am Beef Show, Livestock Arena

11:00-8:00 pm 4-H Foundation Activities: Mini Golf & Corn Hole Toss

4:00-7:00 pm Pulled Pork Dinner, Food Pavilion

4:00-8:00 pm Log Cabin Open

6:00 pm Grand Champion Award Presentation, Expo Hall Stage, Community Center

6:00 pm Horse & Pony - Senior Ride, Club Awards, Fun Show

6:30 pm Native American Way of Life presented by Ashley Anderson, Log Cabin Area (Bring Lawn Chairs)

6:30-8:30 pm Robotics Club Demonstration, Community Center

6:30 pm Photo Sessions for 4-H Champions, Expo Hall Stage,

Community Center **7:00 pm** 4-H Livestock Royal Showmanship Contest, Livestock

Arena

7:00 pm Kids Pedal Pull - Registration, Food Pavilion Patio

7:00-9:00 pm Trevor Hunt Band, Stage Area (Bring Lawn Chairs) **7:30 pm** Kids Pedal Pull - Food Pavilion Patio (Bring Lawn Chairs)

9:00 pm Horse & Pony Exhibits Released

10:00 pm-12 Midnight Release of Livestock Exhibits (Except Auction Animals)

THURSDAY - JULY 18

6:00 am 12 Noon - Release of Livestock (Except Animals in Auction)

9:00 am Dog Club Show, Quonset Hut

2:00 pm Premier Auction (Champion Crops, Foods, & Garden), Livestock Arena

3:00-7:00 pm Auction Buyers Hospitality Tent near Livestock Arena **3:00-7:00 pm** 4-H Project Release & Clean-up Expo Hall

3:30 pm 4-H Livestock Auction, Livestock Arena (Sale Order - Poultry, Rabbit, Beef, Dairy, Dairy Beef, Sheep, Dairy Feeder, Goat, 4-H Foundation, Swine) Livestock Arena

4:00-8:00 pm Log Cabin Open

6:30 pm State Park Nature Program, Log Cabin Area, (Bring Lawn Chairs)

FRIDAY - JULY 19

9:00-11:00 am Fair Clean Up, All Clubs. Meet outside Extension Office

6:00 pm Truck Pull, Gates Open, \$5 (ages 5-12); \$10 (13 and over) **7:00 pm** Truck Pull Starts



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'Frustrating' partisan stalemate: the new normal for farm bills?

By ALLISON WINTER Indiana Capital Chronicle

WASHINGTON — The stalemate over the current farm bill may be solidifying a new era in farm politics as it joins the last three farm bills in a trend of delays and partisan division — a contrast from the legislation's history of bipartisanship.

Every five years, Congress is tasked with drafting a new federal farm bill. The omnibus law that began 90 years ago as various kinds of payments to support farmers now has an impact far beyond the farm, with programs to create wildlife habitat, address climate change and provide the nation's largest federal nutrition program.

The current farm bill process, already nearly a year behind schedule, is at an impasse as Democrats and Republicans clash over how to pay for the bill and whether to place limits on nutrition and climate programs. The previous farm bill expired in September 2023 and has been extended through the end of this September.

Historically, farm bills were completed within a few months of their expiration date. Ten of the 13 farm bills since 1965 were enacted by December 31 in the year of their expirations. But three of the four farm bills since 2008 went beyond that date.

The last three bills – including the 2018 bill, which is the one recent version that passed on time – each had partisan disagreements about spending.

The trend represents a change in how the oncebipartisan legislation is viewed.

"The last two farm bills were the anomaly," said Jonathan Coppess, a professor of Agricultural Law and Policy at the University of Illinois who has written a history of the farm bill. "Now that it has been three in a row, I'm not sure that holds."

A recent report from the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service notes that starting in 2008, farm bills have been subject to delays, vetoes and insufficient votes to pass on the floor.

The report concluded: "Over time, farm bills have tended to become more complicated and politically sensitive. As a result, the timeline for reauthorization has become less certain."

Spending debate

That uncertainty is true of the current farm bill, as Republicans in the House and Senate push for spending limits that Democrats say are non-starters.

"I don't think we're close to getting a farm bill done until the folks who are negotiating the farm bill are realistic about what's doable within a constrained resource environment," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in an interview on the radio program Agri-Talk June 21.

Talk June 21.

The Republican-led House Agriculture Committee approved its farm bill proposal largely on party lines at the end of May, after hours of debate and complaints from Democrats that the process had not been as

bipartisan as in years past.

Four Democrats voted for the bill in committee, but they joined 20 other Democrats on the committee in a "dissenting views" letter expressing "genuine concern over the trajectory of the Majority's partisan farm bill" – which they predicted would be stuck in delay and dysfunction without significant changes.

The Senate Agriculture Committee has yet to vote. The Republican and Democratic leaders of the committee have each put forward contrasting bills and expressed their frustration.

'The most frustrating time'

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, a Michigan Democrat who is retiring after this term, has called the process the "most frustrating" of her career and said she would not let the Republican approach for the farm bill be her legacy.

"I've actually been involved in six farm bills and led on three of them, and this has been the most frustrating time," said Stabenow in an interview with Michigan Advance at the end of June. "Because it's so much more partisan than usual and particularly around food assistance."

Partisan division is not uncommon in today's Congress but is notable on the farm bill, which had historically brought together lawmakers from both sides of the aisle. Bipartisan support can be necessary for final passage because the size of the \$1.5 trillion farm bill means it inevitably loses some votes from fiscal conservatives and others.

"If you don't have a bipartisan bill, this is not going to happen, and that is no matter who's in charge. The margins are too close to be able to get this done without bipartisan support," said Collin Peterson, a former Democratic House member from Minnesota and Agriculture Committee Chairman.

The key dispute for Democrats this year is a funding calculation that would place limits on the "Thrifty Food Plan" formula that calculates benefits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP.

Republicans are using the limits to offset other spending in the bill on crop subsidies. The top Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, Arkansas Sen. John Boozman, said he wants to put "more farm in the farm bill."

Peterson, who is now the head of an eponymous consulting firm, said in an interview with States Newsroom that Republicans would likely have to make changes to the nutrition title to get a bill to final passage.

"It is unrealistic to think they are going to get this done without significant changes in that part of the bill," he said.

'An uneasy alliance' from the start

The nutrition program that is at the center of the impasse was added to the legislation 50 years ago to help build a coalition of wide-ranging bipartisan support

Lawmakers added the nutrition title to the farm bill in 1973, a move that widened the vested inter-

est in the bill in the House. Lawmakers who wanted to increase payments for cotton and wheat farmers in their districts were able to bring in support from representatives from districts whose citizens could benefit from food aid.

Since then, the farm bill in many ways has become a food bill. Three-quarters of the mandatory spending in the bill falls under the nutrition title, which includes SNAP, the largest U.S. program that addresses hunger.

The program, formerly called food stamps, supplements food budgets for low-income households. Antihunger groups have joined the outside interests pushing for the bill every five years.

But with such a large funding line, the nutrition program has become a target for Republicans who want to cut it to offset other spending in the bill.

"The dispute is all the pay-fors," Peterson said. "And that has been the issue for the last three farm bills and issue on this one as well."

Peterson, who was chairman of the House Agriculture Committee for the 2008 farm bill and was the top Democrat on the committee for the 2013 and 2018 bills, said partisan division on the committee is not unfamiliar at this phase of the process.

The farm bills he worked on also had partisan votes in the House but eventually found support from both sides after conferencing with the Senate.

"At the end of the day, every one of those bills was partisan, until we got through the conference committee, and then at that point it was bipartisan, because the Senate brought some of that to the table," Peterson said. "So, kind of, what's going on here went on the last three farm bills."

The most recent farm bill in 2018 was marked by contentious partisan debate centered on SNAP's work requirements and other eligibility rules.

The House Agriculture Committee's bill that year initially failed on the House floor and later squeaked through on a 213-211 vote. Twenty Republicans joined all House Democrats in voting against that bill.

After reconciling with the Senate bill and the removal of some of the contentious changes to SNAP, most

Democrats flipped their votes in support and the House agreed to the final conference report in a bipartisan vote of 369-47. The dissenting votes included 44 Republicans and three Democrats

A trend toward fracture

The partisan division over the nutrition title creates new fault lines for the farm bill.

Historically, farm bill alliances were more regional than partisan. They were built on a common ground of support for shared crops or producers: cotton in the South, corn in the Midwest and wheat in the Western Plains.

"What was our biggest issue back in the four farm bills that I wrote was not Republican versus Democrat. It was usually Midwest against the Southeast or the Northeast or the Southwest from a crop standpoint," former Senator Saxby Chambliss said in an interview.

Chambliss, a Republican from Georgia, was on the House Agriculture Committee from 1995 to 2002 and the Senate Agriculture Committee 2005 to 2011, which included a stint as chairman and ranking member.

"There's a different political dynamic that exists in the Senate today that did not exist when I was there," Chambliss said. "How much of that bleeds into the farm bill? I don't know the answer to that, but obviously it's a little more acrimonious than what I ever experienced."

As partisan politics have become more entrenched in regions of the country, with the South becoming more closely aligned with the Republican Party, it has played out in farm-bill politics.





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