

The News - Banner

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TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00



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 obvi-

ous," 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-

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Ossian council approves baseball league fee increase and firefighter gear update

By SYDNEY KENT
Baseball parents in Ossian will see an increase in fees next year after a motion passed at the Ossian Town Council meeting on Monday.
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-be-needed 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 added.
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. Addi-

tionally, 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 asked.

(Continued on Page 2)

Feds approve initial Hoosier internet grant application

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑOZ
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 history.
"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 Administration.
"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 continued.
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

By SAMY MAGDY
and WAFAA SHURAF
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-month-

long war.
Hamis 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 days.
Israeli troops were again battling 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 hun-

dreds 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-

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Outside

Thunder and lightning and rain, oh my
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Wed. High 75 Low 62
Thursday High 79 Low 63
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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 the area.

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 to drive through safely.

Ossian:

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

after midnight. Subjects stopped.

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 issue.

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

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. Bond set at \$1,500.

Samuel Fabian Fuentes, 39, New Haven; possession of marijuana, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating while intoxicated, a Class C

misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,000.

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 bond set.

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

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

Maiquutio 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 \$2,500.

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. Booked and released.



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

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

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 County Prosecutor's Office.

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 p.m.

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 birds.

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.

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 18.

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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Senior Citizen's Lunch

Thursday, July 18th • 11:30 am

New Hope Lutheran Church

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Performance by: Senior Saints

The Senior Saints, an energetic group of 71 retirees 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.

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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.



Justin Peeper

"How are you doing today, Santiago?"

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 a.m.

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 bright colors.

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.

Today'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-

cago.

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

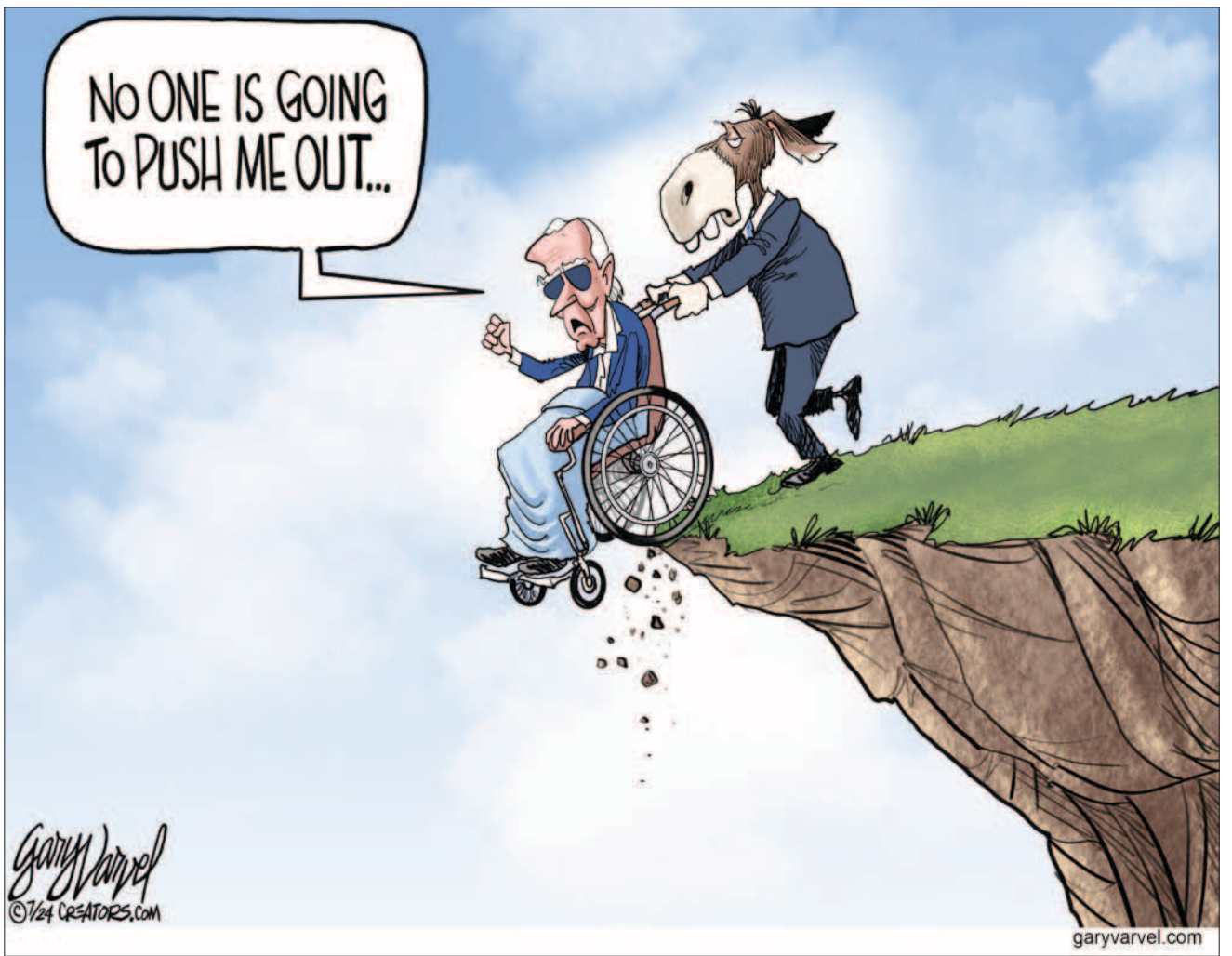
In 1943, during World War II, the Allies launched Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily.

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.



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 been more.

Biden's response, in its entirety: "The whole way I prepared, nobody's fault, mine. Nobody's fault but mine. I, uh — I prepared what I usually would do, sitting down as I did come back with foreign leaders or National Security Council for explicit detail. And I realized — about partway through that, you know, all — I get quoted, the New York Times had me down at 10 points before the debate, nine now, or whatever the hell it is. The fact of the matter is, what I looked at is that he also lied 28 times. I couldn't — I mean, the way the debate ran, not — my fault, no one else's fault, no one else's fault."

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-alone-can-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 up-to-date information about the president's health. His unwillingness to provide that speaks volumes.

ruthmarcus@washpost.com



Ruth Marcus

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 thread.

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 major-party 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 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 national-security 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



Rich Lowry

The News-Banner (USPS 059-200) 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 Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

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

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

The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



be happening? Now as I write, I cry all over again. Surely he had no idea the battle I had fought in my heart to put out a garden minus my husband who so enjoyed gardening with his growing family. He had no idea of all that had happened many years ago, robbing me of my confidence with working in the garden, and then the battle to rebuild it. But, God knew.

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 what I need and how to fill it?

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 his power.

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)

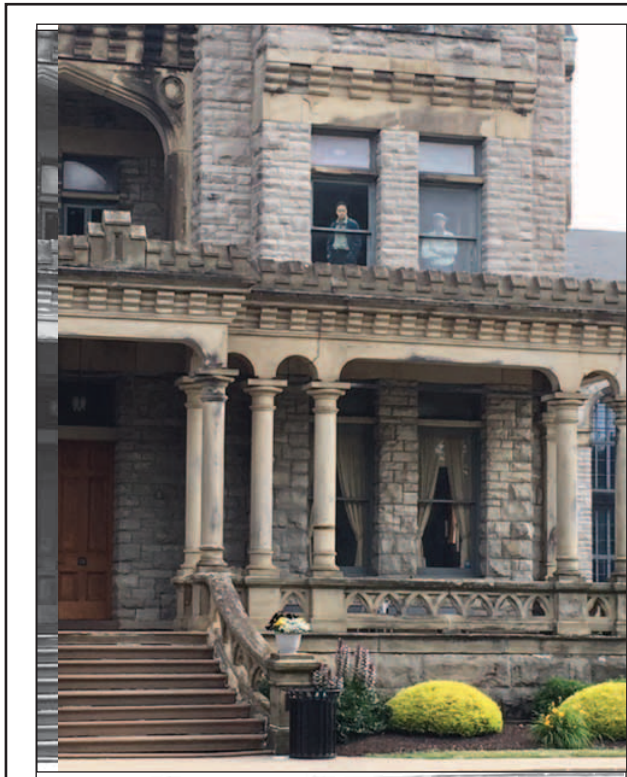
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 cup milk or cream
- 1 cup fried bacon bits (opt)
- 1 1/2 cups shredded cheese of your choice

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 minutes.

Sprinkle with bacon and cheese. Set lid ajar 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.)

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

noon.)

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. to 2 p.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 Park.

More information at ThreeRiversFestival.

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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 showcase area.

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 10 p.m.

Irish Folk Music will be presented on Friday, July 12, 8-9:30 p.m. featuring Carrie White and Matt Katin-

sky. (Appetizers from Jk O'Donnell's.)

Art work showcasing the history of the conservatory will be featured during the 40th anniversary celebration.

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

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.

JULY IS EYE EXAM MONTH

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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 more apparent.

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

reading.

• **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.

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 school-aged children.

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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 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 will.

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

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, 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

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. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

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. — P.H.

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,

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 Graham.)

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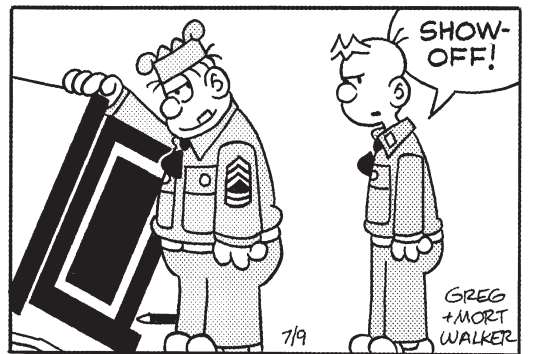
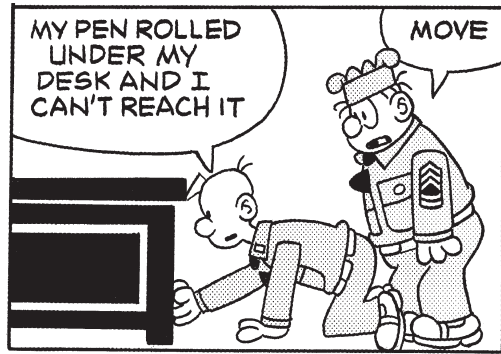
TV schedule table with columns for time slots (5 PM to 12:30) and rows for various channels (WINM, CBS, etc.).

Dear Annie

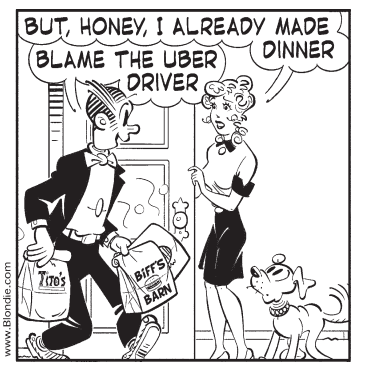
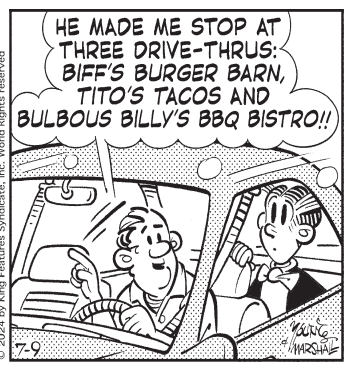
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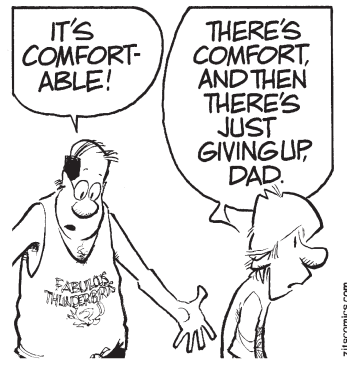
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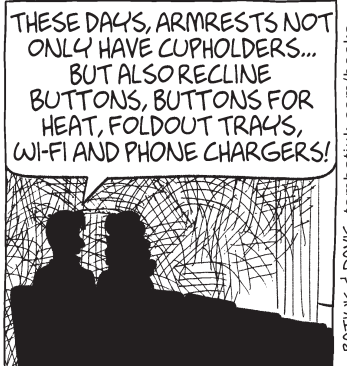
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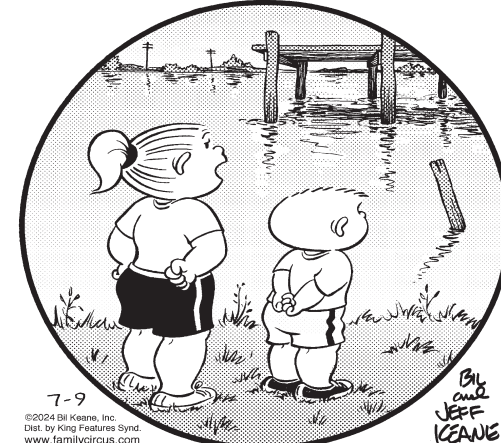
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Puritans knew that the life of faith is a struggle

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 22 mins. and Yesterday's answer 7-9.

Grid for Yesterday's answer 7-9 crossword puzzle.

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 catastrophe.

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 with Hamas intact — a condition Netanyahu reiterated Sunday.

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."

ADAMS COUNTY 4-H FAIR

JULY 21-25, 2024

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
- 7PM Battle of the Barns

FAIR ACTIVITIES • SUNDAY, JULY 21

- 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

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- 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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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 the Senate.

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.

human rights commissioner. 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.

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

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.

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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 Run
- 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 Toss
- 12:00 pm Expo Hall Opens, Community Center
- 12:00 pm TRSS Drum Corp, Midway (Will be in parade, drum line starts 30 minutes after 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 1 & 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 Pioneer 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 lawn chairs)
- 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 Hole Toss
- 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 Toss
- 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 Expo Hall
- 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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