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WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00



Karlie Brown RieAnn Krinn Eve McElhane Kammy Miller Cruz Rinkenberger



Kyah Boots Harlie Durham Violet McClain Sophia Meeks MacKenzie Price Sydney Soars

A new Miss Wells to be crowned at the fairgrounds on Monday

The Miss Wells County pageant will take place at 7:30 p.m. Monday on the 4-H fair stage. During this time, new winners for Miss Wells County and Miss Wells County Teen will be crowned. They will take over the from the reign of current Miss Wells, Grace Meeks, and Miss Wells Teen, Samantha Evans.

The following women are competing in the Miss Wells County pageant.

Karlie Brown, the daughter of Donald and Mary Brown, is a 2023 Bluffton High School graduate. She just completed her freshman year at Ball State University Honors college where she is studying psychological sciences with a minor in women and gender studies. Her goal is to earn her doctorate and become a therapist helping middle school-aged children. Karlie is a member of the Phi Mu sorority, where she holds the KROP

(Keep Recruiting Our Phis) chair position on the Executive Council and volunteers for philanthropic events in her sorority. She also volunteers at the animal shelter in Muncie and attends Oak Grove United Methodist Church. At BHS, Karlie was involved in student council, Students for Christ, choir, softball, tennis and cheerleading. She was also involved in Girl Scouts and the Creative Arts Theater. She won

(Continued on Page 2)

Ossian Elementary renovation nears the finish line

By HOLLY GASKILL
Renovation work is nearly complete at Ossian Elementary School, Principal Theresa Casto reported Tuesday. During the board of trustees meeting for Norwell Community Schools, Casto said crews were still working on flooring near the front office and cafeteria but teachers can start moving back into their rooms on Monday. Board member Traci Neuenschwander asked if the move-in process would take a long time, and Casto said it would largely depend on the teacher's preferences for their room. That said, each teacher will encounter a fair amount of construction dust. "Even though the custodians and maintenance staff have worked hard, (the dust) is just a daily deal," Casto said. The first August meeting, Aug. 13, will be preceded by an open house of the building for the community. All are welcome to attend.

Also on Tuesday, the board reviewed options for OES pick-up traffic in light of the bridge work on State Road 1 between 900N and Wood Creek Drive. The road is down to one lane for the construction and is often backed up for several blocks — board member Gene Donaghy advised he's known it to be backed up to Heyerly's Bakery. The construction is expected to continue through October. In discussion with several bus drivers and Casto, Superintendent Mike Springer said it seemed most apt to avoid parents entering and exiting through S.R. 1 due to the existing congestion. The board agreed on the second presented option, which has parents coming in on Metts Street, picking up along the north side of the building, and exiting onto Melching Drive. Buses will pick up on the west side of the building. However, the board members recognized that it would be an ongoing item, especially as they plan to coordinate some

(Continued on Page 2)

Local ballot finalized for general election

By HOLLY GASKILL
Last Wednesday was the last day for the Democratic Party, minor parties or independent candidates to toss names in the ring for the general election. According to Wells County Clerk Beth Davis, there were no additions as the deadline passed. This means there will be one contested race at the county level — incumbent republicans Seth Whicker, Vicki Andrews and Scott Elzey are challenged for their At-Large County Council seats by Brian Hollingsworth (D) and Scott Burke (I). Two school board elections will also have contests. For Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools, Chris Koiner has challenged incumbent Trent White for

the board's District 3 seat. Two newcomers — Jeremiah Tomlin, Bluffton, and Catherine Peterson, Craigville — are running for the Lancaster Township seat, currently held by Angie Topp, on the Norwell Community Schools board of trustees. Preston Kaehr is unopposed in his race for BHMSD's At-Large seat. The seat is vacant, as board member Angie Sheets' was recently appointed to the District 2 seat following Bruce Holland's resignation. The board is slated to appoint someone to the seat at a special meeting on Tuesday, July 16. No candidates filed for Bruce Murray's District 1 seat. For NWCS, Todd Nash, Ossian, is unopposed for the

(Continued on Page 2)

Oak Street to close for cancer benefit fundraiser

By JONATHAN SNYDER
A cancer benefit fundraiser on July 13 will close down Oak Street from Wabash Street to Market Street, with the Board of Public Works and Safety approving the closure Tuesday. Ashley Miller came before the Board of Works and announced the benefit fundraiser for her 13-year-old daughter Addison, who was diagnosed in April of this year. The fundraiser will be held at 119 North Oak St. and will feature a cookout, bake sale and raffle, with all funds helping the family with medical bills and expenses. The listed time for the event is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. "Our hearts go out to you and

your family," Mayor John Whicker said. Miller stated that while they moved away for a few years, Addison wished to move back to Bluffton, which the family did a couple of months ago. The board also approved raises for six city employees. Electric Department Lineman Travis Barnes, Water Department Pipe Fitter Mechanic Shane Bennett, Animal Control Officer Megan Bowling, Street Department Employee Todd Chrisman and Street Department Truck Drivers Billy France and Steve Gase were all given \$1 hourly raises.

jonathan@news-banner.com



Final 5K in 5 Series
Despite rain in the forecast, the final run in the Summer 5 in 5 5K series occurred Tuesday. Above right, Becca Arnold (left) and Chris Weaver cross the finish line at the Wabash River Park. At middle, Liam (left) and David Teeple stretch out before the run begins. Above left, Cory Leas makes his final push toward the finish line. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

Inside
Local/Area
Obituaries 3
Court Docket 3

Opinion
Carrie Penrod 4

Also...
Sports 6
Classifieds 7
Diversions 5

Outside

More rain and more wind, sunshine tomorrow

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 74	High 80	High 83
Low 60	Low 63	Low 65

More Weather on Page 2

Online

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Miss Wells contestants

(Continued from Page 1)

numerous awards while involved in Wells County 4-H, including the Junior and Senior Ambassador. She was a 13-year member of the Rising Stars Twirling Academy where she won many awards and assisted in teaching the Mini Stars. She was also crowned the 2021 Miss Wells County Teen. Karlie enjoys reading, playing tennis, and singing. She also enjoys volunteering with her sorority sisters and working at Taco Bell as a shift manager.

Karlie is sponsored by Family Ford of Bluffton.

RieAnn Krinn, the daughter of Matt and Shelley Krinn, is a 2023 Norwell graduate and currently studies health sciences at Indiana University. She plans to apply to the Indiana University School of Medicine to become a pediatric pulmonologist and work at Parkview Health or Riley Children's Hospital.

RieAnn is a 10-year 4-H member, 4-H Junior Leader, 4-H volunteer and 4-H judge. She has been awarded both the 4-H Junior and Senior Ambassador. She is a MedLife Fort Wayne Chapter Events Coordinator, vice president of Alpha Sigma Alpha Fort Wayne Chapter, and on the Indiana University Deans List. She is also a videographer for Fairview Church. RieAnn enjoys reading, writing and crafting artificial floral arrangements.

RieAnn is sponsored by Heinold/Evolution Show Feeds.

Eve McElhaney, the daughter of Brady and Gwen McElhaney, is a 2023 graduate of Southern Wells and currently studies political science and legal studies with a minor in international studies at Indiana State University. Her goal is to attend Vanderbilt Law School or Indiana University Law School to work in the family, estate planning and agricultural law sectors.

At ISU, she is involved in Lemon Club (branch of Alex's Lemonade Stand for Childhood Cancer), National Society of Leadership and Success, and She's the First group. She is also the vice president of Administrative Affairs for Pickerl Hall Council and is a new Student Staff in her resident hall. Eve is also involved in community organizations, including Friends of Ouabache State Park and G.I.R.L.'s Night Out Women's Group at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. She attends St. Benedict's Catholic Church in Terre Haute and volunteers in the soup kitchen.

She also works at the Indiana State University Student Recreation Center as

a building supervisor and as a substitute teacher at Southern Wells Jr./Sr. High School when on break. She also works as an egg packer for Worster's Chicken Houses, an industrial engineering intern at WEG Commercial Motors and a gate attendant at Ouabache State Park.

She was awarded the People's Choice Award and the Sycamore Ambassador Award from the Miss Indiana State University Foundation. She won numerous awards and honors while attending Southern Wells. Eve enjoys politics, reading fantasy novels, creating floral arrangements, spending time with family, going to the gym, and going on spontaneous adventures. She loves being outside in nature and being by the water on her family's annual summer vacations.

Eve is sponsored by Toppings Ice Cream Parlor.

Kammy Miller, the daughter of Garry and Lisa Miller, is a 2024 Southern Wells graduate and will attend the University of Northwestern Ohio to study agricultural business management. Upon completion, she plans to work as a livestock or crop manager.

Kammy is involved in Wells County 4-H where she has won numerous awards, including 2023 Senior Ambassador, The Caley Memorial Award and 2021 Junior Ambassador. In school, she was involved in FFA, FCLA, Sunshine Society, National Honors Society, Campus Life and Student Council. She also served in several leadership positions such as FFA Reporter, Sunshine Society Secretary, Student Council Secretary, and a National Honors Society Officer.

She has also been crowned the 2023 Indiana's Ultimate Teen and 2021 Junior Miss Indiana. She has won numerous awards in 4-H and is involved in many community service projects. Kammy enjoys raising and showing livestock, reading, traveling, public speaking, writing and competing in various events within clubs.

Kammy is sponsored by Montpelier Ag LLC.

Cruz Rinkenberger, the daughter of Joel and Stephanie Rinkenberger, is a 2024 graduate of Bluffton High School. In the fall, she plans to attend college to study ESL (English Speaking Learner) Education and inspire other students. One of her ambitions is to bring awareness to ESL Education in classrooms and community schools.

Cruz has participated in many activities in the community, including Bluffton Campus Life, Teen

Advisory Board, marching band and youth group. Cruz enjoys learning photography, spending time with friends, reading, participating in theater and babysitting.

Cruz is sponsored by the Wells County Creative Arts Council.

The following are contestants for Miss Wells County Teen.

Kyah Boots, the daughter of Shane and Megan Boots, attends Southern Wells Jr./Sr. High School, where she is a member of the Sunshine Society and cheerleading team.

She is a member of the Hurryin' Harrison 4-H Club and the Wells County 4-H Rabbit Club. She is also involved in Summit Volleyball, Southern Wells Youth for Christ and the Southern Wells Community Church. Kyah enjoys drawing and arts, baking, and playing with kids. She hopes to someday work with kids in a school as a teacher or aide or work in a daycare.

Kyah is sponsored by Greg Hiday of Hiday Chevrolet Motors.

Harlie Durham, the daughter of Juliann Durham, will be a freshman at Southern Wells Jr./Sr. High School this fall. In eighth grade, Harlie played volleyball and cheered. This fall, she will serve as the freshman class president, play volleyball, and be a cheerleader.

She is a six-year member of 4-H and was awarded Junior Ambassador in 2023. She is involved in the Southern Wells Community Church and in the Southern Wells FFA Chapter. She has achieved many awards through FFA and BPA. Harlie likes to play with her dog, spend time with friends and family, and enjoys reading a good book. She plans to attend a four-year college to obtain a degree in nursing. She would like to work in a pediatric unit as a nurse.

Harlie is sponsored by Headz Up Hair Salon.

Violet McClain, the daughter of Steve and Amber McClain, attends Southern Wells Jr./Sr. High School.

Violet is a member of the Chester Chargers 4-H Club and the Blackford County Dog Club. She is also involved in the Southern Wells Business Professionals of America and the Southern Wells Community Church. Violet enjoys dancing, singing, crafting for fun and her business, cooking, baking, and spending time with family and friends. She is currently a dance instructor and assistant soccer coach, where she has found a love for teaching. She currently has a business that allows her to showcase her

craft of women's jewelry and hopes to grow it further one day.

Violet is sponsored by Tonner Dumpster Services.

Sophia Meeks, the daughter of David and Jennifer Meeks, attends Southern Wells Jr./Sr. High School and is involved in many activities, including Sunshine Society, student council, marching, pep, and concert bands, and varsity golf. She has received numerous academic awards including Southern Wells Top 10 recipient for 2024.

She is a seven-year Wells County 4-H member where she participates in the goat, rabbit, and fashion review projects. She is also a student of ballet, pointe, tap, modern, and conditioning at the Creative Arts Council of Wells County. She is a Cecchetti USA Level 4/Level 5/Level 6 student. Sophia's hobbies include reading, golf, taking care of animals, sewing, spending time with family in Minnesota, and walking the Rivergreenway in Bluffton. In the future, she plans to attend either Ball State University or Indiana University to become a physician assistant.

Sophia is sponsored by the Creative Arts Council of Wells County.

MacKenzie Price, the daughter of Andy and Melissa Price, will be attending Norwell High School as a freshman in the fall.

She finished eighth grade with academic honors and plays basketball in Fort Wayne with Character and Skills Basketball Team. She is also on the Wells Community Swim Team and a member of the ECC youth group in Fort Wayne. MacKenzie enjoys riding her bike, playing basketball, walking her dogs and spending time with friends. After graduating high school, she plans to attend Purdue University to study animal science and become a veterinarian.

MacKenzie is sponsored by Penn Station.

Sydney Soares, the daughter of Sarah and Rich McIntyre, is a student at Norwell High School, where she is an honor student, member of the Norwell Campus life, and is the president the Riley Relations Committee for Norwell's Riley Dance Marathon.

She is a member of Hope Missionary Church Youth Group and attends church mission trips. She is also a member of Wells County 4-H. Sydney loves to babysitting, going to church, working at Scooters Coffee and spending time with friends. She plans to go to college to study either Christian ministry or psychology.

Sydney Soares is sponsored by The Auto Doctor of Bluffton.

Weather

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:45 p.m. Tuesday)

High: 78; Low: 68; Precipitation: 0.37 inches of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.35 feet at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday

Wells County forecast

Today: A chance of rain before 8 a.m., then a chance of showers after 8 a.m. Cloudy, with a high near 74. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northwest 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 80. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 63. Calm wind.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 83.

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

Saturday: A 20% chance of showers after 2 p.m. Sunny, with a high near 86.

Saturday Night: A 10% chance of showers before 8 p.m. Mostly clear, with a low around 68.

Sunday: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 86.

Sunday Night: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly clear, with a low around 72.

Monday: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 90.

Monday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly clear, with a low around 71.

Local ballot

(Continued from Page 1)

Jefferson Township seat currently held by Gene Donaghy. Both races for Southern Wells Community Schools are also uncontested — Gregg Vanover, Warren, for Jackson Township, and incumbent Todd Fiechter, Bryant, for Nottingham Township.

All other candidates in Wells County are uncontested Republicans. They are:

• County Commissioner, District 2: Blake Gerber, Bluffton

• County Commissioner, District 1: Jeff Stringer, Uniondale

• Coroner: Cliff Thomas, Bluffton

• Recorder: Rina Stuck, Bluffton

• Surveyor: Jarrod Hahn, Keystone

• Treasurer: Pam Gregory, Bluffton

Candidates may withdraw until July 15. Local ballot information is also available on wellscounty.org/elections.

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Upcoming Events

July 20 - Live music from Bob Thompson

July 27 - JB's Cuisine Machine

Ossian Elementary

(Continued from Page 1)

help with the Ossian police. Neuenchwander noted that the school would want to pay close attention to bikers and walkers at dismissal with more cars in the neighborhoods as well.

The board also learned that a four-way stop will be added to Norwell Road and U.S. 224, potentially before the school year starts. Multiple board members expressed that this was a welcomed addition but had some hesitation.

"I cannot believe it," board member Angie Topp joked. "I will believe it when I see it — after all these years."

"I'm real concerned about it," added Donaghy, who said it would be a significant adjustment for traffic. "But then again, as long as there's enough notice (on the road)."

"(It's) definitely a step in the right direction," concluded Springer.

Alongside this, the board approved a new structure for transportation leadership in light of the retirement of former transportation director Stephanie Rohr. "Stephanie had been doing this job for 29 years ... we're not just going to flip a switch and have it be completely seamless, no learning curves after someone doing it for 29 years," Springer advised. "We plan on doing it really well, right? But there's going to be some hiccups, and hopefully, we get some grace with families and with people as we work through changes."

Jenny Nes, executive secretary, will act as transportation secretary, coordinating communication with drivers, cancellations and delays, and scheduling. In light of these added responsibilities, the board approved a job posting for a district secretary to assume some of Nes' former responsibilities.

Bus drivers Ami Crow and Lisa

Hanni will be route coordinators. "It's a pretty natural transition to have some of our more experienced drivers do this," Springer said. They will receive a supplemental pay of \$30 hourly.

Superintendent Mike Springer will continue to act as the authority for cancellations and delays but will be more active in facilitating bus driver training and administrative needs. Human resources secretary Courtney Springer will also fulfill human resources needs for the drivers.

Although the driving staff are managing their routes, the board discussed needing more drivers, particularly for extracurricular activities. Crow and Hanni advised they could advertise for an ECA driver specifically and host interest sessions.

Crow and Hanni said some people assume that driving a bus is difficult, but they've found it easier than other large vehicles. To this, Neuenchwander said her grandfather drove a bus and enthusiastically expressed her interest in taking it for a spin.

The district is also restructuring its technology department in light of the retirement of former technology director Jeff Miller. The board approved hiring Byron Gerber as technology director and Matt Brenner as technology integration specialist.

NWCS is also advertising a special education and preschool secretary in light of the growing demands of the district's, as of July 1, fully independent special education services. Superintendent Mike Springer advised that the district only needs one more physical therapist for a complete special education staff.

The board also unanimously approved the following:

• A contract renewal for Assistant

Superintendent Anna Murphy through 2027. Also, the board approved contract raises for Norwell Middle School Principal Andrew Enderle, OES Assistant Principal Matt Taylor and Lancaster Elementary School Assistant Principal Adam McAfee.

• Resignations of former NHS teaching assistant Sue Elzey, sixth grade science teacher Kristan Graft, sixth grade special education teacher Kelli Slentz, LES Bobcat Care assistant Mallory Falls, OES third grade teacher Anna Perkins and Samantha Betz from food service.

• Recommendations to hire Kaylee Leary as NMS Language Arts teacher, Kaeli Eberle as a LES kindergarten teacher, Crystal Hippensteel as NMS seventh grade math teacher, Emilie Webster as OES art teacher, Megan Wilson as NHS girls' tennis head coach, McKenna Delaney as OES teaching assistant, Alicia Hollman as LES teaching assistant, Brande Bolinger as NMS teaching assistant, and Emily Sebring and Rachael Miller for NHS food service.

• Agreements with The Bowen Center for additional counseling services, the University of Indianapolis for nursing educational services, and Bridging The Blind Gap for orientation and mobility services.

• Donations from Rod Williams, Inc. and Herff Jones, \$1993.75 for high school graduation honors medallions.

• An overnight field trip for the NHS show choir to travel out-of-state to the "Heart of America - Nashville" national competition from Feb. 27-March 2.

Board member Chad Kline was not present Tuesday. The board will meet next at 5:30 p.m. on July 23 at the administrative office.

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State Department of Health seeks dismissal of abortion records lawsuit

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Indiana Department of Health is seeking to dismiss a lawsuit against the agency that was filed by an anti-abortion group over related records.

The lawsuit in question was filed in May by "Voices for Life," which seeks to regain access to Terminated Pregnancy Reports that are no longer being released by the state health department.

Legal counsel for IDOH filed a motion to dismiss on June 21, maintaining that Voices for Life "fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted." The anti-abortion group has until July 23 to file its response.

Ryan Shouse, an attorney with Indianapolis-based Lewis and Wilkins LLP, emphasized in the motion that, "as a matter of law" TPRs are "confidential" under Indiana's Access to Public Records Act, also known as APRA.

"APRA grants any person the right to inspect and copy IDOH's public records," Shouse wrote, noting, however, that APRA contains exemptions.

He pointed to the law, which states that, "patient medical records and charts created by a provider" are "excepted from [the general rule of disclosure] and may not be disclosed by a public agency, unless access to the records is specifically required by a state or federal statute or is ordered by a court under the rules of discovery . . ."

IDOH pushes for dismissal

Shouse additionally argues that TPRs maintained by IDOH meet the statutory definition of "medical records" — therefore making them exempt from APRA.

Per Indiana Code, "medical records" contain three elements: written or printed information; are in the possession of a provider; and concern a patient's diagnosis, treatment or prognosis.

Shouse said TPRs meet all three requirements. His motion points out that Indiana Code specifically requires:

- The diagnosis code for fetus and mother for abortions performed prior to 20 weeks
- The medical reason for an abortion
- Gestational age and the information used to determine gestational age
- Results of pathological testing, if it is performed
- Any disability diagnosis of the fetus
- Pre-existing medical conditions of the mother, and
- The mother's obstetrical history

In addition, the statute requires specifics about the procedure itself, such as the precise medications used for nonsurgical abortions.

"This is patient-specific medical information that is used for the diagnosis and treatment of the individual patient," Shouse said. "In short, TPRs squarely meet Indiana's definition of a 'medical record' because they are written records created and maintained by a provider that contain individualized patient diagnosis and treatment information. Applying this straightforward definition, IDOH properly withheld TPRs pursuant to the medical record exemption in APRA."

Background on the lawsuit

IDOH and Dr. Lindsay Weaver, the state health commissioner, are currently represented by Indianapolis-based Lewis and Wilkins LLP, rather than in-house attorneys from Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita's office.

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

Before then, the reports — while redacted — were regularly released under Indiana's Access to Public Records Act.

The lawsuit, filed in Marion County Superior Court, came just weeks after Rokita called out IDOH and Indiana's Public Access Counselor for "collusion" and issued a non-binding advisory opinion saying TPRs are public records.

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

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

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

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

Britt's ruling isn't binding, either. So far, no court dates have been set in the TPR case. After Voices for Life files its response, it will be up to the judge to decide on the motion to dismiss.

Rush set to seek retention, Indiana chief justice post

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Loretta Rush said Tuesday she will seek retention to the bench this fall, and also reappointment as chief justice.

She has been on state's highest court since 2012 after being appointed by then-Gov. Mitch Daniels. She was last retained by voters in 2014, but she has another vote coming Nov. 5.

"This is an interesting time . . . institutional stability is important," Rush told the Capital Chronicle on Tuesday. "Public trust and confidence is our main currency. I just really looked at it and thought, 'you know, I can do it.' I'll give it my best."

The Judicial Nominating Commission named Rush Indiana's first female chief justice in August 2014, and she was reappointed in 2019. As chief justice, she is responsible for supervising Indiana's

judicial branch. This supervision includes working with the state legislature to secure funding and allocate resources, as well as overseeing a multi-agency central administrative office that handles everything from caseload measures and technology updates to the admission and discipline of lawyers.

The commission of Hoosiers will ultimately decide Aug. 21 whether Rush remains chief justice. A news release said the four other members of the court support her nomination.

Prior to her appointment, Rush spent 15 years at a Lafayette law firm and was elected three times to serve as Tippecanoe Superior Court 3 judge. She earned her undergraduate degree from Purdue University and her law degree from Indiana University Maurer School of Law, both with honors. She is married to Jim Rush with four children and five grandchildren.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County:
Monday, 8:18 p.m., 300 West and 1050 South, Keystone. Report of loose cows.

Tuesday, 11:10 a.m., 500 West U.S. 224, Uniondale. Reports of issue with ticket for license plate in another state.

Tuesday, 12:19 p.m.,

Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Roxana Rangel Gonzalez.

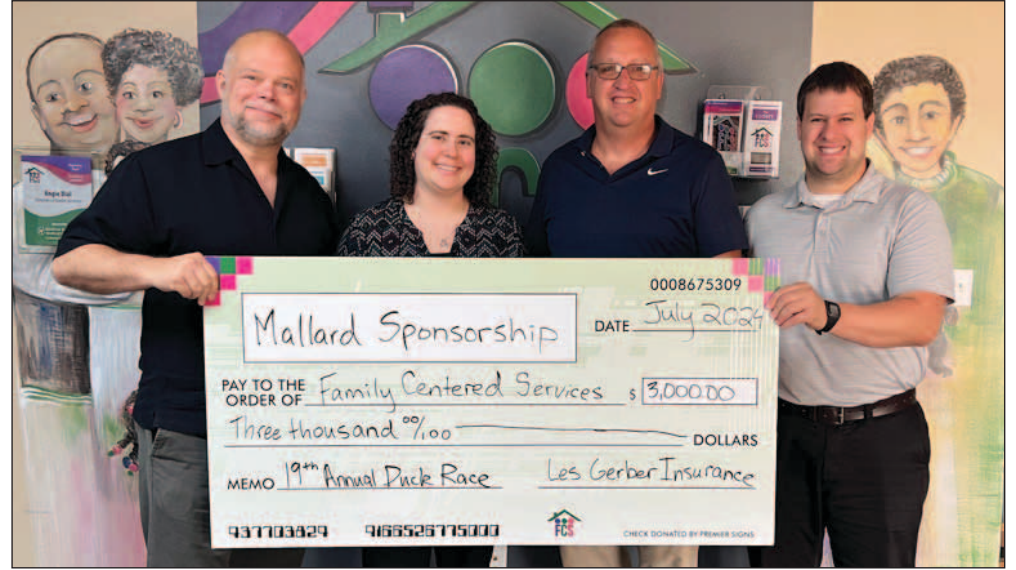
Tuesday, 12:51 p.m., 5400 East S.R. 201, Bluffton. Report of fraud.

Ossian:
Monday, 3:21 p.m., Meadow Lane and Homestead Avenue, Ossian. Report of a kid on a bike in the street.

Tuesday, 12:10 p.m., 8600 North 100 East, Ossian. Caller reported they paid for an item on Facebook and never received it.

ARRESTS

Roxana Rangel Gonzalez, 33, Bluffton; battery, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,000.



Pictured in the photo from left are FCS Chief Executive Officer Paige Hamilton, FCS Administrative Assistant Emily Wyatt, and Perry Gerber and Seth Fiechter of Les Gerber Insurance. (Photo submitted)

Les Gerber Insurance sponsors 19th annual Duck Race to benefit Family Centered Services, Inc.

Les Gerber Insurance provided a \$3,000 sponsorship for the 19th Annual Duck Race to benefit Family Centered Services, Inc. The goal of this race is to assist in sustaining FCS's youth and family serving programs. As a nonprofit social service agency, local fundraising is crucial to FCS's ability to provide lifesaving and life changing services to children and families.

The event itself is free

and set for Saturday, August 10. The festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m. and the race will start at 12:15 p.m. The event will take place at Pickett's Run Park in Bluffton and will include the duck race, music, games, face painting, a foam party, bounce houses, food, and more.

Tickets are now on sale with the chance to win over 20 prize packages, the grand prize being \$1,000. You must be 18

or older to purchase the tickets and they may be purchased from any FCS employee, board member, or at the FCS office (1515 N Sutton Circle Drive, Bluffton).

Family Centered Services' mission is to strengthen the community by empowering families and youth through services that educate and inspire. For more information on FCS, visit fcs-inc.net or call 260-824-8574.

State police standoff with armed man ends when troopers take him into custody, find boy dead

ELKHART, Ind. (AP) — A police standoff with an armed man ended after more than 18 hours when state troopers entered a northern Indiana home, and found a 2-year-old boy dead inside, police said.

The 37-year-old man was being held at the Elkhart County Jail pending a charging decision by the county prosecutor's office, Indiana State Police said. The Elkhart County Homicide Unit and state police were investigating.

Troopers who entered the home Sunday afternoon found the 2-year-old boy dead while a 4-year-old girl who was also found inside was treated and released to a relative.

State police said the standoff began about 9 p.m. Saturday when Elkhart County Sheriff's deputies were asked to conduct a welfare check on a man and his two children at a home west of Elkhart.

Deputies were unable to locate the man but learned that he was inside the home,

was armed and had "threatened to harm his children and law enforcement," state police said in a news release.

Early Sunday, an Elkhart SWAT team tried to contact the man, who police

said refused to leave and discharged a firearm before barricading himself inside. Officers made numerous attempts to contact the man "with little success" before troopers entered the home, police said.

OPEN HOUSE
217 Elm Rd. Bluffton IN
Sunday, July 14 • 1 to 4 p.m.



For Sale By Owner
Ranch 1,700 + Sq Ft
3 car attached garage • Central air
Gas • 3 Br • 1 & 1/2 bath



The Wells County 4-H Parade Committee invites you and your organization to participate in the 2024 4-H Parade on Saturday, July 13. Parade line up will begin at 9:30 AM at the Bluffton Regional south parking lot and northeast parking lot. At 10:00 AM the parade leaves the downtown area and at 10:30 AM the parade arrives at the 4-H Park. Parade participants are encouraged **NOT** to throw items from the parade units due to danger from moving vehicles.

Let the Games Begin!

Forms not accepted unless accompanied by a printed or typed description narrative.
4-H PARADE ENTRY FORM

Check entry: Due ASAP

4-H Float ONLY Car

4-H Attendance Entry ONLY Emergency/ Fire Unit

4-H Float AND Attendance Entry Industrial Unit(s)

Marching Band (Band/Baton) Type and number of entries:

Other (please specify) _____

NAME OF GROUP, INDIVIDUAL, BUSINESS: _____

NAME OF PERSON IN CHARGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE # OF PERSON IN CHARGE: _____

E-MAIL: _____ CITY: _____

COMMENTS/SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

Attach narrative description. Return to Wells County Extension Office, 1240 4-H Park, Bluffton, IN 46714 • ASAP

Full Schedule: www.extension.purdue.edu/wells

July 13 15th Annual 4-H 5k Run/Walk, Fast & Furriest 1 Mile Dog Run/Walk July 13

Where: Wells County 4-H Fairgrounds located on the south side of Bluffton, IN off of State Road 1.
When: Saturday, July 13, 2024 5K Run/Walk Starts at 7:30 AM
Entry Fee: Dog & Owner- \$30 Race Day
Individual- \$25 Race Day
Family Special- \$60 Race Day

(4 entries, in same envelope, separate forms, same immediate family) Please don't abuse
Make Checks Payable to: Wells County 4-H Foundation (Shirts will be available to race-day registrants as supplies last)

Registration: Race Day registration will begin at 6:45 AM
Events-----5K (3.1 Miles)-----Age Groups
Boys 14 & Under • Boys 15-18 • Men 19-29 • Men 30-39 • Men 40-49 • Men 50 & Over
Girls 14 & Under • Girls 15-18 • Women 19-29 • Women 30-39 • Women 40-49 • Women 50 & Over
Dog Awards- Fastest, Furriest and Cutest Duo
Awards will be present to the 1st Male and Female Overall Winners.
Award will also be given to the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd places in each age group.
Drinks will be available for participants on the course and after the race.
Information Email: monica.edgeman@gmail.com or vanderkolkkmj@gmail.com

15th Annual 4-H 5k Run/Walk, Fast & Furriest 1 Mile Dog Run/Walk

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____
Birthday: ____/____/____ Male or Female
Shirt Size: YM YL S M L XL XXL
Dog Breed: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent Signature: _____ (Signature of parent or Guardian REQUIRED if Participant is 17 or under 18 years of age.)

Release Form for 4-H 5K Fun Run/Walk
In signing this entry, attest and verify that I have full knowledge of the risks involved in participation of this event and that I am physically fit and sufficiently trained to participate in this event. I understand that my signature signifies that in acceptance of my entry, I for myself, my executor, administrators, and assignees do hereby release and discharge the Wells County 4-H Foundation, all sponsors, their representatives, and successors, from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising from my participation in running/walking the event. I grant my permission to all of the foregoing to any photographs, motion pictures, recordings, or any other records of this event for legitimate purpose. I understand that bikes, skates, scooters or dogs are not allowed.



Revisiting childhood memories at the Salamonie

Recently, Sarah and I took the boys (her husband, Dustin, included) to the Salamonie. I missed them dearly and needed some sister time. Trudy and Rozlynn were supposed to go with us, but Trudy unfortunately got the plague. (A stomach bug. Same thing.)

We packed ingredients for tin foil dinners — potatoes, carrots, onions, seasonings, and hamburger — and Sarah brought Nutty Bars. Nutty Bars are a staple Salamonie Reservoir swimming day food for Sarah. A staple swimming day for me includes forgetting my towel. It's tradition.

Dustin cooked dinner for us — he never has liked swimming in cold riverwater. Sarah and I headed to the water with George and Whit. Whit takes after his father and also isn't fond of swimming in water he can't see through. Instead, he played with his new sand toys, yelling the occasional, "Mom, come here!" to which I would yell back, "You come here!" That was met with a look that asked if I had lost the sense the good Lord gave me. Joke's on that kid, the Lord didn't give me any sense. A copious amount of sarcasm and the ability to make questionable choices that lead to good stories, yes.

Sarah and I take the coward's way into the water. You know, you ease in inch by inch. I'm not sure when I stopped diving headfirst into cold, dark, murky water. As she and I were wading out, we both walked across a long strip of rocks and pebbles and said to each other we needed to find them again on our way back in.

It was something we used to do with Mom: sit in the water and search for fossils or pretty rocks. Eventually George joined us with requests to not splash either of us — I have a tendency to get swimmer's ear every single time I go swimming. Whit eventually joined us after plenty of coaxing.

While we were sitting, sifting through sand and some clay, I couldn't help but think of Mom. Summers as a kid were spent almost entirely at the Salamonie. Mom would call our neighbor Ellen down the street, who also had two daughters. The conversation would go something like this:

"I have a pound of bologna."
 "I have a loaf of bread."
 "I can make a gallon of Kool-Aid."
 "I can grab some Debbie cakes."

And off we would go. We would leave the Salamonie after about eight hours — sunburnt, smelling like river water, and covered in sand.



Whit eating a summer delicacy of melted Nutty Bars

"I wish I could go back, for like, a day," Sarah said. I laughed and told her I was just thinking the same thing.

Sarah and I made the boys get out of the water to eat dinner — another reminder of my childhood. I taught Whit how to eat a Nutty Bar without getting melted chocolate all over your fingers. I can't remember what we talked about, but I do remember smiling and laughing at the boys.

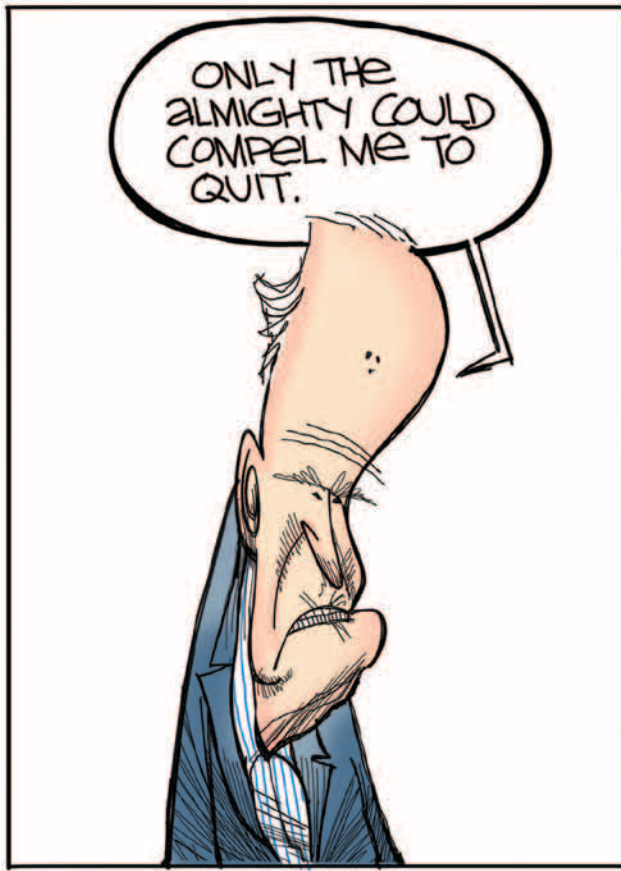
Whit ended up convincing me to get back into the water with him and George. Let's be honest here, it wasn't hard. I ended up spinning both boys in circles — which reminded me that I am not as strong as I used to be. The reason I went back into the water, was not just to make my nephews happy, but with hope that maybe this would be a memory they would keep: spending time at the Salamonie with their parents and their aunt. Not getting sunburnt, eating tin foil dinners, and searching for fossils and cool rocks.

It would be nice, wouldn't it? Just one day where we were all together as kids again, sunburnt and smelling like river water, and covered in sand.

newsroom@news-banner.com



Carrie Penrod



Biden might exit, but rising distrust of institutions seems here to stay

The leakage of trustworthiness from American institutions began with the lies that enveloped Watergate and Vietnam. It accelerated during the 2008 financial crisis, when cynicism ("You never want a serious crisis to go to waste") fueled the government's indiscriminate and lawless response: The law restricted bailouts to financial institutions? Declare automobile manufacturers to be such. The leakage became a cataract during the pandemic because of the public health establishment's plucked-from-the-ether edicts (about masks, social distancing, which political gatherings should be exempt from social distancing, etc.) and the sacrifice-the-children opportunism of the most powerful segment of organized labor (teachers unions).

Now the world's oldest political party and its media accomplices have effected a gigantic subtraction from trust: Leaders of the former lied about President Biden's condition until, on June 27, continuing to do so became untenable. The latter had allowed the lying because they believe Donald Trump's many mendacities are an excuse for theirs.

One example: The bleating sheep on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," reminiscent of a chorus of quadrupeds in George Orwell's "Animal Farm," were vehemently wrong in denouncing ("so filted," "shocking," "a classic hit piece," etc.) the Wall Street Journal's meticulously reported June 4 catalogue of the abundant evidence of Biden's decline. That the sheep are still on the air, dispensing undiminished certitudes, is evidence of two things. That — outside of a few bastions of meritocracy and accountability, such as professional sports — there is no penalty for failure in contemporary America. And that many prominent people have the scary strength that comes from being incapable of embarrassment.

A dismaying fact: Six months — one-eighth of a presidential term — remain before Jan. 20, 2025. The collapse of Biden's reelection campaign, under the weight of accumulating evidence of his vanishing acuity, suggests a question: If he is unfit to continue as a candidate, is he not dangerous as commander in chief in an increasingly ominous world? Cold-eyed men in Moscow, Beijing, Tehran and Pyongyang might not believe that good sportsmanship requires international crises to unfold between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Eastern time, Biden's reported (by some of his people) interval of adequate alertness.

Biden is the only plausible Democratic candidate whom Trump would today be favored to defeat. And



George Will

Biden is Trump's opponent only because Democrats assured themselves that Trump is the only opponent that Biden could plausibly hope to defeat. Which is why various Democratic prosecutors took steps that they should have known might facilitate Trump's nomination by making him a martyr. If the Democratic Party would now present dispirited Americans with even a merely plausible choice, the result might be akin to a gust of pure oxygen on smoldering embers: an eruption of gratitude.

The compassion owed to someone apparently in the cruel grip of an inexorably advancing disease that destroys selfhood should not obscure this fact: Biden's malady is not robbing the nation of either an impressive political talent or a singularly public-spirited official. Biden was a mediocrity in his 1980s prime, when his first lunge for the presidency quickly collapsed, as his second would in 2008, and as his third almost did after he finished fifth in New Hampshire's primary in 2020. In the office he eventually attained, he has chosen his defining legacy: the self-absorption of his refusal to leave the public stage gracefully.

Progressives think the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. almost got it right. He said the arc of the universe bends toward justice. They agree that the universe has an arc (whatever that might mean) but declare that it bends toward them. Hence their constant praise of themselves for being on "the right side of history": They are right, and the universe ratifies this.

Biden whisperers among his progressive keepers convinced him that history — not, Lord knows, the electorate — had anointed him the next Franklin D. Roosevelt. (Minus the 1932 landslide election, and minus the Depression and World War II, but oh, those electric vehicles!) There is a possible resemblance.

On Oct. 21, 1944, 17 days before Election Day, President Roosevelt, his pallor as gray as the skies, embarked bareheaded in a cold, hard autumn rain, in an open Packard, on a four-hour tour of four of New York City's five boroughs. This event was undertaken (as was Biden's "make my day" debate challenge to Trump) to prove his continuing fitness for office. When FDR's day ended with a rally at the Brooklyn Dodgers' Ebbets Field, he had 173 days to live.

There ends the comparison between Biden's and FDR's situations. FDR's vice president was Harry S. Truman. georgewill@washpost.com.

Biden has a woman problem — or two — in the White House

There wasn't much to celebrate this July Fourth, with democracy on the bidding block, two presidential candidates vying for Worst Possible Choice and alternative scenarios that fluctuate between chaos and doomsday.

With so much in flux, this column could be overwhelmed by events, but a few things bear saying. Let's start with the sudden post-debate recognition among Democrats that Joe Biden isn't quite up to speed. Really? He wasn't exactly hitting on all cylinders during his third run for president in 2020.

Biden was jauntier back then, sure. But consider this headline from March 2021, two months after he was inaugurated: "Biden 'just fine' after tripping 3 times jogging up steps to Air Force One." Subhead: "The White House blamed the incident on high winds and a 'misstep.'"

After the June 27 debate, the same propaganda team attributed Biden's "faltering" performance to a cold. A few days later, they said he was suffering jet lag — from a trip to Europe two weeks earlier. No, what happened to Biden was obvious to anyone watching. He was spacing out and mumbling answers because it looked to me like his occipital lobe, fusiform gyrus, hippocampus and temporal gyrus weren't communicating.

Look at a video taken after the debate when Biden and the first lady joined supporters in the Democratic spin room. The president stands off to the side looking somewhat dazed while Jill Biden takes the microphone, turns toward her husband and, as if talking to a toddler, he explains: "Good job, Joe! You answered all the questions! You knew all the facts!" Joe smiles.



Kathleen Parker

Then she turns back to the crowd and screams, "And what did Donald Trump do? He lied!" It was not her best moment.

Jill Biden has appeared for a while to be running the show and, therefore, the country — though I don't recall seeing her name on the 2020 ballot. It's clear she is pushing her husband to stay in the race, probably not eager to retreat to Delaware with a man whose years have caught up with him. It happens. Age sweeps in the front door and, faster than you can say "Scranton," turns a previously vigorous, intelligent person into a stranger content to watch dust particles do the hokey pokey in a shaft of sunlight.

Never mind the stroke-of-midnight end to first ladies' status — the White House residence, staff, stylists and magazine covers. It was for former first ladies that "Cinderella" was written.

Herr Trump, meanwhile, is a recently convicted felon who benefits only by comparison with Biden's performance. Trump's lies far exceeded Biden's, according to the folks who fact-check so we don't have to. But at least he was wide-awake and, for him, relatively controlled. If only he had kept his vitriol to a simmer rather than a low boil. Instead, he shot back at a clearly faltering Biden and looked, as ever, like a back-alley bully.

Biden, as nearly everyone has noted, couldn't form intelligible sentences. At times, he entered the stare zone where the brain searches desperately for a GPS to tell him where he is. As I've written during the past 3½ years, it was painful to watch. Almost as painful as listening to Kamala D. Harris try to ground her thoughts in sentences. Most of the time, she sounds as though she's leading a séance. A speech she gave at Howard

University last year makes the point:

"So I think it's very important — as you have heard from so many incredible leaders — for us, at every moment in time, and certainly this one, to see the moment in time in which we exist and are present, and to be able to contextualize it, to understand where we exist in the history and in the moment as it relates not only to the past, but the future," she said-ish.

A four-minute, viral video recently in circulation on X shows her repeating a phrase that she seems to like — a lot — in numerous settings. I didn't count the number of times she said some variation of "... what can be, unburdened by what has been," in those four minutes, but the woman gets credit for being able to inject dramatic earnestness into words of which even she, surely, has wearied.

As Biden now weighs his options, it is increasingly plausible that Harris could replace him on the Democratic ticket. I'd prefer the chaos of an open convention in Chicago.

But the machinery has already cranked up to make her seem presidential. After the debate, she appeared on television long enough to make two statements and then was whisked away. The White House is well aware of her tendency to wander the word-scapes of the metaphysical. But just watch. Because Harris is the first woman, first South Asian American, first Black vice president — no Democrat will be brave enough to say what's obvious: She's no Barack Obama.

For the sake of the country, I hope she's more than she appears to be. And I hope Jill will take Joe home while he can leave with his dignity mostly intact. But my lingering fear is that Trump will be president again — not despite Harris but because of her. kathleenparker@washpost.com.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, July 10, the 192nd day of 2024. There are 174 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 10, 1940, during World War II, the Battle of Britain began as the German Luftwaffe launched attacks on southern England. (The Royal Air Force was ultimately victorious.)

Also on this date:

In 1509, theologian John Calvin, a key figure of the Protestant Reformation, was born in Noyon, Picardy, France.

In 1890, Wyoming was admitted as the 44th US state.

In 1925, jury selection took place in Dayton, Tennessee, in the trial of John T. Scopes, charged with violating the law by teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution. (Scopes was convicted and fined, but the verdict was

overturned on a technicality.)

In 1929, American paper currency was reduced in size as the government began issuing bills that were approximately 25 percent smaller.

In 1951, armistice talks aimed at ending the Korean War began at Kaesong.

In 1962, the first active communications satellite, Telstar 1, was launched by NASA.

In 1985, the Greenpeace protest ship Rainbow Warrior was sunk with explosives in Auckland, New Zealand, by French intelligence agents; one activist was killed.

In 1991, Boris N. Yeltsin took the oath of office as the first elected president of the Russian republic.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush lifted economic sanctions against South Africa.

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Messi leads Argentina over Canada and into Copa America final

By RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Lionel Messi scored his 109th international goal and first of the tournament, leading defending champion Argentina over Canada 2-0 on Tuesday night and into the Copa America final.

Julián Álvarez put the Albiceleste ahead in the 22nd minute and Messi redirected Enzo Fernández's shot in off the face of goalkeeper Maxime Crépeau in the 51st. Messi has 28 goals in his last 25 matches for Argentina and 14 in Copa America play, three shy of the record.

Only Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo with 130 has more international goals than Messi, who turned 37 on June 24. Iran's Al Daei had 108 or 109 from 1993 to 2006, with a lingering dispute over whether a goal against Ecuador in 2000 occurred in a full international match.

With a victory on its independence day, Argentina extended its unbeaten streak to 10 games. The Albiceleste seek a record

16th Copa title when they play Uruguay or Colombia on Sunday at Miami Gardens, Florida.

Trying to string together championships in consecutive Copa Americas around the 2022 World Cup championship, Argentina is trying to match the feat of Spain when La Roja won the 2008 and 2012 European Championships along with the 2010 World Cup.

Argentina fans gathered in Times Square on the eve of the match and filled the streets on Manhattan before heading to MetLife Stadium, site of the 2026 World Cup final. The crowd of 80,102 on a night with an 82-degree temperature and 82% humidity was overwhelmingly pro-Argentina, with only a few sections dominated by red-clad Canadian supporters.

It was among the biggest games for Canadian soccer, which went 0-6 in its only World Cup appearances in 1986 and 2022 and won its only major title at the 2000 CONCACAF Gold Cup. Argentina had

beaten Canada 2-0 in the tournament opener on June 20.

Canada star Alphonso Davies limped off after his right leg was caught in a clean challenge with Gonzalo Montiel and he was replaced in the 71st minute.

Making his 38th Copa America appearance, Messi had missed Argentina's group stage finale with a leg injury and was subdued while playing 90 minutes in the quarterfinal win over Ecuador.

He was just wide from the top of the penalty area in the 12th minute after exchanging passes with Ángel Di María, then wide again in the 44th and put a chip over the crossbar in first-half injury time.

MetLife's temporary grass surface appeared heavy, with water splashing and sand popping up during dribbles.

Argentina went ahead after Rodrigo De Paul from the center circle played a long pass to Álvarez, who took a touch at the top of the arc to control the ball from Moise Bombito. Álvarez took another touch to create space from Bombito and from near



the penalty spot slipped the ball between the legs of Crépeau for his ninth goal in 35 international appearances.

Messi scored following a throw-in. He centered the ball to De Paul, who ran to the end line and cut the ball back. Koné's attempted clearance went to Fernández, who teed up a shot that Messi redirected from just inside the 6-yard box.

Jonathan David was thwarted by Emiliano Martínez from close range in first-half stoppage time, and Martínez made a kick save on Tani Oluwaseyi in the 80th.

Pistons and Cunningham agree on \$224M, 5-year

By LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Cade Cunningham and the Detroit Pistons have agreed on a five-year contract extension worth at least \$224 million, two people familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The deal could reach nearly \$270 million if Cunningham becomes eligible for a supermax extension, according to the two people who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the team had yet to announce the agreement.

ESPN was first to report the agreement, which starts with the 2025-26 season.

Detroit drafted Cunningham No. 1 overall in 2021, and the former Oklahoma State star has had individual success amid hard times for a three-time NBA-championship winning franchise.

The 6-foot-6 point guard has averaged 20 points, 6.5 assists and five rebounds in his career, which included an injury-shortened second season.

The Pistons clearly are including Cunningham in their next attempt at rebuilding, an effort led by new president of basketball operations Trajan Langdon and coach J.B. Bickerstaff.

After finishing with the league's worst record for the second straight year, Detroit fired general manager Troy

Weaver following a four-year run of futility and coach Monty Williams after only one season.

Langdon has been busy, aiming to surround Cunningham with outside shooters as part of a desperately needed influx of talent.

He signed former Pistons forward Tobias Harris to a two-year, \$52 million deal, acquired Tim Hardaway Jr. from Dallas in a trade, extended a qualifying offer to Simone Fontecchio and drafted Ron Holland of the G League Ignite with the fifth pick overall.

The Pistons haven't won a playoff game since 2008, when they appeared in the Eastern Conference finals for the sixth straight year, and have been the last-place team in the Central Division the past four seasons.

Cunningham, who is from Arlington, Texas, has done his part by producing in two of his three years.

In his second season, he was limited to 12 games because of a stress fracture in his left leg. He bounced back from the injury well enough to average 22.7 points and 7.5 rebounds last season while grabbing 4.3 rebounds per game.

Cunningham was unanimously voted to the 2022 NBA All-Rookie first team after averaging 17.4 points, 5.6 assists and 5.5 rebounds.

Simone Biles has a shot at history at the Olympics while defending champion Russia stays home

By WILL GRAVES
AP National Writer

Simone Biles and the rest of the U.S. women's Olympic gymnastics team don't need to be reminded of what happened in Tokyo three years ago. Mostly because nearly all of them lived it.

Biles, reigning Olympic all-around champion Sunisa Lee, 2020 Olympic silver medalist Jordan Chiles and 2020 floor exercise champion Jade Carey were all there inside a nearly empty and oddly silent Ariake Gymnastics Centre during a memorable two weeks that altered the course of each of their careers and in ways both big and small led them back to the Games.

They are older now — Biles is 27, Carey is 24, Chiles is 23 and Lee is 21 — and eager for what they are calling a shot at redemption.

"Everybody probably looks at the team, like 'OK, they went to Tokyo and this, this and this happened. And what are they going to do here in Paris?'" Biles said. "But for us, I know we're stronger than what we showed in Tokyo."

Biles arrived in Japan as the face of the Games. She left without the gold medals most expected and instead at the center of the conversation about the intersection between mental health and sports.

Lee became a somewhat unexpected champion after Biles pulled out of multiple finals, a victory she struggled to believe she had rightfully earned. Carey packed a gold medal in her carry-on coming home but admits it felt weird competing as an individual after following an unusual path to the Games. Chiles cherished the team silver the Americans captured while Biles watched from the sideline but allowed she wasn't at her best during the meet.

They're all back — along with newcomer Hezly Rivera, just 16 — in hopes of authoring a different ending this time around.

"I think we really want a team gold," said Lee, who overcame multiple kidney-related health issues to finish second behind Biles at the U.S. Olympic trials.

The American women are favored to win with defending champion Russia unable to participate as part of the fallout of the war with Ukraine. It just might not come as easy as Biles and company have made it seem while winning every major international competition (save, very notably, for one) since the 2011 world championships.

Brazil and powerhouse Rebeca Andrade have made massive strides over the last decade. France, China and Great Britain all have legitimate shots at making the podium.

Still, Biles knows a portion of those who tune in to watch will be waiting to see if what happened in Tokyo will repeat itself. She's taking steps to make sure she's in a better place this time around, including therapy, though she stressed the only reason she's back is because she feels she owes it to herself.

"Nobody's forcing me to do it," Biles said.



Simon Biles

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	17	4	.810	—
Connecticut	17	4	.810	—
Indiana	9	13	.409	8½
Chicago	8	12	.400	8½
Atlanta	7	13	.350	9½
Washington	5	17	.227	12½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	15	6	.714	—
Seattle	14	7	.667	1
Las Vegas	13	7	.650	1½
Phoenix	11	10	.524	4
Los Angeles	5	16	.238	10
Dallas	5	17	.227	10½

Monday's Games

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's Games

Minnesota at Los Angeles, late

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.

Friday's Games

Las Vegas at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Indiana, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Seattle at San Diego, late
Toronto at San Francisco, late
Kansas City at St. Louis, p.p.d.
Minnesota at Chicago White Sox, p.p.d.

Wednesday's Games

Kansas City (Marsh 6-6) at St. Louis (Pallante 4-3), 1:45 p.m., 1st game
Minnesota (Ober 8-4) at Chicago White Sox (Fedde 6-3), 2:10 p.m., 1st game
Minnesota (López 8-7) at Chicago White Sox (Thorpe 3-1), 5:55 p.m., 2nd game

Thursday's Games

Chicago Cubs (Imanaga 7-2) at Baltimore (Burnes 9-3), 6:35 p.m.
Cleveland (Bibee 7-3) at Detroit (Olson 3-8), 6:40 p.m.
Seattle (Miller 6-7) at San Diego (King 7-5), 6:40 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees (Stroman 7-4) at Tampa Bay (Eflin 5-5), 6:50 p.m.

Oakland (Sears 5-7) at Boston (Pivetta 4-5), 7:10 p.m.
Kansas City (Wacha 5-6) at St. Louis (Gray 9-5), 7:45 p.m., 2nd game
Miami (Hoeing 0-1) at Houston (Valdez 7-5), 8:10 p.m.

Texas (Lorenzen 5-4) at L.A. Angels (Canning 3-9), 9:38 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Cleveland at Detroit, 1:10 p.m.
Toronto at San Francisco, 3:45 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Baltimore, 6:35 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m.
Oakland at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Miami at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
Seattle at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.

Houston 4, Miami 3
Pittsburgh 12, Milwaukee 2
Atlanta at Arizona, late
Seattle at San Diego, late
Toronto at San Francisco, late
Kansas City at St. Louis, p.p.d.

Wednesday's Games

Kansas City (Marsh 6-6) at St. Louis (Pallante 4-3), 1:45 p.m., 1st game
Chicago Cubs (Imanaga 7-2) at Baltimore (Burnes 9-3), 6:35 p.m.
Seattle (Miller 6-7) at San Diego (King 7-5), 6:40 p.m.

Thursday's Games

L.A. Dodgers (Stone 9-2) at Philadelphia (Sánchez 6-4), 7:05 p.m.
Colorado (Freeland 0-3) at Cincinnati (Montas 4-6), 7:10 p.m.
Washington (Corbin 1-8) at N.Y. Mets (Severino 5-3), 7:10 p.m.
Kansas City (Wacha 5-6) at St. Louis (Gray 9-5), 7:45 p.m., 2nd game
Miami (Hoeing 0-1) at Houston (Valdez 7-5), 8:10 p.m.

Pittsburgh (Pérez 1-4) at Milwaukee (Myers 5-3), 8:10 p.m.

Atlanta (Morton 5-5) at Arizona (Cecconi 2-6), 9:40 p.m.
Toronto (Bassitt 7-7) at San Francisco (Webb 7-6), 9:45 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Colorado at Cincinnati, 1:10 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Mets, 1:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee, 2:10 p.m.
Toronto at San Francisco, 3:45 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 6:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Baltimore, 6:35 p.m.

Miami at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
Atlanta at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.

Midwest League

High-A Midwest League Glance

Saturday, July 6

Lansing 7, Fort Wayne 5

Sunday, July 7

No games scheduled

Monday, July 8

No games scheduled

Tuesday, July 9

Fort Wayne 7, Great Lakes 0

Wednesday, July 10

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

TRANSACTIONS

Tuesday's Transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

CHICAGO CUBS — Reinstated RHP Mark Leiter Jr. from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Ethan Roberts to Iowa (IL).

BASEBALL

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	57	34	.626	—
New York	55	38	.591	3
Boston	50	40	.556	6½
Tampa Bay	45	46	.495	12
Toronto	41	49	.456	15½

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	57	33	.633	—
Minnesota	52	39	.571	5½
Kansas City	49	43	.533	9
Detroit	43	49	.467	15
Chicago	26	67	.280	32½

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	49	43	.533	—
Houston	47	44	.516	1½
Texas	43	48	.473	5½
Los Angeles	37	53	.411	11
Oakland	34	59	.366	15½

Monday's Games

Detroit 1, Cleveland 0
Minnesota 8, Chicago White Sox 6, 11 innings
Texas 9, L.A. Angels 4

Tuesday's Games

Chicago Cubs 9, Baltimore 2
Tampa Bay 5, N.Y. Yankees 3
Cleveland 9, Detroit 8, 10 innings
Boston 12, Oakland 9
Houston 4, Miami 3
Texas at L.A. Angels, late.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	59	32	.648	—
Atlanta	50	39	.562	8
New York	45	45	.500	13½
Washington	42	50	.457	17½
Miami	32	59	.352	27

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	53	39	.576	—
St. Louis	48	42	.533	4
Pittsburgh	44	47	.484	8½
Cincinnati	44	48	.478	9
Chicago	43	49	.467	10

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	55	37	.598	—
San Diego	49	45	.521	7
Arizona	45	46	.495	9½
San Francisco	44	47	.484	10½
Colorado	32	60	.348	23

Monday's Games

Pittsburgh 8, N.Y. Mets 2
St. Louis 6, Washington 0
Cincinnati 6, Colorado 0
Atlanta 5, Arizona 4, 11 innings

Tuesday's Games

Chicago Cubs 9, Baltimore 2
Philadelphia 10, L.A. Dodgers 1
N.Y. Mets 7, Washington 5
Cincinnati 12, Colorado 6

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Green Valley Tuesday Golf results

Rick Murphy, Butch Carpenter, Ron Blevins and Dick Crispin were a part of the winning team in this week's Green Valley Tuesday Senior Golf League. The team score was -3 on the day.
Murphy had the low gross, the closest to pin and the longest putt.

The Classifieds

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

7/10

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

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

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

Read & recycle

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 non-requested records for persons born in the year 2002 will be permanently destroyed after August 16, 2024. If you wish to request records, you must call (260)824-5880 to do so. Records must be picked up by the person who received services unless otherwise legally designated.
nb 6/18 through 8/7
hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

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This Week's Garage Sales



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.

DAY FAMILY & friends garage sale Thursday & Friday, July 11 & 12, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, July 13, 10 a.m.-noon, 1124 Elm Dr., Bluffton. Furniture, jewelry, ladies clothes 0-3X, household, decor, owls, & more.

THIS OUT!

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 and click on classifieds.

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TIMESHARE CANCEL-LATION EXPERTS - Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 877-329-1207 (I)

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Help Wanted

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

THE CITY OF Bluffton Clerk Treasurer's Office is accepting applications for a Deputy Clerk Treasurer. The minimum educational requirement is a high school diploma or equivalent. The City utilizes E-Verify and follows EEOC guidelines. Applications may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's office, 128 East Market St, Bluffton, IN between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday or at www.blufftonindiana.net. Application deadline is July 19, 2024.

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Services

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Public Sale Calendar

JULY 11 - 10 a.m. - Online only - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. 100+ skid loader attachments, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 1 trip 40' high side shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter container, various truck take off parts, dump trucks, 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's, pickup trucks, 100+ skid steer attachments & much more! Accepting consignments, 815 Adams St., Decatur. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

BIDDING ENDS JULY 14 - Online Only - Various consignors, seller. Advertising, furniture, antiques, primitives, artifacts, band instruments, Bluffton American Legion helmets, stereo equipment, electronics, collectibles, sports memorabilia, retail video games, tools, lawn & garden, household. Preview & online bidding assistance July 11, 3-6 p.m., 102 South Jefferson St., Ossian. Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, **The Steffen Group Inc.**, 260-426-0633, steffengrp.com.

JULY 14-JULY 21 - (Online Only Auction) - Dave and Brenda Double, seller. 40 Year collection of trains, 2 realistic model train railway layouts, professionally milled lumber, downsizing custom craft store, shop tools, porcelain & other dolls, antiques, furniture, McCoy cookie jars, Hull pottery, Sure-Trac utility trailer, Commercial Cyclone Rake. Preview: July 11 and 18 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 540 W US 224, Uniondale. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, **Steffen Group**, www.steffengrp.com, 824-3006.

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

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

JULY 27- 10 a.m. - Elmer J. Jr. & Delila Mae Graber, owners. 8350S 850W, South Whitley. Productive, tillable land, home, outbuildings, Whitley County. Offered in 4 Tracts. 38±A. Tract 1: 12.5±A farmland, soils: Pewamo, Blount loam, Glynwood loam. Tract 2: 5.5±A, 7 bedroom home, outbuildings. Tract 3: 2±A, 40'x90' pole building. Tract 4: 18±A farmland, soils: Pewamo, Glynwood loam, Blount loam. Purchase individually or combination. Inspection: July 10, 5-7 p.m., July 20, 10 a.m.-noon. Sale manager, Ritter Cox, 260-609-3306, **Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.**, 800-451-2709, SchraderAuction.com.

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

BIDDING STARTS CLOSING AUGUST 11 - 6 p.m. EST - Jeanette Furhman & Robert Furhman estate, owner. 6 p.m.: Cape Cod style, 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath, 3,093 sf, full basement w/Hitzer stove. Geothermal w/backup LP furnace, Generac generator, pole barns, 2 car attached garage, all sitting on 10+/- wooded acres! 6:30: Gator, Track loader, mower, 2012 Chevy Silverado, tractor, 3 point attachments, tilt bed trailer, outdoor items hand & power tools, long & hand guns, antiques, primitives, furniture, household items, more! Preview July 29, 5-7 p.m., 4182 W 900 N, Decatur. Pick up Aug. 12, 2-6 p.m. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

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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 glacierepure@outlook.com

Pets



FOR SALE MINI 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. Asking \$750.00 260 701 0666 andyryan121@hotmail.com

NOTICE

Personals

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

VEHICLES

Campers/RV's

2018 THOR HURRICANE, Model 31Z, Class A RV, \$79,000, 260-307-3225.

Lottery Numbers

Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 05-10-14-30-32
Cash4Life — 03-17-32-52-58, Cash Ball: 03
Quick Draw Midday — 03-04-05-06-07-15-19-21-22-27-32-33-40-42-48-59-66-68-76-77, BE: 40
Daily Three-Midday — 09-09-05, SB: 01
Daily Three-Evening — 05-08-00, SB: 02
Daily Four-Midday — 09-02-05-06, SB: 01
Daily Four-Evening — 04-07-02-02, SB: 02
Quick Draw Evening — 06-08-17-23-24-26-31-35-36-40-42-50-56-57-63-68-69-70-72-74, BE: 24
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$16.8 million
MEGA MILLIONS 21-26-54-60-64; Mega Ball: 03; Megaplier: 3X.
POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$41 million

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Aug. deadline is Tues., July 23!

Why do these things exist? It's all a conspiracy.

Have you ever looked at a thing and wondered what in the HECK was the inventor thinking and WHO is behind this object that is causing you such distress?

I remember one fall day in the '50s, my mother returned from the grocery store all excited about the new packaging innovation that she found in the dairy case. She prepared hamburgers for supper and presented each of us with a slice of Kraft Singles. She expounded on the great virtue of this

new idea that allows an individual to put a slice of cheese on their burger with no effort. My dad proceeded to create the 'perfect' burger, applying the appropriate condiments in his preferred order. The crowning glory would be the cheese. After several minutes of examining the slice, his frustration began to show as his facial color rose to a crimson red. He continued to turn the cheese slice over and over and over seeking the end of the wrapper. To no avail did the not-so-obvious seam reveal itself. His frustration got the better of him, and as he flung the cheese towards the wastepaper basket



Kathy Schwartz

he shouted, "This thing was devised by the Communists to drive us all CRAZY!"

Thus began my lifelong obsession with analyzing the where and why of things that catch my attention. I must preface these observations that I am about to share with the acknowledgement I am aware that most of these innovations and improvements of daily life have legitimate reasons for their existence; but I, considering my frustration in dealing with these items, am greatly influenced by my genetic code in making somewhat irrational assumptions at times when my frustrations have reached an overload.

I will begin with the small and very sharp Lego blocks. Every parent who has crossed the living room during the night to let out the dog can attest to the fact that NOTHING compares to the pain felt to the bottom of your foot as you step on a wayward Lego that was missed in the nightly cleanup. I know that children delight in the task of creating all sorts of structures with these colorful blocks, BUT I believe the orthopedic association is behind this instrument of torture. A visit to the orthopedic clinic is in order after



hopping around on one foot, often resulting in tripping over various pieces of furniture.

A visit to a public restroom can provide a person with two opportunities to ponder the origin and reason behind baffling inventions. The first invention is the economical one ply toilet tissue. It may reduce the overhead, but it certainly doesn't clean the undercarriage. You leave the stall with the overwhelming need to wash your hands. You approach the sink, press the lever and proceed to take an impromptu shower due to the angle of the faucet in respect to the bowl of the sink. I propose that the soap companies and the dry-cleaning industry are in cahoots in this instance.

I prepare myself as I see my relish jar reach the level that calls for going to the cupboard to get a new jar. I already know that I will struggle to get the vacuum seal to release the lid. I begin to turn the lid in one direction and the jar in the other direction. My effort is measured by the redness of my face, the length of time I have held my breath, and the amount of pain I am feeling in the hand that is grabbing the lid. I grab the rubber pad designed to assist me in this task. No luck. I tap the top

of the jar. No luck. I give the jar a bear hug and twist with all my might. Then one of two things happen. I either am successful in giving myself a pickle juice bath or I decide I really didn't want to relish on my hotdog anyway. I leave the kitchen to change my shirt muttering that the laundry detergent manufacturers paid big money to someone to popularize sealed jars!

Perhaps one of the most annoying developments I have come across is the automated answering programs that almost everyone has now. It took me eight minutes to finally get to an actual person. Those eight minutes were spent listening to choices associated with possible reasons as to why I was calling. By the time I finally got to a person, I almost forgot why I called in the first place. I am not sure if they wanted me to forget or just hang up. How ridiculous was it that I ended up screaming "REPRESENTATIVE" at a machine that just replied, "I'm sorry, I didn't get that! Let's try that again." I am convinced that Big Pharm is behind this.

There are definitely a large number of antiacids, and nerve medication consumed after placing a call.

Last but not least, I present my case concerning the heavy-duty plastic cases that engulf anything the manufacturer is convinced

is fair game for shoplifters. I am very aware that this discourages people from tearing open the package and stuffing said item into their pockets. Flash forward to the kitchen of the purchaser. It requires a very sharp knife or pair of scissors to break into the package to retrieve your item. In the process, you either stab yourself with the scissors or slice your palm with the jagged edge of the package. Forget about any instructions that may be printed on the back of the package. Could the bandaid and first aid cream moguls be behind this?

Here's the thing: There are many things in this world that seem to be designed to irritate a person during their passage through a normal day. In a world full of conspiracy theorists, a person can pass the time inventing all sorts of reason behind your irritation. But on the scale of things that really matter in this world, it may all come under the heading of "That's life" or maybe, the Communists are trying to drive us crazy.

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

Free concerts by Heartland Sings!

The singers from Fort Wayne's Heartland Sings! will be bringing their music via Art-V to area sites. The free concert sites include: Karaoke Live: Saturday, July 13, 6-8 p.m., Plymouth Congregational Parking lot, 501 W. Berry St., FW. Opera in the Park: Wednesday, July 17, 7-8 p.m., Promenade Park, FW. Opera in the Park: Friday, July 19, 7-8:30 p.m., Promenade Park.

Art-V at Turnstone: Wednesday, July 24, 6-7 p.m., Turnstone, 3320 N. Clinton, FW. Art-V at Covington Creek: Wednesday, July 31, 6-7 p.m., 6700 Covington Creek Trail. Art-V at Wellspring: Thursday, July 1, 6-7 p.m., 1316 Broadway, FW. White Rock Barn: Monday Aug. 5, 7-8 p.m., SR 1 (between Bluffton and Ossian)

Log cabin events during the 4-H Fair

A variety of programs have been planned for presentation at the Log Cabin area during the Wells County 4-H Fair, July 13-18. The pioneer cabin built in 1855 will be open for visiting on Saturday, July 13, 6-8 p.m. and Sunday, July 14, 2-8 p.m. The hours on Monday to Thursday, July 15-18 will be 4 to 8 p.m.

Bald Eagle. Pioneer Games: Tuesday, July 15, 6:30 p.m., presented by staff from Ouabache State Park. "Native American Way of Life": Wednesday, July 17, 6:30 p.m., presented by Native American Historian Ash Anderson. Owls of Indiana: Thursday, July 18, 6:30 p.m.,

presented by staff from Ouabache State Park. All programs are free and open to the public. Some bleacher seating is available by the log cabin and lawn chairs are welcome. A complete fair schedule is available at: extension.purdue.edu/county/wells/ and www.facebook.com/wellsco4H.

Special Programs
Standing Room Only: Sunday, July 14, 3-5 p.m., (trio of mountain dulcimer players) and local weaver Janel Franks and others will demonstrate pioneer fiber and crafts. Soarin' Hawk Raptor Program: Monday, July 15, 6:30 p.m. Presented by the Raptor Rehabilitation Center featuring hawks, owls, falcons and an American

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1415 South Main Street, Bluffton, IN 46714

Kids Pedal Pull at 4-H Fair Wednesday, July 17

The Bluffton Optimist Club will be sponsoring a Kid's Tractor Pull Contest on Wednesday, July 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wells County 4-H Fair. Sign in will begin at the Cook House Patio/Food Pavilion at 7 p.m. with the contest to begin at 7:30 p.m. Boys and girls weighing up to 60 pounds may participate. Weights will determine the classes. Awards will be presented to all participants and class winners will be recog-

nized. The pedal tractors are provided. The Bluffton Optimist Club is a service club for women and men in the community. The group meets each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and program by a community speaker at the Hoosier House Restaurant at the south edge of Bluffton. Guests are welcome to attend. For more information about the Pedal Pull or the Optimist Club, contact Steve Higgins, 260-273-2711.

Walking tour of downtown Bluffton July 18

A Walking Tour of downtown Bluffton, a joint venture offered by the Wells County Public Library and the Wells County Historical Society, will be held on Thursday, July 18. Two identical tours will be offered. The first will be at 4 p.m. and the second will

begin at 6 p.m., both meeting on Market St. in front of the Wells County Courthouse. The tour is free, but reservations are needed to the library at 824-1612 or <https://wellscountylibrary-calendar.com/events/month>. Jim Sturgeon, Wells County Historian and Presi-

Historical Society Ice Cream Social is Sunday, July 21

The annual Ice Cream Social at the Wells County Historical Museum will be on Sunday, July 21, 2-5 p.m. The event will include ice cream and all your favorite toppings along with brownies. The event is open to the public and donations will be accepted.

The Ice Cream Social is organized and hosted by the Wells County Historical Society and Museum. For more information about other events and how to become a member, visit: wchs-museum.org or www.facebook.com/WellsCoHistory

Antique cars will be available for viewing courtesy of the Old Fort Model A Club who will be visiting the event. The museum and annex will be open to visitors as it is each Sunday afternoon. New exhibits this summer in the museum include: the Military Exhibit, featuring photos and artifacts from all military wars and conflicts; artwork of Wells County artist, Harry Lindstrand; famous Wells County athletes in the Sports Exhibit and the new digital exhibit on the History of Floods in Wells County including the 2003 Flood.

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Despicable Me 4
Thursday, July 11th 6pm
Friday, July 12th 6pm & 8:20pm
Saturday, July 13th 1pm, 3:30pm, 6pm & 8:20pm
Sunday, July 14th 2pm & 4:20pm

Inside Out 2
Thursday, July 11th 6:20pm
Friday, July 12th 6:20pm & 8:40pm
Saturday, July 13th 12:45pm, 3:15pm, 5:45pm & 8pm
Sunday, July 14th 2:20pm & 4:40pm

Free Family Film Festival Migration
July 17th 10am
presented by Aspy's Best One Tire & Auto Care - Hoagland

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