

The News - Banner

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SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

'Retired for the weekend'

Greg Steele retires after 20 years as a Bluffton police officer

By SYDNEY KENT
 Greg Steele retired on Friday after over 20 years of service to the Bluffton Police Department. Mayor John Whicker officially declared Steele as a retired police officer, thanking him for his decades of dedication to the city. The position came naturally to Steele, who grew up with a father who also worked in the jail doing maintenance, and a brother, Randy

Steele, who currently serves as the Deputy Chief at the Wells County Sheriff's Office. Chief of Police, Kyle Randall, presented Steele with a plaque as well as an honorary "retired" badge. "I couldn't be prouder of Greg," Randall said. "He's given us over 20 years. The thing that I remember the most about Greg is he was never afraid of the work. Some people kind of shy away, especially the more time they have been in, but not Greg. He is always there, always a part of things. That's not to be taken lightly." Randall noted that Steele has worked as a CIT officer, a child abuse investigator and a K-9 handler with his partner, Deimos. Randall



Officer Greg Steele is pictured laughing alongside family and friends from various departments in Wells County. (Photos by Sydney Kent)



Officer Steele (left) stands with Mayor John Whicker after he was officially retired from the department.

also added that he will remember Steele as someone who is an excellent griller of meat — something the entire force will miss.

Steele reflected on his career as he sat in The News-Banner conference room hours before the celebration at Washington Park. He

was surrounded by books containing the newspaper archives. Each book contained a different memo- (Continued on Page 2)



Whoa, Man! Rock Music!

Whoa, Man!, a band dedicated to celebrating women in rock, performed at Markle Fish and Game Club Friday. The band performed songs from some of the legends, like Joan Jett and the Blackhearts' "I hate myself for loving you," and Blondie's "Call me."

Above, the band members from left to right are Nevera Sandland, Al Smith, Teresa Lyon, Mike Grant, Sunny Taylor, Karis Schwab and Pete Jacobs.

Middle, pictured from left to right are Jama, Craig, Lisa and Megan Federspiel dancing to the music.

At right, Dave Howe, left, Spaci McKeever and Heather Barnhouse sing along with the band. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



Sponsorship continues for pool admission and spurs renovation talks

By HOLLY GASKILL
 What began with 40 tickets sponsored for guests to the Wells County Pool has now grown into 1,216 from 14 different groups this summer. Parks Department Superintendent Brandy Fiechter said businesses, organizations and individuals have continued to contact her department about sponsoring admission far beyond the early summer heatwave that triggered the domino effect. With this, Fiechter told the park board Thursday that the department's Facebook page has accrued nearly 1 million impressions on their posts this month, essentially meaning their posts have shown up in nearly 1 million people's feeds. The pool's Facebook page has received over 700,000 impressions. Riding this success, Fiechter asked for the board's blessing to begin conversations with the city about replacing the pool, which

they gave. Fiechter believes the project could be possible through a READI grant. Upcoming, the Optimist Club has sponsored 58 children's admission on July 14, 5S Building Co. has sponsored 70 guests on July 15, Pitties Properties and Pitties Dog House sponsored 100 guests on July 16, Mattress and Furniture sponsored 100 guests on July 17, and Wings Etc. sponsored 60 guests on July 22. Fiechter said the pool has seen 5,972 guests so far, which is up slightly from this time last year. Fiechter also reported that the Eagle Scout shed project is nearly complete. Also on Thursday, the board approved two additional costs for Lancaster Park. Fiechter said the recent rain has created the need for soil remediation at the pickleball court, quoted at \$1,742, and cement stabilization of the parking lot, \$47,200. Fiechter advised she could move things (Continued on Page 2)

No variance request filed for design release permit

By JONATHAN SNYDER
 In an email sent to The News-Banner, Wells County Area Plan Commission Executive Director Mike Lautzenheiser stated that Meyer Renovation has not filed a variance request for the state design release permit. In the Area Plan Commission's meeting on July 11, Jason Meyer of Meyer Renovation stated that a variance was filed with the state. Meyer also presented a text message exchange, occurring on June 26, asking someone else to apply for the variance on his behalf. Meyer added that the variance

was filed on June 28. "It says, 'Jason, I will be filing your variance this morning (June 26),' Meyer said in the meeting. "It actually didn't get filed that day, we had to get two more information pieces. As far as I know it's been filed." Indiana's Department of Homeland Security Website has a database where the public can see all the current variance applications for the state. The website does not list any variance applications for Wells County or Ossian from January to July 2024. jonathan@news-banner.com

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Outside

A possibly rainy, hot weekend lies ahead

| Today | Sunday | Monday |
|---------|---------|---------|
| High 87 | High 98 | High 91 |
| Low 70 | Low 75 | Low 74 |

More Weather on Page 2

Online

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Vol. 95 No. 215
SATURDAY
 July 13, 2024

PADDLEFISH solar project

Susan Poper - Local Representative
 201 E. Market St., Suite No. 3
 Bluffton, IN 46714
 Office Hours: Tues. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 Thurs. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
 or by appointment

info@paddlefishsolar.com
 edf-re.com/project/
 paddlefish-solar-project/
 (260) 355-5951
 Paddlefish Solar Project
 facebook.com/PaddlefishSolar

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Greg Steele retires

(Continued from Page 1)
ry and moment in history for Steele's career.

In a photo from Aug. 6, 2020, Steele stands with peaceful protestors during a case he worked on involving the death of an infant by a drunk driver.

In another photo, Steele participates in the Shop-With-A-Cop event, wearing elf hat on his head.

On May 13, 2010, Steele was pictured next to his first-grade son, Preston, in a beekeeping photo.

In a separate photo dated June 5, 2021, Preston is an 18-year-old Eagle Scout. He is pictured along with Steele after he fundraised for a pavilion that provided protection from the weather as officers were on the shooting range in Bluffton.

"He is a good kid," Steele said. "They all are. We're very blessed."

Steele is a proud father of four children and grandfather to three girls and one boy — with one on the way. He has been married to his wife, Belinda Steele, for 30 years.

"He really is such a good man," Belinda smiled and watched as Steele stopped to chat with familiar friends in the room. "He loves his family very much."

Steele first thanked his aunt and uncle in attendance at the celebration, noting that they drove from Southern Indiana.

"You're welcome," a woman shouted back. "And we're very proud of you."

Steele paused as tears welled up in his eyes. He took time to thank his parents and his wife, and to express his gratitude to his coworkers and family on the force.



Greg Steele is surrounded by his wife, daughter, and aunts and uncles. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

"This is a family," Steele said. "The police department is like a big family. Everybody has everybody's back. They look out for one another, there are a lot of good friendships. That's what will be hardest to leave."

Steele recognized one family member and partner on the force in particular, former K-9 Deimos. Deimos served alongside Steele from 2011-2018. He enjoyed one year of retirement with the Steele family before passing away from a mass in his body.

"It is the best job you can have," Steele said, referring to Deimos. "And being able to serve the kids and work for the kids. That was a good thing. Kids (need) somebody to look out for them."

Steele has been a part of many cases throughout his career. Most recently, he worked a case with a married couple charged with a series of thefts from

Walmart over a period of months. Steele said some cases are harder than others.

"One thing that has helped me cope is being a range instructor. Next to the dog, that's the second best thing to do," Steele laughed. "We are blessed and taken care of by the city and our chief. Every quarter, we train with the use of our firearms."

Steele began his career as a police officer at 33 years old. Before working in law enforcement, he worked at a printing shop for his father's sporting goods company. He also ran an embroidery business for nearly two decades.

Though he is officially retired from the department, he has no plans to slow down. Steele starts a new position at the Parkview Hospital Police Department on Monday.

"He is retired," Belinda Steele laughed. "Retired for the weekend."

"He's a good boy," Steele's father said after the ceremony.

"I will miss working for the city," Steele concluded. "This is a good city to work for. But I will be around."

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Weather

Saturday, July 13, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:46 p.m. Friday)

High: 86; Low: 67; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.02 feet at 7:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Patchy fog before 8 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 87. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 p.m., then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Mostly clear, with a low around 70. South wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 89. Heat index values as high as 98. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday Night: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 8 p.m. Mostly clear, with a low around 75. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

Monday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 91.

Monday Night: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74.

Tuesday: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 89.

Tuesday Night: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67.

PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY JULY 20

REAL ESTATE 9:00 am

PERSONAL PROPERTY 9:30 am

Located 3898 E 400 N Bluffton, In 46714

2 bedroom 1 1/2 story home with a 36 x 56 pole barn. Home has over 1400 sq ft sitting on over 1 acre in Lancaster Township.

Personal Property: Hit and Miss Engines; Fairbanks 5 hp; Fairbanks 1 1/2 or 2 hp; Green IH 1/2 hp; Maytag Motors; Oil well display; Generators; M 80 military hot water heater; Garden Tractors; Rear tine tiller; Industrial motors; Mill; Air Compressors; Chain Saws; Metal Lathe; Table Saw; Tools; Collectibles; Chainsaws; **25 guns (Pistols, Rifles, Shot guns); Ammo;** We are still unpacking. www.mizlehman.com for a complete list.

Auction preview Friday July 19th 4-6 pm

Miz Lehman Realtors/Auctioneers

Berne In 260-589-2903

Pool renovation talks

(Continued from Page 1)
around in the parks budget for the costs, but planned to talk with the city as well. "It needs done either way," she said.

Additionally, the board approved a \$7,750 additional cost for the interurban trail, which Fiechter said should fall under the contingency costs for the project. The trail and pavement at Oak Forest Road created a slight lip, and this project will mill and repave the area for a flush finish.

The parks department has also received \$1,250 from the Bargain Hut for Rock Steady Boxing and a \$1,750 advertising

grant from the Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission for the Parlor City Trot.

Fiechter then highlighted the high attendance of Kehoe Concerts, as the evening concerts have been blessed by good weather. Kids' activities have been similarly well-attended, with over 300 participants in the foam party, over 170 at animal explorers, and 70 in swim lessons.

Board members Rick McEvoy, John Gerber and Susan Campbell were present Thursday; Christine Zadylak was absent. The board will meet next at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 8.

holly@news-banner.com

Indiana ethics body approves DCS chief of staff's move to major contractor

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Indiana Ethics Commission on Thursday unanimously voted, 3-0, to allow a high-ranking Department of Child Services staffer to take a job with a major contractor.

Chief of Staff Aaron Atwell — who has also worked as DCS' chief financial officer — has been offered a job as the chief financial officer of The Villages, a nonprofit child and family service provider.

The Villages has had more than 100 state contracts, amendments or renewals worth a combined \$231 million since 2006, per a Capital Chronicle review of the Indiana Transparency Portal's public contract database.

Atwell first sought an informal opinion from Indiana's Office of Inspector General.

When asked by OIG attorney Hope Blankenburger whether he could confirm that his compensation at The Villages wouldn't come from a state agency, Atwell wrote that DCS contracts are a "primary resource" for The Villages, per the commission's meeting packet.

DCS Ethics Officer Rachel Russell then

requested a formal opinion from the commission, housed within the OIG, on Blankenburger's recommendation.

Atwell told the commission that The Villages didn't approach him about the job. Instead, he saw the posting and applied.

Ethics questions
Conflict of interest provisions in Indiana Code ban employees from participating in any decisions or votes on a subject if they've got a financial interest in the topic, or have begun negotiations over a prospective job.

DCS executed a conflict of interest screen on June 6 barring Atwell from participating in any decisions, votes, contracts "or other matters" involving The Villages, along with other restrictions, according to the commission's meeting packet.

The agency filed the screen with the OIG. DCS filed a conflict of interest disclosure, which discusses the screen, with the commission on June 11.

Commission members said they had no concerns with the screen.

Indiana law also includes a one-year "cooling off" period prohibiting departing employees from becoming lobbyists — and from joining employers

with whom they interacted while working for the state. The ban applies to employees who negotiated or administered a contract and who were in a position to make a "discretionary decision affecting the outcome" of the contract negotiation or administration.

Russell assured the commission that Atwell's new role would include no lobbying.

Atwell told commissioners that the contracts are awarded in a competitive bidding process. Employee teams throughout DCS put together the requests for proposals and the scoring systems.

Atwell said that means he was not involved in scoring proposals or the outcomes of such competitive bidding processes, and that he wasn't in a position to make such discretionary decisions.

The law also prevents former state employers from working on 12 "particular matters" in which they were involved while working for the state. That ban applies for the life of the application, contract, lawsuit, license, or other matter.

Atwell confirmed to the commission that he has worked on no qualifying particular matters while at DCS.

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REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Whitley County South Whitley, IN

Saturday, July 27 • 10am

38± Acres

Offered in 4 Tracts

- Productive, Tillable Land
- Country Home & Outbuildings

LOCATION (AUCTION HELD ONSITE): 8350 S 850 W, South Whitley, IN 46787

TRACT 1: 12.5± acres tillable productive farmland, soils are Pevamo, Blount loam, and Glynwood loam. **TRACT 2:** 5.5± acres w/country home and outbuildings this tract includes approx 1664 sq ft home, open con- **TRACT 3:** 2± acres w/40'x90' pole building used as a welding shop, includes in floor, cept, 7 bedroom w/storm shelter & can good storage also includes newer hot water heating system, over head door, excellent business opportunity. **TRACT 4:** 18± acres productive tillable farmland, soils are Pevamo, Glynwood loam, and Blount loam, purchase individually or combine w/Tract 3 ground pit. 32'x72' w/24' lean too building also includes 36'x90' Horse shed

INSPECTION DATES: Wed, July 10 • 5-7pm & Sat, July 20 • 10am-12pm

OWNERS: Elmer J. Jr & Delia Mae Graber SALE MANAGER: Ritter Cox • 260.609.3306 #AU08600254 Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc. #AC63001504

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OBITUARIES

Helen R. Mitchell, 94

Helen R. Mitchell, 94, of Bluffton, passed away Thursday morning, July 11, 2024, at River Terrace Retirement Community in Bluffton. Helen was born January 13, 1930, in Markle a daughter of the late Lewis and Margaret (Harbeson) Buel.



Montgomery of Binghamton, N.Y.; two grandsons, Chad Mitchell of Hometown and Theodore Mitchell of Uniondale; and four great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Royal; a son, Michael Mitchell; and a brother, Ross Buel.

Visitation will take place on Thursday, July 18, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Myers Funeral Home, Markle Chapel, 415 N. Lee St., Markle, Indiana.

Services will also take place on Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., immediately following the visitation at the Myers Funeral Home, Markle Chapel.

Interment will take place in the Horeb Cemetery in Uniondale, Indiana. Preferred memorials can be made out the American Diabetes Association, sent in care of Myers Funeral Home, P.O. Box, 403, Markle, IN 46770

To sign Helen's online guest registry log onto our website at www.myersfuneralhomes.com and scroll down to obituaries.

Helen graduated from Markle High school and was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, and the Markle United Methodist Church. She was united in marriage to Royal Mitchell on April 19, 1949, and together raised two children Michael and Melinda. Helen was active over the years on the family farm in Wells County. She and Royal enjoyed traveling the country on their motorcycles and spending winters in Florida. Helen retired as a secretary from Norwell Community Schools. She spent the majority of her later years at her home in Sarasota, Fla. When not traveling she enjoyed playing golf and the piano. She spent her last years as a resident at River Terrace Retirement Community.

Survivors include her daughter, Melinda

Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

We are thrilled to announce that local businesses are giving back by offering **free admission** for families to enjoy swimming at the Wells Community Pool this summer. The support from outstanding companies like this is more than just a kind gesture; it's a real testament to the small-town spirit that strengthens our community. Please return the favor and let these individuals know how much we appreciate them!

Upcoming dates with **FREE ADMISSION** to the Wells Community Pool include:

- First 58 kids on July 14 courtesy of Bluffton Optimist Club
- First 70 guests on July 15t courtesy of 5S Building Co.
- First 100 guests on July 16 courtesy of Pitties Properties & Pitties Dog House
- First 100 guests on July 17 Mattress and Furniture Store
- First 60 guests on July 22 courtesy of Wings Etc. Grill and Pub

Past participants include:

Ben Burman from State Farm, Nick Huffman from Steffen Group, Tanner Bowen of Hiday Motors, 5S Building Co, Bluffton Moose Lodge 242, PeopleLink Staffing Solution, Ethan's Outdoor Services LLC, Indiana Party Rentals and an anonymous donor. Thank you, everyone, for your kindness.

Great news: The **Intro to Pickleball** program has been extended until the end of August. This means more time for adults and teens over 16 to learn and enjoy this fast-paced game. Join our dedicated volunteer instructor, Rick King, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Washington Park (710 S. Mulberry) tennis courts, starting at 10 a.m. This is a free drop-in program that you won't want to miss.

Join us for the next **FREE Friday night concert** featuring The Insiders on

July 25 at Kehoe Park from 8-10 p.m. Bring your lawn chair and a few dollars to purchase something delicious from Uncle Matt's BBQ Shack food truck or a drink from 2 Pour Guys (ID required). Close your eyes, and you won't know the difference. Open them, and you still might be fooled. The Insiders presents the premier Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers experience. With six veteran musicians and decades of combined stage and touring experience, The Insiders are genuinely running down the dream. They are based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and currently tour the Midwest and beyond. This concert is sponsored by the generosity of the Howard & Beverly Rich Endowment and our title sponsors, Wells County Foundation and ProFed Credit Union. The rain site is Life Community Church; follow Bluffton Parks on Facebook for weather-related updates.

ABC Studio and Activity Center is offering some exciting **free drop-in classes** that your kids will love. The Ballet Workshop is scheduled for July 17, from 5:30-6 p.m., and the Lyrical Workshop will be held on July 24th, from 5:30-6 p.m. These workshops are open to children of any age, so just show up and let the fun begin.

It's time to register for the 50th Anniversary **Parlor City Trot** - Sign up for either the half-marathon, 10k, or 5k run. The course is flat and fast and winds through the streets of Bluffton, Ouabache State Park, and along the Wabash River on the scenic River Greenway. Runners of ALL speeds are welcome, but the half marathon event has a 4-hour time limit (early starts available). Sign up online at <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/82437/parlor-city-trot>. The event is scheduled for Saturday, August 31.

Have a great week!

Local Roundup

Solid Waste District board will meet Monday

The board of the Wells County Solid Waste District will meet at 4 p.m. Monday, July 15, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Items on the agenda include:

- Report from Supervisor Kevin Poling.
- Investment report.
- 2025 Solid Waste budget.

Bluffton Common Council will meet Tuesday evening

The Bluffton Common Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

BHMSD to hold special board meeting Tuesday

The board of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, in the school district's administration building at 803 E. Harrison St. in Bluffton.

Items on the agenda include:

- Notice of an adjunct faculty member vacancy.
- Election of a new board president.
- Appointment of a board member to the At-Large member vacancy.

Southern Wells school board will meet Tuesday

The board of the Southern Wells Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, in the high school media center of the SWCS campus.

Items on the agenda include:

- Financial and personnel matters.
- Discussion regarding handbooks and textbook fees.
- Facility use and field trip requests.
- Superintendent information.

The regular meeting will be followed by an executive session, which was cited as being "to discuss a job performance evaluation or individual employees."

Visitors Commission will meet Wednesday morning

The Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission will meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday, July 17, at the Wells County Commerce and Visitors Centre, 211 Water St. in Bluffton.

Items on the agenda include:

- Financial updates.
- Project updates, including maps and collaboration with the Friends of Ouabache.
- Discussion regarding pamphlets/brochures and marketing needs.

Markle Town Council will meet Wednesday evening

The Markle Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, in the meeting room of the Markle fire station, 150 W. Sparks St. in Markle.

Items on the agenda include:

- Huntington County Emergency Management Resolution 2024-4
- Reports from operations manager and town marshal.
- HCUED report and Region 3-A report.

Indiana inspector general clears state employees of ghost employment, suggests changes

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Indiana Office of the Inspector General last month cleared two state employees — a supervisor and a subordinate — of alleged ghost employment and more.

But the office recommended that the Management Performance Hub, which employs the pair, take steps to "avoid the future appearance of impropriety."

The OIG received an anonymous complaint last August alleging that the hub let a subordinate attend an out-of-state conference unrelated to her duties, that she didn't attend the conference and that — for about a year — she was rarely in the office.

The complaint also accused the supervisor of violating a remote work agreement and misappropriating state funds.

OIG Special Agent Sam Stearley found that the supervisor let the subordinate attend the data software conference because he wanted her to learn how to use it. The hub paid for the rooms and reimbursed both employees for the flights, like it did with its other employee attendees.

A hub employee told Stearley none of the attendees saw the subordinate attend any sessions. But the hub also didn't require sign-up sheets or any other way to document attendance.

The OIG, per a June 19 investigative report from staff attorney Doreen Clark, found no evidence that any hub employees misused

state dollars to attend the conference.

The agency also didn't find evidence that either employee knowingly solicited, accepted or got any kind of gift from outside entities hoping to influence their actions: the hub purchased tickets to the conference for its employees, minus a free ticket from the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.

Outside the conference

A hub employee told Stearley that when the State Personnel Department let the subordinate work from home — due to health issues — she typically spent less than three days a week in the office for the next year.

The employee also said the supervisor didn't come into the office for about a month in summer of 2022, citing illness, and logging on for just two hours daily.

Stearley found the hub doesn't require its employees to complete remote work logs, and that it had no remote work agreements on file for either the subordinate or the supervisor.

Timesheets revealed that the subordinate indeed reported most of her regular work hours for the year in question as remote, and used holiday and sick time when not working.

The supervisor, meanwhile, took accrued time off several times throughout July 2022. In August 2022, he reported being sick daily but still recorded between 2 and 5 hours of remote work each workday.

County Drainage Board will meet Monday afternoon

The Wells County Drainage Board will meet at 4:30 p.m. Monday, July 15, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Items on the agenda are project updates and miscellaneous matters.

County Commissioners will meet Monday evening

The Wells County Commissioners will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, July 15, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Items on the agenda include:

- Department reports from Sheriff Scott Holliday, Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar and Engineer Nate Whitacre.
- Appointment with Paige Hamilton of Family Centered Services.
- Request from the Poka-Bache Task Force.
- An appointment to the library board.
- Plaza request from the Bluffton Free Street Fair.
- Right-of-way or utility agreements.
- Economic Development update.

County Election Board will meet Tuesday afternoon

The Wells County Election Board will meet at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, in the clerk's office in the Wells County Courthouse, 102 W. Market St.

Items on the agenda include:

- Appointment of Bruce Taylor as a Liberty Township board member.
- Discussion regarding candidate filings and general election deadlines.
- Voter registration maintenance.

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

WELLS COUNTY 4-H FAIR
JULY 13-18

Look for 4-H Schedule in the Bluffton News-Banner.
Line up at 9:30 am at Bluffton Regional South Parking Lot.

Parade - July 13 • 10am

Music:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Keystones Youth Rock Band Sunday, July 14 Starting at 5pm | Hubie Ashcraft Tuesday, July 16 Starting at 7pm | Trevor Hunt Wednesday, July 17 Starting at 7pm |
|---|---|--|

Truck Pull
Come Join the Fun!
Friday, July 19 at 7pm

5K Run/Walk
"Let the Games Begin"
Saturday, July 13 at 7:30am

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



From our family to you ...

The Reimschisel family at Family Ford of Bluffton hope that you will take a few moments at least once each week to spend some time with what really matters during these "interesting times."

This short essay is from **Our Daily Bread®**

— a free publication we would love to share with you. Stop in anytime. There is no cost or obligation.



970 N. Main St., Bluffton 824-2300

EZRA 3:1-6

SATURDAY | JULY 13

They began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD, though the foundation of the LORD's temple had not yet been laid. [EZRA 3:6]

WORSHIP FIRST

I'd never planned to start a non-profit organization about adult friendship, and when I felt called to do so, I had so many questions. How would the charity be financed, and who should help me build it? My greatest help on these matters ended up coming not from a business book, but a biblical one.

The book of Ezra is essential reading for anyone called by God to build something. Recounting how the Jews rebuilt Jerusalem after their exile, it shows how God provided funds through public donations and government grants (EZRA 1:4-11; 6:8-10), and how both volunteers and contractors did the work (1:5; 3:7). It shows the importance of preparation time, with rebuilding not beginning until the second year of the Jews' return (3:8). It shows how opposition may come (CH. 4). But one thing in the story particularly stood out to me. A whole year before any building began, the Jews erected the altar (3:1-6). The people worshiped "though the foundation of the LORD's temple had not yet been laid" (V. 6). Worship came first.

Is God calling you to start something new? Ezra's principle is poignant whether you're starting a charity, a Bible study, a creative project, or some new task at work. Even a God-given project can take our attention away from Him, so let's focus on God first. Before we work, we worship.

SHERIDAN VOYSEY

Why do you think the Jews built the altar first?
How could worship fit into your workflow today?

Heavenly Father, I worship You as Lord of all,
including the tasks You've given me to do today.

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Can't help it. Kate made me do it.

I may have found a new hero.

Saturday's Sub

A number of weeks ago, Melba Edwards of Zanesville fame dropped off a 1963 yearbook of Lancaster Central High School and a few artifacts from the presidential campaign of Kathleen Tyson Heslop. Yep. The '63 grad and former Wells County resident ran for the Republican nomination in 1988 and once shared a stage in Iowa with a group of candidates including then VP and future President George H. W. Bush.



Mark Miller

I had to put it aside in order to finish up the Who We Are project but have since been working on the story. What she said on that stage and what her campaign was all about is, I think, heroic. While that story is still in the works, she made more than one remark in interviews with Jim Barbieri, a Fort Wayne News-Sentinel columnist and the United Press that's triggered this Saturday's entry.

"It's too important to not speak up," I paraphrase her from two stories written by my late friend and colleague.

"It comes time when you have to stand up for what you believe," the UPI story quoted her.

"I need to let my ideas be known," she told the Fort Wayne columnist.

I get that. Ken Ballinger gets that. Thus inspired, two recent developments in the news have been bugging me.

- "The debate" has led to renewed calls for both President Biden and former President Trump to take some sort of cognitive or competency or neurological test. I think they have that all wrong. What got us in this predicament is at least partially due to a lack of a competency test for voters. I've shared this notion with some friends since way last fall. A couple have laughed at me. They thought I was joking. Am I?

"The aspirations of democracy are based on the notion of an informed citizenry." — Ann Druyan

"The 'well informed citizenry' is in danger of becoming the 'well amused audience.'" — Al Gore

I can't believe I am quoting Al Gore. But I digress.

So when you go to vote, the poll workers would ask you a couple questions. Can't answer them? You don't get a ballot. What those would be is perhaps the hardest part. Something about current events? A politically neutral approach would be tough, if not impossible. "What day is it?" might be one. "Name at least two people on the ballot you will be getting," might be another. Some basic questions on the test that must be passed by immigrants applying for citizenship seem fair — such as "How many senators are in the U.S. Senate?" — but I am acutely aware that many well-informed citizens may not be able to pinpoint that number.

I know it wouldn't fly. I know it sounds elitist. It's probably that *and* unconstitutional. But I would advocate to at least eliminate the straight-party-vote options. At the very minimum, people should have to consider each race and each candidate individually.

I also have some strong opinions on this ridiculous notion that we are obligated to make it easier for people to vote. But that's a rant for another day.

- On a more serious note (although I am more serious about a cognitive test for voters than I probably should be), Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb is working on getting executions re-started. They've been on hold since the proper chemicals for a lethal injection have not been available. Apparently they are now.

I have written about this topic in this Saturday space before — that it is a barbaric remnant not suited to the society I think we want to be — and with it back in the news, I feel compelled to do so again. Capital punishment must be abolished.

While the Old Testament has numerous offenses that qualify for executions (including dishonoring one's parents), Jesus made His views quite clear: "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone..."

If you want to claim the practical approach, studies have shown that it's cheaper to lock someone up for the rest of their lives than fund the lengthy but necessary appeal process.

But even if that were not true, it is simply a moral issue of the sanctity of life that one day, I believe, we will all be quizzed about by St. Peter: "You lived in a democracy. You had a voice. What did you do?"

At least, like Kate Heslop, I can say that I spoke.

miller@news-banner.com

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, July 13, the 195th day of 2024. There are 171 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 13, 1985, the "Live Aid" benefit rock concerts were held simultaneously in London and Philadelphia, raising millions for famine relief in Ethiopia.

Also on this date:

In 1793, French politician, physician and journalist Jean-Paul Marat was assassinated by Charlotte Corday, who stabbed him to death in his bath.

In 1863, deadly rioting against the Civil War military draft erupted in New York City. (The insurrection was put down three days later.)

In 1923, a sign consisting of 50-foot-tall letters spelling out "HOLLYWOOD-LAND" was dedicated in the Hollywood Hills to promote a subdivision (the last four letters were removed in 1949).

In 1960, John F. Kennedy won the Democratic presidential nomination on the first ballot at his party's convention in Los Angeles.

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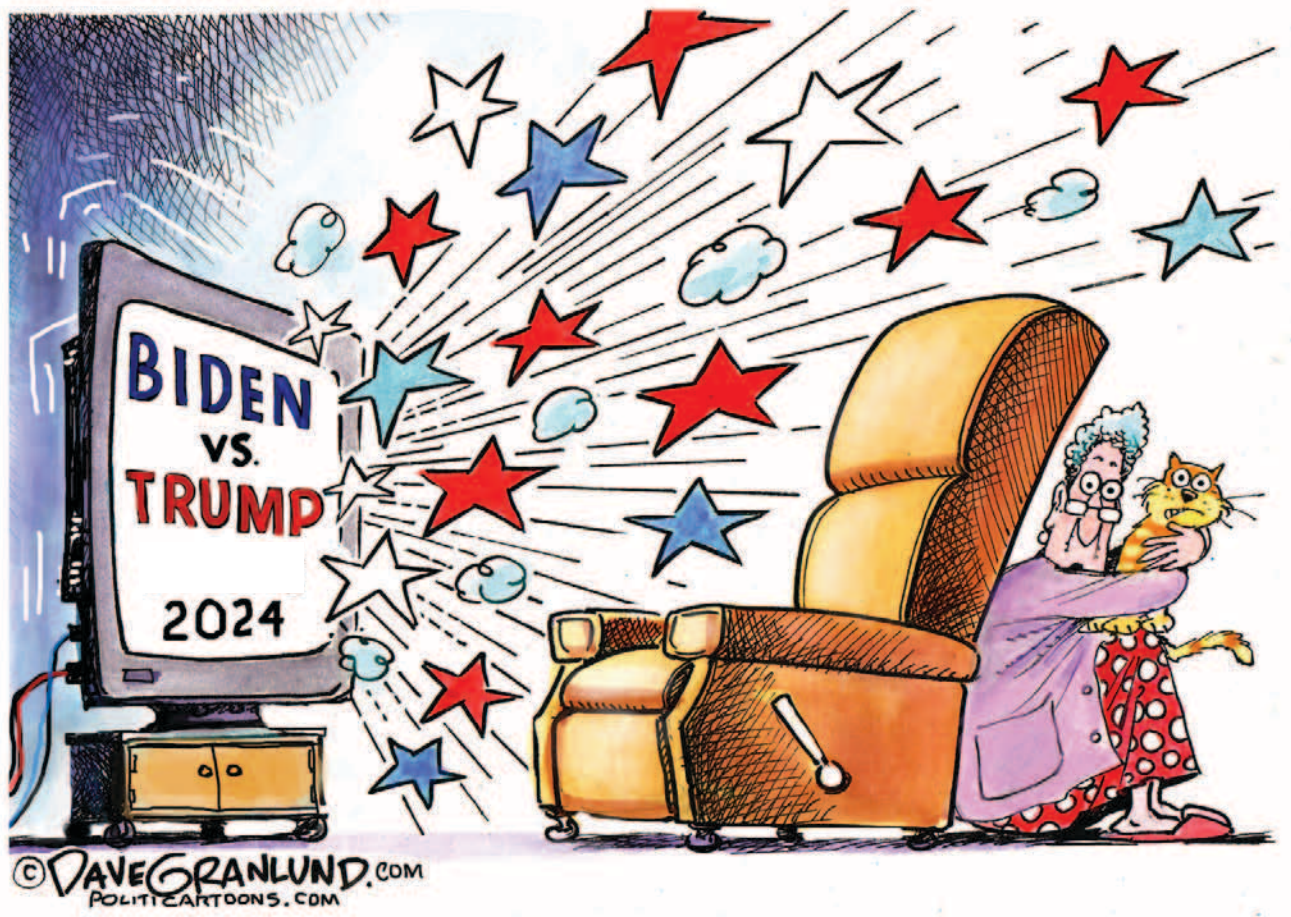
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Our Monarchical Presidency

Fourteen days after his disastrous debate, President Joe Biden is still in the race for reelection. Multiple elected Democrats, New York Times editorial writers and columnists, and Democratic Party megadonors — "elites," sneers the perceptive David Dayen — have called on him to step aside. A secret ballot of congressional Democrats, the procedure under which they choose their own party leaders, would surely go against Biden, probably by a wide margin.

But Biden is staying in. He has strong support from Jill Biden, for whom the Marine Band has been playing a new "Fanfare for the First Lady," and his son Hunter Biden, and perhaps weaker support from 55% of Democratic voters, according to a CBS poll.

Even though his chances of winning seem poor. In July 2020, the RealClearPolitics average showed Biden running 9 percentage points ahead of then-President Donald Trump, and he carried the popular vote by 4.4 points in November. Now Trump leads by 3.3 points. Do the math.

And things could get worse. That CBS poll shows 72% saying Biden does not have the mental and cognitive health to serve as president. Polling analyst Nate Silver's model shows him with a 29% chance of winning, the same as it showed for Trump in Nov. 2016. But, as Silver notes, his model's forecasts "are built from past examples where candidates were capable of running relatively normal campaigns, which Biden isn't."

What's going on here? My theory, which I've seen only one other writer, National Review's Dan McLaughlin, suggest, is that people, especially core supporters of the two parties, are increasingly taking a monarchical view of the presidency. In an era of sharp and closely balanced partisan polarization, they feel a strong loyalty to even obviously flawed leaders.

The Founding Fathers didn't want it this way. Their reference point was Great Britain, which, since the Glorious Revolution of 1688-89, had divided loyalties, between Protestant Dutch- and German-born kings and pretenders with hereditary claims living "across the water" in Catholic France and Italy.

The Founders, with grievances against George III, purposely established a republic with limited powers and revered George Washington for resigning as military commander in 1783 and for retiring from the presidency in 1797 and returning to private life. But the sterling examples set by the Founders, Abraham Lincoln and some 20th-century presidents accustomed many to revere their presidents. Commentators speak of presidents "running the country" even though, most of the time, they don't run much of the federal government.

In the past generation, Democrats stuck by Bill Clinton through impeachment, Republicans by

George W. Bush through Iraq, and Democrats by Barack Obama through the Tea Party rebellion. A somewhat realigned body of Republican voters stuck with Trump while in office and, after what they regarded as kangaroo court prosecutions, in primaries this year against serious competitors Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.) and former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. Democratic voters all but unanimously stuck with Biden in primaries against nominal opposition, and a majority today cling to wanting him to keep running despite diminished powers and dismal prospects.

It's reminiscent of how 18th-century British Protestants stuck with the German-speaking George I, and British Jacobites with the Vatican-based Bonnie Prince Charlie, despite both individuals' glaring defects.

In one respect, American presidents are more powerful than traditional monarchs. Kings had hereditary successors, with whom they often quarreled but could not depose. American presidents, it is widely conceded across the political spectrum, choose their vice presidents and, since Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale set a useful precedent in the 1970s, have given them useful work and access to decision-making.

Our system invites millions of voters, 30 million Republicans in 2016 and 36 million Democrats in 2020, to participate in determining whom the two parties nominate for president, then lets each nominee, just one person, choose someone who might exercise the office for three years and 11 months — as John Tyler did in 1841-45.

Biden's choice of Kamala Harris poses a problem for liberals who want him to step aside. Her status as a Black woman in an identity politics-addicted party makes it politically perilous to set aside for another candidate, while her failure to demonstrate the policy heft of other post-Carter-Mondale vice presidents leaves doubts about whether she would be as strong a candidate as the pre-debate Biden.

And how strong was that really? Repeated polling showed most voters, including many Blacks and Hispanics, had a more positive verdict on the Trump presidency than the Biden presidency. And the Pew National Public Opinion Reference Survey released this week, "perhaps the most important poll you've never heard of," according to New York Times analyst Nate Cohn, reports that Republicans now, for the first time, lead Democrats in party identification.

Liberal elites busy concocting schemes to replace Biden and Harris assume that any respectable Democrat is certain to beat Trump. Maybe not.

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Michael Barone

Democrats' options cannot include surrender

The one thing the Democratic Party absolutely cannot do is surrender the presidency to Donald Trump without a proper fight.

Trump can be beaten. Democrats must either go all-in on President Biden's reelection or nominate someone else, probably Vice President Harris. Whatever they do, they have to mean it.

Biden's attempt on Monday to settle the question once and for all did not work. On Wednesday, former speaker Nancy Pelosi (Calif.), one of the party's most respected leaders, reopened the debate with some carefully chosen words on MSNBC's "Morning Joe."

"It's up to the president to decide if he is going to run. We're all encouraging him to make that decision, because time is running short," Pelosi said. "He is beloved, he is respected, and people want him to make that decision."

Pelosi knows Biden has decided to stay in the race; she just doesn't take that as a final answer. And in a new Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos poll of registered voters, conducted July 5 to 9, 56 percent of Democrats surveyed said they believe Biden should pull out of the race. Anyone who argues that choosing a new candidate would divide the party should face reality: The party is already divided.

Sticking with Biden but expecting him to lose is simply not an option. The stakes are too high.

In his four years as president, Trump didn't just enact reactionary policies that took the nation backward, appoint Supreme Court justices who stripped away abortion rights, disrupt vital international alliances



Eugene Robinson

and generally act on grievance and whim. He went so far as to try to overturn a presidential election, inciting a violent crowd to storm the U.S. Capitol.

Trump faces state and federal felony charges for his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection, along with separate federal charges for allegedly absconding with sensitive classified documents. He has already been

convicted of 34 state felony charges stemming from a hush money payment to an adult-film actress. His campaign speeches consist of lies, non sequiturs and incomprehensible ramblings. At 78, he, too, would be the oldest person ever elected president.

That is a description of a candidate who should be trounced in a landslide. Yet the Post poll shows Trump and Biden tied at 46 percent. And this is one of the rosier assessments of Biden's prospects since his "bad night" debate performance; the RealClearPolitics average of polls has Trump ahead by three points.

On this date in 2020, by contrast, Biden led Trump in the RCP average by nine points. Biden ended up winning the popular vote by 4.4 points.

For Democrats — and for the future of our democracy — these are not good numbers. Polls in the crucial swing states are even less promising.

It is impossible to ignore the debt that the Democratic Party owes to Biden. He not only came out of retirement to defeat Trump but went on to have one of the most impactful — and progressive — presidential terms of my lifetime. He absolutely deserves another. But can he win, when 85 percent of respondents in

The Post's poll say he is too old to serve four more years?

It might not be impossible. Trump is also seen as too old, by 60 percent of voters. Biden's campaign team can argue that the president's deficit is within the margin of error in many polls; and they have built a formidable get-out-the-vote operation. Most Americans — for good reason — view Trump unfavorably.

But in the Post survey, Harris leads narrowly in a hypothetical contest against Trump, 49 percent to 47 percent. And when Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents were asked who should replace Biden at the top of the ticket should he step aside, the vice president far outpaced those such as California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and even former first lady Michelle Obama.

Changing candidates would be a gamble, and there is no guarantee it would work. It is hard for me to imagine a process that ended with anyone other than Harris as the replacement. At 59, she would turn the age issue in her party's favor; and I'm confident she could unite and inspire the Democratic base. I'm not sure, though, how she would ultimately fare among independents and the lost tribe of anti-Trump Republicans. No one really knows what would happen.

If the smartest politicians and numbers crunchers in the Democratic Party see a way for Biden to win, they must all agree to make that happen. But if not — and no one has yet shown a credible road map to victory — they must all agree to make a change. A leap of faith is better than an inexorable slide into the abyss.

eugenerobinson@washpost.com



Call to Worship

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705 W.-900 N., Uniondale
10 a.m. - Worship.

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1970 S.-800E., Bluffton
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NORTH
630 E. Dustman Rd.
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
8013 W.-1100S.-90, Montpelier
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

BETHEL
(Independent Bible)
4500E-300S, Bluffton
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS
6114E-750N, Ossian
bethlehemossian.org
9 a.m. - Divine Service. 10:15 - Adult Bible Class, Youth Bible Class & Sunday School. 11:30 - Voice of Bethlehem on 92.7 FM.

BLUFFTON CHURCH OF GOD
327 W. Cherry St.
10 a.m. - Sunday School. 11 a.m. - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST
3467 S 600 W, Liberty Center
boehmerumc.org
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL
(Independent Holiness Church)
1309 W. Washington St.
blufftonwesleyan.net
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6:30 p.m. - Worship.

CALVARY LUTHERAN, ELCA
1532 N. Main St.
9 a.m. - Worship.

CHESTER CENTER
900S-300W, Poneto
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

CHRISTIAN NEW LIGHT
1011 W. Washington St.
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Praise & worship.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
735 S. Marion St.
10 a.m. - Bible Study. 10:45 - Worship.

COVENANT CHAPEL
3550 S. SR 1
mycovenantchapel.org
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:15 - Worship. (Children's Church for ages 6-12).

DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN
8888S-1100W-90, Warren
9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Sunday School.

DOMESTIC CHURCH OF CHRIST
9 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Church service.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST
1204 W. Cherry St.
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:40 a.m. - Sunday School.

FIRST BAPTIST
202 W. Cherry St.
fbcbluffton.com
10:15 - Worship.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OSSIAN
1001 Dehner Dr.
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. - Worship. 6:30 - Service.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST
909 W. Spring St.
FCCfamily.com
9:30 & 11 a.m. - Worship.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1515 Clark Ave.
blufftonnazarene.org
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9-10 a.m. - Free ESL classes. 10:15 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
215 E. Dustman Rd.
firstpcbbluffton.org
9:30 a.m. - Children/youth & Adult Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL)
123 S. Jefferson St., Ossian
www.OssianChurch.com
8:45 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Worship, Communion.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF BLUFFTON
301 W. Cherry St.
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
325 W. Washington St.
blufftonfirstumc.com
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

FORGIVEN CHURCH
1409 S. Main St.
forgivenonline.org
9 a.m. - Worship.

Time to Take a Devotional Break

A HEADSTONE & A LEGACY

Studying random headstones during a cemetery walk or simply scanning the obituary section of a newspaper can provide unique insights about the names listed in stone or print. However, without personal knowledge of a particular individual, each headstone or article shares only glimpses into the person being remembered. The Bible is packed with the life stories and legacies of numerous men and women. Some are mentioned very briefly, leaving the reader to wonder about the families left behind at the person's death, while other stories are shared in great detail, especially in the lineage of Jesus as it connects all of humankind to God's plan of salvation.

The Old Testament book of Genesis records the descendants of the first man, Adam (Genesis 5), the family of Noah (chapter 10), and the lineage of Shem and Terah, down through Abraham, with whom God made His salvation covenant (chapter 11). The New Testament books of Matthew and Luke (Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38) both detail the bloodline leading from Abraham to the birth of Jesus Christ, God's promised Messiah. Noah's

descendants are identified by the nations and people groups they established, while the New Testament genealogy specifically names Rahab, a former prostitute and mother of Boaz; Ruth, a foreigner and grandmother to King David; and Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah and mother to King Solomon.

Every Biblically historical headstone and obituary, however brief, provides another layer of detail to complete the bloodline of salvation. Each name recounts the way in which God used weak, sometimes uncertain human beings to fulfill an eternal destiny. Those individuals created a legacy of willing obedience recorded in Scripture which has outlasted any physical headstone built in their honor.

All of mankind passes into eternity leaving behind two things: a headstone and a legacy. The headstone remains unchanged, memorializing someone's life, fixed in one spot. However, the legacy continues as a living, breathing, growing reality of faith and goodness — or evil and despair.

Don't wait for a marble headstone to commemorate your life. Instead, determine to build a heavenly, eternal legacy to the glory of God.



by Martha Paxson

mpaxson99@yahoo.com

FAIRVIEW CHURCH OF GOD
5511 W. Yoder Rd., Yoder
fairviewlife.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST
210 W. Townley
fbc-bluffton.com
10 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Discipleship.

GRACE BAPTIST
1621 S. 350 E.
Stogdill Rd. Ext.
gbcbluffton.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship.

GRACE BIBLE
6626 Village Way, Berne
gracebibleberne.com
9 a.m. - Sunday classes. 10 a.m. - Collective Worship.

HARVEST TIME BIBLE
11015S-600E, Keystone
9:10 a.m. - Prayer. 10 a.m. - Worship.

HOPE MISSIONARY
429 E. Dustman Rd.
hope4thefamily.com
8 a.m., 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service at Main Campus. 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service, north campus, Ossian.

KEYSTONE CHURCH
10556S-200W
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 - Sunday School.

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
2803 N. Main St.
jw.org
10 a.m. - Worship.

LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST
3071 W. Cherry St.
8:30 a.m. - Pastor/Deacon's Prayer. 9 - Sunday School. 9:55 - Fellowship. 10:15 - Worship.

LIBERTY CENTER COMMUNITY CHURCH
8:45 a.m. - Choir practice. 9 a.m. - Coffee, donuts, conversation. 9:30 - Worship w/infant nursery & children's church. 10:45 - Sunday School.

LANCASTER CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
4510 E 400N, Craigville
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9:40 - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Worship.

LIFE COMMUNITY
428 S. Oak St.
lifecommunity.net
10:30 a.m. - Service (Children's programs available).

LIVING FAITH MISSIONARY
17718 Bluffton Rd., Yoder
10 a.m. - Worship. 11:30 - Sunday School.

LIVING WATER UNITED CHURCH
6486 S 700E, Bluffton
8:45-9 a.m. - Prayer. 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

MARKLE CHAPEL HILL SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
470 E. Morse St.
Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sabbath School (Bible study).

MARKLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
455 E. Morse St.
marklechurch.org
9 a.m. - Adult Bible study groups. 10:30 - Worship. Children's & student programming both hours.

MARKLE RIVERSIDE 316
145 W. Morse St.
10 a.m. - Worship.

MURRAY MISSIONARY
1117 N. Washington St., Murray
murraymc.org
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Sunday School.

NEW BEGINNING
2187 W. SR 218
10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

PARK COMMUNITY
617 S. Bennett St.
parkccbluffton.org
10 a.m. - Connection. 11 a.m. - Worship.

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN
(Missouri Synod)
8824 N. SR 1, Ossian
newhopelutheran-ossian.webs.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible study. 10 a.m. - Worship.

NOTTINGHAM
1100 S. SR 1
9:30 - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6 p.m. - Worship.

OSSIAN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
302 N. Metts St.
ossiannaz.org
9:15 a.m. - Bible study. 10:30 - Service.

OSSIAN UNITED METHODIST
201 W. Mill St.
ossiannumc.org
9 a.m. - Worship, Worship child care nurse. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 - Adult Sunday School.

PETROLEUM COMMUNITY CHURCH
3625 E. 2nd St.
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 - Sunday School.

PONETO BAPTIST
Grape Street
8:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 9 a.m. - Worship.

PONETO FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
36 E. Walnut St.
9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 - Sunday School.

RIVER OF HOPE
1224 W. Central
11 a.m. - Worship & the Word.

RIVER OF LIFE
122 Lamar St.
Suite 108, 110
riveroflifebluffton.com
10:30 a.m. - Worship.

SIX MILE
4790 SE SR 116
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

SONLIGHT WESLEYAN
2350 S. SR 1
sonlightwesleyan.org
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. Nursery & Children's classes available during Sunday School & Worship.

SOUTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY CHURCH
9450 S 300 W, Poneto
9 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC
1300 N. Main St.
Saturday: 7:45 a.m. - Prayer. 8 a.m. - Mass. 8:30 - Rosary. 4 p.m. or by appointment - Confessions. 5 p.m. - Mass. Sunday: 7:30 & 10 a.m. - Mass.

ST. LUKE CHURCH
4960W-100N, Decatur
stlukechurch.in
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Sunday School.

ST. MARK EV. LUTHERAN
16933 Thiele Rd.
stmarkfw.org
8:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN (NALC)
5912 N. Sugar St., Uniondale
10 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Children's Sunday School.

TURNPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
500 W. Logan, Markle
turnpointechurch.com
9:30 a.m. - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Adult & Children's Worship.

THE CHURCH AT MCNATT
9221 W 800 S-90, Montpelier
8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship. 9:15 - Worship.

THE MEETING PLACE
115 E. Market St.
6:30 p.m. - Bible study.

TOWER LIFE CENTER
11811 N. Wayne St., Zanesville
towerlifecenter.com
9:30 a.m. - TLC Groups. 10:30 - Worship.

UNIONDALE COMMUNITY CHURCH
5867 N. Main St.
9 a.m. - Worship.

UNIONTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
11419 N-200W, Ossian
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

VERA CRUZ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER CCCU
2771 SE Mulberry St., Vera Cruz
9-10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:10:30 - Fellowship. 10:30 - Worship.

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
205 S. Adams St., Monroe
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Discipleship for adults & children.

ZANESVILLE CHURCH OF GOD
11984 N. Marzane Rd.
9 a.m. - Bible Class. 10 a.m. - Worship.

ZANESVILLE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
3092 W. Broadway
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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Difficulty: ★★★

7/13

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

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Lottery Numbers

Friday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 01-06-14-28-30
Cash4Life — 03-06-13-21-58, Cash Ball: 02
Quick Draw Midday — 10-11-13-15-17-19-21-28-31-33-38-47-49-50-52-54-62-66-79-80, BE: 49
Daily Three-Midday — 01-09-02, SB: 04
Daily Three-Evening — 03-07-07, SB: 08
Daily Four-Midday — 02-04-02-09, SB: 04
Daily Four-Evening — 02-00-04-02, SB: 08
Quick Draw Evening — 09-14-15-20-21-25-27-28-40-43-49-50-52-53-54-56-60-64-69-76, BE: 50
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$17 million

MEGA MILLIONS

15-35-48-53-68, Mega Ball: 08, Megaplier: 3X
POWERBALL
 Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$54 million

LINE CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINES:

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

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

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.

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

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
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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.

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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Public Sale Calendar

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. Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, TheSteffenGroupInc.com, 260-426-0633.

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 18 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 540 W US 224, Uniondale. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, SteffenGroup.com, 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. HaldermanRealEstate&FarmManagement.com, 800-424-2324.

JULY 20 - 9 a.m. Real Estate, 9:30 Personal Property - Charles (Chuck) Bertsch Estate, owner. 3898E 400N, Bluffton. 1 1/2 story, 2-bedroom home, 36x56 pole barn, 1 acre, Lancaster Township. Hit & Miss engines (Fairbanks Morse 5 hp, Fairbanks Morse 1 1/2 or 2 hp, more), oil well display, 25-30 long guns and pistols, ammo, drill press, mill, snowblowers, trailer, M80 Military hot water heater, chain saws, welders, industrial 3 phase motors, tandem bike, yard tools, hand tools, Dixon ZTR zero turn mower, garden tractors, rear tire tiller, more. MizLehmanRealtorsAuctioneers.com, 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 20, 10 a.m.-noon. Sale manager, Ritter Cox, 260-609-3306, SchraderRealEstateandAuctionCompany,Inc.com, 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. KruetzebergAuction.com, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

BIDDING STARTS CLOSING AUGUST 11 - 6 p.m. & 6:30 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, sitting on 10+/- wooded acres! 6:30: Gator, Track loader, mower, Chevy Silverado, tractor, 3 point attachments, tilt bed trailer, outdoor items, hand & power tools, long & hand guns, antiques, primitives, furniture, household, more! Preview July 29, 5-7 p.m., 4182 W 900 N, Decatur. Pick up Aug. 12, 2-6 p.m. KruetzebergAuction.com & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

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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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - General Services Administration (GSA) Sale Thurs., July 18, 12pm. View vehicles in person on July 17, 2pm until 5pm and July 18, 8am-12pm. View up to date listing at www.indianaautoauction.net or www.autoauctions.gsa.gov. (A)

INDIANA AUTO AUCTION, INC. Huge Repo Sale July 18, 2024. Over 100 repossessed units for sale. Money order or cashier's check only. \$500 cashier's check or money order deposit per person required. Register 8 am-9:30 am. No public entry after 9:30 am. All vehicles sold AS IS! 4425 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne. (A)

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Caitlin Clark gets fifth straight double-double

Mitchell scores 28, Fever wins, 95-86

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Kelsey Mitchell scored 28 points, Caitlin Clark had 20 points and 13 assists for her fifth straight double-double and the Indiana Fever beat the short-handed Phoenix Mercury 95-86 on Friday night.

Kahleah Copper scored 20 of her 36 points in the fourth quarter as the Mercury (12-11) trimmed what had been a 31-point third-quarter deficit to single digits.

Mitchell gave Indiana (10-14) an 81-50 lead with 1:55 left in the third quarter before the Mercury scored the next 17 to get with in 81-67

on Sophie Cunningham's 3-pointer. Copper converted a shot in the lane with 5:02 left to get Phoenix within 85-76.

Clark tied the franchise record with her 13th assist on a cross-court pass to Mitchell for a 3-pointer and a 92-83 lead with 1:33 left.

Phoenix's comeback came without center Brittney Griner, who collided with a teammate in the first half and stayed on the floor before a timeout was called. The team announced Griner would not return due to a right hip injury. The Mercury were already without starters Diana Taurasi (leg) and Natasha Cloud (knee).

Copper scored 23 of her 36 points in the final 20 minutes.

Clark secured the double-double early in the third on a pass to Mitchell for a 62-40 lead. Clark also set a franchise record for assists in a quarter when she had seven in the first.

Clark completed a three-point play with eight seconds left in the first half as Indiana closed on a 10-2 run for a 55-35 lead. Mitchell scored 17 points in the first half, Clark had 15 and Boston added 10.



Caitlin Clark

U.S. appeals court says some NCAA athletes may qualify as employees under federal wage-and-hour laws

By MARYCLAIRE DALE
Legal Affairs Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — College athletes whose efforts primarily benefit their schools may qualify as employees deserving of pay under federal wage-and-hour laws, a U.S. appeals court ruled Thursday in a setback to the NCAA.

The court, in the latest challenge to the NCAA's long-held notion of "amateurism" in college sports, said that a test should be developed to differentiate between students who play college sports for fun and those whose effort "crosses the legal line into work."

"With professional athletes as the clearest indicators, playing sports can certainly constitute compensable work," U.S. Circuit Judge L. Felipe Restrepo wrote. "Ultimately, the touchstone remains whether the cumulative circumstances of the relationship between the athlete and college or NCAA reveal an economic reality that is that of an employee-employer."

A colleague, in a concurring opinion, questioned the difficulty of such a process, noting that nearly 200,000 students compete on nearly 6,700 Division I teams. The NCAA had hoped to have the case dismissed, but it will instead go back to the

trial judge for fact finding.

The ruling follows a 2021 Supreme Court decision that led the NCAA to amend its rules to allow athletes to profit from their name, image and likeness. In May, the NCAA announced a nearly \$2.8 billion revenue-sharing plan that could steer millions of dollars directly to athletes by next year.

The Division I athletes and former athletes behind the suit in Philadelphia are seeking more modest hourly wages similar to those earned by their peers in work-study programs. They argue that colleges are violating fair labor practices by failing to pay them for the time they dedicate to their sports, which they say can average 30 or more hours per week.

Lawyer Paul McDonald, representing the plaintiffs, has suggested that athletes might make \$2,000 per month or \$10,000 per year for participating in NCAA sports. He said that many students need the money for everyday expenses.

"This notion that college athletes cannot be both students and employees is just not accurate when you have student employees on campuses," McDonald said Thursday. "It's just beyond belief, the idea that the ath-

letes would not meet the same criteria as employees."

A district judge had refused to throw out the case, prompting the Indianapolis-based NCAA to ask the appeals court to stop it from going to trial.

Defendants include the NCAA and member schools including Duke University, Villanova University and the University of Oregon.

The NCAA, in a statement, said it has been expanding core benefits for athletes, from health care to career preparation, and wants to help schools steer more direct financial benefits to their athletes.

However, it noted what it called student concerns that the employment model could "harm their experiences and needlessly cost countless student-athletes opportunities in women's sports, Olympic sports, and sports at the HBCU and Division II and Division III levels." The statement was issued by NCAA spokesperson Meghan Durham Wright.

The unanimous Supreme Court decision that spawned the NIL payments lifted the ban on college compensation beyond full-ride scholarships. Schools recruiting top athletes now can offer tens of thousands of dollars in education-related benefits

such as study-abroad programs, computers and graduate scholarships.

"Traditions alone cannot justify the NCAA's decision to build a massive money-raising enterprise on the backs of student athletes who are not fairly compensated," Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote in a concurring opinion. "The NCAA is not above the law."

But that case did not resolve whether college athletes are employees entitled to direct pay — the key issue before the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court panel.

Baylor University President Linda Livingstone, speaking at the NCAA convention last year, said that model would turn coaches into their players' bosses.

"Turning student-athletes into employees will have a sprawling, staggering and potentially catastrophic impact on college sports broadly," said Livingstone, chairperson of the NCAA's Board of Governors. "We need Congress to affirm student-athletes' unique relationship with their universities."

But the relationship has faced increasing scrutiny.

In 2021, a top lawyer for the National Labor Relations Board said in a memo that college athletes should be treated as school employees.

Ludvig Aberg, with another 64, leads Scottish Open

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

NORTH BERWICK, Scotland (AP) — Ludvig Aberg has won on the European tour and PGA Tour in the year since leaving college, and another 6-under 64 in the Scottish Open on Friday put him in a position to win a tournament sanctioned by both tours.

Aberg kept a clean card on a stunning day of sunshine along the Firth of Forth, picking up four birdies in an eight-hole stretch

around the turn and making it look easy along the way.

He was at 12-under 128 and had a one-shot lead over Antoine Rozner of France, who also had a 64 in a strong bid to stick around in Scotland for another week. The leading three players earn spots in the British Open, and Rozner is well ahead of the pack.

Also in the mix was Rory McIlroy, returning from a three-week break to digest everything that went wrong late in the final round

at the U.S. Open.

His golf at The Renaissance Club makes it look as though he is ready to move forward. McIlroy had a 66 and for the second day felt like he should have had a few more birdies from chances in the 10-foot range.

"I'm probably standing here feeling like I should be sort of around Ludvig's score, if not a little bit better after the last couple days. But I'm still in good position," McIlroy said. "It's another

weekend where I'm right in the mix of a golf tournament, and that's a nice position to be in after the last three weeks I've had."

Aberg missed a few chances, too. The Swedish star was rarely out of position.

"I felt like we've had a very good game plan and executing the shots," he said. "We try not to force anything. We try to have a lot of acceptance when we play and make sure that we put good swings on it, and give ourselves

plenty of chances. I felt like we've done very well."

Sungjae Im (67) and Matteo Manassero (63) were two shots behind at 130, while McIlroy was in the large group at 9-under.

Justin Thomas hit a tee shot out of play on No. 8, his 17th hole, for a double bogey. He had a 72 and fell six shots behind. Also six back was PGA champion Xander Schauffele, who felt much better about it. He shot 65 and made his 51st consecutive cut on the PGA Tour.

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

| W | L | Pct | GB | |
|-------------|----|-----|------|-----|
| New York | 19 | 4 | 82.6 | — |
| Connecticut | 17 | 5 | 77.3 | 1½ |
| Indiana | 10 | 14 | 41.7 | 9½ |
| Chicago | 9 | 13 | 40.9 | 9½ |
| Atlanta | 7 | 15 | 31.8 | 11½ |
| Washington | 6 | 17 | 26.1 | 13 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| W | L | Pct | GB | |
|-------------|----|-----|------|-----|
| Minnesota | 16 | 6 | 72.7 | — |
| Las Vegas | 15 | 7 | 68.2 | 1 |
| Seattle | 14 | 8 | 63.6 | 2 |
| Phoenix | 12 | 11 | 52.2 | 4½ |
| Los Angeles | 5 | 17 | 22.7 | 11 |
| Dallas | 5 | 18 | 21.7 | 11½ |

Thursday's Games

New York 91, Chicago 76

Friday's Games

Las Vegas 84, Atlanta 70

Indiana 95, Phoenix 86

Minnesota at Seattle, late

Saturday's Games

New York at Chicago, 1 p.m.

Los Angeles at Dallas, 3:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Phoenix at Connecticut, 1 p.m.

Las Vegas at Washington, 3 p.m.

Indiana at Minnesota, 4 p.m.

Atlanta at Seattle, 6 p.m.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

| East Division | | | | |
|---------------|----|-----|------|-----|
| W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Baltimore | 57 | 37 | 60.6 | — |
| New York | 57 | 39 | 59.4 | — |
| Boston | 51 | 42 | 54.8 | 5½ |
| Tampa Bay | 47 | 47 | 50.0 | 10 |
| Toronto | 43 | 50 | 46.2 | 13½ |

Central Division

| W | L | Pct | GB | |
|-------------|----|-----|------|-----|
| Cleveland | 57 | 36 | 61.3 | — |
| Minnesota | 53 | 40 | 57.0 | 4 |
| Kansas City | 52 | 43 | 54.7 | 6 |
| Detroit | 45 | 50 | 47.4 | 13 |
| Chicago | 27 | 69 | 28.1 | 31½ |

West Division

| W | L | Pct | GB | |
|-------------|----|-----|------|-----|
| Seattle | 52 | 43 | 54.7 | — |
| Houston | 49 | 44 | 52.2 | 2 |
| Texas | 44 | 49 | 47.3 | 7 |
| Los Angeles | 38 | 55 | 40.9 | 13 |
| Oakland | 36 | 60 | 37.5 | 16½ |

Thursday's Games

Detroit 10, Cleveland 1

Toronto 5, San Francisco 3

Chicago Cubs 8, Baltimore 0

Boston 7, Oakland 0

Tampa Bay 5, N.Y. Yankees 4

Houston 6, Miami 3

Seattle 11, L.A. Angels 0

Friday's Games

Oakland 6, Philadelphia 2

Kansas City 2, Cleveland 0

Tampa Bay 6, Boston 1

L.A. Dodgers 4, Detroit 3

N.Y. Yankees 4, Baltimore 1

Pittsburgh 4, Chicago White Sox 1

Texas at Houston, late

Seattle at L.A. Angels, late

Toronto at Arizona, late

Minnesota at San Francisco, late

Saturday's Games

L.A. Dodgers (Wroblewski 0-1) at Detroit (Montero 1-2), 1:10 p.m.

Pittsburgh (Ortiz 4-2) at Chicago White Sox (Flexen 2-7), 2:10 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees (Gill 9-5) at Baltimore (Rodriguez 11-3), 4:05 p.m.

Oakland (Spence 5-5) at Philadelphia (Phillips 0-0), 4:05 p.m.

Cleveland (Williams 0-1) at Tampa Bay (Littell 3-6), 4:10 p.m.

Kansas City (Lugo 11-3) at Boston (Crawford 5-7), 4:10 p.m.

Texas (Eovaldi 6-3) at Houston (Arrighetti 4-7), 4:10 p.m.

Minnesota (Woods Richardson 3-1) at San Francisco (Birdsong 1-0), 7:15 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Friday's Transactions

BASEBALL

MLB — Suspended Seattle's minor league pitcher Yeury Tatis for 80 games without pay and Boston's minor league pitcher Charlie Zink for 56 games without pay for testing positive for performance-enhancing substances.

Major League Baseball

American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Recalled RHP Cooper Criswell from Worcester (IL). Optioned RHP Trey Winger to Worcester. Placed RHP Justin Slaten on the 15-day IL, retroactive to July 9. Recalled LHP Cam Booser from Worcester.

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS

Placed LHP Sam Hentges on the 15-day IL, retroactive to July 11. Recalled RHP Xzavion Curry from Columbus (IL).

DETROIT TIGERS

Optioned OF Akili Baddoo to Toledo (IL). Recalled INF/OF Ryan Vilade from Toledo.

MINNESOTA TWINS

Placed INF Kyle Farmer on the 10-day IL. Recalled C Jair Camargo from St. Paul (IL).

NEW YORK YANKEES

Agreed to terms with LHP Tim Lincecum on a minor league contract. Recalled INF Jorbit Vivas from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL). Placed INF J.D. Davis on the 10-day IL, retroactive to July 9.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Reinstated LHP Hogan Harris from the paternity list. Optioned RHP Michel Otanez to Las Vegas (PCL).

SEATTLE MARINERS

Reinstated RHP Bryan Woo from the 15-day IL. Agreed to terms with 2B Kobe Kato and OF Yunior Garcia on minor league contracts. Optioned RHP Eduard Bazarzo to Tacoma (PCL). Sent LHP Gabe Speier to Tacoma (PCL) on a rehab assignment.

National League

CHICAGO CUBS — Sent RHP Caleb Kilian to Iowa (IL) on a rehab assignment.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Sent RHP Brusdar Graterol to ACL Dodgers on a rehab assignment.

MIAMI MARLINS — Sent SS Otto Lopez to Jacksonville (IL) on a rehab assignment.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Reinstated SS Joey Ortiz from the 10-day IL. Optioned SS Vinny Capra to Nashville (IL).

NEW YORK METS — Recalled RHP Eric Orze from Syracuse (IL). Placed LHP David Peterson on the paternity list.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Released UT Whit Merrifield. Recalled INF/OF Weston Wilson from Lehigh Valley (IL).

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Reinstated LHP Marco Gonzales from the 60-day IL and RHP David Bednar from the 15-day IL. Designated RHP Brent Honeywell Jr. for assignment. Optioned RHP Ryder Ryan to Indianapolis (IL).

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Reinstated C Ivan Herrera from the 10-day IL and optioned him to Memphis (IL).


SAN DIEGO PADRES — Reinstated SS Xander Bogaerts from the 10-day IL. Placed LHP Wandy Peralta on the 15-day IL, retroactive to July 10. Recalled RHP Sean Reynolds from El Paso (PCL). Optioned C Brett Sullivan to El Paso.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Waived OF Nick Senzel. Recalled RHP Jackson Rutledge from Rochester (IL). Optioned RHP Joan Adon to Rochester. Minor League


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