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MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024

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4-H awards recognize commitment, service

By JONATHAN SNYDER
Forty-one 4-H members were honored for 10 years of dedicated service to the program, along with the winners of the Caley Memorial Award, County Tenure Awards, and the crowning of the 2024 4-H Ambassadors Saturday.

Wells County 4-H Youth Development Educator Anya Aulbach announced the award winners. This year marks the 56th year of the Caley Award, named after the Caley family. Bill Caley and his four children, Kirby, Kent, Kris Ann and Kevin, were all tragically killed in an auto accident while traveling to the 4-H fair in 1965.

Ella Wheeler and Joshua Bricker were announced as the Caley Award winners. The award is given in honor of their outstanding leadership, citizenship, sportsmanship and personality qualities throughout their 4-H, school, community and church activities. Wheeler and Bricker were presented with a \$500 cash scholarship and a personalized plaque for their achievements and will have

their names engraved on the Caley Memorial Plaque.

County Tenure awards were presented to Kammy Miller and Ella Wheeler. The County Tenure awards are given to two 4-H members who have taken the most 4-H projects during their time in 4-H.

The 2024 4-H Ambassadors are Samantha Evans, Makenzie Fuess, Chayson Brown and Marianne Pease. Evans and Fuess are the senior ambassadors, with Brown and Pease announced as the junior ambassadors. Farm Bureau Scholarships were awarded to Karlee Warner, Case Boxell, Caleb Johnson and Bree Ulfig.

The 10-year 4-H members, followed by their club and their 4-H projects, are listed below:

- Cohen Bailey — Rockcreek Rollers Club, swine project.
- Faith Bales — Jefferson Knightsriders Club, rabbit, arts and crafts, archery and junior leader projects.
- Case Boxell — Chester Chargers Club, beef, rabbit, poultry, dairy beef, swine and dairy feeder

projects.

- Joshua Bricker — Jackson Jaguars Club, woodworking, electric, sheep, dog, models, collections, foods and junior leader projects.
- Makaylynn Bushee — Rockcreek Rollers Club, swine and dairy projects.
- Connor Collins — Hurryin' Harrison's Club, swine, dairy goats, models, forestry and weather and climate projects.
- Chloe Ferguson — Lancaster Achievers Club, poultry project.
- Kylie Frauhiger — Hurryin' Harrison's Club, sewing project.
- Riley Frauhiger — Hurryin' Harrison's Club, dairy feeder and foods projects.
- Makenzie Fuess — Lancaster Achievers Club, poultry, meat goat, garden, corn, arts and crafts, floriculture, rabbits, dairy feeder and foods projects.
- Perrin Gates — Liberty Happy-Go-Lucky Club, cattle, goats and archery projects.
- Alexis Grover — Hurryin'



At right, Joshua Bricker and Ella Wheeler show their Caley Award plaques. More photos on Page 3. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)



Helen Witte's pies for the Wells County 4-H Auction will be sold with specialty handmade ceramic plates made by Platt Pottery. Janelle Frauhiger of the 4-H Foundation, left, and Witte show the plates in the above photo. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

Witte previews prized pies with new plates

By HOLLY GASKILL
When selling thousand-dollar pies, presentation matters — that's why Helen Witte is proud to display her famed pies for the Wells County 4-H Fair in one-of-a-kind plates.

This year's ceramic plates are made by John and Angie Platt of Platt Pottery in Auburn. Witte used to source plates from John's father, also named John, until a few years ago when he was unable to because of his health.

"I'm just elated to have something so nice to give buyers and to work with the Platts again," Witte said.

Witte has been making pies for the 4-H auction for almost 40 years, although the tradition began entirely out of coincidence. When there was a brief delay in the auction, Witte volunteered two pies that sold for just under \$30.

In the years following, the price began to grow and grow. When it hit a first high of \$800, Witte said, "I thought, 'I've got to do something different — they can't just have an old tin plate!'"

Last year, the prized pies went home for \$1,000 apiece. During Ossian Days in 2023, the pies hit a new record of \$4,500 each, totaling \$9,000 for Witte's 90th birthday.

The 4-H auction pies benefit the 4-H Foundation, which offers scholarships to students. "I just love that the foundation is a scholarship for anybody — it's a part of the auction that's for everybody, not just the animal kids," Witte said.

Janelle Frauhiger of the 4-H Foundation estimates that Witte's pies alone have raised approximately \$100,000.

The auction is slated for Thursday, July 18, beginning at 2 p.m. with the premier auction. The livestock auction will follow at 3:30 p.m.

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4-H Spirit Night and parade

Kids from all across Wells County dressed up and competed in an obstacle course run for the 4-H Fair's Spirit Night. Proceeds were donated to the 4-H backpack program. Above, from left to right, Sophie Meeks, Rhilyn Bouvier, Breanna Biggs and Reese Turnbull show their muscle before their run. At left, the 4-H parade went through main street to kick off the 2024 4-H Fair on Saturday. Pictured are Kriehed Wood, Judd Bauermeister and Chesney Bryant sit on a truck, waiting for the parade to start. More photos on Page 2. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

Motive for attempted assassination of Donald Trump remains elusive

By MICHAEL BIESECKER, ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, MICHAEL BALSAMO and JIM MUSTIAN
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The 20-year-old man who tried to assassinate former President Donald Trump first came to law enforcement's attention at Saturday's rally when spectators noticed him acting strangely outside the campaign event. The tip sparked a frantic search but officers were unable to find him before he managed to get on a roof, where he opened fire.

In the wake of the shooting that killed one spectator, investigators were hunting for any clues about what may have drove Thomas Matthew Crooks, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, to carry out the shocking attack. The FBI said they were investigating it as a potential act of domestic terrorism, but the absence of a clear ideological motive by the man shot dead by

Secret Service led conspiracy theories to flourish.

"I urge everyone — everyone, please, don't make assumptions about his motives or his affiliations," President Joe Biden said in remarks Sunday from the White House. "Let the FBI do their job, and their partner agencies do their job. I've instructed that this investigation be thorough and swift."

The FBI said it believes Crooks, who had bomb-making materials in the car he drove to the rally, acted alone. Investigators have found no threatening comments on social media accounts or ideological positions that could help explain what led him to target Trump before Secret Service rushed the presumptive Republican presidential nominee off the stage, his face smeared with blood.

Trump said on social media the upper part of his right ear was pierced in the shooting, but advisers said he was "great spirits" ahead of his arrival Sunday in

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Outside

Showers and storms move in until Wednesday

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 92	High 85	High 80
Low 75	Low 66	Low 59

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Online

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4-H awards

(Continued from Page 1)

Harrisons Club, poultry, home environment, and BB and rifle projects.

- Chase Hulvey — Rockcreek Rollers Club, meat goat, swine and dairy feeder projects.
- Elijah Ingle — Lancaster Achievers Club, weather and climate science and garden and herb projects.
- Tucker Jenkins — Hurryin' Harrisons Club, swine project.
- Annabelle Johnson — Lancaster Achievers Club, Nigerian dwarf goat and swine projects.
- Kayla Kiefer — Hurryin' Harrisons Club, swine, cake decorating and poultry projects.
- Ella Lahr — Liberty Happy-Go-Lucky Club, foods project.
- Lauren Mann — Hurryin' Harrisons Club, rabbit project.
- Madeline McCabe — Rockcreek Rollers Club, photography, shotgun and rabbit projects.
- Jillian Melcher — Jefferson Knightriders Club, photography project.
- Kammy Miller — Chester Chargers Club, meat goat, poultry, gar-

dening, strawberry, arts and crafts, gift wrapping, woodworking, small engines, dairy goats and poultry poster projects.

- Grant Nash — Lancaster Achievers Club, poultry, swine, meat goats, corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa projects.
- Dakota Perry — Hurryin' Harrisons Club, cat and model craft projects.
- Gracie Rinkenberger — Lancaster Achievers Club, cattle and sheep projects.
- Austin Rogers — Wells County Robotics 4-H Club, robotics project.
- Cade Shelton — Rockcreek Rollers Club, swine project.
- Ethan Stauffer — Chester Chargers Club, computer and electric projects.
- Trevon Stoppenhagen — Lancaster Achievers Club, horse and pony, swine and poultry projects.
- Audrey Sweeden — Liberty Happy-Go-Lucky Club, sheep and meat goat projects.
- Ayden Teeple — Hurryin' Harrisons Club, poultry, genealogy and construction toys projects.

- Dalton Tomasek — Lancaster Achievers Club, swine, horse and pony, goats and electric projects.
- Yazmine Tucker — Dairy Club, dairy and dairy feeder projects.
- Karlee Warner — Archery and Shotgun clubs, archery and shotgun projects.
- Brady Wenger — Hurryin' Harrisons Club, swine, wheat, hay, soybeans and alfalfa projects.
- Fletcher Wenger — Hurryin' Harrisons Club, swine and goat projects.
- Hunter Wenger — Hurryin' Harrisons Club, swine, dairy beef, dairy feeder and starter beef projects.
- Marlee Wenger — Hurryin' Harrisons Club, swine, wheat and hay projects.
- Hudson Werich — Hurryin' Harrisons Club, construction toys, woodworking, electrical and weather projects.
- Ella Wheeler — Hurryin' Harrisons Club, beekeeping, arts and crafts, sewing and entomology projects.
- Vanessa Wilson — Horse and Pony Club, horse and pony project.

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Weather

Monday, July 15, 2024

(24-hour observations at 11:12 p.m. Sunday)

High: 85; Low: 69; Precipitation: 0.38 inches of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.59 feet at 8:45 p.m. Sunday

Wells County forecast

Today: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 a.m., then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 92. Heat index values as high as 103. West wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tonight: A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 8 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 75. Southwest wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tuesday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 2 p.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., then showers and thunderstorms likely after 5 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 85. Southwest wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Tuesday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly before 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. West wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Wednesday: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 80.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 77.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 80.



Attempted assassination

(Continued from Page 1)

Milwaukee for the Republican National Convention. Two spectators were critically injured, while a former fire chief from the area, Corey Comperatore was killed. Pennsylvania's governor said Comperatore, 50, died a hero by diving onto his family to protect them.

Relatives of Crooks didn't respond to numerous messages from The Associated Press. His father, Matthew Crooks, told CNN late Saturday that he was trying to figure out "what the hell is going on" but wouldn't speak about his son until after he talked to law enforcement. An FBI official told reporters that Crooks' family is cooperating with investigators.

Several rallygoers reported to local officers that Crooks was acting suspiciously and pacing near the magnetometers, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation. Officers were then told Crooks was climbing a ladder, the official said. Officers searched for him but were unable to find him before he made it to the roof, the official added.

Butler County Sheriff Michael Slupe told the AP that a local officer climbed to the roof and encountered

Crooks, who saw the officer and turned toward him just before the officer dropped down to safety. Slupe said the officer couldn't have wielded his own gun under the circumstances. The officer retreated down the ladder, and Crooks quickly took a shot toward Trump, and that's when Secret Service snipers shot him, according to two officials who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

FBI officials said Sunday that they were combing Crooks' background and social media activities while working to get access to his phone. The chatting app Discord, a social media platform popular with people playing online games, said Crooks appears to have had an account but used it rarely and not in the last several months. There's no evidence he used his account to promote violence or discuss his political views, a Discord spokesperson said.

Crooks' political leanings were not immediately clear. Records show Crooks was registered as a Republican voter in Pennsylvania, but federal campaign finance reports also show he gave \$15 to a progressive political action committee on Jan. 20, 2021, the day Biden was sworn into office.

Crooks graduated from Bethel Park High School

in 2022. In a video of the school's graduation ceremony posted online, Crooks can be seen crossing the stage to receive his diploma, appearing slight of build and wearing glasses. The school district said it will cooperate fully with investigators. His senior year, Crooks was among several students given an award for math and science, according to a Tribune-Review story at the time.

Crooks tried out for the school's rifle team but was turned away because he was a bad shooter, said Frederick Mach, a current captain of the team who was a few years behind Crooks at the school.

Crooks worked at a nursing home as a dietary aide, a job that generally involves food preparation. Marcie Grimm, the administrator of Bethel Park Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, said in a statement she was "shocked and saddened to learn of his involvement." Grimm added that Crooks had a clean background check when he was hired.

A blockade had been set up Sunday preventing traffic near Crooks' house, which is in an enclave of modest brick houses in the hills outside Pittsburgh and about an hour's drive from the site of the Trump rally. Police cars were stationed at an intersection near the house and

officers were seen walking through the neighborhood.

Crooks used an AR-style rifle, which authorities said they believe was purchased by his father. Kevin Rojek, FBI special agent in charge in Pittsburgh, said that investigators do not yet know if he took the gun without his father's permission.

A video posted to social media and geolocated by AP shows Crooks wearing a gray t-shirt with a black American flag on the right arm lying motionless on the roof of a manufacturing plant just north of the Butler Farm Show grounds where Trump's rally was held.

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4-H SPIRIT NIGHT AND PARADE



Above, from left to right, Saylor Stoller, Delayna Reinhard, Denessa Reinhard and Hallie Meyers dress up as elderly women for their run during Spirit Night. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



Members of the TRSS Drum Corps lead the start of the parade.

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WELLS COUNTY 4-H AWARDS



From left to right, Ella Wheeler, Hudson Werich, Hunter Wenger, Fletcher Wenger, Brady Wenger, Karlee Warner, Yazmine Tucker, Ayden Teeple and Audrey Sweeden are given their 10-year membership awards. (Photos Jonathan Snyder)



From left to right, Tucker Jenkins, Chase Hulvey, Alexis Grover, Makenzie Fuess, Riley Frauhiger, Chloe Ferguson, Connor Collins, Makaylynn Bushee, Joshua Bricker and Case Boxell are given their 10-year membership awards.



Above, from left to right, Cade Shelton, Gracie Rinkenberger, Dakota Perry, Grant Nash, Kammy Miller, Jillian Melcher, Lauren Mann, Ella Lahr, Kayla Kiefer and Annabelle Johnson are all given their 10-year membership awards.



From left to right, Chayson Brown, Marianne Pease, Makenzie Fuess and Samantha Evans are the 2024 4-H Ambassadors.

Obituary Policy

The News-Banner and Ossian Journal publishes "basic" obituaries free of charge for "local" deaths. "Basic" obituaries will include the deceased's name, age, community of record, date and place of death, basic genealogical information, the date, time and location of calling hours and services and the name of the funeral home handling arrangements.

If additional information and/or a photo is desired to be included, or if the deceased does not meet the definitions of a "local" person, there is a charge.

Area funeral homes will provide details on the policy and will coordinate obituary publication.

Wells Court Docket

Wells Superior Court Criminal Cases

Elvis Aaron Larkey, 44, Bluffton, appeared in the Wells Superior Court last Monday for sentencing on four separate cases filed between May 2023 and March 2024. Two cases involving charges for conversion and public intoxication were dismissed.

Larkey was sentenced to one year in the Indiana Department of Correction for one count of residential breaking and entering, a Level 6 felony. He received 308 days of jail credit towards his sentence. One count of public intoxication, a Class B misdemeanor, was

dismissed as part of a plea agreement.

In another case, Larkey also pled guilty to one count of escape, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 730 days in prison for the charge, with all time suspended. Larkey is ordered to complete one year of probation and pay restitution, and court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$1,129.39.

Casey Lee Hundley, 43, Bluffton, was sentenced to 180 days in the Indiana Department of Correction after he pled guilty to one count of unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6

felony. Hundley received 134 days of jail credit towards his sentence and is required to pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$189.

Mallory Eileen Lommatzsch, 31, Yoder, was sentenced to 545 days in the Indiana Department of Correction with all but 14 days suspended. The sentence was issued after Lommatzsch pled guilty to one count of possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. She is also required to complete 365 days of probation and pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$389.



Pictured in the photo holding the sign is Emily Striker and Amanda Clark surrounded by Perfect Pet staff and Chamber Ambassadors. (Photo submitted)

Wells County Chamber honors Perfect Pet as July Member of the Month

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassadors proudly announces Perfect Pet Food Accessories, Training, and Grooming as the July Member of the Month. This recognition celebrates their dedication to enhancing the lives of pets and their owners in the Wells County community.

Located at 618 N. Main Street, Perfect Pet offers a comprehensive range of services catering to dogs, cats, small animals, reptiles, and birds. Co-owned by Amanda Clark and Emily Stricker, the establishment is renowned for its full grooming services including haircuts, baths, and nail trims. Additionally, they specialize in dog training, offering group classes, boarding and daycare services.

Clark, reflecting on their journey, stated, "I started my career at Honegger Animal Clinic, intending to become a veterinarian. However, my passion for hands-on animal care led me to a dog training school in Columbus, Ohio, in 2000, where I honed my skills."

Stricker joined the team later, receiving her training credentials from the same institute. Together, they built their expertise over the years, culminating in the acquisition of Perfect Pet in 2016.

"We place a high priority on continual learning," Clark further emphasized. "Every year, our team attends numerous seminars and trains under esteemed national and international experts. This commitment ensures our trainers and grooming staff remain current with the latest techniques and trends, elevating our service standards and reinforcing our leadership in the industry." Clark stressed the importance of continuous

learning, urging individuals to actively seek knowledge from various avenues.

Initially operating out of 4,000 square feet, Perfect Pet has since expanded to approximately 10,000 square feet to accommodate their growing clientele and services. Stricker remarked, "We began with a vision to provide top-tier grooming and training services. Today, we offer a diverse array of programs, from basic obedience courses to intensive behavior modification tailored to each pet's needs. Our programs are designed to address various behavioral issues; therefore, by personalizing our approach, we ensure that every dog receives the specific attention they require."

Perfect Pet isn't simply a business; it's a vital community resource where they also actively partner with local shelters and rescuers to

rehabilitate and find homes for pets in need. "Behavioral challenges often result in pets being surrendered to shelters," noted Clark. "Our goal is to prevent this by assisting pets in becoming excellent companions and community members."

The recognition as July Member of the Month by the Wells County Chamber of Commerce underscores Perfect Pet's commitment to excellence in pet care and community service. Their team of 20 dedicated staff, consisting of four trainers and three groomers, continues to set standards in pet care through continuous education and training.

For more information about Perfect Pet food accessories, training, grooming, and their services, visit their Facebook page, website at www.perfectpetbluffton.com or contact them at (260) 846-0276.

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WELLS COUNTY SWIM TEAM END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION



The Wells County Swim team had members celebrate the end of the season with a party. Above left is the eight-and-under age group. (Photos provided)



Above right is the 15-and-over age group.



Above left is the nine and 10 age group.



Above right is the 13-14 age group.



Above is the 11-12 age group.

Wells County Swim wins conference title

The Wells County Swim Team won the overall end-of-the-year conference meet this past weekend.

The team competed against three other schools and finished first with a combined score of 2,758.

The boys' group won overall as well with a score of 1,497, Jay County second at 891, South Adams third at 638 and Blackford-Marion 293. The girls ended up in second (1,261 points) behind Jay County (1,505). South Adams was third (743) and Blackford-Marion fourth (169).

Event winners were:

Boys

- The 100-meter medley relay team of Harry Burman, Peter Burfiend, Clark Grant and Cory Burfiend with a time of 1:50.03.
- The 200-meter medley relay team of Derek Sickafus, Bryce Grant, Liam Evans and Logan Craig with a time of 3:08.61.
- The 200-meter medley relay team of Griffin Linderwell, Colten Strunk, Kale Meredith and Rylan Heyerly with a time of 2:08.49.
- Clark in the 50-meter freestyle with a time of 42.83.
- Heyerly in the 100-meter freestyle with a time of 39.75.
- Grant in the 50-meter butterfly with a time of 44.12.
- Strunk in the 100-meter butterfly with a time of 1:09.06.
- Sickafus in the 50-meter backstroke with a time of 44.48.
- Griffin Linderwell in the 100-meter backstroke with a time of

1:15.92.

- Clark in the 100-meter IM with a time of 1:56.89.
- Grant in the 100-meter IM with a time of 1:39.82.
- Heyerly in the 200-meter IM with a time of 2:30.10.
- Grant in the 25-meter breaststroke with a time of 31.88.
- Sam Burfiend in the 25-meter breaststroke with a time of 27.81.
- Meredith in the 100-meter breaststroke with a time of 1:14.70.
- Michael Tierney in the 50-meter freestyle with a time of 30.07.
- Heyerly in the 50-meter freestyle with a time of 27.72.
- The 100-meter freestyle relay team of Roran Claghorn, Cory Burfiend, Peter Burfiend and Clark Grant with a time of 1:33.32.
- The 100-meter Barrett Oakleaf, Dean Evans, Kam Claghorn and Abram Nussbaum with a time of 1:32.96.
- The 200-meter freestyle relay team of Sickafus, Grant, Logan Craig and Evans with a time of 2:46.94.
- The 200-meter freestyle relay team of Lincoln Rodgers, Griffin Linderwell, Meredith and Heyerly with a time of 1:54.83.

Girls

- Cassie Coyne in the 200-meter freestyle with a time of 2:29.73.
- The 200-meter medley relay team of Kinsey Journey, Ady Atkins, Emma Holte and Elaina Scott with a time of 2:49.02.
- The 200-meter medley relay

team of Rilynn Ervin, Marlee Meredith, Cassie Coyne and Emerson Meredith with a time of 2:24.41.

- Ellie Coyne in the 100-meter freestyle with a time of 1:07.63.
- Emerson Meredith in the 100-meter freestyle with a time of 1:08.17.
- Atkins in the 50-meter butterfly with a time of 38.24.
- Journey in the 50-meter backstroke with a time of 42.47.
- Annalise Cornett in the 100-meter backstroke with a time of 1:18.77.
- Kenzie Kopp in the 100-meter IM with a time of 1:52.81.
- Atkins in the 100-meter IM with a time of 1:27.35.
- Ellie Coyne in the 200-meter IM with a time of 2:47.69.
- Emerson Meredith in the 200-meter IM with a time of 2:52.52.
- Kopp in the 25-meter breaststroke with a time of 28.17.
- Ellie Coyne in the 50-meter breaststroke with a time of 37.46.
- Cassie Coyne in the 100-meter breaststroke with a time of 1:28.38.
- Atkins in the 50-meter freestyle with a time of 34.01.
- Emerson Meredith in the 50-meter freestyle with a time of 30.68.
- The 200-meter freestyle relay team of Kinsey, Scott, Holte and Atkins with a time of 2:29.75.
- The 200-meter freestyle relay team of Annalise Cornett, Molly Threewits, Ryleigh Huffman and Emerson Meredith with a time of 2:11.97.

Blaney wins at Pocono to complete NASCAR, IndyCar sweep for Team Penske

By DAN GELSTON
AP Sports Writer

LOND POND, Pa. (AP) — Ryan Blaney still feels like the “silly, quiet kid” he was at 23 when he blazed past Kevin Harvick and Kyle Busch over the final 10 laps in 2017 at Pocono Raceway to win a NASCAR Cup race for the first time.

At times, not much in life has changed for Blaney. “I still drink a lot of beer,” Blaney said, before waiting a beat, “probably more.”

Blaney chuckled at the thought, but the reality is, at the track he’s long outgrown the mold of a rising NASCAR star. At 30, he’s a certified one as a NASCAR champion and serves as a bit of an elder statesman, promoting the sport this week coast-to-coast from the ESPYS to the “Today” show.

“I’ve just been fortunate to be on a cool journey,” Blaney said.

His celebrity profile may have mushroomed, but the only journey that really matters in NASCAR is the one to victory lane. Blaney led the final 44 laps and won Sunday at Pocono, the site of his first career NASCAR Cup Series win and his second victory in the last five races this season.

“I feel like the last two months, we’ve been spectacular,” Blaney said.

Cleveland Guardians take Travis Bazzana in top MLB draft pick

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Australian second baseman Travis Bazzana was taken by the Cleveland Guardians with the No. 1 pick in Major League Baseball’s amateur draft on Sunday night, and three players from Wake Forest were selected in the top 10.

A former cricket, rugby and soccer player who came to the United States to play baseball for Oregon State, the 21-year-old hit .407 with 28 homers and 66 RBIs this season. He became the first Australian and first second baseman taken No. 1.

“An opportunity to make an impact on a lot of baseball players and a lot of people back home in Australia, and hopefully change the narrative for baseball there,” Bazzana said.

Bazzana hit .360 over three seasons at Oregon State with 45 homers, 165 RBIs, 180 walks and 66 steals.

Cleveland president of baseball operations Chris Antonetti said the team made its decision Sunday.

“He recognizes pitches exceedingly well,” Antonetti said. “He knows the strike zone, makes good swing decisions, when he does choose to swing makes elite-level contact. And I think what’s really grown in Travis’ game over the past year or so is the ability to add impact and drive the ball.”

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Family ties and tough love

Dear Annie: My sister is eight years younger than I am. She was homeless, so my older sister took her and her grown son to live with them.

holic son? — Very Serious

Dear Serious: You are correct to see this as serious. There are many issues going on at once. Your sister has to evict her younger sister.

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



Laura is in poor health. She has urinary incontinence and refuses to wear personal protection for urinary incontinence.

She has ruined my older sister's bedroom mattress and also a downstairs couch. She just covers the couch with another cushion in hopes my older sister will not notice the wet area.

They have two dogs, some laying hens and three female geese. One of the dogs is very old and has teeth that are rotten and falling out.

The chickens are in a wire pen, and Laura does not even feed or water the chickens or collect the eggs.

The problem is that my younger sister has been told to leave dozens of times, unless she pays rent and cleans up after herself, her son and her pets.

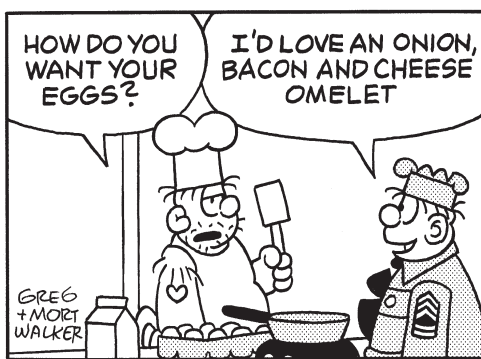
My younger sister is a very serious hoarder and will not get rid of anything. This is more than my older sister can take.

Animal care and control, or a local rescue group, should be called. You can't keep a dog locked up in a cage all day long.

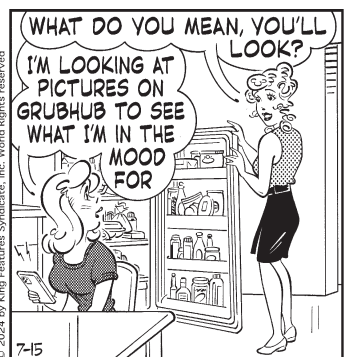
Her son obviously has a serious alcohol problem, and his mother is enabling him. She needs to stop giving him money and encourage him to stop drinking and attend Alcoholics Anonymous.

"How Can I Forge My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book.

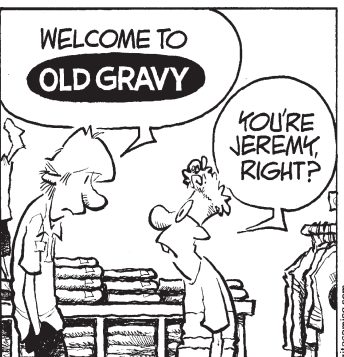
BEETLE BAILEY



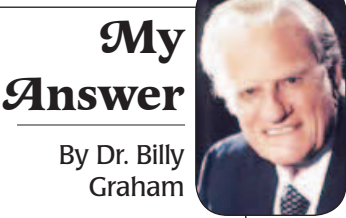
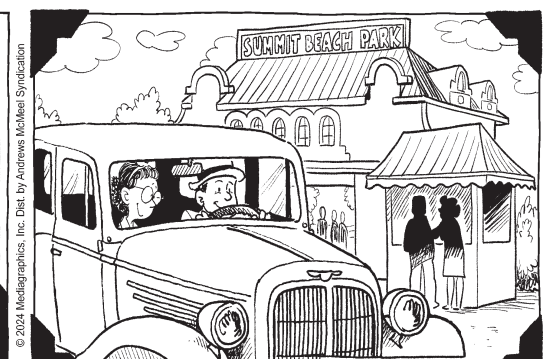
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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

In God's kingdom, Christ is King!

people govern. It is a "Christocracy" where Christ is the supreme Authority.

In a government of unredeemed people, democracy is the only fair and equitable system. But no democracy can ever be better than the people who make it up.

But in God's kingdom, Christ is King! He is compassionate, fair, merciful, and just. When He is sovereign in people's hearts, anguish turns to peace, hatred is transformed into love, and misunderstanding into understanding.

The history of mankind has been a continuous series of half successes and total failures. Prosperity exists for a time, only to be followed by war and depression.

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

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



"Her real name is Thel, but we call her Mommy for short."

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Saturday's answer 7-15 crossword puzzle grid with numbers.

Television schedule table with columns for time slots (5 PM, 5:30, 6 PM, etc.) and rows for various channels (WIMM, CBS, etc.).

