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Wells Swim wins conference title

Page 6

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 Knightriders Club, rabbit, arts and crafts, archery and junior leader projects.
- Case Boxell Chester Chargers Club, beef, rabbit, poultry, dairy beef, swine and dairy feeder

- Joshua Bricker Jackson Jaguars Club, woodworking, electric, sheep, dog, models, collections, foods and junior leader proj-
- Makaylynn Bushee Rockcreek Rollers Club, swine and dairy projects.
- Connor Collins Hurryin' Harrisons Club, swine, dairy goats, models, forestry and weather and climate projects.
- Chloe Ferguson Lancaster Achievers Club, poultry project.
- Kylie Frauhiger Hurryin' Harrisons Club, sewing project.
- Riley Frauhiger Hurryin' Harrisons 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' (Continued on Page 2)



At right, Joshua Bricker and Ella Wheeler show their Caley Award plagues. 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. holly@news-banner.com





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 Kriegh 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

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 bombmaking 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 (Continued on Page 2)

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Showers and storms move in until Wednesday

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

More Weather on Page 2



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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 proj-
- Kammy Miller Chester Chargers Club, meat goat, poultry, gar-

- dening, strawberry, arts and crafts, gift wrapping, woodworking, small engines, dairy goats and poultry poster
- Grant Nash Lancaster Achievers Club, poultry, swine, meat goats, corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa proj-
- Dakota Perry Hurryin' Harrisons Club, cat and model craft projects.
- Gracie Rinkenberger Lancaster Achievers Club, cattle and sheep proj-
- 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 proj-
- 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
- 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 proj-
- Hudson Werich Hurrvin' Harrisons Club, construction toys, woodworking, electrical and weather proj-
- Ella Wheeler Hurryin' Harrisons Club, beekeeping, arts and crafts, sewing and entomology projects.
- Vanessa Wilson Horse and Pony Club, horse and pony project. jonathan@news-banner.com

officers were seen walking

rifle, which authorities said

they believe was purchased

by his father. Kevin Rojek,

FBI special agent in charge

in Pittsburgh, said that inves-

tigators do not yet know if

he took the gun without his

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.

A video posted to social

father's permission.

Crooks used an AR-style

through the neighborhood.

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

Weather

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

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

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

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around

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 offi-

cial added. Butler County Sheriff Michael Slupe told the AP that a local officer climbed

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.

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

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

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 Crooks graduated from were stationed at an interto the roof and encountered Bethel Park High School section near the house and

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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



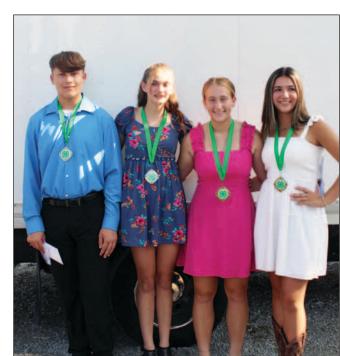
From left to right, Ella Wheeler, Hudson Werich, Hunter Wenger, Fletcher Wenger, Brady Wenger, Karlee Warner, Yazmine Tucker, Ayden Teeple and Audrey Sweeden are given their 10-year membership awards. (Photos Jonathan Snyder)



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.

Smoked Pork Chops

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 Doc

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

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

dismissed as part of a plea felony. Hundley received 134 days of jail credit towards his sentence and is required to pay court costs and filing fees in the amount

> 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

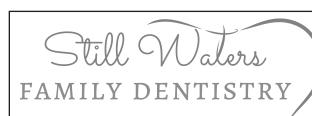
learning, urging individuals to actively seek knowledge from various avenues.

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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Tax cut proposals need more depth, less flash

It's always popular for politicians to promise to cut your taxes. But is it realistic?

Small changes are absolutely possible, and Indiana lawmakers have cut taxes regularly over the last decade. But some of the proposals being tossed around this year are approaching clickbait at their worst.

Property taxes are getting most of the attention as property values skyrocket with the hot housing market.

Assessed value growth doesn't automatically mean your taxes will go up because the second part of that calculation is the tax rate charged by local governments. But it has a high correlation.



Niki Kelly

Hoosier **Opinions**

Property taxes bring in about \$8.2 billion a year. And it would be higher, except that lawmakers have created deductions, credits and caps that save property owners an additional \$1.5 billion a year.

Before I go further, I want to emphasize that I don't have any problem with Indiana's property tax system. I expect my bill to go up because the cost to run cities, towns, schools and libraries goes up. Maybe that's a firefighter's salary or the materials to pave a road, insurance for teachers or the cost to run a judicial system that protects the public.

But I do think the assessment system leaves something to be desired.

Most people don't understand it. The values are based largely on sales of similar properties to your own and it's difficult to grasp that. It's even harder to contest it without a specific appraisal of your property.

A few years ago, we noticed our assessment starting to rise and we decided to monitor it. It kept growing until we disagreed our house was worth that much. It just so happened that, near that time, we had done an appraisal of our home for a home equity loan.

We appealed and our assessed value was lowered by around \$100,000.

But not everyone can afford an appraisal. My preference would be that lawmakers consider an annual cap on how much assessed value can rise. This would give local governments some room for revenue growth but also keep in mind that some Hoosiers — especially those on fixed incomes — simply can't afford large jumps in property tax bills.

I took Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch to task in the primary for her "axe the tax" proposal because she wanted to eliminate the income tax but didn't offer any specific budget cuts to accommodate the potential \$8 billion annual loss to state revenues.

I feel I should do the same with Libertarian Donald Rainwater's property tax plan in his campaign for gov-

He wants to cap residential and agricultural property tax bills – not assessments – at 1% of the purchase price of the property. Additionally, property owners would only pay a maximum of 7% of the purchase price, whether they paid for the property all at once at closing or escrowed the amount and paid 1% per year for 7 years. He says this would provide owners with predictability and stability.

Yes, it would definitely save taxpayers money though Rainwater offers no estimate on how much. Billions, likely. But savings mean a loss to governments trying to service their citizens, a fact that can't be

It would mean many homeowners would pay nothing after seven years, while expecting their services to continue or even improve in quality.

As a result, Rainwater wants state government, which in recent years has experienced higher than usual revenue, to backfill at least some of that loss. The state has previously engaged in backfilling but there's little appetite among lawmakers to get back into that business.

Word is that Republican gubernatorial nominee Mike Braun will soon have a property tax plan as well. I welcome an addition to the conversation but hope he will include specifics so it can be fairly judged by voters.

It's not enough to say "let's cut taxes" or that government can be "more efficient." Voters deserve specific, constructive and realistic plans.

Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a nonprofit newsroom. nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, July 15, the 197th day of 2024. There are 169 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 15, 1799, the Rosetta Stone, a key to deciphering ancient Egyptian scripts, was found at Fort Julien in the Nile Delta during the Napoleonic campaign in Egypt.

Also on this date:

In 1834, the Spanish Inquisition was abolished more than 350 years after its creation.

In 1870, Georgia became

the last Confederate state to be readmitted to the Union.

In 1913, Democrat Augustus Bacon of Georgia became the first person elected to the U.S. Senate under the terms of the recently ratified 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, providing for popular election of senators.

In 1975, three American astronauts blasted off aboard an Apollo spaceship hours after two Soviet cosmonauts were launched aboard a Soyuz spacecraft for a mission that included a linkup of the two ships in orbit.

The News-Banner

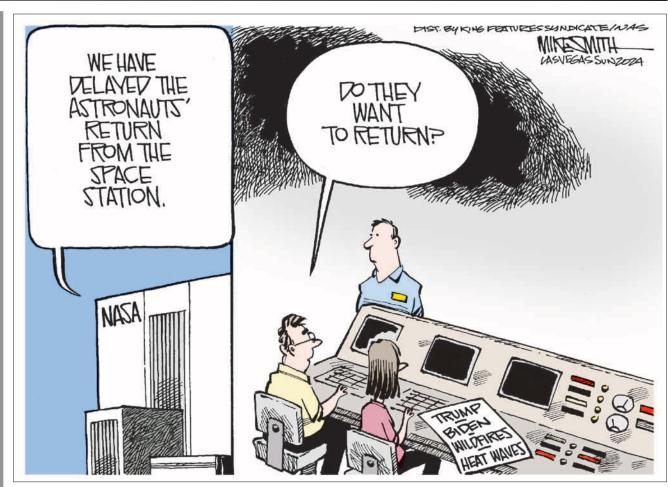
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Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.



J.D. Vance, Mitch and me

It was a wintry night in January 2017, just two weeks into the Donald Trump presidency, and the conversation centered on the populist uprising unfolding before our eyes.

Seated around the Westwood Manor dinner table were bestselling author J.D. Vance, then-Purdue University President Mitch Daniels, political operative Mark Lubbers and this writer.

Vance was on The New York Times Best Seller list for his "Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis" and is now a U.S. senator from Ohio. He's on Trump's vice president shortlist (despite his current beard) and could very

well find himself on the GOP ticket in Milwaukee early next week. And he offered this jaw-dropper:

'In 20 years, Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders will be in the same party. And in 20 years, Hillary Clinton and Paul Ryan will be in the same party. I think that is very, very interesting and that shift will be a big part of where we go over the next 20 or 30 years.

It made sense in the Hoosier context. Just nine months earlier, both Trump and socialist U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders had won the 2016 Indiana presidential primaries with 53% of the vote. It occurred despite Hoosier Democratic leaders and superdelegates unanimously backing Hillary Clinton, while Gov. Mike Pence, and all but two members of the Republican National Convention delegation backed either Sen. Ted Cruz or Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

During the Indiana presidential primary, Hoosiers witnessed Trump and Sanders insisting the economic and political systems were "rigged." Both used the Carrier and United Technology job flight from Indianapolis to Mexico as evidence. But on the ideological spectrum, they were approaching the vortex seemingly 180 degrees apart.

This writer pressed Vance on how to gauge the upheaval that had gripped the U.S. Capitol and filled airports and public squares with protesters as Trump's nascent presidency began (it was three years and 49 weeks before the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection). "I don't think anyone in this room can say where we're going to end up in the next three or four years," I observed.

In the Feb. 2, 2017, edition of Howey Politics Indiana, I also observed: "The Indiana Trump brain trust of Rex Early and Tony Samuel witnessed dozens of denizens who had never turned out before, filling Golden Corral dining rooms and mowing Trump's name into the Hoosier version of Kentucky bluegrass, viewing the Manhattan mogul as either an economic savior or a raging bull preparing to smash Capitol Hill marble and stuffy Senate decorum."

For more than an hour at the Loeb Playhouse, the former Indiana governor and future Ohio senator grappled with and parsed the cultural divides that have pockmarked American society. The cultural and politi-

cal elites had missed 15 years of the Trump reality TV show "The Apprentice," creating a social blind spot that Trump cunningly exploited en route to his stunning 2016

"This is, to me, a very significant problem in our country right now, and I wish that I could say that it's gotten better since November, and I don't know that it has," Vance said. "It may have even gotten

"I think that that level of smugness is

something that is really, really destructive to our political culture, and it's something that, you know, frankly, you see it all the time," Vance

Brian

Howey

told Daniels.

Politicking

"Look, if you are a Hillary Clinton supporter and you think that every single Donald Trump voter is just a bigot, or if you're a Donald Trump voter and you think that every Hillary Clinton supporter is just ... sort of an out-of-touch-elite who doesn't care about you, you are going to learn a lot about each other by spending more time and you may have a more substantive conversation.

"That doesn't mean you're going to agree on everything," Vance continued. "It doesn't even mean that you have to agree with the moral values all the time. It just means approaching it in a way that I think is again much more empathetic, much more compassionate, and that's something that we don't have a whole lot of in our country right now.'

Now on the Trump veepstakes shortlist, Sen. Vance on Sunday called for a special counsel to investigate President Biden. "I think what Donald Trump is simply saying is we ought to investigate the prior administration," Vance told Kristen Welker on NBC's "Meet the Press."

When he led the House Republican Study Committee, U.S. Rep. Jim Banks took Vance's lead and in a March 2021 memo to then-Speaker Kevin McCarthy explained, "President Trump gave the Republican Party a political gift. We are now the party supported by most working-class voters. The question is whether Republicans reject that gift or unwrap it and permanently become the Party of the Working Class."

In 2012, Wall Street sources contributed \$6 million to President Barack Obama and almost \$20 million to GOP nominee Mitt Romney. In 2020, Wall Street sources donated four times more to Joe Biden than Trump, something Banks called a "paradigm reversal."

"If you think about what Trump really ran on ... he slaughtered a lot of Republican sacred cows, Vance explained during the Q&A with Daniels. "He talked about immigration and primarily talked about it through the lens of wages and wage competition."

Will it be a Trump/Vance ticket? We shall soon see. Brian Howey is senior writer and columnist for Howey Politics

Indiana/State Affairs. Find Howey on Facebook and X @hwypol.

Project 2025 is not a radical proposal

One way to measure the power of conservative policy proposals is to monitor the reaction of the left.

The Heritage Foundation's ideas for the next conservative president to implement must be good because liberals are hysterical in their opposition. And that's because they directly challenge the size, power, cost and reach of the federal government.

The word "fascist" has gained a certain cachet for the left much like the smear "racist" once was. The New Republic magazine has illustrated the label by portraying Donald Trump as Hitler. It's designed to keep people from considering the results of policies that aren't working while ignoring or disparaging policies that have a track record of success.

The Heritage Foundation's "Project 2025" policy guide (Heritage.org) is full of credible proposals. Rather than allow opponents to mischaracterize them, people should read the book and see whether they are radical

The document is the work of 400 leading conservative thinkers and organizations. Some proposals will be familiar, like eliminating the useless Department of Education which, given students underperformance in math, science and reading, has clearly flunked its test. Donald Trump says he opposes some of their recommendations, though he admits he hasn't read them. If he wins the election he



Thomas

likely can be counted on to embrace many of them.

The philosophical foundation is expressed in the introduction to the document: "The federal government is a behemoth, weaponized against American citizens and conservative values, with freedom and liberty under siege as never before. The task at hand to reverse this tide and restore our

Republic to its original moorings is too great for any one conservative policy shop to spearhead. It requires the collective action of our movement. With the quickening approach of January 2025, we have two years and one chance to get it right."

Reminiscent of former Speaker Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America," Project 2025 makes four promises (specifics are under each one):

Promise 1:" Restore the family as the centerpiece of American life and protect our children." This includes doing away with all but two genders, DEI, and other ideas imposed on the country by unelected bureaucrats, and national school choice.

Promise 2: "Dismantle the administrative state and return selfgovernance to the American people." The writers explain that "Conservatives desire a smaller government not for its own sake, but for the sake of human flourishing. But the Washington Establishment doesn't want a

constitutionally limited government because it means they lose power and are held more accountable by the

people who put them in power." This recalls the philosophy of our 30th president, Calvin Coolidge, who said, "A government which requires of the people the contribution of the bulk of their substance and rewards cannot be classed as a free government, or long remain as such."

Promise 3: "Defend our nation's sovereignty, borders, and bounty against global threats." Is there anyone but liars and the self-deluded who doesn't believe we have a border problem?

Promise 4: "Secure our God-given individual right to enjoy 'the blessing of liberty," by which they mean "Our Constitution grants each of us the liberty to do not what we want, but what we ought." Restoring oughtness requires the resurrection of a standard by which right and wrong, good and evil can be measured. This begins in our schools and universities which have largely abandoned that standard with results we see in academic underperformance and the violation of laws, sometimes leading to campus violence as we witnessed this spring.

These are not radical or fascist proposals, but what previous generations considered common sense and self-evident truths.

Read the details for yourself and unless you are a hardcore leftist, you are likely to agree and vote accordingly to restore what we once had, but have lost to our national shame.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com.

What's happening at the Wells County Public Library

The Wells County Public Library takes its mission to "provide the community with access, knowledge and growth" very seriously and offers a variety of events each week for kids, teens, and adults. Registration is preferred at most events. To signup, go to www.wellscolibrary.org, click on the Library Event Calendar, navigate to the date of the event, and view more to get to the registration screen. Alternatively, call 260-824-1612 (Bluffton) or 260-622-4691 (Ossian) to register.

Summer Reading

"Adventure Begins at the Library" is the theme for this year's Summer Reading, which is going on now through July 31 for children, teens, and adults. All ages can earn prizes for reading books and participating in events featuring the adventure theme. Prizes include Chamber Bucks, Amazon Gift Cards, children's toys, books, and more depending on your age level. Also, sign up for a variety of summer events and weekly story sessions. Get more info at wellscolibary.org/summer.

Bird Watch Quest

At the Ossian Branch Library: Monday, July 15 at 1:00 or 3:00 p.m.

Grades K-5. Learn how to identify the local birds in our backyard, make homemade birdfeeders, and enjoy snacks. Registration required.

Storytime at the 4-H Park

Monday, July 15 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. All ages of kids. Drop in for stories and a craft anytime during the hour at the Wells County 4-H Fair. Meet near the playground beside the log cabin. No registration needed.

Calming Coloring At Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: every Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m.

Adults. Stress busting afternoon featuring coloring in a restful setting with soft music and snacks. Drop-in program.

Historical Walking Tour

Thursday, July 18 at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Adults. Guided walking tour to view the downtown area of Bluffton and learn about the businesses and buildings from previous eras. You'll also get to step inside a few and see some features that were put in the buildings throughout the years. Meet at the Courthouse Plaza area. Tours led by the Wells County Historical Society. Space is limited. Registration required.

Library Olympic Games

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, July 18 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

All ages of kids. Drop in and compete in Olympic-themed library games. No registration needed.

Saturday Movies

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Saturday,

July 20 at 11 a.m.

All ages. Drop-in for a family-friendly movie under the stars in the Story Hour

Trivia Night

At The Parlor City Brewing Company: Sunday, July 21 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Adults (21+). Grab a team of up to four and test your knowledge on a variety of subjects. Registration required with the library.

Adventure Rocks!

At the Ossian Branch Library: Monday, July 22 at 1:00 or 3:00 p.m.

Grades K-5. Explore the wonder of rocks and break open geodes together! Snacks will be provided. Registration required.

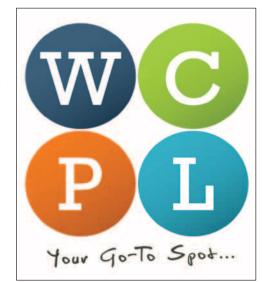
Teen Dungeons & Dragons

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, July 25 or Friday, July 26 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Grades 6-12. One of Neverwinter's magic bookshops has been attacked, and it's up to you to save it! But can you survive all the mayhem that's been unleashed? This D&D one-shot adventure is geared towards beginners. Pre-made characters, dice, and worksheets will be provided. Registration

Eiffel Tower Seurat Painting

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, July 29 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.



Adults and teens. In honor of the Olympics in Paris, make an easy George Seuratinspired painting of the Eiffel Tower using Q-tips and paint. Registration required.

Library Hours

At the main library in Bluffton — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At the Ossian branch library — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Access the library online at www. wellscolibrary.org for digital books, magazines, online databases, event info, and

Optimist Club offers pork chops at the 4-H fair

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

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

Advance tickets are available from any Optimist Club member, at the Purdue Extension Office at the 4-H Park and from Steve Higgins (call or text 260-273-2711).

Proceeds from the fund raiser will

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

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

260-820-1671.

blufftonnow.org/downtown-

events. Other information at

Downtown Hoedown Friday, July 19

invited to the Plaza for the

evening. More information

available at https://www.

On Friday, July 19th the place to be will be Downtown Bluffton with events planned for most of the day.

Downtown merchants will be having sales and themed promotions while restaurants will have meal and drink specials from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Beginning at 5:30 p.m. vendors and activity booths will be set up at the Parlor City Plaza for shopping. At 6 p.m. be on the look-out for food and beverage trucks, parked by the Plaza.

Then from 7 to 10 p.m. music will be provided by Rylie Lynn and the Rylie Lynn Band.

Non-profits, organizations and businesses who would like to provide an interactive activity, suitable for kids and families, are

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Week of August 6



Homemaker's picnic celebration

Members of the Extension Homemaker's Jefferson Club celebrated with a picnic lunch at the home of Carol Baker on a recent Wednesday. Activity for the afternoon was a live auction to raise money for the coming year's philanthropic projects for the group. In the front row left to right are Jean Reef, Vivian Rohr, Joy Septer, Margie Huss, Cindy leater and Liz Blades with the triangle of the second Liz Blades with the second Liz Blac Blades with the second Liz Blades with the second Liz Blades w Jester and Liz Bledsoe while behing them are Patty Baker (guest), Carol Baker (hostess), Judy Schindler, Charlotte Steffen, Mary Ann Ripperger, Sharon Jump and Lois Neuenschwander. Members of the group not able to attend were Sharon Snow, Carol Lochtefeld, Lesley Tillman and Judy Kaehr. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

'Pirates of Penzance' next at Warren's Pulse

Gilbert & Sullivan's musical "Pirates of Penzance" will be on stage at Warren's Pulse Opera House the weekends of July 19-21, 26-28, Aug. 2-4.

Members of the cast are Brendan Caffee (Pirate King), Carson Cunningham, Jessica Barker, Ralph Tuttle, Steve Bricker, Jacob Elwell, Jacen Rasner, Cayden Strong, Aiden Tepper, Kaleb Weatherman, Travis Fisher, Lina Willard, Emily Good, Susannah Jane, Morgan Blair, Abigail Drummond, Makayla Fulton, Izzy Harlan, Julia org or 260-375-7017.

Redner, John Cole, Trinity Cain, Addison Fagan, George Michael Fisher, Jana Henly, Izzy Irelan, Brianna Sorenson and Linda Willard.

Cynthia Smyth-Wartzok directs, Wartzok is Tech Director and Musical Director is Emma Shenefield.

Friday and Saturday shows begin at 8 p.m. and Sunday's at 4 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$5 for those 12 and younger. Reservations to pulseoperahouse.

Coffee and Canvas painting class offered to seniors

A free painting tutorial will be at 1:00 p.m. on July 25 at the Wells County Council on Aging.

Follow along with a painting tutorial while enjoying coffee, cookies and conversation. Sponsored by Envive Healthcare. Must be 65+ years young. Class size is limited to the first 20 seniors. To RSVP, text Rachel at 463-710-3372 by Thursday, July 18.

Council on Aging is located at 225 W. Water St in Bluffton.



A Talk with Tego



Moxie is a 10-week-old, Torbie female.





Mia is a 10-week-old, Tor-

Tego's Tips: A strained muscle or sore paw could cause a pet to limp for a few days.

These are just a few pets available for adoption at the Wells County Animal Shelter, 1613 W. Cherry St., Bluffton. For more information call 824-6063.



Maizie is a 10-week-old Torbie female.



Kids pedal pull contest returns to 4-H Fair on Wednesday

The Bluffton Optimist Club will be sponsoring a Kid's Pedal Tractor Pull Contest at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, at the Wells County 4-H Fair.

Sign in will begin at the Cook House Patio/Food Pavilion at 7 p.m. with the contest beginning at 7:30 p.m. Boys and girls weighing up to 60 lbs. may participate. Weights will determine the classes.

Awards will be presented to all participants and class winners will be recognized. The pedal tractors are provided.

The Bluffton Optimist Club is a service club for women and men in the community. For more information about the Kids Pedal Tractor Pull that the group sponsors or the Optimist Club contact Steve Higgins at 260-273-2711.

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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 1:15.92. 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 by 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:

• 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 free-
- style 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 back-
- stroke with a time of 44.48. • Griffin Linderwell in the 100meter backstroke with a time of

- 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 breast-
- stroke 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 Covne and Emerson Meredith with a time of 2:24.41.

- Ellie Covne in the 100-meter freestyle with a time of 1:07.63.
- Emerson Meredith in the 100meter 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 100meter 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 breast-
- stroke witha. 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

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

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



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Family ties and tough love

Dear Annie: My sister is eight years holic son? — Very younger than I am. She was homeless, so my older sister took her and her grown son to live with them. "Laura" works at a plant-related business and makes minimum wage. Her grown son There are many is an alcoholic and does not work anywhere. He forces Laura to buy him cigarettes and alcohol. When he is not drinking, he is a very hard-working and reliable person. As soon as he gets money from his mother, he buys alcohol and the cycle continues.

Laura is in poor health. She has urinary incontinence and refuses to wear personal protection for urinary incontinence. She urinates in red Solo cups and sets the cups filled with urine around the bedroom. The reason she urinates so much is because she is addicted to iced tea. She drinks about a gallon of sweet tea per day.

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 dog smells dreadful. The other dog is in a crate in the garage about 23 hours a day.

The chickens are in a wire pen, and Laura does not even feed or water the chickens or collect the eggs. The three geese were started in a crate, until they outgrew the crate and were put into an outdoor portable chicken coop on wheels, which is moved every few days.

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. How can my older sister evict my non-paying younger sister and her alco-

Dear Serious Annie

Dear Serious: You are correct to see this as serious. issues going on at once. Your sister has to evict her younger sister. You can't have someone urinating all over the house. It is a violation of all health standards and will damage the value of your sister's



by Annie Lane

property. She needs to seek the help of an attorney if your younger sister will not clean up her act.

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. That is a very cruel form animal abuse, and she should have her dogs surrendered.

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. His mother should attend Al Anon to help herself as well. In addition, talk to your sister about getting professional help with a therapist. She is clearly hurting inside, and as a result, she is hurting innocent animals, her son and her sister.

'How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http:// www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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BEETLE BAILEY





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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: I dread election years because I'm faced with which candidate is "less godless." That's what it's come down to. In seeking direction from the Lord through the Bible, I came across this reference, which I've heard all my life, but have never understood: "The government will be upon His shoulder." What gov*ernment? – C.G.*

Answer: There's no shadow of doubt as to whom the Prophet Isaiah refers in the words, "A Child is born ... a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder" (Isaiah 9:6, NKJV). This is Jesus the Messiah and the government is uniquely God's kingdom. It is not a kingdom of this world. It's not a democracy where the

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. When people are selfishly motivated, the government will be inequitable. When people are dishonest, the government will be the same. When everyone wants his own way, someone is going to get hurt.

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. Not only this, but God's Kingdom is lasting.

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. Civilizations have come and gone, and the world still battles with the same problems. But the kingdom of God will abide forever. The fluctuations of time, the swinging of the pendulum – from war to peace, from starvation to plenty, from chaos to order – will end forever. The Bible says, "And of His kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:33, NKJV).

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

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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

The LOCKHORNS



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t!	(N) Seyfried, Channing Tatum.
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9-1-1 "Buck Regins" 9-1-1 "linx" 9-1-1 "There Goes the West Monday Night RAW The superstars of the WWF Sugare off in the ring	Race to Survive: NZ Race to Survive: NZ
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HALL 40 117 185 312 ** Noel Next Door (2022, Romance) Corey Sevier, Joanna Douglas, Natalie Hall. ** Noel Next Door (2023, Drama) Marcus (203, Dra	Christmas Island (2023, Drama) Andrew W. Walker, Kate Drummond, Rachel Skarsten.
SYFY 41 135 122 244 (4:30) *** ** Jaws (1975, Thriller) Robert Shaw, Richard	
TBS 43 130 139 247 Big Bang American American	Lee Jones. ('16) Blake Lively. American American American American
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See We 2 Vigerindar, an inform, permis your. (#30 ★+★ Ghosthusters II (1989 Comedy) Dan	an NFL Scandal" Knight Rises *★★ National Lampoon's European Vacation
AMC 45 131 254 Aykroyd, Sigourney Weaver, Bill Murray. Beverly D'Angelo, Christie Brinkley, Chevy Chase. D'Angelo, Randy Quaid, Chevy Chase.	('85) Beverly D'Angelo, Dana Hill, Chevy Chase.
COM 47 107 249 Seinfeld Seinfeld The Office	Daily Show (:35) Mike South Park South Park 2024 UEFA Euro Final: Teams TBA From
F51 48 64 150 219 Cowherd Arab Emirates. Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Fla.	Olympiastadion in Berlin, Germany.
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70, 33, 199, 341 (4:30) ★★★★ The Princess and the ★★★ Frozen (2013, Animated) Voices of Idina Menzel, ★★★ Frozen II (2019, Animated) Voices of Idina	The 700 Club The The
Frog (U9) Anika Noni Kose. Jonatana Grott, Kristen beli. Menzel, Josh Gad, Kristen beli. Jonatana Grott, Kristen beli. Menzel, Josh Gad, Kristen beli. Jonatana Grott, Kristen beli. Jonat	Simpsons Simpsons The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (2011, Thriller
HBO 301 300 01 King of the Monsters Howard, Carmen Ejogo, Jeffrey Wright. Rooney Ma	ra, Christopher Plummer, Daniel Craig.
	(:20) ♥★ I, Frankenstein ('14) Bill (:50) ♥★★ Nighy, Miranda Otto, Aaron Eckhart. Parasite
MAX 325 310 515 44:20) **** The Sum (4:25) *** * The Other Side of the Door (16, Hor) ** * * Vacation (15) Christina (4:0) *** * Baby Mama (08) Amy of All Fears Ben Affleck. Jeremy Sisto. Sofia Rosinsky. Sarah Wayne Callies. Appleaate. Skyler Gisondo. Ed Helms. Poehler, Grea Kinnear, Tina Fey.	
MAX 342 310 515 of All Fears Ben Affleck. Jeremy Sisto, Sofia Rosinsky, Sarah Wayne Callies. Applegate, Skyler Gisondo, Ed Helms. Poehler, Greg Kinnear, Tina Fey. PARSON 251 515 1218 545 1218 545 1218 1218 1218 1218 1218 1218 1218 121	me Story) Robert De Niro, Val Kilmer, Al Pacino.
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Public Sale

Calendar

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

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

WELLS COUNTY COMMUNI-TY Corrections is seeking an exceptional Administrative Assistant to manage the administration of client files, front desk, and general fiscal accounting operations. Responinclude providing sibilities executive assistance to the Director and Administration Op-Coordinator erations and management of the day-today office operations. This position is ideal for a well-organized self-motivated individual who possesses outstanding administrative and clerical skills who wants a stable longterm position within a small operation. Our ideal candidate is a detailed oriented self-starter with the ability to take the initiative and work with minimal supervision in a team environ-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 Candidate technical skills. 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@w ellsindiana.org.

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 of-128 East Market St, Bluffton, IN between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday or www.blufftonindiana.net. Application deadline is July 19,

Lottery Numbers

Saturday's Drawings **HOOSIER LOTTERY**

Cash4Life — 13-35-36-38-49, Cash Ball: 02

Lotto Plus — 03-09-11-Quick Draw Midday —

04-06-14-17-23-31-32-35-47-53-56-57-64-65-69-71-73-76-77-79, BE: 31 Daily Three-Midday —

07-05-03, SB: 09 Daily Three-Evening — 06-09-05, SB: 06

Daily Four-Midday — 04-02-07-03, SB: 09 Daily Four-Evening —

07-08-09-09, SB: 06 **Ouick Draw Evening**

- 01-02-03-04-06-09-41-47-51-52-54-60-61-63-66-67-69-74-75-78, BE: 02 **Hoosier Lotto** — 01-14-19-21-34-37

POWERBALL 09-55-59-66-69; Powerball: 21; Power Play: 2X

Sunday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 — 04-13-19-34-

Cash4Life — 13-19-21-25-26, Cash Ball: 03

Quick Draw Midday — 01-10-20-21-22-23-28-29-36-38-39-50-55-57-62-63-64-72-75-76, BE: 76

Daily Three-Midday — 03-04-08, SB: 00

Daily Three-Evening — 08-08-07, SB: 09

Daily Four-Midday — 00-06-04-04, SB: 00

Daily Four-Evening — 09-02-03-03, SB: 09

Quick Draw Evening - 06-08-16-19-21-22-23-31-39-43-45-48-55-56-57-59-66-67-78-80, BE: 66

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$17.2 million

MEGA MILLIONS Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$226 million

POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$64 million

VEHICLES

Campers/RV's

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

SERVICES

Services

MARV'S CONSTRUCTION Room additions, fix old saggy floors, all types remodeling. Redo bathrooms, old foundation repairs. Marv Schwartz: 260-525-8877

This Week's

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATUR-**DAY,** 465 E. Morse St., Markle 9-3. Girls bike & clothes 6-8 DVDs, PS3 & Wii games, puzzles, misc

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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Difficulty: ★

Nursing Home and In-

As your guide through the "Medicaid Planning" process, Swearingen Elder Law will provide the right path to both

protect your life savings

and receive the quality of care we all deserve.

645 Hillcrest Dr., Suite 2A

Ossian, IN 46777

Medicaid Planning

• Long Term Care Plannin

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 Wills, Living Wills, & Advance Healthcare Directives

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Terry Daniels, Pharmacist • Melinda Daniels, RN

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HIDEAWAY

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THURSDAY -

Dollar Off Drinks

(Excludes Pop)

FRI. & SAT. - Live Music

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Home Healthcare.

WANTE NAELA

July

Services

HANDYMAN SERVICES NO job too big or too small 260-353-9339

Garage Sales

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

424-2324, halderman.com

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 11/2 or 2 hp, more), oil well display, 25-30 long guns and pistols, ammo, drill press, mill, snow-blowers, 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 tine tiller, more. Miz Lehman Realtors/Auctioneers, Berne, www.mizlehman.com, 260-589-2903

BIDDING ENDS 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, Union-dale. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, Steffen Group, www. steffengrp.com, 824-

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, Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., 800-451-2709, SchraderAuction.com.

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

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Public Notices

NOTICE In accordance with Indiana Code 5-15-6-3 requiring prior notification to individuals when

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 as later than Avanta. cial Services no later than August 9, 2024 if you wish to receive copies of your special education records. All records requested for pick-up and not picked up and nonrequested records for persons born in the year 2002 will be permanently destroyed after August 16, 2024. If you wish to request records, you must call (260)824-5880 to do so. Records must be picked up by the person who received services unless otherwise legally designated.

nb 6/18 through 8/7

hspaxlp

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Wells Circuit Court of Wells County, Indiana, in Cause No. 90C01-2312-MF-000031, wherein Freedom Mortgage Cor-poration was Plaintiff, and Daniel D. Holmberg was a Defendant, required me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 14th day of August, 2024, at the hour of 1:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 102 W Market St, Bluffton, IN 46714, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wells County, Indi-

Lot Numbered Six (6) as known and designated on the recorded plat of D.W. Hoopingarner Addition

to Zanesville, Indiana. More commonly known as 11120 N Sunset Dr, Zanesville, IN

46799-9025

Parcel No. 90-03-04-500-001.000-022

Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief

from valuation or appraisement laws /s/ Bryan K. Redmond BRYAN K. REDMOND,

Plaintiff Attorney Attorney # 22108-29 FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. 8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite 400 Indianapolis, IN 46250 (317) 237-2727

Scott Holliday, Sheriff

Union Township

The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein.

FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR nb 7/1, 7/8, 7/15 hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

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. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITH-IN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE
AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Wells County, Indiana, in Cause No. 90C01-2401-MF-000002 wherein ProFed Federal Credit Union was Plaintiff, and Amie M. Randen, State of Indiana, Time Investment Company, Inc., and Aqua Finance, Inc., were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 14th day of August, 2024, at the hour of 1:00 p.m. (EST) or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 102 W. Market Street, Bluffton, IN 46714, the fee simple of the whole body of Real

simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wells County, Indiana.

A PART OF THE SOUTH-WEST QUARTER OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 26 NORTH, RANGE 12 EAST, BLUFFTON, INDIANA, BEING ALSO A PART OF THE FORMER RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE CINCINNATI, BLUFFTON AND CHICAGO RAILROAD, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

STARTING AT THE NORTH-STARTING AT THE NORTH-WEST CORNER OF LOT NUM-

BER 253 AS KNOWN AND DES IGNATED ON THE RECORDED PLAT OF OAK PART ADDITION, BLUFFTON, INDIANA, MARKED BY A STANDARD CORNER MARKER (5/8" X 15" REINFORC-ING BAR STAKE WITH AN ALU-MINUM CAP STAMPED HIGMAN, 10025) WHICH SHALL BE THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTHERLY 157.0 FEET ON THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT 253, BEING ALSO THE EAST-ERLY LINE OF SAID FORMER RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY TO A STANDARD CORNER MARKER AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 253; THENCE SOUTHERLY 10.0 FEET ON AN EXTENSION OF THE LAST ABOVE DESCRIBED LINE TO THE CENTERLINE OF AN ALLEY; THENCE WESTERLY, DEFLECT-ING RIGHT 88° 32', 66.0 FEET ON AN EXTENSION OF THE CENTERLINE OF SAID ALLEY, TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID FORMER RAILROAD RIGHT-FORMER RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY; THENCE NORTHERLY, DEFLECTING RIGHT 91° 281', 153.97 FEET ON THE WEST-ERLY LINE OF SAID FORMER RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY TO A STANDARD CORNER MARKER ON THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF UPDTON WAY LINE OF HORTON STREET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY, DEFLECTING RIGHT 77° 22', 67.55 FEET ON THE SOUTH-ERLY RIGHTOF-WAY LINE OF SAID HORTON STREET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. CON-TAINING IN ALL .024 ACRES. ALL AS SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SUR-VEY NUMBER 4226, DATED NOV. 3, 1971, BY R. K. HIGMAN, LAND SURVEYOR NUMBER 10025,

More commonly known as: 734 W. Horton Street, Bluffton, IN

Parcel No. 90-08-04-300-043.000-004

Together with rents issues income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement

"Subject to all liens, encumbrances and easements of record not otherwise extinguished in the proceedings known as Cause 90C01-2401-MF-000002 in the Circuit Court of the County of Wells, Indiana.'

Islia. /s/ Joshua A. Burkhardt Plaintiff's Attorney ATTORNEY NO. 22913-49 HUNT SUEDHOFF KEARNEY 803 S. Calhoun Street, 9th Fort Wayne, IN 46802 (260) 423-1311 Email: burkhardt@hsk-law.com

Scott Holliday, Sheriff of Wells County

Harrison Township

734 W. Horton Street, Bluffton, IN 46714

The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein.

SERVICE DIRECTED TO:

Amie M. Randen

c/o Chateau Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center 6006 Brandy Chase Cove Fort Wayne, IN 46815 (Via: Sheriff's Department)

State of Indiana Attn: Department of Revenue P.O. Box 1104 Indianapolis, IN 46206-1104 (Via: Certified Mail)

Time Investment Company, Inc. Attn: Highest Ranking Officer c/o Corporation Service Com-

pany 135 N. Pennsylvania St., Ste.

Indianapolis, IN 46204 (Via Certified Mail)

Aqua Finance, Inc. Attn: Highest Ranking Officer

c/o Corporation Service Company 135 N. Pennsylvania St., Ste.

101 Indianapolis, IN 46204 (Via Certified Mail)

NOTICE

HUNT SUEDHOFF KEAR-NEY LLP MAY BE A DEBT COL-LECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATON OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

PURSUANT TO INDIANA LAW, YOU ARE TO VACATE THIS PROPERTY BY THE DATE OF THE SALE SET OUT ABOVE UNLESS THE SALE IS CANCELLED. PLEASE CONTINUE TO CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR SALE.

nb 7/8, 7/15, 7/22

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