

# The News - Banner

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TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024 | BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection | \$1.00

## McElhaney crowned new Miss Wells County

• More photos on Page 10  
By HOLLY GASKILL

Among friends, family, community and a few happy tears, two new Wells County Miss winners were crowned Monday night at the 4-H fairgrounds.

Eve McElhaney, the daughter of Brady and Gwen McElhaney, succeeded the reign of 2023 Miss

school and suddenly see a farm field and I'm like, 'I'm home.'"

McElhaney is a 2023 graduate of Southern Wells Jr./Sr. High School and currently studies political science and legal studies at Indiana State University. She plans to attend either Vanderbilt University or Indiana University to study law and work in the family, estate planning and agricultural law sectors.

Each Miss Wells County contestant gives a short speech during the pageant. During McElhaney's speech, she discussed the many "what ifs" that ran through her head when she set goals.

"What if I don't get an 'A'?" McElhaney said. "What if I don't get into law school? What if I don't succeed? And so one night, I learned one of my biggest life lessons ... You are more than your 'what if' game and you are more than your comfort zone."

Sophia Meeks, daughter of David and Jennifer Meeks, is a student at Southern Wells and a seven-year 4-H member. The moment was similarly emotional for Meeks, who has followed in the footsteps of her older sister, 2023 Miss Wells County Grace Meeks.

The two spent much of the day together preparing for the big evening. Grace said she gave advice about the interview portion, where the judges speak with the contestant one-on-one. Sophia Meeks

(Continued on Page 2)



2023 Miss Wells County Grace Meeks places the crown on her successor, Eve McElhaney.

Wells County from Grace Meeks, and Sophia Meeks follows the reign of 2023 Miss Wells County Teen from Samantha Evans.

"Wells County means so much to me," McElhaney shared after her crowning, tears gathering in her eyes. "I know visitors (through working at Ouabache State Park) and community members who always have my back and support me through everything ... It's a really big family here, and when I come back from Vigo County at



Miss Teen Wells County Sophia Meeks and Miss Wells County Eve McElhaney were crowned Monday night at the fairgrounds, shown above, and will serve the county in the upcoming year.

At left, 2023 Miss Teen Wells County celebrates with Meeks as she hands her plaque. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

## Economic Development hire is expected in September, Stringer says

By HOLLY GASKILL

Wells County officials expect to extend an offer to an economic development director in September.

County Commissioner Jeff Stringer stated Monday that 20 candidates have applied for the position, roughly half of which he believed to have the credentials and experience.

Stringer said the county and city of Bluffton hope to interview candidates the first week of August and offer the position by mid-September. A job offer was previously extended, but not accepted, at least once.

Earlier this month, the Bluffton Com-

mon Council approved an additional appropriation to support economic development, with \$147,311 out of the CREDIT fund. Of this total, they stated \$4,700 would be for salaries, \$11,310 for medical insurance, \$2,776 for FICA/medicare, \$3,231 for personal services, \$16,200 for office supplies and technology, \$59,094 for business supplies and other developments, and \$10,000 for professional meetings and training.

Council member Scott Mentzer advised a "big" portion of this would be reimbursed by the county and the town of Ossian. The town of Markle, however, will not be join-

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## Task force assists women amidst increase of domestic violence in Wells County

By SYDNEY KENT

"Those are the cases we know about," Jennifer Rohlf, Director of Empowerment with the YWCA of Northeastern Indiana, pointed out. "Many cases of domestic and sexual violence are never reported."

Rohlf's sentiment was in response to a statistic: battery cases rose by 52% from 2022-2023 in Wells County. Of the 81 filed cases, over 50 involved domestic violence — this is according to the Wells County Prosecutor's Office.

Both agencies participate in the county's Domestic Violence Task Force along with a wide range of providers who interact with the issue. This includes law enforcement, the Department of Child Services, Family Centered Services, counseling services from Park Center and Renovate counseling, the YWCA, Grace and Mercy and more.

Rohlf explained that the goal of the task force is to share information about possible trends that they are seeing, exchange resources, and bring awareness to the issue. In past years, the force has participated in local events such as "A Day in the Life of a Victim", "Family Safety Day" and an annual candlelight vigil honoring victims that have died as a result of domestic violence.

In 2020, the group shifted from

the vigils and instead created a video addressing survivors. In the video, which can be found on YouTube, various members of the task force explain what love should be (safe, trusting and without control) and what love should not be (isolating, hurtful or fearful).

The News-Banner spoke with several members of the task force to learn more about potential resources available to anyone experiencing domestic or sexual violence.

Rohlf said the YWCA provides a "full continuum of care" for survivors. The YWCA shelter, located in Fort Wayne, is accessible 24/7 for anyone fleeing domestic or sexual violence. In her position, she leads a team of advocates who work to provide high-quality services to survivors in a six-county service area.

"The reality is that these things don't happen during business hours," Rohlf explained. "They happen at any time of the day. Our emergency shelter can take someone at 3 a.m. on a Saturday if needed."

However, Rohlf emphasized that the shelter is one small part of the services provided by the organization. She acknowledged that for some survivors in Wells County, the shelter may be an

(Continued on Page 2)

## Community comes together for Cancer benefit fundraiser

By CHET BAUMGARTNER

"It all started with headaches."

Ashley Miller stood on her front porch, remembering, as friends and acquaintances enjoyed hot dogs and purchased baked goods, bracelets and raffle tickets.

They came to help cover medical expenses for Miller's daughter, Addi, who was resting in her bedroom — but not just from a headache.

Some time after the first headache, the left side of Addi Miller's face started drooping. The family at first wondered if she had Bell's palsy, but on April 1, doctors at the Riley Hospital for Children determined that she was dying from a brain tumor.

Doctors estimate that Miller will not survive to her 14th birthday in November,

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**Outside**

Shows and storms again today and tonight

Today	Wed.	Thursday
High 84	High 79	High 74
Low 66	Low 57	Low 55

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# Miss Wells County

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grinned ear-to-ear when crediting her sister for her hairstyle.  
Meeks was also recognized as The People's Choice, determined through donations at the pageant.  
"This means the world to me because I get to represent Wells County and this amazing community," Meeks said afterward.  
The first runner-up for Miss Wells was Kammy Miller, the second runner-up

was Karlie Brown, and the third runner-up was RieAnn Krinn. Cruz Rinckenberger was named Miss Congeniality, a title recognizing the friendliest contestant, which is voted on by the contestants.  
For Miss Wells Teen, Violet McClain was first runner-up, Harlie Durham was second runner-up, and Sydney Soars was Miss Congeniality.  
In their parting words about their experience this

last year, Grace Meeks and Evans spoke fondly about working with the community and bonding with the previous and future Miss winners.  
"I remember standing right over there after I was crowned taking Emmy (Cupp, 2022 Miss Wells County)," Meeks said. "And she goes, 'Grace, this year will really fly by, so have fun.' And I was just like, 'You know what? Yeah, it might fly by, but

it'll be really slow.' No, no, no — it really did fly by fast, and it was an amazing year."  
"This experience is truly one of a kind," Evans said. "Though my reign as Miss Wells County Teen is ending, my commitment to our community and the values we hold will be near in my heart. I look forward to new adventures and opportunities to serve and make a difference."  
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# Economic Development hire

(Continued from Page 1)  
ing the agreement as it had with the previous arrangement through the Wells County Chamber of Commerce.  
On Monday, Stringer stated it is still not yet determined if these costs will be shared through an interlocal agreement, where one party would technically hire and fund the position and invoice the other parties, or the creation of a new nonprofit organization.  
Officials have previously stated that the entities may also temporarily engage in an interlocal agreement as they prepare the extensive documents needed for a new nonprofit. A nonprofit organization would also require creating a board with representation from each entity.

"Some entities create a not-for-profit business association, and then the government entities who are members of have board seats — and will always have board seats — on that particular unit, and that creates the ability of that organization to work with other private entities," County Attorney Ted Storer advised. "So a lot of it's just going to depend on what the size of the organization, the ability to pay and compensate the person, how commissioners would understand that particular position."  
Stringer stated that the county, Bluffton and Ossian were not currently leaning toward one option.  
"It's been (the candidate) search part first, get description down, (and

trying to re-flush out what exactly we want out of that role," Stringer said.  
Wells County has not had a director of economic development since Chad Kline stepped down in April and the Chamber board decided to dissolve their economic branch amidst tumultuous negotiations about board representation and government oversight.  
Cheryl Morphew of Johnson County has solely handled economic development activities in this transition. During negotiations with the Chamber, the county and city each contracted Morphew for economic development consulting for up to 10 hours a month for \$150 per hour.  
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# Task force assists women

(Continued from Page 1)  
effective way to gain distance from the person they are fleeing, but it may not make sense for everyone.  
"We also have advocates that can work one-on-one with people — in the community they live in," Rohlf said. "Survivors have power in that — they decide what they are comfortable sharing and what they are not. We are there to meet them where they are, to come alongside them in that journey of whatever that next step might be."  
The YWCA has a 24/7 hotline, 1-800-441-4073, for anyone who has or is experiencing domestic and sexual violence to reach out for help.  
Rohlf explained that advocates are available to help with a wide range of services, including assisting with filing a protection order, accompanying someone to a sexual assault examination, or listening to them talk about their experience. She emphasized that advocates do not attempt to force survivors to leave the relationship.

"We know the timeline is different for everyone," Rohlf said. "We are there to meet them wherever they are in this process."  
For survivors who must co-parent with their abuser, the YWCA also offers education on how to co-parent with an abusive partner and how to heal while still interacting with their abuser.  
"Just because a relationship ends doesn't mean the violence ends," Rohlf said. "We often see partners who continue to stalk or harass their victims, and it might get worse. We see a lot of complex situations, and we have resources to help."  
Domestic violence can have a range of effects on survivors, including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and other mental and physical health issues. The YWCA provides free counseling for survivors of domestic violence — even after the abuse or abusive relationship has ended.  
Both staff and residents at Grace and Mercy Transitional Home, located in Bluffton, participate in various training opportunities

provided by the YWCA.  
Bethanie Burns, a member of the task force and the Program Director at Grace and Mercy, said the training has helped women identify and heal from domestic violence in their lives.  
"Not everyone sees the signs," Burns explained. "Not everyone is being abused physically — but it's still domestic violence. Sometimes you don't see the signs when someone is controlling someone else. A lot of times women go through the training, and they realize they were being abused — whether physically, emotionally, or mentally."  
Grace and Mercy provide additional resources for those experiencing domestic violence in Wells County.  
"We will speed up the interview process if we have a woman coming from an unsafe place," Burns said. "We can do phone interviews as well and get them in quickly if we feel we can meet their needs."  
Burns explained that women can be assured they are safe in the locked facility and that their photographs

and personal information are never shared publicly.  
Counseling services are also available to survivors through Renovate Counseling, according to task force member and counselor Tim Hirschy.  
"If someone is going through trauma currently," Hirschy said, "There is going to be a counselor available. Most have been through trauma-informed care to be able to work with services. We have over 20 counselors available for women who have gone through domestic violence."  
The following resources are available for those facing domestic or sexual violence:  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233.  
Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence: 1-800-332-7385.  
YWCA Northeast Indiana: 1-800-441-4073.  
Grace and Mercy Transitional Housing: (260) 353-1006.  
The Adams Wells Crisis Center: 260-728-9800 or toll-free: 877-728-9800.  
sydney@news-banner.com

# Weather

Tuesday, July 16, 2024  
(24-hour observations at 11:25 p.m. Monday)  
High: 88; Low: 69; Precipitation: 0.04 inches of rain  
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.51 feet at 9:45 p.m. Monday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 84. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.  
**Tonight:** A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms before 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. Northwest wind around 5 mph.  
**Wednesday:** A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 8 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 79. Calm wind becoming northwest around 5 mph in the afternoon.  
**Wednesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 57. North wind around 5 mph.  
**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 74.  
**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 55.  
**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 76.  
**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 56.  
**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 79.  
**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 59.  
**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 80.  
**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.  
**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 80.

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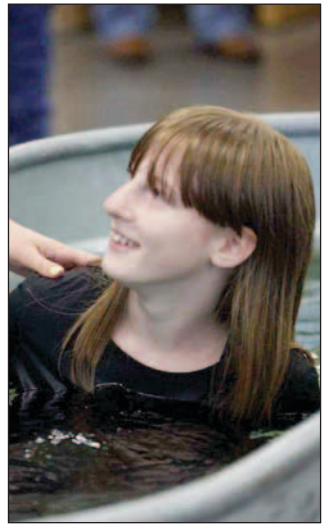
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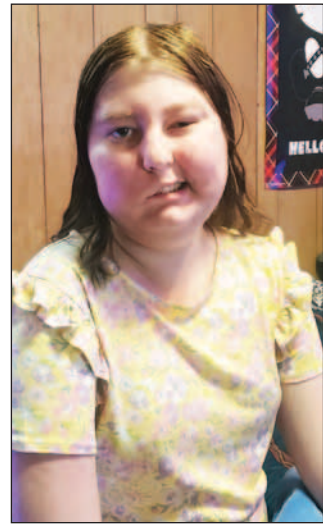
**RISK-FREE TRIAL 30-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL**




Alyssa and Jacob Kaehr fill out raffle tickets at a fundraiser Saturday for Addi Miller, who moved back to Bluffton after she was diagnosed with a fatal brain tumor. The fundraiser will help cover medical expenses, Miller's mother, Ashley, says.



Above, left, Addi Miller looks up during her baptism in 2023. (Photo provided). Right, Miller rests in her bedroom during a Saturday fundraiser to help cover medical expenses. (Photos by Chet Baumgartner)



# Cancer benefit

(Continued from Page 1)  
but her mother says she is fighting until then.  
And she wanted to fight in Bluffton, she also said.  
At the time of the diagnosis, the family lived in Marion, but Addi Miller specifically asked her

mother and father, Christopher Columbus, to move back to Bluffton — or "my town," Miller told her mother — where she lived prior to 2021.  
The family even moved back to their house at 119 N. Oak St., where they also fired up a grill and

erected a small canopy for Saturday's fundraiser.  
The event lasted from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Ashley Miller said the funds will cover not only expenses from those initial visits to Riley's, but also hospice care.  
newsroom@news-banner.com

## Interpretive programs at Ouabache

**Ouabache State Park**  
4830 E SR 201, Bluffton, IN 46714, 260-724-0926  
Interpretive Naturalist: Lydia Ade  
**Friday, July 19**  
4:30 p.m.: Phenology Friday meeting at the Park Office to study seasons and how things change. Bring binoculars to look at birds, mammals, plants and more. Hiking boots if desired.  
Evening Roving Interpreter: Look for her at the campground and see what she is carrying.  
8 p.m.: Campfire Christmas Treats at the Campview Shelter to roast marshmallows and enjoy a cold cocoa.

**Saturday, July 20**  
10 a.m.: Bison Feeding meeting at the front of the Bison Enclosure.  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Friends of Ouabache's Christmas in July at the Rustic Oak Shelter. Visit with Santa, peruse the Santa Shop full of items made by local artists and much more.  
3 p.m.: Campsite Decorating Contest. Campsite decorating with judges to announce winners of early gifts from Santa.  
**Sunday, July 21**  
10 a.m.: Pinecone Christmas Trees. Meet at the Campview Shelter to learn about trees used for Christmas and to decorate a pinecone tree to take home.

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OBITUARIES

Margaret A. Crandall, 91

Margaret A. Crandall, 91, of Bluffton passed away on Monday afternoon, July 15, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital. Funeral arrangements are pending at this time with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Tamela Loden, 62

Tamela "Tammy" Loden, 62, of Bluffton, passed away on Saturday, July 13, 2024, at Enlive of Huntington. Funeral arrangements are currently pending with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Cammy Jo Onweller, 53

Cammy Jo Onweller, 53, of Tampa, formerly of Bluffton, passed away on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, in Tampa, Fla. Funeral arrangements are pending at this time with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Democrat delegates Destiny Wells for attorney general

By WHITNEY DOWNARD Indiana Capital Chronicle

In a showdown between the old guard and the younger faction of Hoosier Democrats, party delegates chose Destiny Wells as their nominee for attorney general in a 1,067-475 vote while also easily nominating former state lawmaker Terry Goodin for lieutenant governor.

Wells enlisted in the Army National Guard at 19, working her way up to lieutenant colonel, and attracted party members seeking to take a new direction while White, a longtime politico currently leading the Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking, had steadfast support from traditionalist Democrats.

"I think this was the conclusion of that rebuilding," Wells said about the party. "This vote was about moving into the future and folks seeing younger candidates and saying, 'Let's give them a chance.'"

Wells will face Republican nominee Todd Rokita in November. A statement from Rokita campaign advisor Brent Littlefield, sought to tie Wells to President Joe Biden.

"... Wells cheerleads for the Biden-Harris agenda of dangerous open borders, job-killing inflation that puts less money in Hoosiers' pockets and moves to force girls to accept boys in their locker rooms and sports teams," Littlefield said. "Hoosiers oppose this radical and extreme agenda."

Meanwhile, Goodin easily beat back challenges from Tammie Dixon-Tatum, Bob Kern and Clif Marsiglio, winning 1,209 votes — compared to 162 for Dixon-Tatum, nine for Kern and 145 for Marsiglio. Goodin had the support of Democratic gubernatorial nominee Jennifer McCormick but was criticized for his conservative voting history on abortion access and gay marriage.

News of an attack on former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania disrupted proceedings Saturday, with Democrats repeatedly denouncing the incident and sharing their prayers.

"There is no room for violence in our political discourse," McCormick said.

The McCormick-Goodin ticket will face U.S. Sen. Mike Braun and conservative Noblesville pastor Micah Beckwith in the fall. In the Republican nomination last month, party delegates spurred the establishment choice put forth by Braun in favor of Beckwith, a self-described "Christian nationalist."

Before the shooting, Indiana Democratic Party Chair Mike Schmuhl denounced the Republican ticket from Trump down to U.S. Rep. Jim Banks, who is running for the U.S. Senate — calling them the "MAGA starting lineup."

"I tell people all across our state that this is the most extreme ticket Republicans have ever put forward in our state's history: Donald Trump, Mike Braun, Micah Beckwith, Jim Banks and Todd Rokita," Schmuhl said. "They need to go down this November."

Democrats face tough odds in the November general election. Only GOP nominees have won statewide races in the last 12 years. Party candidates for attorney general and lieutenant governor are filled by a convention vote rather than a primary election.

Additionally, as one of the resolutions adopted by party officials, Indiana Democrats signaled their unflinching support for President Joe Biden's re-election run — countering headwinds pushing the 81-year-old politician to step aside for a younger candidate.

None of the lieutenant governor candidates addressed delegates, but Wells and White gave five-minute speeches — with both heavily focused on the actions of the office's current inhabitant.

Both specifically denounced Rokita's actions concerning the conduct of Dr. Caitlin Bernard, an Indianapolis doctor who provided an abortion to a 10-year-old rape victim from Ohio. He is the second attorney general to be reprimanded by the Indiana Supreme Court for actions taken while in office.

"The current attorney general is everywhere he is not supposed to be... He is in our doctor's offices, scaring our health care providers from wanting to even practice here," Wells said in an appeal to delegates. "Indiana is hungry for changing this office, and Hoosiers aren't going to tolerate this alerting anymore."

Wells said her race is the "most flippable" Republican held attorney general position in the country, a claim she previously pinned on a prediction from Sabato's Crystal Ball. The well-respected political rating shifted the seat to "leans Republican" earlier this year, citing Rokita's conduct.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Thursday, 3:10 p.m., 600 block of West Wiley Avenue. Bike located on corner of Wiley Avenue and Jersey Street.

Thursday, 3:29 p.m., Walmart. Report of theft.

Thursday, 4:18 p.m., 200 North and 450 East. Citation for speeding.

Thursday, 6:47 p.m., 600 block of South Jersey Street. Report of ongoing issues with neighbors.

Thursday, 9:27 p.m., Walmart. Report of someone rifling through vehicle.

Thursday, 10:06 p.m., 600 block of North Main Street. Report of man passed out by building. Man stated he is homeless and just passing through and will sleep in the park for the night.

Friday, 3:22 a.m., 300 block of West Spring Street. Report of an unwanted party.

Friday, 8:16 a.m., 100 block of Northwood Drive. Report of a noise complaint.

Friday, 12:32 p.m., 700 block of South Jersey Street. Report of a needle found in trash.

Friday, 2:01 p.m., Dairy Queen. Damaged window by customer, report requested for insurance.

Friday, 5:54 p.m., Wabash and Union streets. Driver cited for distracted driving.

Friday, 6:13 p.m., Pak A Sak North. Driver cited for distracted driving.

Friday, 8:11 p.m., 700 block of Clark Avenue. Report of an unknown bike left at caller's residence. No idea who its parents are.

Friday, 9:41 p.m., Linger Inn. Report of man and woman arguing, caller indicated he would "take care of it himself" and disconnected.

Saturday, 12:40 a.m., 600 block of South Wayne Street. Report of subject that wouldn't leave.

Saturday, 11:04 a.m., Capri Meadows. Welfare check requested for subject, subject was found safe.

Saturday, 4:01 p.m., 300

block of East Washington Street. Report of two men drinking alcohol, possibly underage. Both men were over 21.

Saturday, 7:41 p.m., Wildwood Lane and Elm Grove Road. Report of children on ATVs, subjects are on their own property.

Saturday, 8:02 p.m., Main Street and Dustman Road. David Kahn arrested for driving while suspended — report.

Sunday, 6:13 a.m., 200 block of North Johnson Street. Report of man laying on bench, possibly homeless.

Sunday, 1:12 p.m., Wells County 4-H Park. Report of power lines down in middle of fair.

Sunday, 1:14 p.m., 1300 West Washington Street. Report of a tree that fell in caller's yard.

Sunday, 1:20 p.m., East Ohio and South Scott streets. Report of tree blocking road.

Sunday, 3:19 p.m., 500 block of South Marion Street. Report of kids in window.

Sunday, 6:06 p.m., 300 block of South Mulberry Street. Fireworks.

Sunday, 7:05 p.m., 900 block of Parkway Drive. Low hanging wire from pole to house.

Sunday, 11:41 p.m., Columbian Avenue and Woodlawn Street. Fallen tree.

Sunday, 11:36 a.m., Dickens. Report of vehicle damaged at carwash.

Sunday, 11:58 a.m., 700 block of South Williams Street. Report of theft of power.

Monday, 12:00 p.m., 500 block of East Dustman Road. Officer requested to standby for civil issue.

County: Thursday, 6:18 p.m., Miller Street and Hancock Street, Uniondale. Report of small red truck parked in spot for months.

Friday, 7:34 a.m., 600 West and West 100 South, Markle. Citation for speed.

Friday, 5:42 p.m., 2300 North Oak Drive, Bluffton.

Report of vehicle in roadway.

Friday, 9:45 p.m., Linger Inn. Report of man yelling at female.

Saturday, 12:28 a.m., 200S and 100W, Bluffton. Report of lasers being directed at aircraft. Let's not do that.

Saturday, 2:23 a.m., 300S and 400W, Liberty Center. Report of truck shining light into fields and on homes. Driver was looking for a subject that was found earlier.

Saturday, 9:07 p.m., Walmart. Report of a suspicious shirtless male yelling in parking lot. Man was a truck driver parked for the night, advised that he was hard of hearing and on the phone.

Saturday, 10:10 p.m., 3400S 300W, Liberty Center. Car versus deer.

Sunday, 12:59 p.m., North 300 West and West 900 North, Markle. Report of a tree branch in roadway.

Sunday, 9:14 p.m., 900 North and North 100 West, Markle. Car versus deer.

Monday, 3:39 a.m., 1700 West S.R. 218, Poneto. Report of dumpster fire.

Ossian: Thursday, 7:14 p.m., 1100 North and S.R. 1, Ossian. Report of glass clippings in road.

Friday, 2:41 p.m., 5600 East U.S. 224, Ossian. Report of fraud regarding the purchase of a dog.

Friday, 5:45 p.m., U.S. 224 and S.R. 1, Ossian. Report of man trying to hitchhike to Markle. Officer gave subject a courtesy ride.

ARRESTS

Megan Maxine Hobson, 28, Craigville; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Ivan Merced Gomez Osorio, 44, Fort Wayne; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Mikayla Coyle, 26, Bluffton; operating a vehicle while intoxicated — endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor, possession of marijuana, a Class B

misdemeanor, and operating with controlled substance in body, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Martin Marquez, 51, Fort Wayne; operating without ever obtaining a license, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating without financial responsibility, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Mickie Dale Smith, 35, Venedocia, Ohio; habitual traffic violator, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

Robert Brandon Hostetler, 44, South Bend; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$454.

David John Kahn, 21, Bluffton; driving while suspended — prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Dennys Joe Leon Sanchez, 43, Bluffton; operating while intoxicated — endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating while intoxicated while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Alejandro Eli Mayor Ruiz, 23, Bluffton; operating without ever obtaining license, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Scott Joseph Trimlett, 37, Ossian; operating while intoxicated, a Level 6 felony, and operating while intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$5,000.

Douglas William Parks-Schauer, 30, Bluffton; obstruction of justice and possession of cocaine, both Level 6 felonies, and theft and criminal conversion, both Class A misdemeanors. No bond set.

Timothy David Rambo, 58, Bluffton; operating a vehicle while intoxicated — prior conviction, a Level 6 felony, possession of a scheduled substance, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating while intoxicated — endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$6,500.

RFK Jr. files with state for Indiana ballot

By WHITNEY DOWNARD Indiana Capital Chronicle

Third-party presidential candidate and controversial figure Robert F. Kennedy Jr. apparently has submitted enough signatures for the Indiana Election Division to certify his candidacy, meaning Kennedy will likely appear on the November ballot as an option for Hoosiers.

The Indiana Election Division confirmed that Kennedy met the Monday deadline at noon for submission but said it hasn't yet counted Kennedy's signatures.

Kennedy reported submitting over 105,000 petition signatures for an independent bid to county election officials on July 1, more than the minimum 36,943 needed to qualify. He said officials certified nearly 39,000 signatures, allowing him to appear on the ballot alongside Democrat and Republican nominees.

"While canvassing for signatures, 99% of the people I encountered wanted to sign the petition to get Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on

the ballot," said Indiana campaign volunteer Dolores Lane in Kennedy's release. "Indianans are ready to end government corruption and embrace healthy people, healthy food, healthy soils — and the return of our Constitutional freedoms."

For a third-party candidate to qualify, they must submit signatures to county election officials by noon on July 1. Once certified by counties, those petitions are then filed with the Indiana Election Division by noon on July 15.

The election division then reviews the certifications and counts signatures before informing the Secretary of State of the number of valid signatures. That office then determines if a candidate has met the threshold to appear on the ballot.

Kennedy — and his running mate Nicole Shanahan, a California philanthropist — have reported success in filing for access on 10 state ballots, submitted to appear in 14 additional states (including Indiana) and say they have the signatures to qualify in five more. Com-

bined, the 29 states have 390 electoral votes, including Indiana's 11. Candidates

must hit the minimum 270 electoral college votes to be elected president.

Advertisement for FreedomCare. Includes headline: "Let your loved ones care for you - and get paid!" and sub-headline: "Funded by Medicaid, choose FAMILY or FRIENDS as your paid caregiver." It also features a 3-step eligibility process and a call to action: "Find out if you are eligible today. CALL 844.563.4012"

Advertisement for Steffen Group. Headline: "ONLINE ONLY PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION". Dates: "SUN, JULY 14TH - SUN, JULY 21ST". Location: "540 W US 224, UNIONDALE, IN 46791". It lists various items for sale like model trains, lumber, and tools, and includes contact information for Patrick Carter and Dave and Brenda Double.

Advertisement for Raymond James. Headline: "BUSINESS OR PERSONAL". Lists services like Asset Management, Bonds, College Planning, etc. Features a photo of Kim Gentis and includes contact info: "(260)824-8070 kim.gentis@raymondjames.com".

Advertisement for State Farm. Headline: "Surprisingly great rates that fit any budget." Includes a photo of Erin Daugherty, Agent, and contact info: "Erin Daugherty, Agent 1085 N Main Street Suite B Bluffton, IN 46714".

## Dotting my i's and crossing my t's at the county fair

Spending time at the county fair each July has been something I have enjoyed doing since I first started working for The News-Banner some 25 years ago.

We try our best each summer to cover all aspects of the Wells County 4-H Fair, as there is much to highlight each year as we recognize all the work that so many 4-H'er's put into their projects. The hard work, dedication, integrity and sportsmanship that you see from Wells County 4-H'er's shows just how important this organization is in our community and for posterity.

I spent a few hours at the fairgrounds Sunday afternoon to help cover an event and observed what I have grown accustomed to seeing every year — confident kids and teens working hard while learning and applying lifelong skills that will help them for years to come.

Being able to recognize those 4-H'er's every summer in The News-Banner is always a highlight for me.

And in case you're wondering, our annual News-Banner 4-H tab will be printed in early August.

We try to capture as many highlights as possible each summer to put into the tab. While I won't be able to help with the tab as much this year as I have in the past, I found myself at the fairgrounds Sunday afternoon to take pictures of some award winners and collect their names.

Our tradition at The News-Banner has been to publish the pictures and names of all award winners a few weeks after the county fair ends. It requires a team effort, as there are a plethora of pictures to take and names to compile as we put together the tab.

In journalism, a picture is not complete unless you write a headline — the text that appears below the image to identify the who, what, when, where and why featured in the picture.

That task is pretty simple when you're taking pictures of 4-H'er's and their awards, as it only requires us to write down what award the 4-H'er won and his or her name. The former is easy; the latter is a tad more difficult than it used to be because of how many different ways there are to spell a person's name.

"Could you spell your name for me," I always ask.

Sometimes the response is, "Oh, it's the common spelling."

About this time is when I crack a smile and ask if the person could spell it for me just to make sure I don't make a mistake.

I wonder sometimes if they think my spelling is lousy since I always ask for clarification when writing down names that seem easy to spell because they are "common"; however, even the most common names today seem to have multiple spellings.

Take for example the name Abby.

A-B-B-Y is what I would write down if someone said her name was Abby. But I have seen the same name spelled Abbie, Abbey, Abi, Aby and Abbi.

Which one is the common spelling? I'm not sure and I always ask.

One of the first phrases I learned when I started working for The News-Banner was, "When it doubt, check it out." Those six words have always stuck with me even when completing a task as simple as making sure we have the correct spelling for someone's name.

The second part of that phrase that I learned from Joe Smekens and Glen Werling was, "If still in doubt, leave it out." It seems our national media may need a reminder of those seven simple words, but we'll save that topic for another day.

The county fair continues through Thursday this week at the 4-H Fairgrounds on the city's south side. Be sure to make a trip to the fairgrounds and compliment a 4-H'er on his or her project.

Better yet, attend the Premier Auction at 2 p.m. Thursday or the Livestock Auction at 3:30 p.m. Thursday to bid on one of the 4-H'er's projects. The money these teens earn each summer helps them with postsecondary plans.

We'll do our best this year to highlight the week's happenings.

[jdpeeper2@hotmail.com](mailto:jdpeeper2@hotmail.com)



Justin Peeper



## Tone down the rhetoric

"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory will swell when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature." — Abraham Lincoln

In the aftermath of the attempted assassination of former president Donald Trump, Lincoln's words, uttered during the horrific Civil War, can be a healing balm if only politicians, the media and activists who have promoted heated rhetoric and division would embrace them. It's going to take leadership from both parties for it to happen.

Leftist social media bemoaned that the shooter's aim was not more accurate, suggesting a wish that Trump had been killed. Right-wing sites blamed Democrats, including President Biden, who recently said, "We're done talking about the debate. It's time to put Trump in the bull's-eye." Will this remark be denounced across the political spectrum? Probably not.

The Atlantic recalls another incident when denunciations of former Alaska governor and vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin followed her "targeting" congressional districts: "In March of 2010, Sarah Palin released a map of 20 congressional districts she and John McCain had won in 2008 but whose congressmen had voted in favor of the recently passed health care reform bill. The map, released amid a wave of small-scale violence against Democratic lawmakers, marked each targeted district with a set of crosshairs. Palin had promoted the map by tweeting 'Don't Retreat. Instead — RELOAD.'"

Arizona Democrat Gabrielle Giffords, one of the 20 targeted members of Congress, was shot in the head by 22-year-old Jared Loughner, whose attack wounded 13 others and killed six, was among the first, along with her husband Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ), condemning the assassination attempt.



Cal Thomas

After the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. was united across party lines and much of the world came to support us. People who rarely attended church filled houses of worship in America and Europe to pray for us. The unity lasted for a while, but inevitably memories and feelings faded and the temptation to get back to politics as usual overcame the better angels of our nature.

Investigations will and should be conducted, but here's a suggestion for using this incident as a means of bringing us together, at least as Americans, if not the policies that divide us. After 9/11, Republicans and Democrats gathered on the Capitol steps in a show of unity. It was a thrilling moment. Why can't the current congressional leadership call for a meeting and promise each other they will tone down the rhetoric? Sign a pledge. Embrace each other. Show the country they don't think of the other party as enemies. Invite President Biden and Donald Trump to sign the pledge and honor it (if they will).

The cynic in me believes it won't happen because division helps fundraising and while people claim they hate the divisive language, it has a track record of turning out voters.

And yet kindness has a power of its own that can overcome hate. Recall the late singer-musician Glen Campbell's song:

"You've got to try a little kindness  
Yes, show a little kindness  
Just shine your light for everyone to see  
And if you try a little kindness  
Then you'll overlook the blindness  
Of narrow-minded people  
On the narrow-minded streets."

Unity is going to take more than statements and "thoughts and prayers" to bring us together. It requires action by all of us.

[tcaeditors@tribpub.com](mailto:tcaeditors@tribpub.com)

## Whoops, the progressive road to nirvana ran into a Supreme Court detour

Should progressives be more alarmed by Donald Trump's alleged threat to the Constitution or by the Constitution's threat to progressivism? For the answer, read on.

Woodrow Wilson, a progressive and the first president to criticize the Founding, considered the Constitution's essence — the separation of powers — an impediment to a modern necessity: encompassing government wielded by an unimpeded executive. Progressives' dismay about two of the Supreme Court's end-of-term rulings illustrates how far their criticism of the Constitution goes beyond Wilson's.

When a federal agency ordered four small fishing companies to pay the estimated \$700-a-day cost (reducing their profits 20 percent) of on-board government inspectors, the companies sued, arguing that no statutory language explicitly authorizes the agency to impose this burden. The agency invoked Chevron deference, a court-created (in 1984) doctrine that says when Congress uses ambiguous legislative language, or is silent on a subject, a court reviewing an agency's disputed action should defer to the agency, if its action is "reasonable."

The doctrine, in addition to encouraging Congress's slipshod legislating, impinges on the judiciary's duty to (in Chief Justice John Marshall's words) "say what the law is." So, the Supreme Court held, 6-3, that Chevron deference violates the 1946 Administrative Procedure Act, which stipulates that courts shall "interpret" statutes and decide "all" questions of law. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. wrote for the majority: "Courts must exercise their independent judgment in deciding whether an agency has acted within its statutory authority."

There it is, progressives' bete noire: the separation of powers. Somewhere, Woodrow Wilson weeps. Here, Justice Elena Kagan dissented. She defended, as progressives who



George Will

created it must, the administrative state's status quo. Extinguishing Chevron deference — narrowing agencies' discretion — will, she said, cause "a massive shock to the legal system," because Chevron deference "has become part of the warp and woof of modern government."

Kagan calls overturning the court's creation, Chevron, "judicial hubris." Yet progressives advocate courts wielding judicial power to legitimize progressive practices — agencies' semi-legislative activities, regardless of their incompatibility with the separation of powers.

It is, however, not hubris when courts reject Panglossian progressivism: All is for the best in this best of possible worlds; "modern government" is what it is, so it should be what it is.

The other case also has progressives fretting about the court's curtailment of executive agencies' discretion. An investor was accused of fraud by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The SEC has been empowered by Congress to be the arbiter of its own judgments. So, the investor was convicted by an SEC in-house administrative law judge, who fined the investor \$300,000 and banned him from the securities industry. The SEC has a lopsided winning record in cases it assigns to be judged by itself.

Now, however, the court has held, 6-3, that Congress cannot "conjure away" (language from a previous ruling) the Seventh Amendment's guarantee of a right to trial by jury. Writing for the majority, Roberts cited Alexander Hamilton's Federalist 78: "There is no liberty, if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and executive powers."

Yet again, progressives regret the separation of powers, meaning: the Constitution. (One of the Atlantic magazine's endless supply of hysterics anticipated this outcome as "terrifying" and "destroying" the government's "administrative capacity.")

Justice Neil M. Gorsuch, concurring in the judgment, and joined by Clarence Thomas, wrote that the Seventh Amendment "does not work alone": It works in tandem with the Fifth Amendment's guarantee of due process. Dissenting, the three progressive justices (Sonia Sotomayor, joined by Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson) say that limiting the SEC's discretion to choose its own judges ignores what "modern-day adaptable governance must look like." Well.

Consider the lengthening list of progressives' complaints about the Constitution's incompatibility with their "modern-day adaptable" government. They consider the First Amendment too protective of speech that harms an individual's serenity, or society's comity. Don't get them started on the Second Amendment (the right to bear arms). Now they resent the Fifth and Seventh Amendments working together to inhibit progressives' handiwork: the administrative state agencies whose discretion has been curtailed because the separation of powers dictates the demise of Chevron deference.

For more than a century, progressivism's unvarying agenda has been to concentrate power in Washington and concentrate most of this power in the executive branch. Progressives have constantly prioritized expanding government's power and scope over individual freedom. With two excellent end-of-term decisions, the court affirmed the Constitution's different priorities.

So, the answer to the question posed in the first paragraph is: the latter.

[georgewill@washpost.com](mailto:georgewill@washpost.com)

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 16, the 198th day of 2024. There are 168 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 16, 1945, the United States exploded its first experimental atomic bomb in the desert of Alamogordo, New Mexico; the same day, the heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis left Mare Island Naval Shipyard in California on a secret mission to deliver atomic bomb components to Tinian Island in the Marianas.

Also on this date:

In 1790, a site along the Potomac River was designated the permanent seat of the United States government; the area became

Washington, D.C.

In 1862, Flag Officer David G. Farragut became the first rear admiral in the United States Navy.

In 1951, the novel "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger was first published by Little, Brown and Co.

In 1957, Marine Corps Maj. John Glenn set a trans-continental speed record by flying a Vought F8U Crusader jet from California to New York in 3 hours, 23 minutes and 8.4 seconds.

In 1964, as he accepted the Republican presidential nomination in San Francisco, Barry M. Goldwater declared that "extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice" and that "moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

## The News-Banner

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# Gloria deals with a family tragedy multiple states away

"Yes, let's do it... but then we're going to have to wait until after they've left. Do you know what color paint they planned to use? Do they have the needed materials there?"

Though I wasn't particularly eager to see Cousin Josh, Joyce, and their family leave for a two week trip to Montana, we were eager to have their house empty and tackle the project of dry walling and spackling, and painting the garage after they left. It was supposed to be a surprise, of course. It was only a little token to show love and support to their family, especially since he had been ordained a minister a few weeks before.

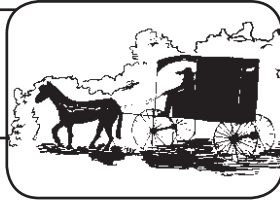
Their family was outgrowing their living quarters, and they were in the process of adding a garage with several bedrooms and space to host guests.

Now that they were planning a trip to Montana to spend time with Joyce's parents and a couple of her siblings, someone suggested we go in and see what we could do until they returned home to Illinois.

The day after their departure, tractors were breezing back Josh's driveway, hauling the tools needed for the job. One of the church brothers took charge and organized the job so as to utilize hands ready to help. The sun shone brightly, the

## The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



air remained toasty and humid during the day and most evenings.

Tim, the leader, persistently organized crews to put up dry-wall, do plumbing, electrical work (which will be generated by a solar system), and the like—all without the regular hotlines we'd generally use, in order to keep Josh from getting information on what was happening back home.

One afternoon we received the message that Josh's youngest daughter, Lanelle had been in a vehicle accident. It felt like a dream- or more like a nightmare. She's between our six-year-old boys in age and plans to go to first grade with them when school starts. Could it be true? How could she be okay, considering the story that she ended up being pinched under a jeep which had flipped on its top?

Memories of Daniel's accident were distinct. We could all too well picture the scene of Josh with their daughter on an ambulance, then came the news that she's being life flight-ed. Really? A couple of our children declared they won't be

able to sleep that night. They were somewhat comforted when they heard that Joyce was able to go with her on the life flight.

Reports were better the following morning. Lanelle was doing better, her skull fracture and a couple gashes were the only concerns, and she was on the mend. Praise God. I found quietness in the bedroom as my emotions let loose. "So, God does allow some people to pull through?!" I marveled.

It was true, God spared her life and used her uncle, who decided at the last minute to drive with them, to scamper out of the overturned vehicle in seconds, and simply lift the vehicle off his little niece. Touching... absolutely amazing! Our children were spellbound by the story and the reality that God spared the life of their precious friend. We were surprised to be able to talk to Lanelle that morning. Her sweet soft voice was a bit quieter than usual, but it was unmistakably her. We were comforted.

At home there was fresh zest to wrap up the project before Josh's family came back.

Best of all was the day before they returned home. Concrete had been poured and gravel spread, inside the garage, building materials had been cleaned up and the ceilings were painted and walls had primer. A welcome home poster, signed by everyone in church hung on the front door and food was stacked on the table, in the fridge, and freezer.

I keep thinking of Lanelle's grandma and the rest of their family, back in Montana. Some of you know what it's like to have distant family. The miles can be long and a bit glaring. No doubt all they went through together in Montana made them miss each other even more. Lanelle's grandma, Mrs. Weaver, has always been an amazing example of tender quietness, even through the hard parts of life. I treasure the many years they lived here in Flat Rock with us. There was hardly a work day or sewing she missed, and when she came she did whatever needed to be done and was not in a hurry to go back to her own work at home.

It would only seem right to share the Flat Rock pudding recipe with you which we used many times over during those early years

in Flat Rock when Mrs. Weaver helped with many a meal for guests, church or whoever needed a lift. The Flat Rock pudding was a yummy dessert we all enjoyed, and with time and money being a bit tight over those first years, it was something we could make with extra milk and eggs.

### FLAT ROCK PUDDING

- 6 cups milk
- ¾ cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla extract
- 4 large egg yolks
- 3 cups whipped topping
- 2 dozen chocolate chip cookies
- Peanut butter, for sandwiching the cookies

Heat 4½ cups of the milk in a large saucepan over medium heat until the milk is scalded (180°F).

Whisk together the flour, sugar, salt, vanilla, egg yolks, and the remaining 1½ cups cold milk. Stir into heated milk, stirring continuously. Boil for a few minutes then remove from the heat and allow to cool. Fold in the whipped topping. Spread some peanut butter between two chocolate chip cookies to form a cookie sandwich. Repeat until all four dozen cookies have been used. Cut or crumble the cookie sandwiches into the pudding mixture, and stir until well combined.

## Zanesville News

by Melba Edwards

Don't forget to mark your calendar and come on over to the Zanesville Festival/Car Show on Saturday, July 27.

The restaurant downtown has a new name. It is now Sis's Diner and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. They now have soft serve ice cream!

The County Line Pizza & Pub is also open Wednesday through Sunday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

You may also get picnic and lots of other good food and meat at Lengerich's by the ballpark. By the way, check out the games and visit the concession stand if it is open.

Robin (my daughter) is now home from a 12 day stay at the hospital. She again had a bout with Covid and this time it was really bad. She said it was the sickest she has been in her life. Even a teaspoon of water would not stay down. Her kidneys were shutting down and after a few dialysis treatments, and lots of your prayers, she is returning to a normal life. Pray for all who

are again getting Covid!

A current note from a long time ago resident of Zanesville. Please pray for Rabbi Pastor Matt Mckeown as he shares the message of Jesus and His love in France, Belgium, The Netherlands,

Germany, Spain, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. If I remember right, he is the son of the Chuck McKeowns that served here in Zanesville at the Zanesville Church of God and left here to serve in Hollywood, Florida.



### No rain-out for the dream team

Neither rain nor wind could cancel the recent ball game for the Dream Team baseball team as they took their game to the Bluffton YMCA's gym. The action got underway as Eric Blessing sang the National Anthem with Koltyn and Aayvneigh Stonccek holding the American flag. Members of the Bluffton First Presbyterian Church helped teammates for the evening. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)



## Swiss Days Quilt Show to be held July 24-27

The Swiss Days Quilt Show will be held Thursday, July 25 from 6 to 9 p.m., Friday, July 26 from 9 to 6 p.m. and Saturday, July 27 from 9 to 3 p.m. at the First Mennonite Church, Family Life Center, 566 West Main Street in Berne.

Admission fee: \$5.00 - 12 and under admitted free.

Quilt Categories include: hand and machine quilted items, opportunity/raffle quilt, viewer's choice awards, quilts by kids (18 and under), challenge quilts and quilts for sale.

Quilts do not need to be

preregistered. Bring quilts to the First Mennonite Church, Family Life Center on Wednesday, July 24 from 2 to 7 p.m. There will be security protection provided around the clock.

One free quilt show ticket for each entry, up to two free.

Quilts to be picked up Saturday, July 27, from 4:45 to 5:15 p.m. No early releases.

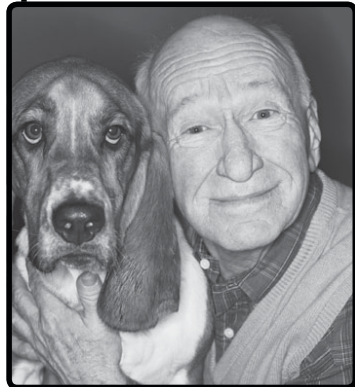
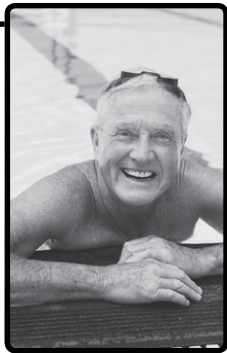
All entries except past winners are eligible for viewer's choice prizes: First place \$75.00, second place \$50.00 and third place

\$25.00. Quilts for sale are placed in a separate area. Price marked includes our 5% commission. A \$2.00 hanging fee per quilt will be assessed at the time of registration.

All categories of quilts, Quilted items and garments will be included in the show. For more information contact:

Kathy Diveley 260-525-0303 or e-mail at kzdiveley@gmail.com.

Gail Kuhn 260-849-2029 or email at gaildk818@gmail.com.



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		<b>HOME COURT HOME CARE</b> homecourthomecare.com
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		<b>KELLY'S COLLISION CENTER, INC.</b> Owners: Dustin Kelly 820 W. Washington Street, Bluffton kellysautocollision.com
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# Steele, Ramseyer take home 15th annual 4-H 5K

The 15th annual 4-H 5K and the Fast & Furriest 1-Mile dog run/walk took place at the 4-H park and downtown Bluffton on Saturday. All proceeds go to the Wells County 4-H Foundation.

Although it was a run/walk option, there were winners for the event as well. The overall winners of the 5K race were Carter Steele and Abby Ramseyer.

Age groups ranging from 14-years-old to 50 and over were also recognized for their efforts in boys' and girls' categories

along with the three selected dog champions.

**A list of the 5K winners were:**

Overall: Carter Steele and Abby Ramseyer.

Boys 14 and under: Rylan Leas (first), Gavin Biberstine (second) and Lincoln Boxell (third).

Girls 14 and under: Aubree Neuen-schwander (first), Marianne Pease (second) and Erin Ramseyer (third).

Boys 15-18: Jarin Frauhiger (first),

Colter Kiel (second) and Joshua Bricker (third).

Girls 15-18: Reagan Harris (first), Gracie Reeves (second) and Chanie Mounsey (third).

Men 19-29: Joel Neff (first) and Jesston Heath (second).

Women 19-29: Rachel Bauermeister (first) and Reann Stoppenhagen (second).

Men ages 20-29: Adam Boxell and Brandon Biberstine.

Women 20-29: Jayme Biberstine and

Jayde Ketring.

Men ages 40-49: Chris Leas.

Women 40-49: Brenda Rockwell and Kyan Harris.

Women 50 and over: Leah Sills

**Dog winners:**

Fastest: Kiki with owner Desiah Reinhard.

Furriest: Winnie with owner Logan Rogers.

Cutest Duo: Ralphie owner Jaylyn Biberstine.



Overall 5K winners Carter Steele and Abby Ramseyer. (Photos provided)



Father and son racers, Adam Boxell and Lincoln Boxell, brave the heat in Saturday's 4-H 5K.



Fastest dog, Kiki, and owner Desiah Reinhard; Furriest Dog, Winnie, and owner, Logan Rogers; and cutest owner and dog duo, Ralphie, and owner Jaylyn Biberstine.



Above, Kiki is cooling down after winning the fastest dog. Kiki's owner is Desiah Reinhard (right). In the background is Perfect Pet owner Amanda Clark and Owner/Dog Duo Ralphie and Jaylyn Biberstine.

## Bluffton hosts annual tennis tournament, weather delays fully complete results

Bluffton hosted its annual tennis tournament over the weekend crowning champions in age groups and divisions for boys and girls.

Bluffton's head boys' tennis coach Robert Vanderkolk and girls' head tennis coach Spencer Schwartz, along with assistants Hunter Cunningham and Ashlee Xayyachack, helped put together the event. Food trucks were available, and it was the first time that Bluffton hosted the event with the brand-new tennis court renovation from last fall.

Most of the brackets were completed and decided with the winners, but the weather prevented all of them from finishing and being made up at a later date. Results that are still waiting are the men's singles and boys' doubles.

**Bracket winners:**

Girls 12 and under: Kynle McGuire (champion) and Ari Staedtler (runner-up).

14 and under: Ava Trexler (champion) and Kynle McGuire (runner-up).

Boys 12 and under: Matthew Staedtler

(champion) and Kaden McGuire (runner-up).

Boys 14 and under: Jordan Grubbs (champion) and Dane Fiechter (runner-up).

Girls JV singles: Madison Duncan (champion) and Lynne Drayer (runner-up).

Boys JV singles: Brysen Maurice (champion) and Brayden Mayer (runner-up).

Girls varsity: Riley Wilson (champion) and Ava Christiansen (runner-up).

Boys varsity singles: Tim Croft (champion) and Maddox Nelson (runner-up).

Girls doubles: Hazel Pfister and Emily Drayer (champion) and Eve Corkwell and Emma Schwartz (runner-up).

Women's doubles: Annabelle Johnson and Kelli Kistler (champion) and Hunter Cunningham and Ashlee Xayyachack (runner-up).

Men's doubles: Grant Mishler and Ethan Ottinger (champion) and Peter Kitchen and Anthony Wilson (runner-up).

Mixed doubles: Bailey Wolfe and Cavin Sellers (champion) and Spencer Schwartz and Ashlee Xayyachack (runner-up).



Some of the winners of Bluffton's annual tennis tournament over the weekend were, above left, Grant Mishler and Ethan Ottinger in the Men's doubles bracket and right, girls' 14 and under Ava Trexler and Kynle McGuire. (Photos provided)



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BLUFFTON TENNIS TOURNAMENT WINNERS



From left to right are runner-ups for mixed doubles, Spencer Schwartz and Ashlee Xayyachack, and champions, Bailey Wolf and Calvin Sellers. (Photos provided)



From left to right are runner-ups for girls' doubles, Eve Corkwell and Emma Schwartz, and champions, Hazel Pfister and Emily Drayer.



At left, Annabelle Johnson and her women's doubles partner Kelli Kistler with their first-place award plaques.



At right, boys 12 and under champion, Matthew Staedtler, holds his plaque next to runner-up Kaden McGuire.

Hernández beats Witt Jr. for HR Derby title

By STEPHEN HAWKINS AP Baseball Writer ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Los Angeles Dodgers' Teoscar Hernández won the Home Run Derby when he beat local star Bobby Witt Jr. of the Kansas City Royals 14-13 in the final round Monday night.

The 31-year-old Hernández hit 49 homers over three rounds that totaled 3.98 miles and became the first Dodgers player to win the derby. Kansas City has never had a winner.

Witt, needing one to tie with one out remaining, drove a ball to one of the deepest parts of the park in left-center, where it hit halfway up the wall.

Both finished their two-minute final round with 11 homers, before bonus swings were added. Witt came up short of his first two bonus swings, then hit two homers in a row — one a 457-foot drive that got him one more swing.

Witt was the No. 2 overall pick by the Royals in 2019 out of Colleyville Heritage High School, about 15 miles north of Globe Life Field.

LeafFilter advertisement featuring images of gutter cleaning, a coupon for 20% off and 10% off, and contact information: 1-877-361-4260.

Acculevel advertisement for foundation repair and waterproofing. Includes 'Before' and 'After' photos, a list of services, and contact number 877-229-0197.

Generac advertisement for home generators. Features an image of a generator unit and the slogan 'It's not just a generator. It's a power move.' with contact number 866-953-2203.

Agriculture 'Truly a game changer': Indiana ag leaders focus on farm bill impact

By MIA HILKOWITZ Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana agriculture and conservation leaders are urging U.S. Congress members to pass a new federal farm bill by the end of the year.

For Indiana — the seventh-largest agricultural exporter and ninth-largest farming state in the U.S. — the legislation could have wide ranging impacts. While many of the policies will impact the state's 94,000 farmers, the farm bill can also influence food supply, conservation efforts and food-assistance benefits for Hoosiers.

Congress usually reauthorizes a federal farm bill every five years. The current farm bill, which former President Donald Trump signed in December 2018, was supposed to expire in 2023, but was extended through Sept. 30, 2024. The legislation funds programs in 12 different areas including crop insurance, nutrition and rural development.

However partisan division has delayed the bill process, which is nearly a year behind schedule.

Brantley Seifers, national affairs director for the Indiana Farm Bureau, said his organization's main concern with the bill is making sure it gets approved this year.

"We've put a lot of work into this farm bill. Our members have been advocating for this farm bill for the better part of two years now," Seifers told the Indiana Capital Chronicle. "Making sure it gets done in this Congress and we don't settle with a further extension is going to be very important."

If Congress does not pass the federal farm bill by September, operations for some programs will stop completely or receive significantly less funding. However, some programs supported by the bill — including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and federal crop insurance — can still be funded by government appropriations.

Dan Boritt, executive director for the Indiana Wildlife Federation, also emphasized the importance of passing the legislation in 2024.

"If we aren't able to come to an agreement on a

farm bill, it would be catastrophic for conservation in the state of Indiana, and the entire country, frankly," he said. "Agriculture is a really, really, really difficult industry to be financially successful in and these dollars allow (farmers) to take those risks, to do good things on the land that benefit all of us."

Safety nets for Indiana farmers

The proposed House bill increases funding for specialty crops research, expands eligibility for disaster assistance, broadens safety net programs for farmers and encourages farmers to sell their products abroad, among other programs.

Seifers said he views the 2018 Farm Bill as a strong piece of legislation, which just needs tweaking. He said many of the INFB's priorities were included in the House's version of the bill.

"We're not looking for huge changes in that farm bill, but we are looking for updates to that farm bill," Seifers said. "You look at some portions of the bill that haven't been updated in a number of years, like the market access program and foreign market development program, both of those are still stagnant at 20 year levels."

Part of the \$1.5 trillion bill would support safety net programs and crop insurance for farmers. Seifers said

Indiana farmers can recover from flooding and other disasters with this funding.

"If you go to a bank for a loan on the farm, their first question is going to be 'what's your crop insurance,'" Seifers said. "Having that in place and having that be strong for our members, and flexible, is going to allow them to keep working."

Steve Howell, senior director of industry affairs for the Indiana Soybean Alliance and Indiana Corn Growers Association

Steve Howell, senior director of industry affairs for the Indiana Soybean Alliance and Indiana Corn Growers Association, supports these insurance programs. He said that many Indiana soybean and corn farmers are projecting lower prices for their crops, so the extra support is important.

"Not that it's all gloom and doom, but that is a reality that we're facing, and that's one reason we've been advocating to get a farm bill passed with additional safety net provisions or enhanced safety net provisions for our farmers," Howell told the Indiana Capital Chronicle.

As part of the bill's Price Loss Coverage and Agriculture Risk Coverage programs, farmers can receive financial support during periods of low market prices. Essentially, farmers can receive payments to

augment lost revenue if the market prices of their commodities drop below reference prices set by the farm bill. The House's farm bill increases the statutory reference price for corn from \$3.70 per bushel to \$4.10, and for soybeans from \$8.40 to \$10.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the price of Indiana corn per bushel in May 2024 decreased by \$1.89 from May 2023, and the price of soybeans decreased by \$2.60. The cost of producing the crops has also increased since 2021, according to Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

Todd Davis, chief economist for the INFB, said in an email statement a new farm bill that increases baseline funding for crop insurance would make these safety nets for farmers more affordable.

"The combination of declining prices with increasing costs has created a profitability environment where farmers are experiencing very tight, or negative, returns over production costs," Davis said. "Farmers protect revenue risk by purchasing crop insurance."

PowerProtect Standby Generators advertisement by Briggs & Stratton. Features an image of a generator and a 7-year warranty offer for \$849 value. Contact: 1-877-798-0270.

Agricultural Services Guide advertisement by National Oil & Gas, Inc. Includes 'Prompt Delivery' to homes, farms, and businesses, and contact information for area farmers: 824-0224 or 622-4108.

Friends and finances collide

Dear Annie: I'm in a tough spot. A close friend of mine, who I've been urging for years to save for a rainy day, is now facing a very real storm. She was diagnosed with breast cancer and is undergoing treatment.

and not someone in judges' robes.

Dear Annie: Lost, empty and brokenhearted — that's how I feel, and I really don't know how to go on.

I've been managing updates on her journey, but the truth is, she's always been impulsive with money, spending big bonus checks on gambling, cruises, cars, fancy restaurants and vacations rather than building a safety net.

Many friends and family, seeing her past lavish lifestyle, are reluctant to donate. It's heartbreaking to see her struggling, but on top of her illness, she's still indulging in these expensive habits, despite needing to save every penny.

I feel conflicted. On the one hand, I want to support her through this difficult time, but on the other, I can't condone her continued spending. I'm planning to distance myself from the GoFundMe, as it feels dishonest to beg for donations for someone who is not prioritizing her own financial recovery.

Dear Tough Spot: Your instinct is correct. If the GoFundMe page does not feel like the funds are going where they should be going, then distancing yourself is a good idea. At the same time, don't distance yourself from your friend emotionally.

My husband and I had just retired. It was our time to relax and enjoy ourselves. My husband worked hard all his life to support his family and to provide a good life for all of us.

Please, please let people know to keep their eyes on the road. My husband was the glue to this family. We are falling apart. My husband lost his life. I lost my husband.

I had to sell my RV, and I have nothing left. My whole life is upside down. We had plans and they are all gone. I miss him so much. We were married for 48 years.

The only thing I have now is \$250,000 of medical bills for less than 12 hours in the hospital. Every day I see people driving around while using their phones, not paying attention to the road.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM



Dear Annie by Annie Lane

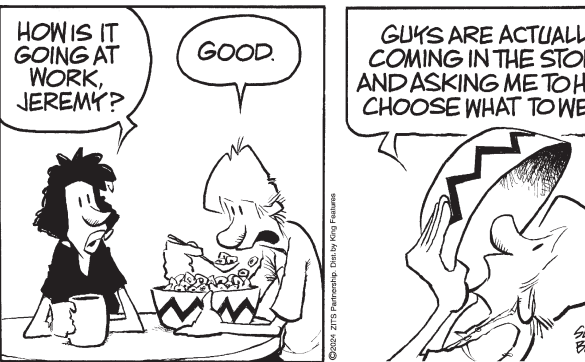
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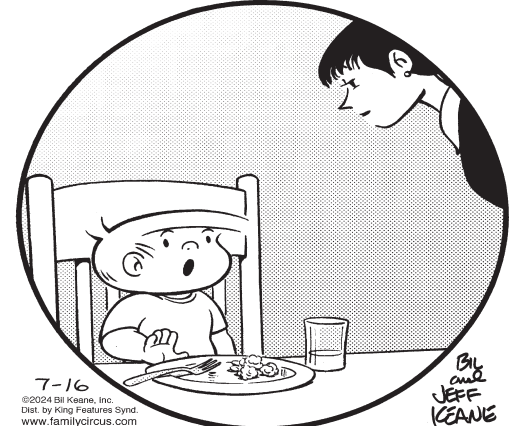


CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



My Answer



By Dr. Billy Graham

Choices are offered throughout the Bible

Baal. Before waiting for their reply, Joshua announced his choice, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15, NKJV).

Choices are offered throughout the Bible as they are throughout our lives. Repeatedly throughout the Scripture, God commands men and women to make those choices, but only after providing them with sufficient information so that people's choices will be informed ones.

We may say this is not fair, but this has always been. Consider truth in lending and truth in labeling laws; one cannot apply for a loan or buy a product in a supermarket without being furnished with certain information, necessary in making intelligent choices.

God has given us information about Himself, including His holiness, mankind's sinfulness, and God's provision for that sin through salvation found in Jesus Christ.

God has given scores of promises to people about what will happen if they accept His Word and what will happen if they do not. God said, "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God ... and the curse, if you do not obey ... . Be careful to observe all the statutes which I set before you today" (Deuteronomy 11:26-28, 32, NKJV).

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

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Question: Liberals and conservatives continue bickering about freedom of choice. It's an endless and unwinnable controversy; something for the talking heads to debate and a tiring subject that has no purposeful outcome. History shows that people are going to do what they want, so we might as well learn to live with it and move on to something that can be more profitable. - F.C.

Answer: We hear a lot about "freedom of choice" these days. The very word "choice" presupposes at least two alternatives. When Joshua asked the Israelites to "choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve," the choice he gave them was between God and the false god,

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 37 Caravan stops 22 "East of Eden"
1 Military force 38 Very small 3 Store boss (Abbr.) 23 Misfortunes
5 Weeps 40 In pain (Abbr.) 4 Alpine songs 24 Lost traction
12 Corporate symbol premium 5 Getz of jazz 26 Own ("up")
13 Tea 43 Spare tire? 6 Scraps 27 "Hum- it!"
14 "Feels so good!" 48 Pen filler 7 "Hum-bug!" 28 Actress Falco
15 Backyard attractions 49 Hybrid fruit 8 Methods 9 Depositor's records 29 Workout count
17 Code-breaking gp. 51 Vegas members 11 Compared to 31 Colorful beetle
18 Eternities 53 Really pestsers 16 Scary cry 34 Author Fleming
19 Memento 21 Casals resident times 25 Historic times 26 Cinema fan 30 Scepter brand 31 Jeans creation 32 Keats Impartial 33 Leave out 35 X-ray doses
DOWN 1 Cleric's garment 21 Andean land 38 Follow 39 Sicilian peak 40 Maintained 41 "Topaz" author 44 Conceit 45 NYC airport 46 Trail the pack 47 Gridiron stats

Solution time: 22 mins. Yesterday's answer 7-16

Table with crossword clues and grid numbers

TV schedule grid with columns for time slots (5 PM, 5:30, 6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30, 12 AM, 12:30) and channels.



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### EMPLOYMENT

#### Help Wanted

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

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

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### This Week's

## Garage Sales



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

**ESTATE SALE, THURS.,** July 18, 3-7 p.m., Fri., July 19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat., July 20, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 217 Elm Grove Rd., Bluffton. Furniture, home goods, jewelry, men's & women's clothes, & much more.

**FIVE FAMILY GARAGE SALE** 352 STILLWATER DR BLUFFTON, IN 46714 include men, women, and children clothes, shoes, toys, books, household and kitchen items, decor, lamps, furniture, outdoor items, and more! Jul. 19 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Jul. 20 8:00 AM-2:00 PM Rain or Shine

### THIS OUT!

PLACE A THREE day garage sale line classified ad in the Bluffton News-Banner and receive a free garage sale kit. Contact the office at 125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224, or [www.news-banner.com](http://www.news-banner.com) and click on classifieds.

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#### Campers/RV's

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## Public Sale Calendar

**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 Wolhuter, 260-336-2219, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177. Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, halderman.com, 800-424-2324.

**JULY 20 - 9 a.m. Real Estate, 9:30 Personal Property - Charles (Chuck) Bertsch Estate, owner.** 3898E 400N, Bluffton. 1 1/2 story, 2-bed-room home, 36x56 pole barn, 1 acre, Lancaster Township. Hit & Miss engines (Fairbanks Morse 5 hp, Fairbanks Morse 1 1/2 hp, more), oil well display, 25-30 long guns and pistols, ammo, drill press, mill, snowblowers, trailer, M80 Military hot water heater, chain saws, welders, industrial 3 phase motors, tandem bike, yard tools, hand tools, Dixon ZTR zero turn mower, garden tractors, rear tine tiller, more. Miz Lehman Realtors/Auctioneers, Berne, [www.mizlehman.com](http://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, Uniondale. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, Steffen Group, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 824-3006.

**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, Schradler Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., 800-451-2709, SchradlerAuction.com.

arms, long guns & hand guns, large selection of ammo, gun safe, Honda generator, hand tools, household items, lawn & garden, 300 lots of collectable vintage dollhouses, mini dollhouse furniture sets with accessories and much more! Preview July 25, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm Street, Decatur. Pick up July 29, 1-6 p.m., July 30, 9 a.m.-noon. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://kjauction.com).**

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

### Public Notice

**NOTICE**  
In accordance with Indiana Code 5-15-6-3 requiring prior notification to individuals when records will be destroyed:  
Notice to any individuals born in the year 2002, who received special education services in Adams and/or Wells Counties. Please contact Adams Wells Special Services no later than August 9, 2024 if you wish to receive copies of your special education records. All records requested for pick-up and not picked up and non-requested records for persons born in the year 2002 will be permanently destroyed after August 16, 2024. If you wish to request records, you must call (260)824-5880 to do so. Records must be picked up by the person who received services unless otherwise legally designated.  
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### Lottery Numbers

**Monday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
**Cash 5** — 01-03-09-18-31  
**Cash4Life** — 14-15-29-31-50, Cash Ball: 03  
**Quick Draw Midday** — 03-05-09-15-16-18-19-23-30-31-33-34-47-51-56-57-58-70-76-80, BE: 80  
**Daily Three-Midday** — 00-08-05, SB: 05  
**Daily Three-Evening** — 01-01-00, SB: 07  
**Daily Four-Midday** — 04-04-06-03, SB: 05  
**Daily Four-Evening** — 05-02-07-03, SB: 07  
**Quick Draw Evening** — 08-12-1318-23-29-32-34-35-37-52-54-55-57-58-61-62-66-71-78, BE: 52  
**Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$17.2 million  
**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$226 million  
**POWERBALL**  
09-31-39-40-45 Powerball: 23; Power Play: 3X

## SUDOKU

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

### King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★

7/16

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

## SELL YOUR STUFF!

All Classified Line Ads automatically appear on the News-Banner website at NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE!

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ADD A PHOTO  
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One item per ad

## GUARANTEED SOLD

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20 words **\$39**  
Add'l Lines: 88 cents each  
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Add'l Lines, 88 cents each

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Put your Garage Sale in Wells County's Easy-to-Use Garage Sale Guide!

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20 words **\$39**  
Add'l Lines: 88 cents each  
**ADD A PHOTO!**  
Your "Guaranteed Sold" ad (up to 20 words) with a Photo: \$44  
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**MISS WELLS COUNTY 2024**



Pictured are the candidates for this year's Miss Wells County and Miss Wells County Teen pageants. Above is, from left, Miss Wells County Eve McElhane, first runner-up Kammy Miller, second runner-up Karlie Brown and third runner-up RieAnn Krinn. At left is teen Miss Congeniality Sydney Soars, Miss Congeniality Cruz Rinkenberger, teen first runner-up Violet McClain, teen second runner-up Harlie Durham and Miss Teen Wells County Sophia Meeks. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



Above left, Sydney Soars hugs Miss Wells County Eve McElhane after her crowning. Kammy Miller smiles at right. Above right, Soars also hugs 2023 Miss Teen Wells County while receiving Miss Congeniality for the teen competition. Violet McClain and Kyah Boots applaud from behind.



After her teary-eyed farewell speech, 2023 Miss Wells County Grace Meeks receives flowers and a kiss from her dad, David Meeks.



Contestants heartily celebrate as Cruz Rinkenberger was recognized as Miss Congeniality for the Miss Wells County pageant. Cruz is shown at right in the above photo, and behind her are RieAnn Krinn, Kammy Miller (middle) and teen Miss Congeniality Sydney Soars (left).

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