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WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024

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Superintendent Brad Yates (left) shakes Bruce Holland's hand. (Photos by Sydney Kent)

BHMSD fills board vacancy, recognizes Holland's service

By SYDNEY KENT

New positions were in order for the board of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District on Monday evening following the resignation of former Board President Bruce Holland.

The Indiana School Board Association requires that a board vacancy be filled within 30 days. BHMSD's next scheduled meeting fell outside of the 30-day window, prompting the need for the special meeting on Monday.

Before exchanging a series of heartfelt handshakes-turned-hugs, Superintendent Brad Yates thanked Holland for his five and a half years of service on the board. Holland explained his decision was led by a recent move out of the district. He also expressed his gratitude to the board members for their time and work together, as well as his wife.

"I couldn't have done any of it without her,"



Preston Kaehr (left) is sworn in as a new board member.

Holland said. "Being school resource officer for 18 years and now on the school board, I could say my blood runs Bluffton Tiger blood. I love our school district, still do, and always will."

Holland's resignation left a vacant spot for the District 2 seat, which was filled by board Vice President Angie Sheets after unanimous approval from the board last month. On Monday, Sheets was officially voted into the position.

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Southern Wells considers designing quote for new gym

By HOLLY GASKILL

After many months of discussions, Southern Wells Community Schools may soon make its first steps in the process of building a new auxiliary gym.

On Tuesday, the board of trustees discussed a quote from Elevatus Architecture of Fort Wayne for designing a gym and managing construction. Emily Hower and Nik Vilamaa represented the architecture firm at the board meeting.

Elevatus quoted the project for two phases, with phase one largely being a "planning phase" of initial consulting and engineering work. Phase One was budgeted for \$200 per hour, not exceeding \$20,000.

Phase 2 of the project, as described in the Elevatus proposal, includes finalizing designs, assistance with bidding, and construc-

tion administration. This portion was not quoted due to the variables of project cost and delivery methods.

The board had previously met with representatives from Elevatus during a July 9 work session. The board also discussed a similar model with Performance Services of Indianapolis at a May 21 work session.

"I don't have any more questions, but I'm not sure I'm ready to approve this," board member Andrew Pursifull said, and board member Todd Fiechter agreed.

The group agreed to revisit the conversation at their Aug. 20 meeting.

Meanwhile, Superintendent Trent Lehman reported that summer updates are in full swing at

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Prospective Norwell, U.S. 224 four-way stop questioned

By HOLLY GASKILL

A potential four-way stop at Norwell Road and U.S. 224 became the center of contentious conversation at Monday's Wells County Commissioner meeting.

According to County Engineer Nate Whitacre, the Indiana Department of Transportation intends to place the four-way stop on July 29. The signs will include red flashing lights to draw attention to the stop and a potentially earlier slowdown within the school zone.

On Monday, Sheriff Scott Holiday said it was the first he had heard about the traffic change. Whitacre stated that INDOT had forgotten to notify county authorities.

The intersection has been the site of many crashes, particularly due to the traffic and student drivers from Norwell schools. Bob Park, who lives in the area of the intersection, expressed worries that a stop sign would not be enough for the intersection and could inhibit traffic flow. Park asked the commissioners if they

could have any input on the matter, particularly regarding changing plans to a lighted signal.

"I would like to know — how does county the county work with INDOT in the situation?" Park asked. "The county should have a say. As far as the cost of the light, there should be finances somewhere, either by state or by state and county ... I'm not here to condemn or confront, but to discuss and find the best alternatives here."

The commissioners stated they had also not been privy to the addition prior and shared similar hesitation. Commissioner Jeff Stringer said he knew traffic control of that intersection had been a long-time discussion and didn't understand why INDOT had just now jumped to add the stop sign.

Whitacre, who previously worked for INDOT, did not have a positive outlook on the situation. "I don't want to give you a false sense of hope and say that (requesting INDOT) could help

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City looks to purchase aerial fire truck, enters new PILOT agreement

By JONATHAN SNYDER

The Bluffton Common Council has approved the prospective purchase of a 2016 aerial fire truck on Tuesday.

Fire Chief Don Craig stated that the department looked for a truck fewer than 10 years old and in the \$700,000 to \$850,000 range. A fire department just outside Pittsburgh is looking to sell its truck.

Craig noted that while a broker did offer \$750,000 for the truck, the Pennsylvania department's desire to sell to another fire department keeps Bluffton in the running. Craig officially asked for \$850,000 from the capital cumulative fund earmarked for new truck purchases to pay for the truck, as well as any upgrades needed for current regulations.

Common Council Member Scott Mentzer noted that the city earmarked \$1.5 million for a new fire truck. Craig further clarified that the new aerial has similar

specifications to the truck they are replacing but with more horsepower. Craig also stated that the truck only has 2,260 miles, making it a "very gently used truck."

"The going rate on a new aerial right now is about \$2.5 million and a four-year lead time," Mentzer said.

The council approved an order not to exceed \$850,000 for the new truck.

Within the \$850,000, the council will pay \$1,000 to Mike Wilbur of Emergency Vehicle Response, who does equipment studies and truck inspections for the city, to inspect the new vehicle to ensure it's up to code. The official motion authorizes the \$1,000 to be spent, but the official purchase of the truck is still on hold pending EVR's recommendation.

"In today's climate, if you don't move and move fast, it will be gone," Craig said.

Craig also asked that \$90,000 in LOIT funds be allocated for new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses. He noted that the current equipment has reached the end of its service life and proposed a couple of financing options to help pay for the new SCBAs.

One of the options included a down payment option, making the yearly cost cheaper. All options had a 5.89% interest rate for financing, which Council Member Chandler Gerber noted as "several percentage points lower" than most other items currently. Mentzer clarified that their approval ensures that the money will be set aside as a line item once it is time to budget out for the new year and that the down payment number could change with further input.

Bluffton also entered into a new PILOT agreement for Biggs Dustman LP, which is offering to

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\$47,200 approved for Lancaster Park needs

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Due to the Lancaster Park project's parking lot not drying out sufficiently, the Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety has approved a change order to complete cement stabilization.

Parks Department Superintendent Brandy Fiechter stated that while the center dried nicely, the edges did not. Fiechter stated that the funding will come from a split between the department budget and the capital cumulative fund. The change order totals \$47,200.

Fiechter also noted that the cement stabilization process is weather-dependent and that Wayne

Asphalt must contract another company to perform the process, meaning the stabilization could be a longer process than expected.

"They (Wayne Asphalt) made it sound like it wasn't going to be terribly far out, but I don't know," Fiechter said.

The park has been closed since the beginning of May for the construction.

Additionally, Bluffton NOW! staff member Audrey Dudley requested that the 100 block of West Market Street from Main Street to Johnson Street be closed from 5-10 p.m. on Aug. 8. Dudley

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Outside

Storms continue but good weather coming soon

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 81	High 74	High 77
Low 56	Low 54	Low 57

More Weather on Page 2

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BHMSD

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Sheets' move from District 2 appointee left a vacancy for the at-large position on the board. One person applied to fill the spot.

"I'm excited about the person that came forward," board member Mike Murray said shortly before the vote. "I'm looking forward to our new member coming on board. I think he has a wealth of knowledge and has kids in our district — that's always a plus too."

"He does bring to the table several pieces and experiences we maybe don't have yet," Sheets added. "He is very welcome."

Preston Kaehr was unanimously voted in as the new member. Kaehr will finish the at-large term through Dec. 31. Kaehr is also the only candidate on the general election ballot for the seat.

Trent White was voted in as the new vice president, with Julie Thompson filling the spot for board secretary.

In other news, Yates announced that the district has maintained a job posting to fill the slot for the middle school business education teacher. At this time, the district is broadening its scope to allow adjunct teachers to apply. Yates also announced two additional adjunct teacher positions: a fifth-grade science teacher and an elementary library services teacher.

Yates explained that the



Preston Kaehr stands with his wife and children, who were present at the meeting. (Photos by Sydney Kent)

district hopes to fill all three positions with either a qualified teacher or an adjunct teacher before the start of the school year.

The board thanked Bluffton-Harrison Elementary School teacher Staci Hunt for donating a player piano to the elementary school.

They also expressed gratitude to Michael Vandervolk, Kyan Harris, and Yates for their participation in the 4-H obstacle course Saturday night. Their efforts helped raise \$1,900



Angie Sheets (right) embraces Bruce Holland in a hug.

for the Friday food bag program which provides food to students each Friday throughout the school year.

The next BHMSD board meeting is at 6 p.m. on July 22.

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Southern Wells new gym

(Continued from Page 1)

the schools, including painting, deep cleaning and general repairs. Updates to the parking lot are approximately halfway complete and the track will be resurfaced in August. The school is hopeful but not certain the resurfacing will be complete by the football season.

Lehman stated the district is still in need of a junior high science teacher, custodian and speech pathologist for the upcoming year. Online registration for the upcoming school year begins this week.

Also Tuesday, the board approved a series of state-mandated changes regarding truancy and phones in the student handbook. Board member Delora Schneider emphasized that some of these would be a significant adjustment for students and families — like that students must be present for the full school day, unless otherwise excused, to participate in extracurricular activities.

The board also approved:

- A loan resolution to purchase a bus.
- Resignations from former third grade teacher Alaina Denny and junior high football coaches Mark Rickerd and Ron Cherry.
- Employment recommendations for Angelana Carter as third grade teacher; Justin Lengerich as fifth grade teacher; Michael Smith as a high school English teacher, yearbook, football assistant coach, and weight lifting coordinator; Blake Blaker as a high school social studies teacher and varsity head football coach; Sara Scott as Secondary Art Exhibit sponsor and Junior Class sponsor; Jordan Caldwell, Terrance Grover and Trevor Bower as high school assistant football coaches, Katireana Harris and Heather Robles for junior high volleyball coaches and Doug Paxson as junior high football coaches.
- Fundraisers for Business Professionals of America to host a cupcake decorating class on Aug. 31, boys' basketball to sell pork burgers at home football games, Southern Wells Jr./Sr.

High School to host spirit events all year, and FFA to sell shirts from Aug. 9 to Sept. 6, sell chicken BBQ tickets from Sept. 2-27, host a labor auction on Sept. 11, and sell fruit and beef sticks from Oct. 1 to Nov. 18.

• Donations from Lowe's for negative lunch balances, Reber Peels for the senior trip fund, and in memory of Jim Huffman for the archery club and in memory of Molly Beavans for the high school athletic fund and specifically golf and basketball programs.

• A facility use request from the BUD's Program to use the elementary cafeteria on Wednesdays from September through April for the 2024-25 school year.

• Trip requests for FFA to visit Trafalgar, Indiana, Oct. 4-6 for SOAR Camp, southern Indiana Oct. 10-12 for State Soils, Indianapolis Oct. 23-26 for National Convention, and Trafalgar Nov. 8-10 for FIRE Camp.

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Four-way stop

(Continued from Page 1)

— I think we are free to make a request like that," Whitacre said. "But after the discussion I had with the district office this afternoon, it sounds to me like this has been evaluated, it flat-out doesn't meet the criteria for signal, (and) therefore, there will not be a signal."

Whitacre specifically mentioned that INDOT would've considered the amount of traffic through the area. To this, Nathan Stauffer, Bluffton, questioned whether it was a fair

judgment from INDOT if they were not accounting for school year traffic.

While not positive about the likelihood of it changing, Whitacre said he believed there could be some flexibility as the project was likely being handled by the local INDOT office.

Holliday then referenced a 2007 crash on S.R. 1 and S.R. 218, where a Berne couple died, and people petitioned legislators to change the intersection from stop signs at just the east and west side to

all four ways. "The traffic flow there isn't astronomical either," he said.

Stringer favored this idea and said he would discuss the matter with State Rep. Matt Lehman and Sen. Travis Holdman.

Angie Topp and Gene Donaghy, board members for Norwell Community Schools, told the commissioners they had learned about the stop earlier this summer. While they were both glad a change was coming, Donaghy was also uncertain about the best

method.

"I would be real concerned about putting a stop light there, just because truckers are coming down and ... just blow right through it (a yellow light)," Donaghy said.

"I would be happy to coordinate with INDOT to make sure we have advance notice signage or maybe some flashing-type signage to get drivers' attention to make sure they're aware for the first couple of weeks," Whitacre added.

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Lancaster Park needs

(Continued from Page 1)

stated that the expected traffic increase for Bluffton NOW!'s Music on the Plaza event draws safety concerns for the organization, and the board approved the closure.

Bluffton Free Street Fair Manager Nathan Stauffer also requested the establishment of temporary handicapped parking spaces over Street Fair weekend. Stauffer requested four to six parking spots in the public lot on East Market Street, across from City Hall, which the board approved.

Three fund transfers were also

approved by the board. The 911 dispatch department transferred \$20,000 from its wages line item to its overtime line item. 911 Supervisor Mike Miller stated that the transfer is needed due to their current staff shortage, with Miller noting that he has two other members in training.

"Eventually, we're going to catch up," Miller said.

The police department will move \$26,000 from its wages line item to its FICA/Medicare line item. Police Chief Kyle Randall stated that a miscalculation in the initial budget plans forced

the transfer.

The board also moved \$45,000 from the fire department's wages line item to its overtime line item. Fire Chief Don Craig said that the need to have six members on shift at all times, combined with the low staff numbers, created the need. Craig also stated that he hopes this transfer will cover the department for the rest of the year.

Additionally, Assistant Supervisor Todd Durham, who works in the Sewer Collections Department, was given a \$1 hourly raise by the board.

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Weather

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:40 p.m. Tuesday at the Fort Wayne International Airport)

High: 82; Low: 69; Precipitation: 0.05 inches of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.61 feet at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday

Wells County forecast

Today: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 9 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 81. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 56. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 74. North wind around 5 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 77.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 57.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 80.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 80.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62.

Monday: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 82.

Monday Night: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Tuesday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 81.

Aerial fire truck

(Continued from Page 1)

build and operate 36 single-family dwelling units on a portion of land off Dustman Road, next to Hope Missionary Church. The units will be under a lease-to-purchase system, meaning that after 15 years, homeowners can choose to buy the property.

President and General Manager of Biggs Dustman LP Kevan Biggs presented the development to the council, stating that a personal goal plan for each resident will be a part of the lease to help renters prepare for home ownership. This plan includes credit counseling meetings, home ownership training meetings and other community service aspects, with the hopes of having a 100% conversion from renting to purchasing at the end of 15 years.

"That education component is so important," Gerber said. "The opportunity to buy a home for 50% of what it's actually worth ... I would like to see as close to 100% success rate as we can find on that."

Biggs stated that the development will also have a community garden, a fenced-in dog park, a dog washing station and open-air pavilion and grill stations. Once enough renters have purchased their properties, Biggs will implement a Homeowners Association, which will keep the community areas funded.

Biggs further clarified that all the homes can be easily converted for full accessibility for people under the American Disability Services Act. While four homes are planned to

be fully compliant at launch, the others will be adaptable to the requirements.

Additionally, the council also heard a presentation from a new Christmas Light Committee, which is seeking to purchase new Christmas lights for the city. The committee noted that two fundraisers are scheduled for July, a golf outing at Wabash Valley in Geneva on July 27 and a car show on July 28. Larry Peeper, who presented the committee's progress, further noted that they received a \$15,000 grant for the lights they are trying to match.

The new lights the committee is looking at weigh less than the old ones and are LED lights, meaning they should last longer. Peeper noted that when they bought the current set of lights, the thought was they would last five or six years, and they have now lasted over 25 years. Peeper feels that their funding goal of \$60,000 could be met by next year.

The committee is still looking for donations from the council, which they were receptive to. While no official commitment was made, Mentzer challenged each council member to sponsor one light post, with Council Member Rick Elwell immediately responding, saying "I'm in!"

Additionally, Jackson Studebaker Investment Group was granted a waiver of noncompliance, as they did not turn in their CF-1 tax abatement continuation form on time. They have since done so and will continue to receive abatements.

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Let the Games Begin

Be sure and get your copy of the Wells County 2024 4-H Scrapbook

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Week of August 6

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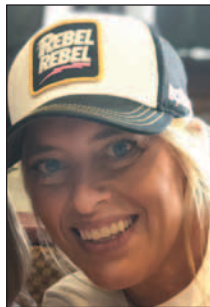
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OBITUARIES

Cammy Jo Onweller, 53

Cammy Jo Onweller, 53, of Tampa, formerly of Bluffton, passed away Wednesday, July 10, 2024, in Tampa, Fla.



Cammy was born June 23, 1971 in Bluffton to Terry L. Onweller and Sally J. (Wolfcale) Welker. Living by the motto "Life is Good," Cammy graduated from Bluffton High School in 1989, then attended International Business College and earned a degree in Secretarial Science. She was able to live in various places, loving New Hampshire and most recently working in Tampa. Cammy was an executive assistant for Labcorp. She was known for her bold personality, fierce convictions and organizational skills. She was an avid IU fan, she enjoyed art, music, live concerts and her dog, Rocco. She loved her family passionately and adored her nieces and nephew.

She will be remembered by her mother, Sally (Mark) Welker; her brother Clay (Kristen) Onweller; and her nieces and nephew, Haley and Macy Onweller, and Emmersyn, Everett and Evie Onweller; along with extended Wolfcale and Welker family members.

She is preceded in death by her father, Terry and a brother, Cory.

A celebration of Cammy's life will take place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Memorials may be made in Cammy's honor to Hopeful Paws, which is part of A Promised Land Animal Rescue in Florida and can be directed to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home. Friends can send online condolences to the Onweller family at www.thomarich.com.

Edward Dale Thompson, 81

Edward Dale Thompson, 81, of Berne and formerly of Bluffton, passed away Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at his residence.

Edward was born in Bluffton on Jan. 27, 1943, to Donald R. and Wanneta Mae (Gallimore) Thompson.

Survivors include two sons, Edward E. Thompson of Fort Wayne, and Robert (Cherrene) Thompson of Bluffton; a brother William E. Thompson of Bluffton; along with six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Edward was preceded in death by a son, Johnny Wayne Thompson; a daughter, Vicki Lynn Thompson; three brothers, Joy Thompson, Jerry Thompson and Kenny Thompson; and three sisters, Betty Thompson, Donna Thompson and Jean Perry.

In accordance with Edward's wishes, there will be no public services. Burial will take place at a later date.

Goodwin - Cale and Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton has been entrusted with the funeral arrangements.

Balina Prater, 72

Balina Prater, 72, of Bluffton, passed away on Tuesday morning, July 16, 2024, at Stillwater Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Funeral arrangements are currently pending with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Police Notebook

County:
Monday, 12:37 p.m., 2700 West Rock Hill Lane, Zanesville. Report of older man that seemed lost.

Monday, 2:30 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Reagan Schorey.

Monday, 9:55 p.m., 400 East and River Road, Bluffton. Caller reported he struck a stop sign and drove home before calling, which seems like the time to do that. Highway department notified.

Tuesday, 1:15 a.m., 200 block of South Jefferson Street. Report of tree in roadway. Officer stood by for three hours directing traffic until INDOT removed tree.

Tuesday, 1:27 a.m., South Hoosier Highway and 400 South, Bluffton. Report of a limn in the lane. Tree, not human.

Tuesday, 4:30 a.m., 1100 North and 100 West, Mar- kle. Removal of trash and boxes in road.

Tuesday, 4:44 a.m., 300 West and 700 North, Mar- kle. Report of large tree limbs blocking road.

Tuesday, 6:06 a.m., 300 South and South Meridian Road, Bluffton. Report of a

flashing stop sign down.
Tuesday, 9:37 a.m., 1100 South and S.R. 3, Montpelier. Report of two loose cows.

Ossian:
Tuesday, 4:50 a.m., 900 North and Meridian Road. Another tree down.

Tuesday, 4:51 a.m., 550 North and 100 East. More tree stuff.

Tuesday, 7:15 a.m., 200 block of South Ogden Street, Ossian. Tree again, but also wires.

Tuesday, 11:02 a.m., S.R. 1 and 400 North. Officer assisted motorist with jump start.

ARRESTS
Reagan Elizabeth Schorey, 31, Bluffton; possession of narcotic drug and possession of methamphetamine, both Level 5 felonies, and possession of a narcotic drug and possession of a scheduled substance, both Level 6 felonies, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$35,000.

Daniel Alton Boyer, 40, Ossian; operating while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$500.

Downtown Hoedown Friday at The Plaza

Business specials in downtown Bluffton on Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. will include these:

Toppings: Design your Boots Coloring Pages Contest with winner to receive \$5 gift card to Toppings. (Photo backdrop and open until 10 p.m.)
Tienda La Kitty: Photo backdrop.

American Salvage Co.: 20% off vintage clothing including western wear shirts, fun western gift package free with purchase and hoedown music.

Fraction: Giveaway, dressing country with hoedown music while you shop.
Unique Blue Bar & Grill: Food and drink feature.

Magnolia Grace: Each \$30 spent earns and entry to win a \$50 floral arrangement.
Billy Anns: Hoedown special of 8 oz. BBQ chicken east served with baked beans, Cole slaw and corn on the cob for \$19 with Hoe Down punch in a mason jar for \$10.

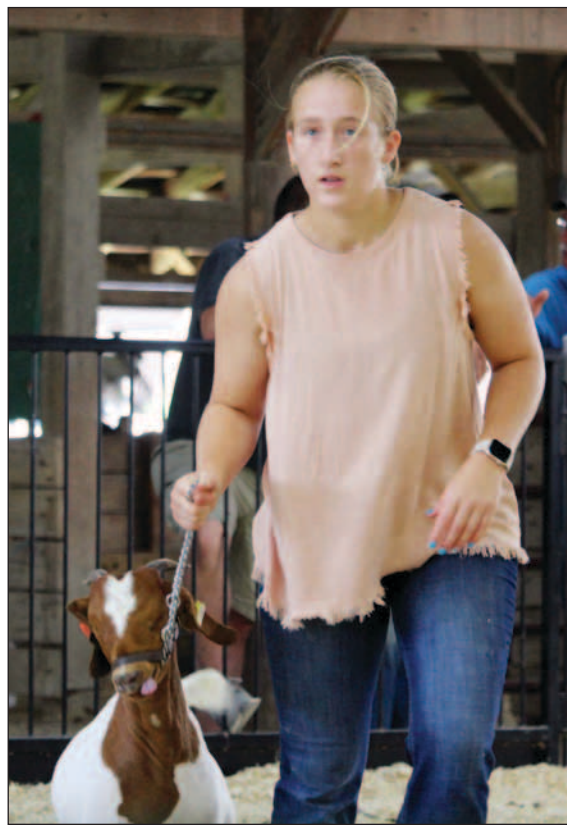
Parlor City Plaza
(5:30 p.m. through concert intermission)
Sunny Vibes Soaps
KookieNow by Shay
Daner Made Designs
ShoeShiner
Community Partner: Family Centered Services with Cactus Ring Toss
Food Truck (King Arthurs Paddywagon): 6 p.m.
Beer Truck: (The Hideaway serving beer & wine slushies).
Concert-7-10 p.m.
Rylie Lynn & the Rylie Lynn Band.
Intermission: Wells County Line Dancing with instructor Ally Miller

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Show season

Charlene Felger (above) and Makenzie Fuess (right) show their meat goats Tuesday at the fairgrounds. Felger took home Champion Beginner Meat Goat Showman. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



Pictured in the photo from left are Trent Bucher of Honegger, Ringger & Co., Rachel Reinhard of the Wells County Chamber of Commerce, Chris Santana of Phantom Lines Tattoo LLC, Ben Renkenberger of the United Way of Wells County, Nathaniel McCullough of Phantom Lines Tattoo LLC, John Stauffer of WEG, Harry Boggs of Phantom Lines Tattoo LLC, Robert Vanover of Premier Clock and Vacuum Service LLC, Destiny Boggs of Phantom Lines Tattoo LLC, Kevin Sills of Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, April Schmalz of Phantom Lines Tattoo LLC, Heather Morgan of National Oil & Gas and Wells County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Erin Prible. (Photo submitted)

Chamber hosts ribbon cutting ceremony for new business, Phantom Lines Tattoo, LLC

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassadors were thrilled to welcome Phantom Lines Tattoo, LLC to Bluffton with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at their new location at 201 W Market St.

Destiny Boggs, along with her husband Harry, opened Twisted Lines in Huntington in 2021 and shared their excitement about opening their second location in Bluffton, Phantom Lines Tattoo LLC. Destiny introduced her team, including artists Nate McCullough and Chris Santana, and piercer April Schmalz, expressing their collective passion for creating a welcoming and family-friendly environment. Phantom Lines Tattoo offers a variety of services including tattooing, body piercing, and the sale of body jewelry.

"We saw a need for a more inviting and people-friendly tattoo and piercing shop in Bluffton," said Destiny. "I've always loved the warm and welcoming nature of the people here. With our team having roots in this community, we felt it was the perfect place to expand."

The shop has undergone significant renovations to create a comfortable and aesthetically pleasing space, inspired by the Phantom of the Opera. Chris, one of the artists, has contributed to the

shop's unique artwork and décor. "We wanted to give the space an old theater vibe, with textured walls and darker colors."

Phantom Lines Tattoo, LLC aims to be a place where everyone feels welcome, regardless of their background. They prioritize cleanliness, safety, and a supportive environment for all clients, especially families with young children. Harry added, "We want to make sure that people feel comfortable here, whether they're getting a tattoo, piercing, or just visiting. Our focus is on providing top-notch service and creating a welcoming atmosphere for everyone."

Looking ahead, Phantom Lines Tattoo, LLC has exciting plans to further integrate into the community. They are exploring the idea of offering scholarships for local high school seniors pursuing art-related fields. "We want to support young artists in their educational journey, whether it's traditional drawing, graphic arts, or any other form of art," Destiny said. "College is expensive, and we hope to ease that burden a bit for aspiring artists."

In addition to their commitment to education, Phan-

tom Lines Tattoo plans to continue their involvement in community events and support local causes. "We're excited to bring the same community spirit we've cultivated in Huntington to Bluffton," Destiny shared. "Whether it's hosting raffles, participating in local events, or supporting charitable causes, we want to give back

to the community that has welcomed us so warmly."

Phantom Lines Tattoo is open for walk-ins and appointments, with hours varying throughout the week. For more information, visit them on Facebook, or check out their location at 201 W Market St, Bluffton, contact them at (260) 530-0340 for appointment details.

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

Auction preview Friday July 19th 4-6 pm
Miz Lehman Realtors/Auctioneers
Berne In 260-589-2903

Seeking Reaganism without Reagan

Each month a handful or two of conservative friends gather to discuss a predetermined topic chosen the previous month. We have the conceit of calling our group Socratic but I suspect Socrates would not grade us favorably should he chance onto one of our meetings.

We do try to use the Socratic method, though, mainly by timing each speaker to a limit of three minutes and preventing interruptions. We theoretically come prepared by contemplating the month's provocation and several suggested Socratic questions. We also receive a reading list of news reports, journal articles and topical books.

Followup questions are prioritized over opinions. It works, sort of, as we all leave amicably and better informed on the topic of the month.

In June, we considered the question of whether it is possible for a return to Reaganism without Ronald Reagan's personal leadership. Can we have Reaganism without Reagan?

We began with an attempt to define what is meant by Reaganism. We all lived through his presidency and were supportive both of his substance and of his style. We acknowledged that our recollection of an idyllic time four decades ago may be enhanced by the human predilection to wallow in nostalgia.

So what stood out with Ronald Reagan? We came up with a rather long list but it can be distilled into these three character traits: his resoluteness in defending his principles, his optimism about the future of America and his ability to communicate his vision to the voting public.

Reagan had a real-world education in the struggle between liberty and tyranny when he served as president of the Hollywood actors union. He refined this education during his tenure as an itinerant speaker for General Electric, developing principles that were not simply political stances but the bedrock foundation of what he believed. His presidency was one of standing firm on principles but willing to compromise on the details.

He believed that America's love of liberty would triumph over the evil empire of the Soviet Union. Almost no one else, including many in his administration, thought we could win the Cold War. Their strategy of playing for a tie, known as mutually assured destruction, was abhorrent to Reagan. He knew we could win and never wavered.

How he maintained his optimism against all those naysayers is beyond my ability to understand. But he did. Anyone with an open mind could not help but listen to him and feel spirits uplifted during those dark times. It was "Win one for the Gipper" writ large. Americans were ready for someone who gave us pep talks. His 1984 reelection theme of "It's morning again in America" said it well. He won by a landslide.

Yes, he was the president of the United States. Yes, he was a Hollywood actor. Yes, he owned a valuable ranch in southern California. Yet none of these were a source of disconnect for middle America. He had a preternatural understanding of how we think and an uncanny ability to convince us that he was with us.

What stands out with Ronald Reagan was his character. In fact Peggy Noonan's history of the Reagan presidency was titled "When Character Was King: A Story of Ronald Reagan." He said what he believed and it clearly came from his heart. He didn't pander to our basest instincts. Those to the left of him in ideology could disagree with his political philosophy and with his legislative agenda but they couldn't dismiss him; he was just too hard to dislike after getting to know him. Political opponents, including an initially antagonist D.C. media, soon realized that. Reagan was charming in person and eloquent in public speaking. His sense of humor was one not seen in the White House since John Kennedy.

One example of the his genuine humanity was his relationship with Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill. Someone who relied on newspaper headlines or 30 second TV sound bites can be forgiven for thinking they were implacable foes. They certainly had their differences but still maintained a civil personal relationship, one that clearly was based on friendship.

The story is well known how Reagan would phone the Speaker's office after the House adjourned to invite O'Neill to stop by the residence, the second floor of the White House used by the First Family as their private quarters. A cocktail or two and who knows how many political deals were cut.

Compare this relationship with that between Donald Trump and Nancy Pelosi and one can only despair how far civility in Washington . . . and elsewhere . . . has fallen.

I'm a conservative so I can be excused for fondly looking back to the good old days. I miss Ronald Reagan's resolution, optimism and humor. And I don't expect to see this trifecta repeated in the 2025 White House.

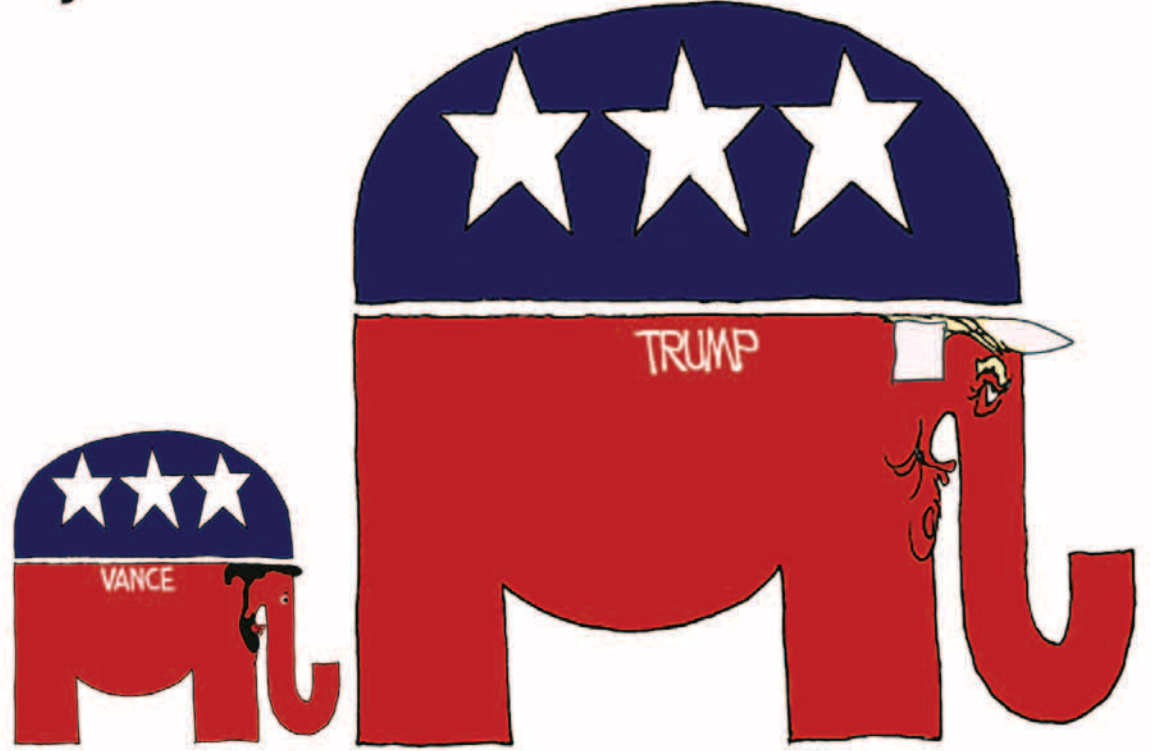
Mark Franke, an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review, is formerly an associate vice chancellor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.



Mark Franke

Hoosier Opinions

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Cartoons.com



With Vance, Trump has selected a standard-bearer of MAGA politics

Gunfire prompted the president to recommend turning down the rheostat on political rhetoric, a welcome thought from someone who in 2012 — before Donald Trump normalized enveloping grotesque lies in scabrous language — told an audience, including many African Americans, that Republicans will "put y'all back in chains." So, perhaps President Biden will end his pattern of wretched excesses, such as:

Calling mild changes to Georgia's voting laws "Jim Crow 2.0" and "voter suppression" (they presaged 2022's high Georgia voter turnout) favored by people "on the side of" secessionists and segregationists. And charging that those who, in supporting his 2020 opponent, threatened "the very foundations of our Republic." And warning that the Jan. 6 rabble that delayed a congressional process for a few hours held "a dagger at the throat of our democracy." And on and on. Untalented speechwriters produce such rubbish; unworthy politicians proclaim it.

By his rhetorical and policy extravagances, Biden has made himself into a president against whom the nation recoils as strongly as it does against his similarly reckless predecessor — who, unless the Democratic Party acts, is Biden's likely successor. Biden's party should, and might yet, retire him. Nothing less would demonstrate that Democrats are experiencing episodes of sincerity when they warn that another Trump presidency would be even more dangerous than embarrassing.

The key danger is Trump's advertised ambition to wield unilateral, unconstrained executive authority even more aggressively than his successor has done. (See Biden's student loan forgiveness, immigration law changes, ban-by-increments of vehicles with internal combustion engines, and on and on.) If voters give Trump a chance to intensify the bipartisan drive for presidential grandiosity, the principal defender of the Constitution's architecture — the separation of powers — will be the federal judiciary.

And especially the Supreme Court, which progressives, in agitation of astonishing shortsightedness, have been trying to delegitimize with, for example, solemn hand-wringing about a justice's spouse doing something foolish with a flag. The judiciary is the "least dangerous" branch (Alexander Hamilton, Federalist 78) because, having neither the power of the sword nor the purse, its strength is in the deference produced by the prestige that comes from public confidence that it reasons judicially rather than politically.

Progressives are rallying around Biden because they



George Will

probably hope he will remain pliable because of their rallying. And they are railing against the court as a political rather than judicial institution. Trying to nominate an anemic candidate while weakening the court is a recipe for producing a rampant Trump presidency.

Signaling his intention to double down on expanding the MAGA movement, Trump has chosen a running mate who has an aptitude for conversions, and a convert's pugnacity. J.D. Vance voiced contempt for Trump until a road-to-Damascus moment, perhaps related to his ambition to become a Trump-blessed Senate candidate. Five years ago, he converted to

Catholicism. If suburban women blanch because he once defended an abortion ban without exceptions for rape or incest (he said the question "is whether a child should be allowed to live even though the circumstances of that child's birth are somehow inconvenient or a problem to the society"), he can explain that he has had another conversion.

Vance embodies the serrated edge of MAGA politics. He checks many boxes of fealty, from praising a favorite of "national conservatives," Hungary's autocrat, Viktor Orbán, to what Vance delicately calls "the post-2020 thing": He says there should have been "alternative slates of electors" to force a Jan. 6 debate on whether the election was stolen. This counts as MAGA moderation.

Trump reportedly thinks the Ohio senator's beard makes him look like "a young Abraham Lincoln." (Lincoln grew his beard after the 1860 election, at age 51.) It is unlikely that Vance, a rhetorical brawler in the running mate tradition of Richard M. Nixon in 1960 and Spiro Agnew in 1968, has Lincoln's ameliorative instincts. ("We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies"; "With malice toward none....")

Last Saturday's gunfire in Pennsylvania unleashed an epidemic of sociology in the service of the modern instinct to identify social causes for disturbing individual acts. Tentativeness, although unfashionable, is, however, advisable when ascribing a particular act to promptings from the social atmosphere. Still, imagine a happier, safer nation if cable news and social media ax-grinding disappeared for even just a month.

"And silence, like a poultice, comes to heal the blows of sound." So said Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., who heard the sound of gunfire — before, during and after Antietam — in times darker than these.

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What does Vance mean for the GOP's future?

Donald Trump's decision to make Sen. J.D. Vance (R-Ohio) his running mate is significant not just because he will be his ticket-balancing, ribbon-cutting sidekick, but also because the former president has sharply changed the direction of the party — and is now trying to consolidate it into its enduring future form. Given that Trump is 78,

there is also an unusually high risk that Vance will actually end up sitting in the Oval Office sometime in the next four years.

So I asked my colleagues Ramesh Ponnuru and Jason Willick: What does this choice mean for the future of the party?

Jason Willick: Vance, at 39, is exactly half Trump's age. Definitely a generational change, but one that signifies a continuity in terms of the party's trajectory toward populism and noninterventionism. Another observation: Since the assassination attempt, Trump has been sending signals about the importance of unity. The Vance pick doesn't project unity either within the party or outside it; it reassures the base that his campaign will remain aggressive and confrontational.

Ramesh Ponnuru: No vice-presidential nominee has had a more meteoric rise since Richard Nixon. Trump's selection of Vance helps to show just how willing the former is to let bygones be bygones: It's hard to imagine any other nominee, in either party, picking someone who had once compared him to Hitler. It also, as Megan suggests, means that



Megan McCordle

not only does Trump have an heir, but so does Trumpism, which Vance is developing into an actual vision of governance and not just a set of impulses.

Jason: As much as we project ideological significance onto the pick, it's important to remember that Vance has been ideologically flexible in the past.

Ramesh: I think Vance's evolution is both sincere and motivated. That is, he had obvious political incentives to become a Trump fan, but that shift corresponded with some preexisting views and traits of his. And, over time, people have a way of persuading themselves that what they're saying is right — and indeed that they should go further.

Megan: The fact that Trump is not very interested in policy detail will presumably give him more scope than most vice presidents get.

Jason: Yes, I would expect Vance to have a significant policy shop in the White House. Can we talk, though, about whether a Vance pick makes a second Trump White House more or less likely?

Megan: Sure, what are your thoughts? A MAGA White male is not exactly a ticket-balancer. But does it matter?

Jason: I think this choice was a political mistake. Just about everything has broken Trump's way in the last few weeks from a political and polling perspective, but the election is not locked up. I think Vance will be an easy target for opposition ad-makers, and he will spook some Republican donors. Some of the other

people floated could have yielded a political and fundraising dividend that Vance won't.

Ramesh: I think the selection indicates how confident Trump is of victory, and how much he is looking for loyalty in his next administration. Veeps make a difference only if they are catastrophic mistakes, and Vance seems unlikely to be one.

Jason: For all the conventional wisdom that VP picks don't matter politically, in this election there will, at the very least, be disproportionate attention on Kamala Harris (because of President Biden's frailty and the still-extant possibility that she could replace him). That alone elevates the importance of the second spot on the ticket, in my opinion.

Megan: Yeah, I have to wonder if "veeps don't matter" is empirically true in the usual circumstances of "not having a septuagenarian running against an octogenarian," but maybe not this year.

Ramesh: Expectations are going to be high for Vance going into his debate with Harris, but I think he is much faster on his feet and should acquit himself well.

Megan: I suspect you're right, Ramesh, not just because he's pretty quick on his feet, but because in debates where Harris has been under pressure, she has underperformed. It turns out that being a prosecutor teaches you to ask questions effectively, but not necessarily to answer them.

Jason: Harris overperformed in the 2020 debate against Mike Pence, at least from my perspective. But Vance is definitely quite intelligent and likely to be a good debater.

Follow Megan McCordle @asymmetricinfo on X

The News-Banner

(USPS 059-200)

Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929

News-Banner Publications, Inc.

George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board
Doug Brown, President, Publisher
Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714. Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

Holly Gaskill, Editor
Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

My take on a few shorts, bits and pieces

Demons of Unrest

I am just finishing Erik Larson's excellent book, *The Demons of Unrest*. This is a historical telling of the election of Abraham Lincoln and the runup to the beginning of the Civil War. The book demonstrates many similarities in the divisions among the population then as now. It does not suggest that

we are headed for another such armed conflict, but the common elements of distrust and disagreement are clearly in place.

Though elected, the months from Lincoln's election and his inauguration were fraught with danger as he was under constant threat of assassination. Lincoln was hated throughout the south and viewed as a threat to their very way of life. The south, with

its paternalistic and chivalrous culture viewed Lincoln, and all who mocked and disparaged slavery, as weak and feckless men. I believe today abolitionists and their ilk would be defined as "woke," or weak men left vulnerable due to their sympathetic natures.

The book centers around Fort Sumpter in the Charleston Bay and the characters who defined the conflict where the Civil War would begin. In many ways we struggle with the same issues today regarding diversity, equality, and inclusion. Lincoln himself was wildly criticized from all sides for his fumbled leadership and lack of success in quelling the great divide. The important message is that through his struggles, Lincoln prevailed in history. His image and legacy are clearly aligned with all that is good. He overcame his doubters and preserved the Union. God bless Abraham Lincoln. How



will our current set of conflicts be viewed in history? The struggle continues.

School Board and Rainbows

At least one of our local school board candidates has stated his concerns for teachers, or a teacher for, allegedly, having worn a rainbow (ROYGBIV) colored shirt in, what we could all come to agree on, a deep-state like attempt to promote the LGBTQ agenda. I'm glad to see someone is on top of this issue.

I would suggest that an even more insidious plot could be in the works as some teachers might wear one color per day for 7 days as an even deeper-state attempt to show love and support for our LGBTQ neighbors. The great difficulty will be the judgment calls that need to be made when a potential offender gets to the blue, indigo, violet end of the spectrum, as differences here tend to be subtle. We will need

an administrator with good color sense dedicated to development of a rubric and spreadsheet to monitor these dangerous subliminal messages. We can never rest. Vigilance!

Lifewise

I am aware that this arrangement is somehow approved by law. Public school students are to be released for two hours of religious instruction per week. Voluntary of course. Students are to be released only from related arts classes, music, art, P.E. You know, the less important ones. Still, I ask myself would students be better served by two hours of exposure to religious dogma, or two hours of the arts? I know the answer to that question in my house. This movement to infuse a particular (fundamentalist) Christian component into the public schools seems the result of a super majority in the state legislature.

In reading the Fort Wayne newspaper, I note more resistance than here locally. There a more diverse population may find it less tenable. Time will tell. It

is naïve to think that such a program does not represent a cost to resources, scheduling and staff at any school where it is in operation.

Here's The Thing: I personally know many of the local people involved with Lifewise here in Wells County. These are people I know to be kind, generous, and highly respected. So why do I object? Let me put it this way. If you would spend fifteen minutes listening to me talk about my views on Christianity and religion, you would most likely turn to your neighbor and say, "I don't want him teaching my kids about religion." And to that I would say, "Now you know how I feel."

ken.ballinger@yahoo.com

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

Remaining Log Cabin events at the 4-H Fair

A variety of programs have been planned for presentation at the Log Cabin area during the Wells County 4-H Fair, July 13-18. The pioneer cabin built in 1855 will be open for visiting through Thursday, July 18 from 4 to 8 p.m.

"Native American Way of Life": Wednesday, July 17, 6:30 p.m., presented by Native American Historian Ash Anderson.

Owls of Indiana: Thursday, July 18, 6:30 p.m., presented by staff from Ouabache State Park.

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

Events at Fort Wayne's Promenade Park

Free **Muddy River Concerts** will continue on Wednesday evenings at Promenade Park on: July 24: We Are Checkmark; Aug. 7: Rachel Brooke and Aug. 21: Left Lane Cruiser. and Promenade Park Cafe.

Break Dance lessons will be offered on Tuesday, July 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Park Foundation Pavilion with professional dancer, Sockie Phommachanh

demonstrating dance forms such as Krump, Breaking, Popping, Vogue, Hip Hop and more. Register at 260-427-6000 or at fortwayneparks.org.

Canal Boat Rides on Sweet Breeze. History Tours on Saturday and Sunday afternoons: 90 minutes: \$30 or 45 Minutes: \$20 and Thursday evenings 60 minutes: \$23. Visit RideSweetBreeze.org

for details and tickets.

An **Art Project** (fused glass votive candle holder) will be offered on Thursday, July 25, 6-7 p.m. at the Park Foundation Pavilion. Cost is \$30 with pre-registration by July 17th to 260-427-6000 or fortwayneparks.org.

Heartland Sings Opera will be presented free on July 17 and 19, at 7 p.m. at Promenade Park.

This Weekend

Dollar drive-in movie at the Y

On Friday, July 19, a \$1 per vehicle will allow entry to the Caylor-Nickel Foundation Family YMCA's Movie Night to see "Monsters, Inc."

An LED screen, which can be seen in any light, will be set up in the parking lot. The movie will begin at 6 p.m. and concessions and ice cream will be available for purchase from Major League Creamery.

All proceeds will support the Y's scholarship fund.

Downtown Hoedown July 19

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 invited to the Plaza for the evening. More information available at <https://www.blufftonnow.org/downtown-events>.

Historical Museum Ice Cream Social

The annual Ice Cream

Social, hosted by the Wells County Historical Society, will be held on Sunday, July 21, from 2 to 5 p.m.

The public is invited to have some ice cream with their favorite toppings along with a Brownie. (Tipping happily accepted.)

Antique cars from the Old Fort Model A Club will be visiting for the event and the museum and annex will be open for visiting. New exhibits this summer include the Military Exhibit, featuring photos and artifacts from all military wars and conflicts; artwork by Wells County artist Harry Lindstrand; and Famous Wells County Athletes in a Sports Exhibit. Also new is the digital exhibit on the History of Floods in Wells County, including the 2003 Flood.

For more information about other events at the museum and how to become a member, visit www.wchs.museum.org or check out www.facebook.com/WellsCoHistory.

Free concerts by Heartland Sings!

The singers from Fort Wayne's Heartland Sings! will be bringing their music via Art-V to area sites.

The free concert sites include:

Opera in the Park: Wednesday, July 17, 7-8 p.m., Promenade Park, FW.

Opera in the Park: Friday, July 19, 7-8:30 p.m., Promenade Park.

Three Rivers Festival main stage entertainment

Fort Wayne's Three Rivers Festival will be held July 12-20 and entertainment at

the main stage will include the following:

E Don Night, Wednesday, July 17—Slushi, E-Clyps, Joesorf

Heart & Soul Night, Thursday, July 18—Last Call, Sweetwater All Stars, Music Lovers Lounge

80's, Friday, July 19—Crush, A Bon Jovi Experience, Sunglasses at Night, Unlikely Alibi

Country Night, Saturday, July 20—Country DJ, Dan Sherman, Rodney Atkins, Rylie Lynn Band

Music begins at 7 p.m. and \$120 will give you a tickets to all concerts. Individuals tickets also available on line.

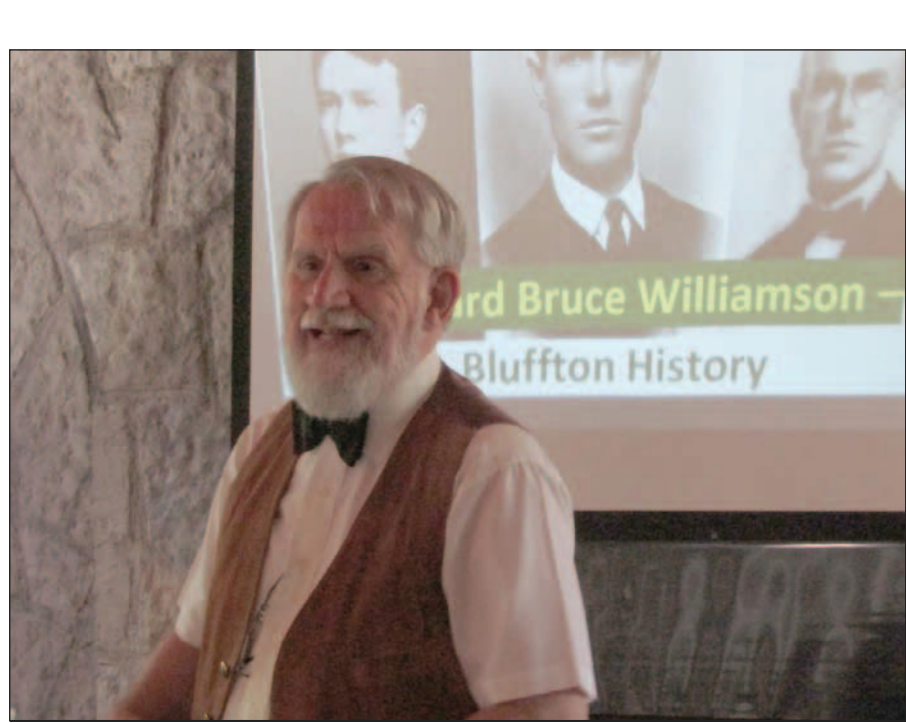
July Festivals in Indiana

Three Rivers Festival: July 12-20, Headwaters Park in Fort Wayne, free. Info at threeriversfestival.org

Circus City Festival: July 13-20, Peru, admission charged for some events. Info at perucircus.com.

St. Joe Pickle Fest: July 18-20, Riverdale School in St. Joe celebrating Sechler's Pickles. Food, music and more. Info at stjoieindiana.org/pickle-festival.

Quilters Hall of Fame Celebration: July 18-20, 926 S. Washington St., Marion. Exhibits, vendors, workshops, lectures and induction of newest honorees, admission charged. Info at quiltershalloffame.net.



Learning during lunch at Ouabache

Bluffton author Alan Daugherty was the program presenter Thursday noon at the July gathering of the Friends of Ouabache State Park's Lunch and Learn program. His topic was Bluffton native E.B Williamson, who not only was a banker but an expert on Irises and Dragonflies for which he was world re-known. Daugherty also mixed local history into his presentations as he explained how Williamson and his father discovered the Deam Oak and the friendship between Charles Deam and E.B. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

Al-Anon meetings in Bluffton

Support for friends and family who have a problem drinker in their lives. The support group meets every Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Caylor-Nickel Foundation Family YMCA, located at 550 W. Dustman Rd in Bluffton.

Thursday Lunch on the Square

Fort Wayne's Freimann Square will be the site of free concerts on Thursday noons throughout the summer.

Also on the schedule are: July 18: Jaina Berry & Taylor Grant July 25: Todd Harrold Band Aug. 1: Sunny Taylor

Concerts at Fort Wayne's Foellinger Outdoor Theatre

Foellinger Theatre is located at 3411 Sherman Blvd., near the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo.

Free Concerts July 17, 7:30 p.m.: New Millennium Jazz Orchestra

July 26, 7 p.m.: Fort Wayne Children's Choir

Other Concerts Aug. 2: Rockin' the 80's (Great White, Slaughter & Vixen) Aug. 13: Blue Mon-

ster Tour (Blues Traveler with Big Head Todd & the Monsters Aug. 21: High Kings & Gaelic Storm Aug. 22: Night Light (Fort Wayne Rescue Mission) Sept. 13, 8 p.m. & Sept. 14, 12 a.m.: The Rocky Horror Show Sept. 21: Indiana Jones & the Raiders of the Lost Ark/FW Phil Sept. 23: TESLA Tickets through Ticketmaster.com.

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Twisters
Thursday, July 18th 6pm
Friday, July 19th 6pm & 8:40pm
Saturday, July 20th 1pm, 3:40pm, 6:20pm & 9pm
Sunday, July 21st 2pm & 4:40pm

Despicable Me 4
Thursday, July 18th 6:20pm
Friday, July 19th 6:20pm & 8:50pm
Saturday, July 20th 1:30pm, 4pm, 6:30pm & 8:45pm
Sunday, July 21st 2:20pm & 5pm

Free Family Film Festival - Wonka
Wednesday, July 24th 10am
Presented by Marco Development/Mark & Connie Bulmahn & Secure Self Stor

www.abcinemainc.com

BLUFFTON TENNIS TOURNAMENT WINNERS



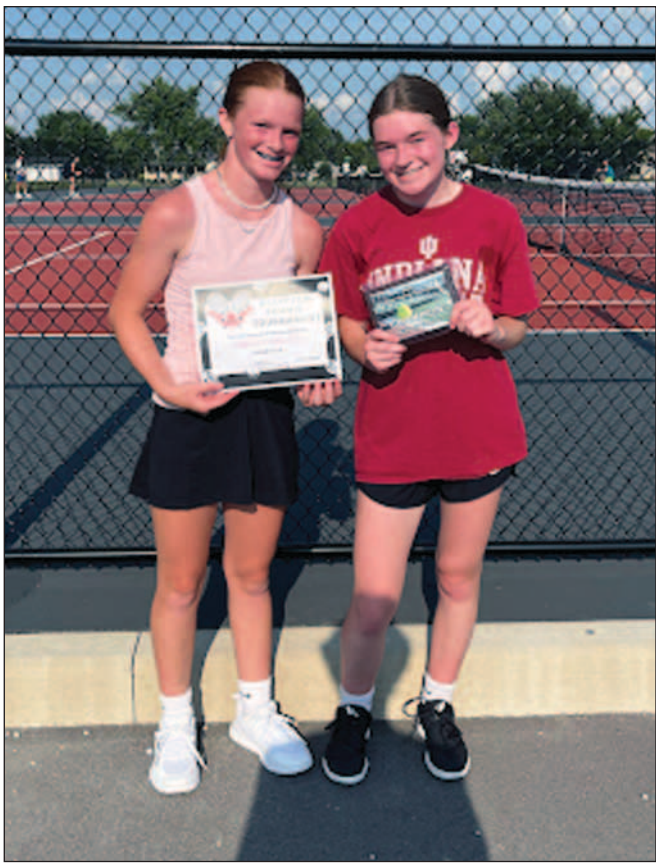
Bluffton's boys 14 and under champion Jordan Grubbs (right) and runner-up Dane Fiechter. (Photos provided)



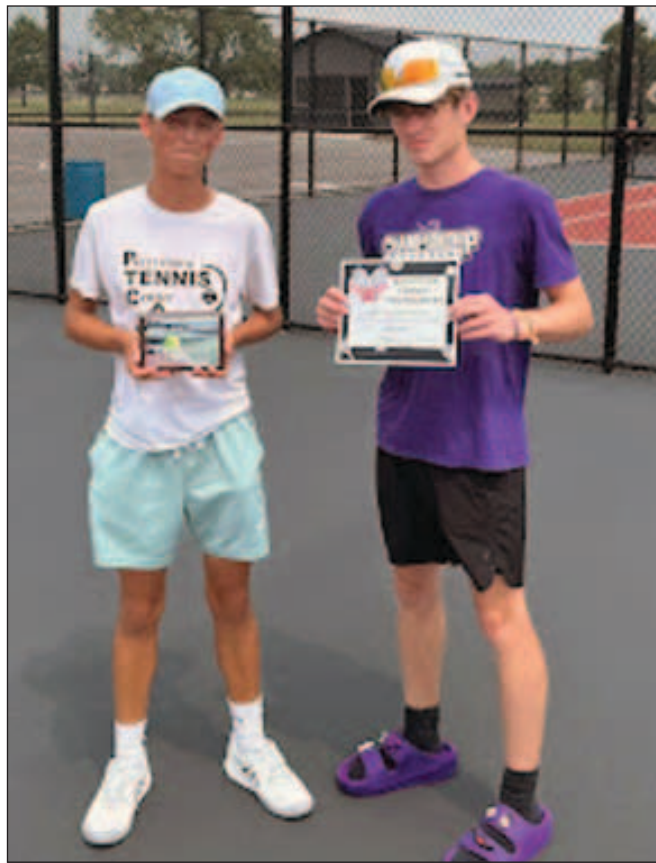
Boys JV singles champion Brysen Maurice (left) and runner-up Brayden Mayer.



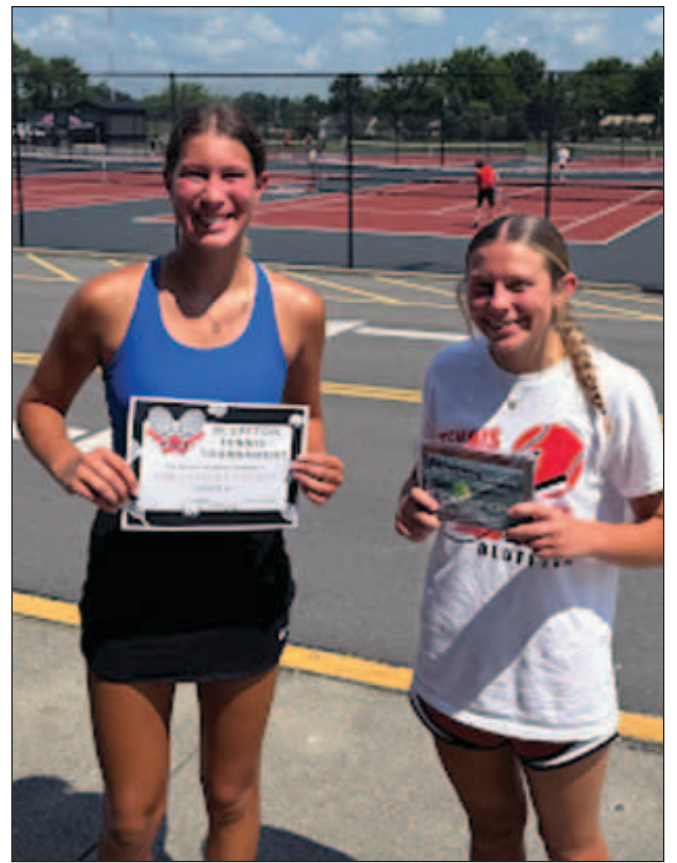
Girls 12 and under champion Kynle McGuire (left) and runner-up Ari Staedtler.



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



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



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



Men's doubles runner-ups Peter Kitchen (left) and Anthony Wilson.

MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred remains open to major leaguers in 2028 L.A. Olympics

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer
ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Major League Baseball players participating in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics remains a possibility, according to baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred, though many obstacles remain to Shohei Ohtani, Aaron Judge and Bryce Harper playing for a gold medal.

Baseball was a medal sport from 1992-2008, then was dropped until the 2021 Tokyo Games, when MLB allowed the participation only of players not on 40-man rosters. Even then, many eligible prospects were blocked by their clubs from playing.

While baseball was dropped for this year's Paris Olympics, it was restored for 2028. LA 2028 chairman Casey Wasserman gave MLB owners a presentation in February on how major leaguers could participate.

"I sat with Casey last week. We're talking about what can be done? What

exactly would it look like? What are the compromises that we would have to make in terms of our season? So I remain open-minded on that topic," Manfred told the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

"I do think that maybe the thing that I found most persuasive that Casey is saying is forget about what's going to happen with baseball in the Olympics long-term because I think we all know when you're in Paris they're probably not going to build a baseball stadium, right?" Manfred added. "But, but when you're in LA, you focus on LA. It is an opportunity that we need to think about."

Japan beat the U.S. in the 2021 Olympic gold medal game with a national team boosted when Nippon Professional Baseball interrupted its season.

Who pays for insurance for major leaguers would be an issue. And even in the World Baseball Classic, a project

of MLB and the Major League Baseball Players Association, many top players were blocked by their teams, especially starting pitchers. At last year's WBC, Mets closer Edwin Diaz tore his right patellar tendon while celebrating a Puerto Rico victory and missed the 2023 season.

"The feedback that we've gotten so far from players is such that there is an interest in participating if given an opportunity," union head Tony Clark told the BBWAA, speaking before Manfred. "So we expect, at least as of right now based on the feedback that we've gotten, that'll be a conversation we'll look to have. But the players will determine whether or to what extent that is something that needs to be leaned on, not just for 2028, but I think it's probably an important discussion to be had beyond 2028, knowing that the opportunity to have it in 2028 could be a building block toward it being more consistently in the Olympics moving forward."

Green Valley Golf League results

Steve Folk, Don Pettit, Arley Higginblown and Greg Castillow were the winning team in this week's Green Valley Golf League. The group put together a -10 for the day.

Folk was the low gross at 36, Castillow the low net of 31, Mike Bennett the closest to pin and Bruce Warner with the longest putt.

Bears sign rookies Williams, Odunze

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Bears locked in their top two rookies on Tuesday, agreeing to four-year contracts with No. 1 overall draft pick Caleb Williams and No. 9 selection Rome Odunze.

A person familiar with the deal confirmed the agreement with Williams to The Associated Press. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the team has not announced the contract. Williams gets a slotted \$39.49 million fully guaranteed deal, with a \$25.5-million signing bonus.

The Bears announced Odunze signed. The club has options for 2028 on both players.

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	20	4	.833	—
Connecticut	18	5	.783	1½
Indiana	11	14	.440	9½
Chicago	9	14	.391	10½
Atlanta	7	16	.304	12½
Washington	6	19	.240	14½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pct	GB	
Las Vegas	16	7	.696	—
Seattle	17	8	.680	—
Minnesota	16	8	.667	½
Phoenix	13	12	.520	4
Los Angeles	6	18	.250	10½
Dallas	5	19	.208	11½

Monday's Games

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's Games

Phoenix 96, Washington 87

Seattle 89, Los Angeles 83

Connecticut at New York, late

Chicago at Las Vegas, late

Wednesday's Games

Atlanta at Minnesota, 1 p.m.

Indiana at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games

No games scheduled.

Friday's Games

No games scheduled.

Boston	53	42	.558	4½
Tampa Bay	48	48	.500	10
Toronto	44	52	.458	14

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	58	37	.611	—
Minnesota	54	42	.568	4½
Kansas City	52	45	.536	7
Detroit	47	50	.485	12
Chicago	27	71	.276	32½

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Seattle	52	46	.531	—
Houston	50	46	.521	1
Texas	46	50	.479	5
Los Angeles	41	55	.427	10
Oakland	37	61	.378	15

Monday's Games

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's Games

No games scheduled.

Wednesday's Games

No games scheduled.

Thursday's Games

No games scheduled.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Philadelphia	62	34	.646	—
Atlanta	53	42	.558	8½
New York	49	46	.516	12½
Washington	44	53	.454	18½
Miami	33	63	.344	29

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	55	42	.567	—
St. Louis	50	46	.521	4½
Pittsburgh	48	48	.500	6
Cincinnati	47	50	.485	8
Chicago	47	51	.480	8½

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	56	41	.577	—
San Diego	50	49	.505	7

Midwest League

High-A Midwest League

East Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Dayton	13	8	.619	—
x-Lake County	10	10	.500	2½
West Michigan	10	10	.500	2½
Lansing	10	11	.476	3
Fort Wayne	9	12	.429	4
Great Lakes	8	12	.400	4½

West Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
x-Wisconsin	14	6	.700	—
Cedar Rapids	13	8	.619	1½
Peoria	12	9	.571	2½
Beloit	10	11	.476	4½
Quad Cities	9	12	.429	5½
South Bend	6	15	.286	8½

Monday's Games

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's Games

No games scheduled.

Wednesday's Games

No games scheduled.

Thursday's Games

No games scheduled.

Friday, July 19

Dayton at West Michigan, 6:35 p.m.

Great Lakes at Lansing, 7:05 p.m.

Quad Cities at South Bend, 7:05 p.m.

Lake County at Fort Wayne, 7:05 p.m.

Wisconsin at Cedar Rapids, 7:35 p.m.

Beloit at Peoria, 8:05 p.m.

Saturday, July 20

Dayton at West Michigan, 6:35 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Tuesday's Transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

American League

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Placed

C.M.J. Melendez on the 10-day IL,

retroactive to July 15.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Assigned

RHP Caleb Boushley outright to St.

Paul (IL).

National League

CHICAGO CUBS — Options RHP

Daniel Palencia to Iowa (IL).

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CHICAGO BEARS — Signed WR

Rom Odunze and QB Caleb Williams

to rookie contracts.

HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed DE

Malik Fisher and WR Quintez Cephus.

Facing trauma

Dear Annie: I am a 72-year-old retired psychologist who suffered from embarrassing sweat attacks for many years — in fact, since adolescence. It is only recently that I have found a reason for these episodes where I would get totally drenched. In my case, it appears to be due to the “fight or flight” adrenaline rush caused by a subconsciously triggered anxiety attack. I am a survivor of sexual abuse and emotional abuse who was diagnosed as having PTSD about 30 years ago, but I never connected my background to my sweating episodes.

Very small perceived similarities to past events can trigger the subconscious “tape” of past traumas to start rolling, causing your body to act as if the old trauma was reoccurring. When I really started closely examining when these episodes occurred, I started noticing that the rush of sweat would happen when I became anxious. It usually surrounded an inner fear that I would be a disappointment to another person or someone would perceive me as being inadequate. In reality, I am a very successful professional.

Then I noticed that when I woke up sweating at night (after menopause was long since passed), it usually followed a nightmare.

I have found that understanding myself has significantly shortened the frequency and duration of the episodes. I was in my late 40s before some therapy regarding other life events permitted me to acknowledge and come to terms with my childhood trauma. Acknowledging my buried experiences has freed me to truly enjoy life to the fullest. I still

have some episodes, but I am no longer mortified when they happen. — Been There

Dear Annie: Thank you for your very honest, self-aware and wise letter. I hope it helps others heal. I always love hearing from professionals, and you certainly sound like one! You are correct that PTSD can cause unwelcoming bodily sensations, and excessive sweating is one of them. In addition, excessive talking, being shut down, shaking and rapid heartbeat are all ways that our body is trying to protect us from a perceived threat. This is the flight, fight or freeze response.

For PTSD, I recommend somatic therapy. It is a body therapy treatment focused on the body's various reactions to trauma in a safe way with a trained somatic therapist. It was founded by Peter Levine, author of “Waking the Tiger.” From the sound of your letter, it seems that you already know about that therapy.

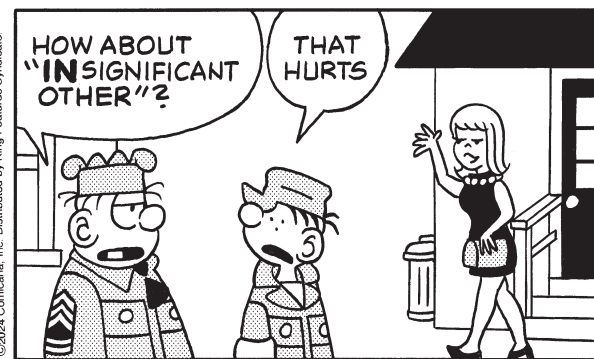
“How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?” is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie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

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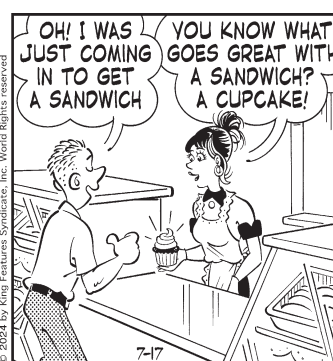
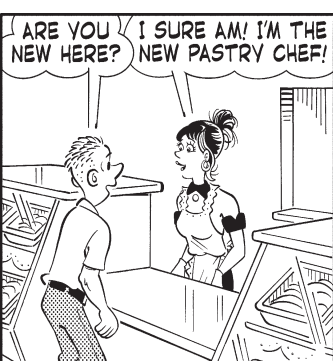
Dear Annie



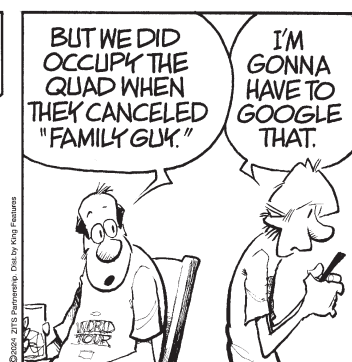
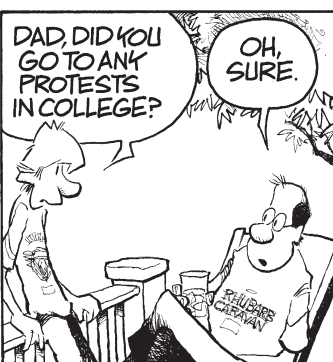
BEETLE BAILEY



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My Answer



By Dr. Billy Graham

Thank God for the work of His angels

Question: Our Bible study group has been reading about the appearances of angels in the Bible and comparing them to the entertainment world's depiction of angels as in the latest movie Ordinary Angels. Pop culture does seem to have a fascination with angels, but we think they've missed the mark in depicting the truth about angels. What's the real story on angelic appearances? — R.A.

Answer: Angels are beings who help people against evil forces, and they do perform certain duties. The truth about angels is that they are sent by God to carry out His commands. In the Bible, there are several instances when angels

revealed themselves to man. Angels are prominent in Old Testament passages. But perhaps the most famous appearance occurs in the New Testament, when Mary is visited by an angel and told that she is to bear the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

But in most cases, angels are invisible. This does not make them any less real. Our ability to see angels or not to see them has nothing at all to do with their existence and their role in protecting us from certain harms. However, we are never to pray to an angel or worship an angel, but we can certainly thank God for the work of His angels. “Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word” (Psalm 103:20, NKJV). The

angels are sent to do the work of the Lord and He is the One we must worship.

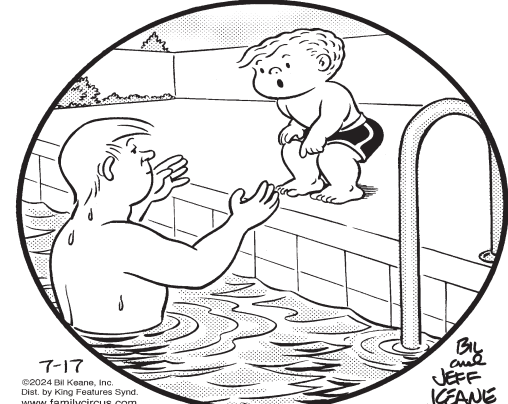
The empire of angels is as vast as God's creation. But His love is expressed in the creation of the human race. Our awe and thanks should always be to our Creator who cares for us; even the angels praise Him. “Praise the Lord ... all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! Praise Him, sun and moon ... all you stars of light! ... Let them praise the name of the Lord” (Psalm 148:1-3, 5, NKJV).

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

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



“Couldn't we wait till the tide goes out so it won't be so deep?”

The LOCKHORNS



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Table with columns for date, channel, and program listings for various networks like WJLA, CBS, ABC, NBC, etc.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a solution time of 23 mins and a grid for yesterday's answer.

Table with columns for date, channel, and program listings for various networks like HBO, MAX, PARSHO, TMC.

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King Classic Sudoku

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

7/17

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

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This Week's Garage Sales

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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.

606 W DUSTMAN BLUFFTON GARAGE SALE Girls clothes large to xl, womes clothes, shoes, lots of toys, household items, books, craft supplies, tools, and lots more Jul. 19 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, Jul. 20 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Rain or Shine

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE, 185 W 200 S, Bluffton, Thurs., July 18-Sat., July 20, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Adult small-2X, baby clothes NB-2T, school supplies, household & kitchen items, bedding, ping pong table, Christmas decor, basketball goal, and so 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-6:00 PM, Jul. 20 8:00 AM-2:00 PM Rain or Shine

1525 STOGDILL ROAD - MOVING SALE ACROSS FOR BLUFFTON MIDDLE SCHOOL: Multiple family - Furniture, home accessories, kitchenware, clothing, books, bedding, curtains, decorative pillows, pictures, purses, jewelry, Harley motorcycle and gear, sporting equipment, .25¢ & .50¢ tables and more. July 18 12:00 PM-6:00 PM, Jul. 19 8:00 AM-6:00 PM, Jul. 20 7:00 AM- Rain or Shine



1015 W WILEY AVE. BLUFFTON SUMMER TIME FLEAMARKET 7/26 & 7/27 BBR Imports & Liquidations Summer Time Fleamarket coming soon. Booth Space 10x15-\$35 Reserve Now 260.758.0007 Jul. 26 10:00 AM-5:00 PM, Jul. 27 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

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Public Sale Calendar

JULY 20 - 9 a.m. Real Estate, 9:30 Personal Property - Charles (Chuck) Bertsch Estate, owner. 3898E 400N, Bluffton. 1 1/2 story, 2-bedroom home, 36x56 pole barn, 1 acre, Lancaster Township. Hit & Miss engines (Fairbanks Morse 5 hp, Fairbanks Morse 1 1/2 or 2 hp, more), oil well display, 25-30 long guns and pistols, ammo, drill press, mill, snowblowers, trailer, M80 Military hot water heater, chain saws, welders, industrial 3 phase motors, tandem bike, yard tools, hand tools, Dixon ZTR zero turn mower, garden tractors, rear 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, Uniondale. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, **Steffen Group,** 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, **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 collectible vintage dollhouses, mini dollhouse furniture sets with accessories and much more! Preview July 25, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm Street, Decatur. Pick up July 29, 1-6 p.m., July 30, 9 a.m.-noon. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC,** 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

BIDDING STARTS CLOSING AUGUST 11 - 6 p.m. & 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, house hold, 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.

BIDDING NOW OPEN & STARTS CLOSING AUGUST 18 - 6 p.m. EST - Kathy Stark, owner. Real estate 6 p.m.: Four bedroom, 1 full bath w/ heated flooring, 2,328 sq. feet, basement, screened in back porch, 28'x30' heated detached garage, beautiful 36'x66' bank barn, famous Minion silo, all sitting on 2.41+/- acres! Personal property 6:30: Vintage outdoor Christmas decorations, extension cords, violin, saxophone, guitars, music, books, power tools, fishing tackle, household items, dog pool, Kobalt air compressor, table saw, sectional sofa/bed/recliner, firetruck bed, dining table & chairs, microwave, Seven Dwarfs cement statues, Brother sewing machine, & much more! Preview Aug. 5, 5-6 p.m., 9841 N 750 E, Ossian, IN. Pick up Aug. 19, 2-6 p.m. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC,** 260-724-7402, 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.

nb 6/18 through 8/7
hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

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