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A long list of infirmities

Almco Steel rezoning petiton sent back to APC

Page 3

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Almco Steel's partial rezoning petition was sent back to the Wells County Area Plan Commission with modifications made by the Bluffton Common Council Tuesday

The original petition was to rezone approximately 34 acres of agricultural residential land north of housing on Lancaster Street from A-R to heavy industrial land. The Wells County Area Plan Commission gave the petition a do-pass recommendation after two meetings of discussion among public disapproval.

Instead, council member Scott Mentzer suggested the site may be appropriate for light industrial. The petition will now go back to the APC.

In a Bluffton Common Council meeting Tuesday, Almco Steel Representatives Jim Almdale, Greg Rekeweg and Gary Aschliman presented a preliminary sketch of their building plans. The plans include a 100-foot buffer from residential housing filled with trees and shrubs, an extension of Hale Street that bypasses Lancaster Street, and a site for their new building across from Oak Street.

Members of the public were allowed to speak on the issue in a limited timeframe. Judy Steury, representing her mother and area resident Susan Grove, posed that increased truck traffic and potential land and air pollutants are reasons to not accept the recommendation. Ron Nelson and Kent Thompson also spoke against the petition, further citing truck traffic issues and the potential for other heavy industrial companies to buy some of the land.

A majority of council members acknowledged both sides of the issue,

stating that the petition walks a very fine line between Almco's expansion and preserving the future use of the land. Council members Rick Elwell, Josh Hunt and Mentzer spoke first, with Elwell stating that restrictions on other companies relocating into that I-2 heavy industrial area would help prevent issues from other companies. Hunt stated that if Almco would be willing to grant easements for the city in the area, improvements to water line infrastructure and drainage improvements are a possibility.

Mentzer, however, proposed an alternative. Mentzer read the APC's definition of heavy industrial land: "Heavy Manufacturing - the manufacturing, processing, assembly, fabrication and repairing of materials, which may produce such noise, vibra-

(Continued on Page 2)

Southern Wells discuss tax levy, construction

By CHET BAUMGARTNER

Southern Wells board members took two official steps Tuesday to help determine residents' tax rate for

First, they approved Superintendent Trent Lehman's request to schedule a hearing to discuss construction projects. Then, they approved his request to advertise next year's budget.

In between, they navigated figures and calculations that established ceiling for that rate.

For instance, the budget the board approved to advertise establishes a maximum levy of \$1,953,839 and a tax rate of \$1.11 per \$100 assessed value.

However, Lehman told board members that school districts always and deliberately advertise high, as they can't request more afterward, and he anticipates that the rate will drop as state officials review the district's

For instance, the district advertised a tax rate of \$1.07 last year, and ultimately, the state approved a budget with a tax rate of 66 cents per \$100 assessed

But regardless of the final rate, the district will use it to cover operations and referendum costs and continue to pay construction debts. And the state will continue to pay for direct education expenses, such as teachers' salaries, through its revenue.

Lehman said he hopes the board can approve the proposed budget in October, enabling state officials to then review it and approve a finalized budget in November or December.

Before all that, though, board members will discuss construction priorities and their specific impact on the

According to state statute, the board can approve up to \$6.2 million in construction initiatives through a majority vote. If they want to do more, they need the public's direct approval through a petition/remonstrance or referendum.

However, no one Tuesday proposed pursuing any projects totaling \$6.2 million.

Instead, after a presentation in which Damian Mag-(Continued on Page 2)



Wabash closure

A portion of Wabash Street is closed for sewer line repairs. Utility Director Jon Oman reported that the sanitary fix was not up to standard, and the manhole boot connectors were knocked out of alignment. Oman hopes that the line repairs will be finished soon, but ensured repairs on the line will be completed by the end of the week. A timeline for asphalt repairs has not yet been determined. (Photos by Jonathan



County Council maintains conservative approach with 2025 budget requests

By HOLLY GASKILL

While working with an \$800,000 excess from the proposed budget, members of the Wells County Council did not shy away from a conservative approach on Tuesday. The excess, Council President

Seth Whicker explained, comes from favorable investment rates, and is not guaranteed in the future. With other prospective needs coming down the line, the council exercised the opportunity to fine-tune budgets and critically consider requests. Multiple departments saw chang-

es in line items that did not appear to have been used fully in previous years. At large, the council wanted to shift departments toward requesting additional appropriations rather than overbudgeting and transferring for purchases. Notable updates to the budget are

detailed below. The council does not plan to reconvene before a public hearing regarding the budget at 7 County Health Department, reinp.m. on Sept. 3.

County will add building inspector, sanitarian

Several county departments came with requests for additional positions, including a request for a building inspector from the County Commis-

Commissioner Jeff Stringer explained that the commissioners foresee the position working in tandem with the city of Bluffton, although no agreement has been made regarding funding the position. Even so, he emphasized the need to enforce basic Indiana building codes within the county.

The position was budgeted at a \$70,000 salary. Stringer said the building inspector will likely be in the Area Plan Commission office in the Carnegie Annex.

The council also approved an additional sanitarian for the Wells

stating the position after it was eliminated in December 2023. The department had originally planned to absorb the workload in light of other wage increases — that said, Stringer stated the department is now dealing with new food safety and sewer needs, as well as the significant administrative work of Health First Indiana.

The position was approved 4-2; Council members Seth Whicker, Steve Huggins, Brian Lambert and Scott Elzey voted in favor, Vicki Andrews and Brandon Harnish voted against, and Todd Mahnensmith was not present at the time.

Sheriff's camera request rejected

After some contention on the matter between council members and Sheriff Scott Holliday, the council rejected Holliday's request for funding the continued use of license plate

(Continued on Page 2)

Board of Works clarifies Nuisance Animal Order

A tabled Nuisance Ania Potentially Nuisance Animal Order with a provision for the label being removed after 90 days in a Board of Public Works and Safety Meeting Tuesday.

Mayor John Whicker broke a tie between Board Members Josh Hunt and Scott Mentzer regarding the specifics on fence height and muzzle requirements for the property in the 1400 block of West Washington Street. The new decision states that the fence height will be 6 ft. and the dog will not require a muzzle when walking.

The scenario occurred on July 20, when a dog at Josh and Hayley Durham's residence bit their neighbor Rhonda Cunningham while she was mowing the yard. In the previous meeting, both the Durhams and Cunningham argued that the dog should not be placed under Nuisance Animal Orders, citing significant stress from the mower sounds and the orders from the neighbor to get away from the mower for the dog's safety. Once the neighbor retreated back into her home, the dog did not give chase beyond the electric fence boundary.

"I don't see enough evidence that this dog has been habitually aggressive," Whicker said.

Josh Durham stated that an electric fence was

By JONATHAN SNYDER agreed to encroach onto the property by both him and mal Order was changed to their neighbors. The electric fence is circular and runs off a central transmitter, which was placed in the only area where it would work according to Durham. While the neighboring property extends into that electric fence area, both parties agreed that the dog could run around in that area due to the fence. A traditional fence further separates the encroached area from other parts of the neighbors prop-

All the board members still agreed that a 6-ft. fence should be installed, which the Durham's currently paid for and are waiting on installation.

The board also stated that bushes on Julie Myers property in the 1000 block of Abbey Lane would be allowed to remain in the city easement. City Attorney Tony Crowell stated that non-permanent structures should not need an official easement from the city, citing that those shrubs could easily be changed or moved should the city need them. Hunt further clarified that Abbey Lane has a very slow speed limit and little foot traffic in the area for safety

Utility Director Jon Oman also clarified that a misprint on Virginia Transformer's bid for the Cherry Street Substation bid stated

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Another picture perfect day on tap

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 74	High 76	High 81
Low 49	Low 51	Low 61

More Weather on Page 2



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Almco

(Continued from Page 1)

tion, electrical disturbance, air pollution, water pollution, heat, glare, waste matter, odor or hot fire hazard to a neighboring property."

Mentzer believes Almco does not produce any of those products, and is only listed as a heavy manufacturing company because they use punch presses.

After walking the nearby roads with a noise meter, Mentzer proposed that the APC's zoning ordinance remove the punch press clause from heavy manufacturing and for the partial rezoning area to be zoned as light industrial, or I-1, land.

This proposal was satisfactory for Almco's neighbors in attendance, as well as the majority of the council.

"This touches on my district down there," Council member Sarah Reed said. "I think that Almco Steel has done a good job trying to find a good meeting point with some green space. I recognize that you (Almdale) don't want to lose ground. I don't believe that

(continuing) is losing ground beyond the time factor, but I think investing some time into our future decision and how it's going to affect the city is worthwhile. We need to find that spot and thread the needle."

"I trust you (Almdale), but we have to plan for the future and we have to protect the community," Hunt said. "I don't think a majority of us would pass an I-2 (petition) with no new restrictions tonight, and that's the only way this moves forward. If you look at that list, it's junkyards, it's trash sites, it's crematories, it's a list of a lot of things that people don't want in their back-

City Attorney Tony Crowell stated that putting all those restrictions about heavy manufacturing in the ordinance could easily lead to one such restriction not being said, leading to a legal loophole in the future.

After discussions between the three Almco representatives, Rekeweg agreed that if the presses clause was removed, Almco functions as a light industrial

The official motion stated that the zoning petition will be modified to I-1 light industrial land, with the recommendation to the APC that the sentence about punch presses and similar presses are striken from their heavy manufacturing zoning ordinances.

ProFed Credit Union's proposal to rezone land east of their building on Main Street from commercial to residential was denied, citing that the land was seen best for commercial use in the Wells County Vision 2035 plan. The council also approved an easement for American Electric Power which allows them to run electric lines over 0.022 acres of land at the Main Street electric substation. AEP will pay \$220 for the easement rights.

Additionally, the council approved Fire Chief Don Craig to purchase a gently used 2016 aerial fire truck for \$787,500. The purchase

will be official if the truck passes ladder, pump and oil sample tests. Craig stated that \$850,000 was appropriated for the purchase with the additional monies going to upfitting the truck and repainting it. Craig also noted that the truck has only been in use for 329 operational hours and was used in only one structure fire in Carnegie, Pennsylvania. The council also clarified that new fire trucks are being purchased for about \$2.5 million, so the deal saves a lot of money.

"I feel like I want to do a 'woo-hoo' right now," Craig said after the request was approved.

Additionally, Craig notified the board that three air-pak's, two snap-change cylinders and other fire department equipment will cost him \$383,872.78. Craig stated that LOIT funds were already appropriated for the air-pak's, but wanted to ensure that the council knew about the final cost of those equipment upgrades.

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Weather

Wednesday, August 21, 2024 (24-hour observations at 9:44 p.m. Tuesday) **High:** 71, **Low:** 51, **Precipitation:** None Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.11 feet at 9:45 p.m. Monday

Wells County forecast

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 74. Calm wind becoming north around 5 mph in the afternoon. Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low around 49. North

wind around 5 mph becoming calm. **Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 76. Calm wind.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51. Calm wind.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 81.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. **Saturday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 84.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2am. Partly cloudy, with a low around

Sunday: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 87.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 66.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 89.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 67.

Tuesday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 90.

Nuisance

(Continued from Page 1)

that the \$121,645 fee for testing and assembly of the transformer was on a per transformer basis, not for both transformers combined. With instruction from the board, Oman will negotiate that price with Virginia Transformers.

DLZ's Casey Irwin also presented a change order to the board regarding the timing of the sewer lining project. Irwin asked for a 90-day extension, as there are some final punch list items to ensure the lines are fully equipped. Irwin reported that both the sewer lining and manhole linin portions of the project is approximately 90-95% complete. Irwin hopes that the work will be complete before the Bluffton Free Street Fair, but if it is not, major construction activities will not occur that week.

Also Tuesday, Water Distribution Supervisor Dave Hendrick presented his water leak detection survey report to the board. The report showed five main line leaks, 11 service leaks, nine hydrant leaks and five valve leaks. This calculation estimates a loss of over 193,000 gallons of water per day. Hendricks clarified that work has been done to patch those holes up, stating that about 75% of the big leaks are patched.

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Tax levy

(Continued from Page 1) gas of Raymond James discussed possible tax rate increases specifically related to construction, the board voted to schedule a formal public hearing to discuss construction initiatives totaling about \$3 million.

Members don't intend to discuss projects such as the auxiliary gym at this hearing, which will occur during their regular meeting Tuesday, Sept. 17. Instead, they will discuss "immediate needs," board member Todd Fiechter said, such as the HVAC system in the Raiderdome.

Once they better deter- Cathy Lehman as a conmine the projects they want to pursue, they can better determine the final tax

In other business, board members Andrew Pursifull, Delora Schnieder, Chad Roush and Fiechter:

- Approved four fundraiser requests and accepted four donations.
- Approved multiple employee recommendations: Wes Coble for the junior high science position on an adjunct memorandum of understanding, Olivia Binegar for the speech language pathologist position,

tracted speech language pathologist for one day a week, Christine Ashmore-Good as a Careers and Educational Pathway teacher, Teresa Buskirk as a secondshift custodian, Ella Neuenschwander as a speech language pathologist aide, and Tera Carroll as an elementary instructional assistant.

- Accepted the resignations of elementary instructional assistant April Leas and Latchkey Director Kelly Bleeke. Lehman said the school will not offer this program next year due to lack of enrollment.
- Approved multiple extracurricular activities positions.
- Approved a conference request for science teacher Dave Butler. Approved the Teacher
- Appreciation Grant policy, a vote the board must make every year. • Approved the 2024 educator evaluator plan, which

standards as last year's plan. Board members will meet again at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, in the high school's library and

media center.

uses the same rubrics and

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County budget

(Continued from Page 1) reading cameras.

In January, Holliday purchased Flock Safety cameras through the jail's commissary fund, which he oversees. They are positioned to read incoming vehicles at the county line on State Roads 1, 124 and 224.

Holliday previously said he had done this to avoid using taxpayer dollars on equipment he was testing out, not to circumvent the County Council. Having found value in the cameras, Holliday included them in his budget for 2025.

"I think there's some merit to having the Flock cameras and am not going to argue against the merits of that," Huggins said. "However, I did not like how that was presented ... He made a unilateral decision to do that.'

"I think the Sheriff did a real service to the taxpayer by funding these through commissary, and credit to him for that, and I wouldn't want to take that away from him," Harnish added. "We'll let him continue to do that favor to the taxpayer."

Holliday stated last week that he could continue to fund the software through the commissary fund, but the fund is not a guaranteed income.

The council also rejected Holliday's request for two additional jail staff, citing that the jail has not maintained a full staff already and the jail population has remained lower.

County considers downsizing

Community Corrections Community Corrections had not made significant requests in their proposed budgets, and the council did not discuss the budget at length last week. On Tuesday, however, Harnish raised questions about the number of staff in the department and the county's budget for these posi-

This sentiment was echoed by several other board members, who indicated that the department has double the capacity for the people they serve. Executive Director Blake Poindexter had previously stated there would be

employees soon retiring on Tuesday, Harnish stated these positions should not be replaced if the numbers don't support them.

"I've arrived at the point where there should not be one penny of county money going to this," Harnish said. "It should be funded entirely through project income.

Whicker encouraged the council not to jump on a big change so quickly, saying, "Why don't we spend some time next year getting to the bottom of what we need to do there? Because I don't just want to gut the whole thing until we have a replacement of

Mahnensmith further noted that some aspects of the courts have changed over the years, and he didn't want the council to act rashly when trends could change. Harnish serves on the board for Community Corrections but stated he was "very new" to it and that it would be worthwhile to revisit the matter next year.

Council compromises with Prosecutor's Office

Prosecutor Colin Andrews asked the county to increase its support of two paralegals in the civil division from half-salary to full salary. The positions have been supported through an Incentive Fund, but the fund will not be able to sustain both positions for more than several years in the future.

That said, the council was not ready to jump fully into supporting both positions. Instead, they agreed to support one position outright and the other at 50% and re-evaluate in the future. Andrews also requested to increase a \$750 stipend for these positions to \$2,500, which was rejected.

Meanwhile, the Probation Department requested a new vehicle with plans to give their old vehicle to the Prosecutor's Office. The council supported the new vehicle purchase but said the old vehicle should be traded in. At large, the council expressed a desire to re-evaluate which departments needed vehicles and which could reimburse for mileage.

County employees get a 3% raise

The council voted 6-1 in favor of a 3% cost of living raise for all county employees, citing the same raise was being given by the Purdue Extension office and the state of Indiana. Furthermore, Whicker believed this was comparable to what the city of Bluffton intends to give employees.

This would also be in addition to the pay matrix, which gives a 0.5% raise for every year an employee works for the county until 20 years. Huggins clarified that this raise would not affect former health officer Dr. Kay Johnson's compensation, as she continues what would have been her term as consultant to the county.

vote against the raise, referencing his concerns with the Community Corrections budget. He said would've been in favor of a 4% raise had it not been for Community Corrections.

The council also approved a 3% raise for their board pay 5-2; Whicker, Andrews, Lambert, Mahnensmith, Harnish and Elzey voted in favor, and Huggins voted against.

The council members largely agreed they weren't personally wanting a raise, but felt that it was needed to attract future members since the council has not consistently taken a raise in previous years. Huggins and Elzey clarified that the compensation had to be accepted, but could be donated.

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The board also approved

a pay raise for Water Distribution Departmennt Mechanic Equipment Operator Stephen Vanderkolk. Furthermore, they approved Brian Hubble's hire to the fire department and Marcy Wayman's transfer from the Utility Office to the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.



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Upcoming Events

September 28 - Uncle Matt's BBQ Shack

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Saturday – August 24, 2024 Preble Fireman's Park – Preble, Indiana 4 miles west of Decatur, Indiana on U.S. 224

SHOW TIME 7 PM - Gates open 5 PM - Registration 3:30 PM Windshield - Figure 8 - Street Stock - Pro Stock - Mini Van/Truck Power Wheels Demo Derby: Ages 4 to 10

Food & Refreshments Offered by The Firefighters **Admission** \$12 | **Kids 8 – 12** \$5 | **7 & Under** Free| **Pit Pass** \$20

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OBITUARIES

Alvin G. Caddel, 69

Alvin G. Caddel, 69, of rural Keystone, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024, at Swiss Village Retirement Com-

He was born in Amarillo, TX, on Sept. 6, 1954, to Willburn H. and Floella R. (Bollen) Caddel. Both parents preceded him in death.

Survivors include a brother. Everett Caddel of Bettendorf, IA; a sister, Jackie (Harold) Bailey of Keystone and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Alvin was preceded in death by two brothers, Garry Hassel and Joe Caddel.

Private family services and burial will be held at a later date at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Billings, Montana.

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

Online condolences may be shared at www.goodwin-

caleharnish.com.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County:

Monday, 1:07 p.m., Wells County Courthouse. Warrant served to Lee Mack Breedlove.

Monday, 1:14 p.m., 5900 North 200 West, Uniondale. Pipe line marker struck by vehicle.

Monday, 3:35 p.m., 800 block of Carl Drive, Bluffton. Attempted to serve protective order to Dean Tanner Junior, unable to locate.

Monday, 6:35 p.m., 224 and S.R. 1, Ossian. Report of a semi truck that hit and tore off a railroad crossing

Monday, 6:44 p.m., S.R. 116 and 300 North, Bluffton. Car versus deer.

Monday, 8:19 p.m., Pak A Sak North. Lost debit card located, taken to police department.

Monday, 8:41 p.m., 900 block of Prairie Lane, Ossian. Report of a domestic issue.

Monday, 9:12 p.m., 4900 East 900 North, Ossian. Report of ongoing harassment and intimidation.

Monday, 9:32 p.m., 5500 West S.R. 218, Poneto. Report of loose cows in the roadway, subject advised they belonged to nearby property and no one lives at the residence.

Tuesday, 11:21 a.m., 500 South 500 East, Bluffton. Report of an aggressive dog.

Tuesday, 11:28 a.m., 5500 West S.R. 218, Poneto. Report of loose animals in the roadway again. Officer chased livestock into bean field.

ARRESTS Lee Mack Breedlove, 34,

Bluffton; escape, a Level 6 felony, and invasion of privacy, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$30,000.

Election Board prepares for caucus, general election

By HOLLY GASKILL

Items on the agenda were slight for the Wells County Election Board, but preparation for the general election is

The board was notified of three recent appointments — Preston Kaehr to replace Bruce Holland on the board of trustees for Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools, Bluffton Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Bri Lautzenheiser to replace Clerk-Treasurer Michelle Simon, and Recorder Carolyn Bertsch to replace Ossian Clerk-Treasurer Angie Ealing.

Lautzenheiser will take over the office on Sept. 4 and Bertsch on Dec. 1, meaning the Republican Party will hold another caucus to replace the recorder for December. Rina Stuck is the prospective successor as the only candidate on the general election ballot for recorder.

Clerk Beth Davis and Republican Party member Roy Johnson were present for Tuesday's meeting; Democratic Party member Larry Sell was absent. The Election Board will meet next at 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 17.

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World's oldest person has died at age 117

MADRID (AP) — Maria Branyas, an American-born Spaniard considered the world's oldest person at 117 years old, has died, her family said on Tuesday.

In a post on Branyas' X account, her family wrote in Catalan: "Maria Branyas has left us. She has gone the way she wanted: in her sleep, at peace, and without

pain.' Gerontology The Research Group, which validates details of people thought to be 110 or older, listed Branyas as the oldest known person in the world after the death of French

nun Lucile Randon last year. The next oldest person listed by the Gerontology Research Group is now Japan's Tomiko Itooka, who is 116 years old.

ries of crossing the Atlantic

Ocean during World War I. Her family wrote that free and satisfied.'

Branyas was born in San Francisco on March 4, 1907. After living for some years in New Orleans, where her father founded a magazine, her family returned to Spain when she was young. Branvas said that she had memo-

Branyas told them days before her death: "I don't know when, but very soon this long journey will come to an end. Death will find me worn down from having lived so much, but I want to meet it with a smile, feeling

Ukraine has destroyed or damaged all three bridges over Russia's Seym River, sources say

By ILLIA NOVIKOV

Associated Press KYIV, Ukraine (AP) Ukrainian forces have either destroyed or damaged all three of the bridges over the Seym River in western Russia, according to Russian sources, as Kyiv's incursion into western Russia entered its third week Tuesday.

Kyiv's incursion into Russia's Kursk region is changing the trajectory of the war and boosting morale among Ukraine's war-weary population, though the ultimate outcome of the incursion — the first attack on Russia since World War - remains impossible to predict.

Even as Ukraine hails its success on Russian territory, the Russian push in eastern Ukraine is poised to claim another key center, the city of Pokrovsk.

Ukraine's attacks on the three bridges over the Seym River in Kursk could potentially trap Russian forces between the river, the Ukrainian advance and the Ukrainian border. Already they appear to be slowing down Russia's response to the Kursk incursion, which Ukraine launched on Aug. 6.

Over the weekend, Ukraine's Air Force commander posted two videos of bridges over the Seym being hit, and satellite photos by Planet Labs PBC analyzed Tuesday by The Associated Press confirmed that a bridge in the town of Glushkovo had been

A Russian military investigator confirmed Monday that Ukraine had "totally destroyed" one bridge and damaged two others in the area. The full extent of the damage remained unclear.

"As a result of targeted shelling with the use of rocket and artillery weapons against residential buildings and civilian infrastructure in the Karyzh village ... a third bridge over the Seym River was damaged," the unnamed representative for Russia's Investigative Committee said in a video published on the Telegram channel of Russian state TV anchor Vladimir Solovyov.

Russian military bloggers Vladimir Romanov and Yuri Podolyaka and several high-profile prowar Telegram channels in Russia also claimed that the third bridge had been targeted and damaged. Podolyaka's post was shared by Roman Alekhin, an advisor to Kursk's acting regional governor.

Since the incursion into the Kursk region began, the Ukrainian army has captured 1,263 square kilometers (488 square miles) and 93 settlements, Ukraine's top military commander said Tuesday — up from 1,000 square kilometers (386 square miles) a week ago. Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi made the remarks while meeting with local

Following a meeting with Syrskyi later Tuesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a video address that the Ukrainian army was achieving "set goals" in Kursk.

Zelenskyy said in recent days that the operation is aimed at creating a buffer zone that can prevent future attacks on his nation from across the border, and that Ukraine is capturing a large number of Russian prisoners of war that it hopes to exchange for captured Ukrainians.

TASS, a Russian state news agency, reported that 17 people have died and 140 have been injured in Ukraine's incursion, citing an unnamed source in the Russian medical service. Of 75 people hospitalized, four are children.

Russia's Ministry of Emergency Situations said Tuesday afternoon that more than 500 people had left dangerous areas in the Kursk region over the past 24 hours. In total, more than 122,000 people have been resettled since the Ukrainian attack began, it said.

In another example of Ukraine taking the war to Russian soil, a massive fire burned for the third consecutive day after an oil depot was hit by Ukrainian

The fire at the depot in the town of Proletarsk burned across an area of a hectare (2 1/2 acres), according to Russian state news agencies. There were 500 firefighters involved in the operation, and 41 of them already have been hospitalized with injuries, according to TASS, citing local officials.

Ukraine's Army General Staff claimed responsibility Sunday for attacking the oil depot, which was used to supply the needs of Russia's army, calling it a measure "to undermine the military and economic potential of the Russian Federation."

Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the Ukrainians of "trying to destabilize our country" and compared them to ter-

"We will punish the criminals. There can be no doubt about that," Putin said Tuesday. He was meeting with mothers of children killed in the 2004 Beslan school attack by Islamic militants that left more than 330 people dead.

Ukraine's incursion has exposed Russian vulnerabilities according to analysts and Ukrainian offi-

Zelenskyy said Monday that he believes Ukraine's actions would help to dispel Western fears of offering more robust military aid to Kyiv. Some allies have been handing over weapons slowly and imposing limits on how they can be used, fearing that crossing a Russian "red-line" could lead to escalation, even nuclear escalation.

'We have now achieved an extremely important ideological shift: the naive and illusory concept of socalled 'red lines' regarding

Russia that dominated the assessments of the war by some of our partners has crumbled these days somewhere near Sudzha," the president said, referring to a seized Russian town under Ukrainian control.

Much remains unknown about Ukrainian operations in Russia but satellite images provide some clues.

Pontoon bridges — temporary bridges used by militaries when formal bridges are blown out — could be seen in the satellite images provided by Planet Labs PBC in two different positions along the Seym River in recent days. The pontoons likely were built by Russian troops trying to supply forces around the Ukrainian advance.

One pontoon bridge appeared along the serpentine path of the river between Glushkovo and the village of Zvannoye on Saturday, but not in images taken Monday. On Monday, smoke could be seen rising along the banks of the river nearby — typically the sign of a strike.

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3 charged after death of federal prison worker who opened fentanyl-laced mail

By MICHAEL R. SISAK **Associated Press**

A federal prison inmate and two other people were charged Tuesday with conspiring to mail drugs to a penitentiary in California where a mailroom supervisor died this month after opening a letter that prosecutors said was laced with fentanyl and other substances.

According to prosecutors, Jamar Jones, a prisoner at the U.S. Penitentiary in Atwater, California, plotted with Stephanie Ferreira, of Evansville, Indiana, and Jermen Rudd III of Wentzville, Missouri, to send him drugs that he could sell at the prison. They disguised the shipment as "legal mail" from a law office, investigators said.

The penitentiary's mailroom supervisor, Marc

Fischer, fell ill on Aug. 9 after opening a letter addressed to Jones that contained multiple pages that appeared to be "soaked," or coated with drugs, according to an FBI affidavit filed in connection with the charges.

Within five minutes, according to the affidavit, Fischer started to stumble around and asked for medical help, telling a colleague: "I don't feel good, it's going up my arm." He was taken to a hospital and died two hours later.

Fischer's cause of death remains undetermined pending toxicology reports, the affidavit said.

Briefly touching fentanyl cannot cause an overdose, and researchers have found that the risk of fatal overdose from accidental exposure is

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My cat got sick. It went downhill from there.

Have you ever had an off week? The universe and my own brain conspired against me this past week. I'm not sure what kind of cosmic karma I managed to wrack up, but I am not

Made a few mistakes at work, forgot to put on socks before shoes, put a shirt on backwards and/or inside out, put on two different shoes (I'm thankful I keep backups in my car), discovered around six bruises that I have no idea where they came from and burnt my dinner. Twice. An off week.



Carrie Penrod

It started with my cat Erwin getting sick. He refused to eat anything other than squeezable treats, and then he wouldn't even touch those. I made him a vet appointment and we both cried on the way in. Erwin because he hates the car and me because he was crying and I was driving myself into an anxiety attack and we were going to be late.

"I'm sorry," I said as soon as I walked in, "one of us didn't want to come."

There, the vet assistant called him a circle. I told her he was on a diet and had already lost some weight. I was informed he was absolutely perfect as is. She was determined that she and Erwin were going to be friends — he wanted nothing to do with her. I told her she shouldn't take it personally, Erwin doesn't really like anyone but me. He then tried to hide in the sink. I never claimed he

The doctor checked his teeth: perfect. Ears: immaculate. No bumps, no lumps, no injuries to be found. The only thing she did find was a slight fever. Erwin was given five days of a pain reliever and 10 days of an antibiotic. So, every 12 hours I had to wrestle antibiotics into a very angry cat. I felt like I needed my own medicine after that.

And the off week continued.

One of the downsides to this job is that when you make a mistake, everyone sees it. It's usually pretty quickly forgotten — by everyone but me and maybe Holly Gaskill. Too err is human, but that doesn't make it any less annoying and on occasion embarrassing. I'm harder on myself than anyone else though, so every mistake feels like I just let nuclear launch codes fall into the hands of a precocious toddler.

The other downside is having to deal with the Street Fair. Which is 28 days away. Prepare yourselves.

I have a saying that Holly and Ryan Walker have heard a few times late at night when I feel like my eyes are crossing: I'm doing my best, but my best is not that great. I think it matches my gold star above my desk that says "You tried."

Sometimes, that's all you can do. I try to give myself as much grace as I give others, but it's more difficult because I know what I'm capable of. So on an off week, I do my best, even if it isn't always the greatest. It's Monday night as I write this and so far, we're okay.

And it better stay that way or I'm running away to join a circus. Do people still do that?

Contact Carrie at newsroom@news-banner.com

Letters to the Editor River Road lighting not good city planning

Our community has a River Road experience most communities along a river would envy – clean, picturesque, easily accessible, and not cluttered with billboards, intrusive development, overhead utility lines, or inappropriate public or private lighting.

Since the building of State Road 316 just over 80 years ago to replace the gravel road from Vera Cruz to Bluffton, the River Road experience from White Bridge to Bluffton has been a picturesque experience: along the north side the easily accessible Wabash River flows just beyond the now over 35-year-old River Greenway, and along the south side stretch vistas of farmland and residential yards up to houses, some that are now historic in their own right.

There are certain landmarks iconic to Wells County: the Wabash River, Ouabache State Park, the Wells County Courthouse, Bluffton's City Hall, Wells County Historical Museum, Five-Points School House along Jeff Road, the Salamonie River, Deam Oak, and the scenic River Road drive from White Bridge to Bluffton. To diminish any of these is to diminish the community we call "home."

Comes now the City of Bluffton with the plan to light River Road and the River Greenway by installing standard wooden utility poles along the south side of River Road with street light arms extending the ubiquitous street lamps over the road and electrified by overhead wires. Mayor John Whicker, in a letter dated August 13, 2024, and received by River Road property owners on August 16, 2024, informed us that the second attempt to install these proposed street lights will begin on August 20, 2024. Certain City officials have explained to us in two meetings that this project is an engineered solution to provide public safety based on traffic counts while also providing lighting for the River Greenway, yet these same City officials continue to fail to account for how the proposed lighting effects the quality of life the scenic River Road experience provides the community, effects the property owners and their Wabash River frontage property, effects wildlife and the natural environment, and isn't justified by INDOT's own traffic volume data.

The City's proposed "engineered" solution lacks the design inherent in good city planning.

In a meeting with River Road property owners, Councilman Scott Mentzer has stated that this plan to light River Road and the River Greenway was a utility decision and then asserted that it is a Mayoral decision. Installing 27 utility poles with street lights along the historic and picturesque River Road to light the River Greenway needs public review – that is standard good city planning practice.

Moreover, there is no recorded documentation in the office of the Wells County Recorder of right-of-way from Orchard Ridge Drive to the White Bridge for this roadway. The recording of property transactions is required by State law and upheld by Indiana case law to make sure the public, especially succeeding property owners, can find such information.

How do we leave this community a better place to live? A natural, picturesque River Road without intrusive clutter helps sustain the quality of life to call this place "home."

Respectively, THE RIVER ROAD NEIGHBORHOOD Dan and Jennifer Brink, Phil and Cindy Gagle, Nathan Clem, Braden and Carrie Boots, Barry and Constance Duncan, Doug Sundling, Steve Gerber, Rebecca Steury, Jennifer Golder, Jason and Tiffany Smith



The two datapoints that explain why voters hate the Biden-Harris economy

Vice President Kamala Harris has a problem: Large majorities of Americans believe the economy is on the wrong track, and more say the Biden-Harris administration's policies have hurt their personal finances rather than helped, and that their personal economic situation is getting worse rather than better. That's clearly a major headwind for Harris's presidential hopes.

Until now, her and President Joe Biden's response to these concerns has been to tell people: Don't believe your lying eyes (or pocketbooks), the economy is doing a lot better than you think. As the Trump campaign pointed out in a new ad, until recently Harris was giving speeches boasting that "Bidenomics is working." That message has failed miserably, and for good reason: It does not conform with the lived reality of most Americans.

To understand why, consider this simple statistic: Over the past three years, Americans have gone from the highest levels of household savings ever recorded to among the lowest levels. At the same time, they have accumulated the highest level of personal debt

In the Biden-Harris administration's first year in office, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco reports, U.S. households were sitting on a record \$2.1 trillion in excess savings — meaning additional savings built up during the pandemic recession above the prerecession trend. Nonetheless, as president of the Senate, Harris cast the deciding vote to pass the catastrophically misnamed "American Rescue Plan" with only Democratic votes — a reckless \$1.9 trillion social spending bill that even former treasury secretary Lawrence H. Summers, who served high in both the Clinton and Obama administrations, warned would "set off inflationary pressures of a kind we have not seen in a generation."

It did just that, unleashing the worst inflation in four decades. As inflation skyrocketed, Americans spent down their savings, and racked up debt trying to keep up.

The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco reports that American households were spending down their savings at an average rate of \$70 billion per month since September 2021 — which has accelerated to \$85 billion a month since last fall. By March of this year, they had fully depleted all the excess savings they had accumulated during the pandemic, and by June their savings had dropped \$372 billion below

expected levels. Meanwhile, consumer debt has reached a record high of \$17.8 trillion — a \$3.15 trillion increase since Biden and Harris took office. Credit card debt has surpassed \$1.14 trillion for the first time, almost doubling on Biden and Harris's watch. Today, the average American is carrying \$6,329 in credit card debt — an increase of \$1,534 during this presidency. (Total debt increased on Donald Trump's watch, too, but more slowly and in a time of historically low interest rates.)

Because the Federal Reserve raised interest rates to fight inflation, Americans are paying the highest interest on that record debt in 23 years. The average credit card interest rate in America today is 24.92 percent, the highest level on record. So not only are many Americans' credit cards maxed out, their debt is compounding more quickly each month.

A basket of groceries that cost \$100 before Biden and Harris were elected now costs more than \$125 and last year more than 60 percent of Americans used credit card debt, payday loans, savings and "Buy Now, Pay Later" options to pay for those groceries, according to a May report by the Urban Institute. Nearly 4 in 10 Americans have been charged a late

fee in the past year because they could not pay their bills on time.

Many also can't afford to buy a home because housing prices have skyrocketed and mortgage rates have more than doubled from 2.77 percent when Biden and Harris took office to 6.49 percent today. But renting offers little relief because residential rents have risen 22 percent. The costs of electricity and other utilities, home insurance and child care have shot up as well.

As Trump put it in his interview with Thiessen Elon Musk this week, "Four years ago, five years ago, people were saving a lot of money. Today, they're using all their money and borrowing money just to live. It's a horrible thing that's happening.

He's right. And this reality puts Harris in a nowin situation. A new Financial Times-University of Michigan poll finds that more than 60 percent of Americans say Harris should make major changes to Biden's economic policies. But as the sitting vice president, she can't disavow the economic policies she has helped preside over for the past four years. She wasn't just a passive bystander to Bidenomics; she was one of its architects, casting the tiebreaking votes that enabled the inflation-inducing spending the Biden-Harris administration unleashed.

Where does she differ from Biden? If she had won the 2020 election instead of Biden, there is good reason to believe she would have tried to spend even more. During her campaign for the Democratic nomination, she proposed a mind-boggling \$45.5 trillion in new spending, according to Manhattan Institute budget expert Brian Riedl — more than 10 times the \$4.3 trillion in new spending she and Biden enacted. She also promised to ban fracking, which would have driven up gas and electricity prices even higher.

So, Harris can't defend the administration's record without appearing as hopelessly out of touch as Biden. She can't disown the disastrous economic policies she helped implement. And as a committed leftist, who has endorsed the full Democratic socialist agenda from the Green New Deal to Medicare-for-all, the only different course she can honestly offer is to spend even more — which would make inflation far worse.

On Friday, Harris doubled down on socialism with a widely panned economic policy speech, in which she deflected blame for inflation onto big business and proposed a federal ban on "price gouging" for groceries and other essential items. Federal price controls are a catastrophically bad idea that have failed everywhere they have been tried — from the Soviet Union to the Nixon administration — and would lead to Venezuelan-style shortages and even worse inflation. So is her proposed \$25,000 in government subsidies for first-time home buyers, which would cost a fortune and further drive up already soaring housing

Her best new economic idea is her proposal to eliminate federal taxes on tips (despite the administration having created a new program last year to crack down on tipped service industry workers) but that one she plagiarized, without attribution, from

In all, Harris's proposals amount to almost \$2 trillion in new government spending — virtually the same as the disastrous Biden-Harris "American Rescue Plan" that unleashed the inflation Americans are struggling with today. In other words, she has learned nothing from the economic failures of the Biden-Harris administration.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen @marcthiessen on X

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 21, the 234th day of 2024. There are 132 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history: On Aug. 21, 1831, Nat Turner launched a violent slave rebellion in Virginia, resulting in the deaths of at least 55 white people; scores of Black people were killed in retribution in the aftermath of the rebellion, and Turner was later executed.

Also on this date:

In 1858, the first of seven debates took place between Illinois senatorial

contenders Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas.

In 1911, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" was stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris. (It was recovered two years later in Italy.)

In 1944, the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and China opened talks at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington that helped pave the way for establishment of the United Nations.

In 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an executive order making Hawaii the 50th state.

In 1983, Filipino politician Benig-

no Aquino Jr. was assassinated as he exited an aircraft at Manila International Airport. (His widow, Corazon Aquino, would become president of

the Philippines three years later.) In 1991, a hardline coup against Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev collapsed in the face of a popular uprising led by Russian Federation President Boris N. Yeltsin.

In 1993, in a serious setback for NASA, engineers lost contact with the Mars Observer spacecraft as it was about to reach the red planet on a \$980 million mission.

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The benefits of a phone break

Dear Annie: I made the decision to this person ever put down my phone for a while, and the fool me again with results have been wonderful.

Today was my "allowed" day to pick up my phone again. I had given myself a three-day restriction, and today was the fourth day. During those three days, I only answered for my dad calling. He's 86, and I don't want to miss one minute of his time with us. But that was all I allowed myself to do.

I cannot believe how much I have gotten done in my little apartment. It's all shiny and organized again.

I am going to follow this rule weekly. I believe it is the best idea I've ever had, and it's good to see others have come to the same conclusion.

I've got a great movie waiting for me, so I'm putting this phone down again to enjoy my time. — Feeling Free Again

we say no to certain behaviors, we say yes and open the door to other positive behaviors. Thank you for sharing your experience.

Dear Annie: I was in an abusive, controlling marriage when my children were small, and I couldn't leave until they created their own lives. I finally got out of this marriage, after 37 years, thank God!

While I found my way out, my problem is in how best to move on — to create my own life away from him. Sometimes, I feel lonely and scared, and at times, I question whether I will be able to make it on my own.

I know that's how he made me feel like I couldn't do anything for myself - and he has destroyed so many relationships in my life. He has turned so many people against me. He did this with lies and by making people believe him.

I finally realized that he was a narcissist who was very cunning and always fooling me. Please see if you can give me some support and advice not to let

his lies. Thank you. Married to a Narcissist

Dear Married: Congratulations on leaving what was a terrible situation for you. There are support groups you could join that would help you recover from the abuse that you suffered from your husband. Look up



Dear

Annie

by Annie Lane

https://narcissistabusesupport.com/narcissist-abuse-support-groups/.

The best thing is that you are away Dear Feeling Free Again: When from his toxicity, which can only leave you feeling drained and hollowed out. It's time to rebuild the pieces of your self-esteem that he spent years destroying. Allow other people, such as a good therapist or members of a support group, to help you put back those pieces.

Dear Annie: I just want to put this out there. I am a 63-year-old woman. I was bullied in school for no reason at all. I was never the type to fight back or say anything, and after all these years, it still bothers me. I was afraid to tell my parents what I was going through. I taught my kids to come to me if they were ever treated like this in school. Please, parents, question your children; ask them if things were OK in school. Bullying is not right at any age! — Still Have Scars

Dear Scars: I am sorry that you had to experience bullying at all. You are correct that the scars still remain. I hope that with the help of a good therapist, you can heal some of that past hurt so that you can be free of pain.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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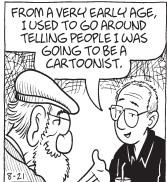
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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: There was a terrible fire in our neighborhood. An elderly couple died with no one to rescue them. I'm having a hard time dealing with this because they were like grandparents to the neighborhood children, including my own. This precious couple held a little vacation Bible school in their yard each summer and taught the kids beloved Bible stories that are no longer taught at most churches. Am I wrong to ask God why this was allowed to happen when these dear people were so

Answer: Most of us know what it means to be stunned by the sudden passing of a dedicated friend, a godly pastor,

faithful in telling the chil-

dren about God's love? -

The death of the righteous is no accident

or a saintly mother. We've stood at the open grave with hot tears running down our cheeks and asked in utter bewilderment, "Why, O God, why?

The death of the righteous is no accident. God's watchful vigil notes the sparrow's fall and even the number of hairs on our heads. Yet we think that He turns His back on one of His children in the hour of peril. He understands our sorrow but, with Him, there are no accidents, no tragedies, and no catastrophes as far as His children are concerned.

Paul, who lived most of his Christian life on the brink of death, expressed triumphant certainty about life. He testified, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21, ESV).

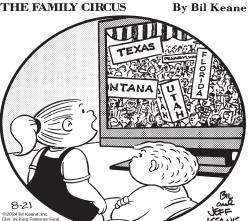
Paul's strong, unshakable faith took trouble in stride. He never asked, "Why, Lord?" He knew, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that his life was being fashioned into the image and likeness of his Savior, and he believed God for everything in life and death.

It was Sir Walter Scott who asked, "Is death the last sleep? No, it is the final awakening." "He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me ... has passed from death into life" (John 5:24, NKJV).

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Gra-

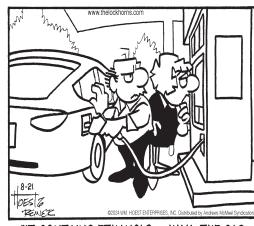
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Andy Griffith Andy Griffith Everybody Raymond Raymond The King of Queens The King of Queens 106 304 Andy Griffith Andy Griffith 26 142 114 236 (3:30) \\ \mathbb{P}\dagger \dagger \text{Think Like a Modern Family} Mod Fam Modern Modern Modern Modern Mod Fam E! News E! True Hollywood E! Family Family Family 241 241 Two and a Half Men Half Men Half Men Half Men *** Overboard (1987, Comedy) Kurt Russell, Edward Herrmann, Goldie Hawn. PARMT Little League Game 32: Teams TBA From Howard J. Lamade Stadium in South Williamsport, Pa. (L) (N) own (L) (N) Michelob ULTRA Arena in Las Vegas. (L) (N) To Be Announce 31 50 140 206 Little League Game 31: Teams TBA From Volunteer Stadium in South Williamsport, Pa. (L) (N) ESPN 32 54 143 209 ESPN BET Live (L) (N) SportsCenter (L) (N) Stars of the Open (L) (N) NFL Live ESPN2 To Be Announced In the Arena: Serena 418 671 (4:00) MLB Baseball Cardinals! MLB Baseball Milwaukee Brewers at St. Louis Cardinals From Busch Stadiur Pre (N) in St. Louis. (L) (N) Golf Life Breaking 34 133 105 242 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Dare" 35 72 182 278 Expedition Unknown Law-SVU "Ballad of Law & Order: SVII (:15) The Anonymous "Can You Law & Order: SVU Anonym. USA wight and Irena the Anonymous Handle It? Expedition Unknow "Out of Thin Air" Expedition X "The Madhouse" xpedition Unknown DISC 36 73 183 280 Dr. Pimple Popper Dr. Pimple "Plum Nose" Obsession | Obsession | Obsession | Obsession | My Giant Face Tumor | My Deadly Appetite Dr. Pimple Popper Obsession Obsession 38 77 120 269 Pawn Stars "Boston Pawn Sox" Pawn Stars "Rick and Chum's Wild Ride" HIST 39 134 118 265 Court Cam Court Cam Court Cam Court Cam Court Cam | Arrest (N) | Arrest (N) CourtCam | CourtCam | CourtCam **The Perfect Bride: Wedding Bells (*18, Rom) Kavan Smith, Leanne Lapp, Pascale Hutton. on, Liv Tyler, Bruce Willis. The Ark "Pretty Big 40 117 185 312 Snowkissed (2021, Romance) Chris McNally, Amy Groening, Jen Lilley. The Perfect Bride (2017, Romance) Kavan HALL Smith, Leanne Lapp, Pascale Hutton. Kavan Smith, Leanne La ▼★★ Armageddon (1998, Sci-Fi) Billy Bob Thornton, Liv Tyler, Bruce Willis. Girls 41 135 122 244 (4:00) ** * Moonfall (2022, Sci-Fi) Patrick Wilson, John Bradley, Halle Berry. SYFY | 43 | 130 | 139 | 247 | Big Bang | 44 | 131 | 138 | 245 | Supernatural "Just My | Supernat. "O Brother | Where Art Thou?" Mod Fam Mod Fam Mod Fam Mod Fam TBS ♥★★★ The Dark Knight Rises (2012, Action) Anne Hathaway Tom Hardy, Christian Bale. TNT | Initiagination | Where Art Thou?" | In the Details" | Dwayne Johnson. | 131 | 254 | \$\frac{\fir}\frac{\fra F★★ Demolition Man (1993, Sci-Fi) Wesley AMC Snipes, Sandra Bullock, Sylvester Stallone. Daily Show SouthPark | South Park | South Park 107 249 Seinfeld Seinfeld Seinfeld Seinfeld COM Pregame (L) (N) MLB Baseball Milwaukee Brewers at St. Louis Cardinals From Busch Stadium in St. Louis. (L) (N) On Balance (L) (N) Cuomo (L) (N) Dan Abrams Live (L) (N) Banfield (L) 64 150 219 Speak Emmanuel Acho, Joy Taylor, and LeSean McCoy discuss the biggest sports topics of the day. (L) (N) MLB on FS1 Postgame Dan Abrams Live (L) (N) Banfield (L) (N) 307 Vargas Report (L) (N) The Hill (L) (N) WGN NCIS Rule Fifty-One NCIS NCIS NCIS NCIS Short Fuse Grocery "Snack Attack" Guy's Grocery Games Guy's Grocery Games Guy's Grocery Games 128 260 NCIS "Borderland" NCIS "Patriot Down" NCIS NCIS "Dead Air Grocery "Cheat Day" 59 153 110 231 Guy's Grocery Games Guy's Grocery Games FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Million Dollar LA 60 140 129 237 Million Dollar Million Dollar LA Million Dollar LA Million Dollar LA (N) Million Dollar LA Below Deck | Go | 140 | 129 | 237 | Million Dollar | Million Dollar LA | Mill Friends Friends Friends Friends Friends NICK Friends Wizards Friends Wizards Wizards-Place Miraculou ♥★★★ Coco (2017, Animated) Voices of Gael García Bernal, Wayne Brady "Keep Ya The 700 Club FREEFORM Marco Antonio Solís, Luis Ángel Gómez Jaramillo. Simpsons (:15) ★★★ Ride Along 2 (2016, Comedy) Kevin Hart, Tika Sumpter, Ice Cube. **** Problemista ('23) Tilda Swinton, RZA, Júlio Torres. (:45) Lil Nas X: Long Live Monter 300 501 (4:30) ★★ After Earth ('13) Jaden Smith. Chimp Crazy "Monkey | Tital Sumpter, Ice Cube. | (15) **** Gangs of New York (2002, History) Daniel Day-Lewis, Cameron Diaz, Leonardo DiCaprio. *** ★ Green Room ('15) Imager MAX Poots, Alia Shawkat, Anton Yelchin. John Cho, Lola Kirke. Vera Farmiga, Anna Kendrick, George Cloo ★★★ Miss Congeniality (2000, Comedy) Michael ★★★ A Time to Kill (1996, Drama) Samuel L. Jackson, **PARSHO** Caine, Benjamin Bratt, Sandra Bullock. Matthew McConaughey, Sandra Bullock (:15) ♥★★★ Aftersun (2022, Drama) Frankie Cori Celia Rowlson-Hall, Paul Mescal. * North of Normal ('22) James D'Arcy, Amanda Fix, Sarah Gador (:35) ♥★★★ Martha Marcy May Marlene ('11) Elizabeth Olsen. (P) (:20) ♥★★★ Basic Instinct (1992, Thriller) Shar Stone, George Dzundza, Michael Douglas. 375 859 327 553 (4:30) ★ Out of the Blue ("22) Diane Kruger.



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A hard-fought match

The Southern Wells Raiders fell 3-1 to Eastbrook at the Raiderdome Tuesday night, but the competitive spirit and much-improved squad proved why 2024 is a season to be excited about. At right, Southern Wells' volleyball team erupts after winning a close second set. Below left, freshman Abbie Powell (right) rips a spike down for one of her 14 kills against Panther's Gracie Elliot. Below right, sophomore Emma Parks reaches high for a spike on Eastbrook's Braylin Ailstock. (Photos by Ryan Walker)





Sports Roundup

Knights top three-team girls' golf meet, SW 2nd

Norwell took the three-team girls' golf match with Southern Wells finishing second at Eastbrook on Tuesday.

The Knights shot a 185 at Arbor Trace, while the Raiders finished with a 219. Eastbrook got third with a score of 249.

Norwell's Ellie Gatton was the medalist, finishing with a 42. Following her for the Knights was Savanna Simerman and Jordyn Shroyer at 47, Jessica Bynum 49 and Emma Burnau 53.

Callie Ripperger and Kolbie Beavans were the top golfers for the Raiders, who both shot 52s. Following them was Collena Reeves at 57, Sophie Meeks (58) and Erika Beavans (60). Norwell will be at Wayne starting at

5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21.

Southern Wells will be at home vs. Bluffton at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27.

Tigers open boys' tennis with win over Indians

Bluffton opened up its boys' tennis season with a victory at home over Union City Tuesday.

The Tigers won by a score of 4-1. **Individual results:**

- Nolan Lambert (B) defeated
- Jacob Ribich (B) defeated Anthony Wyatt 6-0, 6-0 at No. 2 singles.

• Anthony Hartman (B) defeated Kegan Livingston 6-0, 6-0 at No. 3

Kolton Mills 6-0, 6-1 at No. 1 singles.

- Jacob Thornburg and Brennan Hoggatt (UC) defeated Ben Maggard and Coy Lantz 6-4, 6-3 at No. 1 doubles.
- · Kade Abbett and Dane Schlagenhauf (B) defeated Levi Clark and Grant Elliott 6-0, 6-0 at No. 2 doubles.

The junior varsity team won 3-0. Individual results for JV:

- Lance Moser defeated Gabe Thomas 8-0.
- Braden Lemler defeated Gabe Tapp 8-1.
- Alex Maggard and Reid Abbett defeated Gabe Thomas and Gabe Tapp

Bluffton will be at Bellmont at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22.

Knights improve to 2-0 in volleyball, beats Bruins

Norwell took the road trip to Northrop and came away with a 3-0 victory in volleyball Tuesday night.

The set scores were 25-10, 25-13 and 25-15 as the Knights improved to 2-0 on the season.

Stat leaders for the night were: Vanessa Rosswurm with nine kills, Rebecca Settle with four aces, Emma Vachon 19 assists, Mekynzi Beck one block and Autumn Lee nine digs.

Norwell won the junior varsity match 2-0 (25-8, 25-19) and the freshman match 2-0 (25-14, 25-22).

Norwell will be at Heritage at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22.

Tigers fall in first volleyball match

Bluffton fell 3-2 against Huntington North in the opening volleyball game at home Tuesday night.

Set scores were 25-19, 16-25, 20-25, 32-30 and 13-15.

Stat leaders for the night were: Maryn Schreiber with 15 kills, Isla Gibson with 27 assists, Rori Drayer with three aces, Marly Drayer with 15 digs and Konley Ault with two blocks.

Huntington North won the junior varsity game 2-0 (25-20, 21-25, 12-15).

Stat leaders were: Lucy Mace five kills, Kenley Smith eight assists and four aces, Ella Borror seven digs and Bridget Steffen one block.

Bluffton will be at the Argyll Invitational at 9 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 24.

Tigers' golf match with **Warriors** moved

Bluffton's golf match with Woodlan on Tuesday was postponed. The rescheduled date will be at 4:30 p.m. Sept 19.

Green Valley Golf results

Bill Foreman, Dick Crispen, Bruce Warner and Ron McDonald were a part of the winning team in this week's Green Valley Golf League. Dave Willits had the low gross of 38 and Foreman had the low net of 31. Mike Bennett had the closest to pin and Willits had the longest putt.

Raiders drop opening match to Panthers, but are improved

By RYAN WALKER

PONETO - Southern Wells may have lost, but the improvement from last year's opening game to Tuesday night could not go unnoticed.

The Raiders fell 3-1 to Eastbrook at the Raiderdome with set scores of 19-25, 25-18, 27-29 and 13-25.

To put last year into context, Eastbrook's 17-15 record team swept Southern Wells' 1-23 team in straight sets 25-12, 25-11 and 25-20.

"I'm much happier with how they competed first three sets," Southern Wells head coach Whitney Powell said.

The third set loss was crucial to the Raiders, as the Panthers swiped it right from underneath them.

After taking the second set, Southern Wells had a seesaw battle with that scored several ties leading up to the final points. The Raiders went up 26-25 and 27-26, but the Panthers never let them have it and it paid off for Eastbrook's

The effort put into that set came up short, and the smell of defeat trickled over into the fourth set. Southern Wells head coach Whitney Powell attributed the 12-point loss in the fourth to conditioning and dropping the third set taking the energy out of the team.

"Having the lead, going back and forth with them — and we put a lot out (on the court)," Powell said. "I feel like maybe we need a little bit better conditioning too. So I feel that we're right there. That game could have gone either way for five or six points. I feel like the wind came out of our sails a little bit. We just got to learn to toughen up."

Despite the loss, the Raiders looked more sound as a unit. Powell is the architect of the team's 365-day turnaround, competing at a much higher level though it is early in the season to draw any conclusions. But the Raiders were about as good as they looked all season long last year.

Most of the pieces to the roster returned and are adding another year's worth of experience for Kila Shelley, a sophomore who put up a team-high three aces and nine digs against Eastbrook.

But the main contributing factor was freshman Abbie Powell. The 6' middle blocker had herself a night in her first varsity match. She racked up a team-high 14 kills and 4.5 blocks against the Panthers.

Powell made an athletic impact for the team immediately, but also as a leader. She was in the pregame huddle with the team, giving a pep talk and was the vocal leader during the match.

Powell, Shelley, freshman Kaylee Davis and other returners like Emma Parks, Aly Green, Sydney Alstoft, Kyah Thomas and Kaylea Coffel have a lot of room to grow with one another, and the first game was just the start.

"That's the biggest thing is that we're learning volleyball and while Abbie helps with that, Kila Shelley played club ball, getting extra touches through the summer," Powell said. "But we're all starting to just pick it up a little bit more than what we did before. So it's coming.

Stat leaders for the night were: Powell with 14 kills and 4.5 blocks, Shelley and Green with three aces and Coffel with 11 digs.

The junior varsity team fell in two sets.

Southern Wells will be at home next at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22.

ryan@news-banner.com

High School Calendar

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 21

BOYS TENNIŚ: Norwell at Concordia, 4:30 p.m. GIRLS GOLF: Bluffton at Northfield, 5 p.m.; Norwell at Wayne, 5:30 p.m

THURSDAY, AUG. 22

BOYS TENNIS: Bluffton at Bellmont, 4:30 p.m.; Jay County at Norwell, 5 p.m. BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at Blackhawk, 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF: Norwell at Bellmont, 4 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER: Northrop at Norwell, 7 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton at Wabash, 7:30 p.m.; Norwell at Heritage, 7 p.m.; Northfield at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m. FRIDAY, AUG. 23

FOOTBALL: Blackhawk vs. Bluffton (at South Adams), 7 p.m.; Norwell at Mississinewa, 7 p.m.; Elwood at Southern SATURDAY, AUG. 24

BOYS TENNIS: Bluffton, Norwell at Bluffton Tennis Invitational, 9 a.m

BOYS SOCCER: Woodlan at Norwell, 11:30 a.m.

CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): Bluffton at Taylor University Invitational; Norwell at Huntington North Invitational, 8 a.m.; Southern Wells at Monroe Central Invitational, 10 a.m. GIRLS SOCCER: Norwell at Blachkawk, 6:30 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS: Bluffton at Argyll Invitational, 9 a.m. **MONDAY, AUG 26** BOYS TENNIS: Bluffton at Blackford, 5 p.m.; South Side at

Norwell, 5:15 p.m. BOYS SOCCER: Manchester at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF: Jay County at Bluffton, 4:30 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Mississinewa at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.; Black-hawk at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Union City, 7:30

Bellinger, Swanson to lifts the Cubs over the Tigers

By GAVIN DORSEY **Associated Press**

CHICAGO (AP) — Cody Bellinger hit a two-run double and Dansby Swanson homered to lift the Cubs over the Tigers, 3-1, on Tuesday night.

Bellinger went 2-for-4 to lead Chicago. Javier Assad (6-3) pitched 5 2/3 innings for the Cubs, allowing just one run on six hits and striking out seven.

'I thought it was Javy's best start in a while, maybe since coming off the injured list," Cubs manager Craig Counsell said. "Getting ahead of hitters more consistently, more execution, fewer bad misses. Curveball to left handers got him some strikeouts tonight. The two-seamer got some strikeouts tonight. Multiple pitches (were) working, and I think that's what led to the good out-

Tyson Miller, Drew Smyly and Porter Hodge threw 3 1/3 scoreless innings, each allowing a hit, to close the game. Hodge earned his second save.

Detroit fell despite strong performances at the plate by Dillon Dingler and Spencer Torkelson. Dingler hit in the Tigers' lone run with an RBI single and added a triple. Torkelson was 4-for-4.

Tigers reliever Bryan Sammons (0-1) took the loss with three runs scored on four hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Chicago's offense was mostly stagnant for the first four innings. With two runners on base, Bellinger doubled in the fifth to put the Cubs ahead 2-1. It was a similar scenario to Bellinger's previous at-bat in the third, when he grounded out with runners on first and second.

"Obviously, I was pretty disappointed I wasn't able to get the job done," Bellinger said regarding his first attempt at batting in a run. "I felt decent that at-bat and said I just wanted to make the adjustment. Same situation, man on first and second with one out, so stay within my approach. (Ian) Happ and (Michael Busch) Buschy did a great job of getting on again, so I tried to get the job

Swanson hit a solo home run in the sixth, his 10th of the season, to left-center field to extend the lead.







News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

WNBA EASTERN CONFERENCE W L Pct L 4 7 15 x-New York 24 20 .741 .464 Connecticut 3½ 11 12½ 14 18 13 11 9 Indiana Chicago Atlanta 16 17 Washington 6 22 .214 WESTERN CONFERENCE GB Pct 1½ Las Vegas 17 18 15 .654 10 13 21 22 .643 .536 .222 1½ 4½ 13 Seattle Phoenix .214 Los Angeles x-clinched playoff spot Monday's Games

No games scheduled. Tuesday's Games New York 94, Dallas 74 Connecticut 69, Los Angeles 61 Seattle 83, Washington 77

Wednesday's Games Phoenix at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.

Minnesota at Las Vegas, 9:30 p.m. Thursday's Games
Dallas at New York, 7 p.m. Friday's Games Chicago at Connecticut, 7:30 p.m. Los Angeles at Washington, 7:30 p.m. Las Vegas at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE

1/2

10½ 14½

East Division W L 74 73 66 62 59 Baltimore 59 Boston .528 Tampa Bay 62 67 .500 .468 Toronto Central Division W L I Cleveland

L 52 55 56 GB 73 70 70 61 30 3 3½ Minnesota Kansas City .556 65 96 .484 12½ 43½ Chicago West Division

68 64 58 54 54 .544 .508 .457 Houston 69 .457 71 .432 72 .429 Texas Los Angeles 54 72 .42

Monday's Games
N.Y. Mets 4, Baltimore 3

Cincinnati 6, Toronto 3 Texas 4, Pittsburgh 3 Kansas City 5, L.A. Angels 3 Houston 5, Boston 4 San Diego 5, Minnesota 3 Oakland 3, Tampa Bay 0
San Francisco 5, Chicago White Sox 3
L.A. Dodgers 3, Seattle 0
Tuesday's Games

Toronto 10, Cincinnati 3 Baltimore 9, N.Y. Mets 5 Pittsburgh 4, Texas 0 Chicago Cubs 3, Detroit 1 Boston 6. Houston 5 L.A. Angels 9, Kansas City 5 Cleveland 9, N.Y. Yankees 5, 12

innings
Minnesota at San Diego, late Tampa Bay at Oakland late Chicago White Sox at San Francisco,

Seattle at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m. Wednesday's Games Baltimore (Irvin 6-5) at N.Y. Mets

(Manaea 9-5), 1:10 p.m. Boston (Criswell 5-4) at Houston (Verlander 3-2), 2:10 p.m. Pittsburgh (Germán 0-0) at Texas (Heaney 4-13), 2:35 p.m.

Chicago White Sox (Crochet 6-9) at San Francisco (Webb 11-8), 3:45 p.m. Cleveland (Cantillo 0-2) at N.Y. Yan-kees (Cortes 6-10), 7:05 p.m.

Cincinnati (Martinez 6-6) at Toronto (Rodríguez 1-5), 7:07 p.m. Detroit (TBD) at Chicago Cubs (Taillon 8-7), 8:05 p.m. L.A. Angels (Cueto 0-0) at Kansas City

(Lorenzen 6-6), 8:10 p.m. Tampa Bay (Pepiot 6-5) at Oakland (Spence 7-8), 9:40 p.m. Seattle (Gilbert 7-9) at L.A. Dodgers (Flaherty 9-5), 10:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE **Fast Division**

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Philadelphia	73	52	.584	
Atlanta ·	67	58	.536	
New York	65	61	.516	

Washington

ton 56 70 .444 46 80 .365 Central Division 73 62 61 61 **L** 52 64 GB .584 .492 Milwaukee 11½ Chicago St. Louis 12 12½ 64 65 Cincinnati Pittsburgh 66 .472 14 West Division Pct GB .587 .563

Los Angeles 74
San Diego 71
Arizona 71
San Francisco 64
Colorado 47 52 55 56 63 79 San Diego Arizona Colorado Monday's Games Arizona 9, Miami 6 N.Y. Mets 4, Baltimore 3 Cincinnati 6. Toronto 3

San Francisco 5, Chicago White Sox 3 L.A. Dodgers 3, Seattle 0

Tuesday's Games Arizona 3, Miami 1 Colorado 3, Washington 1 Toronto 10, Cincinnati 3 Atlanta 3, Philadelphia 1

Texas 4, Pittsburgh 3 San Diego 5, Minnesota 3

Baltimore 9, N.Y. Mets 5 Pittsburgh 4, Texas 0 Milwaukee 3, St. Louis 2 Chicago Cubs 3, Detroit 1 Minnesota at San Diego, late Chicago White Sox at San Francisco

late
Seattle at L.A. Dodgers, late

Seattle at L.A. Dodgers, late Wednesday's Games
Baltimore (Irvin 6-5) at N.Y. Mets
(Manaea 9-5), 1:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Germán 0-0) at Texas
(Heaney 4-13), 2:35 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Crochet 6-9) at
San Francisco (Webb 11-8), 3:45 p.m.
Cincinnati (Martinez 6-6) at Toronto
(Rodríguez 1-5), 7:07 p.m.
Milwaukee (Myers 6-5) at St. Louis
(Gibson 7-5), 7:45 p.m.
Detroit (TBD) at Chicago Cubs (Taillon
8-7), 8:05 p.m.

8-7), 8:05 p.m.

Midwest League

Monday, Aug. 19 No games scheduled. Tuesday, Aug. 20 Peoria 2, Fort Wayne 1

Place Your Ad 24/7: GO TO www.news-banner.com AND CLICK ON "Classifieds" OR CALL **824-0224** MON-FRI 8-5 • TOLLFREE **800-579-7476** • FAX **824-0700** VISA WE ACCEPT



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King Classic Sudoku

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Difficulty: ★★★

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S

OFFICE is currently seeking

applicants for the position of Full Time Deputy Sheriff. Ap-

plicants must be a US Citizen.

at least 21 years of age upon

my, possess a high school

diploma or equivalent as well

as a valid Indiana Operators License. Applicant can't have

any felony convictions. Appli-

cants must pass all aspects of

the hiring process including

physical agility testing, written

examination, background in-

vestigation, oral interview,

polygraph and psychological

evaluation. Selected applicant

must be able to graduate from

the Indiana Law Enforcement

Academy. ILEA certified appli-

cants do not have to attend the

physical agility and written ex-

amination portion of the pro-

cess. 20-year matrix salary range for a Deputy Sheriff (no

rank) is \$56,600 - \$68,400.

Years of service and experi-

ence will be honored for a

starting salary up to five years

in the pay matrix. Application

can be found on our website at

Once application is completed.

details on the testing date and

location will be emailed to the

applicant. The application

Lottery Numbers

Tuesday's Drawings

HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 - 10-16-28-34-

Cash4Life — 09-18-32-

Quick Draw Midday —

Daily Three-Midday —

Daily Three-Evening —

Daily Four-Midday —

Daily Four-Evening —

Quick Draw Evening

04-05-06-08-09-11-27-

28-34-42-50-54-57-59-60-

Hoosier Lotto

Estimated jackpot (for

Wednesday): \$19.7 mil-

MEGA MILLIONS

Ball: 24; Megaplier: 4X.

Wednesday): \$20 million

POWERBALL

05-20-26-49-51; Mega

Estimated jackpot (for

61-68-71-75-79, BE: 05

03-07-11-13-26-27-30-32-

34-40-43-53-54-56-58-61-

completed

must be complete September 13th, 2024.

37-46, Cash Ball: 04

63-64-66-68, BE: 27

09-00-08, SB: 00

07-04-06, SB: 01

01-07-09-09, SB: 00

09-02-07-06, SB: 01

www.wellscountysheriff.com.

graduation from p

Help Wanted

8/21

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSIS-TANT - Purdue Extension Wells County is now accepting applications for a full-time administrative assistant. Applicaand job description online available www.extension.purdue.edu/ wells or contact the Extension 824-6412 hoover21@purdue.edu. Application deadline August 30.

EARLY MORNING DRIVER needed to deliver papers to post offices and stores in southern part of county. Must have reliable transportation. Call Natasha or Doug, (260) 824-0224, for more informa-

THE BLUFFTON POLICE Department is seeking applications to fill the position of Ordinance Compliance Officer. This full-time civilian position is responsible for ensuring compliance with all city ordinances and is based in the police department working M-F 8a-4p. Duties include downtown parking enforcement and resolution of weed and junk complaints. The successful applicant must be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma or GED equivalent, possess a responsible driving history and clean criminal background. Knowledge of law procedures preferred. Application is available city's website www.blufftonindiana.net. For more information contact Chief of Police Kyle Randall at 824-3320 or kyle.randall@bluff tonindiana.gov. Applications are due back August 23, 2024 by 4:30 p.m.

This Week's Garage Sales



GARAGE SALE/MOVING SALE 3679 So. Hoosier Hwy., Bluffton, Friday, Aug. 23, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 24, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Flower pots, hutch, lamps, pictures, bunk bed, car seats, bedding, kids clothes, girls 4-8, boys 4-6, womens clothing, mens clothing, kids bike, toys, Christmas items, antique roosters, antique dishes, china set, Boyds Bears, ladder and some tools.

Receive a free garage sale kit when placing a three day line classified ad.

Help Wanted

BLUFFTON POLICE PARTMENT Now Hiring! The Bluffton Police Department is accepting applications for the position of police officer. Applicant must be 21 years of age by close of application date, but less than 40; have a high school diploma; two-year college degree or equivalent (60 hours), or three years of work experience in police related field or an ILEA Basic graduate or equivalent. Must provide college transcripts. Applicant must possess and maintain a valid Indiana driver's license and responsible work experience. Applicant must pass a background investigation, written test, physical agility test, oral interview, voice stress examination, required statewide baseline physical and psychological examination and drug test. Applications may be picked up at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, 128 E Market St, Bluffton, IN, between the hours of 8 am-4:30 pm Mononline or

blufftonindiana.net. If you have questions about the application process, you may call the Bluffton Police Department at 260-824-3320, Kyle Randall, Chief of Police. Last day to acwill be cept applications September 30, 2024

FAMILY ORIENTED DRIVE-AWAY company looking for class A and B drivers to transport new and used trucks. 50 cents per mile. 3 years experience needed. Clean driving record. All expenses paid but meals. Part time and full time positions open. Retired drivers Or gregbrite@hotmail.com (EAP1) welcome. Reply 260-433-3557

NOTICE

Notices

UPCOMING EVENT HAPPENING?

A 20 word, line classified ad for six days is only \$24.50. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office at 125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224, or submit online to news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

DOCKET NO

90C01-2408-EU-000025 OF WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA Notice is hereby given that Cheryl A. Sills was on the 8th day of August, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of MARGARET A. CRANDALL, deceased, who died on the 15th day of July, 2024, and was authorized to administer her estate without Court supervision.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file those claims in the office of the Clerk of the Wells Circuit Court within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or those claims will be forever

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 8th day of August, 2024. Beth Davis

Clerk, Wells Circuit Court Matthew P. Hayes Attorney for Personal Representa-

Attorney No. 32002-02 GORDÓN & ASSOCIATES. P.C. 119 East Oak Forest Drive Bluffton, IN 46714 (260) 824-9377

SUDOKU ANSWER

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Read & recycle this newspaper



AUGUST 22-23 - 9 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. 815 Adams St., Decatur. Two day truck & equipment auction. Day 1, online bidding only: 250+ various skid loader attachments, mini excavators, mini skid steers, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 40' high side shipping containers, dome shelters, various truck take off parts & much more! Day 2, onsite and online bidding offering 700+ lots! 2024 Holiday Rambler, large group of off lease day cabs and sleepers, Freightliner day cabs, box, dump, utility & bucket trucks, lots of trailers, shipping containers, skid loader attachments, cars, SUV, pickup trucks, cargo & passenger vans! Accepting con signments! Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

AUGUST 22, noon-5 p.m., AUGUST 23, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., AUGUST 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. - Estate Sale. 1513 Ridgewood Lane, Bluffton. Furniture, lamps, glassware, baskets, ironing board, sewing machine, luggage set, hand tools, antique BD electric drill, table saw, hand planer, router table/router, garden tools, wheel barrow, nail gun, ladders, weed sprayers, DVD and VCR players, Samsung TVs, sound system, old train set, fertilizer spreaders, rowing machine, storage cabinet, 1940's Boy Scout gear, wall hangings, battery charger, albums, tapes, CD's, more items. Call 260-341-5247 for details.

AUGUST 25-SEPTEMBER 1 - Online Only Personal Property - Spaulding, seller. John Deere X304 riding lawn mower, household, modern furniture, vintage collectibles & Christmas, machinist tools, vintage patio furniture, machinist tool boxes, vintage boat motors, power tools, much more. Auction preview & online bidding assistance Aug. 27, 4-6 p.m., 27 Hi Lo Drive, Bluffton, IN. Sale manager Nick Huffman, 260-827-8255, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-426-0633, steffengrp.com.

AUGUST 31 - 10 a.m. - (Onsite) - Aaron & Lydiann Schmucker, owners. 9036W 800S, South Whitley. 50±A, tillable land, home, Whitley County. Offered in 4 Tracts. Tract 1: 20±A tillable productive farmland, Pewamo, Blount, Shoals, Sloan loam, Morley Clay soils. Tract 2: 20±A till-able productive farmland, Coesse, Sloan loam, Glynwood, Blount, Shoals soils, Tract 3: 4±A w/ approx. 3,184 sq. ft. 2-story home w/full walkout basement, 6 bedrooms, open concept layout, infloor heat, outside deck, barn w/stalls, calf barn, straw shed, small utility type buildings. Tract 6±A "Swing Tract", tillable, mostly Pewamo, Blount soils. Must be purchased w/another tract or by adjoining land owner. Inspection Aug. 24, 10 a.m.-noon. Sale manager Ritter Cox, 260-609-3306, Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., 800-451-2709, SchraderAuction.

SEPTEMBER 7 - 9 a.m. - Various consignors, sellers. Lehman Feed Mill, 5111 S 000 Rd., Berne, IN. Farm Machinery Consignment Auction. Tractors, hay wagons, grain carts, discs, planters, plows, trucks, trailers, semis, live-stock trailers, tools, lawn & garden equipment, shop equipment, livestock equipment & more! Consign anytime Sept. 4, 5, or 6 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call Heartland to advertise your items! Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc., 260-724-3499,

heartlandauctionrealty.com.
SEPTEMBER 8-SEPTEMBER 15 - (Online
Only Auction) - Private Collector, seller. Outstanding collection of 2,000-plus comic books, large assortment of 8-Tracks, cassettes, CD's & DVD's, Star Wars figures, DJ lighting, vintage books, dolls, large Nativity set, toys, collectibles. Previews: Sept. 5 and Sept. 12 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 117 W. Craig St., Ossian. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com. **BIDDING NOW OPEN & STARTS CLOSING**

SEPTEMBER 9 - 6 p.m. EST -Susan Pollock estate, owner. Two bedroom, 1 full bath, 1,264 sq. feet, basement, 8'x12' utility shed, Root Township, Section 34, Adams County, Indiana, North Adams Community Schools. Open house Aug. 28, 5-6 p.m., 520 Nuttman Ave., Decatur, IN. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com. SEPTEMBER 10 - 10 a.m. EST - (Live and

Online) - Norman & Norwin Bauermeister.

815 Adams Street, Decatur, IN. Bauermeister Brothers retirement farm equipment auction! Tractors, tillage & grain handling equipment, skid loader, JD 5320, JD 6300, JD 4240, JD 7820 FWA, JD 980 23' field cult., 24' UM dual wheel single rolling basket w/harrow, 1965, Dodge D600 & 1974 Chevy C60 grain truck, J&M 425 hopper wagon, 8"x52' Mayrath swing auger, 3 point attachments & much more! For questions on equipment please call Butch, 260-246-3656. Preview Sept. 3, 4-6 p.m., 7845 N 650 E, Ossian, IN. Checkout and pick up Sept. 10, 3-5 p.m. Sept. 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, iauction.com

SEPTEMBER 17 - 2-6 p.m. ET - Online - Greenbush, Inc., farm. Property location: 1231 N 740 E, Marion. 242.9+/- acres, classified forest, barns, quality farmland, timber, Van Buren Twp., Grant Co. Tract 1: 80+/-A, barns. Tract 2: 55.5+/-A. Tract 3: 18.3+/-A. Tract 4: 7.1+/-A, potential building site, 42'x56' barn, 30'x31' barn. Tract 5: 63+/-A, 55.28+/- classified forest. Tract 6: 19+/-A, 18.7+/- classified forest. Timber value appraisal available. Open house Sept. 7, 1-4 p.m., Steve Goodwin (forester) present. Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181, Èmma Barr, 260-494-0992, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177, Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, halderman.

com, 800-424-2324.

SEPTEMBER 24 - 2 p.m.-6 p.m. ET - Online - Don A. Heckber, farm. Property location: 11648 N SR 1 Ossian, IN. 31.63+/-total acres, agriculture prime farmland, 31.5+/- tillable, 0.13+/- nontillable, Topography: Level, Zoning: Agricultural, School District: Norwell Community Schools. Rick Johnloz, 260 827 8181, rickj@halderman. com, Jason Johnloz, jasonj@halderman.com, 260-273-9177, *Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management*, 800-424-2324, halderman.com. **SEPTEMBER 24 - 6 p.m. - Online Only - The**

Estate of Jeffrey Brown. Two story country home situated on 2.41+/- acres with outbuildings. This 1,876 SF home features 3 bedrooms, large living room, eat-in kitchen, utility room and 1 car garage. Open houses: Sept. 12 and 19 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 7721 N. 300 W. Markle, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., steffengrp.com, 260-

SEPTEMBER 25 - 6 p.m. - Online Only - The Estate of Jeffrey Brown. Land location: 1/4 mile west of Marzane Rd on Wells County Rd 1200 N (Scott Street), Zanesville. 9.27+/- acre prime building site in Union Twp., Northern Wells County. Property features open land, wooded acreage, a 24'x48' pole building. Perfect home site, country estate. "Explore the potential of this property." Open houses: Sept. 12 and 19 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-006, steffengrp.com.

SEPTEMBER 27 - 9 a.m. - Huntington University, owner. Civic Center, 339 S. Main St., Montpelier. Online bidding available. Property: From Montpelier, 1 mile east to CR 600E, north 3 miles to CR 1000S, 3 miles east. 256±A productive land, buyer will have 2025 farming rights, Wells County, Nottingham Township. Offered in 5 tracts, any combinations, tracts. Tract 1: 40±A mostly tillable, CR 1000S, CR 100E road frontage. Tract 2: 88±A mostly tillable, CR 1000S road frontage. Tract 3: 7±A mostly tillable, CR 1000S road frontage, potential building site! Tract 4: 104±A mostly tillable w/7±A woods, CR 1000S, CR 200E road frontage. Tract 5: 17±A mostly tillable, CR 200E road frontage. Inspection Aug. 29, 4-6 p.m., Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-noon, Tract Auction managers Al Pfister, 260-760-8922, RD Schrader, 800-451-2709, Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., schrader

NOVEMBER 14 - 6 p.m. - Becher Family Farms LLC, sellers. Auction location: Adams Co. 4H Expo Hall, 160 W. Washington St., Monroe, IN. Four tracts, Washington Township, Adams County. Tract 1: 82.88 acres, County Rd. 200 West, Sec 18. Tract 2: 80.2 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 8. Tract 3: 35.05 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 9. Tract 4: 39.97 acres, County Rd. 400 North, Sec 9. Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc., heartlandauctionrealty. com, 260-724-3499.

As I age, a long list of infirmities are a badge of honor

Here's

the

Thing

So, how are you doing? "Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of eighty and gradually approach 18."

Mark Twain

We've all been there. You ask a person of some advanced age



Ballinger

how they are doing, and they begin a one-sided conversational tour de force of their aches and pains. You want to explain that the question was asked merely as a

polite conversational bridge, but you cannot find an opening. The exhaustive list of infirmities and doctors' visits

must be completed. I am guilty myself as I often elicit yawns and sudden phone checks during my health malady audit. Listeners make it difficult for me to adequately complete the list if their attending skills are poor. It would help if they could just focus for a few minutes, then

I could move on. A real hoot is to overhear a conversation between two, let's say 70 somethings, as they compete for turf in the aches

and pains tug-of-

war. This happened to me the other day when I ran into an old school mate in the frozen food section at Kroger. I had just placed a quart of double chocolate rocky road in my cart. Fortunately for you, the reader, I preserved a transcript of our exchange. It went something like

STRAINSTORM TEAM CREATE IRAN

THINK

BOX

"Kenny Ballinger you old son-of-a-sea biscuit is that you? I haven't seen you since you stole my tater tots down at Ivanhoe's in high school.'

"I don't recall that, but I'll take your word for it Dusty." I chortled with great sincerity. How you doin'?" I said through our handshake.

Pleased that I recognized him under his camouflage cap, he got right to it in response to my question, "Well, I'm pretty good, but the arth-a-ritis slows me down, specially in the mornins. You

know how it is. And then I passed a huge kidney stone last week -Dr. said it was the biggest he'd ever seen in Marion. Course he's spent his whole life in

Grant County, but he said with me just comin' off a case of the shingles I was doing pretty good, but then the Covid got me, and set me back, and..."

I cut him off mid-sentence in desperation as I realized he had scored many points here and was off to a big lead in the aches and pains competition. I stumbled, then through sheer will I mustered the confidence to reply. "You know I've had both knees replaced and my left hand shakes, and I can't raise my right arm above my shoulder, probably from all the curve balls I threw while we were playing baseball at Eastbrook HS...

I regretted it as soon as I said it. I had wandered off topic and knew he now would have the upper hand. "You did not have a curveball in high school," he chuckled. You could not break a pane of glass. Did you even

pitch?" (Just for the record, I did.) "Who can remember all that anyway?" Dusty continued. "I don't sleep very well – since I gotta get up about six times a night for you know what...'

I cut him off again but with resignation as I silently acknowledged that he had won the day. "Getting old is not for the weak." I mumbled. Just then I saw the drip of brown ice cream slurry under my shopping cart. Dusty saw it too. It was time to go. As we parted I asked, "How's the Mrs.?'

"She's fine," he said. How is your wife doin'?"

'She's fine," I replied.

I'm 73 and consider myself to have been relatively healthy throughout my life, still I find I am under the care of many. Here is a list of my doctors:

General Practitioner Cardiologist Gastroenterologist Ear Nose and Throat Specialist Orthopedic Surgeon Dermatologist **Podiatrist** Urologist Pulmonologist Neurologist And of course, I have a:

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Many have suggested I need to see a psychologist, but as you can see, I have little time for any additions. What I could really use is someone in logistics to aid in navigation.

I am thankful for each of these men and women who take so much time with me and who work so diligently to hold me together. And the nurses? Don't get me started. They are the best.

Here's The Thing: When navigating the stairway of aging, grab the rail. Pray for those who have no rail to grab.

When you see me out and about, feel free to ask how I am doing. Just make sure you have some time.

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.

Summer readers read more

A successful 2024 summer reading program has been announced by the Wells County Public Library with all reading goals broken.

The youngest patrons (ages birth to 24 months) completed 1,656 activities. 1,357 kids ages 2 to grade 6 were signed up and read more that 486,720 minutes.

260 teens read a combined total of 687,284 pages while the 629 registered adults read a total of 1,507,706 pages.

All groups ended the two month summer reading adventure with a year-end party.

FW's Swinney Homestead events

On Sept. 7 nd 8, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. the Swinney Homestead will celebrate with an open house and tour of the Herb Garden.Members of Settler's Inc. will offer the free tours.

The Swinney Homestead is located at 1424 West Jefferson Blvd. More information about the Settlers at settlersinc.org.

On Sept. 21, 22 the Settler's Pioneer Village will be set up at the Johnny Appleseed Festival in Fort Wayne. Entrance to the festival is free and costumed Settlers will be demonstrating a variety of historic hand arts, life skills and music. Hours on Saturday are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Swiss Stitchers to meet August 26

Swiss Stitchers will meet Monday, August 26 in the Berne Fire Station at 7 p.m.

There will be a short business meeting and wrap-up of the Quilt Show plus show and

Quilts will be placed in frames for Education Day at Swiss Heritage Village. There are five quilts to prep for the event.

Please check your calendars and come prepared to sign-up to work the Education Day.

If you have questions please call Jeane Baumer (589-2714) or Vivian Lemmon (692-6227).

Thank you for reading your local newspaper

August

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Estimates

Fremion art in Fort Wayne Museum of Art exhibit

The art by Indiana artists and work chosen for the "Artists of the Hoosier Salon From the Permanent Collection" show will continue through Oct. 6, at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art. Among the artists are Wells county artist Joel Fremion.

Other Fort Wayne area artists included are Peggy Brown, Jim McBride, John Hrehov and John Kelty

A lecture about the exhibit will be presented on Friday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m. by Mark Ruschman, Senior Curator of Art and Culture, Emeritus, for the Indiana

State Museum and Historic Sites. (Reservations needed to fwmoa.org/events, \$15 members or \$20 non-mem-

Other exhibits and their of closing dates are as fol-

The art installation drawn pieces of textile art by Rowland Ricketts will be viewable through Sept.

"Sam Gilliam: His Art of Printmaking" will be on view through Oct. 27. Thirty-four of his prints will be shown."Diverse Directions: Rethinking the Landscape"

featuring natural landscapes will be hung through Dec.

Gallery Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday (until 8 p.m. on Thursdays) and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10 adults, \$8 students and seniors, \$25 per family and free Thurs-

be offered on Sept. 14 at 10:30 a.m., free with general admission and RSVP to fwmoa.org/events. Tours for families with children

days from 5 to 8 p.m. Family Tours will **LAWN CARE** MOWING YARD CLEANUP PreK-12. LANDSCAPING STONE / GRAVEL WEED CONTROL A Talk **SCHEDULE TODAY!**



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Concerts at Fort Wayne's Foellinger Outdoor Theatre

Foellinger Theatre is located at 3411 Sherman Blvd., near the FW Chil-

dren's Zoo. Upcoming concerts: 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 Philharmonic

Friday & Saturday Bands BEER SOURBON Friday Night Aug. 23rd THURSDAY -8-12 pm - Karaoke! **Dollar Off Drinks** (Excludes Pop)

Saturday Night Aug. 24th 9 pm-1 am - Zero Tolerance! WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE Weekly Drink Specials and Events! FRI.& SAT. - Live Musio Sundays Biscuits & Gravy Follow us on **f** for our Events. 9am - until GONE! 123 S Johnson ST. •824-0455

Sept. 23: TESLA



Thursday, August 22nd 6pm Friday, August 23rd 6pm & 8:45pm Saturday, August 24th 3pm, 5:45pm, & 8:30pm Sunday, August 25th 2pm & 4:45pm

<u>Harold and the Purple Crayon</u> ONE Weekend ONLY! Friday, August 23rd 6:20pm & 8:30pm Saturday, August 24th 3:30pmSSS, 6pm, & 8:30pm Sunday, August 25th 2:20pm & 5pm

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