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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

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Visitors Commission discusses Wabash River clean-up needs

By HOLLY GASKILL

Members of the Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission hope to initiate new Wabash River clean-up efforts to preserve the natural attraction.

During their monthly meeting on Wednesday, the group discussed forming a subcommittee of those with vested interests — like members of the Visitors Commission and Area Plan Commission — to guide efforts. Although using funds from the innkeeper's tax for clean-up had previously been discussed, board member Scott Elzey said these funds are restricted to tourism efforts.

As this is a recent side project for the board, board member Jon Winne asked, "Has this come to us because nobody else wants to do it, and it just keeps getting kicked around, and we're the new kids on the block?"

"No, actually, you can probably blame

me," Elzey joked. "It was a brainstorm that I've had because recently, the river's been down, and you can see a lot of tires."

"There's just a gap — nobody's doing it," board member Brandy Fiechter added. "At the Parks Department, we've done it (clean-up) downtown stretch for a couple (of) years."

Additionally, Elzey said he planned to talk with the County Commissioners and Solid Waste Management District about some of the recycling fees. Several board members commented that fees to recycle larger items, like TVs, like play a role in junk and river clean-up.

Also during the meeting, the board received an update on finances from Tourism Coordinator Audry Dudley, which showed collections from the innkeeper's tax at a slightly lower rate than last year.

Board member Michelle Blount, who

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Pictured above is the foliage screen in Alley Four, next to the American Legion Post. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

Bluffton NOW! moves towards completion of first phase of pathway project

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Final punch list items are being handled as Bluffton NOW! gets ready for the completion of phase one of the Downtown Pathways project.

While there is no official date for a ribbon cutting, the pathways are nearing completion and will have a ceremony sometime in September, according to Bluffton NOW! President Mike Lautzenheiser. Alley One, located between Johnson and Main streets connecting Perry and Market streets, Alley Two, located between Johnson and Marion streets connecting Perry and Market streets

and Alley Four, located between Johnson and Main streets that connects Walnut and Washington streets, are all included in phase one of the project.

Lautzenheiser noted that there are some drainage items for alley four that Bluffton NOW! is working on, preventing the ribbon cutting ceremony. Phase one as a whole is still in the final stages of review to ensure compliance with municipal code standards.

Fundraising for artist work in alleys one and five will occur in combination with fundraising for alleys three and five.

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Late Indiana politician Richard Lugar will be honored with monument

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle

A cadre of state and national officials will unveil a statue and monument today honoring Indiana's longest-serving U.S. Senator, the late Richard Lugar, today in Indianapolis. Lugar's decades of public service touched millions of lives, whether through his work on nuclear nonproliferation or reimagining downtown Indianapolis.

The monument will be placed in Lugar Plaza, outside of the Indianapolis City-County Building. Planning for the honor began years ago under the leadership of civic leader Jim Morris, who died in July. The event is scheduled for 10 a.m. in Indianapolis.

"Of course, the career of Dick Lugar spanned over half a century. And because of that expanse and impact, we had to ... make sure it's part of the monument," said Charlie Richardson. "It comprehends his entire career: a Rhodes scholar, naval officer, school board member, mayor (and) United States senator ... the celebration is of that entire arc and the example it sets for the future."

Richardson, a retired attorney, said he first saw Lugar when he addressed Richardson's college fraternity in 1967, the year he was elected to be mayor of Indianapolis. Richardson was so moved he decided to work with Lugar's administration for two consecutive summers.

Lugar died in 2019 shortly after his 87th birthday and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. One of Lugar's most

lasting impacts was a program to secure and disarm weapons of mass destruction, which deactivated thousands of warheads and destroyed hundreds of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

"We all wanted to not only remember him, but make sure that people 50 years from now remember the example of Dick Lugar," said Richardson, who is a member of the executive planning committee for the monument.

Funds for the monument and celebration were raised privately from hundreds of donors, Richardson said, and former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will be the keynote speaker.

Design elements

Jonathan Hess, a board chairman with Browning Day, recalled Morris' ask two-plus years ago to memorialize Lugar's legacy, which would draw from several stages of his life.

"I'm an architect; I've never done a monument before," Hess said. "So my process is really one where you do your research and you listen carefully."

Prior to his 36 years in the U.S. Senate, Lugar was Indianapolis' mayor from 1968 to 1976 and a school board member. He also served in the U.S. Navy and was a Rhodes Scholar. Capturing those years, including his post-Senate career in foreign policy analysis with the The Lugar Center, would be a challenge.

For Hess, designing the statue that is the centerpiece of the monument started with a

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A 14-year-old student fatally shot 4 in a rampage at a Georgia high school

By JEFF AMY, Associated Press

WINDER, Ga. (AP) — A 14-year-old student opened fire at a Georgia high school and killed four people on Wednesday, authorities said, sending students scrambling for shelter in their classrooms — and eventually to the football stadium — as officers swarmed the campus and parents raced to find out if their children were safe.

The dead were identified as two students and two teachers at Apalachee High School in Winder, about an hour's drive from Atlanta. At least nine other people — eight students and one teacher — were taken to hospitals with injuries.

The words "hard lockdown" appeared on a screen in junior Layla Ferrell's health class and lights began flashing. She and her frightened classmates piled desks and chairs in front of the door to create a barricade, she recalled.

Sophomore Kaylee Abner was in geom-

etry class when she heard the gunshots. She and her classmates ducked behind their teacher's desk, and then the teacher began flipping the desk in an attempt to barricade the classroom door, Abner said. A classmate beside her was praying, and she held his hand while they all waited for police.

After students poured into the football stadium, Abner saw teachers who had taken off their shirts to help treat gunshot wounds.

Two school resource officers encountered the shooter within minutes after a report of shots fired went out, Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Chris Hoesy said. The suspect, a student at the school, immediately surrendered and was taken into custody. He is being charged as an adult with murder.

Authorities were still looking into how the suspect obtained the gun used in the shooting and got it into the school in Barrow

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Kroger's CEO: Shoppers would see lower prices after merger

By CLAIRE RUSH
and DEE-ANN DURBIN

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The chief executive officer of Kroger insisted Wednesday that merging with rival Albertsons would allow the two supermarket companies to lower prices and more effectively compete with retail giants like Walmart, Costco and Amazon.

Kroger CEO Rodney McMullen argued in favor of what would be the largest grocery chain merger in U.S. history while testifying

during a federal court hearing in Oregon on the U.S. government's request for a preliminary injunction that would block the \$24.6 billion deal.

"The day that we merge is the day that we will begin lowering prices," McMullen said while under questioning by a lawyer representing his company.

Addressing another issue that has worried shoppers in communities with both Albertson and Kroger-run stores, McMullen said Kroger was committed to not closing

any branches immediately if the merger is finalized but might down the road if it decides location changes or consolidations are needed.

The Federal Trade Commission sued early this year to stop the merger the two companies proposed in Oct. 2022 after Kroger agreed to purchase Albertsons. The commission alleged the deal would eliminate competition and lead to higher food prices for already struggling consumers.

Kroger, based in Cincinnati,

Ohio, operates 2,800 stores in 35 states, including brands like Ralphs, Smith's and Harris Teeter. Albertsons, based in Boise, Idaho, operates 2,273 stores in 34 states, including brands like Safeway, Jewel Osco and Shaw's. Together, the companies employ around 710,000 people.

FTC attorneys argued during the U.S. District Court proceedings on the commission's injunction request that in the 22 states where the two companies compete now, they closely match each other

on price, quality, private label products and services like store pickup. Shoppers benefit from that competition and would lose out if the merger is allowed to proceed, they said.

McMullen countered that argument by saying that Albertsons prices are 10-12% higher than Kroger's and that the merged company would try to reduce the disparity as part of a strategy for keeping customers. Walmart now controls around 22% of U.S.

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Outside



Sunny and hot today, storms possible Friday

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 87	High 77	High 66
Low 64	Low 47	Low 43

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Visitors Commission

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owns a local Airbnb, advised that some of this decrease could be attributed to increased competition and lower rates. Blount said she has reduced the cost of her own Airbnb to stay competitive with others in the area. Board member Jeff Reed said he's done the same with his Airbnb out-of-county.

The innkeeper's tax places a 5% tax on all overnight accommodations, like hotels and listings on Airbnb and Vrbo.

The board also reviewed its 2024 budget, and Dudley noted that office rent has been added for \$320 per month. Her position was previously housed under the economic development branch of the Chamber of Commerce, and "Economic Development left, which means I now have to pay,"

she stated.

In other project updates, Dudley presented a brochure map to guide visitors at Ouabache State Park to attractions in downtown Bluffton. While the group hoped to use resources from the APC for a map of countywide attractions, Dudley has since learned she wouldn't be able to manipulate the design from the GIS format. Propeller Marketing of Fishers quoted the project at \$2,000.

The board then reviewed a contract from Britton Marketing of Fort Wayne for a 12-month marketing campaign, advising Dudley to clarify miscellaneous terms about reimbursing "all costs and expenses incurred in connection with the Project" and expenses for travel. The county will pay \$50,000 for the campaign.

Dudley also shared new Wells County apparel items. The items are available in batches, and the online store will close on Sept. 8. Pick-up will be available at Team Mantra or the Wells County Commerce and Visitors Centre. The online store can be found on the Wells County Visitor & Information Bureau Facebook page or at visitwellsco24.itemorder.com/shop/sale/.

In addition to Elzey, Winne, Fiechter, Blount, board members Steve Higgins, Jay Esparza and Jeff Reed were also present Wednesday; Zane Herr and Justin Osborne were absent. Elzey noted during the meeting that Winne, Blount, Esparza, Higgins and Osborne will all be up for re-appointment to the board at the end of the year.

holly@news-banner.com

Bluffton NOW!

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which will be done in phase two of the project. Lautzenheiser stated that not all the alleys are planned to have commissioned artwork, but they are open for discussion. Alley Five will, however, be primarily art focused.

"While the finishings would be similar to some of the other alleyways, it is specifically for an art showcase," Lautzenheiser said. "There will be interchangeable displays in the alleyway itself."

The feedback for the current alleys has been positive according to Lautzenheiser. Additionally, upkeep and maintenance of the alleys will be handled by the city, which was approved at a July 2 meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety.

"I've felt that the feed-



Pictured is the artwork in Alley One, next to the Dollar General on Market Street. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

back has been very positive," Lautzenheiser said. "People really enjoyed seeing this type of amenity downtown and in their community. We're starting to see a lot of photos and comments from businesses and

individuals using them for their intended purposes, as both transportation and as destinations."

The goal for phase two of the project is to raise \$100,000 to hit a matching grant amount from the Wells

County Foundation. While they are still in the preliminary fundraising phase, advertising for donations will be ramped up once the ribbon cutting is done for phase one.

jonathan@news-banner.com

Richard Lugar honored

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photo of Lugar after winning a reelection campaign early in his Senate career. The chest-up photo showed a "relaxed and affable" Lugar leaning on a balustrade in the U.S. Capitol Building.

To craft the statue from the waist down, Hess found inspiration closer to home: Lugar's family farm.

"I asked (his son Bob Lugar) ... 'Where was your dad's favorite place?' And he didn't miss a beat. He said, 'Well, it was the farm,'" Hess said. "And, actually, it was the walnut grove that Sen. Lugar really enjoyed. I think the pastoral sense of it and his love of forestry — his love of agriculture."

In the final design, Lugar leans on an abstracted column. From the ground, a walnut trunk — which was molded with real tree bark from the grove — grows and transitions into an ionic column, the sort of structure one traditionally sees on government buildings.

Contained within the top portion of that column is a globe.

"(The committee) wanted this to be not just about Indiana, but the global reach that Sen. Lugar had," Hess said.

Lugar stands atop a five-sided platform that extends

outward, with plaques engraved with some of his most memorable quotes and other information. The inspiration for the pentagonal shape comes from the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the country, which former President Barack Obama awarded Lugar in 2013.

Indianapolis metalworker Ryan Feeney did "a magnificent job in crafting the likeness," Hess said, allowing the architect into his workshop to see the process.

The bronze and steel statue is seven feet and over 800 pounds. The base and five other plaques — which surround the central statue and detail Lugar's life — weigh in at 1,100 pounds and add another 18 inches in height. Due to the flatter design of the five-sided base, the statue is around 12 feet in diameter.

Summarizing a legacy

Richardson said Lugar served as a mentor and example to him for more than 50 years, especially after Richardson moved to D.C. for his career in 1999. By then, Lugar had been in Congress for more than two decades.

"He was both able and eager to help others like me grow and succeed. He was never threatened by other

people's success; he really believed in lifting everybody up," Richardson said.

Lugar's political career came to an end after he lost a primary race in 2013 to Richard Mourdock, who then lost to Democrat Joe Donnelly.

Following that loss, the politician turned his attention to founding The Lugar Center, an institute with a focus on the foreign policy issues that influenced much of Lugar's career. The site touts its expertise in addressing issues such as global food security, nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, aid effectiveness and bipartisan governance.

"Senator Lugar paved a post-Cold War path for U.S. foreign policy, away from nuclear confrontation and toward a safer and more just world. He believed the world was a better place when the United States led by example, based on pragmatism and principle," said the founding dean of the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies, part of Indiana University.

Lugar was also a known human rights champion, leading the effort to override a presidential veto from former President Ronald

Reagan on legislation to impose economic sanctions on apartheid South Africa.

Back home, Lugar is known for both the Lugar Series — which seeks to train female Republican leaders — and Unigov, which combined the governments of the city of Indianapolis with Marion County. Lugar referred to the latter as his most important achievement as mayor, according to an Indiana University's collection of Lugar's papers.

While all of these achievements, and more, will undoubtedly be documented in the monument, Richardson had a more concise take away for the passersby who will see the statue for generations to come.

"This information will say to this generation and future generations: It doesn't have to be this divisive and corrosive. We have examples in our own midst — and that is Richard. He's the example of public service," Richardson said. "And thinking of Richard Green Lugar as pointing to a better way for the future — let's do that. This current environment does not need to be the way it is."

"Let's use the example of Dick Lugar and get to a better place for future generations."

Georgia high school shooting

(Continued from Page 1)

County, about 50 miles northeast of Atlanta. At an afternoon news conference, officials would not say what type of gun was used.

Barrow County Sheriff Jud Smith choked up as he began to speak during the briefing. He said he was born and raised in the community and his kids are in the school system.

"My heart hurts for these kids. My heart hurts for our community," he said. "But I want to make it very clear that hate will not prevail in this county. I want that to be very clear and known. Love will prevail over what happened today."

It was the latest among dozens of school shootings across the U.S. in recent years, including especially deadly ones in Newtown, Connecticut, Parkland, Florida, and Uvalde, Texas. The classroom killings have set off fervent debates about gun control and frayed the nerves of parents whose children are growing up accustomed to active shooter drills in classrooms. But they have done little to move the needle on national gun laws.

Before Wednesday, there had been 29 mass killings in the U.S. so far this year, according to a database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in partnership with North-

eastern University. At least 127 people have died in those killings, which are defined as incidents in which four or more people die within a 24-hour period, not including the killer — the same definition used by the FBI.

Last year ended with 217 deaths from 42 mass killings, making 2023 one of the deadliest years on record for such shootings in the country.

On Wednesday in Georgia, sophomore football player Jacob King said he had dozed off in his world history class after a morning practice when he heard about 10 gunshots.

King said he didn't believe the shooting was real until he heard an officer yelling at someone to put down their gun. When his class was led out, he saw officers shielding what appeared to be an injured student.

Ashley Enoch was at home in the morning when she got a text from her brother, a senior at Apalachee High. "Just so you know, I love you."

When Erin Clark, 42, received a text from her son Ethan, a senior, saying there was an active shooter, she rushed from her job at the Amazon warehouse to the school. The two texted "I love you," and Clark said she prayed for him as she drove.

With the main road to the school blocked, she parked and ran with other

parents. They were directed to the football field, and amid the chaos, Clark found Ethan sitting on the bleachers.

Clark said her son was writing an essay in class when he first heard gunfire. He worked with his classmates to barricade the door and hide.

"I'm so proud of him for doing that," she said. "He was so brave."

Traffic going to the school was backed up for more than a mile as parents tried to get to their children. Barrow County schools will be closed for the rest of the week as they cooperate with the investigation, but grief counseling will be available.

"It's just outrageous that every day, in our country, in the United States of America, that parents have to send their children to school worried about whether or not their child will come home alive," Vice President Kamala Harris said during a campaign stop in New Hampshire.

In a message posted to social media, former President Donald Trump said: "These cherished children were taken from us far too soon by a sick and deranged monster."

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp said in a statement: "This is a day every parent dreads, and Georgians everywhere will hug their children tighter this evening because of this painful event."

Weather

Thursday, September 5, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:03 p.m. Wednesday)
High: 85; Low: 52; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.07 feet at 8:45 p.m. Wednesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 87. Southwest wind around 5 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. South wind around 5 mph.

Friday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 77. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northwest in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Friday Night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 8 p.m., then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 47. Northwest wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 66.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 43.

Kroger's CEO

(Continued from Page 1)

grocery sales. Combined, Kroger and Albertsons would control around 13%.

"We know that pricing is going to continue to go down," McMullen said.

His statements and the upcoming testimony of Albertsons CEO Vivek Sankaran were expected to be critical components of the three-week hearing, which is at its mid-point. What the two say under oath about prices, potential store closures and the impact on workers will likely be scrutinized in the years ahead if the merger goes through.

FTC Chief Trial Counsel Susan Musser referred to Kroger's 2021 investor fact book to make the argument that the merger would affect competition in areas where the two company's stores overlap. According to figures included in the document, Albertsons is Kroger's

biggest competitor in multiple metropolitan areas, including Portland.

A Kroger attorney countered by saying that Walmart remains Kroger's largest competitor in a majority of markets around the country.

The FTC and labor union leaders also claim that workers' wages and benefits would decline if Kroger and Albertsons no longer compete with each other. They've additionally expressed concern that potential store closures could create so-called food and pharmacy "deserts" for consumers.

Albertsons has argued the deal could actually bolster union jobs, since many of it and Kroger's competitors, like Walmart, have few unionized workers. McMullen said Wednesday that Kroger was committed to honoring existing labor contracts.

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OBITUARIES

Judy Hostetter, 82

Judy Hostetter, 82, of Fort Wayne, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 1, 2024.



She was born in Elkhart, Indiana, on Dec. 24, 1941, to the late William and Claire (Bourn) Goede. Judy dedicated 13 years as an office manager of Crop mate, retiring in 2000. She enjoyed watching various wildlife, however birds were her favorite.

She is survived by her daughters, Robin Moon and Tracey (Joe) Kuras; 14 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and siblings, Karl (Peggy) Goede and Gina (Dan) Urshel.

She was preceded in passing by her husband, Bill Hostetter; and son, Ron Hostetter.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 6, 2024, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 14623 Bluffton Rd. in Yoder, Indiana, with visitation one hour prior. Visitation will also be held from 2-4 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024, at Elzey-Patterson-Rodak Home for Funerals, 6810 Old Trail Rd. in Fort Wayne, with a Rosary Service beginning at 4 p.m.

Burial to follow the service at Oak Lawn Cemetery. Memorial contributions in Judy's memory may be made to Stillwater hospice or St. Aloysius Catholic Church. Condolences can be left online at www.elzey-patterson-rodakfuneralhome.com

Federal judge rules FSSA must provide modified relief for families in attendant care lawsuit

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The last two parents of medically fragile children receiving state payments for attendant care will transition to Structured Family Caregiving with everyone else following a Friday court ruling. But the federal judge presiding over the attendant care lawsuit ruled that FSSA must “arrange” for families to receive in-home skilled nursing services on top of that program.

During a court hearing in August, the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana argued on behalf of the Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services Commission and two medically frail children that families needed more services than what the SFC program provides. Prior to July 1, the state paid parents as Legally Responsible Individuals for attendant care provided to their children, a form of unskilled care that includes feeding, bathing and more.

Attorneys representing the state said Indiana erred in allowing parents to participate in that program, which supporters say pays a “living wage” instead of the flat, per diem amount granted under SFC.

Late Friday, U.S. District Court Chief Judge Tanya Walton Pratt issued a preliminary modified injunction which would transition the families to SFC and away from attendant care. However, the state was instructed to “take immediate and affirmative steps” to arrange in-home skilled nursing services to both families.

In August’s hearing, all parties acknowledged a statewide nursing shortage that made such services difficult to obtain. It wasn’t immediately clear how the two children at the heart of the suit would obtain that care following Friday’s ruling.

Timeline and relevant details

The Family and Social Services Administration, which oversees the state’s administration of Medicaid programs, expanded its waiver program for attendant care to include legally responsible individuals — often parents but occasionally spouses. Such fam-

ily members could provide unskilled care and be reimbursed by the state through a participating home health agency for the first time.

The families of over 1,600 children signed up for the program, which did not include guardrails like a cap on hours or payments and some families had more than one person participate as an LRI. Payments for some care exceeded \$100,000 for one child, of which providers took a portion.

In December, FSSA revealed a shortfall of nearly \$1 billion and later implemented various cost-cutting measures, including a plan to transition families from attendant care to Structured Family Caregiving. Families repeatedly rallied at the Statehouse, saying that SFC didn’t pay enough money to caretakers and petitioning lawmakers for relief.

In the Friday ruling, Pratt notes that attendant care was reimbursed at \$34.36 per hour, of which 60% or less — \$20.62 and under — went to families, depending on the home health agency. Comparatively, SFC pays between \$77.54 and \$133.44 per day, of which families receive between 65-70%, or between \$50.40 and \$93.41.

The General Assembly added some oversight requirements for the state agency earlier this year but ultimately allowed the transition plan to succeed.

The SFC transition would occur as FSSA resigned its waiver program, splitting the former Aged and Disabled Waiver into a Health and Wellness Waiver for the state’s disabled population and a Pathways for Aging Waiver for those aged 60 and older. Both changes occurred on July 1 with the exception of the two families who sued for relief.

The families of E.R. and G.S., the minors at the heart of the lawsuit, claimed in court that the substantial care needs of their sons necessitate round-the-clock care. E.R. has cri-du-chat syndrome, a rare genetic disorder, which is related to several of his other diagnoses and symptoms, including chronic respiratory issues, epilepsy, partial deafness and partial blindness.

G.S. has hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, a type of brain damage that affects the central nervous system, as well as Lennox-Gastaut syndrome and a severe form of dysautonomia. He has routine seizures as well as cardiac and respiratory issues.

Both children also use gastronomy tubes to eat. Due to their care needs, families worry they would need to be institutionalized if their mothers weren’t paid to provide their care because the parents — who are the sole caregivers — would need to secure outside employment.

Both families testified about their unsuccessful efforts to secure staffing for the hours they already had approval for under the Medicaid waiver. It is unclear how the two boys will get access to nursing services following the judge’s ruling, which was acknowledged in Friday’s filing.

Pratt, the federal judge, concluded that, “Looking at the factors presented by (plaintiffs) and the history of services FSSA has actually provided to the Individual Plaintiffs, as a result of FSSA’s changes ... E.R. would lose 112 hours a week of services from a trained provider, and G.R. would lose 84 hours a week of services.”

“The loss of these services is sufficient to show that the Individual Plaintiffs are at serious risk for institutionalization.”

More from the ruling

Pratt’s ruling includes a requirement for FSSA to “arrange” in-home skilled nursing services for E.R. for a minimum of 40 hours per week and for G.S. for a minimum of 80 hours per week.

“It is not enough for the Individual Plaintiffs’ needs to be met eventually; they would need to be met immediately following this Court’s ruling,” Pratt continued. “It is undisputed that there is a nurse shortage in Indiana and that nurses are unable to provide skill(ed) nursing services for the number of hours G.S. and E.R. are approved for...”

Pratt concluded that if an injunction were denied and both parents returned

to work, “there would be no one to provide” the care required for G.S. and E.R. The decision to modify the injunction protects the access to Medicaid services for everyone else, Pratt said, rather than granting the preliminary injunction initially sought by plaintiffs. Granting an injunction that allowed plaintiffs — and potentially other families — to utilize attendant care as used under the Aged & Disabled Waiver would violate the state’s waiver plan filed with the federal government and could potentially jeopardize funding.

However, Pratt notes that such a violation only occurred because FSSA didn’t include such a program under its waivers. Notably, other states allow families to access attendant care, but have limits on hours claimed and payments and definitions for “extraordinary” levels of care.

“The possibility of a permanent injunction is strong. A permanent injunction would not violate Medicaid law because FSSA could be required to outline criteria for extraordinary versus ordinary care,” Pratt said.

Pratt additionally dismissed budget concerns from FSSA, noting that if families could find a more distant relative to provide attendant care then costs for the agency would be the same.

“Alternatively, if the mothers are unable to find a non-Legally Responsible Individual provider of (attendant care) and rely solely on the in-home nursing service they have been approved for, the cost to the State would be almost identical...” Pratt said. “Moreover, if the State is unable to find a nurse to provide services and the Individual Plaintiffs need to be institutionalized, that would certainly come at a greater expense to the State.”

More than two thirds, or 68%, of families previously utilizing attendant care moved to SFC, though some secured someone else — such as an aunt or uncle — to provide attendant care. Other families rely on a combination of other services, such as home health aides and respite care.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County:

Friday, 12:12 p.m., 200 S and 200 E, Bluffton. Driver side swiped a pole.

Friday, 2:24 p.m., 200 block of Countryside Drive, Markle. Report of domestic incident.

Friday, 6:03 p.m., 11 block of East Washington Street, Poneto. Subject advised he shot dog on his property multiple times for growling at him. Husky shot in front legs.

Saturday, 8:35 p.m., 3000 West Scott Street, Zanesville. Caller reported of previous tenants cut holes in floor and wall and removed sink and water heater.

Sunday, 7:01 a.m., Rose and Meridian roads, Bluffton. Report of gunshots. Subjects were hunting with permission from property owner.

Sunday, 4:41 p.m., 3900 East Elm Grove Road, Bluffton. Two protective orders served.

Sunday, 10:48 p.m., 1300 West Central Avenue, Bluffton. Roger Fox arrested on warrant.

Monday, 6:15 p.m., Ouabache State Park. Caller reported dog was left with camp host who refused to return it. Dog was returned.

Monday, 8:04 p.m., 600 W and 900 S, Warren. Car versus deer.

Monday, 9:54 p.m., 200 S and 300 W, Liberty Center. Report of a dead deer in road.

Tuesday, 4:07 p.m., 100 E 100 N, Bluffton. Report of fraud via forgery.

Tuesday, 6:39 p.m., East 200 N and S.R. 116, Bluffton. Car versus deer.

Ossian:

Friday, 3:25 p.m., 2900 East U.S. 224, Ossian. Caller complained about dogs in roadway.

Friday, 4:13 p.m., 100 E 1100 N, Ossian. Report of fraud via credit card.

Saturday, 11:40 a.m., U.S. 224 and 100 E, Ossian. Driver cited for speeding.

Saturday, 4:06 p.m., S.R. 1 and 700N, Ossian. Caller reported owner walking dog without leash, however, dog was not causing issues.

Saturday, 11:43 p.m., 400 block of West Maplewood Drive, Ossian. Caller reported subjects on back porch, unable to locate.

Sunday, 6:27 a.m., 5800 N 450 E, Ossian. Caller reported subject stole trail camera and burned it. Trail camera pieces located in fire remains.

Monday, 3:08 a.m., 400 block of Ridge Court, Ossian. Report of noise complaint.

Monday, 8:18 p.m., 200 block of South Jefferson Street, Ossian. Caller reported subject stole pain medication.

Wednesday, 2:09 p.m., 2300 E 700 N, Ossian. Caller complained of traffic hazard due to road lines fading.

ARRESTS

Jared Joe West, 36, Ossian; fraud, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 3 felony, possession of a controlled substance, a Level 5 felony, possession of a controlled substance, a Level 6 felony, a Class B misdemeanor, and possession of xylazine and possession of paraphernalia, both Class A misdemeanors. Bond set at \$34,100.

Jose Alexander Gomez Abrego, 39, Bluffton; operating without ever obtaining license, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Toccara Shamar Stone, 40, Bluffton; operating a vehicle while intoxicated — endangerment, Class A misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Douglas Dean Ferris III, 37, Ossian; operating while intoxicated with passenger less than 18, a Level 6 felony, operating while intoxicated — endangerment and operating with an ACE of .15 or more, both Class A misdemeanors.

Christopher Lee Laughery, 40, Bluffton; contempt of court — civil. Bond set at \$500.

Roger Lee Fox II, 21, Bluffton; theft, a Class A misdemeanor, and unauthorized entry of a motor vehicle, a Class B misdemeanor. No bond set.

Daniel Ray Kajune Jr., 19, Fort Wayne; resisting law enforcement using a vehicle, a Level 6 felony, operating a vehicle while intoxicated — endangerment, operating with a controlled substance in body, a Class C misdemeanor, and possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. No bond set.

On the Banks of the Wabash marching band competition Saturday

The 47th annual On the Banks of the Wabash marching band competition will be held on Saturday, Sept. 7, at Bluffton High School.

The competition will begin at 3 p.m. Norwell will perform at 3:30 p.m. and BHS will perform at 9:20 p.m. Awards will be at 9:35 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Corrections and clarifications

Wednesday’s News-Banner misstated that a short YouTube video with the city of Bluffton’s rebranding. Due to budget restraints, the video will not be produced. A booth for information on the logo will be present at the Bluffton Free Street Fair.

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CO5210004

Are local boards losing control of their meetings?

A few months ago, I experienced a rather meta moment as I was at a board meeting for Southern Wells schools and members of the FFA modeled their meeting procedure.

The students did the “Robert’s Rules of Order” exercise with stealth and speed, working through a mock situation about where they should take a trip (if I remember correctly). “Do I have a motion?” “I motion.” “Do I have a second?” “I second.” “Any discussion?” “All in favor?” You get the drill.

I remembered doing the same thing in a middle school ag class, far before I knew board meetings would be a daily part of my life. I thought it was a little silly at the time. Was there really a need for such formality?

Of course, I feel a bit different about things now. Researchers more educated than I have made arguments to improve public meetings, but nonetheless, meeting procedures serve a purpose. When a group of people attempts to work through often complex decisions, procedural expectations guide the process and set a standard for decorum.

Over the last several months, however, I’ve observed a startling disintegration of multiple boards and public meetings in Wells County. Perhaps the occasional interruption from an audience member serves no real harm, but on more than one instance, meetings have been overtaken by extensive interruptions or unregulated time for public comment.

Board leadership has often made little or no attempt to manage the situation and instead, either continues the open discussion or looks to other board members to resolve an outburst. On one such occasion with the township advisory board, a board member packed up his things and left after he felt an audience member had been out of line.

By then, however, that was entirely the standard of conversation in the meeting. Comments were yelled constantly from the audience, with the only initial pushback that the audience needed to state their name “for the media.” That was swiftly ignored, and when I later asked someone who they were, I was met with a curt, “I don’t want my name in the paper.”

At a recent school board meeting, audience members spoke freely on several issues they were concerned about. Afterward, a school administrator said he didn’t know who any of the parents were.

I have to wonder — what purpose do public comments serve when a deciding board member leaves a meeting and when a school administrator does not know who an issue affects as they’re making decisions?

And that’s not to pick on any one school district or township — many boards have struggled to manage meetings at times. However, there seems to be an uptick in these circumstances as several boards deal with issues that have garnered more public participation.

Thus far I’ve attributed a large portion of responsibility to boards and their elected leadership, but that isn’t to neglect the responsibility of the public. Although I would not dissuade from asking tough questions or showing frustration, I think there is a proper manner to do so.

Additionally, I do believe self-identification is a necessary part of public meetings. As some meetings have turned more toward a group discussion, self-identification has sometimes just been a neglected aspect. That said, where it has been an intentional choice, I struggle with how people seemingly do not want to be held accountable — just by identifying themselves — like they expect from their public officials. Moreover, it provides the necessary context to those who represents an affected neighborhood, district or group.

If there were a conflict in nearly any other group setting — a family, the workplace, a volunteer group, etc. — we would likely agree that anonymously launching comments and criticisms at one another is not the best way to work through an issue.

Maybe I’m just on a soapbox and this really only matters “for the media.” Even so, I’d like to think if high school students can learn how to handle a meeting, maybe we have a chance as well.

holly@news-banner.com



Holly Gaskill

Lugar (and Morris) converted swords to ploughshares

Covering the 1996 presidential campaign of Indiana U.S. Sen. Richard G. Lugar, I found him in a Drake University classroom a few days before the Iowa caucuses talking with students. As I prepared to enter, a couple of national reporters were exiting, shaking their heads.

“Can you believe that?” one said. “He’s talking about Africa.”

The unsuccessful Lugar presidential campaign was a cerebral diversion. While some candidates offered up the same scripted talking points over and over again, Sen. Lugar tended to offer remarks aimed at specific audiences. And one of them was what would become the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

PREFAR was supported by Lugar and then-Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Joe Biden (the two rotated in that position) and signed into law by President George W. Bush. Prior to PREFAR, only about 50,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa had been receiving lifesaving anti-retroviral drugs. That quickly grew to 1.4 million. And a generation later, PREFAR has been credited with saving more than 20 million lives in Africa.

Or as Lugar put it, “We should understand that our investments in disease prevention programs have yielded enormous foreign policy benefits during the last five years. PEPFAR has helped to prevent instability and societal collapse in a number of at-risk countries.”

“In my judgment,” Lugar continued, “the dollars spent on this program can be justified purely on the basis of the humanitarian results that we have achieved. But the value of this investment clearly extends to our national security and to our national reputation.”

Tuesday, a little more than five years after Lugar passed away at age 87, many of his colleagues and constituents gathered outside Gainbridge Fieldhouse for the unveiling of a monument in his honor. Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice gave the keynote, and there were video commemorations from President Bush and former Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn.

The unveiling of the Richard Lugar Monument pays homage to one of the most influential politicians in Hoosier history, who received more votes than any other Hoosier. The monument was installed later in the day in its permanent location at the Lugar Plaza on the south side of the City-County Building where, as mayor, Lugar orchestrated the pivotal era that launched modern Indianapolis.

After winning the mayor’s office in 1967, he ushered in the “Unigov” era which combined many functions of Indianapolis and Marion County. In 1979 he played a major role in saving Chrysler Corporation, which employed 17,170 Hoosiers at the time.

As chairman and then ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, his most important legacy came with the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which deactivated 7,500 Soviet and Russian strategic nuclear warheads and destroyed



Brian Howey

more than 1,400 land- and submarine-launched ballistic missiles after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Nunn and Lugar had discovered Soviet nuclear and chemical weapon depots protected by chain-linked fences and padlocks, housed in chicken coop-style buildings with light streaming through their holey roofs. Shells filled with sarin gas or smuggled highly enriched uranium would have been coveted by terrorists like Osama bin Laden or ISIS. The program paid former Soviet physicists and upgraded security for weapons of mass destruction sites.

The Lugar monument was a five-year project of Jim Morris, Mayor Lugar’s chief of staff who would later go on to head the United Nations World Food Programme. That was another frequent topic that Lugar (who also chaired the Senate Agriculture Committee) would broach: hunger and feeding the world.

Upon his death, Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana President John Elliott observed, “Lugar fought creatively for the one in eight Americans who are food insecure. He tirelessly defended the School Lunch Program, including the critical Child Nutrition Reauthorization in 1998, which provides one in five meals to hungry Hoosier families even today.”

Did Jim Morris get to see the Lugar monument before he unexpectedly died last month?

Charlie Richardson, an Indianapolis attorney who helped plan the privately-funded \$500,000 monument project, said, “He was on this daily.” Richardson, who last talked with Morris the Wednesday before he died, added, “We were all taking instructions from Jim Morris right up until the end.”

I asked Richardson for a “Lugar story.”

He responded, “Tell me one.”

I told Richardson about accompanying Lugar and Nunn to watch the destruction of a Soviet era SS-25 missile motor north of Moscow in 2007. Lugar had found an aerial photo of

Indianapolis tacked to a wall in the crew quarters of a ICBM silo, its intended target. After Lugar, Nunn and then Ambassador Bill Burns (now the CIA director) pushed buttons along with their Russian military counterparts, a rumble could be felt from over a mile away.

When we went to the burn stand to inspect what Nunn likened to “converting swords to ploughshares”, a light rain was falling, and then came a rainbow. “Sen. Lugar, look,” I beamed. Lugar glanced skyward as a serene smile crossed his face though, uncharacteristically, he remained silent.

Richardson had one of his own. “In 2005, when Lugar introduced John Roberts to the Congress,” he said of the future Supreme Court chief justice who grew up in Long Beach. “Lugar said, ‘Growing up in Indiana one learns early on that talent and accomplishments count, but honesty and integrity count more.’”

Howey is a senior reporter and columnist for State Affairs/Howey Politics Indiana. Find him on X at @hwypol.



Sen. Richard Lugar during his third term in office (above), which is the approximate age chosen for the new 7-foot bronze statue depicting him unveiled Tuesday in Indianapolis (left).



New life comes to Angelpond

Ouabache State Park made Angelkeep’s year busier since the baby bison joined the herd. Multiple visits tried to get a good glimpse of the growth of the infant calf. Infant seemed a bit of a wrong descriptor.

The “red dog,” as called in the first few months of life, matched the size of any large pet dog. The autumn “red,” but really orange, color appeared at birth.

Living close to the park became an advantage for regular visits to watch an American bison’s growth. Very few get to witness this type of “red dog” growing into adult stature.

Every new bison birthed at Ouabache offered a renewed guarantee that the herd would survive. The first three bison arrived May 29, 1936. Today’s herd turned age 88.

New life began to reveal itself in Angelpond about the time of the June 6 birth of “red dog.” Angelpond’s babies were minuscule when compared to an infant bison.

Angelpond needed a new influx of aquatic life since the pond took a direct hit from a very prolific and hungry mink over many months. How difficult it felt viewing dead bluegills floating on their side just under the first of the frozen crest as the pond first began to take on the winter’s ice cover.

Mink kill and keep the “catch” preserved in the icy water bath until their next desired meal. Angelpond became the mink’s Frigidaire, so to speak. The losses included many “pan-size” bluegills, more meat than a McFilet-O-Gill sandwich, if such existed.

Angelkeep Journals

How delightful it became to see schools of newborn fish swimming near the pond’s shore. Dozens, if not hundreds, of transparent fish, only half an inch in length, swam in search of food. They were proof the fish population survived and progeny was produced. Most appeared to be bluegill. At this tender size large-mouth bass look similar but carry the distinctive dark stripe down the side of transparent bodies.

Grandsons fished quite successfully on a summer day of catch-and-release. No bass, but the bluegills were larger than hand-size. They were likely parents of the schools of fish witnessed on several occasions.

Spring tadpoles were always a joy to behold. Angelkeep’s bull frogs and green frogs thrive. Angelpond could be described as a frog pond. While Mr. Mink mixed aquatic dining with small mammals, the frogs have a stronger nemesis. Frogs and large tadpoles are fine dining to herons. Angelkeep has an abundance of visiting fisher-herons. As the case with fish, many a large frog has been seen sliding head-first down the crooked heron’s neck. Meals always go down head-first in heron etiquette.

Hundreds of tadpoles assured the healthy existence of these Angelpond amphibians. Many are born only to



Alan Daugherty

become food for other wildlife. It’s all part of the cycle. Survivors croak their winning existence across the crest of Angelpond like a froggy national anthem played for a Green-Medal Winner.

Nature rewarded Angelkeep when stumbling past a large eight-square-foot mass of frog eggs. It looked like a floating glob of crystal tapioca. Perhaps more like transparent black eyed peas waiting to become tadpoles.

Newborn turtles appeared on different days at the south edge of Angelpond to announce the continuation of their reptile existence. Humans failed to observe the laying of the turtle eggs. The hatching likewise had been a private affair. A snapper of a size that had to have been in the first few days of its life (snapper births a former observance at Angelkeep) rested on the muddy bank of the pond. This short encounter, before it hastily dived and swam away, served as a reminder that the pond would be called home for potentially three or four more decades.

There’s one critter taken off Angelkeep’s endangered list.

Even more exciting than a baby snapping turtle was the infant painted turtle. Its shell measurement equaled the previous snapper. Angelkeep had never witnessed a painted turtle emerging from an egg. This was the first time seeing a painted so small. The thrill seemed only a small step down from meeting a human grandchild for the first time after its birth.

Angelpond lives on, and proved itself teeming with fresh new life.

Mr. Daugherty is a Wells County resident who, along with his wife Gwen, enjoy their backyard and have named it “Angelkeep.”

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 5, the 249th day of 2024. There are 117 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Sept. 5, 1972, Palestinian militants attacked the Israeli Olympic delegation at the Munich Games, killing two and taking nine others hostage; five of the militants, a German police officer and all hostages were killed in the following 24 hours.

Also on this date:

In 1774, the first Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia.

In 1836, Sam Houston won the first presidential election in the newly established Republic of Texas.

In 1905, the Treaty of Portsmouth was signed, ending the Russo-Japanese war; for his efforts in mediating the peace negotiations.

U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt was awarded the Noble Peace Prize the following year.

In 1957, Jack Kerouac’s novel “On the Road” was published.

In 1960, Muhammad Ali (as Cassius Clay) won the gold medal in the light heavyweight boxing division at the Olympic Games in Rome.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford survived an assassination attempt by Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme, a disciple of Charles Manson, in Sacramento, California.

In 1986, four hijackers who had seized a Pan Am jumbo jet on the ground in Karachi, Pakistan, opened fire on the jet’s passengers; a total of 20 passengers and crew members were killed before Pakistani commandos stormed the jetliner.

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Knights breeze past Generals, winning five of last six games

By RYAN WALKER

Norwell kept its hot streak rolling in a 3-0, no sweat, sweep over Wayne Wednesday night at The Castle.

The Knights (7-4) eased through the Generals (1-7) with scores of 25-11, 25-8 and 25-16. It was a total team effort, as most of the starters and the bench were unloaded and made their mark one way or another. For a team that has a strong junior class (11 out of the 15 varsity members are juniors), the development of the team is pleasant for head coach Kayla Hunter.

"I think it feels good to them," Hunter said. "Everybody got to contribute. They just seemed really relaxed and having fun."

Vanessa Rosswurm led the team with seven kills, while Jaycie Grzych and Hope Mitchell added six each. Autumn Lee and Emma Vachon had three aces, Rebecca Settle 11 digs, Vachon 23 assists and both Mitchell and Rosswurm with one block.

The hot streak has been refreshing, but it hasn't been as smooth sailing as it was Wednesday night.

Norwell swept both its season-opening games but hit a wall in three straight losses to Heritage, Blackhawk Christian and Woodlan.

Since then, the Knights have added to the win column in five of their last six. At the Prairie Heights Invitational over the weekend, they went 3-1 and defeated a 7-2 Man-

chester team. On Tuesday, they beat Southern Wells 3-0.

Perhaps they're starting to find their stride just 11 games into the season. That's the goal for the team, to find the high point of their own potential and stick there. Hunter and the coaching staff are seeking the team to dial it up a notch.

"We talk a lot about finishing and playing consistently," Hunter said. "It's kind of been the theme of the year so far — just trying to play consistent. I think they learned in the losses that they didn't do that, and so they've been really focusing on that."

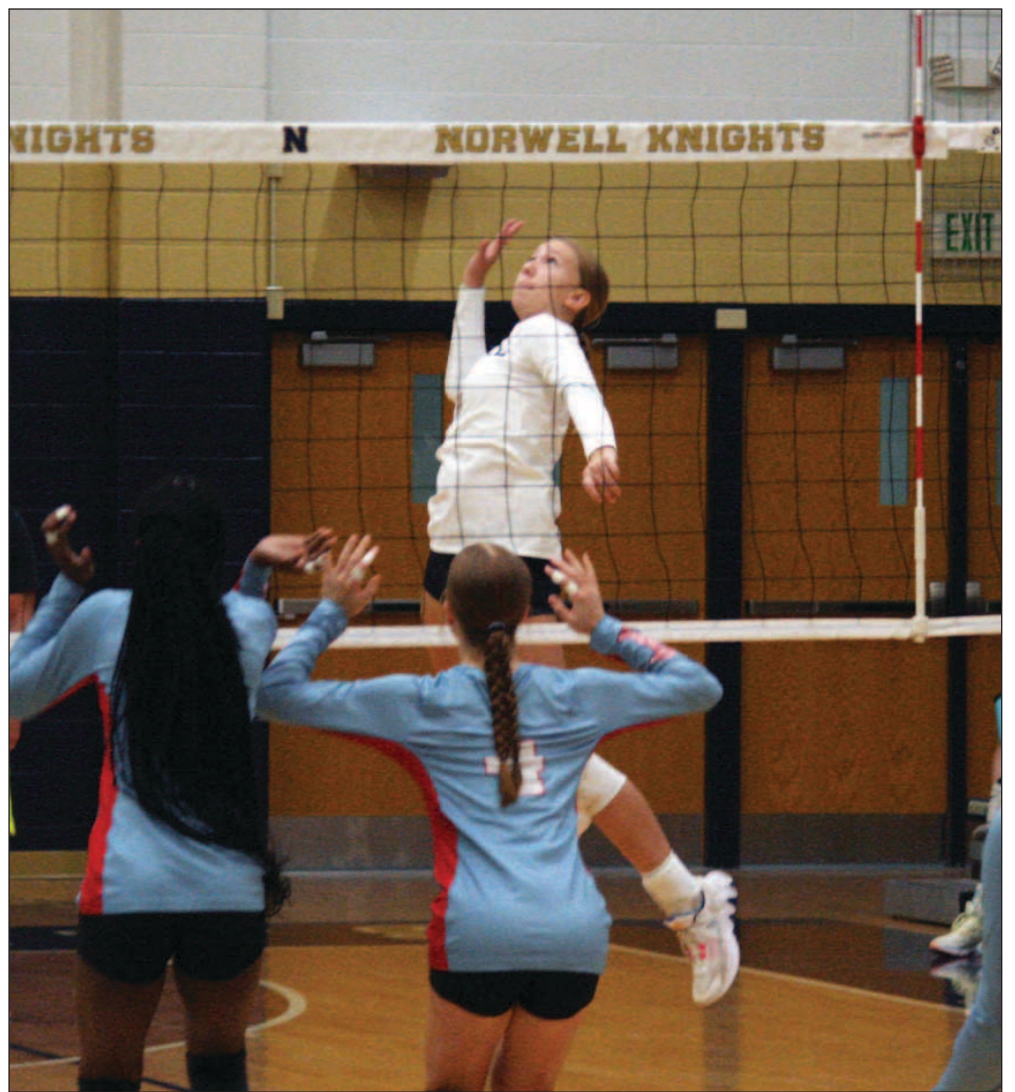
The Knights have plenty of time to get there. Their first Northeast 8 Conference matchup won't happen until Sept. 19 at Leo six games from now.

Last year, the Knights' 3-4 conference record was the only blemish to an impressive 21-13 record. The team will look to change that this season and hopes to have figured out the right recipe for a challenging NE8.

"Getting to the point to where we are able to execute and be the aggressors and not just wait for the other team to make the plays and react, but we're the ones creating our own energy and controlling our side," Hunter said.

Norwell will be at South Adams at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5.

ryan@news-banner.com



Norwell's Jaycie Grzych (spiking) leaps and loads up for a spike against Wayne defenders Wednesday night at The Castle. Grzych smacked six kills to up her total to 70 on the season, helping the Knights top the Generals 3-0. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

Sports Roundup

Raiders top Warriors in ACAC girls' golf match

Southern Wells hosted and beat Woodlan in girls' golf at Dogwood Glen on Wednesday.

The Raiders won by a score of 206 to the Warriors' 228.

Kolbie Beavans was the medalist and top golfer for the Raiders with a score of 48, followed by Callie Ripperger (50), Sophie Meeks (53) and both Erika Beavans and Collena Reeves (55).

Southern Wells will be at South Adams at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 6.

Tigers remain unbeaten in boys' tennis, beats Generals

Bluffton improved to an unbeaten 5-0 in boys' tennis with a sweep over Wayne at home on Wednesday.

Individual results

- Nolan Lambert defeated Sebastian Apodaca 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 at No. 1 singles.
- Anthony Hartman defeated Josh Buss 6-2, 4-6, 6-0 at No. 2 singles.
- Jacob Ribich defeated Jayden Harris 6-0, 6-1 at No. 3 singles.
- Ben Maggard and Coy Lantz defeated Eric Echeverra and Duncan Keirns 5-7, 7-6 (7-4), 6-4 at No. 1 doubles.
- Kade Abbett and Dane Schlagenhauf defeated Cash Gaines and Lavonte Washington 6-2, 6-1 at No. 2 doubles.

The junior varsity team won by a score of 7-4 and improved to 7-1 on the season.

Results for JV

- Reid Abbett (B) defeated Noah Miller 6-1.
- Noah Miller (W) defeated Lance Moser 7-5.
- Jace Draper (B) defeated Logan Regalado 6-2.
- Lincoln Rodgers (B) defeated Logan Regalado 6-1.
- Aiden Huff (W) defeated Carter Lehman 6-2.
- Aiden Huff (W) defeated Kenny Mercer 6-0.
- Aiden Huff (W) defeated Jared Moser 6-4.
- Jed Logan and Braden Lemler (B) defeated Jayden Fields and Ben Pozvelds 6-4.
- Alex Maggard and Jackson Meyer (B) defeated Jayden Fields and Ben Pozvelds 6-1.
- Chase Houser and Carter Williams (B) defeated Eli Summers and Kanoa Oly 6-4.
- Grant Reifsteck and Graham Linderwell (B) defeated Eli Summers and Kanoa Oly 6-3.

Bluffton will host Leo at 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 9.

Norwell defeats Oak Farm in JV-only tennis match

Norwell defeated Oak Farm 3-2 in a junior varsity only match at home Wednesday night.

Results

- Ryan Kochanski (O) defeated Levi White 6-1, 6-0 at No. 1 singles.
- Ryker Elias (O) defeated Brady Watkins 6-2, 6-2 at No. 2 singles.
- Christian Werling (N) defeated Lilly Moser 6-3, 64 at No. 3 singles.

• Dylan Randol and Ryan Ewing (N) defeated Fyo Hayden and Wesley Ostlund 6-1, 6-4 at No. 1 doubles.

Jasper Kreigh and Greyson Chavis (N) defeated Gretchen Lowe and Ivy Witmer 6-2, 6-4 at No. 2 doubles.

In other matches

- Carter DeWeese (N) defeated Kingston Linthicu, 8-4.
- Jensen Miller and Braden Hoag (N) defeated Riley Fitzharris and Madelyn Burch 8-3.

Norwell will be at home against Columbia City in Northeast 8 Conference play starting at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5.

Tigers sweep Patriots in middle school football

Bluffton defeated Jay County in middle school football Tuesday night.

The eighth grade team won 32-18. Chase Kistler was the star of the show, rushing for 259 yards and four touchdowns on 19 attempts. He also caught a 10-yard pass. Croy Stout took two catches for 26 yards. Ethan Ribich went 6-10 at quarterback for 40 yards.

On defense, Cameron Simpson led the team with seven tackles. Wyatt Holmes and Kistler had three each. The Tigers allowed two touchdowns on kick returns.

The seventh grade team won 12-6. Kreigh Ault went 3-4 at quarterback for 37 yards and a 14-yard touchdown pass to Riker Beste. Easton Schipper also had an 18-yard catch. Davin Drayer had 143 yards on nine carries and a touchdown.

Drayer led the defense with five tackles. Kole Kiefer and Beste had four each.

Norwell Middle School hosts cross country invitational

Norwell hosted its middle school cross country event on Wednesday.

The boys' team finished fifth with a team score of 133, sitting behind first-place Summit with 55 points, Maple Creek second (66), 3. Woodside (90) and Southern Wells fourth (114).

Top runners for the boys were Maddux Thornton in seventh place with a time of 11:03.5, Easton Reinhard eighth (11:08.4), Titus Jacob 38th (12:12.0), Paxton Frisch 39th (12:15.4), Miles Daugherty 41st (12:17.5), Nolan Hitzfield 46th (12:25.3) and Harrison Koop 48th (12:33.4).

The girls' team finished in sixth place with a score of 152, sitting behind Maple Creek in first at 18, Summit second (90), Eastbrook third (106), Indian Springs fourth (125) and St. Charles/St. Jude fifth (144).

Top runner for the girls were Leah Randol in 25th place with a time of 13:20.0, Kenley Reed 27th (13:25.5), Hadley Meyer 30th (13:29.7), Avery Thornton 33rd (13:41.7) and Haley Lewis 38th (13:54.0).

Knights split middle school football games with Barons

Norwell's Middle School football teams left DeKalb with a split Wednesday night.

The eighth grade team won 14-0 and improved to 1-1 on the season.

The seventh grade team fell 6-0 for their first loss.



Teammates Mekynzi Beck (left) and Emma Vachon laugh with one another as their team rolled through the second set of the match.



NASCAR CUP SERIES
Quaker State 400 available at Walmart
Site: Hampton, Georgia.
Schedule: Saturday, qualifying, 12:30 p.m.; Sunday, race, 3 p.m. (USA).

Last race: Chase Briscoe's three-wide, late-race pass over Kyle Larson and Ross Chastain won Sunday's Southern 500 at Darlington to qualify for the playoffs. It also allowed Stewart-Haas Racing to pursue a third and final championship before shutting down after the season. Briscoe held off Kyle Busch with Christopher Bell third. Tyler Reddick's 10th-place finish clinched the regular-season championship by a point over Larson, who led 263 laps before Briscoe passed him.

Next race: Sept. 15, Watkins Glen, New York.
NASCAR XFINITY SERIES
Focused Health 250
Site: Hampton, Georgia.
Schedule: Saturday, qualifying, 11 a.m.; race, 3 p.m. (USA Network)

Last race: Christopher Bell recovered from being passed late to lead in the final laps of regulation, then survived an overtime bump from Cole Custer to win on Saturday.

Next race: Sept. 14, Watkins Glen, New York.
NASCAR TRUCK SERIES
Last race: There was an unexpected winner in the Truck Series' opening playoff race with 22-year-old Layne Riggs winning his first ever race at the Milwaukee Mile last week. Riggs was not part of the 10-team playoff chase. But he held off championship contender Ty Majeski for the victory.

Next race: Sept. 19, Bristol, Tennessee.
FORMULA 1
Last race: One pit stop turned out to be enough for Charles Leclerc and Ferrari, which earned a rare victory in the Italian Grand Prix at Monza.

Next race: Sept. 15, Baku, Azerbaijan.
INDYCAR
Last races: Scott McLaughlin and Pato O'Ward took 250-mile twin races last weekend at the Milwaukee Mile.

Next races: Sept. 15, Lebanon, Tennessee.
NHRA DRAG RACING
Next event: Sept. 12-15, Mohnton, Pennsylvania.

WORLD OF OUTLAWS
Stockton Showdown, Stockton, California; Tom Tarlton Classic, Hanford, California.

Next events: Sept. 13, Bakersfield, California; Sept. 14, Merced, California.

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High School Calendar

THURSDAY, SEPT. 5
BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at Jay County, 6 p.m.
BOYS TENNIS: Columbia City at Norwell, 5 p.m.
GIRLS GOLF: Bluffton at Heritage, 5 p.m.; Norwell at Huntington North, 4:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at South Adams, 5 p.m.
GIRLS SOCCER: Jay County at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton at Manchester, 7 p.m.; Norwell at South Adams, 7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY, SEPT. 6
FOOTBALL: Bluffton at South Adams, 7 p.m.; Norwell at Leo, 7 p.m.; Southern Wells at Jay County, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY, SEPT. 7

CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): Bluffton at Manchester Invitational, 8 a.m.; Norwell, Southern Wells at Marion Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
GIRLS SOCCER: North Side at Norwell, 10 a.m.
VOLLEYBALL: Raider 4-Way Invitational (Southern Wells), 9 a.m.
MONDAY, SEPT. 9
BOYS TENNIS: Leo at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Norwell at South Adams, 4:30 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton at Northfield, 7 p.m.
TUESDAY, SEPT. 10
BOYS TENNIS: Bluffton at Wabash, 5 p.m.
GIRLS GOLF: Bluffton at Blackhawk, 4:30 p.m.; Columbia City at Norwell, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at Northfield, 5 p.m.

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News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

WNBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-New York	27	6	.818	—
x-Connecticut	24	9	.727	3
x-Indiana	18	16	.529	9½
Atlanta	11	22	.333	16
Chicago	11	22	.333	16
Washington	10	23	.303	17
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Minnesota	24	9	.727	—
x-Las Vegas	21	12	.636	3
x-Seattle	20	13	.606	4
x-Phoenix	17	17	.500	7½
Dallas	9	24	.273	15
Los Angeles	7	26	.212	17

x-clinched playoff spot

Tuesday's Games
Seattle 71, Connecticut 64
Washington 90, Dallas 86
Las Vegas 90, Chicago 71
Phoenix 74, Atlanta 66

Wednesday's Games
Indiana 93, Los Angeles 86

Thursday's Games
Seattle at New York, 7 p.m.
Washington at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games
Dallas at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Las Vegas at Connecticut, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Indiana, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Chicago, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Phoenix at Seattle, 9 p.m.

Cincinnati 12, Houston 5
N.Y. Mets 8, Boston 3
Kansas City 4, Cleveland 1
N.Y. Yankees at Texas, late
L.A. Dodgers at L.A. Angels, late
Detroit at San Diego, late
Seattle at Oakland, late

Thursday's Games
Houston (Brown 11-7) at Cincinnati (Lowder 0-1), 1:10 p.m.
Minnesota (Lopez 13-8) at Tampa Bay (Bradley 6-9), 1:10 p.m.
Seattle (Woo 6-2) at Oakland (Estes 6-6), 3:37 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Kochanowicz 2-3) at Texas (Bradford 4-2), 8:05 p.m.
Detroit (Mize 2-6) at San Diego (Pérez 4-5), 8:40 p.m.

Friday's Games
N.Y. Yankees at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Toronto at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
Arizona at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
Minnesota at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
Seattle at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.
Detroit at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

Philadelphia (Suárez 11-6) at Miami (Oller 1-1), 6:40 p.m.
Washington (Irvin 9-11) at Pittsburgh (Falter 6-7), 6:40 p.m.
Colorado (Gomber 4-10) at Atlanta (López 8-4), 7:20 p.m.
Detroit (Mize 2-6) at San Diego (Pérez 4-5), 8:40 p.m.

Friday's Games
N.Y. Yankees at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.
Colorado at Milwaukee, 6:10 p.m.
Washington at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.
Cincinnati at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:10 p.m.
Toronto at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
Arizona at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
Seattle at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.
San Francisco at San Diego, 9:40 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

Midwest League
High-A Midwest League Glance
Saturday, Aug. 31
Fort Wayne 3, Lansing 2
Sunday, Sept. 1
Fort Wayne 8, Lansing 4
Monday, Sept. 2
Dayton 1, Great Lakes 0
Tuesday, Sept. 3
West Michigan 5, Lansing 4, 11 innings
Fort Wayne 6, South Bend 5, 11 innings
Wednesday, Sept. 4
Quad Cities 3, Beloit 0
Lake County 4, Peoria 3
Wisconsin 2, Cedar Rapids 1
Thursday, Sept. 5
South Bend 2, Fort Wayne 1
Friday, Sept. 6
South Bend at Fort Wayne, 7:05 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 7
South Bend at Fort Wayne, 6:35 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 8
Dayton at Great Lakes, 1:05 p.m.
South Bend at Fort Wayne, 1:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division
Philadelphia 83 58 .597
Atlanta 76 63 .547
New York 76 64 .543
Washington 62 77 .446
Miami 52 87 .374

Central Division
Milwaukee 81 59 .579
Chicago 72 68 .514
St. Louis 71 69 .507
Cincinnati 67 73 .479
Pittsburgh 65 74 .468

West Division
Los Angeles 84 55 .604
San Diego 79 61 .564
Arizona 78 61 .561
San Francisco 68 71 .489
Colorado 51 89 .364

Tuesday's Games
Washington 6, Miami 2
N.Y. Mets 7, Boston 2
Atlanta 3, Colorado 0
Pittsburgh 5, Chicago Cubs 0
Philadelphia 10, Toronto 9
St. Louis 7, Milwaukee 4, 12 innings
L.A. Dodgers 6, L.A. Angels 2, 10 innings

Wednesday's Games
Arizona 8, San Francisco 7
Philadelphia 4, Toronto 2
Miami 4, Washington 3, 10 innings
Cincinnati 12, Houston 5
Chicago Cubs 12, Pittsburgh 0
Atlanta 5, Colorado 2
N.Y. Mets 8, Boston 3
St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 2, 10 innings
L.A. Dodgers at L.A. Angels, late
Detroit at San Diego, late
Arizona at San Francisco, late

Thursday's Games
Houston (Brown 11-7) at Cincinnati (Lowder 0-1), 1:10 p.m.
Arizona (Kelly 4-0) at San Francisco (Snell 2-3), 3:45 p.m.

BASEBALL

MLB
AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division
New York 80 59 .576
Baltimore 81 60 .574
Boston 70 70 .500
Tampa Bay 69 70 .496
Toronto 67 74 .475
Central Division
Cleveland 80 60 .571
Minnesota 75 64 .540
Kansas City 76 65 .539
Detroit 70 69 .504
Chicago 32 109 .227
West Division
Houston 75 64 .540
Seattle 69 70 .496
Texas 66 73 .475
Oakland 61 78 .439
Los Angeles 57 81 .413

Tuesday's Games
Tampa Bay 2, Minnesota 1
Baltimore 9, Chicago White Sox 0
N.Y. Mets 7, Boston 2
Cleveland 7, Kansas City 1
Philadelphia 10, Toronto 9
Texas 7, N.Y. Yankees 4
Oakland 3, Seattle 2
L.A. Dodgers 6, L.A. Angels 2, 10 innings

Wednesday's Games
Philadelphia 4, Toronto 2
Tampa Bay 9, Minnesota 4
Chicago White Sox 8, Baltimore 1

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division
Philadelphia 83 58 .597
Atlanta 76 63 .547
New York 76 64 .543
Washington 62 77 .446
Miami 52 87 .374

Central Division
Milwaukee 81 59 .579
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N.Y. Mets 8, Boston 3
St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 2, 10 innings
L.A. Dodgers at L.A. Angels, late
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Arizona at San Francisco, late

Thursday's Games
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Arizona (Kelly 4-0) at San Francisco (Snell 2-3), 3:45 p.m.

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Saturday, Aug. 31
Fort Wayne 3, Lansing 2
Sunday, Sept. 1
Fort Wayne 8, Lansing 4
Monday, Sept. 2
Dayton 1, Great Lakes 0
Tuesday, Sept. 3
West Michigan 5, Lansing 4, 11 innings
Fort Wayne 6, South Bend 5, 11 innings
Wednesday, Sept. 4
Quad Cities 3, Beloit 0
Lake County 4, Peoria 3
Wisconsin 2, Cedar Rapids 1
Thursday, Sept. 5
South Bend 2, Fort Wayne 1
Friday, Sept. 6
South Bend at Fort Wayne, 7:05 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 7
South Bend at Fort Wayne, 6:35 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 8
Dayton at Great Lakes, 1:05 p.m.
South Bend at Fort Wayne, 1:05 p.m.

Transactions
Wednesday's Transactions
BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League
NEW YORK YANKEES — Sent RHP Ian Hamilton to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL) on a rehab assignment.
SEATTLE MARINERS — Agreed to terms with RHP Jesse Hahn on a minor league contract.
TEXAS RANGERS — Placed SS Corey Seager on the 10-day IL. Selected the contract of OF Sandro Fabian from Round Rock (PCL). Transferred RHP Jon Gray to the 60-day IL.
National League
CHICAGO CUBS — Recalled RHP Trey Wingenter and RHP Jack Neely from Iowa (IL). Placed RHP Jorge Lopez on the 15-day IL, retroactive to Sept. 3 and LHP Justin Steele retroactive to Sept. 1.

Blue Jackets fans, players honor Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau at a candlelight vigil in Columbus

By NICOLE KRAFT and NOAH WEISKOPF Associated Press
COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Fans and Columbus Blue Jackets players gathered for an emotional candlelight vigil outside the team's arena Wednesday night to remember Johnny Gaudreau and brother Matthew, who died last week when they were struck by a suspected drunken driver while riding bicycles in their home state of New Jersey. The crowd of roughly 1,000 outside Nationwide Arena was encouraged at 7:49 p.m. to light their candles. For the next 13:21 — for Johnny's jersey No. 13 and

Matthew's No. 21 — they stood in silent remembrance watching a nearby video screen as a slideshow played of the brothers from childhood, through their teenage years and into college hockey, the pros, marriages, baptisms and lives filled with joy and love. Flanked by a memorial 20 feet deep and 40 feet wide of jerseys, candles, balloons, stuffed animals, Gatorade bottles and signage, players including captain Boone Jenner, defenseman Erik Gudbranson and forward Cole Sillinger shared memories and inspirations they gained from knowing Johnny Gaudreau.

Imanaga, 2 relievers combine for no-hitter for Cubs over Pirates

By GAVIN DORSEY Associated Press
CHICAGO (AP) — Shota Imanaga and two Cubs relievers combined on a no-hitter, leading Chicago over the Pittsburgh Pirates 12-0 on Wednesday night. Imanaga (12-3), a 31-year-old left-hander in his first season with the Cubs after pitching in Japan for eight seasons, struck out seven and walked two over seven innings. He threw 66 of 95 pitches for strikes. He needed 25 pitches to get through the second inning. His season high is 103 pitches against St. Louis on June 15. Imanaga has not gotten an out in the eighth inning.

Chicago had not pitched a no-hitter at Wrigley Field since Milt Pappas against San Diego on Sept. 2, 1972 — Pappas was one pitch from a perfect game when Bruce Fromm called ball four on a full-count pitch to Larry Stahl. Garry Jestead then popped out. This was the fourth no-hitter this season after complete-game efforts by Houston's Ronel Blanco against Toronto on April 1, San Diego's Dylan Cease at Washington on July 25 and San Francisco's Blake Snell at Cincinnati on April 2. Nico Hoerner, Pete Crow-Armstrong and Dansby Swanson each had three of Chicago's 17 hits, with Swanson and Crow-Armstrong both finishing a triple shy of the cycle. Domingo Germán (0-1), who pitched a perfect game last year for the New York Yankees against Oakland, allowed seven runs — six earned — and nine hits in three innings. Seiya Suzuki hit an RBI single in the first, and Chicago opened a 4-0 lead in the second when Crow-Armstrong had a run-scoring double in the second and Happ hit a two-run single. Swanson's two-run homer and Crow-Armstrong's solo shot boosted the lead to 7-0 in the third. Cody Bellinger hit a two-run homer in the sixth against Kyle Nicolas.

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 9/5

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This Week's Garage Sales

Clip & Save

GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE September 5 & 6, 9-5, September 7, 9-2 Sack Sale, FORGOTTEN CHILDREN WORLDWIDE, 650 N. MAIN STREET, BLUFFTON. Bring a friend who has never attended one of our sales before and both of you will receive a KFC coupon. All "new" items as we liquidated everything in June due to remodeling. Follow Us on Facebook.

LARGE GARAGE SALE Friday, Sept. 6, 9 to 5, Saturday, Sept. 7, 9 to 2 p.m., 1508 Ridgewood Lane (Old Creek), Bluffton. Home decor, pictures, decorative pillows, Longenberger baskets, vases, Christmas/Fall decorations, antique large crocks, bar stools, vintage heat lamp, antique table, lamps, lampshades, kitchen items, folding chairs, china hutch, king size comforter, small desk, women's clothes L & XL, purses, dog beds, kids clothes size 10-12, jewelry, men's small, toys, games, dollhouse, Our Generation doll clothes & accessories, ladies 26" bike, girl's 18" bike, 3 Razor scooters, digital bird feeder, 4 tier organization cart, free piano. NO early sales.

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE, 1158 N 450 E, Bluffton, Sept. 5 & 6, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sept. 7, 8 a.m.-? Toys, home decor, adult clothing, boy & girl clothing, shoes, designer purses, bedding & outdoor items.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 13, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2730 E 1050 N, Ossian. Tables, chairs, sofa, misc.

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

EMPLOYMENT
Help Wanted

BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 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 Mon-Fri. or online at 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 accept applications will be September 30, 2024

ENTRY LEVEL
NEED MORE EMPLOYEES? Place a 20 word, line classified ad for a month for \$52. Add a graphic or photo for an additional \$5. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office, (260) 824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., or www.news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

The Classifieds

Help Wanted

WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE is currently seeking applicants for the position of Full Time Deputy Sheriff. Applicants must be a US Citizen, at least 21 years of age upon graduation from police academy, possess a high school diploma or equivalent as well as a valid Indiana Operators License. Applicant can't have any felony convictions. Applicants must pass all aspects of the hiring process including physical agility testing, written examination, background investigation, oral interview, polygraph and psychological evaluation. Selected applicant must be able to graduate from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. ILEA certified applicants do not have to attend the physical agility and written examination portion of the process. 20-year matrix salary range for a Deputy Sheriff (no rank) is \$56,600 - \$68,400. Years of service and experience will be honored for a starting salary up to five years in the pay matrix. Application can be found on our website at www.wellscountysheriff.com. Once application is completed, details on the testing date and location will be emailed to the applicant. The application must be completed by September 13th, 2024.

Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 08-12-18-32-39
Lotto Plus — 01-08-23-24-31-42
Cash4Life — 13-22-27-35-46, Cash Ball: 02
Quick Draw Midday — 08-10-14-15-18-21-23-26-39-40-46-58-60-64-70-72-73-75-76-80, BE: 75
Daily Three-Midday — 00-06-01, SB: 01
Daily Three-Evening — 02-08-07, SB: 07
Daily Four-Midday — 07-05-01-05, SB: 01
Daily Four-Evening — 09-00-00-07, SB: 07
Quick Draw Evening — 04-05-06-08-15-16-21-26-27-31-32-43-49-53-54-62-65-72-76-77, BE: 65
Hoosier Lotto — 15-24-33-36-39-45
MEGA MILLIONS
Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$740 million
POWERBALL
07-10-21-33-59 Powerball: 20; Power Play: 3X

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NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

Pursuant to Indiana Code § 6-1.1-20-5, notice is hereby given that the Board of School Trustees of the Norwell Community Schools has preliminarily determined to issue bonds in one or more series in the aggregate amount not to exceed \$3,280,000 to fund the proposed renovation of and improvements to facilities throughout the School Corporation, including site improvements and the purchase of equipment, technology and buses. Dated: September 5, 2024
/s/ Secretary,
Board of School Trustees
Norwell Community Schools
oj, nb 9/5, 9/12
hspaxlp

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to Indiana Code § 20-26-7-37, notice is hereby given that the Board of School Trustees of the Southern Wells Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. on September 17, 2024, in the High School Media Center, 9120 S. 300 W., Poneto, Indiana, to hold a hearing to discuss and hear objections and support regarding the proposed renovation of and improvements to Southern Wells Elementary School, Southern Wells Jr/Sr High School, and the Raider Dome, including site improvements and purchase of equipment and technology. You are invited to attend and participate in the public hearing. Dated September 5, 2024.
/s/ Secretary,
Board of School Trustees
Southern Wells
Community Schools
nb 9/5
hspaxlp

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given to the Taxpayers of the City of Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, that the Common Council of said City will, at the Council Chambers, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana, meet on of September 17, 2024 at 5:30 o'clock P.M., to consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the 2024 budget.

CREDIT Fund	APPROPRIATE TO:	\$60,000
Cedit Budget		
443.080 County Road 200 S Project		\$60,000

Taxpayers appearing at said meeting shall have the right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be automatically referred to the Department of Local Government Finance. The Department will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken.
Bri Lautzenheiser
City Clerk Treasurer

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Public Notices

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for Wells County, Indiana and Incorporated Areas

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, reflecting proposed flood hazard determinations within Wells County, Indiana and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. Technical information or comments are solicited on the proposed flood hazard determinations shown on the preliminary FIRM and/or FIS report for Wells County, Indiana and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to either adopt or show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. However, before these determinations are effective for floodplain management purposes, you will be provided an opportunity to appeal the proposed information. For information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, as well as a complete listing of the communities affected and the locations where copies of the FIRM are available for review, please visit FEMA's website at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fm/bfe_Status/bfe_main.asp or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given to the Taxpayers of the City of Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, that the Common Council of said City will, at the Council Chambers, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana, meet on of September 17, 2024 at 5:30 o'clock P.M., to consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the 2024 budget.

CREDIT Fund	APPROPRIATE TO:	\$60,000
Cedit Budget		
443.080 County Road 200 S Project		\$60,000

Taxpayers appearing at said meeting shall have the right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be automatically referred to the Department of Local Government Finance. The Department will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken.
Bri Lautzenheiser
City Clerk Treasurer

SPECIAL MEETING

Ossian Town Council
Jefferson Township Advisory Board
Ossian Volunteer Fire Department
Collier's Building
215 N Jefferson
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, 6:00 PM
PRIOR to Ossian Town Council Meeting
NEW BUSINESS:
• Discuss 2025 Fire Budget
ADJOURNMENT
nb 9/5
hspaxlp

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the school corporation known as Norwell Community Schools (the "School Corporation") that the Board of School Trustees (the "Board") of the School Corporation will meet at Central Office, 312 N Jefferson St, Ossian, Indiana, at the hour of 5:30 p.m. (Local Time) on September 24, 2024, to consider the following additional appropriation of the bonds (the "Bonds") which the Board has determined to issue. The Board considers such additional appropriation necessary to meet the need existing at this time:

An appropriation in the amount of \$3,280,000 from the proceeds of the Bonds, including all original issue premium and all investment earnings thereon, to be deposited in the School Corporation's Construction Fund (Fund #2301) on account of the renovation of and improvements to facilities throughout the School Corporation, including site improvements and the purchase of equipment, technology and buses (the "Project") in the School Corporation, including the incidental expenses necessary to be incurred in connection with the Project and the issuance of Bonds on account thereof. The funds to meet such additional appropriation are to be provided by the issuance and sale of Bonds by the School Corporation.

The foregoing appropriation is in addition to all appropriations provided for in the existing budget and tax levy, and a need for such appropriation exists by reason of the inadequacy of the present buildings to provide necessary school facilities in the School Corporation. Taxpayers of the School Corporation appearing at said meeting shall have the right to be heard in respect to the additional appropriation. Dated this 5th day of September, 2024.
/s/ Secretary,
Board of School Trustees
Norwell Community Schools
oj, nb 9/5
hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

5/6									Difficulty: ★★★
4	7	2	9	9	8	8	6	1	
8	9	9	1	7	6	8	2	2	
8	1	6	8	2	2	9	9	4	
7	8	4	6	8	9	9	1	2	
2	6	8	4	9	1	7	8	9	
9	9	1	7	8	2	4	8	6	
5	8	9	2	6	4	1	7	8	
1	4	2	8	7	8	6	9	9	
6	7	8	9	1	5	2	4	8	

U.S. takes aim at Russian disinformation ahead of November election

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration seized Kremlin-run websites and charged two Russian state media employees in its most sweeping effort yet to push back against what it says are Russian attempts to spread disinformation ahead of the November presidential election.

The measures, which in addition to indictments also included sanctions and visa restrictions, represented a U.S. government effort just weeks before the November election to disrupt a persistent threat from Russia that American officials have long warned has the potential to sow discord and create confusion among voters. Washington has said that Moscow, which intelligence officials have said has a preference for Republican Donald Trump, remains the primary threat to elections even as the FBI continues to investigate a hack by Iran this year that targeted the presidential campaigns of both political parties.

"The Justice Department's message is clear: We will have no tolerance for attempts by authoritarian regimes to exploit our democratic systems of government," Attorney

General Merrick Garland said.

One criminal case disclosed by the Justice Department accuses two employees of RT, a Russian state media company, of covertly funding a Tennessee-based content creation company with nearly \$10 million to publish English-language videos on social media platforms including TikTok and YouTube with messages in favor of the Russia government's interests and agenda, including about the war in Ukraine.

The nearly 2,000 videos posted by the company have gotten more than 16 million views on YouTube alone, prosecutors said.

The two defendants, Kostiantyn Kalashnikov and Elena Afanasyeva, are charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering and violating the Foreign Agents Registration Act. They are at large. It was not immediately clear if they had lawyers.

The Justice Department says the company did not disclose that it was funded by RT and that neither it nor its founders registered as required by law as an agent of a foreign principal.

Though the indictment does not

name the company, it describes it as a Tennessee-based content creation firm with six commentators and with a website identifying itself as "a network of heterodox commentators that focus on Western political and cultural issues."

That description exactly matches Tenet Media, an online company that hosts videos made by well-known conservative influencers Tim Pool, Benny Johnson and others.

Johnson and Pool both responded with posts on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, calling themselves "victims." Calling Russian President Vladimir Putin a "scumbag," Pool wrote that "should these allegations prove true, I as well as the other personalities and commentators were deceived."

In his post, Johnson wrote that he had been asked a year ago to provide content to a "media start-up." He said his lawyers negotiated a "standard, arms length deal, which was later terminated."

Tenet Media's shows in recent months have featured high-profile conservative guests, including RNC co-chair Lara Trump, former

Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy and U.S. Senate candidate Kari Lake.

In the other action, officials announced the seizure of 32 internet domains that were used by the Kremlin to spread Russian propaganda and weaken global support for Ukraine. The websites were designed to look like authentic news sites but were actually fake, with bogus social media personas designed to look like they belonged to American users.

Though the Justice Department did not identify which candidate in particular the campaign was meant to boost, internal strategy notes released Wednesday make clear that Trump and his campaign were the intended beneficiaries.

The proposal for one propaganda project states that one of its objectives is to secure a victory for a candidate who is currently out of power and to increase the percentage of Americans who believe the U.S. has been doing too much to support Ukraine. President Joe Biden has strongly supported Ukraine during the invasion by Russia.

The names of the candidates

and their parties are blacked out in the documents released by the Justice Department.

Intelligence agencies have previously charged that Russia, which during the 2016 election launched a massive campaign of foreign influence and interference on Trump's behalf, was using disinformation to try to meddle in this year's election. The new steps show the depth of U.S. concerns and signal legal actions against those suspected of being involved.

"Today's announcement highlights the lengths some foreign governments go to undermine American democratic institutions," the State Department said. "But these foreign governments should also know that we will not tolerate foreign malign actors intentionally interfering and undermining free and fair elections."

The State Department announced it was taking action against several employees of Russian state-owned media outlets, designating them as "foreign missions," and offering a cash reward for information provided to the U.S. government about foreign election interference.

House GOP subpoena Blinken for testimony on withdrawal from Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans have issued a subpoena demanding testimony from Secretary of State Antony Blinken as they wrap up a sprawling yearlong investigation into the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021.

Rep. Michael McCaul, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, sent a subpoena letter late Tuesday ordering Blinken to appear before the committee by Sept. 19 or face a contempt of Congress charge.

"You served as the final decision maker for the department on the withdrawal and evacuation," McCaul wrote.

He added that three years later, Blinken is "in a position to inform the Committee's consideration of potential legislation aimed at helping prevent the catastrophic mistakes of the withdrawal,

including potential reforms to the Department's legislative authorization."

Matthew Miller, a State Department spokesman, said Blinken is unable to testify on the dates proposed by the committee as he will be traveling for diplomatic work the majority of September. He claimed the committee denied "reasonable alternatives" to the subpoena date.

"The Secretary has testified before the Congress on Afghanistan more than 14 times — more than any other Cabinet-level official," Miller said, adding that four of those times were directly before the Foreign Affairs committee at the request of McCaul. "It is disappointing that instead of continuing to engage with the Department in good faith, the Committee instead has issued yet another unnecessary subpoena."

The subpoena for Blinken's testimony is the latest in

a series of moves by McCaul and other House Republicans over the last 18 months to hold the Biden administration accountable for what they have called a "stunning failure of leadership" after Taliban forces seized the Afghan capital of Kabul, far more rapidly than U.S. intelligence had foreseen as American forces pulled out.

The committee is expected to summarize its work in an investigative report to be released Monday, amid the contentious presidential election where Republican nominee Donald Trump has tried to elevate the withdrawal from Afghanistan as a campaign issue.

While the GOP report is expected to place blame on President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, who is now the Democratic nominee for president, independent watchdog reports over the last three

years have documented a much more nuanced and bipartisan case for which administration was at fault.

A 2022 report by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, or SIGAR, concluded it

was decisions made by both President Donald Trump and Biden to pull all U.S. troops out of Afghanistan that were key factors in the collapse of that nation's military.

That report mirrors assertions made by senior

Pentagon and military leaders in the aftermath of the withdrawal. Military leaders have made clear that their recommendation was to leave about 2,500 U.S. troops in the country, but that plan was not approved.

Public Sale Calendar

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, livestock trailers, tools, lawn & garden equipment, shop equipment, livestock equipment & more! Consign anytime Sept. 5 or 6 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call Heartland to advertise your items! *Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.*, heartlandauctionrealty.com, 260-724-3499.

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. *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. Checkout and pick up Sept. 10, 3-5 p.m. Sept. 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 7845 N 650 E, Ossian, IN. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

SEPTEMBER 15-22 - 2 p.m. - (Online Only) - Estate of Jeffrey W. Brown, seller. Collectible vehicles, 1967 Dodge Dart, 1971 Dodge Challenger, 1988 Ford Ranger, Dune Buggy, Chop Top Baja Beetle, Allis Chalmers tractor, John Deere 640 tractor, pull type mower, riding lawn mowers, Mopar parts, automotive parts, name brand shop & power tools, air operated tools, automotive shop supplies, chain saws, log splitter, antique furniture, collectibles, beer signs, more. Preview Sept. 12 & 19 from 3-6 p.m., 7271 N 300 W-90, Markle. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.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, Emma Barr, 260-494-0992, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177, *Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management*, halderman.com, 800-424-2324.

SEPTEMBER 22-SEPTEMBER 29 - 2 p.m. - (Online Only Personal Property Auction) - The Estate of Elizabeth Ann (Carter) Aeschliman, seller. 2004 Lexus 4-door sedan, exceptionally clean modern furniture, patio furniture, collectibles, home interior decor items, various holiday decorations, household, lawn & garden,

tools, much more. Preview: Sept. 19, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Sept. 26 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 406 Goldenrod Ct., Bluffton, IN. Sale manager Pat Carter, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

SEPTEMBER 23-SEPTEMBER 30 - (Online Only) - Various consignors, seller. Firearms consisting of Springfield, Hopkins & Allen, Colt, Browning, Stevens, Glock, Winchester. Open House Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 215 E Market St, Bluffton, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

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, agricultural prime farmland, 31.5+/- tillable, 0.13+/- non-tillable, 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, 260-824-3006.

SEPTEMBER 24-OCTOBER 1 - (Online Only) - Grover, seller. Tractor, mower, tools, wood-working, primitives. Open House Sept. 28 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., 8726 S 600 W-90, Warren, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

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.*, 260-824-3006, steffengrp.com.

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 6 - (Online Only) - The Estate of Wayne E. Penrod, seller. Artifacts, tools, furniture, household. Open house Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 69 W 1st St., Poneto, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

OCTOBER 2 - 6 p.m. - Ruby Johnson, Brant Johnson, owner. Auction location: Lighted Gardens Reception Hall, 10794 N. State Road 1, Ossian. Property location: 14631 Smith Rd., Yoder. 48+/- acres offered in 4 tracts and combinations. Productive tillable land, excellent road frontage and access along Smith Rd., 2,400+ sq. ft. sprawling brick ranch home on full basement with 20x30 outbuilding, Allen County. Inspection Sept. 9 & 16, 5-7 p.m. Auction manager Jared Sipe, 260-750-1553, *Schrader Real Estate and Auction of Fort Wayne*, 866-340-0445, *SchraderFortWayne.com*.

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.

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