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FOR MORE, SEE PAGE B1



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LA PORTE COUNTY

Herald-Dispatch

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

LPHeraldDispatch.com

\$2

KIP connects with CSX rail spur

Golden Spike event marks new opportunities at industrial park

By ELIZABETH BUNTON
Staff Writer

KINGSBURY — The Kingsbury Industrial Park welcomed a rail spur by CSX, a rail-based transportation service, which will complete the connection between CSX, the South Shore and the CN rail-roader and allow for new economic opportunities to come into Kingsbury.

The new rail spur, which is a branch of rail track that connects the main track to a facility, industrial site, etc., will al-

low for new businesses to join Kingsbury Industrial Park, according to La Porte County Office of Economic Development Director Matt Reardon.

“There’s not anywhere I know of in Northwest Indiana that has these two: class one rail connections and the availability of land,” Reardon said at the CSX Golden Spike event that celebrated the new spur on June 18.

“Let’s just face it, this is kind of in the middle of nowhere, but for this industry and how this is zoned, it’s exactly what

we need,” he added.

Reardon hinted that in addition to the new rail spur, La Porte County’s lower tax rates will encourage businesses to move out of the Chicagoland area and into Kingsbury Industrial Park.

“The businesses that have interest keep coming here. The businesses that need help keep coming in here,” Reardon said. Additionally, Reardon said La Porte’s recently announced Microsoft data base, Michigan City’s work on the lakefront, and the investment on new

housing will pave the way for more businesses and jobs to enter the area.

According to a press release from the La Porte County Office of Economic Development, the Kingsbury Industrial Park has seen a 30 percent increase in new business inquiries over the past three years.

These new interested businesses include electric vehicle production, corn/grain processing, transportation/intermodal opportunities, and other manufacturing sectors,



Photo by Elizabeth Bunton
JBC Rail President Kimberly Macdonald Carroll and her husband Jim Carroll, JBC Rail chief operating officer, celebrate Kingsbury’s rail spur at the Golden Spike Event on June 18.

See KIP, page A6



Photo provided / La Porte Municipal Airport
Pilot and camp volunteer Bruce Allen poses with campers in front of a plane at La Porte’s Municipal Airport.

From taking flight to solar energy

La Porte Municipal Airport holds 11th annual summer camp event

By ELIZABETH BUNTON
Staff Writer

LA PORTE — Youth took to the sky during the La Porte Municipal Airport’s 11th annual summer camp for children and teens interested in aviation.

The annual summer camp, held earlier this month, is open for children entering the sixth grade all the up to seniors in high school, began in 2014 with only two days of camp, according to La Porte Municipal Airport manager of planning and outreach Rachel

Boulahanis.

“So, back in 2014 there was only two days of camp. There were maybe 14 kids here. It was much smaller,” Boulahanis said.

“They took a flight, took a couple classes and that was about it,” she added.

Since then, the weeklong program has steadily grown, Boulahanis said, with 60 participants, which is the maximum number of available spots to allow ample amount of time for each child on the flight simulator.

While the limit for the

See CAMP, page A6

Vehicle requests from MCPD, forester OK’d

By DONAVAN BARRIER
Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY — The city has approved the purchase of new vehicles for both the Michigan City Police Department [MCPD] and the Michigan City Forester.

Michigan City Board of Public Works and Safety, during their June 17 meeting, approved requests from both departments to purchase vehicles for their respective personnel.

The first order, made by Assistant Police Chief Steve Forker, was to purchase four 2023 Dodge Chargers and one 2023 Ram 1500 for a total of \$261,730.65. The vehicles would come from La Porte Chrysler Dodge, whom Forker said in his formal request to the board was the only vendor to respond to his purchase order and would offer a government discount.

Forker also requested to trade in several older vehicles. According to Forker, some of the vehicles are either wrecked or have significantly decreased battery life over time and do not function at their capacity.

“All of those vehicles on the trade list have gone through Central Maintenance,” said Forker.

“I’ve worked with Darrel [Garbacik] and their staff



FORKER

MELAND

over there to give them all an overview. They are in agreement that they’re on the friz and need to be traded in.”

The vehicles would also have new equipment as well. According to Forker, the MCPD had bad experiences taking out the old equipment from older vehicles and attempting to place it in the newer ones.

The next purchase request came from City Forester Mike Wolff, who requested a used Ford F750 Bucket Truck and a 2014 Brush Bandit Diesel 12” 88HP Diesel Chipper for a total of \$104,000 through a company called Specialized Hydraulics, Inc. Wolfe said this came about after seeing Michigan City does not own a bucket truck and chipper which he said forced him to solicit bids for tree work.

According to Wolff, tree removal costs an average of \$2,500. He also said an estimated 200 dead or dying trees need to be removed, averaging about \$500,000

See VEHICLES, page A2

Mural planned for LPCPL Exchange building

Lubeznik Center for the Arts seeks public input

STAFF REPORTS

LA PORTE — More art is coming to downtown La Porte and the Lubeznik Center for the Arts [LCA] is seeking public input.

LCA has received a grant for \$20,000 from the Health Foundation of La Porte to enhance the La Porte community by facilitating a mural.

The mural will be located on the south wall of the La Porte County Library [LPCPL] Exchange building at 807 Indiana Ave.

“The library is excited to have this opportunity to work with LCA to paint a mural on the Exchange,” said LPCPL Executive Director Fonda Owens.

“The origins of the building

were innovative, and we think a mural will continue that same spirit in current and future uses of the facility. We are looking forward to the community meetings and seeing the work when it is completed,” she added.

South Bend artist, Alex Ann



OWENS

Allen, was chosen by the LPCPL board to create the mural.

The content of the artwork will be determined as a result of several public meetings facilitated by LCA with collaboration among the artist, the library board and the public.

To accomplish this, the public is invited to join in the process at public meetings which

See MURAL, page A6



Photo provided / LCA
Lubeznik Center for the Arts has received a grant from the Health Foundation of La Porte for a mural on the south wall of the La Porte County Public Library Exchange, 807 Indiana Ave., La Porte.

Onsite Car Sale

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June 25th - June 28th

Tuesday - Friday
9:00 A M to 6:00 P M

(Central Standard Time)

HOT DEALS

Page 2

OBITUARIES

Kazimierz J. ‘Kaz’ Picur

Feb. 16, 1953 – June 18, 2024

Kazimierz J. “Kaz” Picur, 71, Michigan City, Indiana, passed away Tuesday, June 18, 2024 in Memorial Hospital, South Bend, Indiana.



Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10 a.m., Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at St. Stanislaus Koska Catholic Church, 1506 Washington St., Michigan City, Indiana with Rev. Walter Ciesla, Rev. Walter Rakoczy and Rev. Steve Kosinski officiating. Burial will follow in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Michigan City, Indiana. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, June 25, 2024 and from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at the Ott/Haverstock Funeral Chapel. The St. Joseph Young Men’s Society and the St. Stanislaus Rosary Society will recite the Rosary at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Ott/Haverstock Funeral Chapel.

He was born Feb. 16, 1953, in Karlowice, Poland, to the late Adam and Leokadia (Resiak) Picur. On March 18, 1978, in Popielow, Poland, he married Margaret Kazmierczak who survives Michigan City, Indiana. Also surviving are daughter, Monica (Kyle) Wilbur of Noblesville, Indiana; two sons, Robert (Vicki Budak) Picur and Julian Picur both of Michigan City, Indiana; three grandchildren, Hailley Wilbur, Haiden Wilbur, and Pamela Picur; brother, Zbigniew (Dana) Picur; two sisters, Helena Barbara Grodzka and Teresa (Antek) Zymanska all of Poland; nieces, Kasia Sadowska, Malgosia Padiasek, Magdzia Zymanska, Tracy Kazmierczak, Kelly Kazmierczak, Meghann (Ryan) Grantham, and Anna (Sean)

Clancy; nephews, Pawel Zymanski, Krzysiu Picur, Kristopher (Shelley) Kazmierczak, Kyle (Betsy) Kazmierczak, Damian (Kelli Witt) Marciniak, Aaron (Lauren) Resiak, and Christian Resiak, three great-nieces along with 11 great-nephews; uncle, Zenon (Michelle) Resiak of La Porte, Indiana; sister-in-law, Kasia (Janusz) Marciniak; three brother-in-laws, George (Lynn) Kazmierczak, Richard (Willia) Kazmierczak, and Zbigniew “Ziggy” (Angie) Resiak. He was preceded in death by brother, Zbys Picur; sister-in-law, Danuta Kazmierczak; mother-in-law, Helen Resiak; father-in-law, Adam Kazmierczak.

Kaz was a member of St. Stanislaus Koska Catholic Church, Michigan City, Indiana and a member of the St. Joseph Young Men’s Society. In Poland he was a Murarz-Mason and upon arriving in the United States, he worked for Sanlo Mfg Co., Michigan City, Modine Mfg Co., La Porte and retired as a Dry End operator from GAF Mfg Co., Michigan City. He enjoyed playing Soccer, bicycle riding, playing cards, gardening, hunting, fishing, dancing, cooking, bartending along with watching football, hockey and baseball. Kaz always thought of helping others first before thinking about himself. He was a good neighbor and a conversationalist with people.

Memorial contributions may be made to family of Kazimierz J. “Kaz” Picur.

To sign a guest book and leave condolences online visit our website at www.otthaverstock.com.

Brenda Jeanette (Mann) David

Aug. 17, 1949 – June 20, 2024

Loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Brenda Jeanette (Mann) David passed away on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at Bailey Manor in Winchester surrounded by her family.



She was born Aug. 17, 1949, to Robert Wilburn Mann, Sr. and Essie E. (Walker) Mann in Fayetteville, Tennessee. She married Emmitt Allen David Sr. Feb. 22, 1968, in Ringgold, Georgia.

She was preceded in death by her son, Charles Robert David; and grandson, Oscar William David; her parents; her sister, Elizabeth (Mann) Limbaugh; sister-in-law, Judy (David) Smith; and brother-in-law, Donnie V. David.

Brenda had a strong faith and attended the Church of Christ with special love for the members at Shady Lane and I Street, her churches in Indiana; and Huntland and Pleasant Ridge churches in Tennessee. Her love for Jesus shone through all her deeds, such as sitting with loved ones in their final days, the bereavement baskets brought to grieving families, and many other acts of kindness.

Brenda had a Certificate of Human Resources, an A.A.S. in Computer Programming Technology, and A.A.S. in Supervision, a B.S. in Organizational Leadership, and a M.B.A. from Purdue University. She loved to learn and never stopped taking on new challenges. Brenda worked at Purdue University North Central as a Computer Operator and held many responsibilities, her favorite being assisting faculty, staff and students in

resolving problems with their computer and their network issues.

Brenda was actively involved in many charities in her local area and ran many 5Ks to help with funding. She enjoyed sewing, painting, quilting, crafting and gardening.

Her most cherished moments were the times spent with her kids, (her own kids, grandkids, great-grandkids, nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, Sunday school kids, and the many kids she tutored through the years).

She is survived by her husband, Emmitt; daughter, Deloris Jean (Kenny) Satoski; son, Emmitt Allen (Kathy) David Jr.; grandsons, Jake Robert David, Joel Michael McKinnon, Justin (Kim) Withrow, and Craig Withrow; granddaughter, Pamela Sue Clanton; great-grandson, Blaine Withrow; great-granddaughter, Ella Withrow; four brothers, Wilburn (Linda) Mann, Charles (Judy) Mann, Billy Mann, and Jerry (Shirley) Mann; sister, Sherry (Mann) Stovall; brothers-in-law, Billy Wayne Limbaugh, Willard (Pat) David, Robert (Linda) David; and sister-in-law Bonnie Williams; as well as many cherished nieces and nephews.

A special thank you is extended to the staff at Bailey Manor and the Gentiva Hospice Group for the wonderful care and love shown to Brenda and her family through the end.

A private graveside service will be held. Watson Funeral Home 405 Sharp Springs Road, Winchester, TN 37398, 931-967-2222, www.watsonfhnt.com

Supreme Court will take up bans on gender-affirming care

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday jumped into the fight over transgender rights, agreeing to hear an appeal from the Biden administration seeking to block state bans on gender-affirming care.

The justices’ action comes as Republican-led states have enacted a variety of restrictions on health care for transgender people, school sports participation, bathroom usage and drag shows. The administration and Democratic-led states have extended protections for transgender people, including a new federal regulation that seeks to protect transgender students.

The case before the high court involves a law in Tennessee that restrict puberty blockers and hormone therapy for transgender minors.

The federal appeals court in Cincinnati allowed laws in Tennessee and Kentucky to take effect after they had been blocked by lower courts. (The high court did not act on a separate appeal from Kentucky.)

“Without this Court’s prompt intervention, transgender youth and their families will remain in limbo, uncertain of whether and where they can access needed medical care,” lawyers for the transgender teens in Tennessee told the justices.

Actor Elliot Page, the Oscar-nominated star of “Juno,” “Inception” and “The Umbrella Academy,” was among 57 transgender people who joined a legal filing in support of Supreme Court review.

Arguments will take place in the fall.

Last month, South Carolina became the 25th state to adopt a law restricting or banning

gender-affirming medical care for transgender minors, even though such treatments have been available in the United States for more than a decade and are endorsed by major medical associations.

Most of the state restrictions face lawsuits. The justices had previously allowed Idaho to generally enforce its restrictions, after they had been blocked by lower courts.

At least 24 states have laws barring transgender women and girls from competing in certain women’s or girls’ sports competitions. At least 11 states have adopted laws barring transgender girls and women from girls’ and women’s bathrooms at public schools, and in some cases other government facilities.

The nation’s highest court has only rarely taken up transgender issues. In 2020, the justices ruled that a landmark civil rights law protects gay,

lesbian and transgender people from discrimination in employment.

In 2016, the court had agreed to take up the case of a transgender student, backed by the Obama administration, who was barred from using the boys’ bathroom in his Virginia high school. But the court dropped the case after a directive advising schools to allow students to use the bathroom of their chosen gender, not biological birth, was scrapped in the early months of the Trump administration. The directive had been a key part of an appeals court ruling in favor of the student, Gavin Grimm.

In 2021, the justices declined to get involved in Grimm’s case after the appeals court again ruled in his favor. At the time, Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas noted they would have taken up the school board’s appeal.

Dali cargo ship leaves Baltimore for Virginia, nearly 3 months after collapse of the bridge

By BRIAN WITTE
Associated Press

The cargo ship Dali headed out of Baltimore for Virginia on Monday, nearly three months after it lost power and crashed into one of the Francis Scott Key bridge’s supporting columns and caused the bridge to collapse.

The 984-foot Dali started moving shortly before 8:30 a.m. with four tugboats.

The Dali was sailing under its own power with a full crew of 22 and six salvage experts, the U.S. Coast Guard said in a news release.

The Coast Guard is overseeing the voyage and providing a 500-yard safety zone around the Dali during its trip.

The Dali is scheduled to go directly to Virginia International Gateway to have roughly 1,500 cargo containers off-loaded to reduce draft, the Coast Guard said. The vessel is then scheduled to travel further to Norfolk International Terminal, where it is scheduled to undergo continued salvage and repairs from damage caused during the bridge collapse.

Shortly after leaving the Port of Baltimore early on March 26, the ship lost power and propulsion and crashed into one of the bridge’s supporting columns, killing six construction workers.

On May 20, the Dali was refloated and guided back to port. The vessel had been stuck amid the wreckage for almost two months, with a massive steel truss draped across its damaged bow.



Christopher Bokum / U.S. Coast Guard via AP

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Sailfish, an 87-foot Marine Protector class vessel, as it prepares to escort the Motor Vessel Dali during its transit from the Port of Baltimore to the Port of Virginia on Monday.

A National Transportation Safety Board investigation found the ship experienced two power outages in the hours before it left the Port of Baltimore. In the moments before the bridge collapsed, it lost power again and veered off course. The agency is still investigating what caused the electrical failures.

The FBI also launched a criminal investigation.

Last week, under an agreement confirmed by a federal judge, members of the Dali’s crew were allowed to head home. None of the crew members had been able to leave the U.S. since

the crash. Under the agreement, the crew members can return home but must be available for depositions.

Thousands of longshoremen, truckers and small business owners have seen their jobs impacted by the collapse, prompting local and state officials to prioritize reopening the port and restoring its traffic to normal

capacity in hopes of easing the economic ripple effects.

Earlier this month, officials announced the reopening of the Fort McHenry federal channel, after clearing wreckage from the 700-foot-wide by 50-foot deep channel.

Officials have said they hope to rebuild the bridge by 2028.

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La Porte Marching Band to perform at dual July 4th parades

STAFF REPORTS

La PORTE — The La Porte Marching Band will showcase its patriotic spirit with performances in two La Porte County 4th of July parades.

The first parade takes place in Michigan City on June 29 and starts at 11 a.m. followed by the band’s second parade in La Porte on July 4 beginning at 10 a.m.

These performances will celebrate our nation’s independence and highlight the band’s commitment to community involvement and cultural enrichment. Residents and visitors are invited to join the festivities and support our talented student musicians and guard as they march through both cities.

“We have a great balance of new and returning members this season,” said Joe Clark, band director.

“We are excited to get started bringing our music to the community, and look forward to a successful season,” he added.

Clark is joined by an incredible, hard-working staff: Rebecca Gamble and Kendra Ohime, assistant directors; Sarah McGuire, guard instructor; Kent Arnsbarger, percussion instructor; Chris Frick, design; and Beno Morris, audio. The staff will be joined by additional techs throughout the season.

The 4th of July parades mark the culmination of the band’s summer practices and serve as their springboard to its upcoming season, which will include many exciting and fun events for the community:

Fox Memorial Park Concert – scheduled for Aug. 15 at



Photo by Amanda Haverstick

The La Porte Marching Band will perform in the Michigan City Patriotic Parade on June 29 and the La Porte 4th of July Parade.

6 p.m., the evening is a community tradition and promises enchanting melodies in a historical park setting. This concert will blend classical and contemporary music as the La Porte Marching Band kicks off their school season. The band will also perform a preview of their 2024 theme, Over the Garden Wall.

Slicer Football Season – Kick off the 2024 Slicer football season on Aug. 16 with the La Porte Marching Band as they perform pre-game at every home game, followed by the enthralling halftime performance of their season show, Over the Garden Wall.

Concord Invitational – On Sept. 14 the La Porte Marching Band will participate in the Concord Invitational at Concord High School, Concord, Indiana where they compete against other area high schools. Our talented students will perform their program Over the Garden

Wall to showcase the high standards of excellence and educational achievement.

Composed of more than 80 talented student members from La Porte High School and La Porte Middle School, in 2023, the La Porte Marching Band secured a top 10 finish at the Scholastic A State Finals in Indianapolis, marking another milestone in its storied history.

As a 12-time ISSMA State Finalist, the band has consistently demonstrated exceptional talent and dedication. Notably, the band earned the ISSMA Scholastic A Class State Runner-up title in 2018, 2016, and 2015 and was crowned State Champion in 2014.

The band has also made its mark on the national stage, with acclaimed performances at the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade and Disney World’s Magic Kingdom Parade, showcasing its vi-

brant energy and artistic flair.

Clark is in his sixth year as band director at La Porte High School and his fifth year as LPMB director. He received his Master’s in Wind Band Conducting from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign under Dr. Steve Peterson.

While there, he was a co-director of the UIUC Clarinet Choir and a member of the Sapphire Reed Quintet. Previously, he attended the Eastman School of Music and the University of Rochester, where he received degrees in music education, clarinet performance and mathematics.

He is currently the principal clarinet of the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra and continues to perform chamber music and solo recitals in the community.

Follow “The La Porte Marching Band” on Facebook for updates and future performances.



Photo provided / La Porte City Band

The La Porte City Band will feature Jared Collier at Wednesday’s concert.

La Porte City Band concert is announced

STAFF REPORTS

La PORTE — The La Porte City Band will continue its 2024 season on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the band shell of beautiful Fox Park. These concerts are brought to you free be a grant from the City of La Porte, the honorable Tom Dermody, mayor.

The program for June 26th includes:

■ Congress Hall – John Philip Sousa

■ Marriage of Figaro (overture) – W.A. Mozart, arr. Slocum

■ Fandango – Frank Perkins, arr. Werle

■ Xylophone Rags of George Hamilton Green – arr. SSgt. Scott Nimmer, Jared Collier, xylophone

■ Them Basses – G.H. Huffine, arr. Trevitz

■ Blue Tango – Leroy Anderson

■ Selections from Les Misérables – arr. Warren Barker: At the End of the Day, I Dreamed a Dream, Master of the House, On My

Own, Do You Hear the People Sing?

■ Pride of the Wolverines – John Philip Sousa, arr. Fennell

The band is conducted by Charles Steck. The announcer is Regina Smelser

Jared Collier is a freelance percussionist, educator, and composer, and the Education Manager for the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra.

A graduate of Valparaiso University, he can be seen and heard playing with the Michigan City Municipal Band, Windiana Concert Band, St. Joseph Municipal Band, La Porte County Symphony Orchestra, Elkhart Symphony Orchestra and the La Porte City Band.

Collier is also the drummer for Cobalt Joy and the musical theater percussionist for several area theaters.

July 3 is the band’s patriotic concert, and they feature a famous trumpet trio, narrator Bruce Johnson and tenor Tim King.

NCCAA bestows 2024 Hazel Award

MICHIGAN CITY — North Central Community Action Agencies, Inc. celebrated Community Action Month by holding their Annual Report luncheon on Tuesday, May 28, at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts.

The agency honored their 2023 volunteers, and also presented the 2024 Hazel Thomas Community Action Award to Jerry Schmidt of the Marine Corp Reserve Toys for Tots organization.

There are more than 1,000 Community Action Agencies nationwide and 22 in the state of Indiana that covers all 92 counties, the NCCAA said. The agency is currently celebrating its 58th year of existence.

The agency provides community service programs for low-income families and/or individuals in La Porte, Starke and Pulaski counties such as energy assistance, youth programs, senior congregate feeding, community gardens, food pantries, information and referrals, and its Ramp Program and Children’s Vision Screening Program.

It also provides weatherization in seven counties, including La Porte, Starke, Pulaski, Jasper, Newton, Porter and Cass.

In addition to recognizing their volunteers, Board, staff and funders, the agency presented to those in attendance a copy of the agency’s 2023 Annual Report fiscal and programmatic reports and 2024 Needs Assessment.

ORGANIZATIONS



Photo provided / NCCAA

Jerry Schmidt of the Marine Corps Reserve’s Toys for Tots organization received the 2024 North Central Community Action Hazel Thomas Award from Cyndi Davis, executive director of NCCAA, and Willie Milsap, president of NCCAA.

Exchange learns about changes in law enforcement

MICHIGAN CITY — Mark Swistek, Long Beach Police chief and former Michigan City Police chief, spoke about some of the changes he’s witnessed over the past 32 years in law enforcement – during the June 4 meeting of the Michigan City Exchange Club.

Swistek started his presentation by highlighting the types of cars officers formerly used, compared with what they drive today, and the recent steep rise in cost. For instance, in 2021, police squad cars cost \$32,000, but today that’s jumped to \$47,000.

Swistek also talked about how police car cameras are always recording. He said as soon as the car lights turn on,



Photo provided / Exchange Club

Long Beach Police Chief Mark Swistek speaks about the changing costs of law enforcement during the June 4 meeting of the Michigan City Exchange Club.

the camera saves the prior two minutes of footage.

Swistek then addressed police body cameras. He said

when he first started his career, they were not even thought of, but today everyone has them. Likewise, license plate readers were viewed as an invasion of privacy only 10 years ago, but now everyone views them as a necessary police tool. In fact, in Michigan City there are 40 cars with license plate readers on them, he said.

Firearms have also changed. According to Swistek, in order to save on ammo costs, most police departments now carry 9mm pistols, instead of the 40 caliber firearms they used in the past. He said the cost savings has been dramatic.

Swistek then gave another example of how costs have increased over the years. He said a single shot Taser in 2010 cost more than \$1,000. In 2024, a two-shot Taser costs more than \$4,500.

New Carlisle Town Council to meet

NEW CARLISLE — The New Carlisle Town Council will meet in executive session at 6:30 a.m. (ET) Wednesday at the Town Hall, 124 E. Michigan St.

MC Sanitary District Board to meet

MICHIGAN CITY — The Michigan City Sanitary District Board of Commissioners will meet at 4 p.m. Wednesday in the conference room at 1100 E. 8th St. The agenda in-

cludes financial and safety reports and updates on the Lake Avenue / U.S. 12 lift station project. The board will meet in executive session at 3 p.m. Wednesday in the conference room.

Family Resource Center offers free laundry

MICHIGAN CITY — The La Porte County Family Resource Center will be at Details Dry Cleaning & Laundry, 2601 Ohio St., Michigan City, offering free laundry on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to

noon. The resource center will provide:

- Laundry detergent
- Dryer sheets
- Help folding and loading

There is a limit of two large or small loads and individuals participating will be responsible for washing their clothing. For more information, contact the La Porte County Family Resource Center at 219-575-7363.

Michigan City Public Art Committee will meet

MICHIGAN CITY — The

Michigan City Public Art Committee (MAC) will hold a special meeting Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the East Conference Room (upper level) at City Hall, 100 E. 4th St., Michigan City.

New Prairie School Board to meet

NEW CARLISLE — The New Prairie United Board of School Trustees will meet at 6 p.m. (CT) Wednesday at the New Prairie United School Corp. Central Office Board Room, 5327 N. Cougar Road, New Carlisle.



Photo provided / Dunes Summer Theatre

“Talley’s Folly” opens at Dunes Summer Arts Theatre on Friday. Pictured, from left, are Amanda Tomczak as Sally and Rob Morris as Matt.

‘Talley’s Folly’ play opens at the Dunes Arts Summer Theatre

STAFF REPORTS

MICHIGAN CITY — Dunes Arts Summer Theatre is already looking forward to the second production of the season, modern American playwright Lanford Wilson’s 1980 Pulitzer Prize-winning “Talley’s Folly.”

Opening Friday, “Talley’s Folly” is the second installment in The Talley Trilogy, positioned between “Talley & Son” and “Fifth of July.”

Set in 1944, the classic play unfolds in an abandoned Missouri boathouse which becomes the site of an unexpected and evolving relationship between Matt Friedman, a middle-aged accountant, and Sally Talley, a reserved young nurse.

Directed by Morgan McCabe and featuring Rob Morris as Matt and Amanda Tomczak as Sally, Dunes Summer Theatre’s production of “Talley’s Folly” is a witty and intimate story with wonderfully complex characters that the audience will recognize and relate to immediately.

“Working with two exceptional actors from Northwest Indiana on this play is a treat, they have so much passion for their characters,” said McCabe.

“The entire Dunes Arts’ production staff – set, cos-

tume, sound design – all the elements are falling right into place. This kind of creative collaboration makes this a must-see this summer and it’s a privilege to direct it.”

Artistic Director Stephen Scott continues, “I’ve loved this play ever since I first saw it years ago – a love story in which two lost and isolated souls attempt to overcome their own obstacles to connect with each other. Morgan is the perfect director for this; I know that she’ll bring out every ounce of humor, tenderness and joy in Matt and Sally’s complex journey to that connection.”

Showtimes are 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Bar and concessions open one hour prior to curtain.

All shows take place at Dunes Summer Theatre at 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michigan City.

Tickets (\$35 each, \$25 four or more) can be purchased at dunesARTS.org or by calling the box office at (219) 879-7509; season subscriptions are still available (\$150).

Preview night, Thursday, is \$15, there will be an opening night reception on Friday at 9 p.m. to meet the cast, director and production team (\$20 entry or free for ticket season holders and donors over \$150).

Woman wanting to marry carries tough secret

DEAR READERS: To mark my final week writing this column, I'm re-running some memorable Q&As.

DEAR AMY: I am in the most loving relationship with the man I want to marry. We talk about marriage often.

Amy Dickinson
Ask Amy



He knows nearly everything about me. The last thing – the thing he doesn't know – is my protected secret.

Seven years ago, I was raped in college. Few people knew, even then. It took me years to admit it.

Lately, I have felt guilty that I have not told my love this deep secret, not because it is painful for me to talk about (I've suppressed it enough to numb it) but because I don't know how to bring it up in a way that won't make him feel blindsided, confused, or even angry.

I feel like it's something he needs to know, and I feel like I am hiding something, but I know I shouldn't feel this way.

How do I position this and bring it up in conversation? – Protected Secret

DEAR PROTECTED: First of all – I'm so sorry. I'm sorry you went through this. Understand that you get to feel however you feel, including feelings of guilt, sadness, and anxiety. The way you process this will likely change over time.

My own take is that you might start by reframing – to yourself – the language you are using to describe your rape. You think of it as a "deep dark secret." It is something you are hiding.

Change your vocabulary. Remove words that suggest shame and secrecy. You are a rape survivor. Your rape does not define you. Your healing defines you. Your healthy relationships, your healthy sense of self, your personal, creative or professional successes – these things all define you.

And so no, you should not "position this and bring it up in conversation." Rape is not something you bring up in conversation. It IS the conversation.

This is going to sound pedestrian, but I am a firm believer in practicing as a way to prepare yourself for a challenging experience or conversation.

Write down your thoughts.

Choose a time and space where you feel comfortable and where neither of you will be distracted.

I suggest starting with: "I have something to talk to you about. This is hard for me and so I hope you'll bear with me while I get through it. When I'm done, if you have questions, I'll do my best to answer them."

If you two have a loving future together (I assume you do), your and his stories – joyful and heartbreaking – go along with you.

Remember this: So many survivors stand alongside you. I hope you can picture an army of supportive survivor-warriors who all have your back.

You would benefit from professional counseling and also group support. Contact RAINN.org for online and telephone counseling.

(November 2019)

DEAR AMY: We are planning a costume party at my workplace.

We all decided to dress up as people from an iconic TV show. However, two of my coworkers, who are light skinned, are going over the top to change their skin tone to match the darker-toned cast members of the show.

I personally do not feel comfortable with this. I think it is not only insulting, but very unprofessional.

I'm not sure how to get that across without being rude. My attempts at reconsideration have fallen on deaf ears. In their minds, it is clearly innocent and meant as a joke.

I personally do not see it as a joke, and I don't want to be involved in a group photo with two people doing something I don't agree with. What can I do? – Insulted

DEAR INSULTED: Artificially changing the color of your skin in order to assume another person's race as part of a costume is demeaning and racist – no matter who does it.

Iconic TV characters likely have many characteristics aside from the actor's skin tone that your co-workers could use as part of their impersonation.

Given this rude, ill-considered, potentially career-ending behavior on the part of your co-workers, why are you worried about being rude?

You should say, "I get that you think this is lighthearted and funny, but I'm not comfortable with it. I think this is racist, and not cool or funny at all."

Do not, under any circumstances, appear in a photo with these "jokers."

(October 2019)

DEAR READERS: R. Eric Thomas is starting a new advice column called "Asking Eric." You can send your questions to him at Eric@askingeric.com.

SUDOKU

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			7	5				1
	8	6					5	
			5		1	9		
2				6				8

WORD SLEUTH — BERRY

H A X U Q N K H E B Y V S P M
J H E N B Y H V T Q O L I G D
B Y W T A U R P M K I F D B Y
W U S Q C G O M K I F D B Z X
W U S K J Q O O N N L J H F D
R C L A U N W L Y E W V E T S
N E Q E N O O T A K S A S P N
L A D U I P N M C F I Y O K I
H F R L P E S A L A F C O B Z
Y W V C E U L A C A S U G B R
Q P N M R B W A R T S L B J I

Monday's unlisted clue: NOSE JOB

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: — BERRY FINN

Acai	Clue	Juniper	Saskatoon
Black	Cran	Logan	Snow
Boysen	Elder	Rasp	Straw
Buffalo	Goose	Salmon	

CRYPTOQUOTE

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-25 CRYPTOQUOTE
Y U C W F L N W S M X F J B N D
D M H X S Q T F W R, M E F J M X B M D C R
T W A T F Q X N D W N D E M J B C Y N B B
Z C C X E U C D M H X L N E C L T W C N E U C Q
L N R C G M D M W E. — F W Z W T Y W

Puzzle solutions at bottom of page

HOROSCOPE

JUNE 25

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Stay consistent with your tasks and continue following your plan of action to keep making progress towards your goals. Consider taking the time to understand things from the perspective of others without pushing your own beliefs.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Hope that someone can gently guide you back on track if you wander too far from the course. You might receive conflicting feedback from others. It may be possible that you have mastered tuning out what doesn't serve you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) If you've got a great idea, share a taste of the proposed project to generate interest from others. Your creative sparks may soon be noticed. Consider coming up with a way to safeguard your ideas and creations until an agreement is made.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Pace yourself and focus your attention on one thing at a time. Dependability might be the secret ingredient to a happy relationship. Building trust requires the proper tools, so consider being as honest and consistent as possible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Someone close could help you stay focused on attaining material success. Now may not be the time for big professional moves or starting new projects. Consider listening to the imaginative ideas from others but be mindful of the budget.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This may not be the time to make a rapid change. You may need to hold back on launching new projects and big initiatives and closely examine any offers that sound too good to be true because they could come with hidden costs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Guesswork won't get you anywhere. It may be difficult to put facts into context and you may need to sort through confusing responses. Consider taking a step back to develop more perspective before you react to outside pressures.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Some situations may require a test before making a proper judgement. Consider further examining the situation before you make a final decision. Don't toy with anyone's affections or make changes that could have unexpected results.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) It's okay to take a closer look if something seems too good to be true. Consider chatting with friends you trust before making any big decisions. You may need to cut your losses and put a stop to a potential financial drain.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A down-to-earth and practical approach may work best to counteract confusing actions and misunderstandings. Stay aware and alert as someone close to you may periodically show a desire for a deeper connection.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You may have the willpower and poise to put your ideas into action, but more preparation could be needed to make it an instant go. Consider organizing your finances to get ahead of any potential future conflicts that could arise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Precise preparations could help you complete any task without missing a beat. It may be important to utilize critical thinking to evaluate information and look for patterns. This may not be a good day to buy something on a whim.

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

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43						44			45		46		
47				48		49			50		51		
			52		53				54		55		
56	57	58		59		60	61			62	63	64	
65			66			67							
68						69				70			
71						72					73		

Created by Stella Zawistowski

6/25/24

DOWN

- Cry
- "Jane ____" (Brontë novel)
- Red root veggie
- Luge driver
- Actress Spelling
- Financial hit
- Scatter (about)
- Car radio button
- Mob informant
- Make corrections to
- Prefix with -dynamic
- Doodled
- Blowgun projectile
- Eating regimen
- "That was awful": 2 wds.
- Lakeside structures
- Nebraska city
- Acting parts
- Elementary
- Error
- Aristotle's teacher
- Devil ray
- Type of dog or cat

Today's solution

Q	O	N		D	E	W		S	S	E	S	S	V
O	R	O	L		E	R	E		E	R	I	D	W
W	N	I	N	V	I	L	I		S	E	d	V	R
S	E	Z	I	T	V	I	d		Y		W	V	I
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S	D	V		W	E	L	O	L		d	V	C	S
W	E	L	S		N	I	L	S		N	I	E	H
E	N	N	K		D	V	S		O	S	T	V	
E	R	V	C			E	T	I	R		L	V	O
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M	O	L		S	E	H	S	I	d	I	R	L	E
E	R	I	L	E	R		S	E	d		E	R	E
R	E	D	V	R	L		O	O	L		d	E	A
d	V	E	R	S		L	L	S			B	E	W

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6/25/24

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 35 Comes across as | 58 Atlas parts |
| 37 Jewish holy book | 60 News article |
| 45 Linked by blood | 61 Wear out |
| 48 Indiana's NBA team | 62 National Park in Utah |
| 50 Actress Kunis | 63 Currency in Spain |
| 53 Flower holders | 64 Visible air pollution |
| 55 Beer serving | 66 Sliced dessert |
| 56 Notion | |
| 57 Upper limbs | |

JUMBLE

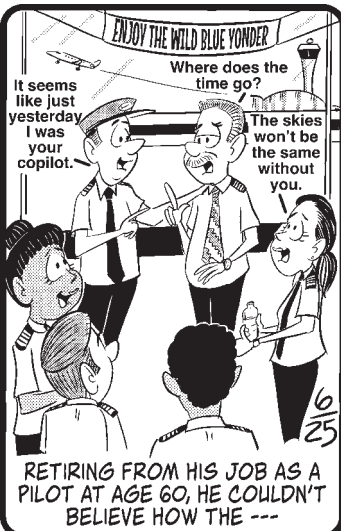
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VLAEV
□ □ □ □ □
RWFON
□ □ □ □ □
REYADL
□ □ □ □ □
NRAHKS
□ □ □ □ □
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Solution at bottom of page

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Long upholstered seat
- Light wood
- vital
- Fail to include
- Greek epic by Homer
- Mummy
- Extremely
- Mottled horse
- Dinghy
- Result in
- Make dull
- "Get outta here!"
- Nicely arranged
- Chant
- Tizzy
- Luau fare
- Place in southeast Asia
- Permission
- Colony members
- Anger
- Spoil
- Brought into existence
- Delivered
- Chinese "way"
- Made a point
- Female bird
- Wife of Geraint in Arthurian legend

DOWN

- Huffy
- Foreboding
- Authoritative command
- "Finally!" (2 wds.)
- Barnstormer's aircraft
- Pasha
- Dryer dust
- Prince of Darkness
- Worshipped
- Create ill-will
- Vietnam neighbor
- Wet nurse
- King Cole
- Desktop pic
- Fasten

Today's solution

I	N	E	A		L	V	I	E	O		A	V	R	B
N	E	A		E	D	V	A	O		L	N	I	V	
E	D	O		E	T	V	I	O	L		I	T	V	O
M	O	T		T	E	F	S	R	E		L	N	N	H
				E	K	V	S				O	I	N	E
N	E	H	V	E		P				D	E	R	O	O
O	V	L								D	E	R	I	S
N	I	N				E	R	I		S	L	N	V	
E	A	V	E	L		T	V	D	E	N		I	O	d
R	E	H	L	I	D				E	N	O	L	N	I
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L	V	O	B		O	L	N	I			T	V	E	R
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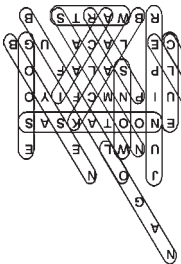
6-25-24 © 2024 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel for UFS

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 25 Neither hot nor cold | 46 Accept |
| 27 Column order | 49 Followed a food regimen |
| 28 Explosive stuff | 51 Aide |
| 30 Terre — | 53 Propelled |
| 31 Bottled water brand | 55 '60s rock musical |
| 32 "— 911!" | 56 Skeletal part |
| 33 Do well enough | 57 "On the double!" |
| 35 Common verb | 59 "I — a Parade" |
| 36 By — and bounds | 60 Candid |
| 39 Peacefulness | 61 Left |
| 43 Minor impact | 62 Bit of paint |
| 45 Handbill | 64 Town in Oklahoma |

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				52				53		54				
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62					63			64			65			
66						67					68			
69								70				71		

TODAY'S SOLUTIONS

Jumbles: VALVE FROWN DEARLY SHRANK
Answer: Retiring from his job as a pilot at age 60, he couldn't believe how the — YEARS HAD FLOWN



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

Cryptophone: WHEN USING A PUBLIC CAMPGROUND, A TUBA PLACED ON YOUR PICNIC TABLE WILL KEEP THE CAMPSITES ON EITHER SIDE VACANT. — UNKNOWN

MCJROTC remembers its fallen heroes

STAFF REPORTS

MICHIGAN CITY — Memorial Day is the traditional start of the summer vacation, a time for barbecues and going to the beach.

The cadets of the Michigan City High School (MCHS) Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) recognized the true meaning of the holiday, which is to remember those who gave their lives in the service of their country.

"Throughout the school year, our cadets have demonstrated great unselfishness in supporting our school and community," said Marine Instructor Master Sergeant Jeff Benak.

"Memorial Day activities are the perfect time to continue the idea of service over self," he added.

They did this by placing flags on veterans' graves at the Greenwood Cemetery, saluting the veterans groups as they traversed the Washington Park Bridge for their memorial service, marched in the Michigan City Memorial Day parade, and participated in the Michigan City Memorial Day service.

Major Tom McGrath, the Senior Marine Instructor, explained how an academic unit motivated the cadets to participate in the above activities.

"We studied a unit on President (Abraham) Lincoln and showed the scene from the movie 'Saving Private Ryan' where Lincoln's letter to the mother who lost five sons in the Civil War was read. That letter epitomizes both the grief of losing loved ones who serve in our military, but also the reason why so many take the risk and volunteer to protect our country and our way of life," McGrath said.

While many of their fellow students will be relaxing over the summer, the cadets will be busy preparing for the next school year, as well as supporting



The Color Guard retrieves the Colors to close the Memorial Day Ceremony.

Man who robbed stores across three counties is sentenced

STAFF REPORTS

SOUTH BEND — A South Bend man was sentenced in federal court for robbery and firearm offenses.

DeVante Jiggetts, 30, of South Bend, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Damon R. Leichter after pleading guilty to two counts of robbery affecting commerce, one count of brandishing a firearm in relation to a crime of violence, and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm, according to U.S. Attorney Clifford D. Johnson.

Jiggetts was sentenced to 168 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release and was ordered to pay \$300 in restitution to the victims of the offense.

According to documents in the case, in November and December 2022, Jiggetts, along with co-defendants Treveon Smith and Taibian Harris, robbed at gunpoint several cellular telephone stores and a convenience store.

The stores were spread across La Porte, Elkhart and St. Joseph counties.

On Nov. 29, 2022, Jiggetts drove Smith to commit a robbery of a cell phone store in

A black and white photograph of a military band marching down a path in a cemetery. The band members are wearing uniforms and hats, and some are playing instruments. The path is lined with large, rounded bushes, and the background is filled with numerous gravestones and trees.

MCJROTC Cadets, from left, Corporal Robert Pearce, Sergeant Payton Downs, Corporals Mercedes White, Johnny Corley, Gavin Wyatt and Charles Gasaway salute deceased veterans.



The MCHS Color Guard of, from left, Cadets Corporal Aidan Gordon, Captain Marcus Mantel, 2nd Lieutenant Matthew Wilson and Gunnery Sergeant Ann Sawyer lead the marching portion of the Michigan City Memorial Day Parade.

the community.

Cadets will be conditioning for the rigorous Raider team

competitions, as well as practicing for the upcoming military drill meets.

They will be doing traffic control and helping attendees of MCHS's Graduation, marching in the Michigan City Kiddie and Patriotic

parades in June, as well as supporting numerous civic events.

Select cadets will be attending national JROTC Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) camp near Washington, D.C.



MCJROTC Cadets Sergeant Payton Downs, left, and Corporal Johnny Corley place flags on veterans' graves at the Greenwood Cemetery.



The MCHS Color Guard presents colors prior to posting the Colors for the Michigan City Memorial Day ceremony at Greenwood Cemetery.

and the national Military Drill camp near San Antonio, Texas. All JROTC activities are done at no cost to the student or MCHS. Costs are completely covered

by the Marine Corps.

The cadets will finish up their summer activities by supporting the school district wide Back-To-School Rally on Aug. 10.

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KIP

From page A1

the press release stated.

Reardon said the private sector and local governments investments in infrastructures, the sharing of resources and a common interest allowed for the project to occur in Kingsbury.

“They didn’t want it to happen in the farmlands, they wanted it to happen here,” Reardon said.

According to Kim Macdonald Carroll, the president of JBC Rail, the completion of the rail spur was a collaboration of CSX, JBC Rail, La Porte County officials, city of La Porte officials, state representatives, the Economic Development Committee, lawyers, accountants and bankers.

The history of how this spur of rail came to be started 19 years ago, according to JBC Rail chief operating officer Jim Carroll.

“Well, 19 years ago ... a realtor from Chicago told me about Kingsbury, Indiana. I had no idea where Kingsbury, Indiana was,” Carroll said.

After touring Kingsbury and repeated visits to the site, Carroll said JBC Rail decided to invest in the project.

“I said, you know, this is going to be major investment, but I think it’s going to work for everybody, and I think that we can bring a lot of business to, you know, Northwest Indiana from all over the country,” Carroll said.

After a lot of time and money, and with help from county officials, Carroll said the rail spur project came to fruition.

“So, I want to thank everybody from the county and the state, and everybody that jumped in and helped us out,” Carroll said.

“We think that in the next



Photos by Elizabeth Buntton

La Porte County Office of Economic Development Director Matt Reardon discusses the possible future of Kingsbury Industrial Park at the Golden Spike event held in Kingsbury on June 18.



JBC crew members Lynn Patton, Brandon Davie and Doug Davie watch the Golden Spike festivities from a rail car at the Golden Spike event held in Kingsbury on June 18.

two to three years we can really make this place a little bigger,” he added.

La Porte County Commissioner Rich Mrozinski

said since the groundbreaking of the CSX rail spur on Sept. 27, 2012, the county understood the long journey ahead for this project.

“Failure was not an option. We knew what we were going to do, and we did it; we have not let up,” Mrozinski said.

The journey of the Kings-



La Porte County Commissioner Rich Mrozinski thanked everyone who had worked on the CSX rail spur over the years at the Golden Spike event held in Kingsbury on June 18.



La Porte County Council President Randy Novak briefly discusses how the CSX rail spur came to be at the Golden Spike event held in Kingsbury on June 18.

bury Industrial Park’s rail spur, Mrozinski said, has been filled with a lot of phone conferences, trips out of town and heated moments.

“We finally got started on the transformation for this stretch of land that once employed hundreds of people ... they supplied our military with things we needed for World War II,” Mrozinski said.

“To bring this place back to a place of prominence and production again; the chance to put La Porte County on the national map as a logistical cen-

ter for the Midwest; chance to put many people back to work with good jobs; the chance for La Porte County to stand tall and show the rest of the world that we know what we’re doing,” he added.

The next project for the Kingsbury Industrial Park, Mrozinski said, is the roads; a future project that La Porte County Council President Randy Novak agreed with.

“We still have a lot of things to do with the roads and everything else to get this job finished,” Novak said.

CAMP

From page A1

aviation summer camp has already been met, Boulahanis shared that there is already a 30 person wait list to get included in the program.

The highly demanded camp allows children to learn an assortment of aspects about aviation, Boulahanis said, including weights and balances, different careers inside the field and how to fly the plane.

Additionally, Boulahanis said the La Porte Municipal Airport has teamed up with the La Porte County Library Exchange to allow students more time and resources to learn and explore STEM activities and aviation.

To get the campers excited for their weeklong camp, Boulahanis said the program usually kicks off with the children taking flights in the airplanes.

“Typically, we do the flights the first day because it really builds the enthusiasm,” Boulahanis said.

According to Boulahanis, although the flights are usually held on the first day, the pilots and camp staff take into consideration environmental elements, such as the 32 mile per hour winds that were occurring on June 10.

“This is just not a comfortable flight; it’s very bumpy,” Boulahanis said referring to that day’s wind.

“You can fly in that; a lot of our pilots, they’re comfortable in that, they don’t mind. But for a child going up in a plane for the first time, for some of them it’s not the best experience, and we want to make sure that’s a really good experience for them,” she added.

For the flights, Boulahanis said campers are asked their weight on the admission paperwork, so the staff can calculate weight and balances to



Photos provided / La Porte Municipal Airport

Camp volunteer Corey Harper from the energy solution company Veregy teaches campers about solar power at La Porte’s Municipal Airport during the weeklong camp.

correctly distribute the children for safe flight experiences.

“They’ll get in really nervous sometimes, or really excited from the get-go, but the smiles on their faces coming out of those planes when they land is just priceless,” Boulahanis said.

Another topic that the campers are learning at the aviation summer camp, according to Boulahanis, is solar energy.

For 45 minutes, the camp goers are taught about solar energy and provided with heaps of information about the topic, Boulahanis said.

“They’re actually rebuilding our Fourth of July parade float with solar energy and solar powered runway lights,” Boulahanis said.

“They’re recreating the runway on it, so they’re learning about runway markings and then doing those runway markings,” she added.

Learning about solar energy and rebuilding the float not only allows the campers to see a finished product of their hard work, Boulahanis said,

but also teaches them power tool and electrical safety, woodworking tools, safety procedures and teamwork.

If one summer in the camp is not enough, Boulahanis said children are welcome to return each year if they are in between the sixth and 12th grades.

“We have a massive return rate, typically 60 percent to 70 percent of our camp kids here return and most of who don’t have graduated,” Boulahanis said.

With so many campers, the program requires an equal number of staff, the majority of which are volunteers.

“It takes a massive amount of people,” Boulahanis said.

“It’s throughout the week, there’s about 50 to 60 volunteers that help pull this off, and it’s very difficult to do that,” she added.

Boulahanis said the majority of the municipal airport’s volunteers are pilots.

“So, most of our volunteers are pilots. Most of our simulator instructors are pilots,” Boulahanis said.

“We have a lot of local pilots come out to do the flights. There’s three flight schools that are helping this year. So, they’re helping and then some of our local pilots are helping as well,” she added.

A local establishment that helps with the camp, Boulahanis said, is Garwood Orchard of La Porte.

“Garwood lets us use one of their wagons every year for camp. That’s how we shuttle the kids back and forth across the airport, because it’s a lot of kids and it’s difficult to drive 15 kids back and forth at a time,” Boulahanis said.

Whether it’s simply just learning how to handle a tool, Boulahanis hopes that each camper leaves the aviation program with some new knowledge or interest.

“There’s a lot of kids who start camp not really knowing if they care about aviation at all, they just thought it’d be something fun to do, and they leave saying that’s what I want to do, and I love that part,” Boulahanis said.

“Our pilots absolutely love



Camper Ruthie Anderson takes flight during the second day of La Porte’s Municipal Airport’s summer camp.



Class instructor and volunteer Janice Welsh teaches campers about weights and balances at the La Porte Municipal Airport during the weeklong camp.

to be a part of that. It’s a phenomenal experience for them,” she added.

For the foreseeable future Boulahanis sees the aviation weeklong camp remaining the same; however, she is looking into other ways for more children to get involved.

“A lot of people have asked for a second week of camp.

It’s not always possible; it would be very difficult to do,” Boulahanis said.

“I have been thinking of other ways that we can get kids involved in some other way that can’t get registered in time or the timing doesn’t work out for them if they’re on vacation, just things like that,” she added.

MURAL

From page A1

will be held on Tuesday, June 25 at 5 p.m. at the Main Library, 904 Indiana Ave., and on Tuesday, July 16 at 5 p.m. in the Exchange classroom.

According to LCA, through the collaborative process, the goal of the project is to foster a sense of shared ownership and pride in the community.

There is much evidence, stated LCA, that murals with public input contribute to the economic and the physical health of a community. These



BLOCH

Porte for their generous grant to bring more public art into the city of La Porte, adding to the quality of life for the community,” said Janet Bloch, executive director of LCA.

In 2023 LCA and HFL partnered bring a mural to the Holy Family Parish Faith Formation Center, St. Joseph

In 2023 LCA and HFL partnered bring a mural to the Holy Family Parish Faith Formation Center, St. Joseph Campus in La Porte.

Photo provided / LCA

Campus in La Porte. The mural was painted by artist by Felix “Flex” Maldonado.

For more information about this project, contact LCA’s marketing manager, Jessie Sexton, at 219-874-4900 or jsexton@lubeznikcenter.org.

Lubeznik Center for the Arts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit located at 101 W. 2nd St., Michigan City. Admission is free year-round.



The All-La Porte County Softball Team

Marcy Bearickx, La Porte
Senior, Pitcher
Stats: .339; 8-2, 2.86 ERA, 87 SO, 71 IP.
Bio: The four-year Slicers mainstay capped her career with her best pitching season – most wins and lowest ERA – and her top batting average.



BEARICKX

Ella Chelminiak, New Prairie
Junior, Outfield
Stats: .467, 13 2B, 27 runs, 34 RBI
Bio: Chelminiak jumped to the two spot in the Cougars batting order and rewarded that confidence by leading the team in doubles, RBI and extra-base hits (tied). She also took over in center field with Madi Gilpin's move to catcher, and played errorless defense. Chelminiak was an all-Northern Indiana Conference first-team pick.



CHELMINIAK

Quote: "She was batting last part of the year and they couldn't get her out for a long time. She had a long streak. She's got a sweet lefty swing and she pounded the ball. She's going to hit for big power as she gets older and stronger and be a force to be reckoned with at the top of the order. She made some catches that blew my mind, running to the fence full speed and snagging balls. The only other one who would have caught it is probably Madi. She's that good." – coach Derek Hicks

Ava Geyer, New Prairie
Junior, Pitcher
Stats: .429, 6 HR, 21 RBI; 18-4, 0.99 ERA, 289 SO/40 BB, 51 H/134 IP.
Bio: The La Porte County Player of the Year matched her ERA from the previous season, but her peripheral numbers suggested she pitched even better with an increase in her per inning strikeout rate to 2.16 and a decrease in her per inning hit rate to 0.38, resulting in



GEYER

part from the development of her changeup as a wipeout pitch. Geyer's season included a five-inning perfect game in which no balls were put in play and she struck out all 15 batters and a three-home run game in the semistate semifinals. The Indiana State commit was selected first-team NIC and was named first-team team all-state for the second year in a row.

Quote: "With her in the circle, we were always in the game. You didn't feel like you were ever out of the game. That's a huge advantage for us. She didn't hit great early, but definitely came on late to carry us in the circle and at the plate. The (pitching) thing I noticed that was different than in the past was she was communicating with her catcher a lot more. Every inning, they talked about what they're doing, making sure they were on the same page. That's a maturity thing, an experience thing. It really helped them both understand each other." – Hicks

Maddie Gilpin, New Prairie
Senior, Catcher
Stats: .458, 10 SB, 14 runs, 16 RBI
Bio: Gilpin made an uncommon defensive transition from center field her first three years to catcher and handled it seamlessly. She developed a strong rapport as Geyer's battery mate and was the lefty slapper at the plate as well as on the bases, earning all-conference recognition.



GILPIN

Quote: Maddie's probably the one player who could play every position on the field. We never put her at first base, but she would have been fantastic there, too. She can move so quickly and make amazing plays everywhere. She's a great, versatile weapon. Outfield is more of her style. She has an innate instinct for knowing where the ball is going to go. She took one for the team, moving to catcher, and loved doing it. She called 95 percent of the pitches."

Lexi Johnson, South Central
Junior, Pitcher
Stats: .506, 3 HR, 10 2B, 14 SB, 18 RBI, 31 runs; 15-5, 1.77 ERA, 130 1/3 IP, 227 SO/33 BB.



JOHNSON

Emily Mrozinski, New Prairie
Senior, Outfield-First Base
Stats: .393, 21 runs, 23 RBI
Bio: Outside of batting average, Mrozinski's numbers mirrored the production from her breakout junior season. She was chosen second-team all-NIC.



MROZINSKI

Quote: "I'd always feel good when Emily was up. She got a hit off the Oklahoma girl (at state last year) and she just continued that. She had a consistent year, like last year. She's a very clutch hitter. What sticks out in my mind is how well she hit with two strikes. She really buckled down." – Hicks

Randi Robakowski, New Prairie
Junior, Third Base
Stats: .538, 9 2B, 19 BB, 38 runs.
Bio: The lefty leadoff was the catalyst to the Cougars offense, leading the team in hits, walks, runs and average. She struck out only



ROBAKOWSKI

nine times in 111 plate appearances and anchored the NP defense at the busiest position behind Geyer. Robakowski was picked First-Team All-NIC, where she had the top batting average, and Honorable Mention All-State.

Quote: "She's probably the top contact hitter in the state top to bottom. She was fantastic all year. She locked down third base and played some shortstop occasionally, where she was great also."

Ann Sawyer, Michigan City
Junior, Catcher
Stats: .567, 4 3B, 6 HR, 10 2B, 17 RBI, 38 runs.
Bio: Sawyer once again shined



SAWYER

on a Wolves team that otherwise struggled. She earned Duneland Conference honors for the second time as she eclipsed 100 hits for her career (105) and stands at 90 for runs scored. Her career average is .512.

Grace Shukitis, South Central
Freshman, Catcher
Stats: .429, 20 RBI
Bio: Being a freshman playing a new position didn't faze Shukitis, whose .579 average was first in PCC games. She was second only to Johnson for the Satellites overall.



SHUKITIS

Quote: "Before high school, her primary position was first base." – Wallace

Reghan Stephany, La Porte
Senior, Second Base
Stats: .461, 13 SB, 25 runs
Bio: The Bowling Green recruit was the spark plug for the Slicers from the leadoff slot, hitting over 100 points higher than anyone who was in the line-up regularly.



STEPHANY

Kierstin Vargas, Westville
Sophomore, Pitcher
Stats: .643, 2 HR, 3 3B, 11 SB, 24 2B, 37 runs, 50 RBI; 14-8, 2.12 ERA, 129 IP, 205 SO.



VARGAS

Bio: Vargas has already rewritten the record books for pitching, surpassing 400 for her career, and also put together a monster season at the plate for the Black-hawks as they defended their Class A sectional title. Quote: "Kierstin is an outstand-

ing athlete, known for her relentless work ethic. She is one of the hardest-working athletes I have had the privilege of coaching. Kierstin consistently gives her all, day in and day out, leading by example in every aspect. Her dedication and commitment to our program is evident." – coach Mark Dineen

Kiersten Vaughan, Westville
Junior, Catcher
Stats: .494, 7 3B, 13 SB, 14 2B, 28 RBI, 41 runs
Bio: Vargas' battery mate was solid defensively and also complemented her partner at the plate, an offensive table setter with extra-base power.



VAUGHAN

Quote: "Kiersten has been an exceptional leader for our team this year. Her passion for the game is truly infectious, inspiring everyone around her. She deeply cares about her team, consistently demonstrating a selfless attitude and a big heart. Kiersten always prioritizes the team's success and serves as a role model for her peers." – Dineen

Tennley Werner, South Central
Senior, Outfield
Stats: .400, 4 HR, 19 runs, 34 RBI
Bio: The four-year mainstay in the program was one of just three starters left from the 2022 team that won the Class A state title. Returning to right field, where played prior to her junior year, Werner's RBI total was 16 more than the closest Satellite. She finished her career with a .410 average, 12 home runs, 100 runs, 120 RBI and 133 hits. Werner will play at Marian University Ancilla.



WERNER

Quote: "A huge presence on the field as well as in the dugout." – Wallace

Honorable Mention: La PORTE – Mia Maxel, Shayla Sorg; MARQUETTE – Sidney Ratliff; MICHIGAN CITY – Makenzie Rojas; NEW PRAIRIE – Emma Luther, Makayla Willoughby; SOUTH CENTRAL – Valerie Horne, Kendall Rosenbaum; TRI-TOWNSHIP – Kirstyn Dailey, Jayde Pryor; WESTVILLE – Lily Green, Makenna Warren.

FOOTBALL

A little more Hart

New Michigan City QB looks to bring a dual threat to talented offense

By JIM PETERS
Sports Writer

MICHIGAN CITY – It was a baptism of fire for Trin Hart last season, a sophomore thrown into the Friday night fray in consecutive sectional games due to an injury to starting quarterback Tyler Bush.

As Hart takes the wheel to the Michigan City offense, he's comfortable in that driver's seat.

"It was great. Even though all that pressure was on me, I took it like a man," he said. "It made me prepare more for varsity this season. Even my coaches said it, I responded well, coming in with no experience, leading the team. Even though we didn't have the outcome we wanted, there was some benefit. We can't go back now. No excuses."

The Wolves held their first scrimmage Thursday, hosting Elkhart, Hobart and New Haven, and Hart looked the part of a player ready for his turn.

"He's got some confidence," coach Cody French said. "It's his team. He's a great kid. He pushed last year. He was right there. We didn't change anything when it was his turn. We



Photo provided

Trin Hart of Michigan City throws a pass during Thursday's scrimmage at Ames Field.

think he's a weapon. He can throw it. He's got good hip torque. I don't know where the power comes from."

The physical development is plain to see in Hart's body, as he has put on 15 pounds to get up to 160, and in his stronger throws. He credits performance trainer Eric Griffin and quarterback coach Antonio Pipkin for the progress.

"Eric's known basically

all around the Midwest, the best trainer," Hart said. "He gets me right. He gives me quarterback workouts. He doesn't go too heavy on my shoulders. He gets my exit velocity right. He's making sure I'm not hurting, injury prevention. I've got more power in (my throws). I learned how to use my hips more. My arm is very scary,

See HART, page B2

OSCAR'S TEAM TOPS U14 DIVISION IN LA PORTE FC 3X3



Photo provided

Oscar's Team, coached by Oscar Saban, won the La Porte Futbol Club 3v3 tournament U14 Division. Team members were Oscar Saban, Soren Christiansen and Caleb Rose.

LA PORTE COUNTY
SPORTS BRIEFS

Running

July 4th race: The annual Old School low-key fun run will be held at 7 a.m. on July 4th at Long Beach School. The three-mile race will be run on a scenic course through Long Beach and Long Beach Cove. No advance entry is needed. Entry fee is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students as a donation to the Long Beach Community Center. Finishers will receive a certificate and an old t-shirt. For information, call or text Kevin at 809-8026.

Baseball

North-South All-Star Games: The South swept the three-game series at Huntington University, 11-5 and 12-11 on Saturday and 5-3 in a wooden bat game on Sunday. New Prairie's Tyson Greenwood was the North's starting pitcher in the opener, allowing eight hits, seven runs (five earned) and three walks in 2 2/3 innings. He batted once in the wooden bat game and hit into an 8-3 double play.

Golf

Par-Tee Women's League: Play was held at the Michigan City Municipal South Course. The event was subtracting putts total from the net score. Flight A – Low Gross: Tina St. Germain; Low Net: St. Germain; Low Putts: Lu Ann Uremovich, Linda Hirsch; Event: Pat Czizek. Flight B – Low Gross: Mary Lou Marshall; Low Net: Marshall; Low Putts: Jill Mellen, Linda Wabshall; Event: Daphne Craft. Flight C – Low Gross: Sandy Baldwin; Low Net: Sandy Baldwin; Low Putts: Carol Tylisz; Event: Baldwin. Flight D – Low Gross: Sandra Provan; Low Net: Provan; Low Putts: Pam Jaracz; Event: Carolyn Clooney. Pars: Barb Rumbuc, St. Germain, Uremovich, Sharon Weber, Marshall, Jill Mellen, Wendy Shaver, Wabshall, Clooney, Cindy Wolkowitz. Chip-Ins: Marshall (No. 11), Wolkowitz (No. 18).

SCOREBOARD

NHL				
STANLEY CUP FINAL (Best-of-7) (x-if necessary) Saturday, June 8				
Florida 3, Edmonton 0	Monday, June 10			
Florida 4, Edmonton 1	Thursday, June 13			
Florida 4, Edmonton 3	Saturday, June 15			
Edmonton 8, Florida 1	Tuesday, June 18			
Edmonton 5, Florida 3	Friday, June 21			
Edmonton 5, Florida 1, series tied 3 – 3	Monday, June 24			
Edmonton at Florida				

MLB				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	52	28	.650	—
Baltimore	49	28	.636	1½
Boston	42	36	.538	9
Tampa Bay	38	40	.487	13
Toronto	35	42	.455	15½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	49	26	.653	—
Minnesota	43	35	.551	7½
Kansas City	42	37	.532	9
Detroit	36	41	.468	14
Chicago	21	58	.266	30
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	45	35	.563	—
Houston	38	40	.487	6
Texas	37	40	.481	6½
Los Angeles	30	46	.395	13
Oakland	29	51	.363	16

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phila.	51	26	.662	—
Atlanta	43	32	.573	7
Washington	38	39	.494	13
New York	37	39	.487	13½
Miami	27	50	.351	24
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	45	33	.577	—
St. Louis	39	37	.513	5
Pittsburgh	37	40	.481	7½
Chicago	37	41	.474	8
Cincinnati	36	41	.468	8½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	48	31	.608	—
San Diego	41	41	.500	8½
Arizona	38	40	.487	9½
San Francisco	36	42	.462	11½
Colorado	27	51	.346	20½

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
Sunday's Games				
Atlanta 3, N.Y. Yankees 1				
Tampa Bay 3, Pittsburgh 1				
Miami 6, Seattle 4				
Detroit 11, Chicago White Sox 2				
Boston 7, Cincinnati 4				
Houston 8, Baltimore 1				
Texas 4, Kansas City 0				
Cleveland 6, Toronto 5				
Minnesota 3, Oakland 0				
Tuesday's Games				
Cleveland (Allen 8-3) at Baltimore (Irvin 6-3), 5:35 p.m.				
Phila. (Suárez 10-1) at Detroit (Skubal 8-3), 5:40 p.m.				
Seattle (Castillo 6-8) at Tampa Bay (Littell 2-5), 5:50 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Cole 0-0) at N.Y. Mets (Peterson 3-0), 5:10 p.m.				
Toronto (Gausman 5-6) at Boston (Bello 7-4), 6:10 p.m.				
Colorado (Gomber 1-4) at Houston (Brown 4-5), 7:10 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers (Miller 1-1) at Chicago White Sox (Flexen 2-6), 7:10 p.m.				
Miami (Chirinos 0-0) at Kansas City (Lugo 10-2), 7:10 p.m.				
Texas (Heaney 2-8) at Milwaukee (Wilson 4-3), 7:10 p.m.				
Oakland (Spence 4-3) at L.A. Angels (Anderson 6-7), 8:38 p.m.				
Minnesota (Ryan 5-5) at Arizona (Pfaadt 3-6), 8:40 p.m.				

Wednesday's Games				
Seattle at Tampa Bay, 11:10 a.m.				
Phila. at Detroit, 12:10 p.m.				
Colorado at Houston, 1:10 p.m.				
Miami at Kansas City, 1:10 p.m.				
Texas at Milwaukee, 1:10 p.m.				
Oakland at L.A. Angels, 3:07 p.m.				
Cleveland at Baltimore, 5:35 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees at N.Y. Mets, 6:10 p.m.				
Toronto at Boston, 6:10 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers at Chicago White Sox, 7:10 p.m.				
Minnesota at Arizona, 8:40 p.m.				

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
Sunday's Games				
Phila. 4, Arizona 1				
Atlanta 3, N.Y. Yankees 1				
Tampa Bay 3, Pittsburgh 1				
Miami 6, Seattle 4				
St. Louis 5, San Francisco 3				
Boston 7, Cincinnati 4				
Washington 2, Colorado 1				
Milwaukee 6, San Diego 2				
N.Y. Mets 5, Chicago Cubs 2				
Tuesday's Games				
Phila. (Suárez 10-1) at Detroit (Skubal 8-3), 5:40 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Cole 0-0) at N.Y. Mets (Peterson 3-0), 6:10 p.m.				
Pittsburgh (Keller 8-4) at Cincinnati (Greene 5-2), 6:10 p.m.				
Atlanta (López 5-2) at St. Louis (Gibson 5-2), 6:45 p.m.				
Colorado (Gomber 1-4) at Houston (Brown 4-5), 7:10 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers (Miller 1-1) at Chicago White Sox (Flexen 2-6), 7:10 p.m.				
Miami (Chirinos 0-0) at Kansas City (Lugo 10-2), 7:10 p.m.				
Texas (Heaney 2-8) at Milwaukee (Wilson 4-3), 7:10 p.m.				
Minnesota (Ryan 5-5) at Arizona (Pfaadt 3-6), 8:40 p.m.				
Washington (Gore 6-6) at San Diego (Darvish 4-3), 8:40 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 1-4) at San Francisco (TBD), 8:45 p.m.				
Wednesday's Games				
Phila. at Detroit, 12:10 p.m.				

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 12:10 p.m.				
Colorado at Houston, 1:10 p.m.				
Miami at Kansas City, 1:10 p.m.				
Texas at Milwaukee, 1:10 p.m.				
Washington at San Diego, 3:10 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees at N.Y. Mets, 6:10 p.m.				
Atlanta at St. Louis, 6:15 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers at Chicago White Sox, 7:10 p.m.				
Minnesota at Arizona, 8:40 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs at San Francisco, 8:45 p.m.				

WNBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	15	3	.833	—
Connecticut	13	3	.813	1
Atlanta	6	9	.400	7½
Chicago	6	9	.400	7½
Indiana	7	11	.389	8
Washington	4	13	.235	10½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	13	3	.813	—
Seattle	10	6	.625	3
Las Vegas	8	6	.571	4
Phoenix	8	8	.500	5
Los Angeles	4	13	.235	9½
Dallas	3	13	.188	10

Sunday's Games				
New York 96, Atlanta 75				
Seattle 72, Connecticut 61				
Washington 92, Dallas 84				
Chicago 88, Indiana 87				
Tuesday's Game				
Minnesota at New York, 7 p.m. (2024 Commissioner's Cup Final)				
Wednesday's Games				
No games scheduled.				
Thursday's Games				
Minnesota at Dallas, noon				
Connecticut at Washington, 6 p.m.				
Las Vegas at Chicago, 6 p.m.				
Indiana at Seattle, 9 p.m.				

AUTO RACING

NASCAR Cup Series Schedule-Winners

Feb. 3 — x-Busch Light Clash at The Coliseum (Denny Hamlin)

Feb. 15 — x-Bluegreen Vacations Duel 1 at DAYTONA (Tyler Reddick)

Feb. 15 — x-Bluegreen Vacations Duel 2 at DAYTONA (Christopher Bell)

Feb. 19 — DAYTONA 500 (William Byron)

Feb. 25 — Ambetter Health 400 (Daniel Suárez)

March 3 — Pennzoil 400 presented by Jiffy Lube (Kyle Larson)

March 10 — Shriners Children's 500 (Christopher Bell)

March 17 — Food City 500 (Denny Hamlin)

March 24 — EchoPark Automotive Grand Prix (William Byron)

March 31 — Toyota Owners 400 (Denny Hamlin)

April 7 — Cook Out 400 (William Byron)

April 14 — AutoTrader EchoPark Automotive 400 (Chase Elliott)

April 21 — GEICO 500 (Tyler Reddick)

April 28 — Würth 400 (Denny Hamlin)

May 5 — AdventHealth 400 (Kyle Larson)

May 12 — Goodyear 400 (Brad Keselowski)

May 19 — x-NASCAR All-Star Open (Ty Gibbs)

May 19 — NASCAR All-Star Race (Joey Logano)

May 26 — Coca-Cola 600 (Christopher Bell)

June 2 — Enjoy Illinois 300 (Austin Cindric)

June 9 — Toyota / Save Mart 350 (Kyle Larson)

June 16 — Iowa Corn 350 Powered by Ethanol (Ryan Blaney)

June 23 — USA TODAY 301 (Christopher Bell)

June 30 — Ally 400, Lebanon, Tenn.

July 7 — Grant Park 165, Chicago

July 14 — HighPoint.com 400, Long Pond, Pa.

July 21 — Brickyard 400, Speedway, Ind.

Aug. 11 — Cook Out 400, Richmond, Va.

Aug. 18 — FireKeepers Casino 400, Brooklyn, Mich.

Aug. 24 — Coke Zero Sugar 400, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Sept. 1 — Cook Out Southern 500, Darlington, S.C.

Sept. 8 — Quaker State 400 available at Walmart, Hampton, Ga.

Sept. 15 — Go Bowling at The Glen, Watkins Glen, N.Y.

Sept. 21 — Bass Pro Shops Night Race, Bristol, Tenn.

Sept. 29 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan.

Oct. 6 — YellaWood 500, Talladega, Ala.

Oct. 13 — Bank of America ROVAL 400, Concord, N.C.

Oct. 20 — South Point 400, Las Vegas

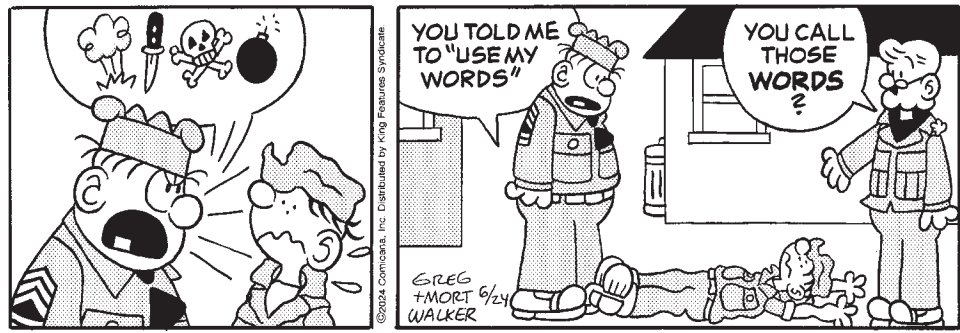
Oct. 27 — NASCAR Cup Series Race at Homestead-Miami, Homestead, Fla.

Nov. 3 — XFINITY 500, Ridgeview, Va.

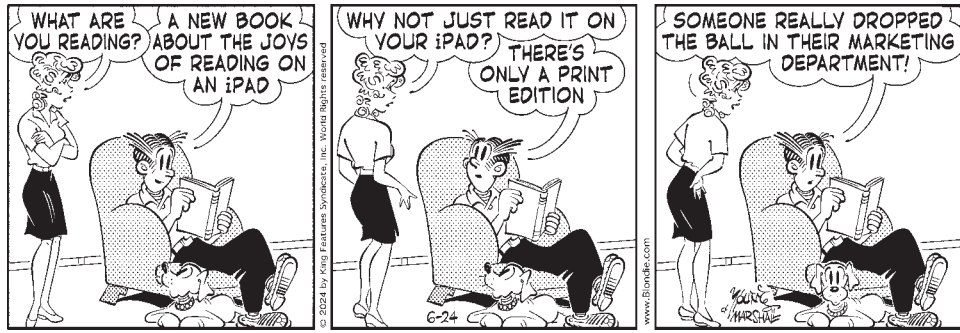
Nov. 10 — NASCAR Cup Series Championship, Avondale, Ariz.

x-non-points race

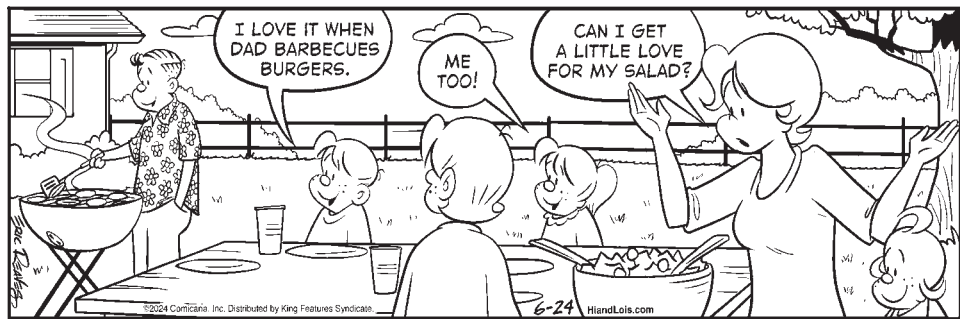
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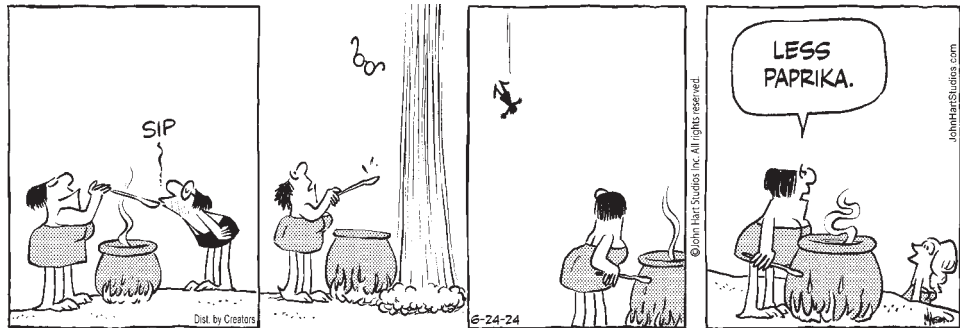
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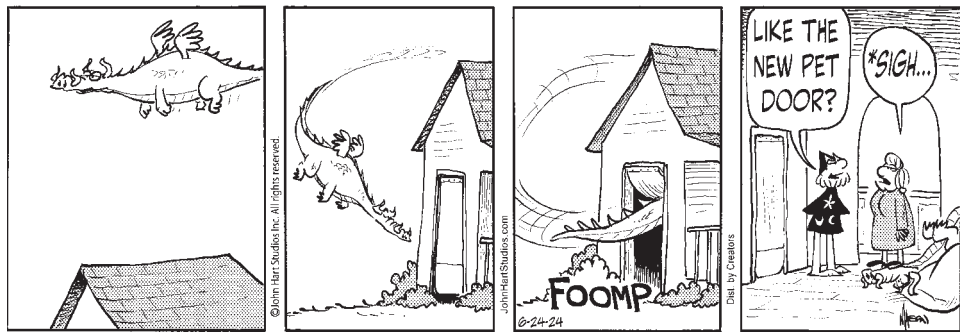
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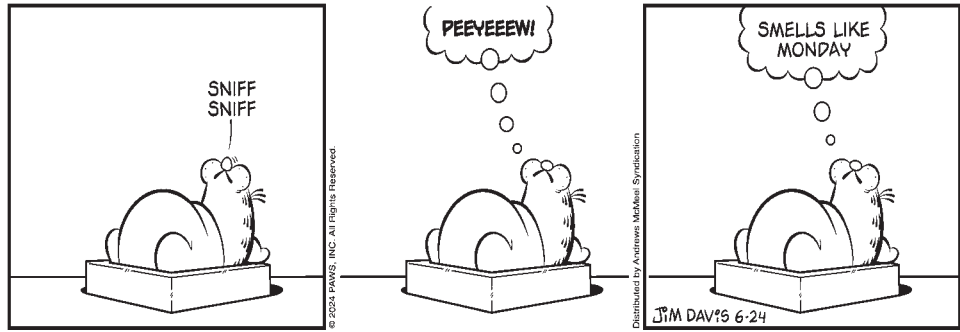
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CRABGRASS



GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES

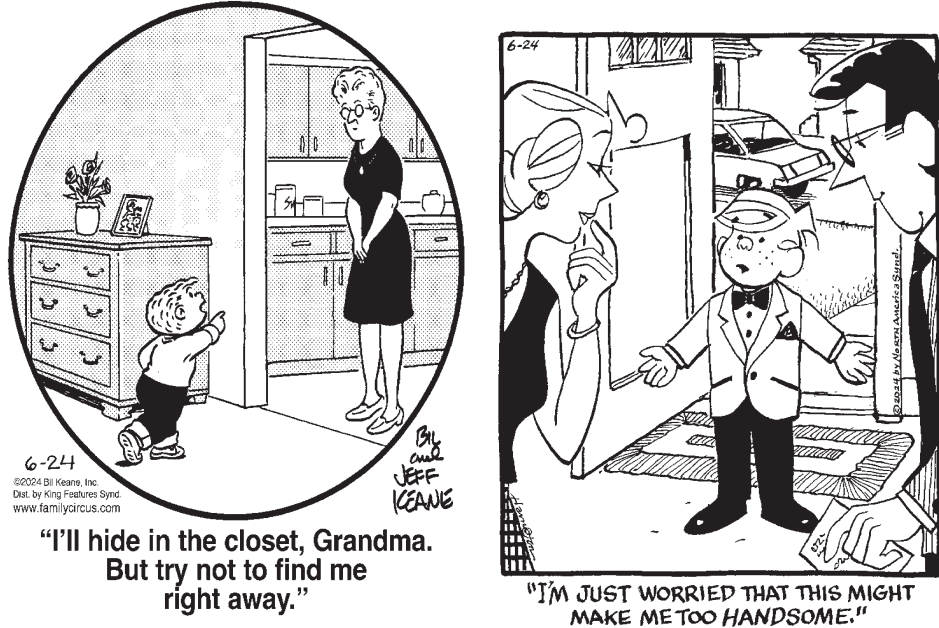


FAMILY CIRCUS

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

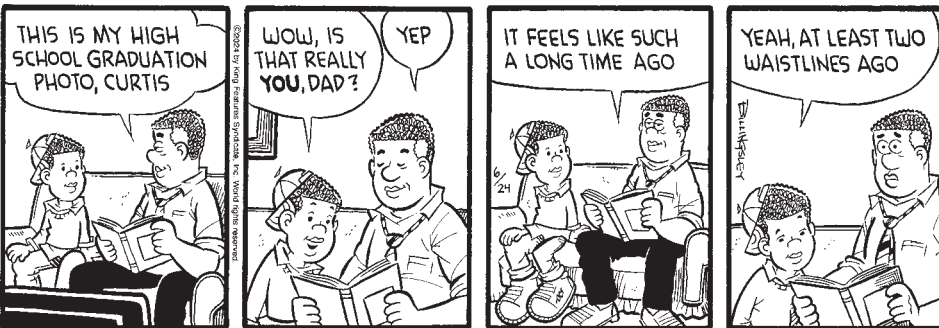
DENNIS THE MENACE



BABY BLUES



CURTIS



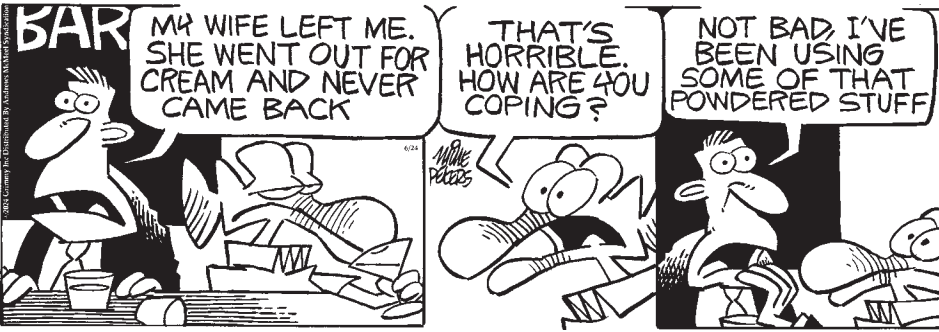
ZITS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



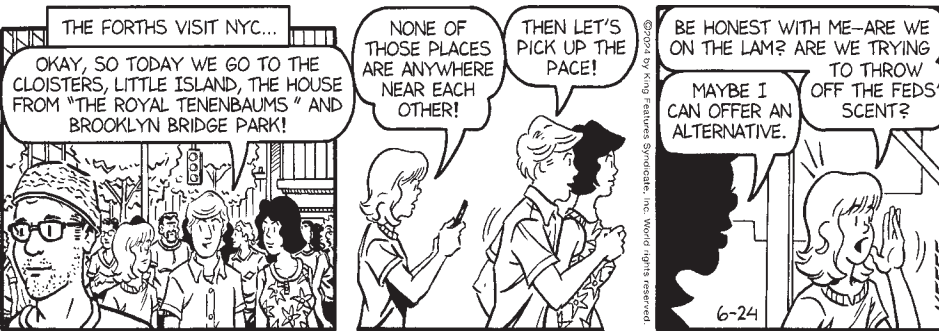
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



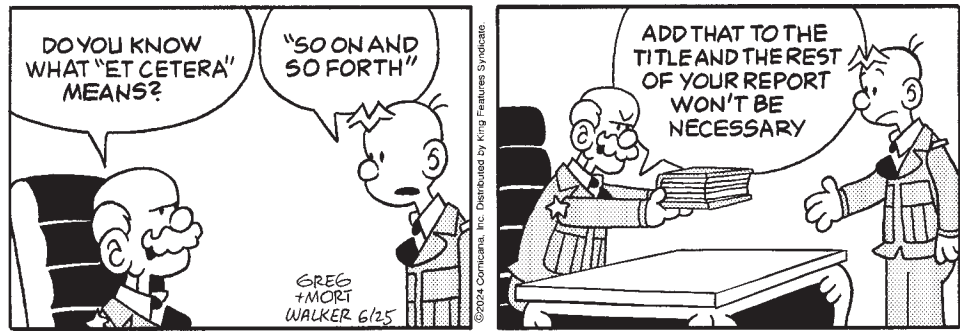
MUTTS



SALLY FORTH



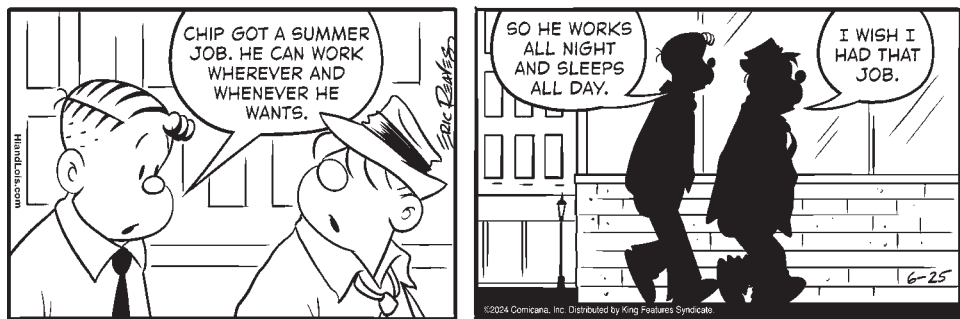
BEETLE BAILEY



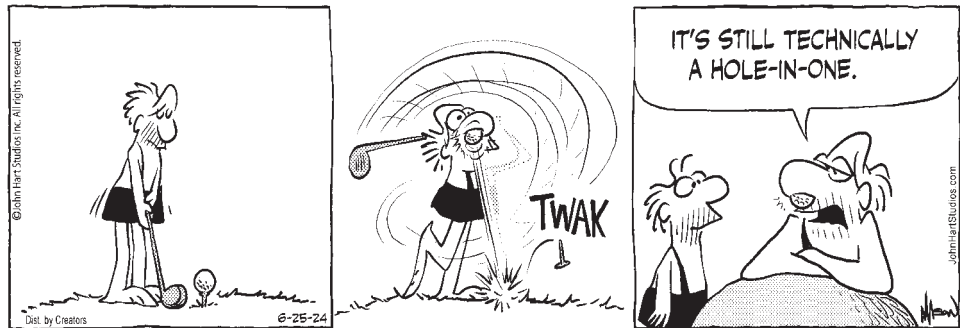
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HI & LOIS



BC



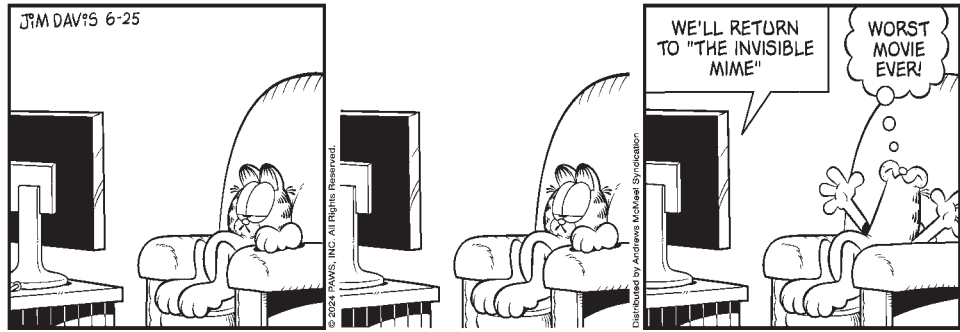
WIZARD OF ID



CRABGRASS



GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES

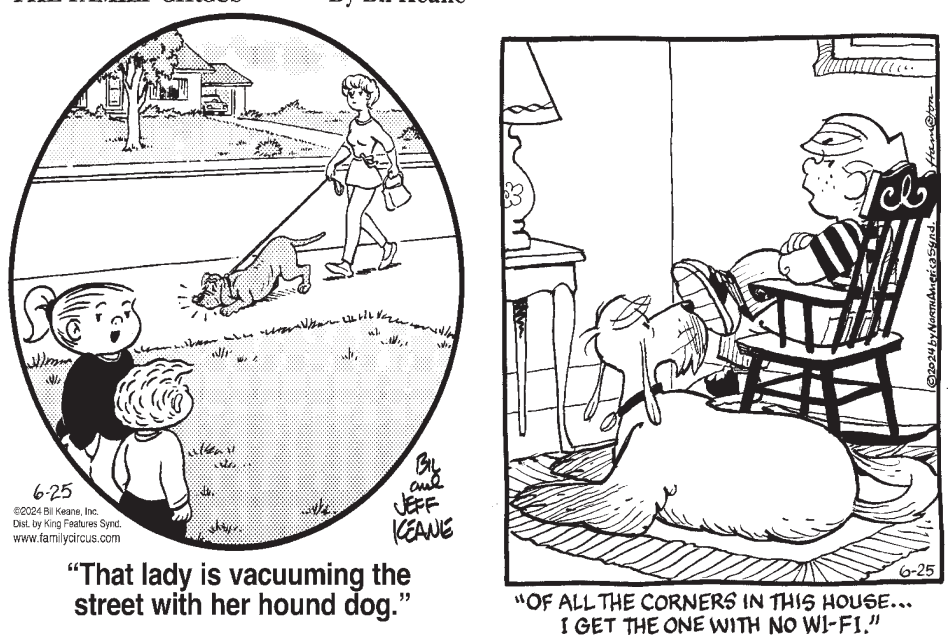


FAMILY CIRCUS

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

DENNIS THE MENACE



BABY BLUES



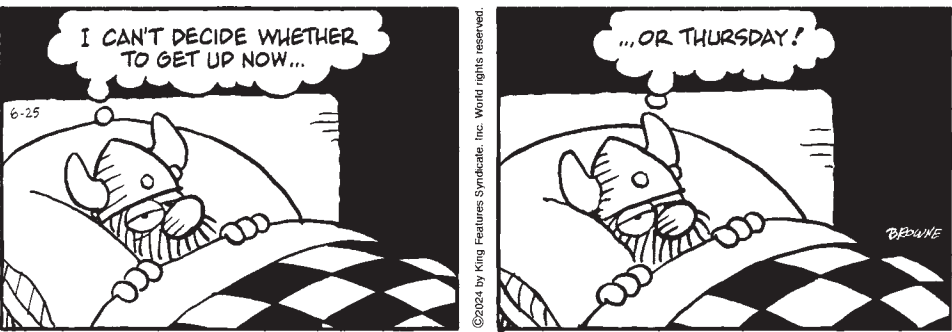
CURTIS



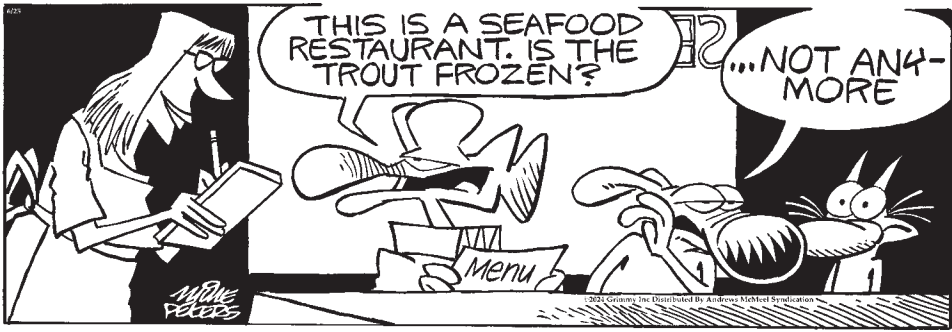
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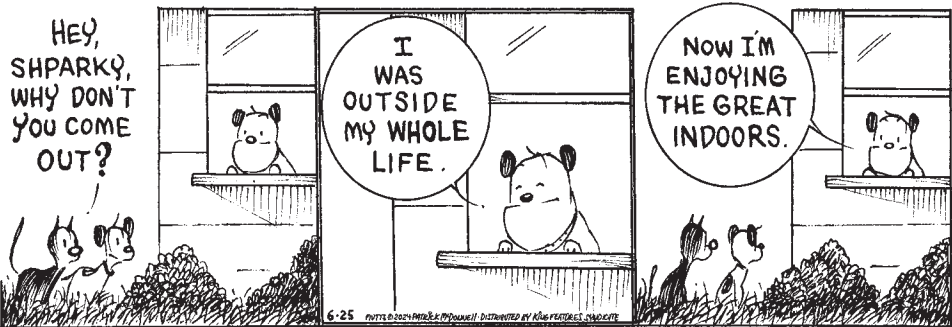
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



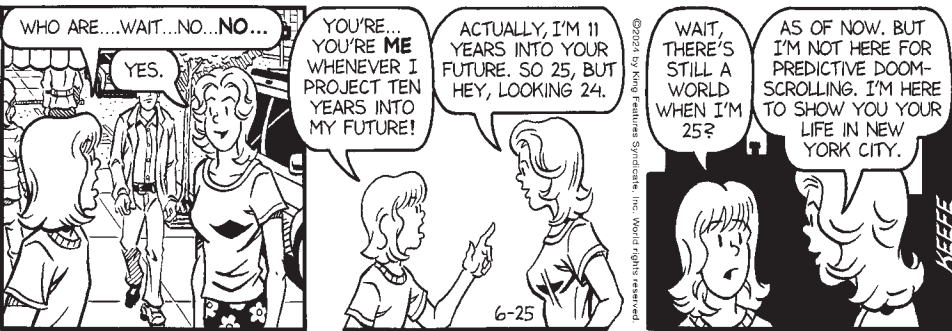
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



MUTTS



SALLY FORTH



LA PORTE COUNTY

Herald-Dispatch

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Desk: 1-855-317-4292

Hours: Monday - Friday 9am-2pm EST



0150 GARAGE /ESTATE SALES

ALLEGAN ANTIQUE MARKET
SUNDAY JUNE 30, 2024
Rain or Shine. 8:00am - 4:00pm.
Located at the Fairgrounds,
Right in Allegan, Michigan.
\$5.00 admission. No Pets.
www.alleganantiques.com

0200 EMPLOYMENT

JV/Assistant Varsity
Volleyball Coach
River Valley School District
Employment info at:
www.rivervalleyschools.org
Deadline: Until Filled

0500 MERCHANDISE

WANTED OLD CARS
"DEAD OR ALIVE"
60's - 70's - 80's
\$\$ CASH \$\$

CALL 269-500-1711
FREE PICK UPS!

GAS DRYER
\$75
Call (219) 851-6829

WE BUY
RIDING & COMMERCIAL
MOWERS, TRACTORS, ATVS,
GOLF CARTS, SCOOTERS,
4X4S, VEHICLES &
ALL LAWN EQUIPMENT.

269-500-1711

MOTORCYCLES &
SCOOTERS WANTED
\$\$ CASH PAID \$\$
ALL MAKES AND MODELS

269-500-1711

0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

La PORTE-HUGE 2 bedroom
duplex. Appliances with W&D
hook ups. \$1000 per month plus
utls. Sec dep and refs required.
219-851-5013 before 7 p.m.

0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

Michigan City, IN
Gorgeous, historic apartments.
All hardwood floors. All
appliances included.
1 bedroom- \$650/mo.
Heat & water included
Very Large. Rear porch.
Call Ted 219-916-4578

0900 LEGALS

TO: Cindy Roth, The Estate of
Carolyn Mohamed, Desiree
Mohamed, Ryan Mark.
FROM: Midtown Storage, 300 E
Arthur St, Michigan City, IN.
Rent on your storage unit is past
due, if full remittance is not paid
within 10 days of this publication
your property will be liquidated for
rent due.

hspaxlp

Custodian Positions
MS Volleyball Coach
Ass't Varsity Wrestling Coach
Ass't MS Boys' and Girls'
Track Coach
River Valley School District
Employment info at:
www.rivervalleyschools.org
Deadline: Until filled

REQUEST FOR BIDDERS

EOL Hardware Refresh

The Northern Indiana Commuter
Transportation District (NICTD) is
seeking sealed bids from
qualified suppliers for the
purchase of PTC hardware.

All bids must meet NICTD's speci-
fications as further described in
the Technical Specifications in
the Bid Packet.

The Bid Packet, including the
specifications, is available online
at www.nictdplanroom.com.
Bidders are encouraged to
access this site to retrieve the bid
packet, updated bid information
and addendums.

Information regarding these Bids,
including the results, can be
found at [https://mysouthshoreline.
com/nictd/purchasing-contractors/](https://mysouthshoreline.com/nictd/purchasing-contractors/)

Bids shall be submitted electroni-
cally using the NICTD Plan
Room submission link, located at
the top left of the Project Informa-
tion page. Bids shall be sub-
mitted in PDF format and on forms
contained in each bid package.

0900 LEGALS

Bids will be received not later
than 2:30 P.M., Central time,
Tuesday, July 16, 2024. The
"Submit Bid" link will be disabled
after the above stated time and
date, so be sure to allow enough
time to upload the entire bid file
prior to this time. NICTD is not
responsible for bids that failed to
upload before the submission
deadline. Bids must set forth full,
accurate and complete
information as required by the
instructions in the bid package.
Failure to do so may result in
rejection of a bid.

The bid opening will be held in
person and virtually. Information
about participating in this
meeting can be found within the
bid packet.

NICTD will award the Contract to
the lowest responsive and
responsible bidder. NICTD
reserves the right to reject any
and all bids and waive technical
defects if, in its judgment, the
interests of NICTD so require.
NICTD reserves the right to
accept any bid within 90 days
after the time of the opening of
the bids, during which time no bid
shall be withdrawn.

Michael Noland
President

STATE OF INDIANA
ELKHART COUNTY
SS:
IN THE ELKHART
SUPERIOR COURT

CAUSE NO.:
20D06-2405-GU-000065

IN RE: THE GUARDIANSHIP OF:
ABIGAIL PARRILLI

NOTICE OF GUARDIANSHIP

Angela Dumdey, Biological Moth-
er of Abigail Parrilli, is notified that
a Petition for Appointment of
Guardian was filed in the office of
the Clerk of the Elkhart Superior
Court 6, located at 315 South
Second Street, Elkhart, IN 46516
You are hereby notified that:

1. A(n) Appointment of Guardi-
an Hearing on August 14, 2024 at
1:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as
the parties may be heard or upon
any recess or adjournment there-
of as ordered by the Elkhart Su-
perior Court 6 located at 315
South Second Street, Elkhart, IN
46516
2. If the Court finds that Abigail
Parrilli is a minor, the Court at the
hearing shall also consider
whether Anita Summers should
be appointed as Guardian of the
Protected Person. The Court
may, in its discretion, appoint
some other qualified person as
Guardian(s).
3. Angela Dumdey, Biological
Mother of Abigail Parrilli, may at-
tend the hearing and be repres-
ented by an attorney. The peti-
tion may be heard and determi-
ned in the absence of the An-
gela Dumdey, Biological Mother
of Abigail Dumdey.
4. The Court may, on its own
motion or on request of any inter-
ested person, postpone the hear-
ing to another date and time.

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER:
George T. Catanzarite
(#29863-46)
Stipp Law, LLC
1717 South Bend Avenue
South Bend, IN 46637
Telephone: (574) 273-1717
Facsimile: (574) 217-8145
Email: george@stipp-law.com

hspaxlp

SUMMONS -
SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

DLC#:E338-277

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF LAPORTE
SS:
IN THE LAPORTE
SUPERIOR COURT 1

CAUSE NO.:
46D01-2208-MF-000143

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC
F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC
F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CHARLES V. TITTSWORTH,
JEFFERSON CAPITAL SYS-
TEMS, LLC, SUCCESSOR IN IN-
TEREST TO PNC CASHBUILD-
ER VISA AND THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA
THROUGH ITS DEPARTMENT
OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVEL-
OPMENT,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SUIT

The State of Indiana to the De-
fendants above named, and any
other person who may be con-
cerned: You are notified that you
have been sued in the Court
above named. The nature of the
suit against you is a Complaint on
Note and for Foreclosure of Mort-
gage on the following described
real estate:

Lot Numbered 9 in Block 2 in

0900 LEGALS

Monroe Addition to the City of
Michigan City, as per plat thereof
recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 23
and the West 1/2 of the vacated
alley adjacent on the East side, in
the Office of the Recorder of La
Porte County, Indiana.

And Commonly known as:
**623 N Carroll Ave,
Michigan City, IN 46360**

This Summons by Publication is
specifically directed to the follow-
ing named Defendants whose
whereabouts are known to me:

**Jefferson Capital Systems,
LLC, successor in interest to
PNC Cashbuilder Visa and
The United States of America
through its Department of
Housing & Urban Development**

This Summons by Publication is
also specifically directed to the
following named Defendants
whose whereabouts are un-
known to me:

Charles V. Tittsworth

In addition to the above named
Defendants being served by this
Summons, there may be other
Defendants who have an interest
in this lawsuit.

If you have a claim for relief
against the Plaintiff arising from
the same transaction or occur-
rence, you must assert it in your
written answer.

You must answer the Complaint
in writing, by you or your attorney,
on or before the 25 day of July,
2024 (the same being within thirty
(30) days after the Third Notice of
Suit), and if you fail to do so, a
judgment will be entered against
you for what the Plaintiff has
demanded.


DOYLE & FOUTTY, P.C.
By Alan W. McEwan

ATTEST:
Heather Stevens
Clerk of the
LaPorte County Superior Court 1

Alan W. McEwan (24051-49)
DOYLE & FOUTTY, P.C.
41 E Washington St., Suite 400
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-264-5000
Fax: 317-264-5400

hspaxlp

SELL YOUR
ITEMS
IN THE
CLASSIFIEDS
TODAY!



...BECAUSE
MONEY
DOESN'T
GROW ON
TREES!

OFFICIAL NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Michigan City Board of Public Works and Safety, (hereinafter
called the Owner) will receive sealed Bids for the 2024-1 MICHIGAN
CITY CCMG PROJECT (hereinafter called the Project) at the Office
of the City Clerk of Michigan City, Indiana, at City Hall, 100 East
Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, Indiana 46360 at or before **July
15, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.** or to the Board of Public Works and Safety
during its regular meeting scheduled to begin on **July 15, 2024, at
4:00 p.m.** (local time) in Michigan City/City Hall (Council Chamber –
Lower Level), 100 East Michigan Blvd., Michigan City, Indiana,
46360 when the Board's presiding official calls the agenda item for
the opening the Bids for the Project. Any Bid received after the
presiding office declares the time for submitting Bids closed will not
be considered. Bids will be opened and read aloud at that time, and
the Board will make the award to what it determines to be the
lowest responsive and responsible Bid at the next scheduled Board
meeting. Bids will be received for the following work:

The work for this Project comprises improving and rehabilitating 16
road segments noted as Locations 1- 16 in the Bidding Documents.
Road Improvements consist of HMA milling, HMA patching, HMA
paving, subgrade treatment, concrete curb and gutter, concrete
sidewalk, ADA ramps, aggregate shoulder, pavement marking, and
lawn restoration.

Additionally, Bidders will be required to comply with Michigan City's
Equal Employment Opportunity and Local Hiring Ordinances.

Electronic copies in Portable Document Format ("PDF") of the
Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Engineer by making
deposits of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for each set of Bidding
Documents. Please contact Amy Callan at 219-809-6332
(amy@global-landsurveying.com) for any questions regarding this
process.

A MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING for the Project will be held on
July 9, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. (local time) in the Planning Department
Conference Room, Michigan City, City Hall, 100 East Michigan
Boulevard, Michigan City, Indiana, 46360, to discuss the Project. At
this Meeting, rules and regulations included in the Contract
Documents will be explained and questions regarding the project
received and answered where appropriate. Failure to attend the
meeting shall disqualify Bidders from further consideration for this
project.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a certified check or cashier's
check from a solvent bank or trust company, drawn to the order of
the Owner, or an acceptable Bid Security, in the amount of not less
than 10 percent (10%) of the total Bid for the Project. This Bid
Security is a guarantee that if the Contract is awarded to the Bidder,
he will enter the Contract. This Bid Security of all Bidders except the
three lowest responsive Bidders will be returned within thirty (30)
days after the opening of the Bids. Any Bidder whose Bid Security
has been retained may, after thirty (30) days from the opening of the
Bids, request return of his Bid Security provided he has not been
notified of award of Contract. The Bid may be withdrawn prior to the
scheduled time for the opening of Bids or authorized postponement
thereof. However, no Bid may be withdrawn for sixty (60) days after
the scheduled time for opening, unless agreed to by the Owner. The
award of the Contract will be made by the Owner. In determining
who is the lowest responsive Bidder, the Owner will consider the
Bid and all other relevant facts or matters mentioned in the Contract
Documents or which the Owner may legally consider in determining
the lowest responsive Bidder. The Owner reserves the right, after all
Bids have been examined and tabulated, to waive any informalities
and insubstantial defects in any Bid and to accept the Bid which it
deems is the most responsive and responsible and most favorable
to the interests of the Owner. The Owner expressly reserves the
right to reject any and all of the Bids received. All Bid awards are
made subject to an appropriate contract being finalized between the
Owner and the awarded Bidder.

Questions about the Contract Drawings should be directed to
Jeanette Hicks at 219-809-6303, email [jeanette@global-land-
surveying.com](mailto:jeanette@global-land-surveying.com)

Published in the LaPorte Herald Dispatch on June 18, and June 25,
2024


hspaxlp

HOUSE
HUNTING?

Watch
For Our
Open House
Ads In The
Classifieds!

La Porte County 5-Day Forecast

Today




Scattered T-storms

89 69

Precip Chance: 50%

Wednesday




Partly Cloudy

78 60

Precip Chance: 20%

Thursday




Sunny

75 62

Precip Chance: 5%

Friday




Chance T-storms

84 71

Precip Chance: 30%

Saturday



Scattered T-storms

83 64

Precip Chance: 50%

La Porte County's Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms, high temperature of 89°, humidity of 54%. South southwest wind 10 to 18 mph. The record high for today is 95° set in 1998.

Yesterday's Statistics

Temperatures

High 84

Low 68

Record High 94 in 1998

Record Low 49 in 2008

Precipitation

Yesterday 0.00"

Month to date 2.17"

Normal for month 3.08"

Year to date 18.82"

Statistics as reported from Valparaiso, Porter County Municipal Airport

www.wxto go.com/HND

Sun and Moon Times


Sunrise today 5:14 a.m.

Sunset today 8:25 p.m.

Moonrise today 11:33 p.m.


Moonset today 8:57 a.m.

Moon Phases




Last

6/28




New

7/5



First

7/13



Full

7/21

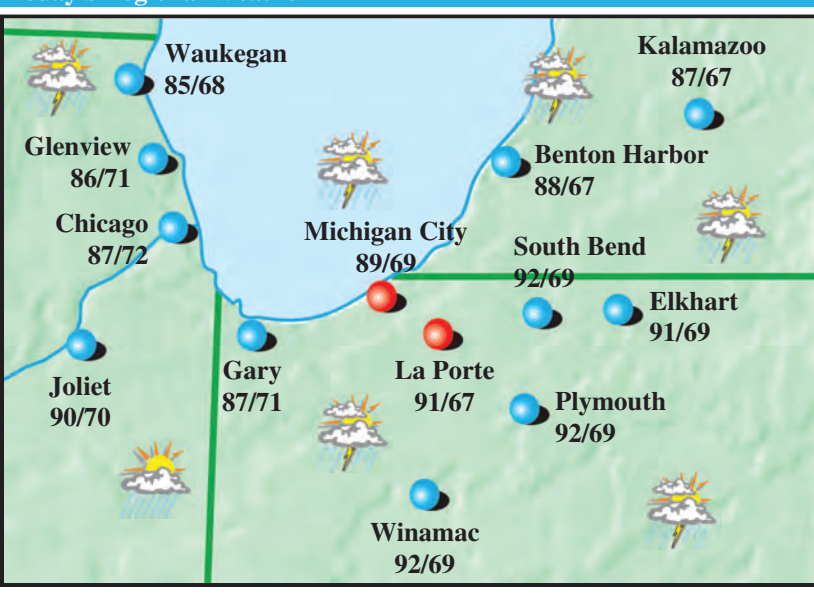
Lake Michigan Forecast

Today, SSW wind 10 to 20 kt. Winds could gust as high as 25 kt. Showers and thunderstorms likely. Waves 1 to 2 ft. Water temperature 58 degrees.

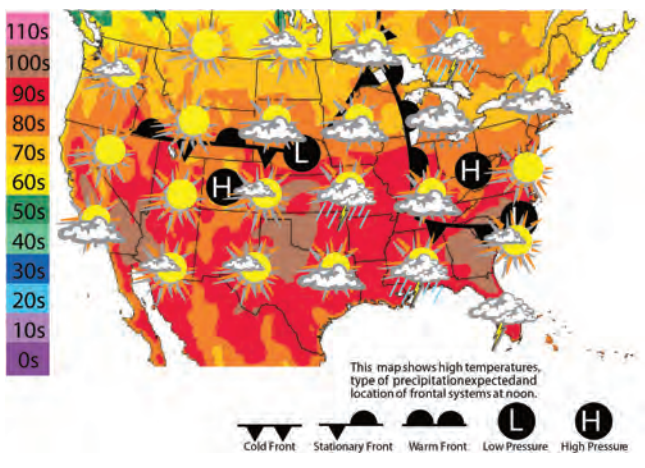
Around the Nation

City	Today Hi/Lo	Wx	Wednesday Hi/Lo	Wx
Atlanta.....	98/74	s	100/75	s
Chicago.....	89/73	sh	81/61	pc
Detroit.....	89/73	sh	84/59	t
Houston.....	93/80	pc	92/79	pc
Los Angeles.....	82/65	s	81/66	fg
Miami.....	90/77	sh	91/78	sh
New York.....	91/76	s	93/71	t
Orlando.....	94/77	sh	92/78	sh
San Francisco.....	70/54	pc	68/55	s
Seattle.....	79/58	s	71/56	sh
Washington,DC.....	92/77	s	97/72	sh

Today's Regional Weather



Today's National Weather



This map shows high temperatures, type of precipitation expected and location of frontal systems at noon.


Cold Front Stationary Front Warm Front Low Pressure High Pressure

Around the State

City	Today Hi/Lo	Wx	Wednesday Hi/Lo	Wx	City	Today Hi/Lo	Wx	Wednesday Hi/Lo	Wx
Anderson.....	93/70	sh	81/56	sh	Kokomo.....	92/72	t	82/56	sh
Bloomington.....	92/70	pc	81/58	sh	Lafayette.....	92/70	pc	81/58	sh
Columbus.....	93/71	pc	82/58	sh	Logansport.....	92/69	t	81/56	sh
Evansville.....	96/74	s	88/64	sh	Muncie.....	94/72	sh	83/58	sh
Fayetteville.....	98/73	pc	88/63	t	Richmond.....	90/70	t	81/58	sh
Fort Wayne.....	92/69	t	82/56	sh	Shelbyville.....	92/72	pc	81/58	sh
Gary.....	88/71	t	78/59	pc	South Bend.....	92/69	t	80/54	sh
Indianapolis.....	92/73	pc	83/60	sh	Terre Haute.....	95/70	pc	83/57	sh
Jasper.....	94/72	s	86/61	sh	Vincennes.....	96/73	pc	87/61	t

Weather (Wx): cl/cloudy; fl/flurries; pc/partly cloudy; mc/mostly cloudy; ra/rain; rs/rain & snow; s/sunny; sh/showers; sn/snow; ss/snow showers; t/thunderstorms; w/windy

FUNERAL DIRECTOR PROFILE: LARRY GEISEN



5th-generation Owner;
Funeral Director for 32 years

Certified Cremation Specialist

Enjoys coaching basketball, playing golf and spending time with wife Kim and children Alle, Anthony and Nick

Geisen-Carlisle

FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, June 25, the 177th day of 2024. There are 189 days left in the year.

Highlight in history: On June 25, 1950, war broke out in Korea as forces from the communist North invaded the South.

Also on this date:

In 1942, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was designated Commanding General of the European Theater of Operations during World War II. Some 1,000 British Royal Air Force bombers raided Bremen, Germany.

In 1947, “The Diary of a Young Girl,” the personal journal of Anne Frank, a German-born Jewish girl hiding with her family from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II, was first published.

In 1973, former White House Counsel John W. Dean began testifying before the Senate Watergate Committee, implicating top administration officials, including President Richard Nixon as well as himself, in the Watergate scandal and cover-up.

In 2013, President Barack Obama declared the debate over climate change and its causes obsolete as he announced at Georgetown University a wide-ranging plan to tackle pollution and prepare communities for global warming.

In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld nationwide tax subsidies under President Barack Obama’s health care overhaul in a 6-3 ruling that preserved health insurance for millions of Americans.

In 2016, Pope Francis visited Armenia, where he recognized the Ottoman-era slaughter of Armenians as a genocide, prompting a harsh rebuttal from Turkey.

In 2021, former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin was sentenced to 22 1/2 years in prison for the murder of George Floyd, whose dying gasps under Chauvin’s knee led to the biggest outcry against racial injustice in the U.S. in generations.

Midwest flooding collapses rail bridge

Forcing evacuations and killing at least 1

NORTH SIOUX CITY, S.D. (AP) — A railroad bridge collapsed during flooding in the Midwestern U.S. that has led to water rescues, evacuations and at least one death and has brought additional misery during a vast and stubborn heat wave.

The bridge connecting North Sioux City, South Dakota, with Sioux City, Iowa, collapsed into the Big Sioux River late Sunday, an emergency manager said. Images from local media showed a large span of the steel bridge partially underwater as floodwaters rushed over it.

Some of the trusses collapsed, Jason Westcott, an emergency manager in Union County, South Dakota, told KCAU-TV.

There were no reports of injuries from the collapse, which occurred around 11 p.m. The bridge’s owner, BNSF Railway, had stopped operating it as a precaution during the flooding, spokesperson Kendall Sloan said. Trains are being rerouted.

Floodwaters have risen over days of heavy rain in South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska. More rain is forecast, and many streams may not crest until later this week as the floodwaters slowly drain to the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

Deb Kempema lost her home decor store, First Impressions, after a river levee broke in northwestern Iowa’s Rock Valley, forced evacuations and destroyed shops.

It was “7,000 square feet of very pretty, pretty things. And it’s all gone,” she told KELO-TV. “But I like to reinvent myself, so we’re going to come back better.”

The Big Sioux River stabilized Monday morning at around 45 feet, over 7 feet higher than the previous record, Sioux City Fire Marshal Mark Aesoph said. Evacuations have begun for homes at low elevations, and more are expected as waters rise.

Josh Jurgens / AP

South Cedar Street is underwater after days of heavy rain led to flooding in the area on Saturday south of Canton, S.D.

“It’s just been difficult to predict what’s going to happen when levels are this high when we have no history with it,” he said.

Thirteen rivers flooded in that part of Iowa, said Eric Tigges of Clay County emergency management. Entire neighborhoods, and at least one whole town, were evacuated, and the Iowa town of Spencer imposed a curfew Sunday for a second night after flooding that surpassed a record set in 1953.

“When the flood gauge is underwater, it’s really high,” Tigges said at a news conference.

Gov. Kim Reynolds declared a disaster for 21 coun-

ties in northern Iowa, including Sioux County. In drone video posted by the sheriff, no streets were visible, just roofs and treetops poking above the water.

National Guard troops helped with water rescues and carted needed medications lost in flooding.

“Businesses are shuttered. Main streets have been impacted,” Reynolds said. “Hospitals, nursing homes and other care facilities were evacuated. Cities are without power, and some are without drinkable water.”

Emergency management officials in the small South Dakota community of Dakota Dunes urged evacuations

Sunday for roughly 4,000 residents. Dakota Dunes is near the Nebraska and Iowa borders and is sandwiched between the Missouri and Big Sioux rivers.

Emergency management officials there warned residents that a mandatory evacuation could come quickly if flood barriers are breached.

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem declared an emergency after severe flooding in the southeastern part of her state. Several highways were closed. At least one person died, Noem said Sunday, without providing details.

Areas south of Sioux Falls, the state’s largest city, had an estimated 10 to 15 inch-

es of rain over three days, weather service hydrologist Kevin Low said.

Parts of Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa received eight times the typical average rainfall, said National Weather Service meteorologist Donna Duberke.

Minor to moderate flooding was expected along the Missouri River, according to officials with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

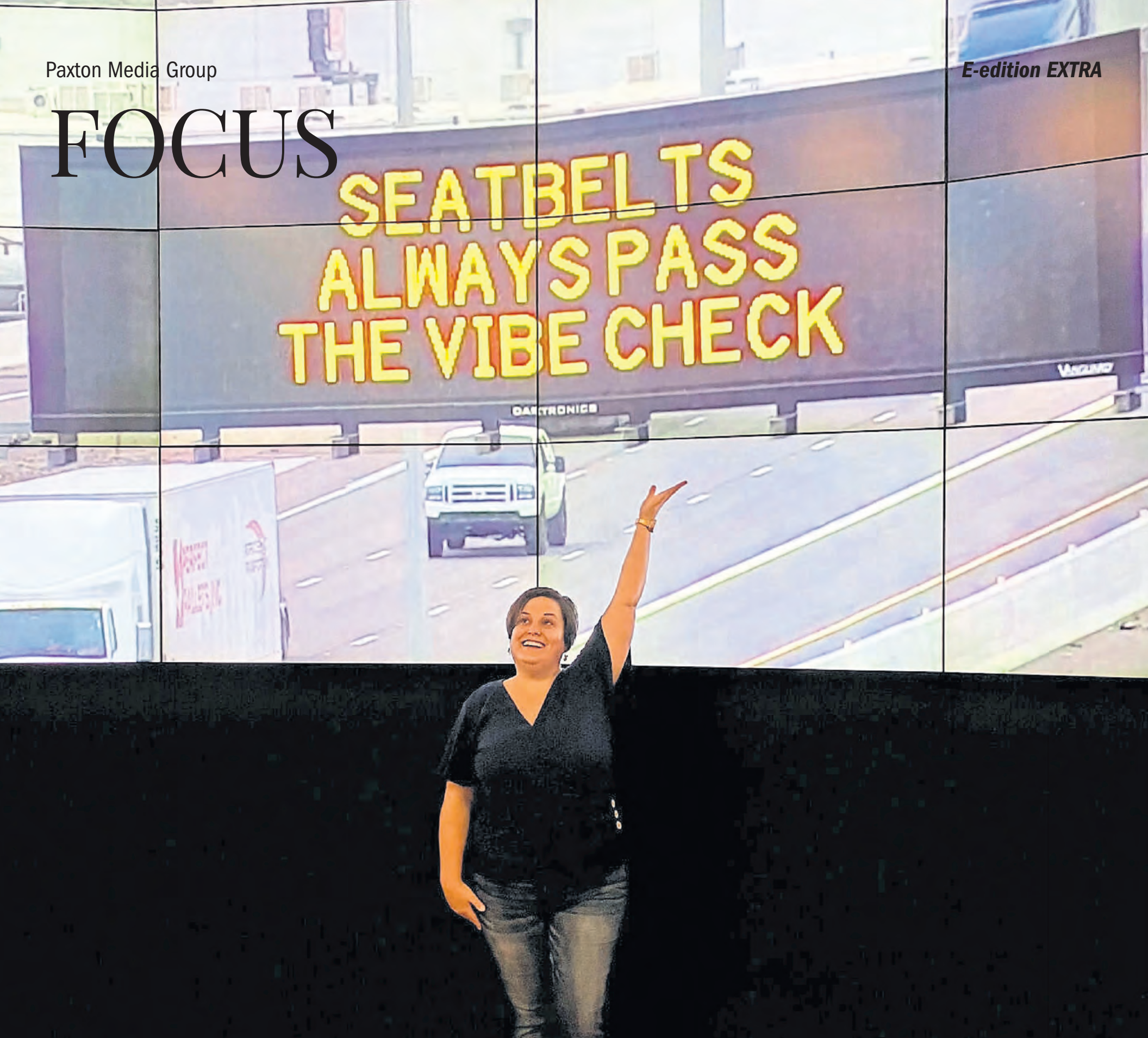
Elsewhere, the heat remained the biggest worry, even as temperatures moderated at the start of the week in the Northeast and some other parts of the U.S. that have sweltered for days.

Public officials cautioned residents about the dangers of excessive heat and humidity. Forecasters said the heat wave will continue early in the week in the Southeast, portions of the South and the Plains.

Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Philadelphia all saw record heat on over the weekend.

Last year the U.S. experienced the most heat waves since 1936, experts said. An AP analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that excessive heat contributed to more than 2,300 deaths, the highest in 45 years of records.

FOCUS



SEATBELTS
ALWAYS PASS
THE VIBE CHECK

Highway humor

is over some drivers' heads

By **TIM HENDERSON**
Stateline.org (TNS)

States have had their fun with highway safety messages, posting everything from Taylor Swift lyrics to discourage texting in Mississippi, to a “vibe check” – winking at Gen Z – to encourage seat belt use in Arizona.

Such messages are shown intermittently on thousands of highway signs, known as variable messaging signs, when the billboards aren’t lit up with alerts about accidents, construction or other real-time traffic issues.

As the summer vacation season gets going, millions of America’s interstate drivers can expect to find more puns, silly turns of phrase or cultural references on those massive missives.

But federal safety officials aren’t amused by states’ cheek. In recent years, they’ve begun to discourage what they view as overly creative messages, fearing that in trying to entertain drivers, highway officials are confusing rather than enlightening them. Some states, most recently Arizona and New Jersey, have pushed back. As a result, officials at the Federal Highway Administration clarified this year that they’re not banning road-sign humor outright.

Mississippi, the state with the highest motor vehicle fatality rate in the country last year, has been particularly creative. Recent messages have included “FOUR I’S IN MISSISSIPPI TWO EYES ON THE ROAD,” and a reference to the Taylor Swift song “Anti-Hero”: “TEXTING AND DRIVING? SAY IT: I’M THE PROBLEM IT’S ME.”

“It’s been an effective program for us. We haven’t been contacted by [the] federal highway department and told to cease and desist. We want to be in compliance, but we haven’t stopped our message program,” said Paul Katool, a spokesperson for the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

A new rulebook issued last year “does not prohibit messages from including humor or cultural references,” Federal Highway Administration chief Shailen Bhatt wrote in a recent letter to U.S. Reps. Greg Stanton, an Arizona Democrat, and Thomas Kean Jr., a New Jersey Republican.

The representatives had complained earlier this year that the agency was stifling state creativity, calling the new rules

“a blanket discouragement of humorous signs that leaves no room for state-by-state discretion.”

“Both of these states have signs that use slang or popular language, but the messages are clear,” the representatives wrote in their letter to Bhatt.

They cited messages such as two Arizona contest winners, “SEATBELTS ALWAYS PASS THE VIBE CHECK” and “I’M JUST A SIGN ASKING DRIVERS TO USE TURN SIGNALS,” as well as New Jersey’s recent holiday messages: “DON’T BE A GRINCH, LET THEM MERGE” and “SANTA’S WATCHING, PUT DOWN THE PHONE.”

Bhatt’s response is an apparent softening of the FHWA’s opposition to the signs, after the agency asked New Jersey to pull down some messages in 2022. Some became so popular on social media that the state Department of Transportation asked drivers not to take photos of the signs while driving, posting a cat meme on its own social media accounts: “IF YOU KEEP TAKING PHOTOS OF THE VMS BOARDS WHILE DRIVING WE WILL TURN THIS CAR AROUND AND GO BACK TO THE OLD MESSAGES.”

Messages shown in 2022 included “GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF YOUR APPS” and “SLOW DOWN. THIS AIN’T THUNDER ROAD,” a reference to a song by favorite son Bruce Springsteen, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported. The Federal Highway Administration isn’t telling states what to do – states retain control of their message boards – but it doesn’t think humor and cultural references are helpful. Vehicles pass under the signs in the blink of an eye, and the missives could puzzle people who don’t “get it” right away.

“FHWA appreciates the States’ efforts to creatively convey important safety messaging to motorists. Those messages need to be balanced with maintaining driver attention,” Bhatt wrote in his letter to the lawmakers.

An agency spokesperson, Nancy Singer, said in a statement that “states may develop their own traffic safety campaign messages” but they should avoid “messages with obscure meaning, references to popular culture, that are intended to be humorous, or otherwise use non-standard syntax.”

There’s some serious research behind the new guidance: One of the studies cited

in Bhatt’s letter shows that overly creative language can have the wrong effect when used on a highway message sign. Driving behavior can get more dangerous, not less so, if you’re trying to process a confusing message.

“Messages involving humor, wit or pop culture references could have adverse consequences on driving behavior for motorists who are unable to correctly interpret those messages,” according to the 2022 study published by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.

Lead author Gerald Ullman, who was senior research engineer at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute at the time the study was published, said it simulated highway-sign messages seen while driving.

Highway wit can work well but only “for drivers who get the humor used and the traffic safety point of the message,” Ullman said in an email exchange. “However, it does appear to have adverse effects on those drivers who don’t get it.”

“Pop culture references that younger drivers get might very easily be confusing for older drivers,” he said. “Conversely, puns or references to older funny movies that older drivers find witty can fly completely over the heads of younger drivers.”

Still in states such as Mississippi, state officials have heard from residents who say creative messages changed their habits, which might not have happened with more direct language, Katool said.

“It’s all good fun, but the point is to save lives,” Katool said. “There’s really only so many times you can just tell somebody to stop texting and driving or tell them to slow down. Eventually they just kind of tune you out. So we feel this is a way to leverage holidays, popular culture, music, that kind of thing.”

New Jersey is still using humor in its messages: A batch that ran in May included “SLOW DOWN BAD DRIVERS AHEAD” and “CAMP IN THE WOODS NOT THE LEFT LANE.”

But the state is “mindful of the kinds of messages we put up, keeping them safety oriented” and does follow federal guidance, said New Jersey Department of Transportation spokesperson Stephen Schapiro.

The latest messages in June include “THERE’S NO DEBATE DON’T TAILGATE” and “LET THE WAVES DO

Elise Riker, a marketing professor at Arizona State University, shows off her winning contest entry for a state highway safety message displayed last fall. States are using more creative message to get attention, but federal authorities have warned that confusing messages could actually increase crashes.

Arizona Department of Transportation / TNS

THE CRASHING STAY ALERT!”

New Jersey has one of the lowest rates of traffic fatalities as of 2023, about 0.78 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles driven. Minnesota is the only state lower, at 0.71, with the highest being Mississippi (1.76) and Arizona (1.69), according to preliminary National Highway Traffic Safety Administration statistics.

In Arizona, messages “sometimes include humor and cultural references, and we work hard to make sure key messages about safety will be easily understood by drivers,” said Doug Pacey, a transportation spokesperson. Over the Memorial Day weekend, the department used a relatively straightforward message: “COOK-OUT ESSENTIALS BBQ, MUSIC, WATER, DESIGNATED DRIVERS.”

Like New Jersey and Mississippi, Arizona sometimes gets the public involved in picking safety messages with contests. A contest last fall led to two winning messages: “I’M JUST A SIGN ASKING DRIVERS TO USE TURN SIGNALS” – a reference to a line in the 1990 film “Notting Hill” with actor Julia Roberts, whose character in the film says, “I’m also just a girl, standing in front of a boy, asking him to love her.”

Another contest winner, Elise Riker, won for “SEATBELTS ALWAYS PASS THE VIBE CHECK” which was also displayed last fall. A marketing professor at Arizona State University, Riker told Stateline she crafted it to appeal to Gen Z drivers.

“A vibe check is Gen Z slang for good vibrations, from the ’70s,” Riker said. “Levity definitely helps a safety message get through. ‘You can die in a car accident without your seatbelt’ is more likely to be ignored.”

“Nobody likes to think about dying,” she said. “Friendly and funny safety messages are a reminder that there are humans at the heart of it.”

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FOCUS



‘I love this work, but it’s killing me’

The unique toll of being a spiritual leader

By **STEVEN SANDAGE**
and **LAURA CAPTARI**
Boston University (The Conversation)

Clergy, chaplains and other spiritual leaders play vital roles in their communities, from celebrating life’s most joyous moments to offering comfort and guidance in the face of tragedy.

However, the personal toll of this work on spiritual leaders can be immense, including burnout, trauma and health challenges – and often goes unacknowledged.

There is growing attention to the stresses clergy have experienced amid the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing polarization. Chaplains, too, faced significant strain in their pivotal but often invisible role within health care. There is concern over a potential “great resignation,” with more than a third of U.S. pastors thinking about quitting.

But this is not a new problem. Research shows significant mental health and occupational risks for spiritual leaders long before the pandemic. We are both psychology researchers who provide psychotherapy to spiritual leaders, teach seminarians and study their experiences.

Key risks

The experiences of clergy and chaplains who work in health care, education and other community settings are diverse, and some of them are thriving. But for those who are struggling, several key risks stand out.

First, a sense of “calling” to a vocation, which is often central to spiritual leaders’ identities, can be a double-edged sword. Deep commitment to the meaning and moral duty of one’s work can lead people in many careers to sacrifice pay and personal time. Research among spiritual leaders highlights how challenging it can be to set boundaries when their work is considered a spiritual and moral duty.

Second, their roles can include an overwhelming array of responsibilities, from fundraising, rituals and spiritual care to public communication and facilities management. In 2007, psychologist Richard DeShon analyzed pastors’ jobs for the United Methodist Church. He identified 13 main types of tasks, each of which involved long lists of specific responsibilities, and 64 necessary personal

THE CONVERSATION

competencies needed to perform these tasks. DeShon concluded that he had “never encountered such a fast-paced job with such varied and impactful responsibilities.”

Third, Americans’ public trust and esteem for spiritual leaders has been plummeting in recent decades. This may be due to the decreasing percentage of people involved in religious congregations, as well as sexual abuse scandals.

The prevalence of traumatic stress

Our research is revealing the extent to which spiritual leaders contend with extreme and traumatic levels of stress on the front lines of human suffering and conflict. This may be particularly the case in congregations with fewer resources, or in settings such as hospitals and correctional facilities, where chaplains often serve.

Many years back, one of us, Steve, consulted on a study examining spiritual leaders’ well-being. Nearly one-third of the sample scored above the clinical cutoff for symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder – significantly higher than scores among military personnel after deployment. Ultimately, the religious group that commissioned the study was not comfortable publishing the results.

Since then, our research team at the Danielsen Institute has replicated this finding in a sample of Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders. Once again, we found nearly one-third scored above the clinical cutoff for PTSD symptoms related to work stressors. Clergy described aggression from congregants and direct exposure to extreme suffering, such as being called to a home amid a domestic conflict or right after someone died by suicide.

Digging into the data

The majority of research to date has focused on what can go wrong

for spiritual leaders. We know comparably little about what helps.

Our systematic literature review of 82 empirical studies found clear distinctions between factors that increase risk, mitigate harm and enhance well-being. Yet the absence of particularly stressful experiences did not necessarily mean clergy and chaplains felt like they were thriving: Experiences of suffering and flourishing are not mutually exclusive.

Individual factors can certainly contribute to the risks; for example, female spiritual leaders are at higher risk of burnout and traumatic stress, as are leaders who feel their self-worth is linked to “success in ministry.” However, our findings revealed that congregational and denominational factors are just as influential. Many spiritual leaders describe feeling on call 24/7, for example, and experiencing overwhelming stress from community disagreements – sometimes involving threats to the leader’s financial security or personal safety. In contrast, feeling supported by one’s congregation can make a positive difference.

Perhaps most surprising, only 5 percent of the studies tackled the question of how to help spiritual leaders who are struggling. And little empirical focus has been given toward prevention: how to proactively equip people being trained for these vocations.

Beyond self-care

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our team convened online support groups for chaplains. More than 250 professionals around the world participated.

Some grappled with not being seen as “essential personnel.” Others took on unprecedented responsibilities, such as trying to be at the bedside of everyone who was dying and using technology to help families feel present. Many were torn between their call to provide care and real fears about infection risk. This evoked painful existential and spiritual questions and even a sense of moral injury: guilt and inner turmoil about how to navigate impossible situations.

In a group one of us – Laura – was leading, a member Zoomed in from her hospital bed and shared that she had contracted COVID-19. Her

labored breathing was evident, as was her passionate commitment to this work.

That day’s session was the last she attended, and she died the following week. Together, as we processed the tragic news and lit a candle to commemorate her, the group grieved the loss of one of its own.

These conversations revealed the power of spiritual leaders having a confidential space to gain support and discuss the complexity of their work. Nearly three-quarters of the chaplains had considered leaving the field recently, yet 98 percent described their work as incredibly meaningful. As one person poignantly described it, “I love this work, but it’s killing me.”

Members used the space to help each other process the existential, spiritual and moral toll of their work. After participating, they reported feeling less burned out, more resilient and having a greater sense of flourishing.

Our team has since developed and is evaluating CHRYSALIS, an eight-week online program to support spiritual leaders’ well-being. We’re focused on helping leaders develop core strengths to thrive – beyond “self-care” – while also working to change organizational structures that are a setup for trauma and burnout.

Prevention and response

Our work is part of a larger conversation between scientists, faith leaders and people who train and support clergy and chaplains.

For example, Common Table Collaborative fosters collaboration between researchers and those on the front lines. Initiatives such as Flourishing in Ministry, Healthy Congregations and Chaplaincy Innovation Lab offer support for spiritual leaders. And there are training efforts to equip leaders in trauma-responsive care, such as The Khalil Center’s Muslim Mental Health first-responder training program.

All are exploring changes that can help clergy and chaplains thrive and stay on the front lines of caring for communities.

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BOOKS

TOP NEW BOOKS FOR YOUR *summer reading list*

By JAMES TARMY
Bloomberg News (TNS)

Given how rare it is that anyone has time to read for pleasure – especially when there are blockbusters to watch, jewels to buy, trips to take, music to listen to and ice cream to eat – the book had better be worth it. That’s why the stakes are so high in compiling a summer reading list: Choose the wrong text and you’ve squandered your moment in the sun.

Luckily for you, we’ve done the work. See below for nine titles we’ve personally read that won’t disappoint.



Leading the charge – often from perches at such department stores as Bonwit Teller, Henri Bendel and Lord & Taylor – women helped dictate sales, merchandising, advertising and strategies for what was, even then, a colossal industry.

The Friday Afternoon Club: A Family Memoir.
By Griffin Dunne (Penguin Press)

Perhaps you’ve heard of Griffin Dunne’s father, the novelist and longtime Vanity Fair columnist Dominick Dunne? Or maybe you’ve read a book by Dominick’s brother, the famed journalist and author John Gregory Dunne? Certainly, you’re aware of John’s wife (and therefore, Griffin Dunne’s aunt), the writer Joan Didion? Even if you’ve managed to remain ignorant of all three, that’s fine. This memoir will still be a gripping read.

Griffin Dunne grew up surrounded by an almost incomprehensible amount of megawatt celebrities that ran the spectrum from Sean Connery to Carrie Fisher, and he has excellent anecdotes about all of them. (Connery saved Dunne from drowning in a swimming pool; Fisher was Dunne’s confidante.) But this is not a series of gauzy recollections of the good old days. First, Dunne is clearly not the nostalgic type. Second, his life included enough tragedy that it would be nearly impossible to spin

it into a glossy Hollywood ending.

Do Something: Coming of Age Amid the Glitter and Doom of '70s New York.
By Guy Trebay (Knopf)

It’s always a little nerve-wracking when a beloved journalist writes a book outside their beat: Will they find their footing? Trebay, who’s been a style reporter and critic at the New York Times for decades, quickly puts those fears to rest. He’s a lovely writer whose recollections, which begin with a not altogether happy childhood and move quickly to a bohemian life in New York, are riveting. It’s not just sex, drugs and rock and roll: He manages to parlay fan letters into friendships with the photographer Horst P. Horst and the screenwriter and novelist Anita Loos and also befriends the aging American couturier Charles James. Trebay isn’t a sensationalist. He knew the toast of downtown at its arguable cultural peak, but he doesn’t bend over backwards to place himself at its center.

The Talented Mrs. Mandelbaum: The Rise and Fall of an American Organized-Crime Boss.
By Margalit Fox (Random House)

Organized crime in the U.S. tends to be synonymous with the Mafia, a chauvinist group of good old boys running protection rackets and ordering hits. But in the mid-19th century there was an equally formidable game in town, run by a Jewish immigrant named Fredericka (“Marm”) Mandelbaum, who had clawed her way from steerage class to become one of the country’s wealthiest women. One newspaper reported that she would often wear as much as \$40,000 worth of jewelry worth about \$1.2 million today, according to the book. Estimates put the total of stolen goods that passed through her Lower East Side shop at about \$10 million (roughly \$300 million today). Her literal rags-to-riches story is presented with depth in this spectacular and true story of ingenuity, business acumen and brazen criminality.

Fiction
Gretel and the Great War.
By Adam Ehrlich Sachs (FSG Originals)

Sachs has created a sort of fairy tale in an extremely clever novelistic construction: In 1919 a young woman named Gretel is found abandoned and unable to speak. Following entreaties to the public, she receives a string of bedtime stories in the mail (one for every letter of the alphabet) from a man who claims to be her father. They’re often structured as children’s stories with adult themes (a modernist architect, forced to cover his building with flowers so as not to offend the sensibilities of a young girl, falls paternalistically in love with her and tragedy ensues). Gradually, it becomes clear that each story is intertwined with others in a mosaic of anecdotes that, taken together, creates a picture of a belle epoque Vienna teetering on the edge of obliteration.



Caledonian Road.
By Andrew O’Hagan (W. W. Norton & Company)

A pitch-perfect send-up of London’s dirty rich and their many hangers-on, O’Hagan’s latest is an absolute joy to read. Even if you don’t care about the novel’s many insider winks – this is surely the first time in years that the briefly famous artist Dash Snow has been name-checked – the story is impossible to put down. Campbell Flynn, the book’s protagonist, is a celebrity intellectual whose success has propelled him into the echelons of the very wealthy. This is in theory a good thing, but Campbell, who was born middle class, is perennially insecure about money, status and fame. When his world falls apart, those preoccupations aren’t revealed to be bad, exactly. But they are, with the benefit of hindsight, the precise ingredients of his undoing.

The Heart in Winter.
By Kevin Barry (Doubleday)

It takes a second to get into the heavily stylized rhythm of Barry’s period-patois prose, but once you do, the payoff is worth it. Occasionally laugh-out-loud funny, the novel, which could plausibly be called a Western, follows two sort-of-outlaw lovers as they leave the relative comfort of Butte, Montana, and head into the wilderness. Tom, a triple threat (drug addict, alcoholic, poet), and his paramour Polly (recently married ... to someone else) are headed to the supposed freedom of San Francisco. Before they get there, they have to reckon with, among other trials, a posse of Cornish gunmen.

The Son of Man.
By Jean-Baptiste Del Amo (Grove)

Even the most faithfully translated books can lack a vital spark of the original. But in Frank Wynne’s translation of an exquisite 2021 novel by French wunderkind Jean-Baptiste Del Amo, the story – an atmospheric exploration of filial relationships – loses none of its taut beauty. A boy and his mother leave their modest suburban house and follow the boy’s father, who has returned unexpectedly to his family cabin in the middle of the wilderness after disappearing years earlier. As the boy and his mother acclimate themselves to a new existence in an almost primeval forest, tensions among the three become almost too much to bear.

Things Don’t Break on Their Own.
By Sarah Easter Collins (Crown)

The setup, a combination of old friends and new acquaintances who gather for a dinner party, is straight out of Clue. But the underlying tension – a woman still searching for her sister years after she disappeared – is something else. Using a series of prolonged flashbacks told through various attendees, the mystery of the disappearance is told from multiple angles; the fact that its resolution is a little too neat does nothing to blunt the force of the narrative.

REVIEW

‘We Refuse’ is a searing history of resistance focused on Black joy

By SHANNON GIBNEY
Star Tribune (TNS)

‘While whiteness cannot be separated from violence, Blackness can be separated from oppression,’” Kellie Carter Jackson writes in the introduction to her searing book, “We Refuse: A Forceful History of Black Resistance.”

An analysis of the myriad ways Black people have resisted white supremacy, “We Refuse” is illuminating, informative and, ultimately, hopeful. Carter Jackson, an associate professor of Africana Studies at Wellesley College, divides the book into five parts, each of which explores successful tactics Black individuals and communities have used to resist white domination: revolution, protection, force, flight and joy.

I found this to be an elegant methodology. Indeed, “We Refuse” is a page-turner, filled with historical examples – from the Fugitive Slave Act, Civil War, American Revolution, Haitian Revolution, civil rights movement and Great Migration, as well as the individuals caught up in them – that elucidate the author’s main points.

Carter Jackson peppers these examples with powerful and poignant stories of her own family’s refusal and endurance in the face of deep loss and grief. The result is a book whose persuasion is both emotional and intellectual.

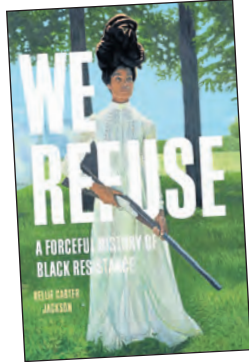
“This book is not about advocating violence,” writes Carter Jackson. “But I am encouraging readers to grapple with the causes and consequences of it, and to think outside the binary of violence and nonviolence.”

One of “We Refuse”’s most convincing and controversial arguments is that non-violence has been erroneously held up as the best, most effective strategy to combat white supremacist violence. In example after example, we are shown how a nimble bag of approaches has helped keep Black people alive and more free than they would be otherwise, in the face of white oppression.

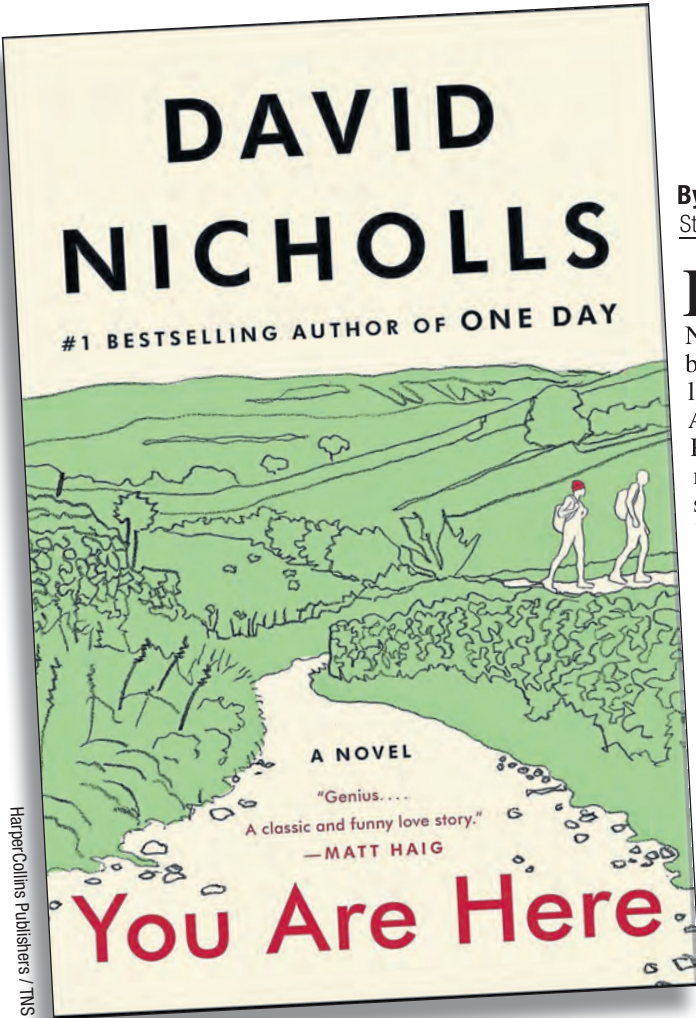
In the end, Carter Jackson puts her faith in Black joy. She writes, “The bulk of Black life is made from joy. Joy is not the denial of Black pain, trauma or death, but the hope that comes with activism, resistance and refusal.” She discusses the untimely deaths of her two siblings and how her family’s Black church community held them up when they couldn’t hold themselves up.

More specific forms of joy, such as Black dance and humor, are identified as seminal art forms of resistance – feeding folks as they create space outside the white gaze. The cultural event and international blockbuster that was the movie “Black Panther” – and the power and recognition that those throughout the African diaspora felt from seeing such a layered and imaginative representation of Black life on screen – also is identified as a potent site of Black joy.

Carter Jackson ends the book with these words, which she clearly wants us never to forget: “Black joy is the remedy. Justice is the healing. We can have both.”



REVIEW



HarperCollins Publishers / TNS

By MALCOLM FORBES
Star Tribune (TNS)

David Nicholls is riding a wave of popularity thanks to the Netflix series based on his 2009 blockbuster “One Day.” The publication of his sixth novel, “You Are Here,” should see the Booker Prize-longlisted author garnering more acclaim. And deservedly so, for it is a warm, witty and beautifully observed tale about two lonely souls experiencing a new lease on life – and possibly finding romance – while traversing England’s green and pleasant land.

If “One Day” unfolded over two decades, then “You Are Here” takes place over 10 days – enough time, it turns out, for Nicholls’ characters to cover significant ground, both geographically and emotionally. We first meet Marnie, a 38-year-old London copy editor going nowhere fast. Since her divorce she has led a solitary existence – working from

home, losing friends to marriage and parenthood (or “to apathy or carelessness”) and remaining celibate. We are then introduced to 42-year-old Michael, a geography teacher from York, who still feels “cracked and vulnerable, like a cup with a glued-on handle” after his marital break-up and nervous breakdown.

Michael has planned to walk 190 miles across the north of England, from St. Bees in the west to Robin Hood’s Bay in the east, to take his mind off his troubles. To his chagrin, a friend creates a walking group to keep him company – one member being Marnie, who reluctantly joins after taking stock of the dire state of her “small and shrinking life.” When the other hikers fall by the wayside, Michael and Marnie are left to go it alone.

The partnership shouldn’t work. She is a city girl who bemoans the elements and is unmoved by the scenery. He is a nature boy who loves the great outdoors and prefers his own company. Both are awkward and jaded. But after a while they open up and develop a shared intimacy.

He helps her appreciate the sublime surroundings; she makes him laugh again. They drink in pubs, discuss their broken marriages and trade secrets, regrets, playlist songs and origin stories. But now that they have crossed paths, will they keep moving forward in the same direction?

Nicholls’ novel offers many delights. The English landscape is vividly rendered as the pair venture up hill and down dale, across moors and fells and along gills and around tarns. The dialogue crackles and there are numerous pithy lines about daily monotony and human connections: “At this time of life, a relationship, it feels like starting a book halfway through.”

“You Are Here” lacks the agonies and ecstasies of Nicholls’ previous books, from that shock revelation in “One Day” to the depiction of “the brief, blinding explosion of first love” in “Sweet Sorrow” (2019). However, Nicholls still manages to inject drama and pathos into the proceedings, and ensures that we are so invested in his characters that we follow them every step of the way.

‘One Day’ author David Nicholls releases new book, ‘You Are Here’