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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

County retains counsel to aid panel in Yergy's appeal

By JESSICA BRICKER
The Wells County Commissioners have hired a local attorney to represent the panel members who will decide the appeal filed by Yergy's State Road Barbecue after the restaurant was shut down by the county health department in August.

The hearing date for the appeal has not been determined yet, County Attorney Roy Johnson said Monday, but the panel will include Dr. Steven Bales, a member of the

Wells County Health Board; Bill Horan; and Marcia Meyer, Lancaster Township trustee and retired LPN.

Tony Crowell, who serves as the City of Bluffton's legal counsel, has been hired at an hourly rate of \$300. County Attorney Roy Johnson said he didn't feel it was "kosher" for him to represent both the health department and the hearing panel, therefore Crowell was contacted for his services to advise the panel during the pro-

cess.

Johnson said Crowell wants to meet with the panel members and he presumes the scheduling of a hearing will follow.

Johnson also said it's possible that Crowell's expenses, as well as those he has charged the county for this litigation matter over the past two months, could be reimbursed by federal pandemic relief funds since it's directly related to COVID-19.

According to the agreement

commissioners Blake Gerber, Kevin Woodward and Tamara Robbins approved Monday, the "scope of engagement" includes:

- "Assist and advise the client on the organizational activities of the hearing panel, the hearing process and the conduct of the hearing, including preservation of the official record of the hearing.

- "Assist the client in the preparation and publication of any and all legal notices necessary or required for the hearing process.

- "Assist and advise the client on the legal issues and interpretation of statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations applicable to the hearing process and the responsibilities of the client in conducting the hearing, deliberating on the facts and legal issues, and the decision process.

- "Assist and advise the client on preparation of findings of fact and legal conclusions as may be necessary upon the conclusion of

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Jerry Oswalt with the mural painted by local artist Nancy Wagner on Jerry Flack's building at Main and Market Streets. Wagner included a wider variety of scenes depicting local history, but the irises are at the center. "Anyone you talk to about E.B. or Mary Williamson, or Paul and Emma Cook," Oswalt says, "they were good people." (Photo by Mark Miller)

Working to keep history alive

By MARK MILLER
Part 3 of 3

Editor's Note: Both of the new murals in downtown Bluffton feature irises, recognizing the significant role Bluffton holds in the history of iris hybrids. This is the third of three articles regarding that history.

It is difficult to say, but it is likely that there is no one alive who lives in Wells County who knew Mary Williamson better than Jerry Oswalt. He is almost certainly the most knowledgeable person regarding the city's historically significant role in the world of irises.

He first met her in 1958 when he was 16 years old. Ever since he can remember, he always loved flowers and gardens. He recalled his parents driving down Bond Street when he would see this large field of colorful flowers. At the time, he didn't know anything about the Williamson family or irises, but by 1958, he had a small garden in his family's backyard and heard that the lady around the corner was selling her flowers — you could get a grocery bag full for

just \$1.

"So I walked over there and was greeted by this beautiful lady with sparkling blue eyes," he says.

Instead of selling him anything, she gave him about 15 bags.

"She would often call me and say she had some more bags for me, and they were all these different varieties," he continued. "She was such a pleasant lady, very soft spoken, and very smart. And she was definitely a hard worker."

Oswalt would learn much about handling irises from Williamson, and she also shared stories about her father, E.B. Williamson, and Paul Cook. He heard stories about the number of people who came to Bluffton each year to help her father cull through his new varieties of irises — which ones to keep and which ones to throw away. They would come from all over the country and included such notable people as Robert Schreiner, "who was famous around the world" as an iris geneticist.

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Board names Ossian amphitheater/pavilion

Members set security deposit and rental fees, as well as discuss alcohol-related rules

By GLEN WERLING

It will be called the Archbold-Wilson Event Center.

Members of the Ossian Park Board Monday night agreed that will be the name for the amphitheater/pavilion under construction now at Archbold-Wilson Memorial Park.

With its construction approaching completion, park board members also brainstormed ideas for what to charge for rental of the building.

"The rental fee wouldn't be there to make money," board president Joe Lewis emphasized, but he added that the town will need the financial assistance renting the facility will provide with maintenance expenses of the building.

After considerable discussion on the matter, the board members

agreed to \$75 for four hours or less to rent the pavilion and the town's tables and chairs.

Adding use of the kitchen by the renter will raise the rental fee to \$100 for four hours or less.

If the event is to be four hours or more, the rent for the pavilion, chairs and tables will be \$100. Adding the use of the kitchen will hike the rental fee to \$150.

Non-profit organizations will pay half that amount and any organization that has contributed toward the projects at Archbold-Wilson and other town parks can use the building for free.

Refundable deposits for the use of the facilities will be the same as the rental prices. The pavilion must be cleaned and undamaged following the rental event for the

(Continued on Page 2)

Wells County COVID-19 rate remains around 6%

By DEVAN FILCHAK

Wells County residents continue to be diagnosed with COVID-19 after being tested, but the overall positivity rate remains about the same.

The overall rate is technically higher than the last report released by the Wells County Health Department with an increase to 6.2 percent from 6.1 percent on Sept. 25. The overall positivity rate for the state as a whole is 8.8 percent, according to the Indiana State Department of Health Monday.

There have been a total of 282 cases of COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, but 225 of those people have recovered as of Sunday. There are currently 51 active cases with two current hospitalizations.

A total of four people have died of COVID-19 in Wells County. The age group of 50-59 remains the highest range affected by the virus, followed by those ages 20-29.

devan@news-banner.com

5 rural areas to be studied for potential sewer services

By JESSICA BRICKER

Several rural areas will be studied for potential sewer services after the commissioners signed off Monday on the \$22,500 agreement.

Last month Wells County Engineer Nate Rumschlag, who has been assisting the county's Regional Sewer District board, told commissioners Blake Gerber, Kevin Woodward and Tamara Robbins that the board was interested in studying and preparing areas for future funding if the commissioners paid for

the analysis. Choice One has offered to study five areas — Kingsland, Keystone, Petroleum, Tocsin and Reiffsburg — for a total cost that would be discounted compared to doing each individual area separately.

The commissioners had concerns the studies would expire before the projects could be designed, but they decided Monday that the studies can be updated in the future if needed.

Among the other items discussed and updates provided Monday, Rumschlag said crews will be installing the new camera system

this week at the bridge on 300W over the Wabash River. Once the system is working in its temporary location, Rumschlag said he will reopen the road to local traffic. Meanwhile, an ordinance updating the weight limit on the bridge will be presented to the commissioners at a future meeting.

Another ongoing bridge project continues over the Wabash River. The White Bridge demolition work is well underway, Rumschlag said, with removal of the south approach anticipated this week and the north

approach installation to also start this week.

Regarding the relocation of Hoosier Highway and the permanent closures of a few railroad crossings south of Bluffton, Rumschlag said that it is his understanding, after speaking with state and railroad officials, that the county is "well ahead" of other communities that have been awarded Local Trax funds.

"Our project is likely to be one of it not the first under construction within this award," he added in his report.

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Officer receives commendation for role in death investigation

• Photo on Page 12

By GLEN WERLING

Ossian Police Chief Dave Rigney Monday night awarded a commendation for meritorious service to Sgt. Stephanie Tucker for her major role in the death investigation of Kamryn Price of Ossian in January of 2019.

Tucker noted the assistance by

reserve officer Bob Frantz, Rigney and the other officers helped her to free up the time she needed to investigate the case.

"The family got me through this," Tucker said. Price's grandmother, Jenni Milholland, was also present for the presentation of the commendation

Rigney added that the time

between suspicion, investigation and arrest was phenomenally fast and that Tucker had put together a rock solid case. The girl's mother's boyfriend at the time, Brent Scheiber, was sentenced earlier this year on charges of aggravated battery.

Tucker received a pink commendation bar.

At Monday night's meeting of the Ossian Board of Metropolitan Police commissioners, members Caleb Chichester and Bob Miller also received an update on the department's office expansion plans.

Tucker reported one reason the police department needs more storage space is because

the state has denied the department's request to destroy its old paper reports — even though those reports have all been scanned and are in electronic storage.

Therefore, at least for now, the destroy date for the reports and records once kept by the department is never.

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Outside

Sunny, warm weather is here for the week

Today	Wed.	Thursday
High 70	High 75	High 67
Low 52	Low 42	Low 43

More Weather on Page 2

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Vol. 91 No. 286

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October 6, 2020

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Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Friday, 2:59 p.m., residence in the 1200 block of Honeysuckle Lane. Complainant reported someone was using his identity to collect unemployment benefits.
Friday, 5:19 p.m., residence in the 400 block of South Indiana Street. Police officer requested to mediate a dispute between mother and teenage daughter.
Friday, 9:37 p.m., Spring Wayne Apartments, report of a verbal altercation between a mother and daughter over how the daughter's children should be raised. Officer responded. Situation calmed. The parties, even though they live next door to each other, were talking on cell phones to each other.
Saturday, 2 a.m., Main Street at Washington Street. Bluffton police officer pulled over a vehicle and allegedly found a clear jar containing plant-like material, a glass pipe, hollowed out cigars, and a marijuana grinder. The officer arrested the driver of the vehicle, Cynthia Michelle Zootman, 18, Bluffton, on charges of possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor; possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class B misdemeanor; and operating a vehicle with a Schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in her body, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond was set at \$2,000.
Saturday, 4:39 a.m., residence in the 1400 block of Central Avenue. Caller reported his vehicle had been rifled through but nothing was stolen. The would-be thief, however, reportedly left behind items outside of the vehicle that did not belong to the caller.
Saturday, 5:34 a.m., Stag Bar, 205 W. Market St. Burglar alarm. Officers responded. Alarm tripped accidentally by an employee.
Saturday, 11:01 a.m., residence in the 900 block

of West South Street. Caller reported several items stolen from a vehicle parked in the alley behind residence.
Saturday, 11:22 a.m., residence in the 1400 block of West Central Avenue. Caller reported theft of speaker, wallet papers, and identification from vehicle parked at residence. The items turned out to be the items recovered from the earlier case of a vehicle having been rifled through.
Saturday, 2:48 p.m., residence in the 500 block of East Arnold Street. Caller reported someone threw a hypodermic syringe into the caller's yard.
Saturday, 4:38 p.m., residence in the 700 block of West Wiley Avenue. Teenager reportedly threatening self-harm.
Saturday, 5:24 p.m., residence in the 1200 block of Honeysuckle Lane. Caller reported his neighbor's chicken crossed the road and the caller was unsure why. An officer was dispatched but was unable to locate the chicken.
Saturday, 8:34 a.m., Walmart Supercenter, 2100 N. Main St. Caller reported he accidentally left behind in the parking lot a cartload of items that he had purchased. He remembered and returned for them about 10 minutes later. The cart was where he had left it, but the items were gone.
Saturday, 11:48 p.m., apartment in the 200 block of West South Street. Loud verbal altercation between a man and a woman. Officers responded. Both parties reportedly refused to speak with police. The male half was warned for disorderly conduct.
Sunday, 3:33 a.m., 200 block of East Market Street. Report of a man lying on the sidewalk yelling and screaming. He was taken home.
Sunday, 12:26 p.m., Clark Avenue at Spring Street. Report of a loud verbal alter-

cation between a man and a woman in a vehicle southbound on Clark Avenue. The female half then reportedly got out of the vehicle and was carrying a child. An officer checked the area but saw no one matching the description.
Sunday, 1:20 p.m., residence in the 1400 block of Stogdill Road. Caller reported she was bitten by one of two dogs running at large. The bite did not break her skin but did leave a bruise. The dogs then led officers on a chase around the east side of town before they were finally apprehended in the area of Riverview Drive and Highland Drive. They were both returned to their owner who lives on Honeysuckle Lane. Animal Shelter was contacted to deal with the matter further.
Sunday, 2:39 p.m., Pine Grove Apartments. Caller reported a man walking a dog appeared to be looking into the windows of cars and apartments. Officers dispatched, located the man and spoke with him. The man advised his dog tends to get close to the cars and the apartments, but he — the man — was not looking into the windows of either.
Sunday, 4:31 p.m., White Bridge Court at Compromise Lane. Man who works for the United States Census Bureau reported a man threatened him and "beat on" his car. Officer located the man who reportedly did the car beating and he advised that the car the worker was driving was parked out in front of his residence, so he went out to find out what the man was doing. He knocked on the window of the vehicle to get the census worker to roll the window down. The worker reportedly said something about the census and drove away.
Sunday, 11:48 p.m., residence in the 1300 block of Ridgewood Lane. Verbal altercation between a par-

ent and a daughter. Officers responded. Daughter left residence before officers arrived.
Monday, 10:12 a.m., Boost Mobile, 917 N. Main St. Employee requesting belligerent customer to be removed from the store and warned for trespassing.
Monday, 11:18 a.m., Country Squire Florist, 214 N. Main St. Sixty flower arrangements were paid for with the fraudulent use of credit cards. Incident under investigation.
County:
Friday, 12:38 p.m., mobile home in the Silo Farms mobile home park. Halloween decorations and yard furniture stolen.
Friday, 1:15 p.m., residence on 500W south of 400S. Burglar alarm indicating glass breakage. Sheriff's deputy responded. He traced the source of the alarm to the back storm door which had blown open, striking a rear light and knocking out a glass window.
Friday, 5:12 p.m., residence on East Washington Street in Murray. Sheriff's deputy responded to a report of an unwanted man at the residence. The man had left before the deputy arrived.
Friday, 5:59 p.m., Ind. 1 at U.S. 224. Ossian police officer pulled over a vehicle after noticing the license plate on it was expired. As he was speaking with the female driver, he reported that he smelled an odor of marijuana coming from the interior of the vehicle. After questioning the driver, Casey Morlan, no age available, Bluffton, allegedly handed the deputy a glass smoking pipe containing marijuana. She was cited into Wells Superior Court for possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor.
Friday, 6:03 p.m., residence in the 100 block of Logan Street, Markle. Report of a breaking and entering.
Sunday 1:35 a.m., Ind. 1 at U.S. 224. In response to a

driving complaint, a sheriff's deputy spotted the vehicle parked at the smoke shop at the intersection and pulled in behind it. The driver, identified as Paul Joseph Gabbard, 34, Syracuse, allegedly admitted to having smoked marijuana earlier. Gabbard allegedly failed field sobriety tests, but tested negative for alcohol consumption. A search of his vehicle allegedly turned up two glass smoking devices possibly containing marijuana and methamphetamine. Gabbard was charged with possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony; possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor; and operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond was set at \$8,000.
Sunday, 1:39 a.m., 1200S west of 300W. Report of a burgundy Ford Escape abandoned by the north bank of the Salamonie River on fire. Montpelier and Chester Township fire departments dispatched and put out the fire, but the vehicle sustained substantial damage. The vehicle had been stripped of its license plate and vehicle identification numbers. The incident remains under investigation.
Sunday, 5:40 a.m., Ind. 1 near 500N. Report of a man walking in a dark hooded sweatshirt waving his arms frantically trying to get passing vehicles to stop. A deputy located the man who said he was trying to get to the Fort Wayne International Airport. The deputy transported the man to the Allen/Wells County line.
Sunday, 6:30 a.m., Ind. 116 northwest of 300W. Report of a woman walking alongside the road trying to flag down traffic. Deputy located the female who said she had been in a verbal altercation with her boyfriend and she had gotten out of the vehicle and started to walk home. The female agreed to be taken home by

her boyfriend and a neighbor.
Sunday, 1:04 p.m., Ossian BP gas station, 506 S. Jefferson St. Report of an unresponsive woman slumped over behind the wheel of a vehicle parked in the parking lot. Officer and deputy responded. The deputy noted in his report that he had to open the driver's side door of the vehicle and nudge the female driver to respond. He also reported that she was lethargic and difficult to understand, smelled of alcohol and there was an empty bottle of whiskey behind the front passenger seat and another three-quarter full bottle of whiskey in a bag of groceries behind the driver's seat. Wells County EMS and Ossian Fire Department first responders were also dispatched to the scene. The woman, identified as Jill Ann Bowman, 51, Montpelier, reportedly told investigating officers that she was driving on her way home from Fort Wayne to Montpelier. Allegedly Bowman told officers she thought she was in Montpelier. While speaking with Bowman, she allegedly took a sip of some sort of beverage from a travel mug. Bowman allegedly insisted the substance in the mug was cola, but an Ossian officer took a whiff of the contents and wrote in her report it was definitely some sort of alcoholic beverage. She allegedly failed field sobriety tests and blew a .266 percent alcohol concentration on a Breathalyzer test. She was charged with operating a vehicle with an alcohol concentration equivalency of .15 percent or more, a Class A misdemeanor; and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500. She bonded.
Sunday, 2:59 p.m., 1000S west of 200W. Report of a man standing beside the road, wielding a shovel, making obscene gestures at passing traffic and trying to get passing vehicles to pull into a driveway. Sheriff's (Continued on Page 12)

OBITUARIES

Anna Leona (Brown) Johnson, 91

Anna Leona (Brown) Johnson, 91, passed away at 3:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 5, 2020, at Bluffton Regional Medical Center.



She was born in Maumee, Ohio, May 8, 1929, to Gordon R. Brown and Hermina Krohn Brown. Anna married F. Leon Johnson on Sept. 5, 1952, in Middle Point, Ohio. They lived near Antwerp, Ohio until moving to their farm near Bluffton in 1955.

A 1947 graduate of Hoaglin-Jackson High School near Van Wert, Ohio, she worked as a secretary to the Marsh Foundation Trustee and Marsh Foundation Farm Office in Van Wert. Anna enjoyed many hobbies such as sewing, knitting, quilting, painting and putting together puzzles. Anna was a wonderful seamstress, and she also loved to travel.

She was a member of the Six Mile Church, where she taught Children's Sunday School for many years, along with serving as Sunday School superintendent and member of the Board of Deacons. Anna was a member of the Poplar Grove Extension Homemakers Club where she served as President, Vice President, Treasurer, and worked on multiple commit-

tees. She was also a member of the Wells County Historical Society.

Survivors include her husband of 68 years, Leon of Bluffton; her five children, Marcia (Jim) Hotopp, Stan (Diane) Johnson, both of Bluffton, Elaine (Gary) Seidner of Montpelier, Sheila Beckman of Kendallville, and Teresa (Bruce) Ley of Ossian; 13 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; one sister,

Bea Davidson of Jacksonville, Fla.; and two brothers, William Brown of Stryker, Ohio and Art Brown of Middle Point, Ohio.

She is preceded in death by her parents; a son-in-law, Greg Beckman; and a great-grandchild, Hadassah Seidner.

A private family funeral service honoring Anna will be held at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with Pastor Steve Studabaker officiating. Burial will follow at Six Mile Cemetery near Bluffton.

Preferred memorials may be made in Anna's memory to the Six Mile Church.

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

Justus Wayne Cook, 6, and Raelynn Michelle Cook, 5

Siblings Justus Wayne Cook, 6, and Raelynn Michelle Cook, 5, died Friday, Oct. 2, in a vehicular accident in Blackford County.

Justus was born Dec. 15, 2013, and Raelynn was born Feb. 26, 2015. Both were born in Wells County to Michelle Cook of Muncie and Robert Cook of Montpelier.

Survivors include their parents; two sisters, Whitnee and Kaylee; maternal grandmothers, Penny Sexton of Muncie, Jennifer Barton of Montpelier, and Mandy (Adam) Solga of Montpelier; maternal grandfather, Roy Barton Jr. of Muncie; paternal grandparents, Ron and

Juli Cook of Montpelier; and great-grandparents Roy Barton Sr. of Montpelier and Delores DeHart of Muncie.

Calling hours will be from noon to 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, at the Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St. in Montpelier. Services will be at 3 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Internment will follow in the Brookside Memorial Park in Montpelier.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone attending the visitation or the funeral service is asked to practice social distancing while in the funeral home.

Online condolences: www.glancyfuneralhomes.com

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VISITATION & SERVICES
Martha L. Irvin
 Calling: 11a.m. - 1p.m.
 Tuesday, October 6.
 Service: 1p.m.
 Tuesday, October 6 at the funeral home.
The safety of the family and all visitors is our utmost priority. For everyone's safety, we ask that you practice social distancing. Masks are required for visitation and for Martha's service. We appreciate your cooperation and patience.
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The radio show in my mind

The president of the United States — the leader of the free world, arguably the most powerful person on the planet — has contracted a dangerous virus, and I’m not sure how I should act.



Leo Morris

Oh, I know very well what I’m supposed to do. I must choose a side and root for my team from the sidelines. But how boisterous or subdued should I be, how enthusiastic or fretful?

The problem, I realize, is that I’m missing the prompting I’ve gotten used to. I need a cheerleader to give me the proper cues.

Hoosier Opinions

Like the ones I got when I briefly revisited the world of televised professional sports, after symbolically boycotting them for the intrusion of politics then actually missing them a little when they were adjourned sine die by the Trump-thumping virus.

Instead of making me endure the empty stadiums and eerie silence, the game enablers provided me with cardboard cutouts of fans in the stands and played recorded crowd noises. It helped me pretend I was watching something important that other people cared about rather than wasting my precious time on a frivolous, meaningless expenditure of testosterone.

And then there is the canned laughter that has been so instrumental in my enjoyment of situation comedies. I have never had to risk being wrong when I decided something was funny enough to be amusing. The chuckle machine showed me the way.

I notice the same laugh track has made an appearance at the return of “Wheel of Fortune” and “Jeopardy!” from their COVID-19 hiatus. I do not think an audience is there, since there are no longer panned shots of people applauding. But it sure sounds present and accounted for, snickering or guffawing at the hosts’ witticisms.

The people who are not there. Like the sounds that really aren’t there in the movies I watch on Netflix that I once would have left the house for. The click of high heels on linoleum. The whoosh of wind in the trees. The crackle of flames in the fireplace.

They’re called Foley effects, invented for radio dramas to tickle the imagination. Sound-effects specialists would make bone-injury noises with frozen romaine lettuce, horse-hoof sounds with coconut shells, thunder with thin metal sheets, creaking doors with, well, creaking doors. When sound movies came along, so did the Foley artists to add depth and immediacy to the audio quality.

Reality enhanced. Reality augmented. Reality intensified. We could use that right now.

Donald Trump is, after all, the former reality show star, the first game show host ever elected to the highest office in the land. If we’re all just trapped inside the ultimate reality show, shouldn’t we demand the ultimate thrill ride until the next commercial break?

Trump’s opponents shouldn’t have to settle for merely listening to the talking heads at CNN and MSNBC excoriating the president as a fool and a knave and a heartless, incompetent dictator who should just die as soon as possible, drooling and babbling in a virus-induced fever. There should be angry mob noises at the mere sound of his name, shouts and jeers and taunts and the Foley-created sounds of torches being lit and chains being rattled.

And his supporters shouldn’t be content with just watching Fox News or listening to Rush Limbaugh to hear that Trump is the best president ever, achieving historic, world-shaking successes despite the obstructionist tactics of his evil, unpatriotic opponents who are little better than treasonous scum. There should be the sounds of champagne corks popping and the majestic strains of “Hail to the Chief” as the adoring multitudes prayerfully chant his name.

Ah, well. In the radio show of my mind, I can hear the teeth gnashing, see the hair pulling, feel the cynicism building to a boiling point. Just pick a side, my fans are shouting; tell us who you think is right and wrong. You’re not fooling anyone, my critics are sneering; we know which side you’re really on when you’re not pretending otherwise.

But, gentle readers, during such a grave moment, a potential turning point in our history, shouldn’t we be able to bridge the partisan divide and unite to work together as one great American people on a common purpose with courage and understanding?

Cue wild applause, whistles, stomping of feet, heartfelt laughter and tears of joy, shouts of “Way to go, champ!” and “Atta Boy, Leo” as “America the Beautiful” begins to play. Fade to commercial.

Leo Morris, columnist for The Indiana Policy Review, is winner of the Hoosier Press Association’s award for Best Editorial Writer. Morris, as opinion editor of the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, was named a finalist in editorial writing by the Pulitzer Prize committee. Contact him at leoedits@yahoo.com

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 6, the 280th day of 2020. There are 86 days left in the year.

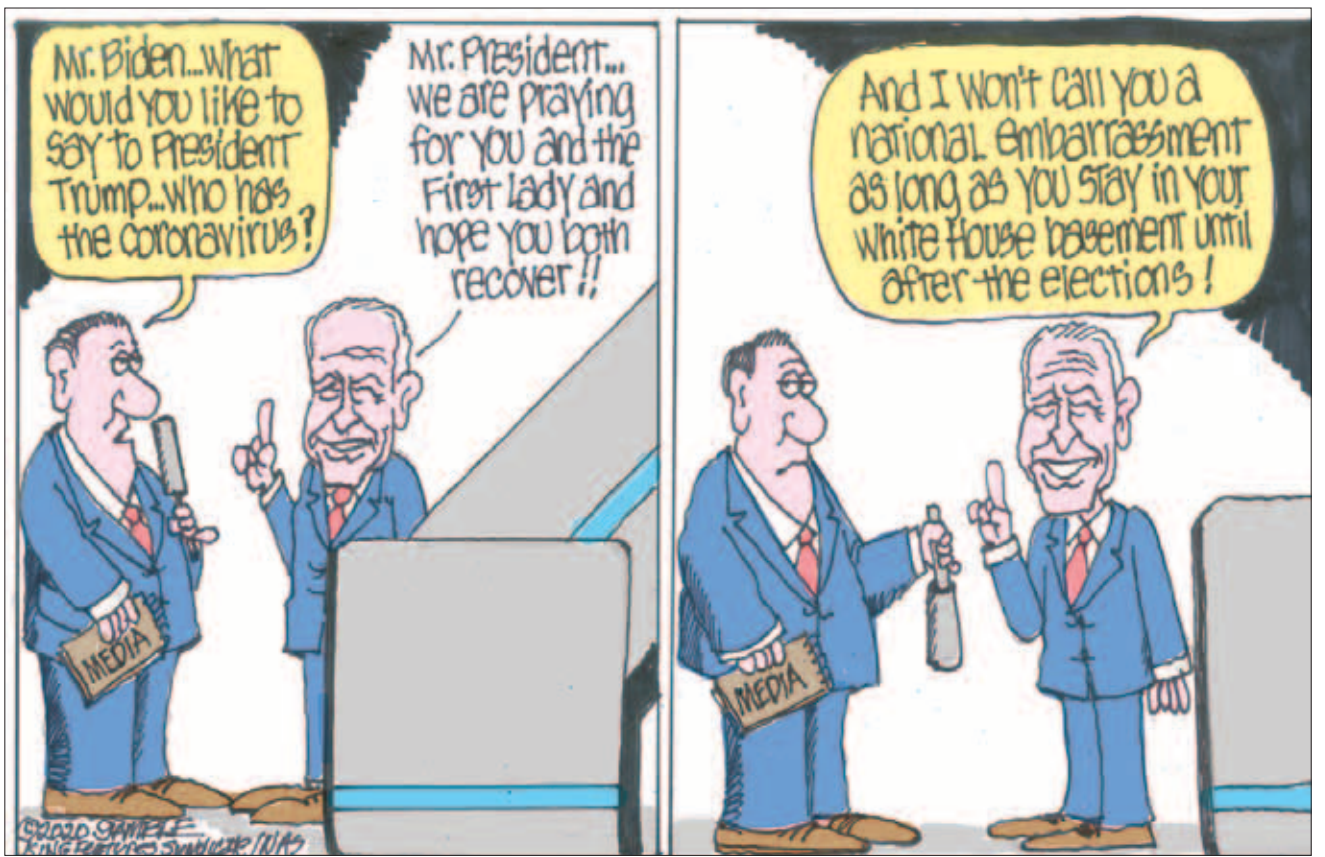
Today’s Highlight in History:

On Oct. 6, 1973, war erupted in the Middle East as Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel during the Yom Kippur holiday. (Israel, initially caught off guard, managed to push back the Arab forces before a cease-fire finally took hold in the nearly three-week conflict.)

On this date:

In 1939, in a speech to the Reichstag, German Chancellor Adolf Hitler spoke of his plans to reorder the ethnic layout of Europe — a plan which would entail settling the “Jewish problem.”

In 2014, the Supreme Court unexpectedly cleared the way for a dramatic expansion of gay marriage in the United States as it rejected appeals from five states seeking to preserve their bans, effectively making such marriages legal in 30 states.



Overstretched Leviathan and the pandemic

WASHINGTON — In August 1939, Albert Einstein wrote to President Franklin Roosevelt, warning that “a nuclear chain reaction in a large mass of uranium” probably could make possible “extremely powerful bombs of a new type” in “the immediate future.” When the government then asked some leading physicists what they needed, they requested \$6,000 worth of graphite. By 1944, investment in the Manhattan Project equaled investment in the prewar automobile industry. This was the swiftness of a serious government when facing danger.

In 1947, two days before Christmas, scientists at Bell Laboratories revealed the first working transistor. By 2018, there were 15 quintillion — 15,000,000,000,000,000,000 — transistors at work worldwide, more than all the leaves on all the world’s trees. This is from Simon Winchester’s “The Perfectionists: How Precision Engineers Created the Modern World,” as is this: “In 2015, the four major chip-making firms were making 14 trillion transistors every single second.” This is the speed of modern change.

“There are,” Lenin supposedly said, “decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks when decades happen.” John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge cite this in their new book “The Wake-Up Call: Why the Pandemic Has Exposed the Weakness of the West, and How to Fix It.” Such is the speed of COVID-19, in eight months it has reversed a decade of global gains against poverty. In the United States, it has produced the worst monthly unemployment figures since the Great Depression, and in Britain probably the steepest annual decline in output since 1706. Such social carnage has been abetted by inadequate governmental planning before, and responses during, the pandemic. This has been especially so in the United States and Britain, “when compared,” the authors say, “with countries in Asia.”

They date the beginning of the decline of Western governance to the 1960s, when confidence in government, including government’s high regard for itself, peaked. Since then, government has grown bigger and more sluggish — sprawling and unfocused. In 1914, wrote historian A.J.P. Taylor, law-abiding Britons could pass through life hardly noticing the state, “beyond the post office and the policeman.”

Micklethwait and Wooldridge, both British, say: “By the mid-1970s a Briton couldn’t move without bumping into the state. Leviathan was promising to deliver fairness, equality, happiness, the end of racism, and free opera for the masses. Almost half of Britain’s national income was devoted to public spending and

nearly a third of the labor force worked in the public sector. There were so many benefits that the Department of Health and Social Security produced a leaflet that listed all the other leaflets.”

The British state’s most impressive achievement, however, was its resistance to reduction: In 11 years, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher managed to reduce social spending from 22.9 percent of GDP to 22.2 percent.

As the private sector sprinted to new heights in many countries, Micklethwait and Wooldridge note, “the idea of a brash businessman who could fix everything became more attractive.” Hence four-time Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, and Ross Perot in the 1992 U.S. election, and then someone else.

Perhaps the largest lesson of the pandemic is that where the lumbering “overstretched state” (the authors’ phrase) has, by overpromising and underperforming, forfeited citizens’ confidence, COVID-19 has surged. Where there has been a shortage of goodwill toward government, there has been insufficient voluntary cooperation with public health protocols (e.g., social distancing, wearing masks).

“Most populist leaders,” write Micklethwait and Wooldridge, “rely on instinct rather than planning, and bluster rather than project management, none more so than (Donald) Trump. As the virus struck, Trump was on his fourth chief of staff, his fourth national security adviser, and his fifth secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, with both the DHS secretary and his top deputy serving in an ‘acting’ capacity; there were also 70 unfilled positions at the DHS.”

The authors note that many governments have had two recent growth spurts, of security powers after 9/11 and of economic powers after the 2008 financial crisis. Many governments have been trying to do so many things of peripheral importance, they have insufficient resources, not least of attention, for the urgent.

To the discomfort of some conservatives, the authors advocate strong government. However, they also argue, to the discomfort of some progressives, that large size is no guarantee of government strength; indeed, it is often a correlate of weakness. This correlation should be considered when President Joe Biden assembles a commission, comparable to the one that examined how 9/11 happened, to analyze how the pandemic struck a nation so unprepared, and how it erupted into such an unnecessarily enormous event.

georgewill@washpost.com

The pope’s unexpected election message

WASHINGTON — We have become accustomed to interventions in U.S. political campaigns from religious leaders — including Catholic bishops and White evangelical preachers — who wholeheartedly recommend support for conservative political figures who oppose abortion and same-sex marriage.

We are not accustomed to a hearing from a pope, a month before Election Day, who criticizes “myopic, extremist, resentful and aggressive nationalism,” and castigates those who, through their actions, cast immigrants as “less worthy, less important, less human.”

Nor is it in our political playbook that a pope would call out an “every man for himself” worldview that “will rapidly degenerate into a free-for-all that would prove worse than any pandemic.”

Or say this: “The marketplace, by itself, cannot resolve every problem, however much we are asked to believe this dogma of neoliberal faith. Whatever the challenge, this impoverished and repetitive school of thought always offers the same recipes ... the magic theories of ‘spillover’ or ‘trickle’ — without using the name.”

These are all Pope Francis’ words from his encyclical letter released Sunday, “Fratelli Tutti.” It translates literally “Brothers All,” words drawn from St. Francis of Assisi, although Francis was quick, in his first sentence, to address “brothers and sisters.” His purpose was to advance a worldview that stresses, as he put it, “the communitarian dimension of life” and values “fraternity and social friendship.”

There is, it should be said, no evidence that the pope is trying to influence the contest between President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden. On the contrary, Francis has been making arguments along these lines from the beginning of his papacy and he has shown far more interest in the developing world than in the United States.

And lest anyone see his pronouncements as those of a “leftist” pope, he went out of his way to link his views on social justice and his opposition to the death penalty to those of Benedict XVI and John Paul II, his predecessors who are seen as more conservative figures.

Nonetheless, it will be hard for Americans, Catholic and otherwise, to read Francis outside the context of a presidential campaign in its decisive phase. The themes of his encyclical — a form of papal communication more formally authoritative than a sermon or a speech — will make it much harder for conservative and right-wing Catholics to insist that the only orthodox vote is for Trump.

Francis’ emphasis throughout was on denunciations of “empty individualism,” a “narrow and violent nationalism, xenophobia and contempt, and even the mistreatment

of those who are different,” and “a cool, comfortable and globalized indifference.”

As has been customary for him, the pope reiterated the church’s teaching against abortion — a word that does not appear directly in the document — but did so while discussing other social problems. For example, he cited his earlier condemnations of “a ‘throwaway’ world” that lacks respect for the “poor and disabled, ‘not yet useful’ — like the unborn — or ‘no longer needed’ — like the elderly.” And he denounced human trafficking as a “perversion that exceeds all limits when it subjugates women and then forces them to abort.”

At the same time, reflecting his effort to strengthen church teaching against capital punishment, Francis included 12 references to the death penalty, which he called “inadequate from a moral standpoint and no longer necessary from that of penal justice.”

Francis stressed that the COVID-19 pandemic “unexpectedly erupted” as he was writing, but he used it to advance his radical critique of a world unable “to resolve problems that affect us all.”

“Anyone who thinks that the only lesson to be learned was the need to improve what we were already doing, or to refine existing systems and regulations, is denying reality,” he wrote. “God willing, after all this, we will think no longer in terms of ‘them’ and ‘those’, but only ‘us’ ... If only we might keep in mind all those elderly persons who died for lack of respirators, partly as a result of the dismantling, year after year, of healthcare systems.”

The document read as if Francis had been an attentive viewer of Tuesday’s nasty, chaotic and petty debate. Again, it was hard not to think of the president as Francis described “a strategy of ridicule, suspicion and relentless criticism.”

“Political life no longer has to do with healthy debates about long-term plans to improve people’s lives and to advance the common good, but only with slick marketing techniques primarily aimed at discrediting others,” he wrote. “In this craven exchange of charges and countercharges, debate degenerates into a permanent state of disagreement and confrontation.”

Many Americans will no doubt resist seeing Francis’ political observations as infallible. But as a reminder of how far our politics have swung away from promoting the common good, this document is indispensable.

E.J. Dionne is on Twitter: @EJDionne.



George Will



E.J. Dionne

THE NEWS-BANNER (USPS 059-200) Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929 Telephone George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board Fax Number Doug Brown, President, Publisher Number 260-824-0224 Mark Miller, Vice-President, Opinion Page Editor 260-824-0700 Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN. Published every day except Sundays and Principal Holidays at 125 N. Johnson Street, Bluffton, IN. 46714, Post Office Box 436.

Wreath-fest

If you'd like to be a part of the CAC's Festival of Wreaths, here's how

Registration is now open for the annual Festival of Wreaths to be held at the Balentine Gallery at the Arts Commerce & Visitors Centre from Nov. 20 to Jan. 4.

Deadline to register is Nov. 2. The provided wreaths to decorate may be picked up at the Creative Arts Council office any weekday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. (Participants must use the artificial 30 inch in diameter wreath provided by Creative Arts.)



No lights of any kind are permitted and no political or controversial themes will be exhibited. If decorations exceed the size of the wreath, that must be noted on the entry.

Decorated wreaths will be accepted Wednesday, Nov. 11, through Friday, Nov. 13.

Registration may be done by email or in person at the Arts Council office.

For more information about participating in the Festival of Wreaths, call 824-5222.

Area Events Roundup

Wells County Historical Society to meet Oct. 12

The fall meeting of the Wells County Historical Society will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12, in the museum's annex.

In addition to regular reports their will be an election of officers and board members.

Jim Sturgeon will present a program on the "Unsolved Murders in Wells County."

5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18.

All items on sale are to have been grown locally or made by hand with local bakers, crafters and artisans offering their items.

More info about the event at www.fortwayneparks.org

Cabaret series will open at FW's Embassy Theatre

A Cabaret Series will be presented at Fort Wayne's Embassy Theatre by the Three Rivers Music Theatre beginning with "Ladies Night" at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17.

Next in the lineup will be "At the Movies: Songs of the Silver Screen" on Saturday, Jan. 23, and third in the series will be "A Pride Cabaret" on Friday, June 18.

Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for students with virtual tickets available as well. Flex passes are available for \$75 (through Oct. 17). Patrons will need to wear masks to enter the theater.

For more information about the Three Rivers Musical Theatre check out <https://www.threeriversmusicaltheatre.com/>

'Falling for Art' studio tours will be held Saturday

A Falling For Art tour will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10 with area artists' studios open for visiting.

Masks are required with social distancing being observed as five studios will be open. The tour was organized by Joseph Pelka. His studio is located at 14529 Lima Road and will feature clay art and acrylic paintings.

Other studios will include:

- Fred and Rhonda Inman with guest artist Shelly Bice, at 9695 North County Line Road West, Churubusco, wood art.
- Kristy Jo Beber, 9719 Hosler Road, Leo-Cedarville, stoneware pottery.
- William Steffen, 12724 North County Line Road East, Spencerville, wood art.
- Lisa Vetter and Paul Siefert, The Ant Farm, 17612 North County Line Road East, jewelry and mixed media functional art.

Plywood art on exhibit at Wunderkammer in FW

Now on exhibit at the Wunderkammer Company on Fairfield Avenue in Fort Wayne are the painted plywood panels that were used to board up downtown windows after the summer demonstrations.

Almost 90 artists were involved in painting the panels over June 5 and 6. Over the summer, the panels were taken down and collected for the current show. The show will run through Nov. 15, and is open by appointment only.

To set up a viewing email dan@wunderkammercompany.com. Wunderkammer is at 3402 Fairfield Avenue in Fort Wayne.

Art this Way is a program of the Fort Wayne Downtown Economic Improvement District. It has championed 14 projects within the 99 block downtown Fort Wayne area. During this fall 5 more projects will be installed.

Markle News

BIRTHDAY

Celebrating my birthday has been something special. I have received birthday presents for five days now. The last one was a special one sent from God. I found a real nice looking 2 1/2 foot snake out on my back porch. I had never seen one so large and pretty. It was asleep when I found it I think and it had brown and white stripes down its back with the brown stripe in the middle. I never saw one like it before.

Quietly I flagged my arms to get the attention of a fine young gentleman that was trimming grass around the edges of this big and gorgeous yard that they have here at these estates. This young gentleman came running and I showed him this big snake. He looked at it and said it is alive because it moved its head. He quickly ran around my building and brought back another young gentleman that was riding a



by Donna Brown

huge lawn mower around to see my little friend.

This young gentleman was not afraid to pick up the snake and he did and held it in both hands one at the head and one clear down at the tail. He spread his arms apart to show us how long this descendent from Noah's Ark actually was.

These young, good looking gentlemen's names I think were Jona and Caleb. I think it was Caleb that had the nerve to pick up the descendant from Noah's Ark. I told him to please

take it away and not to bring it back. I actually don't know what he did with it but I guess he didn't kill it because of its size and its beauty.

I want to place a special thank you in my column for these two gentlemen who actually saved my life because I was on my porch to water all of my plants and I couldn't with such a character on my porch sleeping and I didn't know just when he was going to wake up.

This birthday was a very special day. In fact, a birthday that I will never forget especially since God even sent me a visitor to help me celebrate it.

Thanks everyone for my cards, flowers and plants that I received.

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Norwell's 2020 yearbook now available for pickup at school

Norwell High School students who graduated last year may pick up their 2020 Accolade yearbooks in the main office.

A parent, guardian, or sibling may also sign for and pick up their child's book.

A limited supply of extra 2020 yearbooks is available at a price of \$69 each.

The distribution began Wednesday, Sept. 30.

The 2021 Accolade, which is now in production, is on sale for \$60. It can be purchased online at bit.do/norwellyearbook

'Fill the seats' fundraiser for Warren's Pulse

Warren's Pulse Opera House has announced a Fill the Seats! fundraising event for the theater.

Pulse supporters may purchase personalized seat back covers to be placed on the theater's seats. For a minimum donation of \$20 per seat, your name will be printed on a cover. Children, ages 12 and under, may have theirs added for \$10.

Organizers of the event explain that this is a unique way to support the Pulse "in these history-making crazy times."

Orders may be sent to The Pulse Opera House, P.O. Box 631, Warren, IN 46792 with checks made out to The Pulse Opera House. Clearly indicate how a name should appear on the seat cover.

Ball State art on display at Portland's Arts Place

The current exhibit at the Roland Gallery at Portland's Arts Place is "Students and Mentor," highlighting art by Ball State University painting students and their professors.

The exhibit will continue through Oct. 30 and features diverse painting styles. Professors having work in the exhibit are Audrey Barcio, David Hannon and Scott Anderson.

The exhibit is free to view with the hours being 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday. More information at artsland.org

'Turtle travels' touring show at Science Central

A traveling exhibit showcasing the experience of turtle migration will be featured at Fort Wayne's Science Central through Jan. 3.

Visitors will learn all about turtles and the importance of protecting them. Turtle Travels was created by the Environmental Exhibit Collaborative.

Hours are Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

To learn more about the exhibit go to <https://sciencecentral.org/visit-us/exhibits/current-touring-exhibitions.html>.

Handmade, homemade sale at Salomon farm

Admission and parking are free to the Handmade, Homemade Sale to be held at the Wolf Family Learning Center at Salomon Farm Park in Fort Wayne from noon to

Retailers push early yule shopping

By JOSEPH PISANI
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon is aiming to kick-start the holiday shopping season early this year.

The company is holding its annual Prime Day over two days in October this year, after the pandemic forced it to postpone the sales event from July. It's the first time Prime Day is being held in the fall, and Amazon is positioning it as a way to get people to start their holiday shopping.

Major retailers have said they plan to push shoppers to start their holiday shopping in October and offer deals earlier, hoping to avoid

crowds in their stores in November and December.

Prime Day, which will be Oct. 13 and Oct. 14 this year, is sure to put pressure on rivals to offer deals around the same time. In past years, Walmart, Best Buy and Target have offered their own online discounts during Prime Day. Target has already announced it was also holding a two-day sale event on Oct. 13 and 14.

Amazon started the sales event in 2015 as its answer to Singles' Day, a shopping holiday in China popularized by Chinese ecommerce company Alibaba. Prime Day has become one of Amazon's biggest shopping

days. Amazon also sees it as a way to get more people to sign up for its Prime membership, since only those paying \$12.99 a month or \$119 a year can access the deals.

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NHS boys' soccer loses sectional match to Leo

By **JOSH BURRIS**
WOODBURN — Norwell's boys' soccer team fell 2-0 in a sectional match to Leo on Monday at Woodlan, ending its season.

After a scoreless first half, Leo was able to break Norwell's defense twice in less than three minutes early in the second half. First, Parker Bonin beat Norwell goalkeeper Jacob Klitz for the first goal. Then shortly after, Semih Kose provided Leo with some insurance to make it a 2-0 game. Both goals were assisted by Alec McKinney.

Leo defeated Norwell 4-0 during the regular season, scoring all four of its goals in the first half. Norwell coach Jamie Feldheiser said he was pleased with the defensive pressure they brought in the first half.

"We saw in the first half that when we do pressure them, we force mistakes. They were getting frustrated with themselves," Feldheiser said. "We didn't

change anything at halftime. The message was about finetuning some of our own passes and cleaning that up so we could sustain more of an attack. But we did have a couple breakdowns and they capitalized, and that's what good teams are going to do."

Norwell changed its formation with 10 minutes remaining, bumping Joshua Scott from the defensive line to the midfield. The move did lead to better offensive play and spread things out more for Norwell, but still did not result in any points. Robert Meyer was able to get a shot off late, but Leo goalkeeper Jaden Moreland came up with a save to preserve the shutout. It was his second of the night. Klitz ended his night with five saves.

Leo, who has now defeated Norwell three straight years in sectional play, will move on to face Bishop Luers in the semifinal round.

Norwell ended its season with a 10-6-1 overall record. It was the second straight season Norwell had won at least 10 matches, something the program had not accomplished since 2004-2006 when it did it three straight years.

Feldheiser said he is happy with the direction the program is headed.

"We have a lot of talented players that are playing together as a team. They bought into defense first," he said. "We didn't have the offensive success like we did last year scoring 48 goals, but at the same time we conceded fewer goals than we did last year, and won a lot of one-goal games. We have that confidence in tight situations to pull through, so I'm proud with how we are mentally. In the offseason, we just got to keep developing more ball skills, dribbling, passing, and positioning better too."

sports@news-banner.com



Norwell's Daniel Simerman (left) runs in to defend Leo's So Die in the second half of Monday night's sectional match at Woodlan. (Photo by Josh Burris)

High School Calendar

TUESDAY, Oct. 6

GIRLS SOCCER: IHSAA Sectional at Norwell, New Haven vs. Norwell, 6 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: East Noble at Norwell, 7:30 p.m. (JV, Freshman 6 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 7

VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton at North Side, 7:30 p.m. (JV 6 p.m.)

THURSDAY, Oct. 8

VOLLEYBALL: Huntington North at Norwell, 7:30 p.m. (JV, Freshman 6 p.m.); Southern Wells at Adams Central, 7:30 p.m. (JV 6 p.m.)

FRIDAY, Oct. 9

FOOTBALL: Bluffton at Adams Central, 7 p.m.; Norwell at Huntington North, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, Oct. 10

CROSS COUNTRY: IHSAA Sectional at Belmont, Bluffton and Norwell, 10:30 a.m.; IHSAA Sectional at Marion, Southern Wells, 10:30 a.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Norwell, Southern Wells at Maconaquah Invitational, 9 a.m.

SUNDAY, Oct. 11

No games scheduled

Texans fire head coach Bill O'Brien

By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans had faith that coach Bill O'Brien was the man to lead them to their first championship.

So much faith in fact that they made the unusual move of making him the team's general manager this off-season, too.

But O'Brien didn't perform well in either role, leading to his firing on Monday.

He was let go a day after Sunday's 31-23 loss to the Vikings dropped the Texans to 0-4 for the first time since 2008.

"In this business, it's a bottom-line business and we weren't able to get it to where we needed to get it," O'Brien said.

After becoming the general manager, O'Brien received almost universal criticism when he shipped superstar receiver DeAndre Hopkins to Arizona for running back David Johnson and draft picks.

O'Brien was in his seventh season in Houston where he compiled a 52-48 record. He won the AFC South four times in his tenure, including the past two years.



Norwell's Nicole Hiday (right) spikes the ball while Bluffton's Lauren Reiff (left) and Lauren Stout (middle) jump up to defend. (Photo by Greenbear Photography)

Bluffton volleyball tops Norwell

Bluffton's volleyball team defeated Norwell 3-1 in a Wells County clash at The Tiger Den on Monday night.

Bluffton (12-16, 2-4) won the first set 25-23, the third set 25-16, and the fourth set 25-22. Norwell (5-20, 0-5) won the second set 25-20.

Emilee Irwin led Bluffton in aces with five and in digs with 23. Lauren Stout led in kills with 10. Abby Clines and Abbey Nusbaumer led in stuff blocks with four each. Clines also led in assists with 26.

On the Norwell side, Nicole Hiday and Arianna Blinn led in kills with seven each and in blocks with

two each. Mackenzie Toliver led in digs with 12. Raygan Williams led in aces with four. Amarea Chandler led in assists with 14.

Norwell won the JV match 2-0.

Bluffton will play its final match of the regular season on Wednesday at North Side. Norwell will host East Noble on Tuesday.

Forfeits possible for NFL virus protocol violations

By **TERESA M. WALKER** and **BARRY WILNER**
AP Pro Football Writers

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell is warning the league's 32 teams of penalties including potential forfeits of games for violations of COVID-19 protocols that force changes in the schedule.

In a memo sent to the teams Monday after a conference call involving NFL and club executives, Goodell reiterated the need to adhere fully to all of the league's health and safety guidelines.

"Protocol violations that result in virus spread requiring adjustments to the schedule or otherwise impacting other teams will result in additional financial and competitive discipline, including the adjustment or loss of draft choices or

even the forfeit of a game," Goodell wrote in the memo obtained by The Associated Press.

"Simply put, compliance is mandatory. Now is the time to recommit ourselves to our protocols and best practices for the duration of the season."

The NFL was forced to reschedule Sunday's game between the Steelers and Titans when Tennessee had the league's first coronavirus outbreak, which has affected 20 organization members, including 10 players.

That game was moved to Week 7, causing adjustments that also impacted the Baltimore Ravens.

And New England's game at Kansas City was moved from Sunday to Monday night after Patriots quarterback Cam Newton tested positive for COVID-

19, as did a Chiefs practice squad player.

Goodell noted that violators of the protocols have been disciplined. Several coaches have been fined \$100,000 each and their clubs fined \$250,000 for improper use of face coverings, the Las Vegas Raiders were fined \$50,000 for allowing an unauthorized team employee into the locker room following a game and on Monday the Raiders had 10 players docked a total of \$175,000 for appearing at a function where face coverings were not used, nor was social distancing.

"Complacency is our shared opponent," Goodell

wrote.

"The consequences of rescheduling or even missing games are obvious. Our fans will be deprived of games. Competitive inequities will be introduced into our season. Players will not be paid for games not played and clubs will similarly suffer financial consequences."

The league and the players' association are instituting ramped up health and safety procedures in the wake of the Titans' outbreak, including:

- A longer onboarding process for free agent tryouts;

- Bans on gatherings outside of the club facility;

- Limitations on the number of tryouts permitted per week;

- Implementation of a league-wide video monitoring system to ensure compliance with the protocols — "particularly the mandate that all staff and players wear PPE while in a club facility and on travel at all times."

The league also is considering holding all meetings virtually; requiring masks or shields during practices and walk-throughs; decreasing the size of the traveling party to games; reducing the time spent in lunchrooms and locker rooms; and daily consulting of proximity tracking device information

now in use to identify areas where teams could eliminate close contacts.

"As we have said before," Goodell wrote, "act as if every person you come in contact with has a COVID infection and take appropriate precautions."

The Titans' outbreak reached 20 cases on Sunday, the team's sixth straight day of at least one positive, with 18 returned since Tuesday. But Tennessee got no positives back Monday morning, a person with direct knowledge of the test results said, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity because neither the NFL nor the Titans announced the latest results.

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SPORTS

Epstein expects to remain with Cubs

By ANDREW SELIGMAN AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Theo Epstein appears to be gearing up for one more go-round as the Chicago Cubs' president of baseball operations. Epstein said Monday his expectation is the "status quo" when it comes to the team's leadership and he anticipates remaining on the job for at least one more season, with his contract set to expire in 2021. "I'm a Cub," Epstein said during an hourlong conference call. "I think the status quo right now is the most likely outcome." Epstein's future figures to be a big point of discussion when he meets with chairman Tom Ricketts. He has said repeatedly he thinks executives have about a 10-year shelf life in a job. Next year will mark a decade for Epstein with the Cubs, and a contract extension seems like a long shot. "For me, as an individual, I think there's benefit to change after a significant amount of time on the job, I guess at about a decade," Epstein said. "I have to keep that in mind without making any definitive statements. We will be definitive. We will have a transition plan. We will have a structure moving forward. It's just we can't figure that out with you guys, we haven't gone through that process." Epstein has transformed the long-suffering Cubs. They've reached the NLCS three times in his nine seasons and won a World Series championship in 2016, ending a drought dating to 1908. This year, the won the NL Central at 34-26 under rookie manager

David Ross. But they got swept by Miami in their wild-card series, scoring one run over two games. They haven't advanced in the postseason since 2017. And that 10-year mark is approaching for Epstein. "I'm not going to run away from those feelings," he said. "But I also am as invested in the Chicago Cubs as our leader in baseball operations today as I was at any point in the last nine years. I woke up this morning thinking about how we can improve for next year, position ourselves for long-term success. But given the things I'm on record with about the benefits of change at a certain point, it just means that you have to be smart in discussing the timing and nature of the transition because it's inevitable at some point." General manager Jed Hoyer is the most obvious successor for Epstein. The two worked together in Boston when the Red Sox won the World Series in 2004 and 2007 and reunited when Epstein took the job in Chicago in October 2011. In between, Hoyer led San Diego's baseball operations. "We've only had general discussions about the potential transition, whenever that may be — nothing specific," Epstein said. "Obviously, now's the time to be thoughtful about it. You do have to start getting more specific and making some more decisions. Jed is someone who's been a huge part of the success here at the Cubs and at the Red Sox before that." Epstein didn't rule out big changes to the roster this offseason. The Cubs ranked among the worst in the majors

with a .220 average. Kris Bryant (.206, four homers, 11 RBIs), Javier Báez (.203, 8, 24), Anthony Rizzo (.222, 11, 24), Willson Contreras (.243, 7, 26) and Kyle Schwarber (.188, 11, 24) all struggled. The Cubs have an option on Rizzo, while Bryant, Báez and Schwarber are entering the final year of their contracts. "Clearly, some change is warranted and necessary," Epstein said. "We've not performed up to our expectations offensively, especially at the most important times of year, and simply hoping for a better outcome moving forward doesn't seem like a thoughtful approach." It's also possible Jon Lester has pitched his final game for Chicago. At 36, he posted a career-worst 5.16 ERA. The team holds a \$25 million option with a \$10 million buyout on the five-time All-Star, who signed a six-year, \$155 million deal before the 2015 season. "Whether he leaves or stays, this is an appropriate time just to acknowledge the profound impact that he had on our organization," said Epstein, who plans to speak with Lester over the next few days. "It's rare when someone joins an organization with some clear goals in mind to win a World Series, to change a culture, to show up in October just about every year and pitch really well in big games, be a great teammate, to be someone our organization can be proud of, to make an impact on his teammates and in his community, and accomplish all those goals in such an admirable manner."

Rodgers, Tonyan help Packers beat Falcons

By STEVE MEGARGEE AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Aaron Rodgers connected with tight end Robert Tonyan on three of his four touchdown passes and the Green Bay Packers remained unbeaten with a 30-16 victory over the winless Atlanta Falcons on Monday night. The Packers (4-0) opened a season by scoring at least 30 points in four straight games for the first time in franchise history. Todd Gurley's two touchdown runs couldn't stop the Falcons from their first 0-4 start since 1999, when they followed a Super Bowl season by going 5-11. Green Bay was missing its top two receivers. Davante Adams sat out a second straight game with a hamstring injury and Allen Lazard had gone on injured reserve with a core problem.

Yet that didn't slow down Rodgers, who capitalized on Atlanta's depleted secondary and helped Tonyan deliver the most productive performance of his young career. Tonyan had touchdown receptions of 19 and 8 yards to cap the Packers' final two first-half possessions. He added a 21-yard touchdown reception midway through the third quarter. The 2017 undrafted free agent from Indiana State finished the night with six catches for 98 yards along with his three touchdowns to set career highs in all three categories. Tonyan, who entered this season with two career touchdowns, has reached the end zone five times over his last three games. Rodgers went 27 of 33 for 327 yards. He has thrown 13 touchdown passes without an interception this season.

After blowing two-touchdown leads in the fourth quarter each of the last two weeks, the Falcons (0-4) never were ahead in this one. Green Bay took the lead for good when Rodgers threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to a wide-open Aaron Jones on the game's opening series. Atlanta already was playing without safeties Ricardo Allen (elbow) and Keanu Neal (hamstring) as well as cornerback A.J. Terrell (COVID-19 reserve). That beleaguered secondary took more hits when safety Damontae Kazee got carted off the field and safety Jaylenn Hawkins left with a concussion in the second quarter. UP NEXT The Falcons host Carolina on Sunday. The Packers have an off week before visiting Tampa Bay on Oct. 18.

NEWS-BANNER SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

NFL table with columns: All Times EDT, AMERICAN CONFERENCE, East, West, South, North, National Conference. Rows include Buffalo, New England, Miami, N.Y. Jets, Tennessee, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Houston, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Denver, L.A. Chargers.

NCAA

NCAA table with columns: AP Top 25, Record, Pts, Pvs. Rows include Clemson (52), Alabama (8), Georgia, Florida, Notre Dame, Ohio St. (2), Miami, North Carolina, Penn St., Oklahoma St., Cincinnati, Oregon, Auburn, Tennessee, BYU, Wisconsin, LSU, SMU, Virginia Tech, Michigan, Texas A&M, Texas, Louisiana-Lafayette (3-0), Iowa St., Minnesota.

TRANSACTIONS

TRANSACTIONS table with columns: Monday BASEBALL, Major League Baseball American League, National League. Rows include Houston Astros, New York Yankees, Oakland Athletics, Tampa Bay Rays, Atlanta Falcons, Carolina Panthers, Cleveland Browns, Chicago Bears, Cincinnati Bengals, Houston Texans, Jacksonville Jaguars, Miami Dolphins, New England Patriots, New York Giants, New York Jets, Philadelphia Eagles, Arizona Coyotes, Major League Soccer, Columbus Crew SC, Kansas State, College.

BASKETBALL

BASKETBALL table with columns: All Times EDT, NBA FINALS (Best-of-7), x-if necessary. Rows include L.A. Lakers 2, Miami 1, Wednesday, Sept. 30: L.A. Lakers 116, Miami 98, Friday, Oct. 2: L.A. Lakers 124, Miami 114, Sunday, Oct. 4: Miami 115, L.A. Lakers 104, Tuesday, Oct. 6: L.A. Lakers vs. Miami, 9 p.m., Friday, Oct. 9: Miami vs. L.A. Lakers, 9 p.m., x-Sunday, Oct. 11: L.A. Lakers vs. Miami, 7:30 p.m., x-Tuesday, Oct. 13: Miami vs. L.A. Lakers, 9 p.m.

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Public Sale Calendar

OCTOBER 6 - 6 p.m. - Nancy Confer, owner. 708 N. Metts St., Ossian. 1,008 SF ranch home featuring 3 bedrooms, 1 full bathroom, and 2 car attached garage! **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, www.kjauction.com.

OCTOBER 10 - 10 a.m. - Oscar Lopez, seller. 4438 East 100 North, Bluffton. Real estate includes a 1,975 SF, 4 bedroom/2 bath farm home on 4 acres additional improvements include a two car detached garage and bank barn. Personal property includes: outstanding 1948 Chrysler Windsor 4-door sedan, Bad Boy zero turn mower, John Deere Gator, small engine parts, tools, Oregon chain sharpener, household, modern furniture. Sale Manager: Brandon Steffen. **Steffen Group**, www.steffengrp.com, 260-426-0633.

OCTOBER 13 - 6 p.m. - Hart Family Farm, seller. Montpelier Civic Center, 339 S. Main St., Montpelier. Farm: 7326 N. 300 E., Montpelier. 90+/- acres, Blackford County, Harrison Township, Section 6. Farm offered in 3 Tracts and in Combination. Tract 1: Approximately 24+/- acres w/approximately 18+/- acres tillable, 40'x60' pole building. Tract 2: Approximately 43.5+/- acres w/approximately 39+/- acres tillable. Tract 3: 22.5+/- acres of wooded land (swing tract). Sale Managers: Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684 or Pat Carter, 260-273-8294. **Steffen Group**, 260-426-0633, www.steffengrp.com.

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Help Wanted

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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★

10/06

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WELLS COUNTY 4-H

Association hiring. The Wells County 4-H Association is accepting applications for both the Marketing Director and Caretaker positions. You can find the job descriptions and the application at www.extension.purdue.edu/wells, or you can stop by the Purdue Extension Office to pick up an application at 1240 4-H Park Road, Bluffton, IN. For more information, please call 260-820-0461.

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Daily Three-Midday — 9-2-8, SB: 3
Daily Three-Evening — 4-1-4, SB: 5
Daily Four-Midday — 4-4-7-0, SB: 6
Daily Four-Evening — 8-8-9-3, SB: 5
Quick Draw Evening — 01-10-13-15-23-25-29-36-40-44-48-49-50-57-58-59-60-62-78-79, BE: 48
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$3.9 million
MEGA MILLIONS
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POWERBALL
Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$52 million

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

All About Health

Helping men open up about their health struggles

Q I'm worried about my husband -- he's getting more and more grumpy and unhappy the longer this coronavirus mess goes on. What can I do to help? -- **Ginger R., Cleveland**

A That's a major issue for many guys and one that the Cleveland Clinic, right in your backyard, has been looking at. Their National MENTION campaign (started originally because the docs noticed how hard it is for guys to talk about their physical and mental challenges) has turned its attention recently to how COVID-19 has affected men's outlook on health and how they're coping with all the changes in daily life.

An online survey of around 1,000 adult males found 77% say the pandemic has increased their stress level and 45% say their emotional/mental health has declined. In addition, half of the men have put off seeing a doctor over the past few months, while at the same time 40% say they're struggling to stay healthy and 24% report weight gain.

The MENTION campaign suggests you can help your husband open up about how he is feeling -- and get the medical attention he may need -- with the following techniques.

- Make it easier for your husband to see and talk with his doctor about health issues. Schedule virtual visits; ask the doctor for appointments outside of work hours; and find local health-screening opportunities such as the Clinics "express care online." Check with your local medical centers to see what's available.

- Suggest talk therapy online. If it helped super-athlete Michael Phelps, it may be worth a try.

- Encourage opening up by asking questions -- one at a time -- about how he's feeling and what he's thinking. As the Clinic's Dr. Eric Klein, chairman of Cleveland Clinic's Glickman Urological & Kidney Institute, says, "It's time to get rid of the stigma that a man isn't allowed to show weakness by admitting something might be wrong -- it could save his life."

Q Why do you always hear that it is better to eat protein than carbohydrates after you exercise? -- **Geraldo F., Miami**

A The advice about eating protein after you workout -- either doing aerobics or strength training -- focuses on maximizing muscle synthesis while it ignores basic science about the virtues of healthy carbs post-workout.

Most folks want to help their body build muscle since increased muscle mass helps improve endurance, balance, and weight and glucose control, plus it helps you achieve a younger RealAge. Protein does that. However, eating unprocessed grains or other plant-based carbs after a prolonged workout (an hour or more) replenishes glycogen that your body uses for fuel and the carbs work with the proteins you eat to fire up muscle tissue repair. In short, it takes both carbs and protein to improve your overall muscle tone and health.

So when and what should you eat -- and drink? Experts advise eating carbs within 15 minutes to two hours of stopping your routine. Mango, watermelon and blueberries are particularly good glycogen-replenishing carbs, and their vitamin C aids in repair of muscle tissue. For effective muscle building, protein can be consumed within four hours after stopping your workout. Make sure it's lean, quality protein from low-mercury, non-fried fish and plants. You also want to rehydrate effectively. The American Council on Exercise suggests drinking 17 to 20 ounces of fluid two to three hours before exercising and eight ounces before you get started. Then don't get thirsty while exercising and have eight ounces of water 30 minutes after exercise.

Our basic post-workout nutrition plan includes foods that combine quality proteins and carbs: Try peanut butter on whole grain crackers or black beans with brown rice. Enjoy smoothies made with fruit and dark leafy greens, yogurt and pulpy fruit juices. And remember to avoid bars, foods and drinks loaded with added sugars -- they never do folks who've done moderate exercise (with occasional bouts of high intensity) any favors.

Mehmet Oz, M.D. is host of "The Dr. Oz Show," and Mike Roizen, M.D. is Chief Wellness Officer and Chair of Wellness Institute at Cleveland Clinic. Email your health and wellness questions to Dr. Oz and Dr. Roizen at youdocsdaily(at)sign)sharecare.com. (c) 2017 Michael Roizen, M.D. and Mehmet Oz, M.D. Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.



Donation for scholarships

Clean Fuels was a platinum sponsor for this year's scholarship golf outing for the local Elks Lodge 796. More than \$10,000 was raised during the event Sept. 12 at Timber Ridge Golf Course in Bluffton, which allows for numerous \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded. Pictured are, from left, Rowdy Yates of the lodge and Cassandra Crickard and Jon Baumgartner of Clean Fuels. (Photo submitted)

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