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BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

Man gets 8 years in crash that killed children's mother

By JESSICA BRICKER

Despite maintaining his testimony that he was not driving during a crash last October that killed his girlfriend while their two small children were in the vehicle, a Hartford City man was sentenced to eight years in prison Wednesday.

Joshua Billman, 31, was found guilty by a jury last month of reckless homicide and neglect of a dependent resulting in bodily injury, both Level 5

felonies. On Wednesday in Wells Circuit Court, he received four years on each count with the time to be served consecutively. Billman indicated he would appeal.

The sentence was the result of a three-hour hearing that started with numerous members of his family asking Judge Kent Kiracofe to be as lenient as possible. They described Billman as a hard worker who had good relationships with his children,

whom he hasn't seen since the crash. They were 3 and 6 at the time.

His family pleaded that Billman be allowed to have contact with his children again, noting both sides were suffering because of the no-contact order. They said the fatal crash was an accident, a mistake that he's learned from, and Billman needed an opportunity to move forward from it.

Billman had testified that Ashley Giordano was the driver at the time

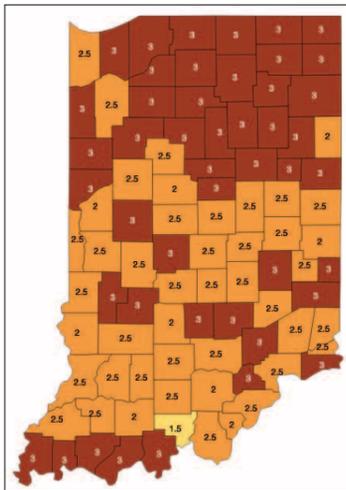
of the crash on Hoosier Highway near the 100W/500S split and he grabbed the steering wheel in an attempt to keep the vehicle from going off the road. However, evidence at the scene and testimony from one of his children who was riding in the backseat at the time implicated Billman as the driver and that he had driven off the road intentionally.

More than one of his family mem-

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Joshua Billman



On COVID-19 infections, our area sees 'red'

• Related stories, Pages 2 and 3
By JESSICA BRICKER

As predicted by health officials, COVID-19 positivity continues to rise in Indiana.

Nearly all of northern Indiana is "red" as of Wednesday's data from the state, including every county in the region with the exception of Adams County.

The state's figures show 107 residents have died from the virus. There have been 4,962 cases of 16,820 individuals tested.

The only yellow county in Indiana is Crawford County on the state's southern border along the Ohio River.

As of this week, 41.9 percent of Wells residents are fully vaccinated.

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'Paws and Claus' event held

The Bluffton City Gym was a flurry of canine (and human) activity during the Park and Recreation Department's "Paws and Claus" event Wednesday evening. The jolly old elf, however, was in the background for the early stages of the program. (Photo by Dave Schultz)

Timber Ridge residents get sewer project update

By DAVE SCHULTZ

Residents of the Timber Ridge area received an update Wednesday night on the status of the plans to put a sanitary sewer collection network in place.

Bluffton is extending its collection system to the neighborhood north-northwest of

the city. About 43 parcels of property — some having residences, some undeveloped — are included in the plans, and approximately 45 residents of the area were present at the Arts, Commerce, and Visitors Centre were present to be brought up to date.

Casey Erwin, project manager for the DLZ engineering firm, did most of the speaking, talking about proposed time-tables and about the temporary and permanent easements that will be needed.

He said the current plans are for the project to go out for bids early next year. In April, he said, it is likely that a construction company will receive a notice to proceed on the project.

He said the installation of sewer mains and laterals should take about eight to 12 months. About the end of 2022 or in early 2023, he said, property owners will be told to

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(Continued on Page 2)

A fine farewell: Overdue items get library's grace

By JESSICA BRICKER

The Wells County Public Library has updated a few policies regarding late fees and renting movies.

On Monday, the library's newsletter said patrons will no longer assess fines for most overdue items. Exceptions are pass-

es to visit area attractions (\$1 per day with a \$10 maximum fee), internet hotspots (\$5 per day, \$10 max), and inter-library loan items (25 cents a day, \$5 max).

The fine-free program includes books, music, magazines, movies, games and other equipment.

"This change applies to overdue fines only," the newsletter said. "Fees still exist for lost and damaged items ..."

Last month, the library announced it would no longer charge rental fees of 50 cents for patrons to check out movies.

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WCF grant boosts Alleyways project fundraising

An upcoming downtown Bluffton project has received funds from a state grant that has been more than three years in the making.

Last month, the Wells County Foundation board of directors unanimously approved devoting \$100,000 from the Lilly GIFT VII grant, and an additional \$25,000 from the foundation's unrestricted fund in support of the project.

"The foundation board recognizes a thriving downtown area is the heart of the community. The downtown Bluffton area is coming back to life and it will serve as a harbinger of larger social, economic, demographic and technological trends," said Foundation CEO Tammy Slater. "Through a large grant to the Parlor City Plaza, the purchase of Market Street Centre to house the Foundation office and now this \$125,000 grant to the downtown pathways project, the foundation is pleased to be a major partner in supporting the continued improvement of the downtown area."

Wednesday's announcement by Slater, the foundation board and representatives of Bluffton NOW is a long time coming. In October 2018, the Lilly Endowment announced GIFT VII initiative.

"GIFT VII provided a community foun-

datation board engagement grants component, recognizing that community foundation board engagement is a critical component in the ability of a community foundation to set its strategic course," according to a press release from Slater. "Board members play a key role in helping to guide the direction, assess the impact and grow the resources of a community foundation. They bring professional expertise, local knowledge and personal networks that can help to reinforce the work of the community foundation."

To encourage full board engagement, the endowment allocated \$9.2 million to award unrestricted grants to eligible community foundations with 100 percent financial support from its board members.

The endowment offered \$100,000 unrestricted grants to each community foundation that documented a cumulative contribution at a designated level during the period of Jan. 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

The foundation board successfully completed the challenge and received a \$100,000 grant from Lilly Endowment. Members of the Wells County Foundation board during that time were Tim Babcock, Barbara Barbieri, Trent Bucher, Ginny Fenstermaker, Amy Greiner, Alan Gunkel, Mitch Har-

(Continued on Page 2)



On Wednesday, the Wells County Foundation celebrated a \$125,000 grant to Bluffton NOW for the downtown pathways project. Pictured are, from left, Brad Johnson, foundation board treasurer; Jessica Bricker, foundation board member; John Stauffer, Bluffton NOW vice president; Brandy Fiechter of Bluffton NOW; Cory Mann of Bluffton NOW; Alan Gunkel, foundation board vice president; Janella Stronczek of Bluffton NOW; Mike Lautzenheiser, Bluffton NOW president; Nick Huffman of Bluffton NOW; Barbara Barbieri, past member of the foundation board; Conor Jackson of Bluffton NOW; and Sarah MacNeill, a foundation board member and a member of Bluffton NOW. (Photo by Doug Brown)

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Outside

Partly cloudy, with some warmer days ahead

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 45	High 54	High 51
Low 38	Low 46	Low 28

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Online

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Vol. 93 No. 33

THURSDAY
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Man gets 8 years

(Continued from Page 1)

bers testified Wednesday that they believe Billman is innocent of a crime.

Billman also testified during his hearing, saying he had reoccurring nightmares for months, from which he'd wake up looking for his kids and Giordano. He still doesn't believe she's gone, he said.

"You tell yourself she's busy," he said. "She's doing something else, that's why she's not there."

He said he would do anything child welfare officials wanted in order to visit his children, adding his punishment shouldn't result in him never seeing them again.

"It was nothing more than a car accident," Billman said.

Prosecutor Andy Carnall said the date of the crash will loom large in the lives of Billman's children because it was the date that their father took their mother's life in their presence. Billman's intentional criminal act led to her death, he said.

Furthermore, Carnall said it's speculative that the children are worse off by not seeing Billman during the past year because no one from Billman's family

has asked about them or attempted to see them in that time.

Billman's attorney Allison Sprunger said the trauma suffered that day by the family needs to be addressed now through the Indiana Department of Child Services, and the best way to do that is a lesser prison sentence for Billman so he can participate in that healing process.

Most of all, she said, she wants justice for the children who would face losing their father to prison after losing their mother as well.

Sprunger asked for a less-than advisory sentence of three years and the time from each count to be served concurrently.

Before handing down the sentence, Kiracofe said while he doesn't believe Billman woke up on Oct. 3, 2020, wanting to kill Giordano, the jury found that his actions caused her death. It may not have been intentional, but it wasn't an accident.

The two children will forever associate their father with the loss of their mother, he added.

"The trajectory of their lives

changed (that day)," Kiracofe said. "Period."

The judge also said he believed Billman's supporters misplaced the responsibility of imposing a lesser sentence onto the court; it was Billman's actions that separated him from his children.

Kiracofe did not suspend any portion of the sentence, noting Billman was not a candidate for probation because Billman's position is that he's not guilty and he has neither apologized nor shown remorse for his actions.

In June, Kiracofe rejected a guilty plea agreement that called for a concurrent sentence on the felonies with a maximum of three years on the reckless homicide charge.

At the end of Wednesday's hearing, when Billman indicated he would appeal the matter, he was found to be indigent and will be appointed a public defender to represent him during his appeal. He was, however, ordered to pay \$500 to the county for public defender fees.

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Timber Ridge

(Continued from Page 1)

connect to the collection system and to vacate their septic systems.

Erwin assured those in attendance that all would be made right on their properties after the sewer work is completed.

"Reconstruction is part of the proj-

ect," he said. "We will want to put it back to at least as good as it was." That means residents' driveways and lawns would be repaired.

The thoroughfares included in the plans are Wells County Road 250N, Fairway Lane, Ind. 116, and Timber-ridge Road.

The overall update section of the meeting took about 45 minutes. After that, representatives of DLZ and the city met with property owners to answer questions about easements that are necessary for the construction to be done.

daves@news-banner.com

WCF grant

(Continued from Page 1)

nish, Brad Johnson, Mike Kracium, Greg Roembke, Tammy Schaffer, Sid Schwartz and Pat Trant.

The \$100,000 grant was placed in the Foundation's unrestricted fund, with its use to be determined at that time.

This year, the board decided that it would like to utilize the \$100,000 for a community impact grant and had been seeking potential projects to consider through meetings that Slater had been conducting with local community lead-

ers.

In the fall of 2021, the foundation board learned about the downtown pathways project.

"The downtown pathways project aims to transform five downtown alleyways, creating pedestrian-friendly areas that assist in connecting public parking and the Market Street corridor," according to a press release from the Wells County Foundation. "The newly designed spaces will add a unique atmosphere, attracting individuals into downtown and providing

spaces for those individuals to enjoy and extend their stay."

The fundraising campaign is ongoing. Patroncity and Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority are offering a dollar-for-dollar match for donations submitted by Jan. 11.

As of Monday, a \$50,000 goal through the site is more than halfway reached.

Donations can be made by visiting the bit.ly/downtownpathwaysproject website.

COVID-19 cases spike even as U.S. hits 200M vaccine milestone

By SOPHIA TAREEN and JENNIFER McDERMOTT
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — The number of Americans fully vaccinated against COVID-19 reached 200 million Wednesday amid a dispiriting holiday-season spike in cases and hospitalizations that has hit even New England, one of the most highly inoculated corners of the country.

New cases in the U.S. climbed from an average of nearly 95,000 a day on Nov. 22 to almost 119,000 a day this week, and hospitalizations are up 25 percent from a month ago. The increases are due almost entirely to the delta variant, though the omicron mutation has been detected in about 20 states and is sure to spread even more.

Deaths are running close to 1,600 a day on average, back up to where they were in October. And the overall U.S. death toll less than two years into the crisis could hit another heartbreaking milestone, 800,000, in a matter of days.

The situation is not as dire as last year's holiday-season surge, before the public had access to COVID-19 vaccines, but the 60 percent of the U.S. population that is fully vaccinated has not been enough to prevent hot spots.

The cold weather, Thanksgiving gatherings and a big rebound in holiday travel are all believed

to be playing a role, along with public weariness with pandemic restrictions.

Lawrence Gostin, director of the WHO Collaborating Center on Public Health Law and Human Rights at Georgetown University, likened the virus to a wildfire.

"You can clear a forest of the shrubbery. But if you leave some shrubs and trees standing, the fire will find them," Gostin said. "The virus will find you. It is searching for hosts that are not immune. The fact that you live in New England or New York doesn't insulate you."

Demand for the vaccine — with recent approval of boosters for all adults and shots for elementary school children — has been high amid the surge and the emergence of the omicron variant, whose dangers are still not fully understood. On Wednesday, Pfizer said that the initial two shots of its vaccine appear significantly less effective against omicron but that a booster dose may offer important protection.

Nearly 48 million people have received a booster, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. White House officials noted the U.S. administered 12.5 million shots last week, the highest weekly total since May.

"And that's critical progress as we head into the winter and con-

front the new omicron variant," White House coronavirus adviser Jeffrey Zients said.

At the same time, some states, notably in highly vaccinated New England, but also in the Midwest, are grappling with some of the worst surges since the start of the pandemic. Hospitals are filling up and reacting by canceling non-urgent surgeries or taking other crisis measures, while states are strongly promoting boosters.

Despite one of the highest vaccination levels in the country — over 74 percent of the population fully vaccinated — Vermont is coping with its biggest surge yet. In the last week, new cases per day are up 54 percent, and the number of people in the hospital with COVID-19 has climbed 18 percent.

The virus is preying on those who haven't gotten their shots: As of Tuesday, 90 percent of the COVID-19 patients in intensive care were unvaccinated.

"Obviously, it's not where we want to be," Gov. Phil Scott said Tuesday, calling the situation "extremely frustrating."

More than 400 people were in the hospital with COVID-19 in New Hampshire at the start of the week, breaking the record set last winter.

New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu directed hospitals to set up

COVID-19 "surge centers" using space normally reserved for such things as outpatient care.

"Every day for the next several weeks, we're likely to see a new high in COVID hospitalizations in New Hampshire," said Steve Ahnen, president of the New Hampshire Hospital Association. "With over 1,000 new cases a day, that number's not going to do anything but continue to go up."

Maine likewise is struggling with record-breaking COVID-19 hospitalizations. Gov. Janet Mills on Wednesday activated as many as 75 members of the National Guard to help out.

"The vast majority of patients in our hospitals are unvaccinated. That's especially true of critical care patients," said Andy Mueller, CEO of MaineHealth, the state's biggest health network. "It requires a tremendous amount of our resources to provide care."

Rhode Island's largest hospital system, Lifespan, said staffing shortages are at never-before-seen crisis levels, while Kent Hospital said it is near capacity and is considering delaying non-urgent procedures.

Dr. Paari Gopalakrishnan, Kent's interim president and chief operating officer, said the spike is probably due to "people letting their guards down" during the holidays, and flu season could com-

plicate things further.

New Hampshire plans to hold a "booster blitz" on Saturday at 15 locations. Most appointments were booked.

In Berlin, Vermont, Mike Labounty got his booster Tuesday. "I have friends that are in their 20s that are getting sick and friends that are 60 that are getting sick," he said. "The thing you see on Facebook and stuff like that is, 'I just want this to be over. I'm very sick,' so I'm just trying to avoid that."

Elsewhere around the country, Indiana has seen COVID-19 hospital admissions double in the last month and is approaching levels not seen since this time a year ago, before vaccines were widely available.

The number of people in intensive care in Minnesota has reached the highest level yet during the pandemic, with 98 percent of ICU beds occupied. Teams of military medics have been sent into Michigan and New Mexico.

Associated Press writers Kathy McCormack in Concord, New Hampshire; Patrick Whittle in Portland, Maine; and Wilson Ring and Lisa Rathke in Montpelier, Vermont, contributed to this report. Tareen reported from Chicago.

Father's Nazi past haunts Chilean presidential frontrunner

By FRANK JORDANS and JOSHUA GOODMAN
Associated Press Writers

BERLIN (AP) — The German-born father of Chilean presidential frontrunner Jose Antonio Kast was a member of Adolf Hitler's Nazi party, according to a recently unearthed document obtained by The Associated Press, revelations that appear at odds with the far-right candidate's own statements about his father's military service during World War II.

German officials confirmed this week that an ID card in the country's Federal Archive shows an 18-year-old named Michael Kast joined the National Socialist German Workers' Party, or NSDAP, on Sept. 1, 1942, at the height of Hitler's war on the Soviet Union.

While the Federal Archive couldn't confirm whether Kast was in the presidential contender's father, the date and place of birth listed on the card matches that of Kast's father, who died in 2014.

A copy of the ID card, identified with the membership number 9271831, was previously posted on social media on Dec. 1 by Chilean journalist Mauricio Weibel.

The ID card's emergence adds a new twist to a highly charged presidential runoff billed on both sides as a battle of extremes — between communism and right-wing authoritarianism — and marked by a steady flow of disinformation that has distorted the record of Kast's opponent.

Kast, 55, from the newly formed Republican Party, led the first round of Chile's presidential election last month, two points ahead of leftist lawmaker Gabriel Boric, who he now will face in the Dec. 19 runoff.

A fervent Roman Catholic and father of nine, Kast's family has deep ties to the military dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet that came to power following a coup in 1973. His brother, Miguel Kast, served as the dictator's central

bank president.

"If he were alive, he would have voted for me," Kast said of Pinochet during the 2017 campaign, in which he won just 8 percent of the vote. "We would have had tea together" in the presidential palace.

On the campaign trail this year, he has emphasized conservative family values, attacked migrants from Haiti and Venezuela he blames for crime and blasted Boric as a puppet of Chile's communists.

Weather

Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021

(24-hour observations at 7:19 p.m. Wednesday)
High: 32; Low: 22; Precipitation: Trace of snow
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.97 feet at 8:45 p.m. Wednesday

Wells County forecast

Thursday: Cloudy, with a high near 45. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: A 50 percent chance of rain, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 54. Light and variable wind becoming southeast 5 to 10 mph in the morning.

Friday Night: Rain and possibly a thunderstorm before 1 a.m., then a chance of rain and thunderstorms between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m., then a chance of rain after 4 a.m. Low around 46. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming southwest 15 to 20 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent. New rainfall amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of rain before 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 51. Breezy.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 28.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 45.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 33.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 50.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 34.

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Partly sunny, with a high near 54.

Tuesday Night: A slight chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46.

Wednesday: A slight chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 61.

Putin: Russia will give security proposals to the U.S. in a week

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Moscow will submit its proposals for a security dialogue with the U.S. a week after his call with U.S. President Joe Biden amid Western concerns about a Russian military buildup near the Ukrainian border.

The Russian leader reaffirmed his denial of planning to attack Ukraine, but said that Moscow can't remain indifferent to NATO's possible expansion to its neighbor.

"Russia will prepare its arguments literally in a few days, within a week, and we will submit it to the American side for consideration," he said, adding that he and Biden have agreed to "form a structure that would deal with it in a detailed and thorough way."

He described the two-hour conversation with Biden in a video call Tuesday as "very open, specific and, I would say constructive."

"We have an opportunity to continue this dialogue, which I think is the most important thing," Putin told reporters.

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OBITUARIES

Patricia L. Brickley, 79

Patricia L. "Pat" Brickley 79, of Bluffton, passed away Tuesday morning Dec. 7, 2021, at her lake home in Churubusco.

Pat was born Oct. 20, 1942, in Fort Wayne to Gustave A. and Ruth A. Inskoop Lang.

On Oct. 1, 1965, in Zanesville, Patricia married Jerry L. Brickley. They have shared 56 years of marriage.

Survivors include her husband, Jerry L. Brickley; four daughters, Kelly A. (Mark) Anderson, Kami A. (Brian) Kable, Kara A. (Steve) Ackley, and Kyan A. Brickley; and eight grandchildren, Kain B. Anderson, Christian L. Anderson, Blade K. (Annie) Kable, Cole S. Ackley, Devon M. Coffield, Logan M. Ackley, Stone L. Kable, and Kaden P. Ackley. She is also survived by three brothers, Thomas G. (Monica) Lang, Terry



L. Lang, and Timothy J. (Linda) Lang.

A Memorial service to celebrate Pat's life will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13, at the Calvary Lutheran Church, 1532 N. Main St. in Bluffton, with Pastor T.J. Lynch officiating. Calling will be from 4 to 6 p.m. prior to the service at the church.

Memorials may be made to Heart to Heart Hospice or Calvary Lutheran Church.

Burial will take place at Horeb Cemetery in Uniondale at a later date.

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

New tips sought in investigation of two girls' deaths near Delphi

DELPHI, Ind. (AP) — Police investigating the unsolved slayings of two teenage girls killed during a 2017 hiking trip in northern Indiana are seeking information from people who had contact with someone who used a fictitious online profile to communicate with young girls.

Indiana State Police said Monday night in a news release that investigators looking into the deaths of 14-year-old Liberty German and 13-year-old Abigail Williams had uncovered a fictitious online profile named "anthony—shots" that was used from 2016 to 2017 on Snapchat, Instagram and other social media platforms.

The teens' bodies were found on Feb. 14, 2017, near a hiking trail, a day after they vanished while hiking near their hometown of Delphi, about 60 miles (97 kilometers) northwest of Indianapolis.

Investigators with the Carroll County Sheriff's Office and Indiana State Police said they have identified a male model fea-

tured in photos in the "anthony—shots" profile and said he is not a person of interest in killings.

But they said the person who created the online profile "portrayed himself as being extremely wealthy and owning numerous sports cars" and used the profile to communicate with juvenile females "to solicit nude images, obtain their addresses, and attempt to meet them."

Detectives said they are seeking information about the person who created the "anthony—shots" profile.

State Police Sgt. Jeremy Piers said Wednesday investigators want tips from "anyone that communicated with that profile, may have met the person behind that profile, or if that person may have tried to obtain their address or anything from them."

Police said anyone with tips can email those to: [abbyandlibbytip\(at\)cacoshrf.com](mailto:abbyandlibbytip(at)cacoshrf.com) or contact investigators by calling 765-822-3535.

Judge declares a mistrial in case of pastor's wife slaying

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A judge declared a mistrial in the case of a man charged in the fatal 2015 shooting of an Indianapolis pastor's wife after learning some jurors knew she had been pregnant — a fact defense attorneys had successfully moved to keep from the jury.

Marion County Judge Grant Hawkins declared the mistrial Monday on the first day of Larry Jo Taylor Jr.'s murder trial in Amanda Blackburn's killing.

Hawkins told The Indianapolis Star more than one juror had learned "Ms. Blackburn was pregnant at the time of her death" even though jurors were not supposed to know about her

pregnancy.

The court will seat a new jury for a subsequent trial.

Blackburn, 28, was fatally shot in November 2015 in her Indianapolis home during a home invasion. She was 12 weeks pregnant with her second child.

Taylor, 24, is one of three men who was charged in connection with her killing. He faces four counts of murder, three counts of burglary, three counts of theft and a count of robbery. Taylor also is charged with criminal confinement, auto theft and carrying a handgun without a license.

His two co-defendants accepted plea deals on the condition they would cooperate in Taylor's prosecution.

tion.

Investigators have said the suspects saw Davey Blackburn, the woman's husband, leave their home and then began a burglary.

Co-defendant Jalen E. Watson pleaded guilty in 2017 to one count of robbery and two counts of burglary. He was sentenced in March to 29 years for the robbery charge and 20 combined years for the burglary charges, and ordered to serve the sentences concurrently.

The other co-defendant, Diano Cortez Gordon, pleaded guilty in 2018 to robbery resulting in serious bodily injury and two counts of burglary. His case is ongoing.

Half of Indiana counties at highest-risk COVID-19 levels

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Half of Indiana's counties are now in the highest-risk level of COVID-19 spread as the latest infection surge across the state has pushed hospitalizations from the illness up 25% in the past week.

The weekly risk assessment from the Indiana Department of Health released Wednesday placed 46 of the state's 92 counties in the highest-risk red category, with all but one other in the next-highest orange category.

Nearly all counties in the state's northern one-

third have red ratings, including Fort Wayne's Allen County and South Bend's St. Joseph County. Southwestern Indiana around Evansville has another pocket of red-rated counties.

The number of highest-risk counties is the highest Indiana has seen since the state's worst COVID-19 surge last winter when 73 counties had red ratings in early January. The state listed just three counties with red ratings at the beginning of November.

Indiana hospitals reported about 2,750

COVID-19 patients as of Tuesday. That number has more than doubled in the past four weeks, putting a strain on hospitals across the state.

The COVID-19 hospitalizations are now higher than Indiana's summer surge that peaked in September and is approaching the pandemic peak in late 2020. An Indiana hospital official said the current surge might not peak for another month.

The surge has also pushed up Indiana's average of COVID-19 deaths to more than 30 per day after it was below five a day in July.

A Talk with Tego



Deacon is a nine-week-old, domestic short hair male.



Dreamer is a nine-week-old, domestic short hair female.



Destiny is a nine-week-old, domestic short hair female.



Tego

Tego's Tips: Several other cats and kittens are waiting on a home!

These are just a few pets available for adoption at the Wells County Animal Shelter, 1613 W. Cherry St., Bluffton. For more information call 824-6063.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Tuesday, 10:33 p.m., Bluffton Regional Medical Center, 303 S. Main St. Victim of a dog bite at a residence in the 300 block of North Marion Street in the emergency room. Officer responded, took a report and notified Wells County Animal Control.

Tuesday, 11:32 p.m., Comfort Inn and Suites, 1782 N. Main St. Report of two men smoking marijuana in one of the motel rooms. Officer responded. Lincoln Cael Splete, 19, Mentor, Ohio, allegedly admitted the marijuana that was reportedly found in the room was his. He was charged with possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor.

Wednesday, 9:07 a.m., Wells County Office of Family and Children, 221 W. Market St. Officer requested to assist with a male client who became unruly upon

learning he would have to submit to a drug test.

County:
Tuesday, 2:10 p.m., Ind. 124 between 500W and Ind. 3. Loose gravel that had been spilled onto the road.

Wednesday, 8:06 a.m., residence on 100W north of 800N. Caller reported that a woman was up on her deck. She then left and was seen walking a dog on the road. Deputy responded and explained she shouldn't be on other people's property without their permission.

Ossian:
Monday, 9:35 p.m., Ginger Fresh Market, 410 N. Metts St. Report of a man sleeping in a car in the parking lot. Officer responded and located the man who told the officer that he was waiting on a friend. The officer advised the man he was making the market employees nervous and he needed to move along.

Tuesday, 11:51 a.m., residence in the 100 block of East LaFever Street. Report of a woman in the backyard of the residence screaming and possibly hallucinating. Officer responded. Situation calmed.

Tuesday, 5:38 p.m., officer assisted a caseworker with the Department of Family and Children on a home visit.

ARRESTS

Jared Austin Tolley, 40, Peru; revocation of bail.

Tristan Anthony James Ternet, 23, Fort Wayne; parole revocation.

Brenda Mae Murray, 64, Bluffton; probation violation. No bond set. Daling methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony; and possession of a legend drug, a Level 6 felony.

Lincoln Cael Splete, 19, Mentor, Ohio; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,000.

Wells Court Docket

Wells Superior Court Criminal Cases

Dakota David Busche Shively, 24, Bluffton, pleaded guilty to public intoxication, a Class B misdemeanor.

Sentenced to 180 days in the Wells County Jail, with all but four days suspended — credited as time served, and placed on probation for 361 days.

Ordered to take care of his outstanding warrant in Allen County within the next 30 days, and pay court costs and probation fees.

As part of a plea agreement, second count of public intoxication dismissed.

At 7:59 p.m. on Aug. 28, Bluffton police responded to a report of an intoxicated man passed out on the Interurban Trail in front of Harvest of Health. The man turned out to be Shively.

Wells County EMS was also called to the scene.

The officer noted in his report to the court that it appeared that Shively was intoxicated on an illegal substance.

The officer further observed in his report that the time of day and the proximity of the efforts by officers and Wells County EMS medics to revive Shively next to one of the busiest streets in Bluffton attracted considerable public attention, therefore meeting the requirements for the public intoxication charge.

Civil Cases

Marriage of Michelle W. Martin and Brent W. Martin dissolved.

Complaint for breach of lease totaling \$2,500 filed by CACHE Properties, Ossian, against Briana S. Webb and

The Farmer's Wife, rural Liberty Center.

Wells Circuit Court Civil Cases

Complaint for payment of \$3,074.95 filed by Portfolio Recovery Associates, Norfolk, Va., against Michelle D. Mosley, Ossian.

Danna M. Dawson

Calling: 2 - 7p.m.
Thursday, December 9.
Service: 10 a.m.
Friday, December 10 at the funeral home.

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Lena Marie (Wilson) Mussekman

Calling: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Saturday, December 11.
Service: 12 p.m.
Saturday, December 11 at the funeral home.

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home

308 W. Washington St.
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You – yes, you – are a miracle

Do me a favor. Pause for a moment today and consider what a miracle you are.

That request springs from a 10-year-old article I stumbled across so interesting that I set it aside to write about sometime in the future.

I guess that time is now.

Ali Binazir, writing for the Huffington Post in 2011, said he was intrigued by the oft-cited statistic, which he had just heard in a TED

talk, that the odds of a specific individual being born were about one in 400 trillion.

Even if you just accept that number, beating the odds against your birth would be worth celebrating as the longest of long shots. But Binazir did a little back-of-the-envelope math and came up with even more astonishing odds.

He began by calculating the probability that two specific people — your parents — out of the billions on Earth would meet and have a relationship lasting long enough to have children at around one in 40 million. And you are the result of one particular sperm, which your father would produce 12 trillion of during his reproductive lifetime, meeting one particular viable egg, of which your mother would have had about 100,000.

“So the probability of that one sperm with half your name on it hitting that one egg with the other half of your name on it is one in 400 quadrillion.”

But that’s just getting started. You have to do the same calculations for your parents’ four parents and get similar odds for those specific people being born, then your grandparents’ eight parents, and so on and so on back to the dawn of time.

What he ended up with was 400 quadrillion to the 150,000th power. That’s a 10 followed by 2,640,000 zeroes: “So what’s the probability of your being born? It’s the probability of 2.5 million people getting together . . . each to play a game of dice with trillion-sided dice. They each roll the dice — and they all come up the exact same number.”

The odds are so great as to be unimaginable, nearly incalculable. You should not even be here.

Yet, there you sit, reading this column, taking in the world around you through all your senses, thinking your unique thoughts.

A miracle.

My life has dimmed a bit today because it is missing a miracle. I just learned that my Aunt Lou, having made it to her 90s, died in her sleep. She was the last of a generation in our family. Now, it’s just my brother and sister and me and all our cousins.

When my mother died, I experienced the same kind of grief I had when my father died years earlier, but something else, too: a sense of being adrift, cut off from my past and forced to carry the load alone that had been passed on generation to generation. With Aunt Lou’s passing, I feel that combination of awe and terror even more acutely.

As strongly as I feel that pang of isolation now, despite having achieved it so late in life, I cannot begin to imagine what it must be like to be orphaned at a young age, always yearning for the connections that most of us take for granted. If each individual is a miracle, each family is wonderment of multiplied miracles. I don’t know which is worse, to never know the wonderment or to have it and not appreciate it.

I doubt if my aunt thought about the miracle of life. She was a hill woman from a generation that knew doing your chores was the only way to stay one step ahead of hardship. But she lived the miracle. I never heard her complain, and she raised a good family. She didn’t break faith with her ancestors, and she gave the next generation everything she had.

I think there is a lesson in there somewhere.

History isn’t just a passing of the torch or an accumulation of wisdom. It should be a celebration of miracles.

You can look at yourself as just one of the nearly 8 billion people now living and the 117 billion or so who have ever lived, here and gone in a flash, flesh crumbling into the dust of the ages, one more grain of sand on an infinite beach.

But you can also understand that among the vast sea of humanity, you are absolutely unique. There has never been another you, and there never will be.

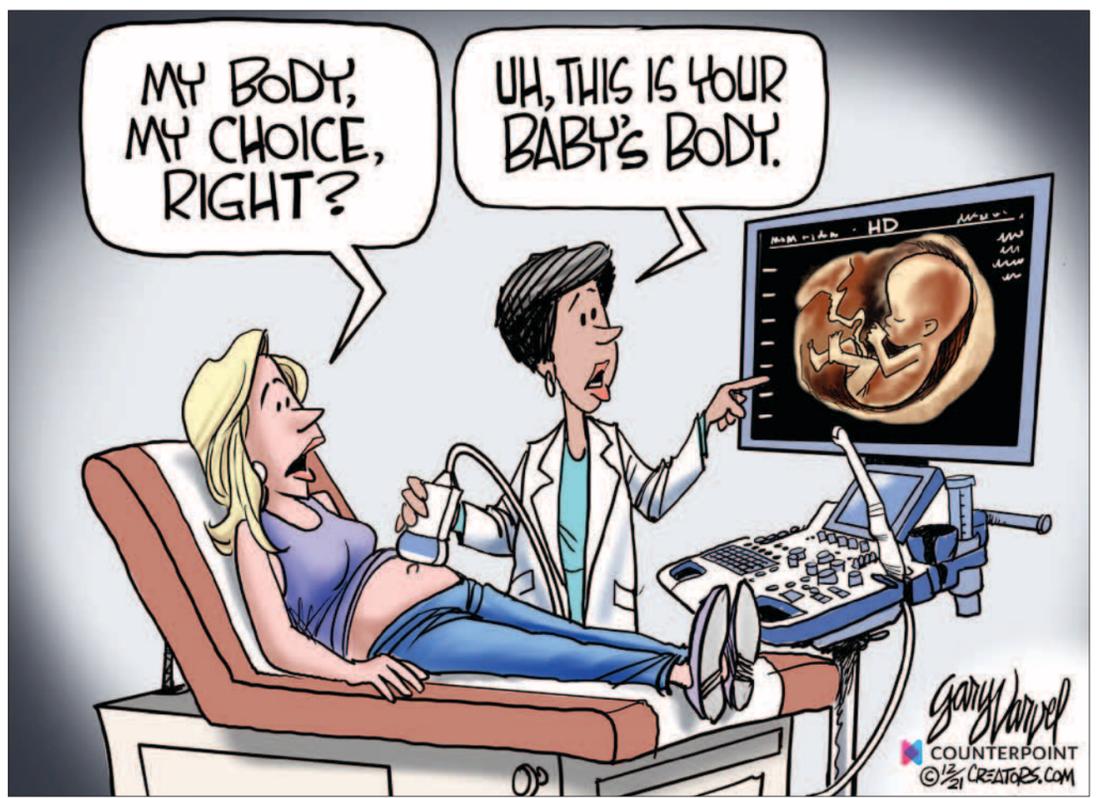
You are a miracle. Don’t waste it.

Leo Morris is a Fort Wayne-based columnist for *The Indiana Policy Review*. Contact him at leoedits@yahoo.com.



Leo Morris

Hoosier Opinions



Will the court overturn decades of wrongs?

The United States is one of just seven out of 198 countries that allow elective abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy. Two of the others are China and North Korea. By contrast, 39 out of 42 of European nations — including France and Germany — bar elective abortions at 15 weeks or less (though with broader exceptions than typically seen in the United States). Not one permits them through all nine months of pregnancy, as do seven states and the District of Columbia.

The state of Mississippi has passed a law that effectively declares: We prefer to keep company with France and Germany than China and North Korea. Now, the Supreme Court will decide whether Mississippi can restrict abortion to 15 weeks, as most civilized nations do. To do so, the justices must overturn *Roe v. Wade* and *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* — which created a right to abortion that exists nowhere in our Constitution — and return the question to the states, where it belongs.

Remarkably, in last week’s oral arguments, none of the liberal justices made any substantive arguments to defend *Roe* or *Casey* as rightly decided. Instead, they argued politics and process. First, they said overturning *Roe* and *Casey* would — in Justice Sonia Sotomayor’s words — create a political “stench” that the court might not “survive.” But the job of a Supreme Court justice is to decide cases based solely on the law and the Constitution, not politics. Doing otherwise is precisely what damages its credibility.

Second, they argued process — that the principle of *stare decisis* (Latin for “to stand by things decided”) requires the court not to reverse its previous decisions *Roe* and *Casey*. But, as John Yoo, professor of law at the University of California at Berkeley, explains, *stare decisis* is usually used to “defend decisions you know to be wrong — because if they weren’t wrong, you wouldn’t need *stare decisis*.”

Indeed, Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh pointed out that many of the court’s most consequential decisions — celebrated by liberals — overruled precedent in cases that were wrongly decided. “*Brown v. Board* outlawed separate but equal,” he said, “*Baker v. Carr*, which set the stage for one person, one vote. . . . *Miranda v. Arizona*, which required police to give warnings . . . about the right to remain silent. . . . *Lawrence v. Texas*, which said that the state may not prohibit same-sex conduct. . . . *Gideon v. Wainwright*, which guaranteed the right to counsel in criminal cases. *Obergefell*, which recognized a constitutional right to same-sex marriage.” Had the court adhered to *stare decisis* in those cases, “the country would be a much different place.”

Perhaps the most stunning moment came when

Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. asked Solicitor General Elizabeth B. Prelogar if the court’s decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which upheld racial segregation, were reargued in 1897, “would it not be sufficient to say that was an egregiously wrong decision on the day it was handed down and now it should be overruled?” After hemming and hawing, she finally said, “This court, no, has never overruled in that situation just based on a conclusion that the decision was wrong.” When you argue that *stare decisis* would require the court to uphold *Jim Crow*, you are losing.

So, what will the court do? Based on last Wednesday’s arguments, it seems unimaginable that the court will declare Mississippi’s law unconstitutional. The second option is that sought by Justice Clarence Thomas — and likely supported by Justices Alito, Neil M. Gorsuch, and Amy Coney Barrett: The court strikes down *Roe* and *Casey*, declaring that these decisions, like *Plessy* before it, are so egregiously wrong that they must be overturned.

A third option — which Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., the court’s champion of incrementalism, seemed to be suggesting — is to find some Solomonic middle ground in which the court upholds Mississippi’s law without overturning *Roe* and *Casey*. The problem for Roberts is that *Casey* declared that before viability, states cannot prohibit abortion or create an “undue burden” for accessing it through regulations — and no one argues that an unborn child is viable at 15 weeks. That did not stop Roberts from floating a reconception of *Casey* that erased the viability line. “Viability, it seems to me, doesn’t have anything to do with choice,” he said. “If it really is an issue about choice, why is 15 weeks not enough time?” But if the court arbitrarily sets the line at 15 weeks, states will soon return to ask it to rule whether 12 weeks, or 10, is “enough time” — forcing the justices to continually revisit the issue.

The good news is: With Barrett’s appointment, Roberts is no longer the deciding swing vote. To prevail, he needs to persuade another conservative, such as Kavanaugh, to go along. And in oral arguments, it did not look like Kavanaugh was biting. “If we think that the prior precedents are seriously wrong,” Kavanaugh asked, “why, then, doesn’t the history of this court’s practice with respect to those cases tell us that the right answer is actually a return to the position of neutrality?” It is. And the decision is likely in Kavanaugh’s hands.

Marc A. Thiessen on Twitter, @marcthiessen



Marc Thiessen

And one wise man gifted the babe gold

Even an atheist can vaguely explain the story of the three wise men, as the unbeliever rips and tears into the Christmas gifts that for some represent the ultimate gift, the life of Christ, while said atheist kept to a personal rejection of faith.

Angelkeep believes deeply that an atheist holds no concept of the value of Christ’s gift of Christmas. Shepherds, likely an inn keeper, and bystanders, looked upon a sleeping mangled baby with puzzlement, but vaguely aware that something big had happened this day, in the city of David.

Wise men from afar arrived on what had to have been realistically a time past the birth day. Their camels were slow, but durable. Golden haired camels plodded on, bearing the weight of their own masters, kings riding atop, bearing gifts, following a star sent to guide them. Did they ride a single hump, or a two-hump vehicle? Scripture and the ornament never fully explained that part. Most likely two humps, as Asian camels are nondromedary, unlike the one hump of the Arabian dromedary.

A shiny gold ornament was this writer’s favorite childhood tree ornament. The fragile, thin glass ball held a small white silhouette image of all three wise men traveling on their camels. It once seemed atypical for me as a child to value a religious ornament over a Santa tree ornament. As an old man recalling those early days, it now made sense. The strong faith of parents was already implanted into the hearts of their children. Through lean years, when gifts were small and single, Christ was kept in Christmas within this household. That parenting aspect proved worthy of its weight in gold.

Angelkeep Journals

Like the golden ornament, now possessed as but a memory, so are the golden colors of 2021 Angelkeep. With Christmas at year’s end, reflection on the earlier months recalled much of the good, the golden moments, of a trying year. Through reflection, capturing those past golden events, the potential to carry on into yet another New Year becomes doable. The Christ-babe of the manger reminded once again that a new beginning looms. 2022 will have golden moments too. Will they arrive in a bundle on the hindquarters of a Wise Man’s camel? No. Will they come because of the long ago birth of a Christ Child in a manger? Absolutely.

When crocus reappear in the new spring, the first will appear golden in color. The white and purple crocus come after the gold blooms begin the season, a sign, as sure as the Bethlehem Star followed by the Wise Men, that goodness will come and prevail again. There will be critters that literally devour the gold crocus, trying to tear God’s creative bloom asunder, but in the end, gold wins.

Soon the golden bloom of Angelkeep’s forsythia will shine as bright, even as the golden rays of the sun cast a heart-warming glow to the earth and deliver a new sense of hope for all who will believe. Is that why one of the Wise Men carried gold to the Messiah Baby Jesus? Since Wise Men are truly wise, wise enough to recognize a new star calling them to a



Alan Daugherty

distant place, the Orient King surely knew the babe they would eventually find wrapped in swaddling clothes had no need of earthly gold.

Memory pictured the nativity scene as displayed on the old family TV’s top, with all the typical characters and animals made from painted plaster. Dad built a homemade stable of secondhand barn boards and shingles. Our scene depicted the Wise Men at Bethlehem Inn’s stable and manger standing beside shepherds who had been watching their flocks by night, but were also called in their own way to the gathering. The manufactured figures representing the Wise Men all reached forward with their gift, the gold represented as being an entire 14 carat gold closed box filled with perhaps jewelry, coin, nuggets, and other gold valuables.

The memory of staring at the scene, often repositioning the characters and animals around the central figures of Joseph, Mary, and the baby in a manger, brought forth a personal conjuring storyline of Mary knowing she had the best gift, the Christ Child who would be Savior to all. She deliberately reached into the box of gold and offered a piece to each visitor. Mary knew full well that Jesus would have no need for the smallest nugget. Jesus was born to give, not to receive. That was a Christmas nugget of wisdom needed to be grasp annually.

It will yet be some time before Angelkeep’s golden finches return with their spectacular color and singing. In the meantime, it ‘tis the season to share some nuggets of gold in the forms of love, hope, charity, and the gift of Christ in Christmas.

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

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 9, the 343rd day of 2021. There are 22 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History: On Dec. 9, 2014, U.S. Senate investigators concluded the United States had brutalized scores of terror suspects with interrogation tactics that turned secret CIA prisoners into chambers of suffering and did nothing to make Americans safer

after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

On this date:

In 1911, an explosion inside the Cross Mountain coal mine near Briceville, Tennessee, killed 84 workers. (Five were rescued.)

In 1965, “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” the first animated TV special featuring characters from the “Peanuts” comic strip by Charles M. Schulz, premiered on CBS.

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Jessica Bricker, Editor

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Come visit the trees

There will be two more weekends for viewing the trees at "Christmas in the Mansion" at the Wells County Historical Museum as visitors will be welcomed between the hours of 2 and 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11 and 12 and Dec. 18 and 19. In the parlor the tree and fireplace mantel were decorated by Barb Dickson. There is no admission charge, but donations are gratefully accepted. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

A very minty Christmas from the Yoder's

The Amish Cook
by Gloria Yoder



These damp chilly days leave us extra thankful for occasional sunshine. I had promised the children I'd help them rake leaves in the woods, making winding trails uphill and down like I did when I was a little girl. I can still feel the freedom of all my little worries melting away, as I breathed the cool air laden with the smell of crisp maple leaves, running hither and yon through our maze of paths.

On our to-do list for this autumn, there are also a dozen chickens to cook over a fire in the big iron skillet and put in the freezer and some to can.

Then there were our 10 bushels of apples. We found a nice day to make applesauce in the backyard while the children played on the swing and trampoline. The Golden Delicious apples were turned to what we call regular applesauce. It's a shiny yellow sauce with a bit of salt and a pinch of stevia to sweeten. A few bushels of Jona-golds were used to make my favorite sauce: chunky apple with a dash of cinnamon and a bit of stevia. This type of sauce may be served hot or cold or is yummy when adding a handful of red hots. The rest of the apples are used in baking or enjoyed fresh.

Now we're on the last peck of apples — that is, besides the bushel that we put in our neighbor's root cellar to keep for this winter.

The children prefer having their own whole apple, rather than having them sliced up in wedges like I usually did when I was a girl. If you know me, you understand the noteworthy tidbit that the children have all learned to enjoy

eating fresh apples with peelings (fter they've been washed). I've always idealized having little children chop down fruits, peelings and all. I have found memories of when I was four or five years old, standing next to Mom and eating peach peelings as fast as she peeled them to can. Well, you know how it goes, despite my best efforts and sweet talks of the peelings having more nutrients than the rest of the fruit, I thought it would never happen. Today as I handed out shiny red apples with the peelings, they all gratefully accepted it, and never mentioned the peelings (besides one-year-old Joshua). Mama smiled. Maybe my efforts are paying off, after all.

I've learned that having them ripe enough yet not overripe helps, and also that it's not worth coaching them to eat the peelings of plastic-y grocery store-bought apples. For some time we compromised; I'd run my little peeler around each apple, peeling about half of them, then with an optimistic, "Okay, here you go, you may eat this with some peelings on, and some off."

Yes, apples do make a perfect afternoon snack, yet I've been racking my brain for some more healthy snack ideas. As the old saying goes, "An apple a day should keep the doctor

away," but who doesn't like variety? Baked goods between meals are also off the list. It's way too easy to eat way too much sugar. Though I enjoy discussions about healthy eating, I'll hang on to that subject for later; after all, Christmastime just doesn't seem like the best time to dwell too much into healthy diets! Let's dig into the sugar barrel and scoop out some old-fashioned goodness crafted into these amazing Christmas candies. Daniel recalls his dad helping them as children make these candies on Christmas Eve!

Homemade Christmas Mints

4 ounces cream cheese, softened
1 pound powdered sugar
Peppermint oil to taste*
Several drops food coloring of your choice (opt)

Mix cream cheese which has been softened to room temperature, with powdered sugar. Beat until smooth and creamy. Add peppermint flavoring and coloring.

Now roll into small balls and dip into melted chocolate or roll in granulated sugar. If desired, the sugar-coated version may be pressed into molds. They will not need to dry in molds, as they will keep the shape as soon as formed.

Chill and enjoy!

*The amounts of peppermint oil and coloring will depend on what brands you will be using. Also, if desired, the peppermint oil may be mixed with melted chocolate instead of cream cheese.

How do we get back to yellow?

With the continued spread of COVID-19 and its variants, cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, isn't it about time we do something more to at least lower the spread of this coronavirus and move from ratings that are orange or red back to a yellow rating?

(Wells County is now in the red category, according to statistics released Wednesday by the Indiana Department of Health.)

These orange and red ratings have gone on long enough. We are all sick and tired of dealing with the constant stress. We worry about several things: Who will spread the virus next? Who will get sick next? Who will be in the hospital next? Who will die next?

We all want to gather with our families again and finally enjoy the holidays. But, like it or not, we have to accept the fact that we are all still in a worldwide pandemic. And that means we all still have to take the necessary precautions to protect ourselves, our family members, and others. We are all still in this together.

In order to have a safer and healthier holiday season (where COVID - 19 is concerned), it might be wise to step up our game a little. And at least make the necessary efforts to get back to a yellow rating. Here are the most effective ways to accomplish this goal:

- 1) Get vaccinated.
 - 2) Get your booster shot.
 - 3) Wear a mask in indoor public places.
 - 4) Wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings.
 - 5) Wear a mask when in close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.
 - 6) Wear a mask if you have a weakened immune system and may not be fully protected even if fully vaccinated.
 - 7) Wear a mask over your nose and mouth on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation.
 - 8) Consider not traveling until we get a yellow rating.
 - 9) Stay 6 feet (or more) away from others.
 - 10) Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - 11) Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread viruses.
 - 12) Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.
 - 13.) Be aware that restaurants, bars, fitness centers, or movie theaters can put you at higher risk for COVID-19.
 - 14) Avoid indoor spaces that do not offer fresh air from the outdoors as much as possible.
 - 15) If indoors, crack open windows and doors if possible.
 - 16) Get tested for COVID-19.
 - 17) If you test positive for COVID-19, isolate yourself and inform your close contacts to avoid spreading disease to others.
 - 18) Anyone can get a COVID-19 test, whether they have symptoms or not.
 - 19) Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds.
 - 20.) Use hand sanitizer.
 - 21.) Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - 22.) Cover coughs and sneezes.
 - 23.) Clean and disinfect tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
 - 24.) Wipe down surfaces.
 - 25.) Monitor your health daily. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID - 19.
 - 26.) Take your temperature.
 - 27) Follow CDC guidelines.
 - 28) Monitor symptoms when running errands, going into offices, workplaces, and in settings where it may be difficult to keep a physical distance of 6 feet or more.
 - 29) Eat a healthy diet, drink water, and exercise.
 - 30) If you are sick, stay home.
- Family is important, especially during the holidays. Be grateful that our loved ones are healthy. Let's do our part. Let's do everything in our power to keep it that way.

Insights

by Joan Phelps



Masons offering breakfast with Santa Saturday

Youngsters will be able to have Breakfast With Santa at the Bluffton Masonic Lodge beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, as part of the Parlor City Christmas celebration.

No tickets or reservations are need-

ed to attend the free breakfast and let children have a chat and photo op with Santa. (A free will donation would be appreciated, however.)

The Masonic Lodge is at 211 W. Cherry St. in Bluffton.

Another breakfast opportunity Saturday is available from 8 to 11 a.m. will be at the American Legion. The cost of the breakfast buffet at the Legion post home, 111 W. Washington St., is \$10.

'Jolly days' at Indianapolis children's museum are under way

The Children's Museum in Indianapolis is open for visitors at 50 percent capacity for its usual Jolly Days events.

Visitors can talk to Santa and take photos, meet the Jolly Days characters (Mrs. Claus, Patty Cakes, Andy the zookeeper, Richard Pessimmons and Zazzlez the Elf), ice skate in their socks, explore the Ice Castle, make it snow in the Giant Snow Globe, send a letter to Santa, and watch "The Christmas Quest" in the Lilly Theater.

Due to limitations for visitors it would be best to make reservations in advance if planning an outing to the museum. Also be aware that masks must be worn by all visitors over the age of 2.

More information can be obtained by calling 800-820-6214.

Coldwater's Tibbits Theater announces its summer season

Three musicals will be offered for the Tibbits Theater 59th Summer Season.

On the schedule are: I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change: June 16-25; Godspell: June 30-July 9; and Barefoot in the Park: July 28-Aug. 6.

Season tickets are now on sale for \$117 (with fees) through December. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and matinees at 2 p.m. More information at 517-278-6029 or at Tibbits.org.

The theater is located at 14 South Hanchett St. in Coldwater, Mich.

Santa says ... Support your ho-ho-hometown!

Don't Forget Non-Profits

Some local organizations are focused not on selling products, but on improving the lives of disadvantaged community members. Non-profit groups, food banks and children advocacy organizations are all seeking help this holiday season.

And what they're asking for is simply a hand. They need more manpower to achieve their goals and spread the word on their efforts.

Lending Your Skill Set

Can you spare a few hours every weekend in December? You may be asked to run errands or visit with people. Maybe deliver food or products to clients across town.

Professionals in the creative services field can offer their skills free of charge as a holiday contribution. Developing a website, creating brochures or writing a mission statement for free can help your local group promote its missions.

Locals helping locals will strengthen the community this holiday season.

Food Donations

Why not spend your Christmas spreading some holiday cheer – and delicious food? You can spend some time cooking your favorite dish or baking some special cookies, then take them to your local food bank.

Your gesture will surely be appreciated by the hungry, as well as by the food bank staff. And it is a simple act of kindness that can be turned into a tradition, passed on to children or replicated by your friends and family members.

Charitable Contributions

You may find yourself short on time this holiday season, but maybe you have a few dollars to donate to a local organization. Your contribution could go a long way toward furthering the cause of a group near and dear to your heart.

And for that really hard-to-buy for person, perhaps they would appreciate a donation made in their name.

You can conveniently make online donations or in-person cash contributions. Either way, donating funds is a simple way to show your support while making a difference in the lives of those who need it.

Santa says ... Be sure to shop these businesses:

- ❄️ Above & Beyond Vehicle Reconditioning
 - ❄️ Bluffton Tire
 - ❄️ Daniel's Jewelers
 - ❄️ Gerber Furniture
 - ❄️ Moser & Sons
 - ❄️ Northwood Computer
 - ❄️ Outdoor Concepts
 - ❄️ Wells County Chamber of Commerce
 - ❄️ Wells County Foundation
- Gift "Chamber Bucks" ... available at the Wells County Chamber of Commerce**

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Norwell wrestling team handles Vikings

By **JOSH BURRIS**

HUNTINGTON — The Norwell Knights hit the mats at Huntington North on Wednesday night and defeated the Vikings 61-13.

Norwell won 11 of the 14 matchups. Six of those wins came by fall, three came by forfeit, one came by major decision, and one came by decision.

Coach John Johnson liked what he saw out of his team.

"Huntington (North) is always a tough dual usually for us at the beginning of the year. I thought we wrestled well," Johnson said. "We talked about last week starting to finish a little more on top when we have positions to get the fall, and

taking our time and not rushing through."

Zach Cook got the Knights on the board first with a win by forfeit at 182 pounds.

The Vikings responded with Nate Elliott defeating Hudson Kahn by decision at 195 pounds.

The next five matchups went to Norwell.

Tyler Luther defeated Cameron Richison by decision at 220 pounds, Ethan Michael defeated Gavin Babb by fall at 285 pounds, Jason Prough and Cayden Smithley got wins by forfeit at 106 pounds and 113 pounds respectively, and Connor Dreiband defeated Reo Horie by fall at 120

pounds. Those wins gave Norwell a commanding 33-3 lead.

The Vikings broke the Knights' run when Micah Beal defeated Conner Lothamer by fall at 126 pounds. Then Norwell got a win by fall when Nicholas Stephens pinned Joseph Donajkowski at 132 pounds.

Huntington North then got its last win of the night when Luke Teusch defeated Lane Lewis by major decision at 138 pounds.

The last four matchups went to Norwell.

Cody Cox defeated Landin Amerman by fall at 145 pounds, Eli Behning defeated Ethan Doctor by fall at 152 pounds, Stuart

McCabe defeated Lluç Martin by major decision at 160 pounds, and Eli Johnson defeated Tyler Adams by fall at 170 pounds.

The Knights have had a solid start to the season. They opened up with a win over New Haven and went 3-2 in Saturday's Shamrock Duals at Westfield.

Johnson said they've just got to keep the lineup together and continue to do well in practice.

"We've just got to keep making weight and keep having good practices. That's the one thing that we've had this year kind of in the first month of November is great practices. People are keeping their heads on straight and keeping their

weight down. I think some of the experience is starting to come through a little bit. Some of my freshmen are starting to come out and perform and make some big matches for us. I am just hoping we can stay healthy, keep making weight, and we will see what the end of the season holds."

Norwell won three of the six exhibition matches against Huntington North.

Parker Behning and Garrett Boomershine won by fall, and Luke Dreiband won by decision.

Norwell will return to action on Saturday when it hosts an NE8 Triple Dual.

sports@news-banner.com

Wisconsin beats Indiana with huge comeback

By **STEVE MEGARGEE**
AP Sports Writer

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Johnny Davis scored 23 points and made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:18 left to help No. 22 Wisconsin erase a 22-point deficit and beat Indiana 64-59 on Wednesday to extend its home domination in the series.

Wisconsin (8-1, 1-0 Big Ten) has won 19 straight home games over Indiana, which hasn't beaten the Badgers in Madison since a 69-59 decision on Jan. 25, 1998. The Hoosiers nearly ended the streak last year, but fell 80-73 at Wisconsin in double overtime. This Indiana (7-2, 1-1) loss proved even more painful.

Wisconsin trailed 42-20 late in the first half and was down 42-25 at the intermission, but scored the game's final 11 points. The Badgers outscored Indiana 16-2 over the last 5 minutes, 50 seconds.

Indiana missed 14 of its last 15 shots.

The Hoosiers still led 59-57 when Wisconsin's Brad Davison forced a steal with 1:41 left. On the Badgers' ensuing possession, center Steven Vogt passed to Davis, whose corner 3-pointer gave Wisconsin its first lead since

the game's opening minutes.

Indiana's Xavier Johnson, Race Thompson and Parker Stewart all missed potential go-ahead shots on the Hoosiers' next possession. After the ball went out of bounds off Wisconsin to give Indiana another opportunity, Stewart drove down the left side of the lane and had his shot attempt blocked by Tyler Wahl with 32 seconds left.

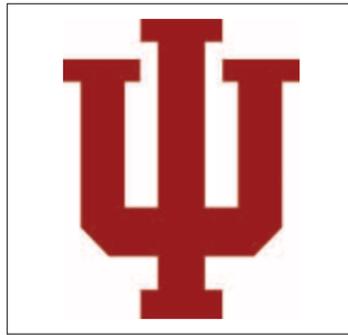
Chucky Hepburn gave Wisconsin breathing room by hitting two free throws for his first points of the night with 23.9 seconds left. After Indiana's Xavier Johnson missed the front end of a one-and-one with 18 seconds remaining, Hepburn made two more free throws to put the game out of reach.

Indiana's collapse came after the Hoosiers dominated the first half.

After Wisconsin scored the game's first five points, Indiana went on a 26-4 run over the next nine minutes. The Hoosiers capped that spurt by reeling off 12 straight points and holding Wisconsin scoreless for a stretch of 5:15.

Davis had nine rebounds to go along with his 23 points as Wisconsin earned its sixth straight victory. Wahl had seven points and 12 rebounds.

Thompson had 12 points and John-



son 10 for Indiana. Johnson also had seven rebounds and seven assists.

BIG PICTURE

Indiana: After shooting 54.8 percent in the first half, the Hoosiers went just 7 of 31 over the final 20 minutes. They also were just 6 of 13 on free-throw attempts.

Wisconsin: The Badgers showcased their tenacity on defense by rebounding from such a poor start. Hepburn, a freshman, struggled in his Big Ten debut, but was clutch from the line in the closing seconds.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Wisconsin's chances of moving up in the poll could depend on how the Badgers do Saturday when they visit No. 21 Ohio State.

UP NEXT

Indiana: Hosts Merrimack on Sunday.

Wisconsin: At No. 21 Ohio State on Saturday.

Duarte, Turner lead Pacers over Knicks

By **PHILLIP B. WILSON**
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Chris Duarte scored

23 points, Myles Turner had 22 and the Indiana Pacers beat the New York Knicks 122-102 Wednesday night.

Duarte, a rookie shooting guard, eclipsed his 13.1-point scoring average with 14 in the first quarter, when the Pacers seized control with a 15-2 run. Indiana outscored New

York in each of the first three quarters to lead 96-76 and maintained a double-digit lead from midway through the second quarter until the final buzzer.

The Pacers shot 60 percent (27 of 45) in the first half. The Knicks shot 47.7 percent (21 of 44).

Each of the Pacers starters scored in double figures, with Malcolm Brogdon getting 16 points and Caris LeVert 15. Duarte and LeVert each had six assists.

Domantas Sabonis had 21 points and 11 rebounds. His league-leading 20 double-doubles is one more than Jonas Valanciunas

of New Orleans.

RJ Barrett led the Knicks with 19 points. Julius Randle had 18 points and eight rebounds. Alec Burks scored 15

and Obi Toppin 13.

The Knicks were playing on the road on back-to-back nights after a win at San Antonio on Tuesday.

The Pacers had the benefit of one day of rest.

TIP-INS

Knicks: Toppin made a second-quarter breakaway look like a dunk contest try. While in mid-air, he rotated the ball from his left hand to his right and between his legs before throwing down the slam. ... Randle and Barrett scored 18 of the team's first 31 points. ... Dropped to 7-5 on the road.

Pacers: Sabonis was floored after taking Randle's elbow to the throat in the second quarter. A review upheld no call. ... Scored 70 first-half points for the fifth time this season. ... Improved to 8-6 at home.

UP NEXT

Knicks: At Toronto on Friday night.

Pacers: Host Dallas on Friday night.



Justin Fields set to return to Bears' lineup

By **ANDREW SELIGMAN**
AP Sports Writer

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — Justin Fields is set to return to the Chicago Bears' lineup.

Coach Matt Nagy said Wednesday the prized rookie quarterback will start when the team visits the Green Bay Packers this week after missing the past two games because of broken ribs.

Fields, the No. 11 overall draft pick, practiced on a limited basis last week. He has not played since he left in the second half of a loss to Baltimore on Nov. 21.

Fields wasn't sure exactly when the injury happened. His final play against the Ravens was a 6-yard scramble on third-and-11 at the Chicago 45 on the opening drive of the third quarter.

Fields went to the locker room, and veteran Andy Dalton replaced him.

"I didn't get hit that hard, so I think it happened before that last play when I came off," Fields said. "I tried to get up and run and it was hurting to run. I'm not even sure what play it happened on."

Fields also took a shot to his ribs in the national semifinals last year when Clemson linebacker James Skalski nailed him in the right side of his torso. Skalski was ejected for targeting because he led with the crown of his helmet.

Fields missed one play and finished with six touchdown passes in Ohio State's 49-28 victory. The ribs bothered him in the national championship game, and the Buckeyes lost 52-24 to

Alabama.

He won't be playing at 100 percent, either, when the Bears visit the NFC North-leading Packers. Green Bay beat Chicago 24-14 at Soldier Field in October in a game where the Packers' Aaron Rodgers turned toward the crowd after running for a late touchdown and yelled, "I still own you! I still own you!"

"You have three cracked ribs, of course there's gonna be pain," Fields said. "As long as it's just not crazy pain where I can't bear it, I'm gonna play and practice."

He went about a week without throwing after he left the Baltimore game.

"Then I tried to throw a little bit but I couldn't. It was hurting to throw, so I kind of chilled out a little bit," he said.

Dalton, who opened the season as Chicago's No. 1 quarterback before injuring his knee against Cincinnati in Week 2, has started the past two games. He helped lead the Bears to a narrow Thanksgiving victory at then-winless Detroit, then tied a career high with four interceptions in a loss to Arizona on Sunday and injured his non-throwing, left hand.

Nagy said the decision to start Fields was not related to Dalton's injury, adding the former Ohio State star remains the team's No. 1 quarterback. He also would not give any details on the condition of Dalton, who did not practice. If he isn't available Sunday, Nick Foles would be the backup.

As for Fields?

"There's a lot of players right now

in this league that are playing at less than 100 percent, and when it's the quarterback position, he's gonna have to learn about a lot of stuff ... whether it's physical or mental," Nagy said. "But he's wired that way. That's not hard for him."

Fields' development remains a key goal for a team with a 4-8 record. The Bears have lost six of the past seven games, and their offense ranks among the NFL's worst.

Fields has completed 115 of 198 passes for 1,361 yards in 10 games and eight starts. He has four touchdowns and eight interceptions.

Fields had several promising outings prior to the game against Baltimore.

In a loss to San Francisco at Soldier Field on Halloween, he threw for 175 yards and a touchdown. He also ran for 103 yards and a score, becoming the first Bears QB to rush for 100 yards in a game since Bobby Douglass in 1973.

The following week in a Monday night loss at Pittsburgh, he passed for a personal-best 291 yards and threw a go-ahead touchdown in the closing minutes.

"We really feel like he was really improving as the games went by for him individually, our team, our offense," Nagy said.

"There are still places where we can certainly improve at. As a staff we felt like we were really getting a good feel for where he was and then he gets injured. So then for him to come back, yeah, I mean against a big division opponent and rival that we know all about. I know that he's excited for it and that's just kind of how he is. So he's ready to go."

High School Calendar

THURSDAY, Dec. 9

SWIMMING: Bluffton at Blackford, 5:30 p.m.; Jay County at Norwell, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, Dec. 10

WRESTLING: Bluffton, Southern Wells at ACAC Team Duals, 6 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL: Monroe Central at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m. (JV 6 p.m.; Freshman 5 p.m.)

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Woodlan, 7:30 p.m. (JV 6 p.m.); Heritage at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m. (JV 6 p.m.); Norwell at Columbia City, 7:30 p.m. (JV 6:15 p.m.)

SATURDAY, Dec. 11

BOYS SWIMMING: Bluffton, Norwell at Norwell Invite 9 a.m.

WRESTLING: Bluffton, Southern Wells at ACAC Team Duals, 9 a.m.; NE8 Triple Dual at Norwell, 9:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Garrett, 7:30 p.m. (JV 6 p.m.); Southern Wells at Madison-Grant, 6 p.m. (JV Only)

BOYS BASKETBALL: Southern Wells at Blue River Valley, 7:30 p.m. (JV 6 p.m.); Wabash at Norwell, 7:45 p.m. (JV, Freshman 6:15 p.m.)

SUNDAY, Dec. 12

No games scheduled

MONDAY, Dec. 13

No games scheduled

Bluffton boys' swim beats Adams Central

Bluffton's boys' swim team won 122-49 at Adams Central on Tuesday.

The Tiger Sharks took first place in nine of 12 events. Bryson Mayer led the team in scoring, taking first place in four events he participated in.

Individually, Mayer won the 200 individual medley and the 500 freestyle.

Mayer, along with Colin Magdich, Gavin Yergler, and Dylan King won the 200 freestyle relay. Mayer, Yergler, King, and Dalton Rodgers won the 400 freestyle relay.

Rodgers won the 100 backstroke and the 100 butterfly. Yergler won the 100 freestyle. Magdich won the 200 freestyle.

The Lady Tiger Sharks lost 98-72.

Annika Linderwell finished first in both of her individual events.

Bluffton also won the 400 freestyle relay.

Bluffton's teams will head to Blackford on Thursday for their next meet.

SW wrestling team wins 1 matchup at Eastern

One Southern Wells wrestler was able to win a matchup at Eastern on Tuesday night in the team's dual match.

Bryar Gearheart pinned his opponent in the 145-pound matchup for 6 points. The other four Raides lost their matchups — three by fall and one by major decision.

Eastern won the other nine matchups by forfeit.

Southern Wells will compete again this weekend in the ACAC Team Duals at Jay County beginning on Friday.

Notre Dame women get win at Valparaiso

VALPARAISO, Ind. (AP) — Madelyn Westbeld scored 20 points and Olivia Miles posted a double-double and No. 22-ranked Notre Dame gradually pulled away from feisty Valparaiso for a 73-56 win on Wednesday night.

Miles scored 11 points and grabbed 13 rebounds and Dara Mabrey added 14 points for Notre Dame which went 9 for 18 from 3-point range.

The Irish (8-2) used a 7-2 run for a 54-47 lead to start the fourth quarter and created safe space from there. Abby Prohaska's 3 with 7:52 remaining gave Notre Dame its first double-digit lead at 57-47.

Now winless in eight games, the Beacons led Notre Dame 19-14 after the first, were tied at 25 at intermission and trailed 50-45 entering the last stanza. It was Valpo's first game at home after five straight on the road.

Shay Frederick led Valparaiso with 19 points.

Owusu leads Maryland women past Boilermakers

By **IAN NICHOLAS QUILLEN**
Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — Ashley Owusu scored eight of her 20 points in the fourth quarter to push No. 8 Maryland to an 86-71 victory over Purdue on Wednesday night.

Owusu added nine rebounds and five assists for the Terrapins (9-2, 2-0 Big Ten), who trailed by four at halftime in their final tune-up before playing at No. 1 South Carolina on Sunday.

Katie Benzan and Angel Reese each had 15 points for Maryland, which scored 34 points off 23 Purdue turnovers in its third consecutive victory. Mimi Collins and Chloe Bibby each added 12 points.

Brooke Moore scored a season-high 22 points and hit six 3-pointers to lead the Boilermakers (6-4, 0-2), who suffered consecutive losses for the first time this season. Purdue fell to then-No. 18 Ohio State on Sunday in its Big Ten opener.

NEWS-BANNER SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Brooklyn	17	8	.680	—
Philadelphia	14	11	.560	3
Boston	13	12	.520	4
New York	12	13	.480	5
Toronto	11	14	.440	6

Southeast Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	15	11	.577	—
Washington	15	11	.577	—
Atlanta	13	12	.520	1 1/2
Charlotte	14	13	.519	1 1/2
Orlando	5	20	.200	9 1/2

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	17	9	.654	—
Milwaukee	16	10	.615	1
Cleveland	14	12	.538	3
Indiana	11	16	.407	6 1/2
Detroit	4	20	.167	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Memphis	14	11	.560	—
Dallas	12	12	.500	1 1/2
San Antonio	8	15	.348	5
Houston	8	16	.333	5 1/2
New Orleans	7	20	.259	8

Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Utah	17	7	.708	—
Denver	12	12	.500	5
Portland	11	14	.440	6 1/2
Minnesota	11	14	.440	6 1/2
Oklahoma City	8	16	.333	9

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Golden State	20	4	.833	—
Phoenix	20	4	.833	—
L.A. Clippers	13	12	.520	7 1/2
L.A. Lakers	13	12	.520	7 1/2
Sacramento	10	14	.417	10

Tuesday's Games				
Brooklyn 102, Dallas 99				
New York 121, San Antonio 109				
L.A. Lakers 117, Boston 102				

Wednesday's Games				
Indiana 122, New York 102				
Cleveland 115, Chicago 92				
Philadelphia 110, Charlotte 109				
Oklahoma City 110, Toronto 106				
Washington 119, Detroit 116, OT				
Miami 113, Milwaukee 104				
Utah 136, Minnesota 104				
Dallas 104, Memphis 96				
Denver 120, New Orleans 114, OT				
Houston 114, Brooklyn 104				
Orlando at Sacramento, late				
Portland at Golden State, late				
Boston at L.A. Clippers, late				

Thursday's Games				
Utah at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.				
L.A. Lakers at Memphis, 8 p.m.				
Denver at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.				

Friday's Games				
Dallas at Indiana, 7 p.m.				
Sacramento at Charlotte, 7 p.m.				
Brooklyn at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.				
New York at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.				
Cleveland at Minnesota, 8 p.m.				
Detroit at New Orleans, 8 p.m.				
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.				

Saturday's Games				
Orlando at L.A. Clippers, 3:30 p.m.				
Utah at Washington, 7 p.m.				
Chicago at Miami, 8 p.m.				
Houston at Memphis, 8 p.m.				
Sacramento at Cleveland, 8 p.m.				
Denver at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.				
Golden State at Philadelphia, 8:30 p.m.				

NCAA				
2021-22 Bowl Glance				
All Times EST				
AP Top 25				
Record	Pts	Pvs		
1. Purdue (61)	8-0	1,525	2	
2. Baylor	8-0	1,421	4	
3. Duke	7-1	1,390	1	
4. UCLA	8-1	1,293	5	
5. Gonzaga	7-2	1,240	3	
6. Villanova	6-2	1,175	6	
7. Texas	6-1	1,101	7	
8. Kansas	6-1	1,068	8	
9. Alabama	7-1	1,029	16	
10. Kentucky	6-1	972	9	
11. Arizona	7-0	919	11	
12. Arkansas	8-0	905	10	
13. Tennessee	6-1	762	13	
14. Houston	7-1	686	15	
15. UConn	8-1	527	17	
16. Southern Cal	8-0	510	20	
17. Iowa St.	8-0	499	19	
18. Auburn	7-1	419	21	
19. Michigan St.	7-2	405	22	
20. Florida	6-1	386	14	
21. Ohio St.	6-2	370	—	
22. Wisconsin	7-1	338	23	
23. Seton Hall	7-1	177	25	
24. BYU	7-1	157	12	
25. LSU	8-0	135	—	

Top 25 Schedule				
Tuesday				
6. Villanova 67, Syracuse 53				
8. Kansas 78, UTEP 52				
10. Kentucky 76, Southern 64				
12. Arkansas 86, Charlotte 66				
Texas Tech 57, 13. Tennessee 52				
16. Southern Cal 80, E. Kentucky				

Wednesday				
11. Arizona 94, Wyoming 65				
West Virginia 56, 15. UConn 53				
19. Michigan St. 75, Minnesota 67				
20. Florida 85, North Florida 55				
21. Ohio St. 85, Towson 74				
22. Wisconsin 64, Indiana 59				
24. BYU 82, Utah St. 71				

Thursday				
1. Purdue at Rutgers, 7 p.m.				
5. Gonzaga vs. Merrimack, 9 p.m.				
7. Texas at No. 23 Seton Hall, 6:30 p.m.				
17. Iowa St. vs. Iowa, 9 p.m.				

Friday				
No Games Scheduled				

Prep				
Wednesday's Scores				
BOYS PREP BASKETBALL				
Cambridge City 76, Anderson Prep Academy 1				
Concord 55, W. Noble 52				
Greenfield 57, Triton Central 29				
Indpls Attucks 59, Indpls N. Central 54				
Lawrence Central 59, Lawrence North 54				
Springs Valley 74, Wood Memorial 43				
Wabash 54, Adams Central 46				

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL				
Angola 46, Leo 33				
Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 58, Warsaw 52				
Eastside 41, Churubusco 37				
Ft. Wayne Northrop 61, E. Noble 18				
Griffith 36, Hebron 35				
Indpls Chatham 62, Whiteland 45				
Lapel 54, Madison-Grant 42				
Monrovia 59, Indiana Math and Science Academy 13				
Silver Creek 47, Floyd Central 34				
Tippecanoe Valley 48, Triton 40				
Union Co. 36, Hagerstown 32				

FOOTBALL				
NFL				
All Times EDT				
AMERICAN CONFERENCE				
East				
W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
New England	9	4	0	.692 350 200
Buffalo	7	5	0	.583 336 196
Miami	6	7	0	.462 254 288
N.Y. Jets	3	9	0	.250 217 367
South				
W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
Tennessee	8	4	0	.667 304 290
Indianapolis	7	6	0	.538 371 283
Houston	2	10	0	.167 164 323
Jacksonville	2	10	0	.167 180 320
North				
W	L	T	Pct	PF PA

WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Minnesota	25	18	6	1	37	96	72
Colorado	23	14	7	2	30	99	79
St. Louis	25	13	8	4	30	84	73
Nashville	25	14	10	1	29	73	70
Dallas	22	13	7	2	28	64	59
Winnipeg	25	12	9	4	28	76	72
Chicago	25	9	14	2	20	56	81
Arizona	25	5	18	2	12	44	93
Pacific Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Calgary	26	15	6	5	35	84	76
Anaheim	27	14	8	5	33	89	78
Edmonton	24	16	8	0	32	87	74
San Jose	26	14	11	1	29	71	71
Vegas	24	14	10	0	28	81	73
Los Angeles	24	10	14	2	24	64	67
Vancouver	27	10	15	2	22	66	81
Seattle	25	9	14	2	20	73	90

Tuesday's Games				
Tampa Bay 3, Montreal 2				
N.Y. Islanders 5, Ottawa 3				
Nashville 5, Detroit 2				
Toronto 5, Columbus 4				
Anaheim 2, Buffalo 0				
Carolina 4, Winnipeg 2				
St. Louis 4, Florida 3, OT				
N.Y. Rangers 6, Chicago 2				
Minnesota 4, Edmonton 1				
San Jose 5, Calgary 3				

Wednesday's Games				
Colorado 7, N.Y. Rangers 3				
New Jersey 3, Philadelphia 0				
Vancouver 2, Boston 1, SO				
Dallas at Vegas, late				

Thursday's Games				
Anaheim at Columbus, 7 p.m.				
Chicago at Montreal, 7 p.m.				
Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7 p.m.				
Nashville at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.				
Detroit at St. Louis, 8 p.m.				
Boston at Edmonton, 9 p.m.				
Carolina at Calgary, 9 p.m.				
Winnipeg at Seattle, 10 p.m.				
Dallas at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.				
Minnesota at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.				

Friday's Games				
N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo, 7 p.m.				
Pittsburgh at Washington, 7 p.m.				
Nashville at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.				
Detroit at Colorado, 9 p.m.				
Florida at Arizona, 9 p.m.				
Philadelphia at Vegas, 10 p.m.				
Winnipeg at Vancouver, 10 p.m.				

Saturday's Games				
Tampa Bay at Ottawa, 1 p.m.				
Anaheim at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.				
Chicago at Toronto, 7 p.m.				
Montreal at St. Louis, 7 p.m.				
Washington at Buffalo, 7 p.m.				
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.				

Soccer				
Major League Soccer				
COLUMBUS CREW — Re-signed MF Pedro Santos to a one-year contract with an option for 2023.				
PHILADELPHIA UNION — Signed D Jakob Glesnes to a multi-year contract extension.				
National Women's Soccer League				
ANGEL CITY FC — Named Daniel Ball goalkeeper coach.				
NY/NJ Gotham FC — Traded G DiDi Haracic's rights to Angel City in exchange for general allocation money and protection in the 2022 expansion draft.				
WASHINGTON SPIRIT — Waived MF Chinyelu Asher and FS Cali Farquharson and Mariana Speckmaier.				

Philadelphia at Arizona, 9 p.m.				
Boston at Calgary, 10 p.m.				
Carolina at Edmonton, 10 p.m.				
Columbus at Seattle, 10 p.m.				
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.				
Minnesota at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.				

Komet's (10-6-2)				
Wednesday's Games				
No games scheduled				
Thursday's Games				
No games scheduled				
Friday's Games				

U.S., World News Roundup

Centers for Disease Control chief says omicron mostly mild so far

ATLANTA (AP) — More than 40 people in the U.S. have been found to be infected with the omicron variant so far, and more than three-quarters of them had been vaccinated, the chief of the CDC said Wednesday. But she said nearly all of them were only mildly ill.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said the data is very limited and the agency is working on a more detailed analysis of what the new mutant form of the coronavirus might hold for the U.S.

“What we generally know is the more mutations a variant has, the higher level you need your immunity to be. ... We want to make sure we bolster everybody’s immunity. And that’s really what motivated the decision to expand our guidance,” Walensky said, referencing the recent approval of boosters for all adults.

She said “the disease is mild” in almost all of the cases seen so far, with reported symptoms mainly cough, congestion and fatigue. One person was hospitalized, but no deaths have been reported, CDC officials said.

Some cases can become increasingly severe as days and weeks pass, and Walensky noted that the data is a very early, first glimpse of U.S. omicron infections. The earliest onset of symptoms of any of the first 40 or so cases was Nov. 15, according to the CDC.

Meadows sues as Jan. 6 panel proceeds with contempt case

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Trump White House chief of staff Mark Meadows on Wednesday sued the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection as the chairman of the panel pledged to move forward with contempt charges

against him for defying a subpoena.

The dueling actions laid bare simmering tensions between the committee and Meadows, seen by lawmakers on the panel as a pivotal player in their investigation, and reflected a remarkable turnaround from last week, when Meadows’ lawyer had declared his intention of cooperating with the committee on certain areas of their inquiry.

Meadows’ lawsuit, filed in federal court in Washington, asks a judge to invalidate two subpoenas that he says are “overly broad and unduly burdensome.” It accuses the committee of overreaching by issuing a subpoena to Verizon for his cell phone records.

“Allowing an entirely partisan select committee of Congress to subpoena the personal cell phone data of executive officials would work a massive chilling of current and future Executive Branch officials’ associational and free speech rights,” the lawsuit states.

The complaint was filed hours after Democratic Rep. Bennie Thompson, the committee chairman, declared he had “no choice” but to proceed with contempt charges against Meadows, who was subpoenaed more than two months ago and did not show up Wednesday for a scheduled deposition. Meadows’ lawyer, George Terwilliger, told the committee on Tuesday that his client was ending his cooperation.

Senate rejects Biden’s vaccine mandate for businesses

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate narrowly approved a resolution Wednesday to nullify the Biden administration’s requirement that businesses with 100 or more workers have their employees vaccinated against the coronavirus or submit to weekly testing.

The vote was 52-48. The Democratic-led House is unlikely to take the measure up, which means the mandate would stand, though courts have put it on hold for now. Still, the vote gave senators a chance to voice opposition to a policy that they say

has sparked fears back home from businesses and from unvaccinated constituents who worry about losing their jobs should the rule go into effect.

“Every so often Washington D.C. does something that lights up the phone lines. This is one of these moments,” said Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont. At home, he said, “this issue is what I hear about. This issue is a top-of-mind issue.”

Lawmakers can invalidate certain federal agency regulations if a joint resolution is approved by both houses of Congress and signed by the president, or if Congress overrides a presidential veto. That’s unlikely to happen in this case.

Under the rule, private-sector companies with 100 or more workers must require their employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or be tested for the virus weekly and wear masks on the job. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration said it would work with companies on compliance but would fine them up to more than \$13,000 for each violation, though implementation and enforcement is suspended as the litigation unfolds.

Body-cam video dominates as trial starts in Wright killing

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Prosecutors building their case against a suburban Minneapolis police officer who killed Black motorist Daunte Wright repeatedly played body-camera video of the fatal shooting, with the officer heard shouting “Taser!” and then collapsing in wails of “Oh my God!” after she had instead fired her handgun.

They used their opening statement Wednesday to portray Kim Potter as a veteran cop who had been repeatedly trained in Taser use, including warnings on avoiding such deadly mix-ups.

Potter’s attorney countered that she made an error, saying, “Police officers are human beings.” And he cast blame on Wright, saying all the 20-year-old had to do that day was surrender.

Potter, 49, killed Wright, who wasn’t

armed, during a traffic stop on April 11 in Brooklyn Center. The white officer resigned two days later. She’s charged with manslaughter.

Jurors saw video from officers’ body cameras and the police car dashboard that showed Potter threatening to shoot Wright with a Taser as another officer tried to pull him out of his car. After she shot him with her gun, Potter can be heard saying, “I just shot him. ... I grabbed the wrong (expletive) gun!”

Jussie Smollett case in jurors’ hands at Chicago trial

CHICAGO (AP) — A prosecutor told jurors Wednesday there is “overwhelming evidence” that Jussie Smollett lied to Chicago police about being the victim of an anti-gay, racist hate crime, while a defense attorney called the case a “house of cards” built on testimony from two liars.

The lawyers’ closing arguments capped just over one week of testimony in the case against the former “Empire” actor. The jury deliberated for about two hours Wednesday but broke for the day without reaching a verdict. They are expected to resume deliberations Thursday.

In his closing, special prosecutor Dan Webb said Smollett caused Chicago police to spend enormous resources investigating an alleged crime that they now believe is fake. Smollett, who is Black and gay, told police someone put a noose around his neck and yelled racist and homophobic slurs during the January 2019 attack near his downtown Chicago home.

“Besides being against the law, it is just plain wrong to outright denigrate something as serious as a real hate crime and then make sure it involved words and symbols that have such historical significance in our country,” Webb said.

He also accused Smollett of lying to jurors, saying surveillance video from before the alleged attack and that night contradicts key moments of Smollett’s testimony.

California plans to be abortion sanctuary if Roe overturned

By ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — With more than two dozen states poised to ban abortion if the U.S. Supreme Court gives them the OK next year, California clinics and their allies in the state Legislature on Wednesday revealed a plan to make the state a “sanctuary” for those seeking reproductive care, including possibly paying for travel, lodging and procedures for people from other states.

The California Future of Abortion Council, made up of more than 40 abortion providers and advocacy groups, released a list of 45 recommendations for the state to consider if the high court overturns Roe v. Wade — the 48-year-old decision that forbids states from outlawing abortion.

The recommendations are not just a liberal fantasy. Some of the state’s most important policymakers helped write them, including Toni Atkins, the San Diego Democrat who leads the state Senate and attended multiple meetings.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom started the group himself and in an interview last week with The Associated Press said some of the report’s details will be included in his budget proposal in January.

“We’ll be a sanctuary,” Newsom said, adding he’s aware patients will likely travel to California from other states to seek abor-

tions. “We are looking at ways to support that inevitability and looking at ways to expand our protections.”

Abortion, perhaps more than any other issue, has divided the country for decades along mostly traditional partisan lines. A new decision overturning Roe v. Wade, which could come next summer, would be the culmination of more than 40 years of conservative activism. But Wednesday’s report offers a first glimpse of how Democratic-dominated states could respond and how the debate over abortion access would change.

California already pays for abortions for many low-income residents through the state’s Medicaid program. And California is one of six states that require private insurance companies to cover abortions, although many patients still end up paying deductibles and co-payments.

But money won’t be a problem for state-funded abortion services for patients from other states. California’s coffers have soared throughout the pandemic, fueling a record budget surplus this year. Next year, the state’s independent Legislative Analyst’s Office predicts California will have a surplus of about \$31 billion.

California’s affiliates of Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest abortion provider, got a sneak preview of how people might seek abortions outside their home states

this year when a Texas law that outlawed abortion after six weeks of pregnancy was allowed to take effect. California clinics reported a slight increase in patients from Texas.

Now, California abortion providers are asking California to make it easier for those people to get to the state.

The report recommends funding — including public spending — to support

patients seeking abortion for travel expenses such as gas, lodging, transportation and child care.

It asks lawmakers to reimburse abortion providers for services to those who can’t afford to pay — including those who travel to California from other states whose income is low enough that they would qualify for state-funded abortions under Medicaid if they lived there.

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Congressional leaders reach a deal to boost U.S. debt limit

By KEVIN FREKING and LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional leaders reached an elaborate deal Tuesday that will allow Democrats to lift the nation's debt limit without any votes from Republicans, likely averting another last-minute rush to avoid a federal default. Hours later, the House passed legislation overwhelmingly along party lines that kicked off a multi-step process.

Congress approved a \$480 billion increase in the nation's debt limit in October. That's enough for the Treasury to finance the government's operations through Dec. 15, according to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's projection.

But Republicans have warned they won't vote for any future debt ceiling increase to ensure the federal government can meet its financial obligations, and instead, the politically unpopular measure would have to be passed entirely by the Democratic majority in both chambers of Congress.

President Joe Biden had called on Republicans to "get out of the way" if they won't help Democrats shoulder the debt responsibility. But rather than step aside and allow for a quick vote, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell has helped engineer an unusual legislative process that will play out over the next several days. Donald Trump, the former president, ridiculed McConnell for allowing any action, showing just how politically toxic the routine act of paying the nation's bills has become.

"I think this is in the best interest of the country," said McConnell, R-Ky. "I think it is also in the best interest of Republicans, who feel very strongly that the previous debt ceilings we agreed to when President Trump was here carried us through August. And this current debt ceiling is indeed about the future and not about the past."

The agreement spelled out in the House bill passed Tuesday establishes the days-long process ahead. In short, it would tuck a provision to fast-track the

debt limit process into an unrelated Medicare bill that will prevent payment cuts to doctors and other health care providers. That measure passed the House by a vote of 222-212 with only Republican, Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois, siding with Democrats in voting for the measure.

"House Republicans can't support using patients and access to local doctors as leverage to increase the national debt on our children," said Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas.

The measure now goes to the Senate, and if the Medicare bill becomes law, it will open the process for the Senate to raise the debt ceiling through subsequent legislation with a Democrats' only majority vote.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., struck an optimistic note that the debt ceiling plan will pass.

"This is a very good outcome for the American people. We will avoid default, which would have been disastrous. Democrats have always said that we were willing to shoulder the load at 50 votes to get this done as long it was not a convoluted or risky process, and Leader McConnell and I have achieved that."

Key to the agreement is that Democrats will have to vote on a specific amount by which the debt ceiling would be lifted. The amount has not yet been disclosed, but it is sure to be a staggering sum. Republicans want to try to blame Democrats for the nation's rising debt load and link it to Biden's roughly \$2 trillion social and environmental bill.

"To have Democrats

raise the debt ceiling and be held politically accountable for racking up more debt is my goal, and this helps us accomplish that," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

The increase in the debt ceiling, however, is needed to meet financial obligations accrued by both parties under past legislation. The vast majority of it predates Biden's presidency.

"This is about meeting obligations that the government has already incurred, largely during the Trump Administration," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in a letter to Democratic colleagues. "Only three percent of the current debt has been accrued under President Biden."

Pelosi said that addressing the debt limit will prevent a drastic increase in interest rates for car loans, student debt, mortgages and other types of borrowing for Americans.

The legislation before the House on Tuesday establishes a fast-track process for the days ahead. A subsequent vote will be needed to pass the debt ceiling increase itself. Once the Senate has done so, the House will take up the bill and send it to Biden to be signed into law.

At their private luncheon Thursday, Republican senators sounded off against the plan. Many of them will not support it.

Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., a member of GOP leadership, said the lunch discussion went about as would be expected — though he said the plan at least allows Republicans to achieve their goal of forcing Democrats to vote on their own to raise the debt ceiling by a specific amount.



A tractor helped pull a horse out of a cold creek in Hancock County. (Photo submitted to the Greenfield Reporter/provided to the News-Banner via HSPA)

Quick-thinking rescuers pull old horse from a frigid creek

By KRISTY DEER
Greenfield Reporter

HANCOCK COUNTY — Lola, a Tennessee Walking Horse in her late 20s, is lucky to be alive.

First responders from the Sugar Creek and Buck Creek Township fire departments helped rescue the mare last week after she'd fallen into Sugar Creek and couldn't get up. The creek runs through a pasture on private property in the 1000 block of North County Road 200W where the horse's owners board their two horses.

When Lola didn't come up with her pasture mates, like she usually does for breakfast, the people at the barn where Lola stays knew something was amiss. They immediately started walking the fence line looking for Lola and eventually found her fallen and submerged in the creek bed soaked from head to tail. They said she was exhausted from holding her head up to keep from going underwater and drowning.

When she was found on Tuesday morning, Nov. 30, the temperature was in the low 30s.

The firefighters, using specialized equipment, were finally able to pull the 1,000-pound horse out of the water, but the danger was not over.

Veterinarian Dr. Natalie Skillman arrived to help Lola, who was shaking violently from the loss of body heat.

Skillman said the horse's body temperature was registering 91 degrees when Lola was pulled from the water. Normal temperature for a horse is similar to that for humans, between 98 and 100 degrees. Her heart rate was five

times what her normal resting heart rate should be.

The horse was hooked up an IV, and her rescuers worked quickly with towels, blankets, heat packs and hay to get her warm.

Firefighters eventually placed straps under Lola so they could raise her using hydraulics from a tractor. At first, Lola just hung from the makeshift sling and was not making an effort to stand, but over the next 10 minutes she slowly started to bear weight on all four limbs. She even started to eat hay while bearing all of her own weight.

Skillman posted about the experience on her Facebook page and thanked the firefighters for helping save Lola.

Jennifer Cross, Lola's owner, commented on Skillman's post about the incident, thanking everyone involved, including the vet.

"Words cannot describe the gratitude I feel toward all the wonderful and skilled people who participated in the rescue of my beloved Lola," Cross said. "Pulling her from that shallow, watery grave and offering her warmth, comfort and expert treatment, could only be accomplished by a team of amazing and compassionate (and strong!) individuals. The world needs more people like them."

On Sunday, Dec. 5, Cross said Lola seems to be fully recovered.

"She's back to being the 'old gray mare,' who loves to graze and hang out with her horse mates," Cross said.

This story was provided to the News-Banner by the Hoosier State Press Association's Information Network.

Senators give Instagram chief hostile reception

By MARCY GORDON and BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of Instagram on Wednesday met with deep skepticism on Capitol Hill over new measures the social media platform is adopting to protect young users.

Adam Mosseri appeared before a Senate panel and faced off with lawmakers angry over revelations of how the photo-sharing platform can harm some young users. Senators are also demanding the company commit to making changes and increase its transparency.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., who heads the Senate Commerce subcommittee on consumer protection, dismissed as "a public relations tactic" some safety measures announced by the popular photo-sharing platform.

"I believe that the time for self-policing and self-regulation is over," Blumenthal said. "Self-policing depends on trust. Trust is over."

Under sharp questioning by senators of both parties, Mosseri defended the company's conduct and the efficacy of its new safety measures. He challenged the assertion that Instagram has been shown by research to be addictive for young people. Instagram, which along with Facebook is part of Meta Platforms Inc., has an estimated 1 billion users of all ages.

On Tuesday, Instagram introduced a previously announced feature that urges teenagers to take breaks from the platform. The company also announced other tools, including parental controls due to come out early next year, that it says are aimed at protecting young users from harmful content.

Senators of both parties were united in condemnation of the social network giant and Instagram, the photo-sharing juggernaut valued at some \$100 billion that Facebook acquired for \$1 billion in 2012.

The hearing grew more confrontational and emotionally charged as it went on.

"Sir, I have to tell you, you did sound callous," Sen. Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, the panel's senior Republican, told Mosseri near the end of the hearing.

Senators repeatedly tried to win commitments from Mosseri for Instagram to provide full results of its internal research and its computer formulas for ranking content to independent monitors and Congress. They also tried to enlist his support for legislation that would curb the ways in which Big Tech deploys social media geared toward young people.

Mosseri responded mostly with general endorsements of openness and accountability, insisting that Instagram is an industry leader in transparency.

The issue is becoming increasingly urgent. An

alarming advisory issued Tuesday by U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy warned about a mental health crisis among children and young adults that has been worsened by the coronavirus pandemic. He said tech companies must design social media platforms that strengthen, rather than harm, young people's mental health.

Meta, which is based in Menlo Park, California, has been roiled by public and political outrage over the

disclosures by former Facebook employee Frances Haugen. She has made the case before lawmakers in the U.S., Britain and Europe that that the company's systems amplify online hate and extremism and that the company elevates profits over the safety of users.

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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

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Daily Three-Middyay — 3-1-7, SB: 5

Daily Three-Evening — 6-8-3, SB: 0

Daily Four-Middyay — 4-2-1-4, SB: 5

Daily Four-Evening — 7-0-7-9, SB: 0

Quick Draw Evening — 01-02-06-13-16-18-20-31-33-36-39-46-47-57-58-62-65-67-72-79, BE: 47

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

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The Skilled Trades Maintenance Worker will be responsible for installation, operation, and upkeep of equipment and systems throughout the Swiss Village community. This position will be 40 hours/week, Monday – Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm with rotating on-call requirements. Qualified candidates must have electrical, plumbing, carpentry, or remodeling experience. Seeking candidates with good work habits, the ability to efficiently use materials and equipment, and committed to following policies and procedures. This position is eligible for benefits including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) retirement plan participation.

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Taylor Lehman, Vice President of HR

Swiss Village | 1350 W. Main St. | Berne, IN 46711

or email: careers@swissvillage.org

EOE

Public Sale Calendar

DECEMBER 18 - 9 a.m. - Ossian Furniture Design, LLC. 10018 N. State Rd. 1, Ossian. Doors open at 8 a.m. Selling remaining inventory (to the bar walls). Quality furniture including C.R. Lane, Hooker, Bern Hardt, England, hundreds of home accessories including framed art. Bring your truck and trailer. Enjoy an old fashioned, close out auction conducted by EBI, 100 years in business. Terms: Cash. [Ellenberger Brothers, Inc. Auctioneers](http://EllenbergerBrothers.com). 800-373-6363, www.EllenbergerBrothers.com.

BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING DECEMBER 19 AT 4 P.M. - Gregory Grewe Estate, owner. 6039 E 800 N, Ossian. 2008 Ford F-150, 1998 Dodge Dakota, 2002 Toyota Corolla, 2017 Sure Trac utility trailer, tractor, attachments, 2007 Polaris Sportsmen 450, zero turn mower, tools, shop equipment, primitives, antiques, household, local advertising, ammunition, musical instruments & more! Open house Dec. 18, 10 a.m.-noon. [Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC](http://KrueckebergAuction.com), 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

DECEMBER 26-JANUARY 1 - NOON - Patrick W. Carrico, seller. 1890 E. 400 N., Ossian. Huge online antique and collectible auction. Rare Erie Lackawanna Railroad Train bulletin sign (from Uniondale RR Depot), rare Turn of the Century coffin clock, large vintage radio collection, antique furniture, vintage signs, brass blade fans, large collection of antique scales, Late 1800's McCaskey account register, Bluffton advertising memorabilia, farm advertising memorabilia, large collection of early washing machines, vintage lighted clocks, strings of sleigh bells, farm primitives, crocks. Preview: Dec. 27, 4-6 p.m., Dec. 31, noon-3 p.m. [The Steffen Group Inc.](http://TheSteffenGroup.com), Brandon Steffen, sale manager, www.steffengrp.com, 824-3006.

BIDDING BEGINS AT 8 A.M. DEC. 30 AND CLOSES JAN. 1 STARTING AT 11 A.M. Harmeyer Auction Company, Hartford City, Online Farm Equipment Consignment Auction. Consignors do not have to bring equipment to our location. A member of our staff will come to you. Consignments stay in your possession until close of auction. Accepting good quality consignments of: Farm Equipment, Lawn & Garden, Trucks/RV's, ATV/Recreational Vehicles. Call Scott Shrader, 765-348-6538, for information. [Harmeyer Auction & Appraisal Co.](http://HarmeyerAuction.com), Rusty Harmeyer, 765-561-1671, www.harmeyerauction.net.

Public Notice

WELLS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
1600 W. Washington St.
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone: (260) 824-6430
Fax: (260) 824-6431
highway@wellscounty.org

REQUIREMENTS FOR BIDDING
Bid Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Conference room – Wells County Carnegie Annex, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton

All bids to be submitted on Wells County Highway Annual Bid Form 1.

Bids for items 1 through 3 shall be accompanied by a 10% bond or certified check in the amount of 10% of the bid. (Out-of-State companies must have checks.)

The Board of Wells County Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to accept the one which, in their judgment, will be in the best interest of Wells County, and will be the best and/or lowest responsive and responsible bidder for each line or class of materials.

COUNTY HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REQUISITION

- Bituminous Dust Control Material Liquid** – 75,000 gallons or less liquid asphalt emulsions for

dust control. No demurrage can be charged.

Application rate for in front of homes is below. Please quote the product alone and also quote the product distributed throughout Wells County at selected locations if you are able to provide both services. If you can only provide the material OR only the distribution, quote them individually.

Two applications

- First application 15' wide @ .40 gallon per square yard
- Second application 15' wide @ .20 gallon per square yard

Quote price per gallon for each application rate.

- Stone/Aggregate** – 45,000 tons or less of various sizes of stone crushed aggregate including screenings. Materials to meet INDOT standard specifications, gradation and approval of the Wells County Commissioners and Highway Department.
- Bituminous Material Liquid** – 440,000 gallons or less liquid asphalt emulsions of various grades. Materials to meet Indiana Department of Transportation Specifications except remove stone coating. No demurrage can be charged. Bid price at cents/gallon and dollars/ton.
- Fuel** – provide pricing for

Premium on-road and off-road diesel fuel to be delivered to the Wells County Highway Department and 3 off site fueling locations. On-Road Diesel to be delivered to 1600 West Washington Street location and Off-Road Diesel to be delivered to three separate county fueling sites. Total of 45,000 gallons of On-Road and Off-Road Diesel in Regular and Winter Mix with kerosene rates, as appropriate. Pricing to include all taxes applicable to a governmental agency. Price per gallon should also include delivery cost in addition to any other fees that may apply. Bidder agrees to monitor tank levels and maintain volume appropriate for emergency operations as determined by Superintendent. Bidders should not include biodiesels.

- Aluminum Box Culverts** - Provide unit pricing for all sizes and accessories available, including but not limited to shell, invert, headwalls, wingwalls, corner panels, toe walls, receiving channel, and footing pads. Price structures for HL93, HS25, and HS20 load ratings. Bidder must provide signed and sealed fabrication, plate layout, and design calculations by manufacturer for any structure ordered by Owner. Bidder must have an Indiana Registered Professional Engineer (PE)

on staff to assist Owner in design and sizing of these type structures if required and must be able to attend a mandatory onsite preconstruction meeting with Owner and provide an onsite inspection during construction by an employee of the culvert manufacturer if required.

- Precast Concrete Arch Structures and Boxes** - Provide unit pricing for all sizes and accessories available, including but not limited to shell, invert, headwalls, wingwalls, and foundations. Price structures for HL93, HS25, and HS20 load ratings. Bidder must provide signed and sealed fabrication, layout, and design calculations by manufacturer for any structure ordered by Owner. Bidder must have an Indiana Registered Professional Engineer (PE) on staff to assist Owner in design and sizing of these type structures if required and must be able to attend a mandatory onsite preconstruction meeting with Owner and provide an onsite inspection during construction by an employee of the culvert manufacturer if required.
- All Steel Bridge Packages including Beam Span and Truss Structures** - Provide unit pricing for all sizes and accessories available. Price structures for HL93, HS25, and HS20 load ratings. Bidder must

provide signed and sealed fabrication, layout, and design calculations by manufacturer for any structure ordered by Owner. Bidder must have an Indiana Registered Professional Engineer (PE) on staff to assist Owner in design and sizing of these type structures if required and must be able to attend a mandatory onsite preconstruction meeting with Owner and provide an onsite inspection during construction by an employee of the bridge manufacturer if required.

- Bridge Decking Products** - Provide unit pricing for Structural Plate Bridge Flooring, corrugations 2" to 6" and 3" to 9" in all gauges available. Price both punched and un-punched material.
- Treated Timber Bridge Products** - Provide unit pricing for treated timber bridge rail, decks, pilings, salt/sand storage building package components, and galvanized attaching hardware.
- Steel Pipe Products** - Provide unit pricing for corrugated steel pipe products on a per foot or unit price basis from 12" thru 144" diameter for both standard and elliptical in 16ga thru 10ga. Price galvanized, aluminumized-T2 and polymer coated pipes.
- Misc Pipe & Fittings** - Provide unit pricing for corrugated High

Density Polyethylene pipe products on a per foot basis from 4" diameter thru 60". Include pricing for standard fittings.

Successful Bidder must have a representative available to assist Owner in sizing and installation of pipe, culvert, timber or precast structures materials for all items. Bidder must provide a professional engineer (PE) on products as noted.

Items 6 through 12 shall be considered as a unit, with bid to be complete for all items and material to be delivered and unloaded as specified by the Owner. Quote net prices only.

The delivery time and availability of material are to be listed and considered as part of the bid.

All materials must meet all federal and state highway specifications with a design load capacity to meet AASHTO guidelines. Manufacturer's material certification sheets must accompany bid where appropriate.

All materials must be manufactured and fabricated in the United States of America.

Shawn Bonar
Wells County Highway Dept.
Supervisor

oj, nb 12/2, 12/9
hspaxl



Crime and cost of living

The two "C's" most important to movers



By ERIK J. MARTIN

For home buyers and prospective renters alike, the three most important factors aren't necessarily "location, location, location," as we've been repeatedly told. New research suggests that safety, affordability, and school quality are the top three considerations when it comes to choosing where to live.

Redfin recently polled 1,023 people who moved to a new home since the start of the pandemic. Results of the survey indicate that crime and safety ranked tops among home buyers as the most commonly cited factors involved in deciding where to move; meanwhile, among renters, cost-of-living placed number one. Fifty percent of homeowners who relocated since the start of coronavirus chose crime and safety versus about one in three renters. Cost-of-living was selected by 40% percent of renters as the most important factor compared to 43% of homeowners.

These findings are no surprise to Southeast Michigan Realtor Jason Gelios.

"Homebuyers always consider the safety of an area when looking to make a home purchase. What's interesting is how that interest has accelerated due to the pandemic and the uncertainty of the world we live in," he says. "Buyers want to know that their next move will be a safer one. Many homeowners and renters may be looking to escape a bad area for a better one these days."

Carol Horsford, CEO and broker at Farnam Realty Group in New Haven, Connecticut, echoes those thoughts.

"Post-pandemic people care more about safety these days with the virus spreading rapidly, causing deaths and fear, and people being forced to stay home. Before COVID, we tolerated more. But with sheltering-in-place requirements, crime and safety became more prevalent in the minds of residents stuck at home," explains Horsford.

Cost-of-living has always been a major concern among renters, so the fact that this issue topped the list among leasing ten-

ants was fairly predictable.

"It's been my experience that tenants tend to have a tighter budget and a hyper-focus on how much their cost-of-living is," Gelios continues. "With ever-rising monthly rent payments, tenants are having to buckle down in other areas to help them financially."

In Horsford's market, moving activity among renters ticked up dramatically in spring 2020. After the first stimulus checks hit, many renters sought to quarantine in a safer and happier place.

"We saw many renters move as soon as they knew they had to stay at home. Having extra money from the government helped many afford to move, often to a better rental. Cost-of-living remains crucial to many people's budgets, but the comfort factor became something that people wanted more during the pandemic," she explains. "Also, I think many renters moved to less expensive units further away from their jobs because they learned they could effectively work remotely."

Whether you are seeking to purchase or lease a home, it's important to do your homework when it comes to safety and price.

"Buyers and renters alike should consult with their local police department to gain information on how a specific area rates in regards to crime. They should also check out the property at different times of the day and night, walk the streets, and assess the area firsthand," recommends Gelios. "The cost-of-living factor can be more thoroughly explored by examining the overall area the home is located in, as well as property taxes, utility costs, and other out-of-pocket housing expenses."

Be sure to prioritize other aspects besides affordability and safety, however.

"Check to see that the area has good neighborhood amenities. Is it convenient for you to get to work, go shopping, and get around? How good are the local schools? How racially and culturally diverse is the area? These are all aspects that should be additionally considered," adds Gelios.

Special assessment fees and your rights as a property owner

Question: Our condo association wants to charge a special assessment that, in our case, will likely amount to \$85,000. The purpose of the assessment is to set aside money for expected property repairs and updates. Can they do this?

Answer: With a condominium, you own your unit, perhaps an apartment or townhouse. In addition, you have an interest in the common areas and a voting membership in the condo association. The value of each vote might be one vote per unit, or a vote based on square footage, depending on how the condo regime was originally set up.

With the 2021 building collapse in Surfside, FL, condo associations and local officials are taking a second look at structural issues. This is happening not just on beach fronts, but also with projects in every market.

The worry is that decades of wear and tear may not have been adequately addressed with routine maintenance, resulting in issues that have grown larger over time—not only cosmetic items, but structural problems that can make entire buildings unsafe.

While most problems are likely fixable, they will not be fixable for free. Condo associations and their members will have to pay for the repairs, that in some cases, will cost individual unit owners five to six figures.

Special assessments raise several concerns. First, a special assessment can sometimes be paid in installments rather than a lump sum. However, one way or the other, it's a lien. If unpaid, it can lead to a foreclosure action against the unit owner.

Second, the additional cost of a special assessment may be substantial. Owners may want to refinance the unit in such situations. If refinancing also means a rate reduction or longer loan term, it may be possible in some situations to pay off the special assessment and reduce monthly mortgage costs. For details, speak with local mortgage lenders.

Third, you can be certain that insurance companies are reviewing the risks represented by deferred structure maintenance. It will not be surprising if new insurance standards emerge to obtain or renew building coverage, including regular on-site inspections by professional engineers.

Fourth, mortgage backers such as the FHA, VA, and private mortgage insurance companies that make financing with little down possible, are likely to introduce new building insurance guidelines. In turn, mortgage lenders will surely have new underwriting standards.

Meanwhile, if you have an interest in a condo property, review documents with care. Ask about such issues as current reserves, recent repairs, whether any major repairs have been planned or are underway, and if any special assessments have been announced or are being considered. Speak with your real estate broker and/or a local attorney for more information.

Email your questions to peter@ctwfeatures.com



Peter G. Miller

Learning from the mistakes of frenzied buyers

By MARILYN KENNEDY MELIA

Sellers are routinely advised to clear away anything, like family photos, that identify their home as uniquely their own. And buyers with awareness of this tactic may find it easier to stick to a budget.

"It's easy for consumers to feel ownership of a home, especially when they enter it, touch countertops, and open closets," says Colleen Kirk, a marketing professor at New York Institute of Technology. "When consumers feel ownership, they can feel a great sense of loss when

they are unable to acquire it." Furthermore, that sense loss can lead to frenzied overpaying in a bidding war, Kirk notes.

Apparently, it has happened to many buyers lately, with several surveys showing regrets about overpaying. Just as a sense of ownership is a culprit, relying too heavily on a mortgage pre-approval can lead to spending regrets, says Charles Chedester of Midwest Family Mortgage, Iowa.

Seeing a total amount that a lender is willing to provide doesn't inform buyers what their actual

monthly housing cost will be on a particular home, he explains. Chedester advises asking your lender to estimate homeowner insurance, taxes, and homeowner association dues on a specific property and converting that to a monthly payment.

Ask your agent about expected maintenance costs, and factor that into the monthly bill. Then, since a lender provides pre-approval based on your income and other regularly occurring bills, like auto loan payments, factor in expenses like daycare that take another slice of monthly pay to estimate a

monthly cost.

With a reasonable monthly number in mind, you probably won't even look at homes listed above certain prices, adds DJ Hunt, senior financial advisor of Moisand Fitzgerald in Tampa, FL. Cautious buyers shouldn't make offers on homes that are priced just at the edge of the limit, especially if they expect a bidding war, Hunt advises.

With some budget resolve and restraint from running your hands along countertops, you can help yourself avoid spending regrets.

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Game night takes a turn for the worse

Dear Annie: I have been in a friend group that plays board games nearly every month for 25 years. We all know one another from working at a startup in Colorado nearly 30 years ago. We don't work together anymore, but we still play games together frequently. It has been tough during COVID-19, but we have played a few games online here and there.

Cautiously, we are starting to get back together in person. The rub is, I'm fed up with one of our friends. He was the boss all those years ago, and he still feels self-important and controlling. He does not seem to know how to behave in social situations. We put up with it when he was the boss, and then, 20 years ago, he found out that he suffers from bipolar disorder and depression. My own son has these same conditions, and I have taken the National Alliance on Mental Illness training and I have a special place in my heart for people who suffer from mental illness.

Since that discovery and diagnosis, we have put up with his behaviors. Over the years, it has become easy to tell when he is truly suffering and when he's just using it as an excuse to behave badly. He started this games group, and we always play at his house. That's not really a problem, but he just uses this and everything as a controlling behavior.

Online, it gets worse. I have now endured 18 months of insults, contempt and name-calling. I admit that it's mild. He is not super abusive, but it is annoying, and it is not how friends treat one another. I do not do this to him. He knows I don't want to cut him out of my life, and he uses that to manipulate me and others in the group.

During his last blow-up, which was only two weeks ago, I stopped talking with him for a while. This is all online, and I ghosted him for only 24

hours. He says in the group chat that he has apologized profusely (he apologized one time) and then started pushing the blame onto me saying that I was now punishing him.

I'm fed up. We have openly discussed his poor behavior, and he is aware. He has never modified his behavior longer than a week or two. For 30 years, I have been a good friend, and for the last 10-20, I have actively tried to forgive and forget. — Can't Forget Anymore

Dear Can't Forget: I believe it was Albert Einstein who said, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results."

You have tried subtle confrontation, and you admit his behavior has not changed for longer than a week or two. Time to try something new.

The next time he blows up — even if it's mild — tell him that you'll be hosting the next game night and that he's not invited. If others are similarly fed up with his attitude, they'll surely be on board.

The concept is really quite simple: If he can play nice with others, he gets an invite. If not, the games will go on without him.

"Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie" is out now! Annie Lane's debut book — featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



BEETLE BAILEY



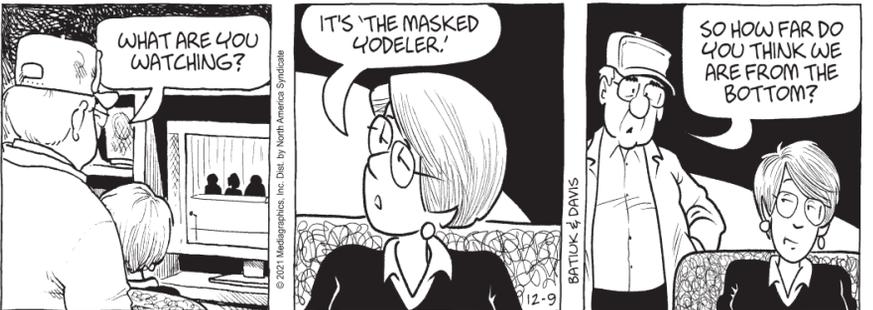
BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



God's message of salvation is for all people

Q: Why is it important to read the Bible? — B.Q.

A: The study of Scripture is important. When the Bible says, "The entirety of Your word is truth" (Psalm 119:160), it is vital to understand that the Bible does not contradict itself but interprets itself.

God's message of salvation is for all people. He died for the sins of the whole world (John 3:16). "Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). God our Savior "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth" (1 Timothy 2:4).

This word "whoever"

is a wonderfully big word; it speaks of the grace of God and His invitation that extends to all people. "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him" (Romans 10:12).

Christianity is centered on the Gospel that brings comfort and the assurance that God will forgive sin. Now this doesn't mean that all people will indeed call upon the name of the Lord for salvation. The majority of people resist Him, block His voice out, and ultimately reject Him.

The Bible teaches that life is only a vapor that appears for a moment and then vanishes (James 4:14). Every cemetery

testifies to this fact. This is why God calls out to the nations of the world to get right with Him. History will someday come to an end, rendering the world's system dominated by evil a total failure. Wickedness in every form will cease: hatred, greed, jealousy, war, and death. This "day of the Lord" will be glorious, when He comes to bring peace to the "who-soevers." Be part of this wonderful host of people who love Him, and read and study God's Word. It is a light to the soul.

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

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12/9/21	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30		
WIN/ND	12	11	26	63	3D Woman	Julie & Friends	*** The Miracle Maker (2020)	Voice of (35) Cabin 6	TCT Today	CBN Newsweek	Manna-Fest! James Robison	Ask the Pastor	Rabbi Lapin									
WANE/CBS	15	2	2	15	15	News	WANE 15 Inside Edition (N)	CBS Evening News	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Young Sheldon	(31) United States of AI	B Positive (N)	Bull "Snowed In" (N)	Chicago P.D. Voight pulls Darius in as a CI.	Chicago P.D. "No Regrets"	Chicago P.D. "Absolution"	News Night-cast at 11	Stephen Colbert	James Corden		
WANE2/ION	15.2	106	20	-	-	Chicago P.D. "Asses" Atrav	Chicago P.D. Voight's unit	Chicago P.D. "Absolution"	Chicago P.D. "Absolution"	Chicago P.D. "Absolution"	Chicago P.D. "Absolution"	Chicago P.D. "Absolution"	Chicago P.D. "Absolution"	Chicago P.D. "Absolution"	Chicago P.D. "Absolution"	Chicago P.D. "Absolution"	Chicago P.D. "Absolution"	Chicago P.D. "Absolution"	Chicago P.D. "Absolution"	Chicago P.D. "Absolution"	Chicago P.D. "Absolution"	
WPTA/ABC	21	4	3	21	21	ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 News at 6 (N)	ABC21 News at 7 (N)	ABC21 News at 8 (N)	ABC21 News at 9 (N)	ABC21 News at 10 (N)	ABC21 News at 11 (N)	ABC21 News at 12 (N)	ABC21 News at 1 (N)	ABC21 News at 2 (N)	ABC21 News at 3 (N)	ABC21 News at 4 (N)	ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 News at 6 (N)	ABC21 News at 7 (N)	ABC21 News at 8 (N)	
WPTA2/NBC	21.2	8	8	33	14	Fort Wayne's 25 Words or Less	Fort Wayne's 25 Words or Less	Fort Wayne's 25 Words or Less	Fort Wayne's 25 Words or Less	Fort Wayne's 25 Words or Less	Fort Wayne's 25 Words or Less	Fort Wayne's 25 Words or Less	Fort Wayne's 25 Words or Less	Fort Wayne's 25 Words or Less	Fort Wayne's 25 Words or Less	Fort Wayne's 25 Words or Less	Fort Wayne's 25 Words or Less	Fort Wayne's 25 Words or Less	Fort Wayne's 25 Words or Less	Fort Wayne's 25 Words or Less	Fort Wayne's 25 Words or Less	
WPTA3/MNT	21.3	10	21	-	-	2 Broke Girls	Mom	The King of Queens	Modern Family	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Dateline An ordinary night ends in murder.	Walker Micki reveals her past to Trey. (N)	Legacies Josie goes deep for answers. (N)	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	Schitt's Creek	Schitt's Creek	Dish Nation (N)	
WISN/CW	33	7	4	34	33	The Steve Wilkos Show	Odd Squad (E)	Arthur (E)	PBS NewsHour (N)	World News America	Arts In Focus	Great Performances Natalie Cole sings Mona Lisa, Unforgettable.	This Old House	Tuning the Brain With Music (2019, Documentary)	Rick Steves Special: A Symphonic Journey	Amanpour and Company (N)	This Old House	This Old House	Ask This Old House	Ask This Old House	Extra (N)	
WIPB/PBS	49	3	-	-	-	Odd Squad (E)	World News America	America's Heartland	World Great-est Cem	PBS NewsHour (N)	This Old House	Tuning the Brain With Music (2019, Documentary)	Rick Steves Special: A Symphonic Journey	Amanpour and Company (N)	This Old House	This Old House	Ask This Old House	Ask This Old House	Extra (N)	Extra (N)		
WFFT/FOX	55	6	6	55	55	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Young Sheldon	The Big Bang Theory	NFL on FOX Pregame (N)	NFL Football	Pittsburgh Steelers at Minnesota Vikings. From U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. (N)	News at 10	TMZ (N)	Extra (N)	Extra (N)	Extra (N)	Extra (N)	Extra (N)	Extra (N)	Extra (N)	
CABLE CHANNELS																						
LIFE	23	113	108	252	(4:00) Poinsettias for Christmas (2018, Drama)	The Road Home for Christmas (2019, Drama)	Marla Sokoloff, Marie Osmond, Rob Mayes.	A Flancé for Christmas (2021) Marie Osmond. A single woman caught in a lie finds a fake fiancé.	(03) The Christmas Edition (2020, Drama)	Carly Hughes, Rob Mayes, Marie Osmond.	(12:01) A Flancé for Christmas (2021) Marie Osmond.											
FX	24	132	136	248	*** The Greatest Showman (2017) Zac Efron	*** Bohemian Rhapsody (2018, Biography)	Rami Malek, Lucy Boynton.	*** Bohemian Rhapsody (2018, Biography)	Rami Malek, Lucy Boynton.	*** Bohemian Rhapsody (2018, Biography)	Rami Malek, Lucy Boynton.											
TVLAND	25	-	106	304	*** The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show	
E!	26	142	114	236	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	
PARMT	30	-	241	241	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	
ESPN	31	50	140	206	Around the Horn	Pardon the Interruption	SportsCenter	College Football Awards (N) (Live)	Heisman Top The Herbie Awards (N) Ten	College Basketball Iowa at Iowa State. (N) (Live)	NHL Hockey Detroit Red Wings at St. Louis Blues. From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (N) (Live)	Blues Live! Post Game	Shogun Fights	UFC Archival	World Poker							
ESPN2	32	54	143	209	NFL Live	Daily Wager	Women's College Basketball	College Basketball Iowa at Iowa State. (N) (Live)	Blues Live! Post Game	Shogun Fights	UFC Archival	World Poker										
BSMW	33	-	418	671	Destination Polaris	InsidethisAs-sociation	InsidethisAs-sociation	InsidethisAs-sociation	InsidethisAs-sociation	InsidethisAs-sociation	InsidethisAs-sociation	InsidethisAs-sociation	InsidethisAs-sociation	InsidethisAs-sociation	InsidethisAs-sociation	InsidethisAs-sociation	InsidethisAs-sociation	InsidethisAs-sociation	InsidethisAs-sociation	InsidethisAs-sociation	InsidethisAs-sociation	
USA	34	133	105	242	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Revenge"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Accredo"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Accredo"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Accredo"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Accredo"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Accredo"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Accredo"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Accredo"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Accredo"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Accredo"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Accredo"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Accredo"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Accredo"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Accredo"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Accredo"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Accredo"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Accredo"	
DISC	35	72	182	278	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	Homestead Rescue "Fire & Gold"	
HLC	36	73	183	280	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	
HIST	38	77	120	269	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	Pawn Stars An epic Star Wars collection.	
A&E	39	134	118	265	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	
HALL	40	117	185	312	(4:00) Christmas Next Door (2017) Jesse Metcalfe.	Let It Snow (2018, Drama)	Candace Cameron Bure, Jesse Hutch. An executive has a change of heart.	The Christmas Contest (2021, Romance-Comedy)	Nandace Cameron Bure, John Brotherton, Barbara Niven.	*** Twister (1996, Action)	Helen Hunt, Bill Paxton, Cary Elwes. Storm chasers race to test a new tornado-monitoring device.	*** Wild West (1999, Action)	Will Smith, Kevin Kline. Premiere. Secret agents fight to stop a presidential assassination.	Fear the Walking								
SYFY	41	135	122	244	*** Rudyolph and Frosty's Christmas in July (1980, Children's)	Children's Voices	Night Before Christmas	*** The Polar Express (2004, Children's)	Voices of Tom Hanks, Michael Jeter, Nona Gaye.	*** Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory (1971)	Gene Wilder. A famous confectioner offers a grand prize to five children.	Fear the Walking										
TBS	43	130	139	247	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	
TNT	44	131	138	245	(4:00) *** Godzilla: King of the Monsters (2019) Kyle Chandler.	*** Kong: Skull Island (2017)	Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L. Jackson. Excplomers encounter a gigantic ape and monstrous creatures.	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang
AMC	45	-	131	254	*** Rudolph and Frosty's Christmas in July (1980, Children's)	Children's Voices	Night Before Christmas	*** The Polar Express (2004, Children's)	Voices of Tom Hanks, Michael Jeter, Nona Gaye.	*** Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory (1971)	Gene Wilder. A famous confectioner offers a grand prize to five children.	Fear the Walking										
COM	47	-	107	249	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
FS1	48	64	150	219	Skip and Shannon: Undisputed	College Basketball Texas at Seton Hall. From Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Texas at Seton Hall. From Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Texas at Seton Hall. From Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Texas at Seton Hall. From Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Texas at Seton Hall. From Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Texas at Seton Hall. From Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Texas at Seton Hall. From Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Texas at Seton Hall. From Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Texas at Seton Hall. From Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Texas at Seton Hall. From Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Texas at Seton Hall. From Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Texas at Seton Hall. From Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Texas at Seton Hall. From Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Texas at Seton Hall. From Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Texas at Seton Hall. From Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Texas at Seton Hall. From Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (N) (Live)	
NWSN/NT	53	-	239	307	NewsNation: Rush Hour	Criminal Minds "Parasite"	Criminal Minds "Parasite"	Criminal Minds "Parasite"	Criminal Minds "Parasite"	Criminal Minds "Parasite"	Criminal Minds "Parasite"	Criminal Minds "Parasite"	Criminal Minds "Parasite"	Criminal Minds "Parasite"	Criminal Minds "Parasite"	Criminal Minds "Parasite"	Criminal Minds "Parasite"	Criminal Minds "Parasite"	Criminal Minds "Parasite"	Criminal Minds "Parasite"	Criminal Minds "Parasite"	
WE	57	-	128	260	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	
FOOD	59	153	110	231	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	
BRAYO	60	140	129	237	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	
NICK	68	-	170	299	*** Despicable Me (2010)	Voices of Steve Carell	Christina Milian, Tim Allen, Will Ferrell, Zach Galifianakis.	*** The Campaign (2012, Comedy)	Will Ferrell, Zach Galifianakis.	*** Primat FEAR (1996, Crime Drama)	Richard Gere, Laura Linney. A lobbyist attorney defends an actor accused of murder.	Head-hunters (2021)										
DISN	69	30	172	299	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	
FREE	70	32	180	311	*** Dr. Seuss' The Grinch (2018)	(8:50) *** Home Alone (1990, Children's)	Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci. A (20) *** Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) Macaulay Culkin. Kevin ends up in New York when he boards the wrong plane.	Music Box "Mr. Saturday Night" (N)	(25) Landscapers	*** The Campaign (2012, Comedy)	Will Ferrell, Zach Galifianakis.	*** Primat FEAR (1996, Crime Drama)	Richard Gere, Laura Linney. A lobbyist attorney defends an actor accused of murder.	Head-hunters (2021)								
HBO	301	-	300	501	(1:50) Curb Your Enthusiasm	(8:50) *** The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997, Adventure)	Jeff Goldblum, Julianne Moore.	Music Box "Mr. Saturday Night" (N)	(25) Landscapers	*** The Campaign (2012, Comedy)	Will Ferrell, Zach Galifianakis.	*** Primat FEAR (1996, Crime Drama)	Richard Gere, Laura Linney. A lobbyist attorney defends an actor accused of murder.	Head-hunters (2021)								
MAX	325	-	310	515	(8:57) *** War Horse (2011) Emily Wat-	(25) *** Haywire (2011, Action)	Gina Carano, Michael Fassbender.	*** Red Dragon (2002) Anthony Hopkins. An FBI agent asks Hannibal Lecter to help him nab a killer.	*** The Campaign (2012, Comedy)	Will Ferrell, Zach Galifianakis.	*** Primat FEAR (1996, Crime Drama)	Richard Gere, Laura Linney. A lobbyist attorney defends an actor accused of murder.	Head-hunters (2021)									
SHOW	351	-	318	545	(4:15) *** The Last																	