

# The News - Banner

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

## Fort Wayne man faces charges of dealing marijuana

By GLEN WERLING

A preliminary plea of not guilty has been entered in Wells Superior Court for Ian Sinclair York, 29, Fort Wayne, charged with dealing in marijuana and possession of marijuana, both Level 6 felonies.

Judge Andrew K. Antrim continued York's bond at \$3,000. York sought but was denied pauper status.

York was present in the garage of an Ossian home when emergency personnel arrived on a report of a drug overdose Jan. 27. The alleged overdose victim was an acquaintance of York's. The victim was taken by Wells County EMS to Parkview Randalia in Fort Wayne after he regained consciousness following emergency medical efforts — including the administration of several doses of the anti-opiate medication Narcan.

The investigating deputy, Detective Quinton Greer of the Wells County Sheriff's Department, observed that York appeared impaired but denied taking any substanc-

es beyond those prescribed to him.

York was reportedly anxious to leave the scene — but not without property he claimed belonged to him. He was informed by Greer that the garage was considered a crime scene and while he — York — could leave, he could not take anything from the crime scene with him, even if it was his property.

Items that York reportedly pointed out as being his property were located on top of a large shoebox. Greer looked inside the shoebox and allegedly discovered a significant amount of marijuana in little glass jars.

York denied owning the shoebox, yet Greer observed in his report that the box also contained an external hard drive for a computer. One of the items that York reportedly told law enforcement at the scene that belonged to him — before the shoe box was opened — was an external hard drive.

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Ian York



### Helping out

Twenty-eight members of the Norwell Middle School Student Council, came to the Wells County Food Bank Wednesday morning bearing gifts — a check for \$1,740 and some 2,600 items to stock the agency's shelves. Above, Connie Kaehr, the food pantry's director, explains to the group how the pantry operates and what its needs are. At right, students wait in line to remove donated items from the pickup truck that brought them to the pantry. While the students were there, they helped unload a pallet that had previously been delivered. Teacher Tanya Milostan, the group's sponsor, said the money donated was far more than the annual effort had ever raised. (Photos by Dave Schultz)



## Local firm likely to do HVAC improvements at Police-Fire Building

BY DAVE SCHULTZ

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will recommend to the Bluffton Common Council next week that a local company be contracted to install a new HVAC system in the city's Police-Fire Building.

Felger Hart Inc., based north of the city on Ind. 1, bid \$148,850 to do the work, and City Engineer Kelly White said it was a good bid. The company said it could start soon, possibly by the end of February or sometime in March.

There were originally two companies that submitted bids to do the work, but when White came on board with the city she asked for updated bids. While Felger Hart submitted a revised bid, the second company — Current Mechanical of Fort Wayne — did not complete a bid.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Indiana public health program boost clears legislative panel

By TOM DAVIES  
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana governor's proposal for a broad expansion of county-level public health programs won its first endorsement from state legislators on Wednesday.

The state Senate's health committee voted 12-0 in support of a bill laying out the responsibilities that local health departments would have if county officials accept a major increase in state funding being sought by Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb.

State Health Commissioner Dr. Kristina Box, several medical organizations and business groups urged lawmakers to support the plan, pointing to Indiana's poor

national rankings in areas such as smoking, obesity and life expectancy.

The governor's plan would direct \$100 million in the next state budget year and \$200 million in the following year toward boosting Indiana's county public health department funding from its 45th-place national ranking. The state now directs about \$7 million a year to county health departments, which are primarily funded by local taxes.

While county officials would have the option of accepting the money and expanding services, some opponents with grievances over government-ordered COVID-19 precautions told the committee they feared the plan would result

in the state health department gaining more authority.

The bill approved by the committee would establish "core public health services" to be provided by county departments. Those would include access to required childhood vaccinations, emergency preparedness, restaurant and sewage system inspections, communicable disease prevention and smoking cessation programs.

A commission appointed by Holcomb found that all but about six of Indiana's 92 counties are spending less than half the national median per person on public health efforts.

"Where you live in Indiana currently determines whether your

(Continued on Page 2)

## Backpack program is given \$15K from Valero charity

The Wells County kid's food backpack program "Feeding Tomorrow's Future Today" recently received a grant of \$15,000 from the Valero Benefit for Children, thanks to the Valero Texas Open golf tournament and associated events.

"Valero is helping to make a difference with the hunger issue in our community. Their grant will help to purchase food in the coming months that will be used in the weekly distribution of food bags that are delivered to Wells County Schools," said Susan Girod, backpack volunteer.

Thanks to the generous support of Valero's business partners, donors and sponsors,

more than \$22 million in net proceeds from the Valero Texas Open have been distributed to agencies across the United States, supporting the work of hundreds of outstanding charity partners like the Feeding Tomorrow's Future Today.

In Wells County, Valero Renewables operates the ethanol plant at the southwest edge of Bluffton. The 70 employees and staff each year have volunteered by helping pack food bags and collect needed food items to assist the backpack program.

The backpack program distributes approximately 100 bags of food each

(Continued on Page 2)



Pictured above are the Bluffton Valero Renewables employees presenting the check to the backpack volunteers. Pictured left to right, are Shawn Stafford, engineering manager; Bruce Snyder, QA/QC manager; Gretta Nusbaumer, backpack volunteer; Nora Ruble, granddaughter; Susan Girod, backpack volunteer; Justin Moen, plant manager; Kent Ulmer, 4-H association president; Matt Wilson, production manager; and Steve Shafer, health and safety environmental manager. (Photo provided)

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**Outside**

Sunny with wind gusts, cloudy and cold tonight

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 36	High 18	High 36
Low 12	Low 11	Low 32

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# Fort Wayne man

(Continued from Page 1)

Also reportedly inside the box were numerous unopened THC vape cartridges.

York reportedly denied smoking marijuana then admitted to Greer that he had smoked marijuana and methamphetamine a few days earlier.

Resting next to the shoe box reportedly was a bookbag. Detective Jeremy Heckel of the Wells County Sheriff's Department opened the bag and started removing multiple small jars of mari-

juana. Greer asked York if the backpack was his. York denied it was. Greer then asked why his — York's — car keys were lying next to the backpack. York then allegedly replied, "Yeah. It's my weed."

All told there was approximately 1,141 pounds of marijuana, or roughly enough for between 500 and 1,000 hand-rolled marijuana cigarettes. The THC cartridges contained 632 grams of THC wax, or enough for about

189,000 single hits.

The deputy observed that amount was far more than the typical marijuana user would use for his or her own consumption.

York told Greer that he had met the overdose victim in jail and had come over to the house to hang out with the victim. He allegedly admitted to Greer that he brought all of the marijuana with him and had given some marijuana to the overdose victim.

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# Indiana public health

(Continued from Page 1)

local health department can provide you the full range of public health services," Box told the committee.

Leaders of the Republican-dominated Legislature have generally supported Holcomb's proposal but have not committed to granting his full funding request. Lawmakers might not make that decision until a new state budget plan is completed in April.

Statewide organizations representing county officials told the committee Wednes-

day they believed local leaders would keep control by deciding whether to opt into the expansion program or maintain state funding levels.

Some county leaders, however, said they believed the expansion would eventually lead to state control of local health departments.

"I would prefer the state to provide grants on a topic-by-topic basis with local control on whether to accept the grant or not and how we handle that guidance, not mandates, from the state after the COVID destruc-

tive mandates," said Brad Rogers, a Republican county commissioner from northern Indiana's Elkhart County.

Senators cited concerns about long-term health problems across the state, while plan opponents who spoke focused on issues such as complaints over federal approval of COVID-19 vaccines and Holcomb's executive orders early in the pandemic for business closures and a face mask mandate. One opponent argued the plan would lead to what he called more government

"tyranny."

Similar grievances were aired to Indiana lawmakers as they debated a proposal last year that failed to win passage aiming to severely limit the COVID-19 vaccine requirements that businesses could impose on employees. "We have high infant mortality rates," Republican Sen. Vaneta Becker of Evansville said as she voted in favor of the health plan Wednesday. "We have high obesity, lots of health issues in the state that need to be addressed."

# Russia said to be eyeing eastern Ukraine push

By SUSIE BLANN  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia is mustering its military might in the Luhansk region of Ukraine, officials said Wednesday, in what Kyiv suspects is preparation for an offensive as the first anniversary of Moscow's invasion approaches.

Also Wednesday, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's government continued its crackdown on alleged corruption with the dismissal of several high-ranking officials, prominent lawmaker David Arakhamia said.

Zelenskyy was elected in 2019 on an anti-establishment and anti-corruption platform in a country long gripped by graft. The latest allegations come as Western allies are channeling billions of dollars to help Kyiv fight Moscow and as the Ukrainian government is introducing reforms so it can potentially join the European Union one day.

Ukraine's Security Service said on the Telegram messaging app that an operation on Wednesday targeted "corrupt officials who under-

mine the country's economy and the stable functioning of the defense-industrial complex." It identified one as a former Defense Ministry official accused of embezzling state funds through the purchase of nearly 3,000 bulletproof vests that would inadequately protect Ukrainian soldiers.

Summing up the day's focus on fighting corruption, Zelenskyy declared in his nightly video address Wednesday: "We will not allow anyone to weaken our state."

On the battlefield, a Russian missile destroyed an apartment building and damaged seven others in the eastern Donetsk provincial city of Kramatorsk late Wednesday, killing at least three people and wounding at least 20, police said. Rescuers were searching the rubble for other victims. Russia has frequently attacked apartment buildings during the war, causing civilian casualties, although the Kremlin often denies such reports.

Zelenskyy used the attack to press again for

more Western weapons: "No goal other than terror," he said on Facebook. "The only way to stop Russian terrorism is to defeat it. By tanks. Fighter jets. Long-range missiles."

Elsewhere, the Kremlin's forces were expelling residents near the Russian-held parts of the front line so they can't tell Ukrainian artillery forces about Russian troop deployments, Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai said.

"There is an active transfer of (Russian troops) to the region and they are definitely preparing for something on the eastern front in February," Haidai said.

The Institute for the Study of War predicted "an imminent Russian offensive in the coming months." Some predict it will coincide with the invasion anniversary on Feb. 24.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported Wednesday that Russia was also concentrating in neighboring Donetsk province, especially in its bid to capture the key city of Bakhmut.

Donetsk and Luhansk

provinces make up the Donbas, an industrial region bordering Russia that President Vladimir Putin identified as a goal for takeover from the war's outset and where Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces since 2014.

Russian shelling of Bakhmut, from which most residents have fled while others shelter in cellars, killed at least five civilians and wounded 10 on Tuesday, Ukraine's presidential office said.

Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrilenko posted images of the shelling aftermath, showing huge black holes in residential buildings in the embattled city, reporting that Russia is deploying more troops.

Donetsk was one of four provinces that Russia illegally annexed in the fall, but controls only about half of it. To take the remaining half, Russian forces have no choice but to go through Bakhmut, the only approach to bigger Ukrainian-held cities. Russian forces have been trying for months to capture Bakhmut.

# Weather

Thursday, February 2, 2023

(24-hour observations at 9:08 p.m. Wednesday)  
High: 25; Low: 5; Precipitation: None  
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.44 feet at 9:45 p.m. Wednesday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Sunny, with a high near 36. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 12. North wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy and cold, with a high near 18. North wind around 10 mph.

**Friday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 11. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south in the evening.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 36. Breezy.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32. Breezy.

**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 43. Breezy.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24.

**Monday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 44.

**Monday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38.

**Tuesday:** A 40 percent chance of rain. Cloudy, with a high near 53. Breezy.

# Board of works

(Continued from Page 1)

The need for a new HVAC system in the Police-Fire Building came to light during the review process on the Fire Department and the need for one or two new fire stations. The decision was made to revamp the HVAC system because it was necessary for current operations.

Felger Hart's bid had complete warranties, White told the Board of Works members — Mayor John Whicker, Scott Mentzer, and Josh Hunt.

The Board of Works decision is only a recommendation. The entire Common Council makes the final decision, and Mentzer and Hunt comprise two-fifths of

the council's membership.

In other business Tuesday evening:

- The board opened annual bids for street materials and concrete bids, and gave the paperwork to Street Commissioner Tim Simpson for his review.

- A water adjustment was granted to a West Washington Street resident who had a toilet and a water line leaking.

- City resident Matt Yerger pointed out that when the Flock Safety license plate recognition cameras were approved in early 2022, a report would be made after a year. Whicker said a report would be made next week.

*daves@news-banner.com*

# Program donation

(Continued from Page 1)

week to hungry kids for the weekend and is coordinated by 4-H volunteers with assistance from the Purdue Extension Service

— Wells County Office. For more information about the program contact Gretta Nusbaumer, 765-499-1412 or Susan Girod, 260-827-8393.

# U.S., World News Roundup

## Biden, McCarthy meet face-to-face on debt crisis concerns

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy met face-to-face Wednesday for more than an hour of highly anticipated budget talks — "a good first meeting," the new Republican leader said — but expectations were low for quick progress as GOP lawmakers push for steep cuts in a deal to prevent a national debt limit crisis.

Biden has resisted direct spending negotiations linked to vital action raising the nation's legal debt ceiling, warning against potentially throwing the economy into chaos.

McCarthy had all but invited himself to the White House to start the conversation before a summer debt deadline. And he emerged saying the meeting went better than expected: The two agreed to meet again, and the speaker said he expected to hear from Biden soon.

"No agreement, no promises except we will continue this conversation," McCarthy told reporters outside the White House.

He said he told the president he would not raise the debt ceiling without concessions from Democrats.

## Australia is removing British monarchy from its bank notes

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia is removing the British monarchy from its bank notes.

The nation's central bank said

Thursday its new \$5 bill would feature an Indigenous design rather than an image of King Charles III. But the king is still expected to appear on coins.

The \$5 bill was Australia's only remaining bank note to still feature an image of the monarch.

The bank said the decision followed consultation with the government, which supported the change. Opponents say the move is politically motivated.

## U.S. winter storm causes 3rd day of dangerous, icy conditions

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A deadly storm system lashed a large swath of the southern U.S. with bands of sleet and snow for a third day on Wednesday, grounding an additional 2,300 flights, leaving hundreds of thousands without power, forcing school closures and making already treacherous driving conditions worse.

Watches and warnings about wintry conditions were issued for an area stretching West Texas' border with Mexico through Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana, and into western Tennessee and northern Mississippi. Several rounds of mixed precipitation, including freezing rain and sleet, were in store for many areas throughout the day, meaning some places could get hit multiple times, forecasters said.

"It actually looks like it's going to be getting worse again across Texas, it is already a pretty big area of freezing rain across western and southwestern Texas," said Bob Oravec, a lead National Weather Service forecaster based in Camp Springs, Maryland.

Oravec said the icy weather is expected to move northeastward across parts of Oklahoma and Arkansas into western Tennessee and northern Mississippi before it starts to dissipate.

## Black history class revised by College Board amid criticism

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — High school senior Kahlila Bandle is used to courses that don't address the African American experience. Then there's her 9 a.m. class. This week, it spanned topics from Afro-Caribbean migration to jazz.

The discussion in her Advanced Placement course on African American studies touched on figures from Marcus Garvey and Malcolm X to Jimi Hendrix and Rihanna. In her AP European History course, she said, "we're not discussing Black people at all" — even though they were colonized by Europeans.

Her school in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is one of 60 schools around the country testing the new course, which has gained national attention since Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis threatened to ban it in his state. The rejection has stirred new political debate over how schools teach about race.

The official curriculum for the course, released Wednesday by the College Board, downplays some components that had drawn criticism from DeSantis and other conservatives. Topics including Black Lives Matter, slavery reparations and queer life are not part of the exam. Instead, they are included only on a sample list states and school systems can choose from for student projects.

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<b>Box A</b> <b>Estimated Price \$85</b> 2- Beef Chuck Roast 1- Pkg. (4) Beef Cube Steaks 6- 1lb Ground Beef 2- Pkg. Beef Steer Meat 2- Pkg. (4) Hamburger Patties 1- Beef Sirloin Steak	<b>Box B</b> <b>Estimated Price \$120</b> 2- Beef Chuck Roast 4- 1lb Pkg. Ground Beef 2- Pkg. (4) Beef Cube Steaks 2- (2) T-Bone Steaks 2- Pkg. (2) Rib Eye Steaks	<b>Box C</b> <b>Estimated Price \$140</b> 1- 1lb Pkg. Ground Beef 1- Pkg. (4) Cubed Tenderloin 2- Pkg. Breakfast Link Sausage 5- 1lb Pkg. Sausage 2- Pkg. (4) Beef Cube Steaks 5- 1lb Pkg. Ground Beef 2- Pkg. (2) Pork Steaks 2- Pkg. (2) Pork Steaks 1- Pkg. (2) T-Bone Steaks 1- Beef Sirloin Steak	<b>Box D</b> <b>Estimated Price \$80</b> 2- Pkg. Breakfast Link Sausage 5- 1lb Pkg. Sausage 2- Pkg. (4) Beef Cube Steaks 5- 1lb Pkg. Ground Beef 2- Pkg. (2) Pork Steaks 2- Pkg. (4) Cubed Tenderloin 1- Pkg. Beef Steer Meat	<b>Summer Package</b> <b>Estimated Price \$165</b> 1- Pkg. (4) Pork Chops 2- Pkg. (2) Pork Steaks 2- Pkg. (2) Bratwursts 2- Pkg. (4) Pork Sausage Patties 5- 1lb Pkg. Sausage 5- 1lb Pkg. Ground Beef 2- Pkg. (2) T-Bone Steaks 5- 1lb Pkg. Ground Beef Patties 2- Pkg. (2) Rib Eye Steaks	<b>Mixed Special Box</b> <b>Estimated Price \$150</b> 2- Pkg. (4) Pork Chops 2- Pork Roast 2- Beef Chuck Roast 2- Pkg. (4) Beef Cube Steaks 5- 1lb Pkg. Sausage 5- 1lb Pkg. Ground Beef 2- Pkg. (2) Pork Steaks 1- Pkg. (4) Cubed Tenderloin

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## A Talk with Tego

Gadget is a five-and-a-half-month-old, orange tabby male.

Phoenix is a four-month-old, orange tiger male.

Tux is a six-month-old, black/white male.

Tego

**Tego's Tips:** Kittens may suck on wool items when weaned too early.

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.

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OBITUARIES

Esther E. Krick-Woodward, 101

Esther E. Krick-Woodward, 101, of Huntington, a former resident of Ossian, peacefully took Jesus' hand and is now enjoying all of Heaven's glorious beauty, on Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 31, 2023, at the Heritage Pointe of Huntington, where she had lived the last seven years.



Esther started working at the age of 11 at Knight's Grocery to help support her family during the Great Depression. During World War II, she worked a "man's job" at GE while the gents were serving our country.

She was a 1939 graduate of Lafayette Central High School and later went back to college at the age of "49" to receive her LPN and worked as a med nurse at Lutheran Hospital and the Caylor Nickel Clinic for many years until her retirement. She then volunteered in the Gift Shop at Lutheran for several years.

Esther was a lifelong member of the Markle Church of Christ and a past member of the Order of the Eastern Star lodge 166 in Ossian. Her Christian faith shone through even to her last breath. Her nurses really loved her and commented on her spiritual beauty. Her family's lives are changed forever in so many ways and have an everlasting example of how to live a Christian life.

She was born on July 26, 1921, in Zanesville, a daughter of the late Milo C. and Zeffie E. Kitchen Reed.

She was united in marriage to Donald Krick on Nov. 20, 1939, in Decatur. Donald preceded her in death on April 24, 1997. She later married John L. Woodward on Oct. 11, 2003, in Markle. John preceded her in death on July 29, 2010.

Survivors include a daughter, Kay (Darol) VanMeter of Roanoke; a stepdaughter, Kate Schwartz of Huntington; four grandchildren, Greg (Amy) VanMeter, Lori (Mark) Sattison, Brent (Manju) Dafforn, and Kriss Kohart; and 10 great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren, and two step-granddaughters.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Joyce Dettmer; three brothers, Charles Reed, Theodore Reed, and Ralph Reed; and a sister, Blanche Geiger.

Visitation will take place from noon to 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, at the Markle Church of Christ, 455 E. Morse St. in Markle. Funeral services will take place at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, following the visitation, at the Markle Church of Christ. Interment will take place in the Hoverstock Cemetery in Zanesville.

Preferred memorials are to the Markle Church of Christ Missions fund, sent in care of the Myers Funeral Home, P.O. Box 403, Markle, IN 46770

To sign Esther's online guest registry, log on to www.myersfuneralhomes.com

Joy J. Hann, 68

Joy J. Hann, 68, of Bluffton, died Wednesday morning, Feb. 1, 2023, at the Markle Health & Rehab Center. Funeral arrangements are pending at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

# Wells Court Docket

**Wells Superior Court Criminal Cases**

Preliminary plea of not guilty entered for Hagean Matthew Slusher, 20, South Whitley, charged with resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor, and minor consuming alcohol, a Class C misdemeanor.

While investigating a report of an underage drinking party in the 500 block of West Central Avenue Jan. 28, a Bluffton police officer stationed himself at the back door of the residence. He could clearly see that there were multiple young people inside the house.

The officer observed in his report to the court that he could see that they were trying to leave the residence through the back door. He ordered them to go back inside but they reportedly burst out the door and took off running.

The officer gave chase and Slusher became the one he locked onto after the others scattered. He ordered Slusher to stop but he reportedly refused and kept running in an alley before stumbling into a bicycle parked in the alley. The officer then was able to catch him and place him into custody.

Slusher reportedly blew a .044 percent alcohol concentration on a Breathalyzer test.

Order of conditional discharge entered for Karla C. Levitz, 63, charged with possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor; possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor; and no or improper taillights and or license plate lights.

The duration of deferred

proceedings is one year. If Levitz follows all of the rules set for her by the probation department, the charges against her will be dismissed.

Ordered to pay \$100 in fees.

A sheriff's deputy was patrolling north on Ind. 1 north of Ossian at 1:46 a.m. Jan. 30 when he spotted an oncoming vehicle and decided to check his side view mirror as it passed. He observed the vehicle — a silver pickup truck — had no lit passenger side taillight. He decided to pull the vehicle over.

The driver, identified as Levitz, reportedly told the deputy she was unaware she had a taillight burned out and wanted to check it out. The deputy allowed her to exit the vehicle and in the process, reportedly a strong odor of both raw and burned marijuana wafted from the passenger compartment of the truck.

Levitz reportedly denied having smoked marijuana but did not know if there was anything illegal in the truck.

The deputy, with assistance from two other deputies, began searching the vehicle. Allegedly they found several types of cannabis products including pre-rolls, a roach, cannabis mints and cannabis infused espresso beans, as well as a multi-colored glass smoking pipe.

**Civil Cases**

Complaints for possession and for non-payment of rent filed by Bluffton Woods mobile home park against tenants: Tristan McPherson and Ashley Garza. Amount owed is to be determined by the court.

Complaints for payment filed by Snow & Sauer-teig, Fort Wayne, against: Brent R. Schwartz, Ossian, \$9,473.85; Kaitlyn McKinley, Bluffton, \$10,115; Brittany Messina, Bluffton, \$10,115; John R. Masterson, Bluffton, \$4,111.25; Sharon Hill, Bluffton, \$10,115; Jonelle Gibson, Bluffton, \$4,078.76; Benjamin Crosswhite, Ossian, \$3,925.51;

Complaint for payment of \$2,496.57 and interest of \$493.56 filed by OneMain Financial Group LLC, Evansville, against Logan C. Haler, Bluffton.

Complaint for payment of \$815.68 filed by Portfolio Recovery Associates, Vernon Hills, Ill., against Kelly Wagers, Ossian.

Petition for dissolution filed in the marriage of Joshua Ryan Roseberry, Ossian, and Kaitlyn Marie Roseberry, Ossian.

Complaints for possession filed by Oka Corp., Bluffton, against James Meyers, Bluffton, \$1,200.

Complaint for possession and for non-payment of rent in an amount to be determined filed by Premier Flats, Bluffton, against tenant Edwin Wheeler.

**Wells Circuit Court Civil Cases**

Complaint for payment of \$5,617.56 filed by OneMain Financial LLC, Evansville, against Christopher R. Claghorn, Bluffton.

Petition for dissolution filed in the marriage of Ron Hayes, Tocsin, and Vickie Hayes, Silver Springs, Fla.

Complaints for payment filed by Portfolio Recovery Associates, Norfolk, Va., against: Dale M. Pitman, Bluffton, \$3,127.06; Kendall Eicher, Bluffton, \$1,192.73.

**Bluffton City Court**

Kevin Joel Melendez Lopez, 25, Indianapolis; disregarding a lighted signal, Main Street at Wiley Avenue.

Sarah L. Lancaster, 61, Albany; 60 mph-40 zone, Main Street at Jackson Street during the period of the day when the speed limit is reduced from 55 mph to 40 mph because of the school zone.

Nicholas A. Yoder, 40, rural Decatur; 75 mph-55 zone, Ind. 1 north of I100N.

Titus N. Todd, 26, rural Pennville; operating a motor vehicle with a license plate that belongs on another vehicle, Ind. 1 at 1000N.

Douglas A. Edwards, 19, Linn Grove; unlawful possession of tobacco by a minor, Washington Street at Columbian Avenue.

Hu Sa Man, 26, Fort Wayne; 55 mph-40 zone, Main Street at Willowbrook Trail.

Kyle L. Bedwell, 20, Selma; failure to yield the right of way to an emergency vehicle, I-69 at the 292 mile marker.

Chase A. Blem, 19, Bluffton; 48 mph-30 zone, 200 block of East Dustman Road.

**Declare Candidacy**

Declarations of candidacy for municipal primary nomination in 2023 have been filed with the Wells County Clerk's office by:

- Joshua Daniel Hunt, Bluffton, Republican seeking election to the Bluffton Common Council District 2.
- Ronald James Neuenchwander, Bluffton, Republican for Bluffton Common Council at Large.
- Ethan Albert Sommerfield, Bluffton, Republican for Bluffton Common Council at Large.

## State lawmakers want to crack down on data privacy

Does this include license plate readers?

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

State lawmakers are prioritizing multiple bills in the current legislative session that seek to increase data privacy and give Hoosiers more say over how their personal information is stored. But Republican legislators remain reluctant to enact policy around increasingly common surveillance technology like license plate readers used by law enforcement.

The Indiana State Police (ISP) have been using such technology for more than a decade - scanning a million plates a month - to find habitual traffic violators, stolen vehicles, missing persons and people driving with suspended licenses. A previous attempt to establish statewide standards for the readers didn't advance in the legislature. And it doesn't appear that lawmakers have an appetite to join the other 16 states with regulations on the books now.

At the same time, GOP legislators have continually resisted efforts to use camera technology for highway speed violations or passing of school buses.

Although police contend that the license plate readers are a valuable tool for investigators, the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana raised concerns that the information collected can be stored indefinitely in databases and shared without restrictions.

There also aren't laws in place to prevent data from being used in ways that could infringe on Hoosiers' privacy.

"This is technology that collects data about all of us, and there's very little transparency, there's very little accountability, and that has concerns for us in multiple ways," said Jane Henegar, executive director of the ACLU of Indiana.

**How the readers work**

The high-speed cameras used by ISP take pictures of license plates and turn them into searchable data.

While the agency previ-

ously used vehicle-mounted cameras, ISP Maj. Bryan Harper, who commands the Special Investigations Division, said state police stopped using those more than a year ago.

Currently, state police have 47 cameras employed, Harper said. Most of those are in or around Indianapolis, but others are located elsewhere in the state, too.

Harper emphasized that the license plate readers "are really nothing more than cameras" that are set up to scan license plates, not individuals.

**Indiana lacks statewide guidelines**

Other law enforcement agencies around the state are adopting the technology, too, including in Columbus, Gary, Jeffersonville, Muncie, West Lafayette and more than a dozen jurisdictions in central Indiana.

Still, each agency crafts its own policies for license plate readers. Harper said the ISP policy - which dates back to 2015 - is similar to most others around Indiana.

Specifically, ISP's operating procedure requires license plate image data to be retained for 30 days before being purged from the system.

That "extremely short window" can be prohibitive to investigators, Harper said, "but the Indiana State Police want to make sure that we are covering both ends - we understand people's civil liberties, and we also understand the need to mitigate or apprehend suspects."

Harper maintained that local law enforcement agencies across Indiana are actively meeting to discuss policy.

"For the most part, everybody's pretty much in agreement that we've got to make sure we're handling this the right way, or it will go away as fast as it came," Harper said, referring to the license plate reader technology.

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

**INCIDENTS**

**City:**

Tuesday, 5:28 p.m., residence in the 1100 block of West Central Avenue. License plate stolen.

**Wednesday, 4:33 a.m.,**

Wiley Avenue at Bond Street. Bluffton police officer pulled over a pickup truck and arrested the driver, Bret L. Poff, 54, Bluffton, on charges of possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor; operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor; and possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500. Reportedly Poff had a "dugout" in his sweatshirt pocket, a slang term for a wooden box that holds a small pipe called a "bat" (both are baseball references) in which a small amount of marijuana may be consumed. A SoToxa test reportedly showed Poff's saliva tested positive for cannabis.

**Wednesday, 8:01 a.m.,**

James S. Jackson Construction, 1643 Harrison Plaza. Construction trailer broken into and the interior spray painted and a fire extinguisher discharged.

**Wednesday, 10:42 a.m.,**

Bluffton Harrison Middle School, 1500 Stogdill Road. Students reported his AirPods were stolen.

**Wednesday, 12:08 p.m.,**

residence in the 400 block of West Wiley Avenue. Burglar alarm. Officers responded. No sign of foul play found.

**County:**

**Wednesday, 5:59 a.m.,**

New Holland Tri-County. Burglar alarm. Deputy responded. Possible evidence of an extension cord

## Police Notebook

being tampered with was found, but no other sign of foul play was found.

**ACCIDENTS**

**City:**

Tuesday, 6:24 p.m., 300W at Ind. 218. Darla Arelland, 38, rural Markle, thought the intersection was a four-way stop and drove her 2005 Chevrolet Suburban north into the intersection where it crashed into an eastbound 2020 Kia Sportage driven by Tamera Murray, 52, Bluffton. Wells County EMS, Liberty Township Fire Rescue and Chester Township Fire Department first responders were dispatched but no one was trapped or injured. Damage exceeded \$10,000.

**Tuesday, 8:22 p.m.,**

8972N-500E, Ossian. Colin M. Evans, 19, of that address was backing a 2005 Ford F-350 pickup truck out of the garage at the residence when he failed to see a 2006 Chevrolet Suburban, registered to Larry Gilly, rural Bluffton, parked in the driveway and backed into it. Damage exceeded \$1,000.

**Tuesday, 8:38 p.m.,**

Ind. 124 near 500E. Sandra Andrews, 52, rural Decatur, hit a deer with her 2008 Chevrolet Impala. Damage to the car exceeded \$2,500.

**Wednesday, 7:15 a.m.,**

Ind. 1 at U.S. 224. A 2013 Volkswagen Jetta, driven by Reghan Plunkett, 17, Ossian, hit a 2021 Chevrolet Silverado from behind driven by Michelle Holcomb, 46, Ossian. Damage exceeded \$1,000.

**Ossian:**

Tuesday, 9:20 p.m., residence in the 200 block of South Jefferson Street. Offi-

cers responded to a verbal altercation between a son and his stepfather. The son left before officers arrived.

**FIRE RUNS**

Monday, 9:37 p.m., 911 E. Spring St. residence of David Croghan Jr. Oven on fire. Fire out before firefighters arrived.

Tuesday, 9:27 a.m., Linder Oil, 820 Industrial Parkway. Smell of natural gas in the area. Ossian Fire Department dispatched. Northern Indiana Public Service Company contacted.

Friday, 6:41 p.m., rental house at 702 Clark Avenue. Report of fire coming up through the floorboards in a room in the house. Bluffton Fire Department dispatched and Liberty Township and Ossian fire departments dispatched for mutual aid but later advised to disregard. Source of the flames was traced to a faulty electrical outlet in the floor. The breaker powering the outlet was turned off. Firefighters determined that the outlet was not properly wired. Tenants advised to contact the landlord.

Saturday, 6:36 p.m., Sonlight Wesleyan Church, 2350S-Ind. 1. Skidsteer loader caught fire in the parking lot. Bluffton Fire Department dispatched. A sheriff's deputy was the first to arrive and used his in-car fire extinguisher to put out the fire. When firefighters arrived, they discovered that there was straw packed up in the engine compartment of the vehicle. The smoldering straw was pulled out and extinguished with a water

can. The owner of the skidsteer was Dustin Wilkerson of rural Keystone.

Sunday, 5:38 p.m., 208 N. Oak St. apartment of Kodi Hamilton. Smell of natural gas in the apartment. Bluffton Fire Department responded. No gas detected.

**ARRESTS**

Will Anthony Gregory, 26, Indianapolis; failure of carriers of dangerous communicable diseases to warn persons at risk, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,000.

Amanda J. Dow, 37, rural Warsaw; theft, wherein the value of the property alleged stolen is in excess of \$750 but less than \$50,000, a Level 6 felony; counterfeiting and application fraud, a Level 6 felony; and fraud, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$15,000.

Shawn Michael Collis, 29, Bluffton; probation violation. No bond set.

Raigan Ilene Harkinson, 22, rural Montpelier; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Angela Marie Smith, 42, Ossian; battery, criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, all Class B misdemeanors. Bond set at \$4,000. Bonded.

Dennis Allen Bower, 42, rural Poneto; operating a vehicle with an alcohol concentration equivalency of .15 percent or more, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500. Bonded.

Brandon Tyler DeHart, 27, Bluffton; dealing in a Schedule I, II, or III controlled substance, a Level 5 felony. Bond set at \$10,000.

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## A lawmaker's impossible task

I don't remember when it first occurred to me after arriving in Washington many years ago that at its heart, being a member of Congress meant never being entirely satisfied. And that this state of affairs is baked into our form of government. But despite moments of immense fulfillment, it remained a central tension throughout my time in office—as it has been for most legislators since the founding of the Republic.



Lee Hamilton

### Comments on Congress

Our founders were very clear about what they expected from the leaders chosen to represent the American people.

"Government is instituted for the common good...and not for profit, honor or private interest of any one man, family or class of men," John Adams wrote. James Madison was just as direct, writing in *The Federalist* that the goal of a constitution like ours should be to put in office people "who possess most wisdom to discern, and most virtue to pursue the common good of the society."

Politicians run for office for many reasons—ambition, ego, anger at the status quo, a broad but undefined desire to serve... And for some, that ideal—pursuing the common good—is front and center. This holds true for many voters, too. I'll never forget once running into an elderly woman at the polls in Indiana and asking her if she'd voted. She responded by saying to me, "I vote for the candidate of my choice, but then I pray for the winner. I want him or her to work not just for the few, but for everyone." That has always stuck with me as one of the healthiest attitudes toward politics I've ever heard expressed—and I'm confident plenty of voters feel the same way.

The problem, of course, is that there is no single definition of "the common good." We live in a country that, instead, makes it possible for us to debate the question, to change our minds, to evolve, and to move forward when we can. But here's the thing: The system is designed to make it hard to move forward unless enough people agree on an approach to command a majority. In other words, they have to be able to find enough common ground with others—even if they don't like everything involved in a given piece of legislation—that they can prevail democratically.

This is not easy to do, as any legislator will tell you—and as the entire country got a ringside seat for during the House speakership battle at the beginning of the year. For starters, of course, every member of Congress and legislator comes to the job with her or his own beliefs, attitudes, approaches, and red lines that can't be crossed. Finding common ground among one's own colleagues is hard enough.

And then there are the realities of the office: Constituents, party leaders, lobbyists, commentators—they all have their opinions, too. When I served in Congress, it was not unusual for me to have 15 appointments a day with people who wanted me to vote their way, often on some item involving the federal budget. Farmers came in to speak about farm programs, businesspeople to focus on business interests—their own and the economy in general—and religious or nonprofit leaders to lobby for support for their hard-pressed constituents. There was nothing sinister or malicious about any of this. It's how the process of government works. But it makes the task of finding enough common ground to move forward extremely challenging.

So in the end, legislators are confronted with twin tasks: discerning and then pursuing the common good, and finding enough common ground with colleagues and the public at large to make progress possible. Their job is to find a way to do both: to think in terms of what's best for the country or their state or city, and then to weigh each of the considerations and pleadings they confront in that light. It's tough work and no solution ever feels perfect, but if you're committed to the job, there's always another chance to edge closer to the ideal.

Lee Hamilton is a distinguished scholar with the IU School of Global and International Studies. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

## Today in History

### By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 2, the 33rd day of 2023. There are 332 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Feb. 2, 1990, in a concession to South Africa's Black majority, President F.W. de Klerk lifted a ban on the African National Congress and promised to free Nelson Mandela.

### On this date:

In 1536, present-day Buenos Aires, Argentina, was founded by Pedro de Mendoza of Spain.

In 1653, New Amsterdam (now New York City) was incorporated.

In 1887, Punxsutawney, Pa., held its first Groundhog Day festival.

In 1913, New York City's

rebuilt Grand Central Terminal officially opened to the public at 12:01 a.m..

In 1914, Charles Chaplin made his movie debut as the comedy short "Making a Living" was released by Keystone Film Co.

In 1925, the legendary Alaska Serum Run ended as the last of a series of dog mushers brought a life-saving treatment to Nome, the scene of a diphtheria epidemic, six days after the drug left Nenana.

In 1943, the remainder of Nazi forces from the Battle of Stalingrad surrendered to the Soviets in World War II.

In 2006, House Republicans elected John Boehner of Ohio as their new majority leader to replace the indicted Tom DeLay.



## Police officers are human beings

Once again, the nation is traumatized by horrible video of police brutally beating to death a Black man. Need I note the victim was Black? Would we be less or more traumatized if the victim were white?

But the rule seems to be the victims are Black. Everyone sees there is a problem. Everyone wants to fix it. But how?

The first question in the pursuit of a solution invariably is, "What is wrong with the system?"

How about we start this time by asking a different question. What is wrong with the men who did it?

The shocking video certainly doesn't give us the whole story. What were the circumstances that lead to the police apprehending this man, forcing him defenseless on the ground and beating him to death? Can we imagine any circumstance that would justify this behavior?

Suppose somehow all this occurred under the radar. That these policemen beat this man to death, but no one found out about it.

Could they live with themselves? Could they just go home to their families after doing a day's work without a second thought that their law enforcement work left a man dead with little justification why this happened?

We in the pro-life movement ask how women can destroy the child in their womb and live with themselves. Those who rationalize it say they don't see this unborn child as life.

But can we say these police did not see Tyre Nichols as a living man?

When these incidents get spun as racial, the answer comes forth that racists do not see those whom they hate as human. There was a historic data point in this regard in our nation's history in the Dred Scott decision.

But in this case, the police officers were Black.

How about if we ask if each of those policemen felt they live in a world with a Creator and that every human being is a creation made in that Creator's image? If they believed this, could they have

done what they did?

Rep. Jim Jordan summed it up well saying, "I don't know there is anything you can do to stop the kind of evil we saw in that video."

Something very bad has happened in our country.

This nation was founded as a free country under God, not as a "system." The Constitution is an operating manual creating the basic structure of government and to assure that it would be kept limited and not interfere with citizens taking personal responsibility and living free.

Yes, it began with the horrible reality of slavery. But this reflected the sin of man and not a systematic flaw in the country.

George Washington said it, and I quote him all the time, that there is no freedom without religion.

But today we are going in the opposite direction. We want to use courts and legislatures to produce systematic answers to our lives rather than turning to our parents and our pastors for eternal principles. The answer is not in the system; it is in ourselves.

Regarding the police, they need more personal responsibility for their behavior.

One path to this is getting rid of qualified immunity, which shields them from exposure to lawsuits. Qualified immunity allows police to violate constitutional rights of others without concern they will be sued. Per this judge-created doctrine, as long as there is not another identical precedent, with all the same facts, police are immune from being sued.

Unions protect policemen with a track record of infractions, and then qualified immunity protection allows them to go out and do it again.

This is the most important technical reform that can improve police behavior.

But we must remember, good men will produce good results even in a bad system.

But bad men, even in the most perfectly designed system, will produce bad results.



Star Parker

Creators.com

## Hibiscus rehabilitation

### Angelkeep Journals

Angelkeep had a continuing practice of picking up a nearly deceased plant from one of the local garden plant vendors for an attempt to resuscitate it back to life. It's a bit like providing the "kiss of life" back into a plant which already had "one foot in the grave" — grave meaning a compost pile for vegetation.

Some may have called it a "good Samaritan syndrome." Some might even have called Angelkeep a skin-flint, taking advantage of extremely low prices at the very moment a plant teetered on the brink of life and death.

Of course, some attempts at rehabilitation failed, and the outcome became a withered plant converting to humus for a next attempt, plus there was saved the small container of potting soil, the deceased plant's life-giving sustenance while it did survive. It added soil loosening attributes to the clay earth at Angelkeep. Albeit, the price reduction on a struggling plant would be a high price paid if the end result became nothing but a nursery cup-size pot full of potting soil.

Angelkeep's gardening thumb rested inside in the warmth while contemplating flora during these mid-winter weeks of perennial growth. How many flowers that should survive Indiana winter actually will wither and succumb to the brutality of ice, snow, that bite of the north wind, plus bitter cold? Which spot will need a new plant, perhaps 2023's annual purchase of the forsaken handicapped vegetation resting on a wheeled cart in the spring garden market marked "price reduced before these plants breathe their last breath."

Absolutely nothing was known about the plant when purchased, other than "how much can one loose on a plant costing only \$1, even

if it dies?" The crinkled leaves gave the impression it belonged to the hibiscus group, Angelkeep already familiar with several varieties of hibiscus. This one had a bud, might it yet open?

"N.D.H.," the name given to the plant brought home for emergency rehabilitation, represented "Near Death Hibiscus" and clearly showed it needed emergency treatment with no time to spare. A small garden trowel replaced the electronic paddles first responders used when a human appeared in the condition in which N.D.H. found itself. No mouth-to-mouth seemed relevant. Its appearance demanded it be placed into the ground immediately, but not six feet below ground, as the case with the truly deceased. N.D.H. had a fighting chance, and it would receive it along with liquid IV administered through veins called roots.

Being an obvious member of the hibiscus family, N.D.H. had been interred in a patio whiskey half-barrel, the house-side edge, the shadier side of the planter. Hibiscus known for thriving in less sun, when placed in full sun, may have been a health factor for N.D.H. Being what appeared to be something of a bolter, N.D.H. stood tall as compared to the small drinking cup size container it attempted survival within at the garden store. There it obviously received too much sun, causing the condition N.D.H. found itself in when transferred to the sale trolley, also known



Alan Daugherty

as the garden plant hearse.

It's alarming how many plants die from less-than-adequate garden center day care, and the public never gets informed of the conspiratorial final resting place, nor numbers, most likely a mass grave of a compost variety. Is there in reality a plant undertaking business to take care of the widespread floral and veggie potted plant deaths? Are conciliatory words spoken? When a full flat of plant deaths occurred, and they then put to the ground, was it then referred to as a vegetation cemetery flat plot? Angelkeep worried about such things after realizing a personal age surpassed any plant on Angelkeep land.

Now in February, peering out the window with N.D.H.'s whiskey half-barrel home just feet away, but looking forlorn in continuing variable weather typical of Indiana winter, its life again teetered on the brink of survival. N.D.H. had been given a stake to lean on at the time of planting, and actually tied loosely to the stake to assist its stand against the wind. Hopefully the summer and fall growth nourished its bones to the point it could continue to fight the good fight engaging the evils of winter's attempt to again send N.D.H. near death's door.

As was the custom of Angelkeep, when a day's planting ended in any spring, all items newly set into the ground received prayer, turning their care over to God. Angelkeep bypassed Mother Nature, going right to the top — God — for a life-preservation appeal. As it should be. Today, from the warm Angelkeep living room side of the window, N.D.H. received a booster shot of prayer.

Prognosis? Good.

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

## The News-Banner

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# A childhood friend's visit can truly warm the heart

I'm amazed as I see God at work. He's been working through you, my friends, who have been praying for us and supporting us in countless ways over the past 10 months since Daddy Daniel was called home to heaven.

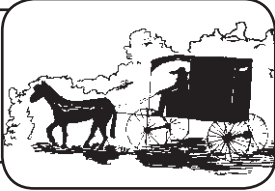
This past week I was amazed anew; yes, I think that is the best-describing word I can find, for what I felt as I chatted with a friend, I knew well during our little girl days when we lived in Ohio.

Our paths, however, had not crossed in years.

After my family's move to Illinois, she would sometimes come with her family to visit, we laughed and played, making wonderful memories together; time slipped on, she moved to another state, and our connection dwindled even more. Imagine how elated I was last week to learn that she will be in the area and planned to stop at our house on Friday afternoon.

The moment came at last. She came beaming to the door, instantly, we picked up in our relationship where we had left off years before. I knew only bits of her difficult life

The Amish Cook  
by Gloria Yoder



25 years ago, only now there was an added softness as the love of Jesus flowed through her meaningfully.

Last night I was awake, caring for a sick child, and pondering over it all; something clicked in a new way.

More than all the right words spoken by someone who cares, is the simple presence of Jesus in one's life.

Without her even telling me that we'll make it through this valley of having Daniel pass, I knew with a conviction, deeper than ever, that I was not a mistake and that God's plan for my life is sovereign. She didn't even tell us these things; she only lived it.

I'm not expecting to get away from trials and heartaches, but perhaps more than I grasp, it's up to us how they affect us in the end.

The encouragement of seeing God's love lived out was rich, but so is the encouragement and confidence many of you have expressed in God's provision for us, no matter what.

Before my friend left she pulled

a book marker from her pocket and softly said, "I decided it's your turn to have this. Remember, you sent it to me a year ago?"

My eyes widened as I looked at it; never would I have recalled that I had sent it to her. It was a little painting of Jesus wiping the tears from a child's eyes, bearing the verse, "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

I was amazed once again, surely God has ways of providing for us, quietly and gently.

OK, as we wrap this up, I'll leave you with a simple recipe for barbecued meatballs. It's the recipe my mom always used when I was a girl, and yes, it's a perfect way to show someone you love and care about them. It's OK to give something as simple as barbecued meatballs, you don't need to wait to share until you have the most elegant dish! As Daniel used to say, "You'll get a lot more done for others if you don't wait to do it until everything is perfect!"

### Barbecued Meatballs

3 pounds ground venison or beef

- 1 3/4 cup milk
- 1 cup quick oats
- 1 cup cracker crumbs
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon onion salt
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper

### Barbecue Sauce

- 2 cups ketchup
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon mustard
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- 1 1/2 teaspoon liquid smoke

**Instructions**  
In a large bowl, combine the ground venison, milk, oats, cracker crumbs, eggs, and seasonings. Mix until the meat mixture is well-combined. Shape the meat into 1 1/2 inch balls.

Place the balls on cookie sheets and bake at 350°F until no longer pink inside, approximately 15-20 minutes.

Mix ketchup, brown sugar, mustard, vinegar, and liquid smoke together.

Place meatballs in a roaster and cover with barbecue sauce.

## Payment apps: Use them safely



By **KIMBERLY PALMER** of NerdWallet

Scams are common on peer-to-peer payment apps, but you can keep your money safe by avoiding questionable payment requests that may be fraudulent, only sending money to people you know and upgrading your privacy settings. While payment apps are convenient, they also carry risks if you use them without first vetting who exactly you are sending money to. Scam artists are growing increasingly sophisticated in their attempts to trick consumers into sending money, often impersonating financial institutions and creating a false sense of urgency. Consumers can safely use payment apps as long as they take precautions.

As a frequent PayPal user, I wasn't surprised to see a payment request on the app pop up. But when I read it, I knew something was wrong.

In the message, a stranger asked me to send them \$699 in order to get a "refund." While I instantly recognized the request as a scam, I still felt vulnerable; I didn't immediately see any obvious way to flag the request as a scam, and with just one click, I could have accidentally sent this stranger a huge chunk of money.

I'm hardly alone in my worry over security when using peer-to-peer payment apps: According to a Pew Research Center survey published in September 2022, about one-third of people who use payment apps or websites say they are "a little or not at all confident that payment apps or sites keep people's personal information safe from hackers or unauthorized users." And an alarming 13 percent of people who have ever used PayPal, Venmo, Zelle or Cash App say they have made the mistake of sending money to a scam artist.

Fraud prevention experts recommend these strategies to keep your money safe.

### ONLY SEND MONEY TO PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Generally, peer-to-peer payment apps are designed to send money between friends — not strangers. If you use them to send money to someone you don't know, then you put yourself at risk for fraud.

"You shouldn't send money unless you've met people in real life and know who you are sending money to. If you do that, and you're careful in terms of what number you are sending money to, these apps can be a convenient, safe and efficient way to move money," says Paul Benda, senior vice president of operational risk and cybersecurity at the American Bankers Association, a trade association for the banking industry.

### USE CASH AND CREDIT CARDS IN HIGHER-RISK SITUATIONS

If you need to exchange money for goods or services with someone you don't know, the safest way to do that is through cash or credit cards, says Axton Betz-Hamilton, an assistant professor in the School of Health and Consumer Sciences at South Dakota State University and author of "The Less People Know About Us," a memoir about identity theft.

Credit cards, for example, come with fraud protection attached. "I want that protection, so I don't use these apps," she says.

While stolen cash can be harder to recover, it may be covered by homeowners and renters insurance policies (up to your policy's limit and depending on your policy).

### BE WARY OF TEXTS, CALLS OR UNSOLICITED REQUESTS

Frauds are often perpetuated when scam artists send a text, phone call or other kind of message urging you to send money, perhaps

claiming you are due a refund or late on a bill.

"Fraudsters continue to get better at what they do," says Joel Williquette, senior vice president of operational risk policy at Independent Community Bankers of America, a trade group for community banks. That includes sending emails that are almost indistinguishable from legitimate banking emails.

A cybercriminal might impersonate the IRS or FBI and ask you to send a peer-to-peer payment immediately to satisfy a debt, but Williquette says legitimate agencies will never contact you by text or call your cell phone with an urgent request for money.

"Typically, they will send you a letter," he says, and they don't ask for payment through apps or gift cards — another red flag.

A fraudulent payment request sent on a peer-to-peer payment app is "usually for a small dollar amount and might even look like it's from a friend," says Eva Velasquez, president and CEO of the Identity Theft Resource Center, a nonprofit organization.

Velasquez urges people to verify requests first by double-checking they are sending money to the correct person, adding that it's easier to fall for scams when you're distracted and multitasking.

### UPGRADE YOUR CYBER HYGIENE

Enabling two-factor authentication on financial accounts, adding a pin lock to your phone and using unique passwords that are at least 12 characters long can help keep you safe, Velasquez says.

In addition, she suggests setting your app privacy settings to the most private option to minimize the amount of information about you that's publicly available.

### FLAG FRAUD ATTEMPTS

According to PayPal, if you receive a payment request like the one I got, you should cancel the request without paying. Additionally, you can take a screenshot and forward it to phishing@paypal.com. PayPal adds that you should not reply, open links, download attachments or call any phone number included in the request.

If you mistakenly disclosed any financial or personal data to a scam artist, PayPal says you should change your password immediately, alert your bank and report any unauthorized payments to PayPal. You can also report your fraud to the Federal Trade Commission at reportfraud.ftc.gov, a government website that shares information with law enforcement.

In my case, I followed the recommended step of canceling the payment request and never heard from my scam artist again. With enhanced security steps in place, I plan to continue to take advantage of the convenience of PayPal and other payments apps — and now I know what to do next time I get an unsolicited payment request.

*This column was provided to The Associated Press by the personal finance website NerdWallet. Kimberly Palmer is a personal finance expert at NerdWallet and author of "Smart Mom, Rich Mom." Email: kpalmer@nerdwallet.com. Twitter: @KimberlyPalmer.*

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## 'Ice cream for breakfast' at Toppings Saturday

The Toppings ice cream parlor will celebrate the annual Ice Cream for Breakfast-Day by opening at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4.

Heyerly's Bakery is also participating in the event. Those coming in will receive a donut and ice cream combo.

"Bring the kids, your friends, your neighbors, your goldfish," among others, the store said in announcing the event. "Even bed-heads are welcome."

Toppings is at 135 W. Market St., at the intersection of Market and Johnson streets.

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# Frustrations build in Tigers loss to Panthers

By RYAN WALKER

A slow start, fouls, and shooting woes were all a part of a mixed bag of frustrations for Bluffton's boys' basketball team's 60-55 loss to Eastbrook Wednesday night.

"Our initial start to the game wasn't good enough," head coach of the Tigers Karl Grau said after the game. "We didn't come out with the right focus of intensity to be able to be competitive, and it started from the very beginning of the game. We never really recovered from that, and that's the difference in the game."

The start he's referencing is the 8-0 jump from the Panthers (5-11) and forced coach Grau to use a timeout in the first four minutes of the game.

Finally, forward Hunter Wenger got Bluffton (2-14) on the scoreboard with a pair of buckets and a free throw, but the rest of the team went an ice-cold 0-9 from the floor. Eastbrook had an eight-point lead at the end of the first quarter.

Oddly enough, the Tigers outscored the Panthers for the rest of the way. Wenger would score seven more in the second quarter, but another problem would arise — foul trouble.

The Panthers only made six shots in the first half, but seven points would come

from the charity stripe courtesy by the Tigers' eight fouls. By the end of the game, they had 23 fouls which translated to 18 total points for Eastbrook.

Conversely, coach Grau's team could not get to the line, and when they did, they couldn't make them as they went 1-5 for the game. Grau would not use the foul differential as an excuse, however.

"When we're out of position, we don't put ourselves in the spot to get a good stop," he said. "We won't get fouls, so that was really frustrating was that, again, we just didn't do enough things to put ourselves in a position to win that game."

Through the slow start and the foul issues, Bluffton still had a chance to win the game at several spots in the second half. In the third quarter, the Tigers cut it down to two points after Tucker Jenkins and Wenger split buckets. Only that would spark a 7-0 run by the Panthers and slowed momentum for the Tigers.

On the offensive side of the floor, Jenkins picked up his second foul on a charge call, but that might have been the spark he needed. Before the call, the Tigers' leading scorer had to sit on the bench for an early foul and also being shut down from the zone defense East-

brook was running.

On the ensuing possession, the Panthers drove the lane for what looked to be an easy bucket. Jenkins then trailed the ball, and as the shot was being taken, he smacked it off the glass for a powerful block and got the Tigers' bench roaring.

The junior was on a mission, scoring the next three shots he took and snagging rebound after rebound. He was a near-perfect 8-9 in the second half and finished with nine boards for his club.

The effort got his team within four points early in the fourth quarter, but fouls came back to haunt the Tigers (again).

Nearly every time Bluffton would get a bucket, Eastbrook would get fouled and head to the line. The Panthers scored 13 of its 24 points from the stripe, most of them coming before the one-minute mark.

The lead was never below three points after the six-minute mark due to all the answers the Panthers had.

"We made some runs, we got close a couple times — we cut it to two or three a couple times — but we could never get over the hump because we couldn't get the stop. That was the frustrating part," Grau said.

Jenkins had a team-high



Tiger senior Sam Baumgartner (right) shoots over Panther defender Weston James (left) in a game at the Tiger Den Wednesday night. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

18 points, Wenger had 16, and Kaden Grau put up 14 in the loss.

The junior varsity team won 68-30 Declan Grieser led the way with 13 points, Cam Williams added 12, and Jordan Fear had 10.

The freshman team won 41-10, led by Coleson Teeple's 15 points, Marshall Gerber had eight, and Eli Bertsch had seven.

Bluffton will be back in

conference action at Heritage starting at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb 4.

sports@news-banner.com

**EASTBROOK 60, BLUFFTON 55**  
**At Bluffton High School**  
**EASTBROOK (5-11):** Nathan Miller 4-13 3-7 13, Landyn Castillo 4-9 5-9 13, Weston Jones 3-10 0-0 6, Bodie Howell 3-6 7-8 13, Eli Martin 2-2 0-0 4, Cooper Craw 1-3 3-4 5, Eli Reed 0-0 0-0. **TOTALS:** 17-43 18-28 60  
**BLUFFTON (2-14):** Tucker Jenkins 9-14 0-1 18, Hunter Wenger 7-15 1-4 16, Kaden Grau 6-16 0-0 14, Fletcher Wenger 1-3 0-0 2, Sam Baumgartner 2-5 0-0 4, Hutch Craighead 0-5 0-0

0, Andrew Hunt 0-2 0-0 0, Eli Garrett 0-2 0-0 0, Nolan Lambert 0-0 0-0 0.  
**TOTALS:** 25-62 1-5 55  
**Eastbrook 13 12 11 24 — 60**  
**Bluffton 5 14 12 24 — 55**  
 Three-point FG: Eastbrook 2-11 (Miller 2-7, James 0-1, Castillo 0-1, Craw 0-1, Howell 0-1), Bluffton 3-26 (Grau 2-9, H. Wenger 1-3, Baumgartner 0-2, Craighead 0-3, Hunt 0-2, Jenkins 0-3, Garrett 0-2, F. Wenger 0-2). Rebounds: Eastbrook 28 (James 9, Miller 5, Castillo 5, Howell 5, Craw 2, Martin 2), Bluffton 29 (Jenkins 9, H. Wenger 9, Baumgartner 5, F. Wenger 3, Grau 2, Garrett 2, Craighead 1). Turnovers: Eastbrook 7, Bluffton 7. Fouls: Eastbrook 5, Bluffton 23. Fouled Out: Bluffton: Garrett, H. Wenger. Technicals: None.

## High School Calendar

**THURSDAY, Feb. 2**  
**BOYS BASKETBALL:** Jay County at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.  
**SWIM & DIVE (CO-ED):** Bluffton, Norwell at Sectionals (at Jay County), 5:30 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, Feb. 3**  
**GIRLS BASKETBALL:** (sectional) Peru at Norwell, 6 p.m.; Adams Central at Bluffton, 6 p.m.; Lakeland Christian at Southern Wells, 6 p.m.  
**SATURDAY, Feb. 4**  
**BOYS BASKETBALL:** Norwell at Columbia City, 1:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Heritage, 2:30 p.m.  
**GIRLS BASKETBALL:** (sectional): TBD  
**SWIM & DIVE:** (girls sectional): Bluffton, Norwell at Jay County, 1 p.m.  
**WRESTLING:** (regionals) Norwell, Bluffton, Southern Wells at Jay County, 8:30 a.m.

**MONDAY, Feb. 6**  
**SWIM & DIVE (boys only):** Adams Central & Snider at Norwell, 6 p.m.  
**TUESDAY, Feb. 7**  
**BOYS BASKETBALL:** Norwell at Heritage, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Elwood, 7:30 p.m.  
**SWIM & DIVE (boys only):** Huntington North at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY, Feb. 8**  
 No events scheduled.  
**THURSDAY, Feb. 9**  
 No events scheduled.  
**FRIDAY, Feb. 10**  
**BOYS BASKETBALL:** Huntington North at Norwell, 7:45 p.m.; Bluffton at Northfield, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Woodlan, 7:30 p.m.

## Tom Brady retires at age 45

By FRED GOODALL  
 AP Sports Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — This time, Tom Brady says he's done for good.

The seven-time Super Bowl winner with New England and Tampa Bay announced his retirement from the NFL on Wednesday, exactly one year after first saying his playing days were over, by posting a brief video lasting just under one minute on social media.

Unlike last winter, though, the most successful quarterback in league history, as well as one of the greatest athletes in team sports, said his decision was final.

"Good morning guys. I'll get to the point right away," Brady says as the message begins. "I'm retiring. For good."

He briefly retired after the 2021 season but wound up coming back for one more year with the Buccaneers. He retires at age 45, the owner of virtually every meaningful NFL passing record in an unprecedented 23-year career.

A year ago when he retired, it was in the form of a long Instagram post. But about six weeks later, he decided to return for one more run, citing "unfinished business" after an early playoff exit.

The Buccaneers — with whom he won a Super Bowl two seasons ago — made the playoffs again this season, losing in their playoff opener. And at the time, it begged the question about whether Brady would play again.

Only a couple of weeks later, he has given the answer.

"I know the process was a pretty big deal last time, so when I woke up this morn-

ing, I figured I'd just press record and let you guys know first," Brady says in the video. "I won't be long-winded. You only get one super emotional retirement essay and I used mine up last year."

"I really thank you guys so much, to every single one of you for supporting me. My family, my friends, teammates, my competitors. I could go on forever. There's too many. Thank you guys for allowing me to live my absolute dream. I wouldn't change a thing. Love you all."

Brady is the NFL's career leader in yards passing (89,214) and touchdowns (649). He is the only player to win more than five Super Bowls and has been MVP of the game five times. He also holds marks for regular-season wins (251), Super Bowl appearances (10), playoff games and wins (48, 35), as well as playoff yards (13,400) and TDs (88).

"Tom's legacy is unmatched in the history of this game. All the Super Bowl titles and statistical records speak for themselves, but the impact he had on so many people through the years is what I appreciate the most," Buccaneers general manager Jason Licht said.

"His imprint on this organization helped take us to the mountaintop. We will certainly miss him as our quarterback, but I will also miss him as a leader and friend," Licht added. "Our entire organization is indebted to him for what he provided us over the past three years. We won't ever forget the wins or the accolades, and his influence will be felt for years to come."

Brady announced his retirement one day after

attending the premiere of "80 for Brady" — which comes out Friday — in Los Angeles. The movie tells the story of four lifelong friends, played by Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Rita Moreno and Sally Field, who went to a Super Bowl to see Brady play.

He was asked Tuesday night whether he felt a connection working with women — the four stars range in age from 76 to 91 — who don't want to retire.

"They're working hard and they love it. So good for them," Brady told The Associated Press. "You know, it's just that's what life is about. You got to, you know, wake up every day with a purpose. And when you find something you love to do, you know, it's hard to stop. You really enjoy it. And there's a lot of aspects that you do enjoy. So they still bring it at this age. It's really unbelievable to watch them on set and how much energy they have. And I certainly was inspired by them and learned a lot of lessons on this whole experience."

Famously underrated coming into the NFL — he was drafted 199th in the 2000 pick by the Patriots, behind six other quarterbacks, three kickers and a punter — Brady certainly wasn't expected to become synonymous with greatness. He played in one game as a rookie, completing one of three passes for six yards.

The next year, it all changed.

Brady took over as the Patriots' starter, the team beat the St. Louis Rams in the Super Bowl that capped the 2001 season and he and New England coach Bill Belichick were well on their way to becoming the most successful coach-QB duo in football history.

More Super Bowl wins came after the 2003 and 2004 seasons. The Patriots returned to football's moun-

(Continued on Page 7)

## All four Tigers Middle School basketball teams win ACAC tournaments

All four Bluffton Middle School basketball teams won the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament Wednesday night.

Yes, the eighth-grade and seventh-grade boys' and girls' teams all were victorious in their respective championship games. The feat was capitalized with a police escort back to Bluffton High School, followed by a line of honking cars.

In the eighth-grade boys' game, the Tigers defeated Adams Central 42-21. The team was led by Axton Beste's 15 points, followed by Jonah Geisel (13), Jared Moser (8), Abram Gehrett (4), and Chanley Shaw (2).

The eighth-grade girls' team won over

Jay County 36-27. Sophie Eisenhut led the way with 15 points, followed by Isla Gibson (8), Madelyn Funk (5), Allie Koby (4), and Addison Yates and Ella Borrer (2).

The seventh-grade boys' team won 35-32. Leading the way for the Tigers were Reid Abbett and Gavin Grieser's 10 points each, followed by Dawson Lee (6), Bennett Stoller (4), Rafe Gerber (3), and Andy Baumgartner (2).

The seventh-grade girls' won 36-30 over Jay County. Leading the way was Khloe Dick with nine points, followed by Grace Fry and Bridget Steffen (8), Krista Blair (6), Kamryn Ault (3), and Ava Trexler (2).

## Gillis scores 29, Boilermakers rolls past the Nittany Lions

By MICHAEL MAROT  
 AP Sports Writer

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) — Mason Gillis routinely demonstrates his shooting prowess at Purdue's practices.

On Wednesday night, the roaring, sell-out crowd at Mackey Arena finally got a glimpse, too.

The third year forward made an arena record nine 3-pointers and finished with a career high 29 points to lead the top-ranked Boilermakers to an 80-60 rout over Penn State.

"Honestly to me, it doesn't feel like I did anything different. I just hit a couple shots and they kept falling," Gillis said. "I kind of hesitate sometimes in games, but the first couple ones went in and I said, 'I'm just going to keep taking them.'"

Nobody complained. Gillis, Zach Edey said, made his job of recording an 18th double-double this season easy. Edey had 18 points and 13 rebounds as the Big Ten-leading Boilermakers (22-1, 11-1) made a season-best 14 3s and won their ninth in a row.

But to many, Gillis' incredible game seemed to come out of the blue. Until Wednesday, he had never made more than three 3s in a game or scored more than 14 points. Then suddenly, there he was making 10 of 14 shots and nine of 12 from beyond the arc, thanks in part to the Nittany Lions' strategy of trying a zone defense to negate the 7-foot-4 Edey.

Gillis made sure the game plan backfired on his old coach.

"My opening statement is going to be very succinct," said Penn State coach Mitch Sproeder.

Shrewsbury, who was an assistant at Purdue before taking the Nittany Lions job two years ago. "Best team in the country, best player in the country, best coach in the country."

Seth Lundy had 18 points to lead the Nittany Lions (14-8, 5-6), who have lost six straight in the series and all four during Shrewsbury's tenure.

Purdue, the only Power Five team left with fewer than two losses, looked like it would run away early when it used a 9-0 run to build a 23-13 lead. But Penn State scored the final five points of the first half to close to 35-29.

Then, after Jalen Pickett opened the second half with a layup, Gillis answered with a flurry. He made three straight 3s to give Purdue a 44-31 lead, and after Penn State called timeout, Gillis made a mid-range jumper and Ethan Morton added another 3 to make it 49-31.

The Nittany Lions never recovered as Purdue pulled away and extended the margin to as much as 26.

"We're not worried about results, we're pretty process driven," Gillis said. "But it

definitely felt amazing."

### BIG PICTURE

Penn State: Shrewsbury was the first Matt Painter assistant to return to Mackey with a different team. It might go down as a pretty forgettable experience. But the Nittany Lions for an improving team, there are going to be some bumpy obstacles along the way.

Purdue: The Boilermakers showed just how much firepower they possess — in addition to Edey. When Edey's supporting cast plays this way, Purdue is almost unbeatable.

### POLL IMPLICATIONS

The Boilermakers left nothing to doubt after becoming the first Power Five team to earn unanimous No. 1 selections in consecutive years in 20 years. Now comes the hard part — adding a win at archrival, No. 21 Indiana, the Big Ten preseason favorite, to the resume.

### TEAMING UP

Shrewsbury and Painter wore T-shirts to promote Project 44, an initiative to expand bone marrow registries. It honors the late Andrew Smith, who played on Butler's two Final Four teams when Shrewsbury was an assistant there. Smith died in January 2016 at age 25 after a two-year battle with cancer and a bone marrow transplant gave Smith and his wife, Samantha, three additional months together.

### UP NEXT

Purdue: Begins a stretch of three road trips in four games with perhaps the toughest of all — Saturday against the Hoosiers.

# News-Banner Scoreboard

## BASKETBALL

### High School

#### Wednesday Girls' Scores

Sectional First Round  
**Class 1A**  
 50. Culver  
 Argos 62, Culver 58, 30T  
 Westville 38, S. Bend Trinity 29  
 57. Bloomfield  
 Bloomfield 71, Bloomington Light-house 32  
 Clay City 48, White River Valley 47  
 60. Southwestern (Shelby)  
 Morristown 53, Edinburg 17  
 S. Decatur 56, Oldenburg 49  
 61. Borden  
 Rock Creek Academy 52, Christian Academy 42  
 W. Washington 70, S. Central (Elizabeth) 62  
 63. Springs Valley  
 Barr-Reeve 63, Shoals 40  
 Orleans 55, Washington Catholic 11  
 64. Tecumseh  
 Dubois 58, Evansville Christian 25  
**Class 2A**  
 33. Andean  
 Andean 59, Lake Station 54  
 Illiana Christian 56, Bowman Academy 22  
 39. Blackford  
 Blackford 68, Eastern (Greentown) 35  
 Tipton 49, Taylor 11  
 40. Wapahani  
 Wes-Del 41, Muncie Burriss 18  
 Winchester 47, Monroe Central 27  
 44. Greencastle  
 Parke Heritage 68, N. Putnam 43  
 Riverton Parke 57, S. Putnam 37  
 46. Austin  
 Austin 49, Clarksville 21  
 Southwestern (Hanover) 45, Henryville 35  
 47. Eastern Greene  
 Paoli 46, N. Daviess 31  
 48. Forest Park  
 Forest Park 41, N. Posey 25  
 S. Spencer 43, Crawford Co. 36  
**Class 3A**  
 17. Griffith  
 Hammond Noll 65, Calumet Christian 14  
 Hanover Central 65, River Forest 30  
 21. Ft. Wayne Concordia  
 Ft. Wayne Concordia 62, Leo 51  
 Garrett 41, Angola 32  
 22. Benton Central  
 Benton Central 54, Western 47  
 Rensselaer 57, Frankfort 12  
 23. Norwell  
 Bellmont 57, Oak Hill 21  
 Northwestern 69, Mississinewa 32  
 24. Hamilton Heights  
 Frankton 67, Delta 33  
 Yorktown 70, New Castle 37  
 25. Lebanon  
 Danville 53, Crawfordville 16  
 Tri-West 61, Monrovia 53  
 26. Owen Valley  
 Edgewood 50, W. Vigo 27  
 Indian Creek 44, Owen Valley 31  
 29. Rushville  
 Franklin Co. 51, Batesville 39  
 Rushville 55, Greensburg 53  
 31. Princeton  
 Princeton 52, Pike Central 31  
 Southridge 50, Heritage Hills 31  
**Class 4A**  
 1. Lake Central  
 Lake Central 60, E. Chicago Central 15  
 Munster 56, Merrillville 52  
 2. Lowell  
 Chesterton 45, Lowell 30  
 Valparaiso 40, Crown Point 34  
 3. Plymouth  
 Michigan City 56, LaPorte 41  
 Plymouth 79, S. Bend Riley 20  
 9. Mt. Vernon (Fortville)  
 Anderson 63, Muncie Central 52  
 New Palestine 45, Richmond 27  
 10. Lawrence Central  
 Indpls Attucks 54, Indpls Tech 49  
 Warren Central 60, Lawrence Central 58  
 11. Southport  
 Decatur Central 53, Indpls Roncalli 12  
 Franklin Central 53, Indpls Perry Meridian 29  
 15. Bedford North Lawrence  
 Bedford N. Lawrence 51, Jennings Co. 38  
**Wednesday Boys' Scores**  
 Austin 49, Clarksville 21  
 Christel House Manual 63, Indpls Tindley 55  
 Eastbrook 60, Bluffton 55  
 Ft. Day 67, Vincennes Rivet 32  
 Ft. Wayne Concordia 62, Leo 51  
 Garrett 41, Angola 32  
 Michigan City Marquette 79, Knox 67  
 Monroe Central 65, Union (Modoc) 15  
 Tecumseh 83, Evansville Christian 65  
 W. Vigo 56, Marshall, Ill. 44

**College**  
**Wednesday, Feb. 1**  
**EAST**  
 Army 71, Lehigh 69  
 Bryant 71, Maine 53  
 Bucknell 78, American 71  
 Creighton 63, Georgetown 53  
 Holy Cross 82, Boston U. 70  
 La Salle 75, George Washington 64  
 Mass.-Lowell 66, Albany (NY) 50  
 Navy 53, Lafayette 34  
 New Hampshire 74, NJIT 67, OT  
 Rutgers 90, Minnesota 55  
 Saint Joseph's 64, Rhode Island 50  
 Seton Hall 84, St. John's 72  
 UMBC 69, Binghamton 55  
**SOUTH**  
 Auburn 94, Georgia 73  
 Campbell 78, SC-Upstate 66  
 ETSU 77, Wofford 52  
 Florida 67, Tennessee 54  
 Furman 79, Chattanooga 58  
 Gardner-Webb 67, Charleston Southern 59  
 George Mason 70, UMass 59  
 Louisville 68, Georgia Tech 58  
 Murray St. 83, Belmont 82  
 Pittsburgh 65, North Carolina 64  
 Radford 67, Presbyterian 59  
 Samford 85, W. Carolina 77  
 South Florida 71, East Carolina 63  
 St. Bonaventure 66, Richmond 62  
 Winthrop 76, Longwood 74  
**MIDWEST**  
 Bethel (Minn.) 85, Hamline 67  
 Bradley 62, S. Illinois 51  
 Calvin 84, Kalamazoo 55  
 Cincinnati 81, Tulsa 55

**Football**  
**NFL**  
**Conference Championships**  
**Sunday, Jan. 29**  
 AFC  
 Kansas City 23, Cincinnati 20  
 NFC  
 Philadelphia 31, San Francisco 7  
 Super Bowl  
 Sunday, Feb. 12  
 At Glendale, Ariz.  
 Philadelphia vs. Kansas City, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)  
**HOCKEY**  
**NHL**  
**EASTERN CONFERENCE**  
**Atlantic Division**  

GP	W	L	OTpts	GF	GA
Boston	51	39	7	5	83192 111
Toronto	52	31	13	8	70175 141
Tampa Bay	48	32	15	1	65175 141
Buffalo	50	26	20	4	56186 170
Florida	52	24	22	6	54178 183
Ottawa	50	24	23	3	51151 159
Detroit	48	21	19	8	50145 160
Montreal	51	20	27	4	44134 189

**Metropolitan Division**  

GP	W	L	OTpts	GF	GA
Carolina	51	34	9	8	76173 136
New Jersey	49	32	13	4	68171 131
N.Y. Rangers	49	27	14	8	62157 129
Washington	53	27	20	6	60166 152
Pittsburgh	49	24	16	9	57161 153
N.Y. Islanders	52	25	22	5	55148 144
Philadelphia	51	21	9	9	51142 162

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
**Central Division**  

GP	W	L	OTpts	GF	GA
Dallas	51	28	13	10	66173 133
Winnipeg	52	32	19	1	65167 137
Minnesota	48	27	17	4	58151 138
Colorado	48	27	18	3	57151 133
Nashville	48	24	18	6	54137 141
St. Louis	51	23	25	3	49156 185
Arizona	50	16	28	6	38131 177
Chicago	48	15	29	4	34118 176

**Pacific Division**  

GP	W	L	OTpts	GF	GA
Seattle	49	29	15	5	63177 151
Los Angeles	53	28	18	7	63173 183
Vegas	51	29	18	4	62160 148
Edmonton	50	28	18	4	60187 163
Calgary	50	24	17	9	57160 153
Vancouver	49	20	26	3	43166 196
San Jose	51	15	25	11	41157 196
Anaheim	50	16	29	5	37125 205

**NOTE:** Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.  
**Tuesday's Games**  
 Carolina 5, Montreal 4  
 Carolina 5, Los Angeles 4, OT  
 Washington 4, Columbus 3, OT  
**Wednesday's Games**  
 Carolina 5, Buffalo 1  
 Boston 5, Toronto 2  
**Thursday's Games**  
 No games scheduled  
**Friday's Games**  
 No games scheduled  
**Saturday's Games**  
 Central All-Stars at Pacific All-Stars, 3 p.m.  
 Metropolitan All-Stars at Atlantic All-Stars, 4 p.m.

Eureka 85, Blackburn 69  
 Greenville 86, Webster 84  
 Huntington 77, Taylor 57  
 Illinois St. 68, Ill.-Chicago 62, OT  
 Indiana St. 83, Evansville 65  
 John Carroll 91, Heidelberg 82  
 Marietta 68, Muskingum 65  
 Marquette 73, Villanova 64  
 Missouri St. 76, Valparaiso 67, OT  
 Mount Union 102, Baldwin Wallace 69  
 Olivet 92, Adrian 82  
 Otterbein 75, Ohio Northern 58  
 Purdue 80, Penn St. 60  
 Spalding 63, Fontbonne 48  
 St. Mary's (Minn.) 66, St. Olaf 65  
 Trine 65, Albion 41  
 Wabash 89, DePauw 79  
 Wilmington (Ohio) 76, Capital 73  
 Wis.-La Crosse 82, Wis.-Platteville 67  
 Wooster 77, Kenyon 53  
 Xavier 85, Providence 83, OT  
**FAR WEST**  
 Sam Houston St. 67, Texas Rio Grande Valley 65

## NBA

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

#### Atlantic Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	37	15	.712	—
Philadelphia	33	17	.660	3
Brooklyn	31	20	.608	5½
New York	27	25	.519	10
Toronto	23	30	.434	14½

#### Southeast Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	29	23	.558	—
Atlanta	25	26	.490	3½
Washington	24	26	.480	4
Orlando	20	32	.385	9
Charlotte	15	37	.288	14

#### Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	34	17	.667	—
Cleveland	31	22	.585	4
Indiana	24	28	.462	10½
Chicago	23	27	.460	10½
Detroit	13	39	.250	21½

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

#### Southwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Memphis	32	19	.627	—
Dallas	27	25	.519	5½
New Orleans	26	26	.500	6½
San Antonio	14	38	.269	18½
Houston	13	38	.255	19

#### Northwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Denver	35	16	.686	—
Minnesota	28	26	.519	8½
Utah	27	26	.509	9
Portland	25	26	.490	10
Oklahoma City	24	27	.471	11

#### Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Sacramento	29	21	.580	—
L.A. Clippers	29	25	.537	2
Phoenix	27	25	.519	3
Golden State	26	25	.510	3½
L.A. Lakers	24	28	.462	6

### Tuesday's Games

Miami 100, Cleveland 97  
 L.A. Clippers 108, Chicago 103  
 Milwaukee 124, Charlotte 115  
 L.A. Lakers 129, New York 123, OT  
 Denver 122, New Orleans 113  
**Wednesday's Games**  
 Philadelphia 105, Orlando 94  
 Portland 122, Memphis 112  
 Boston 139, Brooklyn 96  
 Sacramento 119, San Antonio 109  
 Houston 112, Oklahoma City 106  
 Minnesota 119, Golden State 114, OT  
 Utah 131, Toronto 128  
 Washington at Detroit, ppd  
 Atlanta at Phoenix, late  
**Thursday's Games**  
 L.A. Lakers at Indiana, 7 p.m.  
 Memphis at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.  
 Miami at New York, 7:30 p.m.  
 Charlotte at Chicago, 8 p.m.  
 New Orleans at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
 Golden State at Denver, 9 p.m.  
 L.A. Clippers at Milwaukee, 10 p.m.  
**Friday's Games**  
 Charlotte at Detroit, 7 p.m.  
 Portland at Washington, 7 p.m.  
 Sacramento at Indiana, 7 p.m.  
 Phoenix at Boston, 7:30 p.m.  
 Orlando at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
 Philadelphia at San Antonio, 8 p.m.  
 Toronto at Houston, 8 p.m.  
 Atlanta at Utah, 9 p.m.  
**Saturday's Games**  
 Washington at Brooklyn, 6 p.m.  
 L.A. Clippers at New York, 7 p.m.  
 Phoenix at Detroit, 7 p.m.  
 Houston at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.  
 L.A. Lakers at New Orleans, 8 p.m.  
 Miami at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.  
 Portland at Chicago, 8 p.m.  
 Dallas at Golden State, 8:30 p.m.  
 Atlanta at Denver, 9 p.m.

Columbus 51 15 32 4 34131 198  
**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
**Central Division**  

GP	W	L	OTpts	GF	GA
Dallas	51	28	13	10	66173 133
Winnipeg	52	32	19	1	65167 137
Minnesota	48	27	17	4	58151 138
Colorado	48	27	18	3	57151 133
Nashville	48	24	18	6	54137 141
St. Louis	51	23	25	3	49156 185
Arizona	50	16	28	6	38131 177
Chicago	48	15	29	4	34118 176

**Pacific Division**  

GP	W	L	OTpts	GF	GA
Seattle	49	29	15	5	63177 151
Los Angeles	53	28	18	7	63173 183
Vegas	51	29	18	4	62160 148
Edmonton	50	28	18	4	60187 163
Calgary	50	24	17	9	57160 153
Vancouver	49	20	26	3	43166 196
San Jose	51	15	25	11	41157 196
Anaheim	50	16	29	5	37125 205

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 Ottawa 5, Montreal 4  
 Carolina 5, Los Angeles 4, OT  
 Washington 4, Columbus 3, OT  
**Wednesday's Games**  
 Carolina 5, Buffalo 1  
 Boston 5, Toronto 2  
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 No games scheduled  
**Friday's Games**  
 No games scheduled  
**Saturday's Games**  
 Central All-Stars at Pacific All-Stars, 3 p.m.  
 Metropolitan All-Stars at Atlantic All-Stars, 4 p.m.

### HOCKEY

#### NHL

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

#### Atlantic Division

GP	W	L	OTpts	GF	GA
Boston	51	39	7	5	83192 111
Toronto	52	31	13	8	70175 141
Tampa Bay	48	32	15	1	65175 141
Buffalo	50	26	20	4	56186 170
Florida	52	24	22	6	54178 183
Ottawa	50	24	23	3	51151 159
Detroit	48	21	19	8	50145 160
Montreal	51	20	27	4	44134 189

#### Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OTpts	GF	GA
Carolina	51	34	9	8	76173 136
New Jersey	49	32	13	4	68171 131
N.Y. Rangers	49	27	14	8	62157 129
Washington	53	27	20	6	60166 152
Pittsburgh	49	24	16	9	57161 153
N.Y. Islanders	52	25	22	5	55148 144
Philadelphia	51	21	9	9	51142 162

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
**Central Division**  

GP	W	L	OTpts	GF	GA
Dallas	51	28	13	10	66173 133
Winnipeg	52	32	19	1	65167 137
Minnesota	48	27	17	4	58151 138
Colorado	48	27	18	3	57151 133
Nashville	48	24	18	6	54137 141
St. Louis	51	23	25	3	49156 185
Arizona	50	16	28	6	38131 177
Chicago	48	15	29	4	34118 176

**Pacific Division**  

GP	W	L	OTpts	GF	GA
Seattle	49	29	15	5	63177 151
Los Angeles	53	28	18	7	63173 183
Vegas	51	29	18	4	62160 148
Edmonton	50	28	18	4	60187 163
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**Tuesday's Games**  
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 Washington 4, Columbus 3, OT  
**Wednesday's Games**  
 Carolina 5, Buffalo 1  
 Boston 5, Toronto 2  
**Thursday's Games**<

# Struggling to rebuild family after ugly divorce

## Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



Dear Annie: At the end of 2015, I decided to end my marriage of 30 years. My ex made the divorce very long and expensive, and he tried to financially destroy me in retribution. He involved our daughter and son and turned them against me. I have tried from the beginning to maintain my relationship with my kids, but they quickly shut me out of their lives. They haven't responded to texts, phone calls or voicemails — hundreds of them over the years. I was extremely close with them and was shocked that they had taken sides and allowed themselves to be dragged into a very ugly divorce.

tried yet? Thank you! — Still Sad  
*Dear Still Sad: With the help of your therapist, try to figure out WHY your children have cut you out of their lives. Did they have a difficult childhood? Do they blame you for the divorce? Whether it's fair or not, it is unlikely that your children cut you out for no reason at all.*

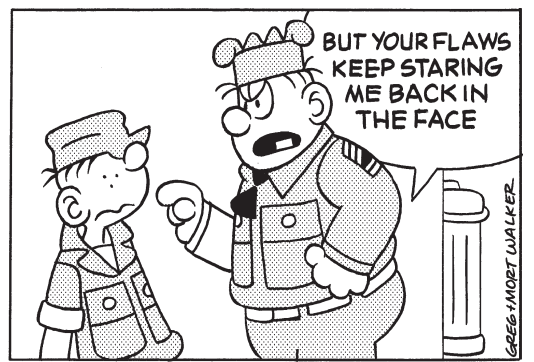
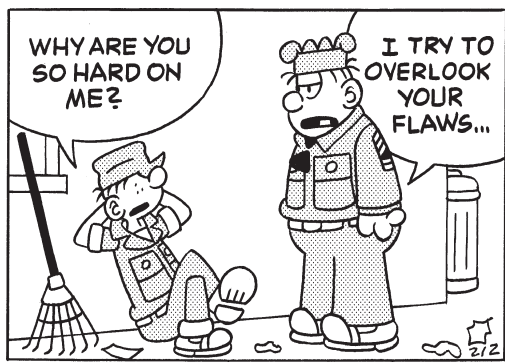
*I would then write a letter to each of your children explaining how much you love them, how desperately you want to be a part of their lives and, if applicable, how sincerely you apologize for any trauma they endured in the past. Do not bring up their father; your children do not need to witness any more drama between their parents.*

*If they do not respond to such an outreach, then I'm afraid there isn't much more you can do. You cannot, in any healthy capacity, force your way into somebody's life. It is important that you focus on the future, not the past, and integrate yourself into your new community. And it should be immensely encouraging to you that you have already made a ton of progress!*

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

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## BEETLE BAILEY



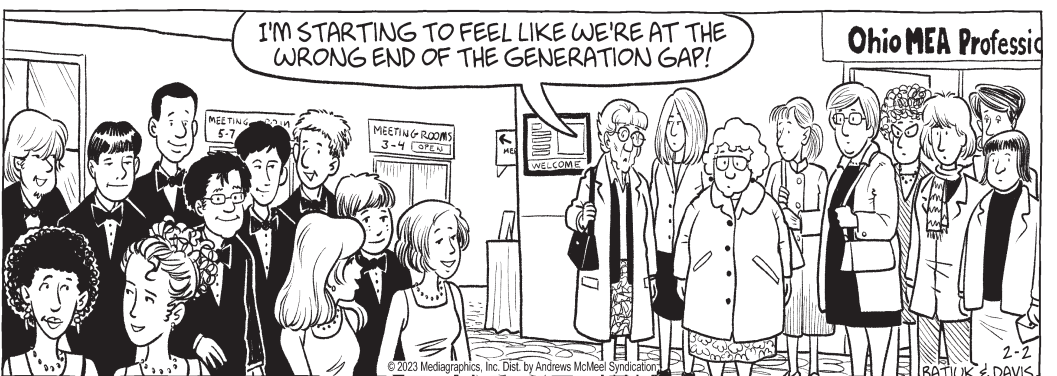
## BLONDIE



## ZITS



## CRANKSHAFT



## My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



## Jesus brings deliverance to those who are weighed down

*Q: I am a social worker and a Christian. While I have to follow certain regulations in dealing with people, I want to help them know who can truly help them in their deep moments of depression, which is an epidemic. The world turns to drugs; I pray they will turn to Jesus. — S.W.*

*A: While battles rage around the world and storms gather in the human spirit, depression steals rest from our souls. This is an unfolding phenomenon that grips hearts with indescribable fear. Society is caught up in a powerful windstorm by turning to drugs to calm their hearts and minds, many times with a*

doctor's help. There is widespread anxiety in people's hearts today. Volumes could be written on the problem of drug addiction. The Bible warns that these flights from reality bring no lasting satisfaction.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), anti-depressants are among the most prescribed drugs in the United States. Sometimes called the "designer drug," one physician stated, "It's hard to believe that so many people are depressed, or that antidepressants are the answer." This doctor is wise, indeed. Drugs are not the answer to man's troubled condition. There is only one answer to the travail of this present age, and it is found in the

pages of God's Word, the Bible.

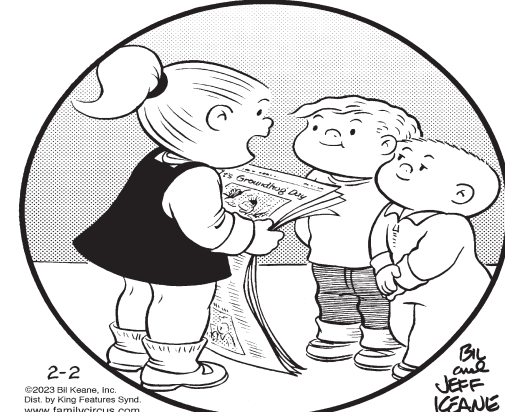
While it is important to be under the responsible care of physicians when battling emotional trauma, do not dismiss the peace of mind that comes from the Great Physician. Jesus brings deliverance to those who are weighed down. The Bible encourages us to think on things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and of good report. It is good medicine for our minds and hearts (see Philippians 4:8).

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

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## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Then the groundhog comes out of his hole and brings toys for good girls and boys."

## THE LOCKHORNS



"I THINK WE'RE APPROACHING THE TOP 90%."

02/02	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		
WINN (12)	11	26	63		3D Woman Julie & Friends	Movie	Castle	Castle	Castle	Journey	TCT Today	News-w	Perry Stone	James Robison	Dr. Robert Jefferson	Creflo Dollar	Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor	Rabbi Lapin			
CBS WANE (15)	2	15	15		News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	News at 6 (N)	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Sheldon (N)	Ghosts (N)	So Help Me Todd "Psi-lo-Sibling" (N)	Chicago P.D. "In Your Care"	Chicago P.D. "Equal Justice"	Chicago P.D. "Instinct"	Chicago P.D. "Protect and Serve"	Nightcast (N)	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	(35) James Corden		
Antenna WANE-2 (15)	106	20			Chicago P.D. "Fighting Ghosts"	Chicago P.D. "White Knuckle"	Chicago P.D. "Tender Age"	Chicago P.D. "Unforgiven"	Chicago P.D. "Celebrity Jeopardy!"	Chicago P.D. "Final" (SF) (N)	Chicago P.D. "Law & Order (N)"	Chicago P.D. "Parent "Every Parent's Worst Nightmare" (N)"	Chicago P.D. "The Chase (N)"	ABC21 (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!	(35) Nightline	(35) Seth Meyers	(35) Jimmy Fallon	(35) Jimmy Fallon	(35) Jimmy Fallon		
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21		ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC World News (N)	Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (N)	Law & Order: Organized Crime (N)	News (N)	News (N)	The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs			
NBC WPTA-2 (21)	7	8	14		Pictionary	25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Modern Family	21Alive News at 6	Divorce Court	Divorce Court	Walker "World on a String"	Walker Independence "Random Acts"	The Liquidator	Chicago P.D. "Payback"	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy		
MNT WPTA-3 (21)	10	9	56	34	The King of Queens	Modern Family	21Alive News at 6	Judge Lake	Judge Lake	Divorce Court	Arts in Focus	This Old House (N)	Old House (N)	Grantchester on Masterpiece	World on Fire on Masterpiece	Amanpour and Company (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	This Old House	Ask This House			
CV WISE (33)	8	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show	Judge Lake	Judge Lake	Divorce Court	Arts in Focus	This Old House (N)	Old House (N)	Grantchester on Masterpiece	World on Fire on Masterpiece	World on Fire on Masterpiece	Amanpour and Company (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	This Old House	Ask This House	Ask This House			
PBS WFWA (39)	13	5	39	39	Odd Squad	Arthur	PBS NewsHour (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)	Now	Old House (N)	Grantchester on Masterpiece	World on Fire on Masterpiece	World on Fire on Masterpiece	Amanpour and Company (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	This Old House	Ask This House	Ask This House			
PBS WWPB (49)	3				Odd Squad	World News	America's Heartland	The David Rubenstein	PBS NewsHour (N)	Now	Old House (N)	Grantchester on Masterpiece	World on Fire on Masterpiece	World on Fire on Masterpiece	Amanpour and Company (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	This Old House	Ask This House	Ask This House			
FOX WFFT (55)	6	6	55	55	Neighbor	Neighbor	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Big Bang	Big Bang	Call Me Kat (N)	Call Me Kat (N)	FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)	FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	TMZ (N)	Extra (N)	Extra (N)			
CABLE CHANNELS																						
LIFE	23	113	108	252	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Reba McEntire's The Hammer (2023, Mystery)	Melissa Peterman, Rex Linn, Reba McEntire.	(05) *** 27 Dresses (2008, Romance)	James Marsden, Malin Akerman, Katherine Heigl.	(05) *** The Martian (15, Sci-Fi)	Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig, Matt Damon.	*** The Martian (15, Sci-Fi)	Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig, Matt Damon.	*** The Martian (15, Sci-Fi)	Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig, Matt Damon.	*** The Martian (15, Sci-Fi)	Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig, Matt Damon.	
FX	24	132	138	148	3:00p *** Interstellar	Matthew McConaughey.	*** The Martian (15, Sci-Fi)	Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig, Matt Damon.	*** The Martian (15, Sci-Fi)	Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig, Matt Damon.	*** The Martian (15, Sci-Fi)	Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig, Matt Damon.	*** The Martian (15, Sci-Fi)	Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig, Matt Damon.	*** The Martian (15, Sci-Fi)	Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig, Matt Damon.	*** The Martian (15, Sci-Fi)	Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig, Matt Damon.	*** The Martian (15, Sci-Fi)	Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig, Matt Damon.		
TVLAND	25	106	304		Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	
E!	26	142	114	236	5:30p 50 First Dates	Kidman, Adam Sandler.	*** Just Go With It (2011, Romance)	Jennifer Aniston, Nicole Kidman, Adam Sandler.	*** Just Go With It (2011, Romance)	Jennifer Aniston, Nicole Kidman, Adam Sandler.	*** Just Go With It (2011, Romance)	Jennifer Aniston, Nicole Kidman, Adam Sandler.	*** Just Go With It (2011, Romance)	Jennifer Aniston, Nicole Kidman, Adam Sandler.	*** Just Go With It (2011, Romance)	Jennifer Aniston, Nicole Kidman, Adam Sandler.	*** Just Go With It (2011, Romance)	Jennifer Aniston, Nicole Kidman, Adam Sandler.	*** Just Go With It (2011, Romance)	Jennifer Aniston, Nicole Kidman, Adam Sandler.	*** Just Go With It (2011, Romance)	Jennifer Aniston, Nicole Kidman, Adam Sandler.
PARMT	30	241	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 (N)	Pardon (L)	SportsCenter (L)	SportsCenter (L)	SportsCenter (L)	SportsCenter (L)	SportsCenter (L)	SportsCenter (L)	SportsCenter (L)	SportsCenter (L)	SportsCenter (L)	SportsCenter (L)	SportsCenter (L)	SportsCenter (L)	SportsCenter (L)	SportsCenter (L)	SportsCenter (L)	
ESPN2	32	54	143	209	NFL Live	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	
FSMW	33		418	671	The Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Disrobed"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Disrobed"	Law & Order: SVU "The Third Guy"	Law & Order: SVU "The Third Guy"	Law & Order: SVU "The Third Guy"	Law & Order: SVU "The Third Guy"	Law & Order: SVU "The Third Guy"	Law & Order: SVU "The Third Guy"	Law & Order: SVU "The Third Guy"	Law & Order: SVU "The Third Guy"	Law & Order: SVU "The Third Guy"	Law & Order: SVU "The Third Guy"	Law & Order: SVU "The Third Guy"	Law & Order: SVU "The Third Guy"	Law & Order: SVU "The Third Guy"	Law & Order: SVU "The Third Guy"	Law & Order: SVU "The Third Guy"	
USA	34	133	105	242	BattleBots	The international cast of murderous machines does out more serious robot punishment.	BattleBots (N)	BattleBots (N)	BattleBots (N)	BattleBots (N)	BattleBots (N)	BattleBots (N)	BattleBots (N)	BattleBots (N)	BattleBots (N)	BattleBots (N)	BattleBots (N)	BattleBots (N)	BattleBots (N)	BattleBots (N)	BattleBots (N)	
DISC	35	72	182	278	My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life	
HLTC	36	77	120	269	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	Swamp People "The Night Serpent"	
A&E	39	134	118	265	The First 48 "The Code"	The First 48 "The Code"	The First 48 "The Code"	The First 48 "The Code"	The First 48 "The Code"	The First 48 "The Code"	The First 48 "The Code"	The First 48 "The Code"	The First 48 "The Code"	The First 48 "The Code"	The First 48 "The Code"	The First 48 "The Code"	The First 48 "The Code"	The First 48 "The Code"	The First 48 "The Code"	The First 48 "The Code"	The First 48 "The Code"	
HALL	40	117	185	312	The Wedding Veil Legacy	The Wedding Veil Legacy	The Wedding Veil Legacy	The Wedding Veil Legacy	The Wedding Veil Legacy	The Wedding Veil Legacy	The Wedding Veil Legacy	The Wedding Veil Legacy	The Wedding Veil Legacy	The Wedding Veil Legacy	The Wedding Veil Legacy	The Wedding Veil Legacy	The Wedding Veil Legacy	The Wedding Veil Legacy	The Wedding Veil Legacy	The Wedding Veil Legacy	The Wedding Veil Legacy	
SYFY	41	135	122	244	Charmed "Magic Hour"	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	
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	*** Jurassic World	*** Jurassic World	*** Jurassic World	*** Jurassic World	*** Jurassic World	*** Jurassic World	*** Jurassic World	*** Jurassic World	*** Jurassic World	*** Jurassic World	*** Jurassic World	*** Jurassic World	*** Jurassic World	*** Jurassic World	*** Jurassic World	*** Jurassic World	*** Jurassic World	
AMC	45		131	254	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	*** Groundhog Day (93, Rom)	
COM	47	107	249		The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	
WGN	48	64	150	219	(14:30) Speak (L)	(N)	NASCAR Race Hub (L)	NASCAR Race Hub (L)	NASCAR Race Hub (L)	NASCAR Race Hub (L)	NASCAR Race Hub (L)	NASCAR Race Hub (L)	NASCAR Race Hub (L)	NASCAR Race Hub (L)	NASCAR Race Hub (L)	NASCAR Race Hub (L)	NASCAR Race Hub (L)	NASCAR Race Hub (L)	NASCAR Race Hub (L)	NASCAR Race Hub (L)	NASCAR Race Hub (L)	
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NICK	68	170	279		SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	
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HBO	301		300	501	*** The King's Man (2021, Action)	Harris Dickinson, Rhys Ifans, Ralph Ineson.	*** The King's Man (2021, Action)	Harris Dickinson, Rhys Ifans, Ralph Ineson.	*** The King's Man (2021, Action)	Harris Dickinson, Rhys Ifans, Ralph Ineson.	*** The King's Man (2021, Action)	Harris Dickinson, Rhys Ifans, Ralph Ineson.	*** The King's Man (2021, Action)	Harris Dickinson, Rhys Ifans, Ralph Ineson.	*** The King's Man (2021, Action)	Harris Dickinson, Rhys Ifans, Ralph Ineson.	*** The King's Man (2021, Action)	Harris Dickinson, Rhys Ifans, Ralph Ineson.	*** The King's Man (2021, Action)	Harris Dickinson, Rhys Ifans, Ralph Ineson.	*** The King's Man (2021, Action)	Harris Dickinson, Rhys Ifans, Ralph Ineson.
MAX	325		310	515	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	*** The Purge (21, Thr)	
SHOW	351	851	318	545	*** Trading Places	Dan Aykroyd, P. Dinklage.	*** Trading Places	Dan Aykroyd, P. Dinklage.	*** Trading Places	Dan Aykroyd, P. Dinklage.	*** Trading Places	Dan Aykroyd, P. Dinklage.	*** Trading Places	Dan Aykroyd, P. Dinklage.	*** Trading Places	Dan Aykroyd, P. Dinklage.	*** Trading Places	Dan Aykroyd, P. Dinklage.	*** Trading Places	Dan Aykroyd, P. Dinklage.	*** Trading Places	Dan Aykroyd, P. Dinklage.
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# FBI searches Biden's vacation home, no classified documents found

**By ERIC TUCKER, COLLEEN LONG and ZEKE MILLER**  
**Associated Press**  
 WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI searched President Joe Biden's vacation home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, on Wednesday without turning up any classified documents, the latest turn in an extraordinary series of searches of his and his predecessor's properties.

Agents did take some handwritten notes and other materials relating to Biden's time as vice president for review, just as they had when they searched his Wilmington home last month where they also found classified items. Investigators searched his former office at a Washington think tank that bears his name in November, but it isn't clear whether they took anything.

The Biden searches, conducted with his blessing, have come as investigators work to determine how classified information from his time as a senator and vice

president came to wind up in his home and former office — and whether any mishandling involved criminal intent or was merely a mistake in a city where unauthorized treatment of classified documents is not unheard-of.

Law enforcement searches of property are a routine part of criminal probes, but there is nothing ordinary about the FBI scouring a sitting president's home, even as Biden and his aides have sought to contrast his actions with those of his predecessor.

Former President Donald Trump is facing a special counsel criminal investigation into his retention of several hundred classified documents and other government records at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida — and his resistance to giving them up, which led to an FBI warrant and search to seize them last August.

On Wednesday, Biden's personal attorney Bob Bauer said FBI agents authorized by the Department of Justice

spent three and a half hours searching the president's beach home and that "no documents with classified markings were found."

In a statement disclosing the search, Bauer sought to portray Biden and his team as fully transparent and cooperative. He described the search as "planned" and "a further step in a thorough and timely DOJ process we will continue to fully support and facilitate."

He did not mention Trump by name, but the statement seemed aimed at juxtaposing the Biden investigation with the Trump case, where months of fruitless Justice Department efforts to recover all the classified records taken to the former president's Florida estate culminated in the August search warrant and removal of nearly three dozen boxes of documents and other items.

Searches of Biden's former office and Delaware homes, by contrast, have all been done voluntarily and without a warrant. But

the fact the FBI did its own search reflected the Justice Department's determination to retrieve any and all possible classified items rather than rely on assurances that such documents had been located.

Biden has said he was surprised by the initial trove discovered by his lawyers in November when they were cleaning out an office inside the Penn Biden Center.

The latest search follows the FBI's 13-hour, top-to-bottom check of his Wilmington, Delaware, home, where agents located documents with classified markings from his time as a vice president and senator and also took possession of some of his handwritten notes.

One week earlier, Biden's personal lawyers revealed that they had found a document bearing classified markings while searching the Wilmington property but said they had not found others during a separate inspection of the Rehoboth Beach home.

The White House did not disclose the Justice Department's investigation until last month, when it acknowledged the Nov. 2 discovery of a "small number" of classified documents by Biden lawyers as they closed an office at the Penn Biden Center, a think tank affiliated with the Ivy League school.

Though officials have not disclosed this, The Associated Press and other news organizations reported on Tuesday that the FBI had conducted a voluntary search of that office later in November.

The administration's public response has been delayed and incomplete. There are many unanswered questions — on what information the documents contained, exactly how many were discovered and why he had them in his possession, despite Biden's attorneys and the White House Counsel's insistence they are being as transparent as possible with the public.

"I think we've been pretty transparent from the very beginning," a spokesman for the White House Counsel's office, Ian Sams, said Wednesday. "We want to be careful to be very respectful of the integrity of that ongoing investigation."

Sams reiterated that Biden was working with Justice investigators.

"The president has been fully cooperative in offering unprecedented access to his home ... every single room of his home in Rehoboth as well as the one in Wilmington," he said.

The Justice Department declined comment on the Wednesday search.

Biden's lawyers have described the retention of the records as a "mistake." The Justice Department has historically brought criminal charges related to mishandling of classified records only when it can establish, among other things, that a person acted knowingly in improperly removing or storing sensitive records.

# Fed lifts rate by quarter-point but says inflation is easing

**By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**  
**AP Economics Writer**  
 WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve extended its fight against high inflation Wednesday by raising its key interest rate a quarter-point, its eighth hike since March. And the Fed signaled that even though inflation is easing, it remains high enough to require further rate hikes.

At the same time, Chair Jerome Powell said at a news conference that the Fed recognizes that the pace of inflation has cooled — a signal that it could be nearing the end of its rate increases. The stock and bond markets rallied during his news conference, suggesting that they anticipate a forthcoming pause in the Fed's credit tightening.

Throughout his remarks Wednesday, Powell sounded a dual message. He frequently acknowledged signs that high inflation is slowing.

"We can now say I think for the first time," he said, "that the disinflationary process has started."

Yet he also stressed that it was too soon to declare vic-

tory over the worst inflation bout in four decades: "We will need substantially more evidence to be confident that inflation is on a long, sustained downward path."

The Fed's rate increase Wednesday, though smaller than its half-point hike in December and the four three-quarter-point hikes before that, will likely further raise the costs of many consumer and business loans and the risk of a recession.

In a statement, Fed officials repeated language they've used before, that "ongoing increases in the (interest rate) target range will be appropriate." That is widely interpreted to mean they will raise their benchmark rate again when they next meet in March and perhaps in May as well.

The Fed chair said that so far, much of the inflation slowdown reflects the prices of goods, notably gas but also furniture, appliances and other finished products that have benefited from an unraveling of supply chain snarls.

But Powell reiterated his concern that prices for services — restaurant meals,

health care, airline tickets and the like — are still surging. He has said he pays particular attention to services prices because they are labor-intensive. As a result, robust wage gains can keep services prices elevated and perpetuate high inflation.

The central bank's benchmark rate is now in a range of 4.5 percent to 4.75 percent, its highest level in 15 years. Powell appeared to suggest Wednesday that he foresees two additional quarter-point rate hikes:

"We're talking about a couple of more rate hikes to get to that level we think is appropriately restrictive," he said, referring to rates high enough to slow the economy.

Yet Wall Street investors have priced in only one more hike. Collectively, in fact, they expect the Fed to reverse course and actually cut rates by the end of this year. That optimism has helped drive stock prices up and bond yields down, easing credit and pushing in the opposite direction that the Fed would prefer.

Last summer, Powell took the opportunity in a high-profile speech in Jack-

son Hole, Wyoming, to push back against market expectations of rate cuts anytime soon. His speech hammered home the Fed's intent to keep raising rates — even if it caused "pain" in the form of slower growth and higher unemployment.

On Wednesday, though, Powell declined an opportunity to defuse the market's buoyant expectations.

"Our focus," he said, "is not on short-term moves but on sustained changes" in financial markets.

He noted instead that many financial gauges, like mortgage rates, are much higher than they were when the Fed began raising rates. The divide between the central bank and financial markets is important because rate hikes need to work through markets to affect the economy. The Fed directly controls its key short-term rate. But it has only indirect control over borrowing rates that people and businesses actually pay — for mortgages, corporate bonds, auto loans and many others.

The consequences can be seen in housing. The average fixed rate on a 30-year

mortgage soared after the Fed first began hiking rates. Eventually, it topped 7 percent, more than twice where it had stood before the hiking began.

Yet since the fall, the average mortgage rate has eased to 6.13 percent, the

lowest level since September. And while home sales fell further in December, a measure of signed contracts to buy homes actually rose. That suggested that lower rates might be drawing some home buyers back to the market.

# How to make a mummy: Ancient Egyptian workshop has new clues

**By MADDIE BURAKOFF**  
**AP Science Writer**  
 NEW YORK (AP) — For thousands of years, ancient Egyptians mummified their dead in the search for eternal life. Now, researchers have used chemistry and an unusual collection of jars to figure out how they did it.

Their study, published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*, is based on a rare archaeological find: An embalming workshop with a trove of pottery around 2,500 years old. Many jars from the site were still inscribed with instructions like "to wash" or "to put on his head."

By matching the writing on the outside of the vessels with the chemical traces inside, researchers uncovered new details about the "recipes" that helped preserve bodies for thousands of years.

"It's like a time machine, really," said Joann Fletcher, an archaeologist at University of York who was not involved with the study. "It's allowed us to not quite see over the shoulders of the ancient embalmers, but probably as close as we'll ever get."

Those recipes showed that embalmers had deep knowledge about what substances would help preserve their dead, said Fletcher, whose partner was a co-author on the study. And they included materials from far-flung parts of the world — meaning Egyptians went to great lengths to make their mummies "as perfect as they could possibly be."

The workshop — uncovered in 2016 by study author

Ramadan Hussein, who passed away last year — is located in the famous burial grounds of Saqqara. Parts of it sit above the surface, but a shaft stretches down to an embalming room and burial chamber underground, where the jars were discovered.

It was in rooms like these where the last phase of the process took place, said Salima Ikram, an Egyptologist at The American University in Cairo who was not involved with the study. After drying out the body with salts, which probably took place above ground, embalmers would then take the bodies below.

"This was the last phase of your transformation where the secret rites, the religious rites, were being performed," Ikram said. "People would be chanting spells and hymns while you were being wrapped and resin was being anointed all over your body."

Experts already had some clues about what substances were used in those final steps, mainly from testing individual mummies and looking at written texts. But a lot of gaps remained, said senior author Philipp Stockhammer, an archaeologist at Ludwig Maximilian University in Germany.

The new finds helped crack the case.

Take the word "antiu," which shows up in a lot of Egyptian texts but didn't have a direct translation, Stockhammer said. In the new study, scientists found that several jars labeled as "antiu" contained a mixture of different substances — including animal fat, cedar oil and juniper resin.

These substances, along with others found in the jars, have key properties that would help preserve the mummies, said lead author Maxime Rageot, an archaeologist at Germany's University of Tübingen.

Plant oils — which were used to protect the liver and treat the bandages — could ward off bacteria and fungi, while also improving the smell. Hard materials like beeswax, used on the stomach and skin, could help keep out water and seal the pores.

Some of the substances came from very far away — like dammar and elemi, types of resin that come from the tropical rainforests of Southeast Asia. These results show that ancient Egyptians would trade far and wide to get the most effective materials, the authors said.

"It's interesting to see the complexity," Stockhammer said. "Having this global network on the one hand, having all this chemical knowledge on the other side."

Ikram said an important next step for the research will be to test different parts of actual mummies to see if the same substances show up. And these recipes probably weren't universal — they changed over time and varied between workshops.

Still, the study gives a basis for understanding the past, and can bring us closer to people who lived long ago, she said.

"The ancient Egyptians have been separated from us through time and space, yet we still have this connection," Ikram said. "Human beings all throughout history have been scared of death."



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