

Plan would speed up Indiana tax cuts, boost vouchers

By TOM DAVIES Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Speeding up planned cuts to the state's personal income tax rates and a further expansion of the private school voucher program are keys parts of a state spending plan released Friday by Indiana House Republicans.

Many of their proposals for the new two-year state budget are similar to those sought by Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb, but the House GOP plan would accelerate tax cut and school voucher moves adopted over the last couple of years.

The House plan would boost K-12 school funding by about \$700 million, or 8.5 percent, next school year. Some \$250 million of that increase, however, would go toward raising the income limit to qualify for state money toward private school tuition.

The proposal calls for speeding

up individual income tax rate cuts approved a year ago. The current rate of 3.15 percent would go to 3.0 percent next year and 2.9 percent in 2026 — three years earlier than currently scheduled.

Budget leaders in the Republican-dominated Senate have said they want to be cautious about any tax changes with slower growth of state revenue expected in the coming years, but House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jeff Thompson said he believed state tax collections were solid enough to move up the rate cuts.

"We know from all the data we have that we're in a good spot to make those decreases permanent," said Thompson, a Republican from Lizton. "We believe that Hoosier taxpayers would be the best place to have those additional dollars and they can spend those most wisely and improve their situation." Negotiations on the new budget will continue until the legislative session wraps up in late April. Neither the governor's office nor House Democrats immediately commented on the Republican proposal.

A significant departure by House Republicans from Holcomb's budget request was to scale back a major funding increase for county public health departments (Continued on Page 2)



State lawmakers hear bill decriminalizing marijuana possession

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle A bill decriminalizing the possession of two ounces, or less, of marijuana received a hearing before a House committee Wednesday but isn't expected to get additional consideration. Rep. Wendy McNamara, R-Evansville, chairs the House courts committee and said the dialogue needed to be heard but didn't call a vote on the bill – which would have possibly advanced it to the full House Chamber. "I've been asked why," McNamara told committee members. "The answer is: we haven't had this conversation and I think it needed to be had.'

cannabis reform

Among its peers, Indiana has been resistant to decriminalizing marijuana or legalizing it for either medicinal or recreational use. Both Kentucky and Ohio have allowed their residents to use it medicinally while Illinois and Michigan have legalized it recreationally. Especially for those Hoosiers living close to state borders, legally obtaining the drug is no longer a challenge but Hoosiers can still face consequences in their home state. "Indiana has an estimated \$2 billion cannabis market with no quality control standards in place." bill author Rep. Heath VanNatter, R-Kokomo, said. "While regula-(Continued on Page 2)





The Hoosier State a holdout for

Sheriff: Gunman kills 6 in rural Mississippi

By MICHAEL GOLDBERG and EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press

ARKABUTLA, Miss. (AP) — A lone gunman killed six people including his ex-wife and stepfather Friday at multiple locations in a tiny rural community in northern Mississippi, the sheriff said, leaving investigators searching for clues to what motivated the shocking rampage.

Armed with a shotgun and two handguns, 52-year-old Richard Dale Crum opened fire at about 11 a.m. and killed a man in the driver's seat of a pickup truck parked outside a convenience store in Arkabutla, near the Tennessee state line, Tate County Sheriff Brad Lance said.

Deputies were working the crime scene when a second 911 call alerted authorities to another shooting a few miles away. After arriving at a home, they found a woman, whom the sheriff identified as Crum's ex-wife, shot dead and her current husband wounded.

Lance said deputies caught up with Crum outside his own home and arrested him. Behind the residence they found two handymen slain by gunfire — one in the road, another in an SUV. Inside a neighboring home, they discovered the (Continued on Page 2)



Indiana tax cuts

(Continued from Page 1)

from the \$300 million sought by the governor over the next two years to \$225 million.

Thompson said that still represented a "huge increase" from the \$7 million a year that the state now directs to county health departments, which are primarily funded by local taxes.

A Holcomb-appointed commission found that Indiana's local public health funding ranks 45th among the states and that additional spending was needed to improve Indiana's poor national rankings in areas such as smoking, obesity and life expectancy.

A bill being considered by lawmakers would establish "core public health services" to be provided by county departments, including access to required childhood vaccinations, emergency preparedness, restaurant and sewage system inspections, communicable disease prevention and smoking cessation programs.

Holcomb has made the public health proposal one of his top priorities, saying last month, "We need to get healthier as a state, there's just no two ways about it."

The House Republican plan includes a Holcomb request to eliminate student textbook fees — a step estimated to cost about \$120 million a year. Indiana is among a handful of states still allowing textbook fees, which Democrats and many education advocates have long criticized as an unfair extra cost to families.

The GOP proposal would again seek to expand eligibility for the state's school voucher program that is already

Decriminalizing marijuana

(Continued from Page 1) tions are the ideal outcome, decriminalization provides our judicial and law enforcement (systems) an opportunity to reprioritize their resources to meet the community's needs."

State leaders, including Gov. Eric Holcomb, have been resistant to changing state statutes while the drug remains illegal on the federal level.

Proponents of the bill included an unlikely assortment of entities, including public defenders, the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana and the Indiana chapter of Americans for Prosperity.

Richard Feldman, an Indianapolis physician and former State Health Commissioner, has previously argued that marijuana legalization is "inevitable."

Before the committee,

speaking on behalf of the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians, Feldman said that the organization was neutral on marijuana legalization but supported decriminalizing marijuana for personal use.

"We recognize the benefits of intervention and treatment … for the use of marijuana rather than the incarceration of adults and youth," Feldman said. "Marijuana is not a hard drug; it's not a narcotic and it's certainly safer than alcohol."

Police, prosecutors remain opposed

But representatives of the legal system, as well as the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, testified against the bill — saying it was a "slippery slope" to full legalization.

Brock Patterson, on behalf of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, said the two-ounce upper limit was far too high, higher than even the daily purchasing limits of states that had legalized the drug. "It's impossible," Pat-

"It's impossible," Patterson said about screening and quantifying marijuana impairment. "The science is not there and other states are changing their levels all the time."

While blood alcohol testing has been refined over the course of decades, marijuana testing hasn't yet reached the same standard.

Indeed Joel Wieneke, with the Indiana Public Defender Council, said that law enforcement struggled with marijuana convictions because most laboratories couldn't reliably test for the substance. Law enforcement couldn't even trust labels on packaged goods, he said, because those are regulated by other states and not the

federal government.

one of the broadest in the country. It

has grown since its 2011 inception

from \$16 million in payments for about

3,900 students to \$241 million for some

roughly double the current cost and

raise the income qualification limit

for a family of four from the current

it draws money away from traditional public schools, which educate about 1

go to traditional public schools and

that's fine," Thompson said. "It says

most parents believe that's the best for

their children, but those that don't, let

them have that decision for what they

Critics of the voucher program say

'Ninety percent of our students still

The new proposed expansion would

44,000 students last school year.

\$154,000 to \$220,000.

million Indiana students.

believe is the best."

"If we want to be able to prosecute individuals for these offenses, Indiana's going to have to invest in extensive tests and laboratories across the state," Wieneke said, testifying in support of the bill.

The two law enforcement officers on the committee, Republican Steve Bartels (Eckerty) and Democrat Mitch Gore (Indianapolis), both supported the measure, saying that officers had other problems and priorities.

"Thirty-something years ago, we (officers) on the street didn't care about it," Bartels said. "I think this is the right step... and I hope we can continue this conversation."

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

Saturday, February 18, 2023 (24-hour observations at 9:04 p.m. Friday) High: 40; Low: 21; Precipitation: Trace of snow Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.90 feet at 10:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 45. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 51. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Washington's Birthday: Partly sunny, with a high near

47.

Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36. Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of rain after 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 50.

Tuesday Night: A 40 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35.

Wednesday: Rain likely, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 50. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Wednesday Night: Rain likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of rain. Partly sunny, with a high near 60. Breezy.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 23. Breezy.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 35.



Mississippi shooting

(Continued from Page 1) bodies of Crum's stepfather and his stepfather's sister.

"Everybody has crime, and from time to time we have violent crime, but certainly nothing of this magnitude," Lance said in an interview. He added: "Without being able to say what triggered this, that's the scary part."

Crum, 52, was jailed without bond on a single charge of capital murder, and Lance said investigators were working to bring additional charges. It was not immediately known if Crum had an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

That initial murder charge was for the killing of Chris Eugene Boyce, 59, the man who was shot outside the store. Boyce's brother was in the truck with him at the time and fled, according to the sheriff. Lance added that Crum chased the brother through a wooded area before he escaped unharmed. Deputy Tate County Coroner Ernie Lentz identified the others killed as Debra Crum, 60; Charles Manuel, 76; John Rorie, 59; George McCain, 78; and Lynda McCain, 78. Lentz also said Boyce was from Lakeland, Florida. Ethan Cash, who lives near the store, told WREG-TV he heard a gunshot from inside his house.

"I had just woken up and I look back here, and I see dude walking back here with a shotgun," he said. Cash added that he went to the

scene and found one person who had been shot. He checked for a pulse, but found none.

In the lobby of the Sheriff's Office, Norma Washington told The Associated Press that Boyce was her nephew. She said he and the brother, Doug, who lives in Alaska, had been in town cleaning up a property they inherited from their deceased uncle.

"I lost my brother, and now this one," Washington said. "This has been being sought, according to the Coldwater Elementary School Facebook page. A short time later, a second post on the page said the lockdown had been lifted and "all students and staff are safe."

April Wade, who lives in Arkabutla and grew up in Coldwater, said both are small communities where most people know each other, "but if you don't, you know somebody who knows somebody."

Speaking from a local tire store in the afternoon, Wade said she and her husband were aware of the shootings but had not yet heard the names of the suspect or victims.

The shootings are the first mass kill-

Lance Shepherd of Wells County, left, is congratulated by State Sen. Travis Holdman, R-Markle, after his essay won the second annual Adult Education Essay Contest Wednesday. (Photo provided)

Shepherd wins state essay contest on adult education's value

Lance Shepherd, a resident of Wells County, was this week named the winner of the second annual Adult Education Essay Contest. The award was presented to Shepherd during the Indiana Association for Adult and Continuing Education's Adult Education Day in Indianapolis. Shepherd is an adult learning with the Lieracy Alliance, which is based in Fort Wayne. Shepherd's essay was titled "Project Graduate - HSE Program." The contest's theme was "How will adult education help me reach the next level?" According to a press release from State Sen. Travis Holdman, R-Markle, Project Graduate is a free adult education program through the Literacy Alliance that helps adult students earn their high school equivalency diploma. Shepherd's essay was read at Wednesday's IAACE ceremony, which was held in the second floor north atrium of the Statehouse. "It was a pleasure to have met Mr. Shepherd and directly congratulate him on his achievement," Holdman said. "It is a very honorable decision to go back and achieve your high school equivalency education as an adult, and I applaud his efforts and the efforts of The Literacy Alliance to help him achieve his goal."

LOCAL/NATION

something else."

It was unclear whether Crum knew either of the brothers.

The killings stunned residents of Arkabutla, home to 285 people and located about 30 miles south of Memphis, Tennessee. It's the hometown of famed actor James Earl Jones, and nearby Arkabutla Lake is a popular fishing and recreational destination.

An elementary school and a high school in nearby Coldwater both went on lockdown while the suspect was ing in the U.S. since Jan. 23, which saw the last of six in a three-week period, according to an Associated Press/ USA Today database. It defines a mass killing as four or more people dead, not including the perpetrator.

In a statement, President Joe Biden said he and first lady Jill Biden were mourning the six victims and praying for the survivors. He urged Congress to act now on gun law reforms to address what he called "an epidemic" of gun violence.



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Ohio Tank plant plays big role in Ukraine war

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

LIMA, Ohio (AP) — Thousands of miles from the front lines, a sprawling manufacturing plant in the small midwestern city of Lima, Ohio, is playing a critical role in the effort to arm Ukraine as it fends off the Russian invasion.

Owned by the Army and operated by General Dynamics, the plant is expected to refurbish Abrams tanks for the U.S. to send to Ukraine, and is already preparing to build an updated version of the vehicle for Poland, U.S. Army officials said Thursday as they toured the facility.

Army Secretary Christine Wormuth, who walked through the plant with a number of other Army leaders and senior officers, said it's highly likely the plant will provide the tanks for Ukraine.

"We're still looking at options for exactly what vari-

ant of tanks will be provided to the Ukrainians. I think there's still a little bit to be worked out, but certainly, the tanks being built here in Lima are central," she said.

An Associated Press reporter was allowed to accompany Wormuth on the tour, the first journalist to walk the production lines since the U.S. pledged Abrams tanks to Ukraine.

U.S. officials have declined to provide details about the Abrams that will eventually go to Ukraine, saying they have to decide whether to send refurbished older Army tanks, Marine tanks or some other version. But in most cases, the tanks would need upgrades at the Lima plant before being shipped to Ukraine's battlefront.

"Part of it is figuring out — among the different options — what's the best one that can allow us to get the Ukrainians tanks in as timely a fashion as we can," without disrupting foreign military sales, Wormuth said.

Officials said Thursday that production totals at the plant — which is formally called Joint Systems Manufacturing Center-Lima — vary, based on contract demands. And while the plant is currently building 15-20 armored vehicles per month — including tanks — it can easily boost that to 33 a month and could add another shift of workers and build even more if needed.

Wormuth said the timeline on sending Abrams to Ukraine depends on whether the U.S. takes tanks from existing American military training stocks or from Army units, which would be less desirable because it could affect their readiness to fight. And the development of tanks for Ukraine would also have to be squeezed in between the current contracts for foreign sales, which include 250 of the newest versions for Poland and about 75 for Australia.





OBITUARIES

Lorna Sherman, 89

Lorna llene Sherman, 89, of Fort Wayne, went to heaven Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023, at Mason's Health & Rehab in Warsaw, Ind.

Lorna was born on June 27, 1933, to Howard and Ethel (Edwards) Haddix in Grand Ledge Mich. She was married to her highschool sweetheart, Roger Sherman, for 64 years. Lorna was a registered nurse by

profession, but her passion was being a mother and pastor's wife, working alongside Roger during their 34 years in ministry.

Lorna was the best mother one could have – she loved the Lord and it showed through her beautiful blue eyes and her loving attitude towards everyone. She lived out her faith in Jesus.

Lona and Roger taught their seven kids how much God loved them while they were very young, and their children consider themselves very fortunate to have had them for parents. They thank the good Lord every day that their parents are together again in heaven, at his feet, praising Him with the angels and all the Saints. What a wonderful, wonderful vision!



Lorna is survived by all her seven children, Tom (Ruby) Sherman of Naples, Idaho, Nancy (Terry) Stutzman of Warsaw, Steve (Ronda) Sherman of Albany Ore., Caroline (Jeff) Shatto of Fort Wayne, David (Amanda) Sherman of Bluffton, Suzanne Sherman of Fort Wayne, and Julia (Greg) Araya of Los Angeles; 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren;

four siblings residing in Michigan, Richard Haddix, Janet Thomas, Patsy (Don) Lenz, and Judy (Keith) Warner.

Lorna was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Gerri Eno, Adilene (Don) Eckman, Virgie Hiller and Sandy (Ross) McCloud; and grandson, William Sherman.

There will be a memorial for family and friends to celebrate Lorna at 1 p.m. on March 11, 2023, at the First Congregational Church, 767 4th Ave. in Lake Odessa, Mich.

Memorials are encouraged to ProMedica Foundation, 2720 DuPont Commerce Ct. Suite 210 in Fort Wayne. Arrangements entrusted to Advantage Funeral & Cremation Services-Mungovan.



Poster contest winners

Each year, the Wells County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors a posterdrawing contest as part of a statewide contest in grades four and five. The winners in fourth grade were Liam Yates, first place, and Alexis Sunderman, second, Aidan Wood third. Winners for fifth grade were Cole Jackemeyer, first place, Kendra Cullar second, and Addison Dalrymple, third. Jackemeyer's poster advances to the state contest. (Photo by Glen Werling)

Former Evansville pre-k teacher charged with molesting a second student

Bluffton Parks Rec News Notes

Destination Recreation

Congratulations to Parker McCartney, age 16, for winning the snowman contest with his astronaut snowman, which received 245 votes out of 41 entries.

Tomorrow, Sunday, Feb. 19, is the **Mother-Son Nerf War and the Daddy-Daughter Dance**, and if you are freaking out that you forgot to buy tickets, don't worry, we have you covered. Tickets for both events will be available at the door for only \$7 each (exact change preferred, or checks can be made to Bluffton Parks). Tickets will go on sale 15 minutes before the event, so come a little early to get this taken care of. The Mother-Son Nerf war starts at 2 p.m., and you must bring your own nerf gun and eye protection; the Daddy Daughter Dance begins at 6 p.m.

Princess Merida cordially invites you to a Princess Tea Party. Join us for an enchanted day to delight in some high tea at Washington Park Pavilion, 710 S. Mulberry St., on Saturday, April 15. Party times are scheduled for 12:30 p.m. or 2:45 p.m. The day will include sipping tea, tasting cookies, meeting the brave Princess Merida, dancing, singing, a craft, and plenty of time for photos and autographs. Princess or dressy attire is appropriate. Tickets are on sale at the Clerks / Treasurers Office in City Hall (128 E. Market St.) starting Feb. 21. Youth tickets cost \$15, and adults are \$10. Parties will be sold one at a time, beginning with 12:30 p.m. followed by 2:45 p.m.

If you still need to sign-up for the **Hooked-on Crochet** class, now is your chance to register for March's lessons before they fill up. Learning to crochet will give you a lifetime of pleasure and relaxation. You can learn to create hand-made items for yourself and those you love. Classes will be taught by Kathy Gehrett at City Hall (128 E Market) from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Thursdays, March 9, 16, and 23.

The cost for three one-hour group les-

sons is \$20, due the first day. Yarn and instructions will be provided,

By Brandy Fiechter

and you will need to bring your own size H hook. Call the park office to pre-register at 824-6069 or email events@blufftonindiana.gov. Class size is limited and open to beginners and advanced students.

Patrick, the playful Leprechaun, will be traveling from park to park in Bluffton this spring, causing mischief and pulling pranks. Children of all ages are encouraged to find this mischievous leprechaun March 1-15. In this "hide and seek" game, a paper cut out of Patrick will be hidden in one of the city trails or parks. If you find the cut out of Patrick the Playful Leprechaun, you must deliver him back to the Parks Department to claim a prize. Call 824-6069 before you stop by our office on the 2nd floor of City Hall (128 E. Market) Monday-Friday between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. so that we can have your prize waiting for you. We will then rehide Patrick in a different location after he is found. Winners are limited to claiming the prize one time during those two weeks.

We want to thank the following for their generous donations to support the Kehoe Concert Series: Patti Troxel; Diane Humphrey; Barkley Builders, Inc; Family Ford of Bluffton; Steve & Yvette Huggins; Wells County Automotive Supply, Inc (NAPA), Brad & Michelle Baumgartner; Almco Steel Products Corp; Roembke Manufacturing & Design, Inc; Fairway Floor Covering, LLC; Habig Trucking & Excavating, Inc; CJ's Flooring, Inc; Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Donations are still being accepted at the Wells County Foundation until March 15 if you would like to help support this series.

Parents, please remind your teens that summer applications are due on Wednesday, Feb. 22.

Have a great week!

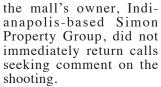
Second shooting this year at largest Indiana mall wounds 1

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A male was shot Friday at an Indianapolis shopping mall in the second shooting there this year, police said.

The victim was discovered with a gunshot wound inside the Castleton Square mall, and mall security gave him medical attention before police arrived, Officer William Young, of the est," Young said. "We will be out here for some time trying to

piece together what exactly occurred," he said. The mall, on the far northeast side of India-

northeast side of Indianapolis, is the largest mall in the state of Indiana, according to its website. Mall representatives and



On Jan. 3, a 16-year-old boy died and a man was hospitalized after a shooting in a parking lot outside an entrance to the mall.



By HOUSTON HARWOOD Evansville Courier & Press

EVANSVILLE - A former Evansville preschool teacher accused in August of molesting a student is behind bars again after prosecutors charged him with two additional child sexual abuse offenses.

Evansville police arrested 21-year-old Joshua Brandon Leduc on Wednesday evening on charges of child seduction, a Level 3 felony, and child molesting, a Level 3 felony. Leduc formerly taught pre-kindergarten classes at Bethel United Church of Christ.

Leduc was arrested and charged with two counts of child molestation in August after he was allegedly recorded by classroom surveillance cameras sexually

assaulting a 4-year-old girl, police said.

Leduc was out on bond in that case when he was arrested Wednesday, court records show.

Bethel United Church of Christ terminated Leduc's employment Aug. 2 after it was made aware of the first allegation, lead pastor Samuel Buehrer told the Courier & Press.

More:Controversial law is at heart of threat to Evansville mayoral candidates' eligibility

According to EPD Detective Cameron Werne, a second student accused Leduc of molestation in February.

Writing in an affidavit of probable cause, Werne said the 6-year-old victim attended Bethel Buddies, the church's preschool, from August 2021 to July 2022. During a forensic interview conducted at Holly's House, a victims' advocacy center in Evansville, the child reportedly said Leduc touched her inappropriately as she built a puzzle in his classroom.

According to the affidavit, the victim identified Leduc in a randomized photo lineup as the man who molested her.

EPD spokesperson Sgt. Anna Gray said detectives are not seeking out other potential victims at this time.

"They will investigate any allegations that come forward," Gray told the Courier & amp; Press. "With these types of crimes, victims come forward once word is passed around."

This story was provided to the News-Banner by the Hoosier State Press Association's Information Network. Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, said at the scene.

"He is stable, awake and breathing," Young said. "We do not believe there are any other injuries at this time."

IMPD tweeted shortly after the shooting that "officers used a tourniquet on the victim for first aid. The suspect is no longer on scene."

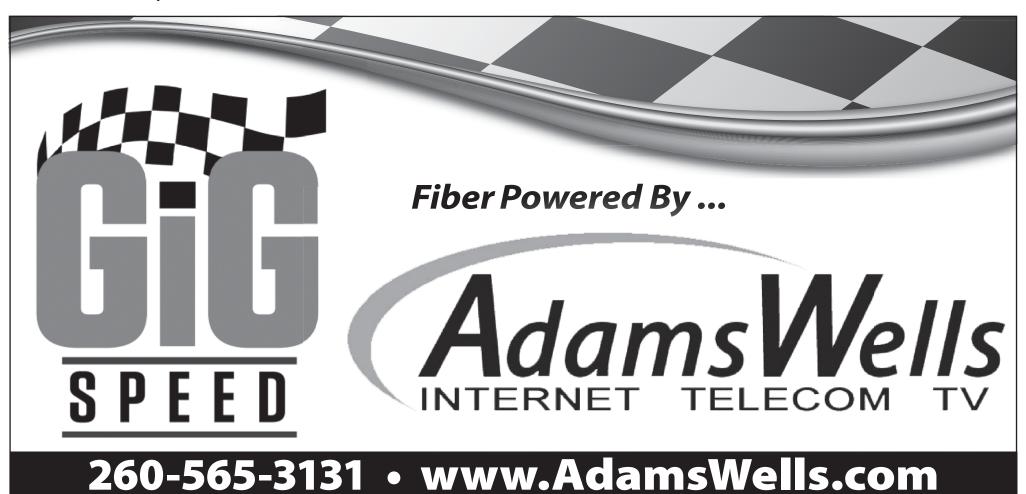
The male who was shot was taken to a hospital. No additional information was immediately available about his condition. His age hasn't been disclosed.

The mall was placed on a quick lockdown moments after the shooting and later closed for the rest of the evening, Young said.

Investigators were speaking with "persons of inter-

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ΟΡΙΝΙΟΝ

She was an agent of change. And that's a good thing.

Mick Cupp was the local United Way chairman in

Saturday's Sub

1999. The board was looking for a new executive director. Pamela Beckford remembers an interview with a room full of people; perhaps the entire board. "I was terrified," she says now. Mick and I — I was vice-chair at

the time - remember an interview with her and just the two of us in a small meeting room in his real estate office. Perhaps that was a follow-up,

we agreed. We do remember there were two or three finalists and that Pamela stood out.

"What I recall is her directness. A 'go get 'em' attitude," Mick says. "And she's proved that out." I concur.

"I remember when Pamela first came to town, she hit the road running," shares Suzanne Huffman, who was the executive director of the Wells County Chamber of



Mick Cupp was there at the beginning (as the board chair when Pamela Beckford was hired) and at the end (above, at Pamela's retirement reception Wednesday morning).

Commerce at the time. "Very quickly she acclimated herself with what made Bluffton and Wells County special. Even though she lived outside the county (just across the Huntington County line), she became so involved. Her passion for helping people through the United Way avenues was immediately noticed."

As noted in a separate article in Thursday's edition, Pamela has seen her share of change in her 23-plus years on the job. So have we

all. There are some changes that annoy us, there are some we applaud and others in which we are the agent of change. Pamela knows all three.

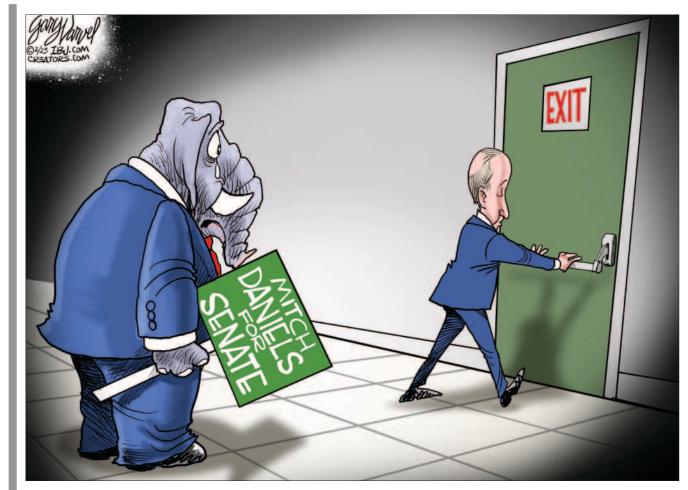
Pamela led the charge in re-defining United Way's basic role in the community from simply being a collector and disburser of funds to initiating programs and directing contributions to specific needs.

"Have you heard?" she asked excitedly during our meeting earlier this week, "Imagination Library is in the governor's budget."

Pamela is (rightfully) proud of a number of changes and initiatives during her tenure. Which one is at the top of her list is difficult to say, but this one is at least a finalist. Originated by Dolly Parton, the program provides a free book once a month for enlisted children from birth to kindergarten. It was adopted locally in 2003 and continues to receive strong local support. And now the state may kick in half the cost.

"That would be huge," Pamela continued, thinking about what else might be done with the local contributions. She noted that other states have adopted such a plan, including neighboring Ohio. The program's popularity is part of its success. "People get it that reading to children is important," she said. Last year, a special local campaign was implemented to specifically support Imagination Library. "It was successful on Day 2," she said.

While raising support for that program has gone smoothly, fundraising is easily "United Way's biggest challenge," she said. It's not a local problem. The sar is true in virtually every chapter across the country.



MAGA world attack on Mitch Daniels is an early GOP alarm bell for 2024

Here we go again. In 2022, Republicans blew a historic opportunity to take back the Senate because, in state after state, they nominated extreme candidates whose only qualification was fealty to former president Donald Trump.

While positive, forward-looking conservative reformers such as Govs. Ron DeSantis (Fla.), Mike DeWine (Ohio), Chris Sununu (N.H.) and Brian Kemp (Ga.) trounced their Democratic opponents, MAGA Senate candidates including Herschel Walker (Ga.), Mehmet Oz (Pa.), Don Bolduc (N.H.) and Blake Masters (Ariz.) lost winnable races. Voters' message could not have been clearer.

So, Republicans learned their lesson, right? Apparently not.

When former Indiana governor Mitch Daniels (R) announced he was exploring a 2024 bid to succeed Sen. Mike Braun (R), who is running for governor, Republicans should have been elated. Daniels (a Post Opinions contributing columnist) was a whirlwind of reform in the governor's mansion. He ended collective bargaining for state employees, privatized Indiana's toll road, established one of the country's largest school choice program for low-income students and created a conservative alternative to Medicaid that gave citizens more control over their health-care choices. He inherited a \$700 million deficit but left the state with a \$2 billion budget surplus — achieved while he implemented the biggest tax cut in Indiana history. Then, as president of Purdue University, he earned a reputation as the United States' most innovative college president. Daniels rejected vaccine mandates and covid lockdowns, replaced full-time dining hall employees with student workers, scrapped the vast fleet of university-owned buses in favor of a private contractor and froze tuition for 10 years

In other words, Daniels is exactly the kind of bold, thoughtful conservative reformer voters flocked to in 2022. And he was well positioned to win the GOP nomination. A December poll showed him leading Rep. Jim Banks — a Trump loyalist who voted against certifying Joe Biden's election — by 22 points. Then came the RINO hunters. The Club for Growth released an ad excoriating Daniels as a taxand-spend "old-guard Republican clinging to the old ways of the bad old days." Donald Trump Jr. tweeted "The establishment is trying to recruit weak RINO Mitch Daniels" to run for Senate, adding that "he would be Mitt Romney 2.0.' It worked. Like Republican Govs. Doug Ducey (Ariz.) and Sununu — who both declined Senate runs in 2022 rather than face a barrage of MAGA hate Daniels decided that life is too short to spend the next two years fending off attacks and distortions of his record from the right. He opted not to run. If Ducey and Sununu had been their state's Senate nominees in 2022, instead of Masters and Bolduc, the GOP would probably hold the majority today. Indiana is probably red enough that Banks can win - much as J.D. Vance won in Ohio by six points, despite running on the same ballot as DeWine, who won by 25.

But the anti-Daniels campaign should set off early warning signals: MAGA world is not chastened by its disastrous failures in 2022. And if they are allowed to drive candidates like Daniels out of races across the country, the GOP will jeopardize its best chance in a generation to take back the Senate



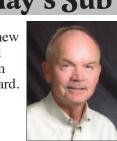
Marc Thiessen

In 2024, Democrats will be defending 23 seats, including three in Trump-won states (Montana, Ohio and West Virginia) and five (Arizona, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin) that Biden won by five points or less. Meanwhile, Republicans will be defending 10 seats, none of which are in Biden-won states and one (Florida) in a state where DeSantis won reelection by nearly 20 points last year. The Senate is the GOP's for the taking in 2024 — provided Republicans learn from their 2022 mistakes.

In Arizona, two 2022 losers, Masters and Trumpbacked gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake, are reportedly considering Senate runs. In Montana, Rep. Matthew M. Rosendale - one of the last holdouts opposing Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) for House speaker — is reportedly considering challenging Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), to whom Rosendale lost in 2018.

In Michigan, former congressman Peter Meijer would be a strong Senate candidate - but he was targeted by Trump in last year's GOP primary after voting to impeach. Meijer lost the nomination to Trumpbacked John Gibbs, who went on to lose a perfectly winnable GOP House seat. It's doubtful Trump would let bygones be bygones.

In West Virginia, Trump loyalist Rep. Alex Mooney, who voted against certifying the 2020 election results, has declared he will challenge Sen. Joe Manchin III (D). Republican leaders are working to recruit Gov. Jim Justice (R). A poll commissioned by the Sen. Mitch McConnell-aligned Senate Leadership Fund shows Mooney losing to Manchin 55-40, while predicting Justice defeating him 52-42. The new chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, Sen. Steve Daines (Mont.), is wisely not leaving things to chance (in contrast to his disastrous predecessor, Sen. Rick Scott of Florida) and has pledged to get involved in contested primaries. "Republicans are sick of losing," Daines says. "We want to make sure we have candidates that can win general elections." He's 100 percent correct. As 2022 showed, losing just a couple of winnable races is all it takes to cost Republicans the Senate majority. The GOP needs candidates who can win general elections - candidates such as Mitch Daniels.



Mark Miller

It used to be relatively easy. Many who are reading this have done their duty - serving as the annual campaign chair. I took my turn in 2006. Pamela found my folder in her archives while cleaning out her office. The goal that year was \$300,000; according to a clipping in the folder, we called it a day at \$280,000. Former Mayor Ted Ellis preceded me as campaign chair. He met his goal and never let me forget it. But I digress. The point is, Ted and I both recognized that the task was becoming more difficult.

The annual budget these days is at about \$200,000.

Payroll deduction campaigns were an important part of those efforts and still are, but there are fewer companies that do that. Part of the reason is "it can be difficult to get in the door," she said. "If we don't have a 'champion' – a United Way advocate – inside the building, it's tough.

"They also say they can't find the time but I can help them do that," she shared. "Just give me two minutes. You'd be surprised what I can say in two minutes."

Well, some might be surprised, but not I. I've seen her in action.

We would be remiss to not mention her role in the creation of the Wells County Leadership Academy, as detailed in that Thursday article. The trio of Suzanne Huffman, Pamela and Wells County Foundation executive director Tammy Slater was an unstoppable force.

However, it may be the recognition of her United Way peers that has been most satisfying. (As reported Thursday, she was chosen to serve on the nationwide "Network Advisory Council.") "To be elected to this council of just 30 people," she shares, "and to do some strategic planning and thinking with all of them." It was an experience and "honor" she greatly enjoyed.

In those discussions, they realized that just under half of all the United Way offices in the country have a staff of two or less, "and I was the only one who represented those. So I ended up representing about one-half of the network — not half of the dollars but half of the offices."

"Wells County is a better place because of Pamela," current United Way board chair Doug Brown intones. "She is leaving big shoes to fill."

"Her passion for early childhood education has helped hundreds of Wells County children," Suzanne Huffman shares. "Her replacement has very big shows to fill."

Hmm. Seems to be a pattern developing.

"I have enjoyed having the opportunity to build a relationship with Pamela both professionally and personally over the years," adds Tammy Slater. "I wish her the best in retirement.'

I concur.

miller@news-banner.com

Marc A. Thiessen is on Twitter, @marcthiessen.

Proposed bail amendment merits serious deliberation

Do we really need an amendment to the state constitution to ensure that people who represent a threat to public safety stay locked away in jail?

Sen. Eric Koch, a Republican from Bedford, believes the answer is yes. He's the sponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 1, a measure designed to make it easier for judges to deny bail

to suspects they believe pose a substantial risk to the public.

Proponents say the legislation would keep

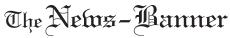
dangerous people off the streets, but critics say the measure's subjectivity could endanger the rights of people who might indeed be innocent of the charges they face.

Under current Indiana law, only people accused of murder or treason can be denied bail, meaning judges have no choice but to set bail for those charged with any other crime.

"But if they set that bail too high, the Indiana Supreme Court has ruled that could be considered an unconstitutional, de facto denial of bail," Koch told reporters.

His proposed amendment would

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allow judges to deny bail in cases where the suspect posed a threat to public safety.

The Indiana Capital Chronicle asked Koch how he could ensure the new law would be applied consistently.

"We're relying on and trusting the good discretion of our trial court

judges, who will make those decisions on a case-by-case basis," he responded.

Critics, though, believe the change simply isn't needed.

Bernice Corley, executive director of the Indiana Public Defender Council, worries that SJR 1 might lead judges to deny bail to people accused of low-level crimes.

"From my point of view, we already do a great job, in a negative way, of keeping people detained pretrial," she told the Capital Chronicle.

"I think this language just gives comfort to what was already being done. And ... it broadens the catchment of people who could be caught up."

Civil liberties advocates will tell you the vast majority of inmates sitting in county jails are people waiting for their day in court. Bail advocates remind us that until convicted, these folks should be presumed innocent.

They might be mental health patients who should be getting help rather than languishing in jail.

Koch's measure passed the Senate by a vote of 34-15, and it is now pending in the House Committee on Courts and Criminal Code.

If it clears the committee and passes the full House, the measure is still a long way from becoming law.

A constitutional amendment must pass both houses of the General Assembly twice with an election in between. That means if the resolution passes this year or next, it would still need the approval of the lawmakers chosen in the election next fall.

Then, it would go on the ballot where voters would have to approve it in a referendum, likely in 2026.

That's appropriate. Changing our state constitution is a significant step, especially when it applies to the rights of private citizens.

Such a change requires much thought and deliberation. It should never be taken lightly. Anderson Herald Bulletin

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Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

Hoosier **Opinions**

CHURCH PAGE



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COUNTRY 1970 S.-800E., Bluffton 9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NORTH 630 E. Dustman Rd. 9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST 8013 W.-1100S.-90, Montpelier 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

BETHEL

(Independent Bible) 4500E-300S, Bluffton 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS 6114E-750N, Ossian

bethlehemossian.org 9 a.m. - Divine Service. 10:15 - Adult Bible Class. Youth Bible Class & Sunday School. 11:30 - Voice of Bethlehem on 92.7 FM.

BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL (Independent Holiness Church) 1309 W. Washington St. blufftonwesleyan.net 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6:30 p.m. - Worship.

BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST 3467 S 600 W Liberty Center boehmerumc.org 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 -Sunday School.

CALVARY LUTHERAN, ELCA 1532 N. Main St. 9 a.m. - Worship.

CHESTER CENTER 900S-300W, Poneto 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

CHRISTIAN NEW LIGHT 1011 W. Washington St. 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. 6 p.m. -Praise & worship.



NATIONAL OIL Delivery to Home FARM • BUSINESS

BLUFFTON **CHURCH OF GOD** 327 W. Cherry St. 10 a.m. - Sunday School. 11 a.m. - Worship. 6 p.m. -Service.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

735 S. Marion St. 10 a.m. - Bible Study. 10:45 - Worship.

COVENANT CHAPEL

3550 S. SR 1 mycovenantchapel.org 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:15 - Worship. (Children's Church for ages 6-12).

DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN

8888S-1100W-90, Warren 9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. -Sunday School.

DOMESTIC CHURCH **OF CHRIST**

9 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Church service.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST 1204 W. Cherry St. 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:40 a.m. - Sunday School.

FAIRVIEW CHURCH

OF GOD 5511 W. Yoder Rd., Yoder fairviewlife.com 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST 210 W. Townley fbc-bluffton.com

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

FIRST BAPTIST

202 W. Cherry St. fbcbluffton.com 10:15 - Worship.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OSSIAN

1001 Dehner Dr. 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. - Worship. 6:30 -Service.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST 909 W. Spring St.

FCCfamily.com 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Worship.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 1515 Clark Ave.

blufftonnazarene.org 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9-10 a.m. - Free ESL classes. 10:15 - Worship. 6 p.m. Service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 215 F. Dustman Rd. firstpcbluffton.org 9:30 a.m. - Children/youth & Adult Sunday School. 10:30 -Worship.

A Joyful Noise ...

This page is dedicated to the building of a more spiritual and greater church-going people and is made possible

PERSECUTION STILL LIVES Part 2

by the Advertisers on this page who want as their return to see more people go to church.

At the beginning of each year, the organization Open Doors, which serves persecuted Christians worldwide, releases its annual "watch list." The list identifies the 50 countries that most brutally

by Chet persecute Christians, **Baumgartner** including the five below, which rank six through 10 on the list. Discover the first five in the previous column, and learn more at opendoors.org.

Nigeria:

Since the northern states declared allegiance to Sharia, Islamic law, enforced Islamisation has gained momentum by violent and non-violent means. Attacks by Islamic militant groups have increased consistently since 2015. The violence is most pervasive in the north, where militant groups murder, injure, abduct and sexually abuse their victims. Christians are dispossessed of their land and their means of livelihood. Many live as internally displaced people or refugees.

Christians from a Muslim background also face rejection from their own families, pressure to give up Christianity, and often physical violence.

• Thank God for the faith of believers.

• Pray for an end to the violence.

 Pray Open Doors partners can reach more with trauma care and persecution survival training.

Christians in Pakistan are considered second-class citizens and face discrimination in every aspect of life, and although there were no major attacks against churches last year, there are almost constant attacks against individuals.

Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws affect the Christian minority in particular. The number of blasphemy cases is increasing, as is the number of Christian (and other minority religion) girls being abducted, abused and forcibly converted to Islam. Christians also experience apathy from police. Furthermore, Christians often languish in prison for years before judgment is handed down, and it is then too late to bring about change. • Pray that Pakistan's blasphemy laws will be changed so that Christians will be safe from false accusations

church leaders and members have received long prison sentences involving physical and mental abuse.

prosecuted. Iranian house

ΠΠ

Iranian Christians may be banned from education and lose their jobs. Women who trust Jesus are likely to be violently punished or divorced by their husbands and have their children taken away from them.

• Pray that Jesus will set many more hearts free in Iran • Pray that Christianity

will no longer be portrayed as a foreign idea • Pray for strong faith and courage for Christians

meeting in secret. The Taliban's takeover

in August 2021 has forced most Christians either further underground or away from the country. Many (if not all) house groups closed, with believers forced to leave behind everything they own. Following Jesus remains a death sentence if discovered.

The militant group leaves no room for deviation, meaning Christians - almost all of whom are converts from Islam must keep their faith secret. Leaving Islam is considered punishable by death.

• Pray for the protection of secret believers and that God's close presence will bring peace, joy and hope to their hearts

• Pray that those who have fled will be led to places where all their needs are met.

• That the Holy Spirit will soften the hearts of the Taliban leaders toward women and religious minorities

In 2019, Sudan's government introduced exciting changes guaranteeing basic human rights. However, mass protests led to the resignation of the prime minister in January, and there are fears that Sudan will return to the authoritarian years of the former president.

Although the death penalty

for leaving Islam has now

been abolished, there are

fears that this punishment

Christians have not

changed, especially in areas

outside the capital. Chris-

tians are still vulnerable to

extreme persecution from

both their communities and

their own families, par-

ticularly if they have con-

verted from Islam. Converts

may face sexual assault

and domestic violence, as

well as being vulnerable to

imprisonment and violence.

Since the military coup,

four churches have been

vail and that God will estab-

lish rulers who enforce

lasting respect for human

engaging with their Muslim

Muslim backgrounds will

grow in their knowledge of

Christ and have wisdom to

LIVING FAITH

MISSIONARY

17718 Bluffton Rd., Yoder

LIVING WATER

UNITED CHURCH

6486 S 700E, Bluffton

8:45-9 a.m. - Prayer. 9 a.m.

Sunday School. 10 a.m. -

MARKLE CHAPEL HILL SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

470 E. Morse St. Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - Wor-ship. 10:45 - Sabbath School

10 a.m. - Worship. 11:30 -

Sunday School.

Worship.

(Bible study).

baumofchet@gmail.com

speak courageously.

• Pray for church leaders

• Pray that believers from

· Pray for peace to pre-

forced to close.

rights.

counterparts.

Social attitudes towards

could be reinstated.

LIBERTY CENTER **COMMUNITY CHURCH** 8:45 a.m. - Choir practice. 9 a.m. - Coffee, donuts, con-

versation. 9:30 - Worship w/ infant nursery & children's church. 10:45 - Sunday School.

MARKLE CHURCH OF CHRIST 455 E. Morse St.

marklechurch.org 9 a.m. - Adult Bible study groups. 10:30 - Worship. Children's & student programming both hours.

MARKLE UNITED METHODIST 145 W. Morse St. 9 a.m. - Sunday Service. 10 a.m. - Worship.

MCNATT UNITED METHODIST 9221 W 800S-90, Montpelier 8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship. 9:15 - Worship.

MURRAY MISSIONARY

1117 N. Washington St., Murray murraymc.org 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. Sunday School.

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN (Missouri Synod)

8824 N. SR 1, Ossian newhopelutheran-ossian. webs.com 9 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible study. 10 a.m. -Worship.

NOTTINGHAM

1100 S. SR 1 9:30 - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6 p.m. - Worship.

OSSIAN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 302 N. Metts St. ossiannaz.org 9:15 a.m. - Bible study. 10:30 - Service.

OSSIAN UNITED METHODIST 201 W. Mill St.

ossianumc.org 9 a.m. - Worship, Worship child care nurse. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 - Adult Sunday School.

PARK COMMUNITY 617 S. Bennett St. blog.parkub.org 10 a.m. - Connection. 11 a.m. - Worship.

PETROLEUM **COMMUNITY CHURCH** 3625 E. 2nd St.

9 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 -Sunday School.

> **PONETO BAPTIST** Grape Street

8:30 a.m. - Sunday School.

SONLIGHT WESLEYAN

2350 S. SR 1 sonlightwesleyan.org 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship. Nursery & Children's classes available during Sunday School & Worship.

TOWER LIFE CENTER

11811 N. Wayne St., Zanesville towerlifecenter.com 9:30 a.m. - TLC Groups. 10:30 - Worship.

TURNPOINTE **COMMUNITY CHURCH**

OF THE BRETHREN 500 W. Logan, Markle turnpointechurch.com 9:30 a.m. - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Adult & Children's Worship.

UNIONDALE UNITED

METHODIST 5867 N. Main St. www.uniondaleumc.com 9 a.m. - Worship.

UNIONTOWN

CHURCH OF CHRIST 11419 N-200W. Ossian 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

VERA CRUZ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER CCCU 2771 SE Mulberry St., Vera Cruz 9-10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10-10:30 - Fellowship. 10:30 - Worship.

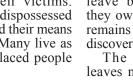
WESTSIDE **COMMUNITY CHURCH** 205 S. Adams St., Monroe 9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 Discipleship for adults & children.

ZANESVILLE COMMUNITY **CHURCH OF GOD** 11984 N. Marzane Rd. 9 a.m. - Bible Class. 10 a.m. - Worship.

ZANESVILLE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST 3092 W. Broadway 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

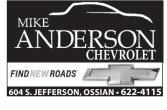




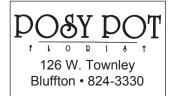


















FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL) 123 S. Jefferson St., Ossian www.OssianChurch.com

8:45 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Worship. FIRST REFORMED **CHURCH OF BLUFFTON**

301 W. Cherry St. 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST

325 W. Washington St. 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 -Sunday School.

FORGIVEN CHURCH

1409 S. Main St. forgivenonline.org 9 a.m. - Worship.

GRACE BAPTIST

1621 S. 350 E. Stogdill Rd. Ext. gbcbluffton.com 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship.

HARVEST TIME BIBLE

11015S-600E, Keystone 9:10 a.m. - Prayer. 10 a.m. -Worship.

HOPE MISSIONARY 429 E. Dustman Rd. hope4thefamily.com 8 a.m., 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service at Main Campus. 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service, north campus, Ossian.

KEYSTONE CHURCH 10556S-200W

9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 -Sunday School.

LIFE COMMUNITY 428 S. Oak St. lifecommunity.net 10:30 a.m. - Service (Children's programs available).



A Customer... You're Family

• Pray for protection for women who suffer domestic violence and girls who are forced into marriage. Ask God to work in the hearts of their husbands to treat them with kindness and respect.

• Pray for wisdom and protection for those reaching out to help communities displaced by last year's floods.

Iran is ruled by an increasingly strict Islamic regime, and when people from Muslim backgrounds become Christians, they can only meet in secret house churches. They are at great risk of being arrested and

LANCASTER CHAPEL

UNITED METHODIST 4510 E 400N, Craigville 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9:40 - Fellowship. 10 a.m. -Worship.

LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST

3071 W. Cherry St. 8:30 a.m. - Pastor/Deacon's Prayer. 9 - Sunday School. 9:55 - Fellowship. 10:15 -Worship.

NEW BEGINNING 2187 W. SR 218 10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

TO REPORT CHURCH NEWS:

- · E-mail to churchnews@news-banner.com
- Drop information at 125 N. Johnson St. in Bluffton

9 a.m. - Worship.

PONETO UNITED METHODIST 36 E. Walnut St.

9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. -Fellowship. 10:15 - Sunday School.

RIVER OF HOPE 1224 W. Central 11 a.m. - Worship & the Word.

RIVER OF LIFE 927 N. Main St. 10:30 a.m. - Worship.

SIX MILE 4790 SE SR 116 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

SOUTHERN WELLS **COMMUNITY CHURCH** 9450 S 300 W, Poneto

9 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC 1300 N. Main St. Saturday: 7:45 a.m. -Prayer. 8 a.m. - Mass. 8:30 - Rosary. 4 p.m. or by appointment - Confessions. 5 p.m. - Mass.

Sunday: 7:30 & 10 a.m. -Mass.

ST. LUKE CHURCH 4960W-100N. Decatur stlukechurch.in 9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 -Sunday School.

ST. MARK EV. LUTHERAN 16933 Thiele Rd. stmarkfw.org 8:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN (NALC) 5912 N. Sugar St., Uniondale 10 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 -Children's Sunday School.



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Knights win low-scoring game over Patriots

By ANDREW FEEBACK PORTLAND – Two teams with vastly different game plans collided Friday night, and the result was a score that undoubtedly raised a few eyebrows.

The Norwell Knights came away with a 36-35 win over the host Jay County Patriots, both a margin and score that few would have expected between the now 19-2 Knights and the 8-10 Patriots.

Jay County is notorious for playing at a slow pace, meaning Norwell needed to find a way to speed it up.

"It was apparent from the start that they were going to hold the ball," coach Mike McBride said. "Coach Bomholt has done that before, and we did everything we could to speed them up. We trapped in the fullcourt. We trapped in the halfcourt. We were able to do it at times, and we had the worst shooting night that we've had in probably my seven years as a head coach here. I don't know if I've ever seen a night where

our team shot as poorly as we shot from three.'

Norwell missed its first 17 attempts from beyond the arc, 13 of those coming in the first half.

The Knights' pressure worked early, forcing eight Patriot turnovers in the first quarter. But the Knights led just 8-7 after one and still led by just a point at halftime, 16-15.

Norwell never trailed in the second half, but every time it seemed the Knights had a bit of momentum, the Patriots kept finding ways to hang around.

Two quick buckets from Jake Parker and Brody Bolyn gave Norwell a five-point lead, only to see Josh Dowlen counter with a three-point play followed by a layup from Abraham Dirksen.

Norwell led 27-24 after three, but a turnaround jumper from Dusty Pearson brought the Patriots within one.

At the 6:25 mark, Norwell's 18th three-point attempt, courtesy of Luke McBride, finally found the net. On Norwell's next possession, McBride hit again from the top of the key, and the Knights led 33-26.

After a timeout, the Patriots' Bennett Weitzel scored underneath, and then Norwell decided to do what the Patriots have done in the past and take the air out of the ball.

We had a lead, and we were trying to be patient," McBride said. "We had a turnover, up five, they went down and scored to cut it to three. We had some pretty good free-throw shooters out there, and the game got shorter, time ticked away, and we pretty much ate the whole clock away. I think you have to be able to do that sometimes and put it in your players' hands at the free-throw line late. It's not something we normally do, but we'll do it if we have to. They could have come out and pressured us like we pressured them; we pressured them the whole game. They sat back in their zone; when they did pressure, they

didn't have much success because we took care of the ball.'

The Knights had the ball for over a minute, but a turnover led to a Dowlen layup that brought Jay County within 33-30 with 3:52 to play.

Again, Norwell held the ball near mid-court, trying to get the Patriots to leave their 1-2-2 zone defense and pressure the ball. But Jay County was content to sit back and let the clock run, letting more than two minutes go by before sending Norwell's Jake Parker to the line with 1:43 to go.

His free throws put Norwell up 35-30, but Weitzel got a quick bucket moments later.

Jay County had to foul several times to put Norwell in the bonus, and let a lot of time run off before finally sending Luke McBride to the line for a one-and-one with just eight seconds remaining.

He made his first shot but missed the second, and

Jay County's Blake Bogenschutz put up an off-balance three from the wing that circled the rim, tapped the backboard, and dropped through as the buzzer sounded, leaving the Patriots a point short.

Norwell finished 12 of 36 from the field overall, while Jay County was 16 of

"I think our kids showed a lot of heart," McBride said. "They showed a lot of toughness mentally tonight. We had to grind through it, and we were able to do it. I'm real proud of the effort they put forth tonight.

"Give Jay County credit. They came out with what they thought was the best option for them," he continued. "It's a testament to our kids to be able to win a game like this, where we don't shoot well, and the other team tries to play a slow-down game.'

Luke McBride led the Knights with 19 points, while Pearson had 11 for the Patriots.

Norwell will host Fort Wayne Concordia tonight.

Jay County took the JV game 42-38. Adam McBride scored 14 points, while Brady Smith added 13. sports@news-banner.com

NORWELL 36, JAY COUNTY 35

At Jay County High School NORWELL (19-2): Gavin Hoeppner 0-2 3-4 3, Jake Parker 1-3 2-2 4, Kaedyn Quintanilla 0-0 0-0 0, Luke Graft 1-2 0-1 2, Adam McBride 0-0 0-0 0, Cohen Bailey 0-3 0-0 0, Lleyton Bailey 1-8 0-0 2, Luke McBride 7-16 3-4 19, Ashton Federspiel 1-1 2-2 4, Brody Bolyn 1-1 0-0 2. TOTALS: 12-36 10-13 36.

10-13 36. JAY COUNTY (8-10): Parker Nich-ols 0-0 0-0 0, Brady Davis 0-0 0-0 0, Abraham Dirksen 2-4 0-0 4, Carter Link 0-0 0-0 0, Levi Muhlenkamp 0-0 0-0 0, Josh Dowlen 3-4 1-2 7, Trevin Dunnington 0-0 0-0 0, Ben Crouch Dunnington 0-0 0-0 0, Ben Crouch 1-1 0-0 2, Gradin Swoveland 1-2 0-0 2, Blake Bogenschutz 1-4 0-0 3, Wes Bihn 0-0 0-0, Dusty Pearson 5-9 0-0 11, Bennett Weitzel 3-7 0-0 6. TOTALS: 16-32 1-2 36. Norwell 8 8 11 9 — 36 Jay County 7 8 9 11 — 35 Three-point Goals: Norwell 2-19 (Luke McBride 2-8, Lleyton Bailey 0-5, Cohen Bailey 0-2, Park.

Cohen Bailey 0-2, Hoeppner 0-2, Park-er 0-2), Jay County 2-6 (Bogenschutz 1-2, Pearson 1-2, Dowlen 0-1, Dirksen 0-1). Rebounds: Norwell 21 (Luke 0-1). Rebounds: Norwell 21 (Luke McBride 5, Parker 4, Lleyton Bailey 3, Graft 3, Hoeppner 2, Bolyn 2, Feder-spiel 1, Cohen Bailey 1), Jay County 18 (Dirksen 6, Weitzel 4, Crouch 3, Pearson 2, Dowlen 2, Bogenschutz 1). Turnovers: Norwell 11, Jay County 14. Fouls: Norwell 12, Jay County 13.

Tigers fall just short against Braves on their Senior Night

By RICK SPRUNGER

The Bluffton Tigers came up a little bit short against the Bellmont Braves on Senior Night at Bluffton Friday night.

But Bluffton coach Karl Grau couldn't say enough about the fight his team put up against a heavily favored Bellmont quintet before succumbing by a 49-37 score.

"I like the way we battled even though we struggled at times," said Grau. "I was really proud of our fight."

In the end, it was a 15-0 run in the first half that put Bellmont (12-8) in control at 18-6.

Then, after Bluffton had fought back to within 31-27 and had an opportunity to cut its deficit even further, it was another quick 8-0 Bellmont burst that pretty much put it away at 39-27.

Bluffton (2-17) was never able to get closer than seven points after that, as the teams largely traded baskets in the final eight minutes.

Tucker Jenkins, Bluffton's 6-2 junior, was the one keeping the Tigers alive, totaling 17 of his game-high 18 points and nine of his 11 rebounds in the first three quarters before Bellmont finally found a way to seal him off. "He's been big for us all season," said Grau of his man in the middle.

After a three-pointer by Kord Fuelling gave Bellmont a 9-6 lead that it would never relinquish, James went back to work.

He hit a three-pointer from the right corner just before the clock expired in the first quarter, then opened the second period with another from almost the exact same place.

He then stole the ball again and dropped a third threepointer from the top of the key for that 18-6 advantage.

But that 12-point margin was actually Bellmont's biggest of the game. Bluffton notched it a

little tighter on defense and outscored the Braves, 15-7, over the remainder of the first half to climb right back into it.

"The turnovers hurt us early," said Grau, "but we were able to do a much better job of making it tough for them to get good looks."

By halftime, the Bellmont lead was down to 25-21. And then early in the third quarter, Eli Garrett grabbed a rebound, threaded his way through traffic, and found Jenkins underneath to knock the lead down to 26-23.

figures.

The Tigers were a solid 14-for-29 from the field for a .483 shooting percentage but took 16 fewer shots than Bellmont due to 21 turnovers

Bellmont placed three players in double figures, including James with 16, Fuelling with 12, and Scheumann with 11.

The Braves were 18-for-45 from the floor for a .400 percentage and turned the ball over nine times.

Bluffton outrebounded the Braves 24-22.

Bluffton won the junior varsity contest, 52-46.

Nolan Lambert with 16 points and Kaleb Green with 13 led the way for the Tigers.

Jude Baumgartner added nine points, Ben Maggard seven, Declan Grieser five, and Cameron Williams two. Bluffton also took the

C-team game, 43-19. Trey Bustos scored nine points for Bluffton

while Marshall Gerber, Eli Bertsch, and Landon Daniel each scored seven, Griffin

Bluffton senior guard Sam Baumgartner uses a crossover move to avoid Bellmont's DJ Kitson Friday night at the Tiger Den. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

Padres' Machado says he plans to exit contract after season

By STEVE MEGARGEE AP Sports Writer Manny Machado says he

not about 2024. I think my focus is about 2023, what I can do to this ballclub, what plans to exercise the opt-out I've done for this organizato continue to do here. I think Ð we've got something special here growing and I don't think anything's going to change.' Machado's contract was a record for a free

As a player who's about to opt out, it's pretty good to see."

A six-time All-Star, Machado is coming off a season in which he finished second in the NL MVP voting. He batted .298 with 32 homers, 102 RBIs, a .366 on-base percentage and a .531 slugging percentage.

SPORTS

Jenkins also got the attention of Bellmont coach Jonathon Fuelling

"He's a strong kid, and he's only a junior," said an impressed Fuelling afterward.

But Bellmont had a pretty good player of its own in Andrew James.

It was James who sparked that early 15-0 Bellmont breakaway.

He started it by hitting the second of two free throws, then stole the ball and found teammate Jack Scheumann under the basket for an easy deuce.

Unfortunately for the Tigers, they missed two shots and committed four more turnovers and so could not draw any closer.

With the score 31-27, Kaden Grau missed a threepoint attempt that would have cut the gap to one.

And then Bellmont took off.

Dylan Velez scored on a sharp feed from Scheumann underneath, James drove the lane for another layup, and two more Bluffton turnovers led to two more Bellmont buckets on a jumper in the lane by Scheumann and a Fuelling putback of a Scheumann miss for a 39-27 spread.

Jenkins was the only Bluffton player in double

High School Calendar

Morgan six, Coleson Teeple four, and Owen Lesh three.

sports@news-banner.com

BELLMONT 49, BLUFFTON 37 at Bluffton High School BELLMONT (12-8): Andrew James 5-9 3-4 16, Jack Scheumann 5-13 0-0 11, D.J. Kitson 2-4 1-4 5, Kord Fuelling 42 4 2 4 2, Dvlan Velaz 2-4 1-3 5 11, D.J. Kitson 2-4 1-4 5, Kord Fuelling 4-13 1-3 12, Dylan Velez 2-4 1-3 5, Job Hoffman 0-0 0-0 0, Gavin Krull 0-2 0-0 0, Trent Geimer 0-0 0-0 0. TOTAL: 18-45 6-14 49. **BLUFFTON (2-17)**: Sam Baumgart-ner 2-4 1-1 6, Hunter Wenger 0-2 0-0 0, Kaden Grau 3-6 0-0 8, A.J. Strev-lez 0.6 0.0 5, Turker, Japting 7 10.

eler 2-5 0-0 5, Tucker Jenkins 7-10 2-4 18, Fletcher Wenger 0-0 0-0 0, Eli Garrett 0-1 0-0 0, Hutch Craighead 0-0 0-0 0, Kaleb Green 0-0 0-0 0, Declan

Greiser 0-0 0-0 0, Anteb Greiser 0-0 0, Decta Greiser 0-0 0-0 0, Andrew Hunt 0-1 0-0 0. TOTAL: 14-29 3-5 37. Bellmont 12 13 17 7 — 49 Bluffton 6 15 9 7 — 37 Three-point shooting: Bellmont 7-18 (James 3-5, Scheumann 1-4, Fuelling 3-7, Krull 0-2), Bluffton 6-16 (Baumgartner 1-2, H. Wenger 0-1, Grau 2-5, Streveler 1-3, Jenkins 2-3, Garrett 0-1). Rebounds: Bellmont 22 (Velez 9, Fuelling 6), Bluffton 24 (Jenkins 11). Turnovers: Bellmont 9, Bluffton 21. Personal fouls: Bellmont 5, Bluffton 14. Fouled Out: None. Junior Varsity: Bluffton 52, Bell-

mont 46 Freshmen: Bluffton 43, Bellmont 19.

clause in his contract with tion and what we re going the San Diego

Padres after this season.

Machado signed a 10-year, \$300 million deal with the Padres in February 2019, a deal that gives him the right to terminate the agreement after this sea-

Manny Machado son and become a free agent. The third baseman, who turns 31 in July, would forfeit \$150 million from his current deal, which calls for a \$30 million annual salary through 2028.

"Obviously the team knows where I stand, my situation with the opt-out coming," Machado told reporters Friday at the Padres' spring-training camp in Peoria, Arizona. "I think I've expressed that I will be opting out after this year, but I think my focus is

agent when he agreed to it and the second-largest in the major

leagues behind Giancarlo Stanton's \$325 million. But he is now tied for the 11thhighest after an offseason topped by AL MVP Aaron Judge's \$360 million, nineyear contract to stay with the New York Yankees. The Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout leads the major leagues at \$426.5 million.

"Markets change," Machado said. "From when I signed five years ago. It's changed tremendously. Things change and evolve.

His presence helped the Padres go 89-73 and reach the NL Championship Series before falling to Philadelphia.

Machado declined to comment on negotiations for a reworked deal.

"I'm just here to play baseball and continue to do what I've got to do," Mach-ado said. "I let my agent, front office and (general manager) A.J. (Preller) and (owner) Peter (Seidler) handle that."

Padres manager Bob Melvin said that "I don't want to know" what it would be like to have Machado playing elsewhere.

"That provision's in his contract," Melvin said. "It's in his right to opt out, but we've also shown a willingness to keep the important

SATURDAY, Feb. 18

BOYS BASKETBALL: Concordia at Norwell, 7:45 p.m.; Bluffton at Mississinewa, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Union City, 7:30 p.m

SWIM & DIVE: (boys only) sectional finals Norwell, Bluffton at Jay County, 1 p.m.

MONDAY, Feb. 20 No events scheduled. TUESDAY, Feb. 21 BOYS BASKETBALL: Wes-Del at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m. WEDNESDAY, Feb. 22 No events scheduled. THURSDAY, Feb. 23 No events scheduled. FRIDAY, Feb. 24 BOYS BASKETBALL: Homestead at Norwell, 7:45 p.m.; Bluffton at Southwood, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Cowan, 7:30 p.m. SATURDAY, Feb. 25 No events scheduled.

Dodgers' Kershaw says he won't play for United States in WBC

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) – Los Angeles Dodgers left-hander Clayton Kershaw says he won't be pitching for the United States at the World Baseball Classic and called the situation "super disappointing."

"Probably my last chance to get to do it, so I really wanted to do it, but it just didn't work out for a number of reasons," Kershaw told reporters Friday from the Dodgers' spring training camp. "Disappointing, but that's OK. I'll be ready for the season. I'll be ready to go."

The three-time Cy Young Award winner

didn't specify the reasons that would prevent him from participating. A replacement was not announced.

"There were some factors that were making it hard for me to play," Kershaw said. "I tried to work it out on my own, tried to work it out with MLB, union, the team. Everybody worked hard to try to make it work. Just wasn't able to."

Kershaw, who turns 35 on March 19, added that Dodgers president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman has been helpful throughout the process.

Commanders finalizing hire of Bieniemy as O Coordinator

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Sports Writer

Eric Bieniemy is finalizing terms of a deal to become the Washington Commanders' offensive coordinator and assistant head coach, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Friday because the deal was not yet completed. It's expected to be done Saturday.

Bieniemy, a two-time Super Bowl-winning assistant with Kansas City, now gets the chance to show what he can do without Andy Reid and Patrick Mahomes.

Bieniemy, who turns 54 in August, emerged from a pool of more than a halfdozen candidates as Washington's choice for the job following the Chiefs' second championship in his five seasons as their offensive coordinator. The longtime NFL assistant has interviewed for numerous head coaching jobs, but Reid calling plays for an offense featuring a two-time MVP in Mahomes clouded Bieniemy's stock.

The decisions by teams not to hire Bieniemy, who is Black, as a head coach have been an ongoing talking point for critics of the NFL's minority hiring practices.

Bieniemy will get the chance to call plays and run every aspect of Washington's offense under Ron Rivera, a defensiveminded coach and former linebacker who's going into his fourth season in charge of the team's football operations.

Bieniemy inherits second-year quarterback Sam Howell, who goes into spring as the starter, and an offense that includes running backs Brian Robinson Jr. and Antonio Gibson and top receiver Terry McLaurin.

A running back for nine seasons in the 1990s, Bieniemy has coached at the college and pro levels. He coached running backs with Kansas City for five years before being promoted to offensive coordinator and before that worked at the University of Colorado and for the Minnesota Vikings as a position coach.

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL High School

Friday Boys' Scores Angola 44, Eastside 41 Austin 64, Southwestern (Hanover) 57 Barr-Reeve 59, Vincennes Rivet 22 Batesville 62, Morristown 22 Bedford N. Lawrence 43, New Albany

Beech Grove 70, Triton Central 65 Bellmont 49, Bluffton 37 Bethany Christian 37, S. Bend Trinity 32. OT

Bethesda Christian 64, Speedway 57 Blackford 58, Eastern (Greentown) 51 Bloomfield 69 N Knox 45 Bloomington North 49, Columbus North 45

Bloomington South 74, Evansville Central 45

Central 45 Blue River 78, Wes-Del 44 Boone Grove 52, Hebron 50 Borden 58, Clarksville 54 Brownstown 59, Eastern (Pekin) 45 Carroll (Flora) 59, Taylor 54 Central Noble 64, Fremont 55 Charlestown 85, Salem 44 Chasterton 60, Valparaiso 41 Clay City 76, Northview 67 Clinton Prairie 66, Tri-Central 51 Columbia City 42, Northridge 29 Columbus East 51, Madison 49 Connersville 46, Franklin Co. 32 Corydon 69, Silver Creek 66 Covenant Christian (DeMotte) 54, Tri-Township 42 Crown Point 61, Lake Central 51 Danville 77, Crawfordsville 52 DeKalb 55, Garrett 43 Decatur Central 69, Indpls Perry Meridian 35 Delta 62, Shelbyville 46 E. Chicago Central 71, Hammond Noll 68 Eastern Hancock 89, Union (Modoc) 7 Ev. Day 67, White River Valley 40 Evansville Christian 68, Madisonville, Kv. 59 Evansville Harrison 78, Evansville Bosse 69 Evansville Memorial 66, Vincennes 38 Evansville North 61, Castle 56 Fairfield 76, Churubusco 34 Fishers 52, Zionsville 45 Fountain Central 68, N. Vermillion 45 Frankfort 50, Alexandria 44 Frankton 50, Alexandria 44 Ft. Wayne Blackhawk 63, Antwerp, Ohio 48 Ft. Wayne Dwenger 54, Ft. Wayne Northrop 51, OT Ft. Wayne South 80, Ft. Wayne Snider

Ft. Wayne Wayne 55, Ft. Wayne Concordia 51 Gibson Southern 66, Wood Memo-

rial 48 Glenn 71, Bremen 41

Goshen 60, Westview 44 Greenwood Christian 57, Edinburgh 52

Guerin Catholic 62, Indpls Roncalli 52 Hamilton Southeastern 60, Brownsburg 54

- Hanover Central 49, Kouts 38
- Hauser 46, Milan 41 Henryville 54, W. Washington 46 Heritage Hills 80, Tell City 25

Hobart 36, Highland 33 Homestead 69, Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 55

Indian Creek 67, Bloomington Lighthouse 52 Indiana Deaf 56, Anderson Prep Acad-

emy 52

Indpls Brebeuf 54, Heritage Christian Indpls Pike 65, Lawrence North 62

Jac-Cen-Del 65, Switzerland Co. 38 Jasper 55, Pike Central 36 Jeffersonville 64, Evansville Reitz 59 Kokomo 69, Anderson 52 LaPorte 56, Portage 54 LaVille 57, Caston 46 Lake Station 57. Illiana Christian 53 Lakeland 67, Prairie Hts. 55 Lakeland Christian 52, Oregon-Davis

Lakewood Park 77, Clinton Christian

Lapel 69, Madison-Grant 62

Liberty Christian 66, Waldron 54 Linton 88, N. Central (Farmersburg)

Loogootee 56, Dubois 39 Maconaquah 73, Manchester 68 Marion 84, Lafayette Harrison 69 Martinsville 68, Whiteland 65 Medora 68, Cannelton 33 Michigan City 72, Merrillville 67 Mishawaka 74, S. Bend Career Academv 62

Mishawaka Marian 73, Jimtown 33 Mississinewa 54, Eastbrook 31 Mitchell 70, Edgewood 59 Monroe Central 54, Cowan 36 Mooresville 48, Greenwood 29 Morgan Twp. 80, Westville 62 Muncie Central 60. McCutcheon 41 Munster 60, Andrean 51 N. Daviess 67, Seymour 41 N. Decatur 67, Southwestern (Shelby)

31 N. Judson 59, Argos 31 N. Newton 43, Griffith 35 N. White 45, W. Central 38 New Haven 67, Heritage 58 New Prairie 75, S. Bend Clay 64 Noblesville 66, Avon 58 NorthWood 52, Elkhart Christian 16 Northeastern 58, Winchester 48 Norwell 36, Jay Co. 35 Oak Hill 54, Elwood 25 Orleans 40, Shoals 27 Owen Valley 70, S. Putnam 62 Paoli 37, Perry Central 34 Parke Heritage 66, Seeger 54 Pendleton Hts. 64, Shenandoah 43 Penn 87, Elkhart 24 Pioneer 38, Winamac 36 Plainfield 55, Franklin 41 Princeton 64, Forest Park 47 Providence 52, N. Harrison 31 Richmond 64, Lafayette Jeff 52 Rochester 55, Peru 52 Rock Creek Academy 59, Trinity Lutheran 44 Bend Riley 78, S. Bend Adams 63 S. Bend Washington 66, S. Bend St. Joseph's 59 S. Central (Elizabeth) 69, New Washington 60 Dearborn 52, Lawrenceburg 47 Ripley 53, Rising Sun 43 Spencer 29, Southridge 20 Vermillion 72, Riverton Parke 67 S S S Seton Catholic 79, Cambridge City 72 Shakamak 49, Eastern (Greene) 48 Southmont 58, Frankfort 51 Southport 87, Terre Haute South 60 Southport 87, lerre Haute South Southwood 69, Northfield 49 Sullivan 71, Cloverdale 35 Tippecanoe Valley 63, Triton 46 Tri-60, Centerville 40 Tri-County 54, Faith Christian 39 Tri-West 67, N. Montgomery 32 Union City 72, Union Co. 61 Vincenped Couth Knox, 55 W/d Vincennes (South Knox— 55, Wash-ington 48 W. Noble 50, Adams Central 47 Wabash 60, Whitko 20 Wapahani 95, Daleville 51 Warren Central 62, Carmel 55 Western Boone 51, Cascade 45 Westfield 63, Franklin Central 52 Hoosier Conference Tournament Championship Rensselaer 63, Tipton 57 Fifth Place Lafayette Catholic 53, Northwestern 40 Ninth Place Western 56, W. Lafayette 42 Seventh Place Hamilton Hts. 55, Twin Lakes 50 Third Place Cass 56, Benton Central 49

College

Friday, Feb. 17 EAST Canisius 81, Rider 78 Cornell 95, Dartmouth 83, OT Fairfield 70, Marist 61 Harvard 83, Columbia 65 Iona 71, Manhattan 60 Mount St. Mary's 70, Niagara 66 Penn 66, Yale 64 Princeton 78, Brown 67 MIDWEST Bethany Lutheran 87, Northwestern (Minn.) 73

Bluffton 63, Defiance 42 Cleveland St. 85, Wright St. 68 Crown (Minn.) 86, Northland 7 Dayton 65, Loyola Chicago 49 Dayton 65, Loyola Chicago 49 Detroit 96, Oakland 74 Kent St. 81, E. Michigan 54 Manchester 78, Anderson (Ind.) 73 Mount St. Joseph 74, Hanover 66 N. Kentucky 63, Fort Wayne 50 North Central College 79, Marian 5 North Central College 95, Martin Luther 52 Luther 52 Rose-Hulman 73, Franklin 71 Transylvania 78, Earlham 69 Wis.-Superior 82, Minn.-Morris 74 FAR WEST Chicago St. 103, Calumet College St. Joseph 56

NBA				
EASTERN CON Atlantic Divisio	n			
Boston Philadelphia Brooklyn New York Toronto	W 42 38 34 33 28	L 17 19 24 27 31	Pct .712 .667 .586 .550 .475	GB 3 7½ 9½ 14
Southeast Divi		L	Pct	GB
Miami Atlanta Washington Orlando Charlotte Central Divisio	32 29 28 24 17	27 30 30 35 43	.542 .492 .483 .407 .283	31½ 8 151½
Milwaukee Cleveland Chicago Indiana Detroit WESTERN COI Southwest Divi	W 41 38 26 26 15 NFEF		Pct .707 .623 .441 .433 .254 E	GB 4½ 15½ 16 26½
Memphis	W 35	L 22	Pct .614	GB
Dallas New Orleans San Antonio Houston Northwest Divi	31 30 14 13	29 29 45 45	.517 .508 .237 .224	5½ 6 22 22½
	W 41	L 18	Pct .695	GB
Denver Minnesota Oklahoma City Portland Utah Pacific Division	31 28 28 29	30 29 30 31	.508 .491 .483 .483	
Sacramento	32	L 25	Pct .561	GB
L.A. Clippers Phoenix Golden State L.A. Lakers	33 32 29 27	28 28 29 32	.541 .533 .500 .458	1 1½ 3½ 6
Thursday's Gau Milwaukee 112, Washington 114 L.A. Clippers 11 Friday's Games 2023 Jordan Ris Team 40, Team 2023 Jordan Ris Team 40, Team Saturday's Gar No games schee Sunday's Gam 2023 All-Star Ga Team LeBron vs p.m., Salt Lake - Monday's Gam No games schee	Chic , Min 6, Ph 25 32 nes dulec es ame 5 Tea City es	inesc noeni Stars Stars I. m Gi	ota 106 x 107 - Gam - Gam	e 2
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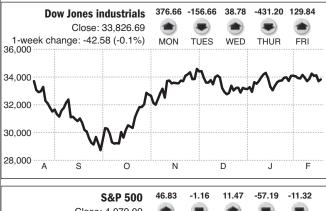
HOCKEY

NHL EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division GP W L OTPts GF 54 41 8 55 33 14 5 87201 8 74186 Boston Toronto Tampa Bay 54 35 16 3 73191 6 62202 200 8 60170 175 58 28 24 54 26 20 Florida Detroit 53 27 22 54 26 24 4 58197 185 4 56164 174 Buffalo Ottawa 4 50150 200 Montreal 55 23 28 **Metropolitan Division** GP W L OTPts GF GA Carolina 54 36 10 8 80184 146

	New Jersey 54 35 14 5 75186 145 N.Y. Rangers 54 32 14 8 72184 145 Pittsburgh 54 27 18 9 63176 169
	N.Y. ISIANGEISS8 28 23 / 03 109 102
	Washington 57 28 23 6 62174 166 Philadelphia 56 22 24 10 54151 177
3	Columbus 55 17 34 4 38140 208 WESTERN CONFERENCE
57	Central Division GP W L OTPts GF GA
	Dallas55 30 141171183 142Winnipeg55 34 20169175 143Colorado53 29 19563163 149
	Colorado 53 29 19 5 63163 149 Minnesota 54 28 21 5 61161 157
-	Minnesota 54 28 21 5 61161 157 Nashville 52 25 21 6 56142 156 St. Louis 54 26 25 3 55172 194 Arizona 55 19 28 8 46147 191 Chicage 54 12 25 50121 2012
e Of	Chicago 5417.52 5 59151 196
	Pacific Division GP W L OTPts GF GA
	GP W L OTPts GF GA Vegas 55 33 18 4 70179 153 Seattle 55 31 18 6 68193 172 Los Angeles 55 30 18 7 67184 185 Edmonton 55 30 19 6 66205 181 Calgary 55 25 19 11 61177 171 Vancouver 55 21 30 4 46186 227 San Jose 56 17 28 11 45168 209
GB	Edmonton 55 30 19 6 66205 181 Calgary 55 25 19 11 61177 171
3	Vancouver 55 21 30 4 46186 227 San Jose 56 17 28 11 45168 209
7½ 9½	Anaheim 55 17 32 6 40138 230 NOTE: Two points for a win, one point
14	for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per
GB	conference advance to playoffs. Thursday's Games
3 3½	Columbus 3, Winnipeg 1 Florida 6, Washington 3
8 15½	Carolina 6, Montreal 2 Boston 5, Nashville 0
GB	Detroit 5, Calgary 2 St. Louis 4. New Jersev 2
4½ 15½	Seattle 6, Philadelphia 2 Vegas 2, San Jose 1
16 26½	Friday's Games N.Y. Islanders 5, Pittsburgh 4
20/2	Chicago 4, Ottawa 3, OT Dallas at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
GB	Los Angeles at Anaheim, 9 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
5½ 6	Saturday's Games Colorado at St. Louis, 2 p.m.
22 22½	Florida at Nashville, 2 p.m. N.Y. Islanders at Boston, 5 p.m.
GB	New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 5:30 p.m. Columbus at Dallas, 6 p.m.
11	Montreal at Toronto, 7 p.m. Washington vs. Carolina at Carter- Finley Stadium, 8 p.m.
12 12½	N.Y. Rangers at Calgary, 10 p.m.
12½	Philadelphia at Vancouver, 10 p.m. Arizona at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
GB	Buffalo at San Jose, 10:30 p.m. Detroit at Seattle, 10:30 p.m.
1 1½	Tampa Bay at Vegas, 10:30 p.m. Sunday's Games
3½ 6	Nashville at Minnesota, 2 p.m. St. Louis at Ottawa, 2 p.m.
	Edmonton at Colorado, 3 p.m. Toronto at Chicago, 6 p.m. Winnipeg at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
	Columbus at Arizona, 8:30 p.m. Monday's Games
1	Anaheim at Florida, 1 p.m. Ottawa at Boston, 1 p.m.
2	Philadelphia at Calgary, 4 p.m. Seattle at San Jose, 4 p.m.
	N.Y. Islanders at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m. Winnipeg at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
30	TRANSACTIONS
	Friday's Transactions BASEBALL Major League Baseball
	Major League Baseball American League DETROIT TIGERS — Placed RHP
	Casey Mize on the 60-day IL. Claimed LHP Tyler Holton off waiv-
	ers from Arizona. National League
	CHICAGO CUBS — Placed RHP Ethan Roberts on the 60-day IL.
GA 115	Agreed to terms with 3B Edwin Rios on a one-year major league
6 147 157	contract. PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES —
2200	Agreed to terms with LHP Jose Alvarado on a three-year contract.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

WEEKLY DOW JONES AND S&P 500





	Stock Market Indexes													
52-Week Wk YTD 12-m High Low Name Last Chg %Chg %Chg %Ch														
35,492.22	28,660.94	Dow Jones Industrials	33,826.69	-42.58	13	+2.05	74							
16,728.57	11,946.21	Dow Jones Transportation	15,135.87	+92.94	+.62	+13.02	+1.10							
1,077.08	823.64	Dow Jones Utilities	953.61	+7.84	+.83	-1.43	+4.13							
17,034.91	13,278.56	NYSE Composite	15,840.16	-70.54	44	+4.32	-3.37							
14,646.90	10,088.83	Nasdaq Composite	11,787.27	+69.15	+.59	+12.62	-13.00							
4,637.30	3,491.58	S&P 500	4,079.09	-11.37	28	+6.24	-6.20							
2,780.91	2,185.93	S&P MidCap	2,666.12	+26.82	+1.02	+9.70	+1.28							
46,793.61	34,917.15	Wilshire 5000	40,819.56	+29.17	+.07	+7.21	-6.95							
2,138.45	1,641.47	Russell 2000	1,946.36	+27.54	+1.44	+10.51	-3.13							
16,360.71	11,517.23	Lipper Growth Index	13,292.30	+126.50	+.96	+10.79	-13.58							

STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

NYSE G	AINERS	5 (\$2 OF	R MORE)	NYSE L	OSERS	(\$2 or	MORE)		CTIVES (\$1 OR I	NORE)
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
CmtyHlt	7.94	+2.75	+53.0	BrkfDtla pf	2.40	90	-27.3	Palantir	6043803	9.20	+1.69
Diebold	2.93	+.85	+40.9	GeoGrp	9.54	-2.74	-22.3	FordM	3284602	12.89	+.16
BauschHI	9.51	+2.35	+32.8	Atento SA	3.32	76	-18.6	Nu Hldg	2595173	4.99	+.25
NGL EnPt	2.76	+.68	+32.7	BabylonHld	9.44	-2.12	-18.3	AMC Ent	1680363	5.24	+.34
Materion	111.94	+26.09	+30.4	SunlTch	11.45	-2.29	-16.7	BcoBrad	1679282	2.72	+.27
VirgnGal	6.37	+1.39	+27.9	DevonE	53.33	-10.21	-16.1	ItauUnH	1661478	5.15	+.23
QuantmS	10.31	+2.10	+25.6	Toast A	19.48	-3.32	-14.6	SnapInc A	1643225	10.36	29
EmergBio	16.29	+3.28	+25.2	Xinyuan rs	6.05	-1.00	-14.2	Uber Tch	1613595	34.77	+.47
Herbalif	20.43	+3.98	+24.2	CallonPet	36.11	-5.71	-13.7	Carnival	1597998	11.29	+.13
Gaotu Tch	3.76	+.73	+24.1	MRC GIbI	11.50	-1.77	-13.3	Shopify s	1594015	43.61	-4.69
Nasdaq (Gainer	s (\$2 o	R MORE)	NASDAQ L	OSER	s (\$2 оя	MORE)	NASDAQ	ACTIVES	(\$1 or	MORE)
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
IntuitMch A	40.70	+31.43	+339.1	electCore r	s 3.99	-75.89	-95.0	Tesla s	10091718	208.31-	+11.42
SeraPrg A	3.60	+2.31	+179.1	VYNE Th rs	3.58	-44.12	-92.5	BedBath	3404402	1.81	54
IrisEnrgy	3.75	+1.99	+113.1	OceanBio A	3.98	-5.57	-58.3	Apple Inc s	3162904	152.55	+1.54
TravelCt	84.22	+37.21	+79.2	G1Thera	4.02	-3.11	-43.6	Amazon s	2725138	97.20	41
OKYO Ph	n 3.74	+1.54	+70.0	LanzaTch n	4.15	-3.15	-43.2	AMD	2573580	78.50	-2.98
OcularThe	r 6.27	+2.40	+62.0	Lichen n	2.55	-1.55	-37.8	Nvidia	2444202	213.88	+1.23
Meihua	26.01	+9.76	+60.1	CorbusPh r	s 3.06	-1.74	-36.3	Alphabt A	3 2305377	94.35	22
IkenaOnoc	4.23	+1.50	+54.9	GrdfrAI rs	10.86	-6.18	-36.3	MarathDig	2112513	7.70	+1.78
AMC Net	27.13	+9.18	+51.1	IntelBiSol rs	s 7.88	-4.12	-34.3	Microsoft	1981765		
TritiumDC	2.07	+.68	+48.9	Cemtrex rs	8.33	-4.27	-33.9	Alphabt C	s 1891013	94.59	27

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST												
Name	Div	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	Name	Div	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	
AFLAC	1.68	69.37	09	-0.1	-3.6	iShiBxHYB	5.09	74.56	22	-0.3	+1.3	
AMC Ent		5.24	+.34	+6.9	+28.7	Intel	1.46	27.61	19	-0.7	+4.5	
AT&T Inc	1.11	19.44	+.37	+1.9	+5.6	IBM	6.60	135.02	58	-0.4	-4.2	
AMD	1.60	78.50	-2.98	-3.7	+21.2	Inv QQQ	1.16	301.16	+1.46	+0.5	+13.1	
Alphabt C s		94.59	27	-0.3	+6.6	ItauUnH		5.15	+.23	+4.7	+9.3	
Alphabt A s		94.35	22	-0.2	+6.9	Kroger	1.04	44.00	54	-1.2	-1.3	
Amazon s		97.20	41	-0.4	+15.7	LincNat	1.80	33.82	+.01		+10.1	
AEP	3.32	92.41	+1.86	+2.1	-2.7	Lowes	4.20	212.75	+3.97	+1.9	+6.8	
Amesite h		.36	+.07	+22.0	+105.7	Lyft Inc		11.28	+.97	+9.4	+2.4	
Apple Inc s	.92	152.55	+1.54	+1.0	+17.4	MarathDig		7.70	+1.78	+30.1	+125.1	
ApIdMatl	1.04	115.44	+.67	+0.6	+18.5	McDnlds	6.08	269.99	+7.57	+2.9	+2.5	
ArkInnova	.78	41.86	+2.71	+6.9	+34.0	Microsoft	2.72	258.06	-4.36	-1.7	+7.6	
BP PLC	1.44	40.02	23	-0.6	+14.6	MullnAuto		.27	10	-26.1	-5.9	
BcoBrad	.04	2.72	+.27	+11.0	-5.6	NL Inds	.28	7.15	06	-0.8	+5.0	
BedBath	.68	1.81	54	-23.0	-27.9	NiSource	1.00	27.14	+.26	+1.0	-1.0	
BrMySq	2.16	71.11	-1.09	-1.5	-1.2	NorflkSo	5.40	228.15	-14.46	-6.0	-7.4	
CampSp	1.48	52.35	+.92	+1.8	-7.8	Nu Hldg		4.99	+.25	+5.3	+22.6	
Caterpillar		247.79	+.12		+3.4	Nucor		168.07	+3.96	+2.4	+27.5	
Chevron		162.85	-7.61	-4.5	-9.3	Nvidia		213.88	+1.23	+0.6	+46.4	
Cisco	1.56	50.77	+3.51	+7.4	+6.6	Palantir		9.20	+1.69		+43.3	
Citigroup	2.04	51.42	+1.31	+2.6	+13.7	PepsiCo	4.60	176.28	+.08		-2.4	
CocaCola	1.76	60.12	+.50	+0.8	-5.5	Pfizer	1.60		67	-1.5	-15.7	
ContxtLog		.75		+17.8	+54.5	PrUltPQ		24.04	+.22	+0.9	+39.0	
DxSOXBr rs		21.21	+.12	+0.6	-46.3	PShtQQQ		36.29	58	-1.6	-32.8	
DxBiotBl		7.59	+.25	+3.4	+7.4	SpdrDJIA		338.29	44	-0.1	+2.1	
DxSOXBI		15.50	30	-1.9	+60.3	S&P500ETF			78	-0.2	+6.5	
Disney		105.22	-2.84	-2.6	+21.1	Snaplnc A		10.36	29	-2.7	+15.8	
Eaton		175.24	+4.33	+2.5	+11.7	SorrentoTh		.31	63	-67.0	-65.0	
EliLilly		328.40		-4.5	-10.2	SPDR Fncl	.46	36.39	10	-0.3	+6.4	
ExelaTc rs		.06	00	-3.2	-25.6	StIDynam		124.97	+2.65	+2.2	+27.9	
ExxonMbl		111.28	-6.98	-5.9	+.9	Tesla s		208.31		+5.8	+69.1	
FardyFuln		.59	10		+102.4	Uber Tch		34.77	+.47	+1.4	+40.6	
FordM	.60	12.89	+.16	+1.3	+10.8	VallonPh h		.79			+173.4	
FrankElec	.90	96.40	+5.23	+5.7	+20.9	VerizonCm	2.61	40.22	+.21	+0.5	+2.1	
FrptMcM	.30	41.74	62	-1.5	+9.8	WalMart		146.44	+2.72	+1.9	+3.3	
GenElec	.32	83.04	+1.75	+2.2	+27.6	WalgBoots		36.76	+.69	+1.9	-1.6	
HP Inc	1.05	30.16	+.19	+0.6	+12.2	WsteMInc		154.92	+.85	+0.6	-1.2	
HomeDp		317.95	+1.41	+0.0	+.7	WellsFargo		47.49	02	+0.0	+15.0	
Голор	7.00	017.00	11.71	10.4	1.7	Tonor argo	1.20	77.70	.02		110.0	

1979 Daytona 500 picked as

ASCAR's most memorable race

By DAN GELSTON AP Sports Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) - Take a ride through Daytona International Speedway's main tunnel and photos of some of the most celebrated events in track history line the walls.

One can't be missed.

It shows Cale Yarborough, helmet in hand, ready to unload on Bobby Allison and ignite a muddy, bloody slugfest in the 1979 Daytona 500 that turned the highly anticipated first live flagto-flag broadcast of a race into a spectacle that stamped NASCAR on the national sports map.

Who were these good ol' boys on TV fighting instead of racing?

The seminal moment legitimized the Daytona 500 in a flash — more like in a punch — and suddenly even traditional stick-andball fans were buzzing over NASCAR and the brawl that changed it all.

The fight was a viral clip before such a term was even a thing and it's stood for 44 years near the top of the short list of most talked about, dissected and stillcan't-believe-it days over NASCAR's first 74 years.

As part of the celebration of NASCAR's 75th season, The Associated Press inter-

viewed 12 veteran contributors to the industry on topics ranging from the greatest drivers to key challenges ahead.

With big names, a throwdown and a nation of viewers, the 1979 Daytona 500 was the winner in the AP survey as the most memorable race for its role as perhaps the most pivotal industry-changer in NASCAR history.

"While there are dozens of potential honorable mentions, this one seems to be replayed in highlight films more than any other, which helps it qualify as most memorable in addition to most pivotal," said longtime Motor Racing Network announcer Winston Kelly.

Among the other races mentioned were Dale Earnhardt's breakthrough 1998 Daytona 500 victory and Richard Petty's 200th win in 1984 in the July Daytona race attended by President Ronald Reagan. Heck, Edsel Ford, long-time executive at the company that bears the name of his great-grandfather Henry Ford, couldn't narrow it down to just one.

"I would say that any race that a Ford Motor Co. product won is my most memorable race," Ford said.

All suitable nominees. But the 1979 Daytona 500 race it was Petty's sixth win in the crown jewel race - was something special. More than 15 million people watched the race and all its aftermath. It stood as the highest-rated NASCAR race until 2001.

The mayhem was triggered early in the race when Yarborough came up on brother Bobby and Donnie Allison and tapped Bobby's rear bumper, sending all three cars careening through a muddy infield. All three drivers recovered, and Yarborough and Donnie Allison eventually battled for the lead before spinning out.

Yarborough later said Bobby Allison had slowed down to block him, then claimed Donnie knocked him into the grass. Bobby Allison had stopped his car near the crashed cars to see if Donnie needed a ride back to the garage. Yarborough confronted him through his window.

"He ran toward me and started yelling at me,' Bobby told the AP in 2019 for a 40th-anniversary remembrance. "And then he hit me in the face with his helmet, which really surprised me. I still had my seatbelts on. I had my helmet on, and that shielded me a little bit, but it cut my nose and my lips.

"By then, blood was

dripping in my lap. I've either got to get out of the car and handle this or run from him the rest of my life. So I got out of my car and he went to beating on my fists with his nose.'

Alvarado on a three-year contract. HOCKEY

National Hockey League BOSTON BRUINS — Activated LW Jake DeBrusk from injured reserve. Returned LW Jakub Lauko to Provi-

dence (AHL)

While Yarborough and Allison traded haymakers in the Florida sun, it was actually a snowstorm that helped broaden the race's exposure.

Prime Rate

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8-month

6-month

5-year 10-year

30-year

The Daytona 500 was broadcast live in its entirety for the first time, reaching markets that knew little, if anything, about stock car racing. There was a blizzard that forced a large portion of the country inside. Cities were shut down, and TVs were turned on.

Deb Williams, an AP panelist now in her fourth decade of racing coverage, was pressed into service in her first year writing for UPI. She watched the race on TV at her parents' home in North Carolina – snow blanketed the house outside - and later wrote the story from the Raleigh bureau about fans that had banded together to pay Donnie Allison's \$6,000 fine.

"There was just so much raw emotion of elements that people saw for the first time," said Williams, who is covering her 29th Daytona 500 this year, for Autoweek. And not for the last.

MONE	Y RATE	S	Cu	RRENCIES	
	Last	Pvs Week		Last	Pvs Day
ate	7.75	7.75	Australia	1.4536	1.4497
t Rate	5.25	5.25	Britain	1.2045	1.2013
Funds Rate	4.50-4.75	4.50-4.75	Canada	1.3469	1.3428
es			Euro	.9350	.9354
ith	4.82	4.78	Japan	134.15	133.83
ith	5.03	4.93	Mexico	18.3613	18.4975
•	4.03	3.93	SwitzerInd	.9247	.9242
ar	3.82	3.75			
ar	3.87	3.83	British pound exp others show dollar	r in foreign curre	ncy.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	To Obj	otal Asse (\$MIns)	ts NAV	Tot 4-wk	al Return 12-mo	/Rank 5-year	Pct Load
American Funds AmrcnBalA m	MA	. ,	29.50	-0.4	-5.1/B	+6.0/B	5.75
American Funds CptllncBldrA m	IH	62,775	64.52	-0.7	-3.8/B	+4.4/B	5.75
American Funds EuroPacGrA m	FG	20,454	52.73	0.0	-9.3/C	+2.0/D	5.75
American Funds FdmtllnvsA m	LB	58,789	63.85	+1.3	-5.0/C	+7.6/E	5.75
American Funds GrfAmrcA m	LG	104,119	54.52	+3.7	-12.2/C	+8.2/D	5.75
American Funds IncAmrcA m	AL	77,950	23.04	-0.9	-2.7/A	+5.8/B	5.75
American Funds InvCAmrcA m	LB	68,391	43.49	+1.2	-3.9/B	+7.6/E	5.75
American Funds NwPrspctvA m	WG	51,124	51.33	+2.1	-9.5/B	+8.1/B	5.75
American Funds WAMtInvsA m	LB	72,576	53.06	+0.1	-1.0/A	+9.1/C	5.75
Davis NYVentureA m	LB	4,362	24.56	+2.9	-8.2/E	+5.1/E	4.75
Dodge & Cox Stkl	LV	70,973	229.40	+2.0	-1.7/D	+9.5/A	NL
Fidelity 500IdxInsPrm	LB	373,802	141.77	+2.4	-5.3/C	+10.3/A	NL
Fidelity Contrafund	LG	87,364	12.81	+3.5	-11.4/B	+8.8/C	NL
Fidelity TtlMktIdxInsPrm	LB	68,423	113.75	+2.7	-5.7/D	+9.7/B	NL
Fidelity Advisor EquityGrowthA n	ו LG	1,434	13.58	+3.0	-8.7/B	+12.3/A	5.75
Fidelity Advisor GrowthOppsA m		2,721	98.95	+5.7	-17.8/E	+14.5/A	5.75
George Putnam BalA m	MA	1,171	20.23	+0.9	-6.1/C	+6.6/A	5.75
INVESCO MnStrA m	LB	7,630	46.49	+3.7	-7.1/E	+8.5/D	5.50
PIMCO Inclnstl	MU	68,731	10.47	-0.9	-4.3/A	+2.2/B	NL
Putnam DiversIncA m	NT	625	5.56	-1.8	-3.8/B	-0.4/E	4.00
Putnam SustLeadersA m	LG	4,648	93.64	+1.6	-8.0/B	+10.7/B	5.75
Putnam TEIncA m	ML	594	7.63	-1.7	-6.2/B	+1.3/C	4.00
Schwab SP500Idx	LB	64,883	62.57	+2.4	-7.1	+10.3	NL
Thornburg IntermMnA m	MI	282	13.09	-0.8	-2.9/A	+1.2/D	2.00
Thornburg LtdTrmUSGvtA m	GS	54	11.79	-1.0	-5.3/D	-0.1/D	2.25
Vanguard 500IdxAdmrl	LB	389,742	377.09	+2.4	-5.3/C	+10.2/A	NL
Vanguard InTrTEAdmrl	MI	66,298	13.42	-1.3	-3.1/A	+1.9/A	NL
Vanguard PrmCpAdmrl	LB	59,278	138.77	0.0	-4.0/B	+9.3/C	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2025Fd	ΤG	75,189	17.41	+0.2	-7.2/C	+4.3/B	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2030Fd	TH	80,653	32.92	+0.4	-7.3/C	+4.7/C	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2035Fd	ΤI	79,867	20.39	+0.6	-7.1/C	+5.2/C	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2040Fd	ΤJ	69,412	35.96	+0.8	-6.9/C	+5.6/C	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2045Fd	ΤK	65,129	24.23	+1.0	-6.8/B	+6.1/C	NL
Vanguard TtBMIdxAdmrI	CI	97,840	9.56	-1.5	-8.6/B	+0.7/B	NL
Vanguard TtInSIdxAdmrl	FB	70,444	29.70	-0.6	-8.1/D	+2.0/C	NL
Vanguard TtInSIdxInv	FB	171,764	17.75	-0.6	-8.1/D	+2.0/D	NL
Vanguard TtISMIdxAdmrI	LB	293,318	99.84	+2.7	-5.7/D	+9.8/B	NL
Vanguard WIngtnAdmrI CA -Conservative Allocation, CI -Interm		92,616	68.20	-0.1	-5.4/B	+6.6/A	NL

IB --Uonservative Allocation, CI -Intermediate-Term Bond, FB -Foreign Large Blend, GS -Short Government, IB -World Bond, IH -World Allocation, LB -Large Blend, LG -Large Growth, LV -Large Value, MA -Moderate Allocation, MI -Muni National Intermediate, ML -Muni National Long, NT -Nontraditional Bond, WS -World Stock, Total Return: Chng in NAV with dividends reinvested. Rank: How fund performed vs. others with same objective: A is in top 20%, E in bottom 20%. **Source:** Morningstar.

Stock Footnotes: g = Dividends and earnings in Canadian dollars. h = Does not meet continued-listing standards. If = Late filing with SEC. n = New in past 52 weeks. pf = Preferred. rs = Stock has undergone a reverse stock split of at least 50 percent within the past year. rt = Right to buy security at a specified price. s = Stock has split by at least 20 percent within the last year. un = Units. vj = In bankruptcy or receivership. wd = When distributed. wi = When issued. wt = Warrants. **Mutual Fund Footnotes:** b = Fee covering market costs is paid from fund assets. d = Deferred sales charge, or redemption fee. f = front load (sales charges). m = Mutiple fees are charged. NA = not available. p = previous day's net asset value. s = fund split shares during the week. x = fund paid a distribution during the week. **Source:** The Associated Press. Sales figures are unofficial.

QB Derek Carr meeting with Jets this weekend

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr. **AP Pro Football Writer**

Free agent quarterback Derek Carr is meeting with the New York Jets this weekend, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The 31-year-old Carr, who spent his first nine NFL seasons with the Raiders. was released by Las Vegas

on Tuesday after he declined to waive the no-trade clause in his contract. Las Vegas needed to trade or release him by Wednesday or \$40.4 million of his contract over the next two years would have become fully guaranteed.

The Jets are looking for a veteran quarterback to lead their offense after Zach Wilson struggled mightily after being the No. 2 overall pick in the 2021 draft. Carr is a potential replacement and New York is bringing him in for a visit, the person told The Associated Press on Friday on condition of anonymity because the team didn't announce its plans.

NFL Network first reported Carr will visit with the Jets, who are the second team that the quarterback

has met with; he also visited New Orleans shortly before his release.

Carr, the Raiders' second-round pick in 2014, threw 24 touchdown passes with 14 interceptions this season. After struggling late in the season, Carr was benched with two games remaining and acknowledged he was angry about the decision.

5 Memphis officers plead not guilty in death of Tyre Nichols

By ADRIAN SAINZ and JONATHAN MATTISE **Associated Press**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) Five former Memphis police officers pleaded not guilty Friday to seconddegree murder and other charges in the violent arrest and death of Tyre Nichols, with his mother saying afterward that none of them would look her in the eye in court.

Tadarrius Bean, Demetrius Haley, Desmond Mills Jr., Emmitt Martin III and Justin Smith made their first court appearances with their lawyers before a judge in Shelby County Criminal Court. The officers were fired after an internal police investigation into the Jan. 7 arrest of Nichols, who died in a hospital three days later. His beating was caught on video.

At a news conference after the hearing, Nichols' mother, RowVaughn Wells, said the officers didn't have the courage to look her in the eye, but "they're going to see me at every court date - every one - until we get justice for my son."

"I feel very numb right now," Wells said. "And I'm waiting for this nightmare basically that I'm going through right now, I'm waiting for somebody to wake me up. I know that's not going to happen."

The officers pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder, aggravated assault, aggravated kidnapping, official misconduct and official oppression. They are all out on bond. Their next hearing is scheduled for May 1.

The Nichols case is the latest to prompt nationwide protests and renew an intense public discussion about police brutality. Nichols, 29, was Black. All five officers charged in his death also are Black.

Addressing the courtroom, Judge James Jones Jr. asked for patience and civility, stressing that "this case can take some time."

"Everyone involved wants this case to be concluded as quickly as pos-sible," Jones said. "But it's important for you all to understand that the state of Tennessee, as well as each one of these defendants, have an absolute right to a fair trial."

Bean's attorney, John Keith Perry, spoke with reporters afterward, saying Bean was doing his job and asserting multiple times that the officer "never struck" Nichols.

'Tadarrius Bean never touched him (Nichols) in any way, striking him. Period," Perry said.

That claim is contradicted by video footage and Bean's own words.

Bean admitted to police investigators he punched Nichols two or three times in the face because officers weren't able to handcuff Nichols. The admission was noted in a filing by the Memphis Police Department seeking to prohibit Bean from working in law enforcement again. The filing notes Bean's actions were captured on video.

Bean admitted to throwing the punches during a type of internal investigation that, for legal reasons, will likely never be seen by a jury.

Bean also held Nich-

ols by one of his arms while Nichols was peppersprayed, kicked, punched and beaten with a baton.

As Bean's attorney spoke with reporters, protester Casio Montez spoke over him, saying Nichols' death was murder: "You represent a murderer, bro.'

Blake Ballin, the attorney for Mills, said the process must be "based on the facts and the law, and not the raw emotions that our country is experiencing.'

The nation's grief over Nichols' death "absolutely should be channeled into demanding change in the way that we police our communities," he added.

"Let's not forget that my client is a Black man in a courtroom in America,' Ballin said.

Lawyers for Martin and Smith did not immediately respond to attempts for comment. Haley's lawyer declined to comment in an email

Assistant District Attorney Paul Hagerman told reporters that "Memphis and the whole world needs to

see that what's right is done in this case, and it needs to happen sooner rather than later.'

Nichols' stepfather, Rodney Wells, was in court alongside Nichols' mother and their lawyer, civil rights attorney Ben Crump.

"This is a glorious day," Rodney Wells said at the post-hearing news conference. "This is the beginning of the process."

Nichols was stopped by police for an alleged traffic violation and was pulled out of his car by officers who used profanity, with at least one brandishing a gun. An officer hit Nichols with a stun gun, but Nichols ran away toward his nearby home, according to video footage released by the city.

The officers, part of a crime-suppression team known as Scorpion, caught up with Nichols and punched him, kicked him and slugged him with a baton as he yelled for his mother.

After the beating, officers stood by and talked with one another as Nichols struggled with his injuries on the ground, video showed. One officer took photos of Nichols as he was propped up against an unmarked police car, video and records showed.

Erica Williams, the district attorney's office spokesperson, told The Associated Press in a text message Friday that "investigators are aware of photos sent from Haley's phone and have identified the recipients of the photos."

Nichols was taken to a hospital in an ambulance that left the site of the beating 27 minutes after emergency medical technicians arrived, authorities said.

One other white officer who was involved in the initial traffic stop has been fired. An additional officer who has not been identified has been suspended.

Three Memphis Fire Department employees who were present at the site of the arrest have been fired. Two Shelby County sheriff's deputies who also were there have been suspended without pay.

Meat plant cleaning service fined \$1.5M for hiring minors

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press MINNEAPOLIS (AP)

- One of the country's largest cleaning services for food processing companies employed more than 100 children in dangerous jobs at 13 meatpacking plants across the country, the U.S. Department of Labor said Friday as it announced over \$1.5 million in civil penal-

The investigation into Packers Sanitation Services Inc., or PSSI, began last summer. Department officials searched three meatpacking plants owned by JBS USA and Turkey Valley Farms in Nebraska and Minnesota, and found 31 underage workers as young as 13. They also searched PSSI's headquarters in Kieler, Wisconsin. Underage workers were found at plants in eight states.

The department went

locations where PSSI provided cleaning services and found even more violations, involving children ages 13 to 17. The agency obtained a temporary restraining order in November and a permanent injunction in December, when PSSI entered into a consent judgment that committed the company to no longer employ minors illegally.

on to review records for 55

Over the past three years, children were found to be using caustic cleaning chemicals and cleaning "dangerous power-driven equipment, like skull-splitters and razor-sharp bone saws," Jessica Looman, principal deputy administrator of the department's Wage and Hour Division, told reporters.

At least three of those minors, including a 13-yearold, suffered burns from the chemicals used for cleaning at the JBS plant in Grand Island, Nebraska, officials said.

Some of the children worked overnight shifts and were also enrolled in schools during the day, department spokeswoman Rhonda Burke said in an email.

The fine PSSI paid on Thursday, \$15,138 for each minor, is the maximum allowed under federal law. But investigators believe the company actually employed many more than the 102 children they verified. Under the consent judgment, Looman said, PSSI must identify and remove them from dangerous work.

"Make no mistake, this is no clerical error, or actions of rogue individuals or bad managers," Looman said. "These findings represent

a systemic failure across PSSI's entire organization to ensure that children were not working in violation of the law. PSSI's systems in many cases flagged that these children were too young to work, and yet they were still employed at these facilities."

The company's vice president of marketing, Gina Swenson, said in a statement Friday that the company has "a zero-tolerance policy against employing anyone under the age of 18

As soon as PSSI became aware of the allegations, she said, it conducted audits and hired an outside law firm to help strengthen its policies. PSSI has also conducted additional training for hiring managers, including on spotting identity theft, she said.

None of the minors identified by federal investigators still work for PSSI, and the Department of Labor "has also not identified any managers aware of improper conduct that are currently employed" by the company, Swenson added.

PSSI has said it employs about 17,000 people working at more than 700 locations nationwide, making it one of the largest food-processingplant cleaning companies.

The 13 plants where violations were found were in Arkansas, Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Tennessee and Texas. The ones with the most violations were the JBS plant in Grand Island, Nebraska, where PSSI employed 27 minors; the Cargill plant in Dodge City, Kansas, where 26 children worked; and a JBS plant in Worthington, Minnesota, where 22 minors worked. The Labor Department also searched a Tyson facility in Sedalia, Missouri, but found no verifiable violations there.

The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, which represents meatpacking plant workers, called PSSI "one of the worst actors" in the industry.

"Paying a simple fine is not enough, their entire business model relies on the exploitation of workers, vicious union-busting tactics, and the violation of human rights," Marc Perrone, the union's international president, said in a statement. He called on the meatpacking industry to use its power over contractors like PSSI to end the exploitation of children for good.

GROW YOUR

Military finishes recovering

Chinese balloon debris

By TARA COPP and LOLITA C. BALDOR **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) -The U.S. has finished efforts to recover the remnants of the large balloon that was shot down off the coast of South Carolina, and analysis of the debris so far reinforces conclusions that it was a Chinese spy balloon, U.S. officials said Friday.

Officials said the U.S. believes that Navy, Coast Guard and FBI personnel collected all of the balloon debris off the ocean floor, which included key equipment from the payload that could reveal what information it was able to monitor and collect. White House national security spokesman John Kirby said a significant amount of debris was recovered and it included "electronics and optics" from the payload. He declined to say what, if anything, the U.S. has learned from the wreckage so far.

U.S. Northern Command said in a statement that the recovery operations ended Thursday and the final pieces are on their way to the FBI lab in Virginia for analysis. It said air and maritime restrictions off South Carolina have been lifted.

The announcement capped three dramatic weeks that saw U.S. fighter jets shoot down four airborne objects — the large Chinese balloon on Feb. 4 and three much smaller objects about a week later over Canada, Alaska and Lake Huron. They are the first known peacetime shootdowns of unauthorized objects in U.S. airspace.

The officials also said the search for the small airborne object that was shot

down over Lake Huron has stopped, and nothing has been recovered. U.S. officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military operations. The U.S. and Canada have also failed to recover any debris so far from the other two objects which were shot down over the Yukon and northern Alaska.

While the military is confident the balloon shot down off South Carolina was a surveillance airship operated by China, the Biden administration has admitted that the three smaller objects were likely civilian-owned balloons that were targeted during the heightened response, after U.S. homeland defense



radars were recalibrated to detect slower moving airborne items.

Due to their small size and the remote areas where they were shot down, officials acknowledge that recovering any debris is difficult and probably unlikely. Those last two searches. however, have not been formally called off.

Much of the Chinese balloon fell into about 50 feet of water, and the Navy was able to collect remnants floating on the surface, and divers and unmanned naval vessels pulled up the rest from the bottom of the ocean. Northern Command said Friday that all of the Navy and Coast Guard ships have left the area.

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Local Roundup

County Election Board will meet Tuesday afternoon

The Wells County Election Board will meet at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, in the clerk's office in the Wells County Courthouse, 102 W. Market St.

Topics on the agenda include:

• Commissioner's appointment of the Harrison Township board member.

• A resignation letter from Mick Jackson. • A sample ballot for the 2023 municipal

primary election. • A resolution establishing dates and

hours for in-person absentee voting.

Solid Waste District board to meet Tuesday afternoon

The board of the Wells County Solid Waste District will meet at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Financial matters.
- A confidential shredding agreement.
- NuGenesis agreement.
- Ossian shredding event.
- ^a Supervisor's report.
- 2023 advertising.

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Topics on the agenda include a water adjustment request and personnel matters brought to the board by Clerk-Treasurer Tami Runyon, Fire Chief Don Craig, and Mayor John Whicker.

County Drainage Board will meet Tuesday afternoon

The Wells County Drainage Board will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, ,Feb. 21, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include the setting of a hearing date for a proposed maintenance assessment increase in the Bills Creek watershed in Harrison and Liberty townships, plus project updates and a discussion of miscellaneous drainage matters.

County Commissioners will meet Tuesday afternoon

The Wells County Commissioners will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Discussion of financial matters.

• Appointments with Wells County Sheriff Scott Holliday, Wells County Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar (who will present a truck acquisition resolution), and Wells County Engineer Nate Rumschlag.

 Discussion of a preliminary engineering services agreement for railroad coordination on Wells County Road 200N.

• Bridge 54 agreement.

 Local Roads and Bridges matching grant agreement.

• Tourism Commission board appointments, brought to the board by Chad Kline. • Road use and decommissioning agreement.

• Council on Aging 4th Quarter 2022 invoice

• Jail Status query.

• Right-of-way and utility agreement(s). An executive session will be held immediately after the conclusion of the regular session. During the executive session, which will be closed to the public, the commissioners will discuss the initiation of litigation or litigation that is either pending or has been threatened specifically in writing.

Southern Wells school board will meet Tuesday

The board of the Southern Wells Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, in the high school media center of the SWCS campus.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Spotlight on Raider success.
- Public comments.
- Financial considerations.
- Acceptance of donations.

• Generator, bathroom fixtures, preschool room renovation, and internet service/erate.

• Personnel matters - Certified and classified employees, extra-curricular activities personnel, administrator contracts, and retroactive pay for administrators.

• Discussion of lice policy, classified handbook, Return to Learn, and public comment policy.

- First reading of board policies.
- Conference and field trip requests.
- Superintendent's information.

An executive session will be held at 4:30 p.m. prior to the regular meeting. No information was available as to the topic of the executive session, which will be closed to the public.

Ålso, before the regular meeting, the board will hold a work session on financial considerations and consideration of policies.

Bluffton Common Council will meet Tuesday evening

The Bluffton Common Council will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Topics on the agenda include:

• A presentation by the First Bank of Berne.

• A discussion brought to the council by residents of the Hi-Lo area concerning Praxis.

 Consideration of Additional Appropriation Ordinance 1584.

PSAP advisory board will meet Wednesday morning

The Public Safety Answering Point advisory board will meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

The chief item on the agenda is the director's report.

Brazil's Carnival finally reborn in full form after pandemic

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and DAVID BILLER **Associated Press RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)**

Brazil's Carnival is back. Glittery and outrageous

costumes were prepared again. Samba songs were ringing out 'til dawn at Rio de Janeiro's sold-out parade grounds. Hundreds of raucous, roaming parties were flooding the streets. And working-class communities were buoyed, emotionally and economically, by the renewed revelry.

The COVID-19 pandemic last year prompted Rio to delay Carnival by two months, and watered down some of the fun, which was attended mostly by locals. Brazil's federal government expects 46 million people to join the festivities that officially began Friday and run through Feb. 22. That includes visitors to cities that make Carnival a worldfamous bash, especially Rio but also Salvador, Recife and metropolitan Sao Paulo, which has recently emerged as a hotspot. These cities have already begun letting loose. Many Brazilian mayors, including Rio's, were marking the start of the celebrations on Friday by symbolically handing the keys to their cities to their Carnival Kings. And the first street parties of the Carnival weekend kicked off, with revelers' costumes ranging from Pope Francis to the devil himself. "We've waited for so long, we deserve this catharsis," Thiago Varel-

la, a 38-year-old engineer wearing a Hawaiian shirt drenched by the rain, said at a bash in Sao Paulo.

Most tourists were eager to go to the street parties, known as blocos. Rio has permitted more than 600 of them, and there are more unsanctioned blocos. The biggest blocos lure millions to the streets, including one bloco that plays Beatles songs with a Carnival rhythm for a crowd of hundreds of thousands. Such major blocos were called off last year.

"We want to see the partying, the colors, the people and ourselves enjoying Carnival," Chilean tourist Sofia Umaña, 28, said near Copacabana beach.

The premier spectacle is at the Sambadrome. Top samba schools, which are based in Rio's more working-class neighborhoods, spend millions on hourplus 18,000 paraders. While President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is not expected to be among them, his wife Rosângela da Silva has said she will be at the parade.

The first lady's attendance signals a shift from the administration of former President Jair Bolsonaro, who kept his distance from the nation's marquee cultural event.

Nearly 700,000 Brazilians died in the pandemic, the world's second-highest national total, after the U.S., and many blamed Bolsonaro's response, weakening the bid for reelection that he ultimately lost. Many at this year's street parties are celebrating not just the return of Carnival, but also Bolsonaro's defeat.

That was the case at the Heaven on Earth street party in Rio's bohemian Santa Teresa neighborhood on Feb. 11. Musicians pounded their drums as some revelers climbed fences to watch the scene from above the pulsing throng. Anilson Costa, a stilt-walker, already had a prime view from his elevated perch. Covered in flowers and brightly colored pom-poms, he poured a watering can labeled "LOVE" over people dancing below him. 'Seeing this crowd today is a dream, it's very magical," said Costa. "This is the post-pandemic Carnival, the Carnival of democracy, the Carnival of rebirth." This year shares some of the spirit of the 1919 edition, which took place right after Spanish influenza killed tens of thousands

of Brazilians, but was no longer a significant threat. WWI had just ended, too, and people were eager to unburden themselves, said David Butter, the author of a book about that year's cel-

"There were so many people in Rio's city center for Carnival that the whole

Carnival's cancelation year-long source of jobs for carpenters, welders, sculptors, electricians, dancers, choreographers and everyone else involved in bringing parades to the public. As such, Carnival's full-fledged return is a shot in the arm for local economies.

"Yesterday, I went to sleep at 3 in the morning. Today, I'll leave earlier, because I've lost my voice," said seamstress Luciene Moreira, 60, as she sewed a yellow costume in samba school Salgueiro's warehouse. "You have to sleep later one day, earlier the next; otherwise, the body can't handle it. But it is very enjoyable!"

Rio expects some 5 billion reais (about \$1 billion) in revenue at its bars, hotels and restaurants, the presi dent of the city's tourism agency, Ronnie Costa, told the AP. Rio's hotels are at 85 percent capacity, according to Brazil's hotel association, which expects last-minute deals to bring that figure near to its max. Small businesses are benefiting, too.

"Carnival is beautiful, people are buying, thank God all my employees are paid up to date," said Jorge Francisco, who sells sequined and sparkled Carnival accoutrements at his shop in downtown Rio. "For me, this is an immense joy, everyone smiling and wanting. That's how Carnival is."



region ran out of water within hours," said Butter. in 2021 and its lower-key version last year pummeled an industry that is a nearly

ebration.

long parades with elaborate floats and costumes, said Jorge Perlingeiro, president of Rio's league of samba schools.

"What's good and beautiful costs a lot; Carnival materials are expensive," Perlingeiro said in an interview in his office beside the samba schools' warehouses. "It's such an important party ... It's a party of culture, happiness, entertainment, leisure and, primarily, its commercial and social side."

He added that this year's Carnival will smash records at the Sambadrome, where some 100,000 staff and spectators are expected each day in the sold-out venue,

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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC General Services Administration (GSA) Sale Thurs., Feb. 23, 12pm. View vehicles in person on Feb. 22, 2pm until 5pm and Feb. 23, 8am-12pm. View up to date listing at www.indianaautoauction.net or www.autoauctions.gsa.gov. (A)

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FOOD SERVICE Food Service position available at the Wells Community Boys & Girls Club in Bluffton, IN. Key roles include, but not limited to: meal preparation and serving, maintain inventory control, prepare menus, or der food, verify that prepared meals meet requirement for quality and quantity, prepare and maintain all records required by the Indiana State Food Service Programs. Must have knowledge work ing with Excel spreadsheets For more information, contact Sue or Vicki (260) 824-5070 https://wellscommunityboysg rlsclub.com/

THE CITY OF Bluffton is accepting applications for a Water Treatment Operator. High school diploma or equivalent required. The City utilizes E-Verify and follows EEOC guidelines. Applications may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's Office, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, IN between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday or on our website www.blufftonindiana.net.

CHILDCARE TEACHER Fulltime infant teacher/Fulltime toddler teacher.

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BLUFFTON POLICE DE-PARTMENT Now Hiring! The Bluffton Police Department is accepting applications for the position of police officer. Applicant must be 21 years of age by close of application date, but less than 40; have a high school diploma; two-year college degree or equivalent (60 hours), or three years of work experience in police related field or an ILEA Basic graduate or equivalent. Must provide college transcripts. Applicant must possess and maintain a valid Indiana driver's license and responsible work experience. Applicant must pass a background investigation, written test, physical agility test, oral interview, voice stress examination, required statewide baseline physical and psychological examination and drug test. Applications may be picked up at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, 128 E Market St, Bluffton, IN, between the hours of 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or online at blufftonindiana.net. If you have questions about the application process, you may call the Bluffton Police Department at 260-824-3320, Kyle Randall, Chief of Police. Last day to accept applications will be March 31, 2023

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BIDDING CLOSES FEBRUARY 19 STARTING AT 2 P.M. EST · Michael Kolter, estate-owner. Large collection of Currier & Ives, and framed prints, 100+ pieces of ornate antique/vintage furniture, mantels, marble floor lamps, oak flying cabinets, dressers, secretary cabinets, buffets, wash stands, marble top tables & more! Preview by appointment, 815 Adams Street, Decatur. Pick up Feb. 20, 1-5 p.m., Feb. 21, 9 a.m.-noon. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, kjauction.com, 260-724-7402. BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING FEBRUARY

26 STARTING AT 2 P.M. EST - Michael Kolter, estate-owner. Lifetime collector online only auction! 1,000+ lots antique/vintage items including 500+/- bottle collection, cast iron banks, post card collection, Decatur, IN memorabilia, tools & 100's of wood planes, various sizes, & much, much more! Preview Feb. 23, 3-5 p.m., 815 Adams Street, Decatur. Pickup Feb. 27, 1-5 p.m. & Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-noon. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-

724-7402, kjauction.com. FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 5 - (Online Only Auction) – Richard Martarano, seller. 2008 Gulf Stream SuperNova 6400 RV, 2019 Ford diesel F-250SD Lariat Black Widow Edition, 1994 John Deere 750 diesel compact tractor, 3-PT equipment, Artic Cat 500 ATV, "Harley Davidson" tool chest, name brand power & hand tools, riding lawn mowers, electric go kart, new heavy duty pool pumps and supplies. Preview: Feb. 23 and March 2 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian. Pat Carter, sale manager, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006.

LOTS CLOSING MARCH 9 STARTING AT 10 AM EDT - Allen Acres Inc., Kandy Villanueva. Tractor, harvest equipment, planting equipment, tillage, application equipment, farm support items. Inspection: Feb. 25 & March 8, noon-4 P.M., 2413 E Shafer Road Warren, IN. From Warren, travel north on St. Rd. 5 to CR 900S (Salmonie School), turn right (east) go 2 miles to CR 300E, turn right (south) go .3 miles to Shafer road, turn right (west) go .6 miles to farm on left. *Merit Auctions*, 833-273-9300, www.meritauctions.com.

MARCH 10 - 9 a.m. EST - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. 815 Adams Street, Decatur. Live & online truck & equipment auction! Over 500+ lots! Off lease day cabs and sleepers, trailers, variety of trucks, group of 3/4 ton & 1 ton pickup & utility trucks, SUV's, motorcycles, directional bore machines, forklifts, skid steers, shop & construction equipment, 75+ skid steer attachments, 40' container loads of brand new items, more! Preview March 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

MARCH 11 - 10:30 a.m. - Robert Clifton, owner. 2092 E 500 S, Bluffton. From intersection of SR 1 & SR 116 on south side of Bluffton, travel $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south on SR 1 to CR 500 S, then west approx. $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Online bidding available. Tractors, combine, corn head, grain platform, grain cart, semi, hopper bottom trailer, seed tender truck, pickup. Inspection March 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Auction managers: Arden Schrader, 260-229-2442, Al Pfister, 260-760-8922, Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., SchraderAuction.com, 800-451-2709.

MARCH 13 - 6 p.m. ET - Eloise A. Hamrick Trust, farm. Adams County 4-H Park, dining hall, 160 W. Washington Street, Monroe. Property location: 6 miles east of Monroe, IN, Adams County, Blue Creek Township. 78+/- total acres, productive farmland, 62.2+/- tillable acres, 15+/- woods, 0.8+/- non-tillable acres. Soil types: Blount silt loam, Pewamo silty clay, Morley silty clay loam. WAPI: 145.5 corn bu., 44 soybeans bu. Rick Johnloz: 260-827-8181, Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, 800-424-2324. halderman.com.

MARCH 16 - 8 a.m.-6 p.m. ET - online Only - Spaulding Farms LLC, farm. Property location: 3508 E 500 N, Montpelier, IN. 23.57+/- total acres, 22+/- tillable, 1.57+/- other, Blackford Co., Harrison Twp. Soil types: Blount-Glynwood, Pewamo silty clay. WAPI: 141.3 corn bu., 43.5 soybeans bu. Contact us today! Scott Shrader, 765-348-6538, Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181. Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, 800-424-2324, halderman. com.

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Cash4Life — 06-26-36-43-45. Cash Ball: 01 Quick Draw Midday -

03-04-07-08-12-16-23-28-29-30-31-34-38-44-51-65-66-69-75-80, BE: 16

Daily Three-Midday — 01-03-07, SB: 07

Daily Three-Evening -

00-00-02, SB: 03 **Daily Four-Midday** —

08-04-06-02, SB: 07

Daily Four-Evening — 03-01-08-07, SB: 03 **Quick Draw Evening** 01-05-09-11-20-21-23 32-39-40-45-50-52-55-56-

62-63-74-77-80, BE: 52 Hoosier Lotto — Esti-

mated jackpot (for Saturday): \$10.8 million **MEGA MILLIONS**

02-33-38-57-70, Mega Ball: 13, Megaplier: 3X **POWERBALL** Estimated jackpot (for

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NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS ESTATE NO. 90001-2302-EU-000003 THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

WELLS COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that MARK L. PURCELL was on the 3rd day of February, 2023, appoint-ed as Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF LAWRENCE T. PURCELL, deceased, who died on the 1st day of September, 2022. All persons who have claims

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	Local Fund	Cash & Local Fund Name	Investments Co Beg Cash & Inv Bal	ombined Statemo	ent - 2022	Ending Cash & Inv Bal
contains	S Number		Jan. 1, 2022	Receipts	Disbursements	Dec. 31, 2022
	Government	al Activities				
	1001	General	\$46,435.34	\$53,286.86	\$55,468.78	\$44,253.42
	2001	MVH	\$76,343.56	\$22,465.66	\$21,540.00	\$77,269.22
	2002	LR&S	\$13,496.75	\$1,946.75	\$950.00	\$14,493.50
1	2042	Riverboat	\$15,521.44	\$974.00	\$0.00	\$16,495.44
2	2194	Rainy Day	\$30,946.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,946.75
SI	2476	ARPA Coronovirus	\$21,787.05	\$21,951.99	\$23,739.04	\$20,000.00
	2519	Loit/Public Safety	\$53,470.76	\$4,015.00	\$0.00	\$57,485.76
1	2593	Cedit	\$74,264.37	\$6,847.96	\$614.50	\$80,497.83
1	4049	CCI	\$9,754,79	\$313.99	\$0.00	\$10,068.78
1	Town Of Pon	neto-Sewer			•	· · · · · · ·
	6201	Wastewater Utility	\$51,277.04	\$81,753.07	\$62,967.14	\$70,062.97
1	6202	Bond And Interest	\$17,421.04	\$13,343.00	\$12,290.00	\$18,474.04
	6203	Debt Service Reserve	\$9,856.25	\$3,060.73	\$0.00	\$12,916.98
		Total All Funds	\$420,575.14	\$209,959,01	\$177,569.46	\$452,964,69
	5		<i>•</i>	+	+ · · · ,• • • · · ·	nb 2/18

REQUEST FOR BOT

PROPOSALS PROPOSALS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Bluffton, Indi-ana, by and through its Board of Public Works and Safety, herein-after referred to as the Owner, will receive sealed proposals for: receive sealed proposals for: CITY OF BLUFFTON

BID PACKAGE E NEW BIOSOLIDS FACILITY (WW PROJECT 8A)

Proposals may be forwarded by registered mail addressed to the Owner in care of the Board of Public Works and Safety, City Hall, **128 East Market Street**, Bluffton, IN 46714 or delivered in person to the **proposal opening** and will be considered by the Owner at an open public and regular scheduled Board of Works & Safety Meeting called to receive and open such proposals, provided the same shall **4:30 pm**, local prevailing time, on **March 14, 2023** at the City Hall, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, IN 46714. Proposals received after the opening process has begun will be returned unopened. Proposals shall be submitted in an enclosed opaque sealed enve-lope, marked "BID PACKAGE - NEW BIOSOLIDS FACILITY (WW PROJECT 8A)". Proposals will be evaluated, and it is the intent that an award of contract be made within ninety (90) days of the date of receiving proposals. This Project involves the devel-

opment, design and construction of a new Biosolids Facility in Bluff ton, Indiana and will use the Build Operate Transfer (BOT) deliver method to the Owner (per IAC 5-23-3-1). Offeror to develop, design and construct a new Biosolid Facility within the existing Bluffton wastewater treatment plant facility. Additionally, Offer-or to assist Owner and Owner's Engineer in the design, selection of sludge drying processes and equipment, and assist in start-up and operation of the new facility. Offeror to show experience in the implementation construction and operation of biosolid facility construction, operation, and management.

The BOT Offeror, its Contrac-tors and Sub-Contractors are required to pay not less than the **Federal Wage Scale** published by the U.S. Department of Labor. Project will be funded by a loan through Indiana Finance Authority and administered by the Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF). All

after referred to as the Owner, will

CITY OF BLUFFTON BID PACKAGE C COLLECTION SYSTEM PIPE AND MANHOLE LINING

(WW PROJECT 7)

registered mail addressed to the

Owner in care of the Board of Pub-lic Works and Safety, **City Hall**, **128 East Market Street**, Bluffton,

IN 46714 or delivered in person to

the bid opening and will be consid-ered by the Owner at an open pub-

lic and regular scheduled Board of Works & Safety Meeting called to receive and open such bids, pro-

vided the same shall have been

received not later than 4:30 PM,

local prevailing time, on Tuesday, March 14th, 2023 at the City Hall,

128 East Market Street, Bluffton, IN

46714. Bids received after the bid

opening process has begun will be returned unopened. Bids shall be

submitted in an enclosed opaque sealed envelope, marked "BID PACKAGE C – COLLECTION SYSTEM PIPE AND MANHOLE

LINING (WW PROJECT 7)". Bids will be evaluated, and it is the intent

that an award of contract be made

place lining of approximately 26,700 linear feet of 8" sanitary

sewer, 4,300 linear feet of 10

sanitary sewer, 500 linear feet of

12" sanitary sewer, 1,400 linear feet of 15" sanitary sewer, 2,000

linear feet of 18" sanitary sewer, and 4,000 linear feet of 24" sani-

tary sewer, lining of approxi-mately 1,600 vertical feet of sani-

tary manholes, and any appli-cable site restoration. Alternate

Bids include cast-in-place lining of 10" to 16" diameter siphon

barrels and additional lining of

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 1:00 PM local time on *Feb*-*ruary 27, 2023* at the City Hall, 128 East Market Street, Bluff-ton, Indiana 46714. Attendance at the Brebid Conference is strongly

the Prebid Conference is strongly

Contractors and Sub-Contrac-tors are required to pay not less

than the **Federal Wage Scale** published by the U.S. Department

of Labor. Project will be funded by

a loan through Indiana Finance Authority and administered by the

Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF). Bidders and selected con-

tractor must meet requirements for

The work to be performed and the bids submitted, including any

and all separate and combina-tion bids, shall include sufficient

and proper sums for all General,

Construction, Mechanical, Electri-

cal, Installation, Labor, Materials, Tools, Equipment, Taxes (both Fed-eral and State), Permits, Licenses,

a SRF funded project.

encouraged but is not mandatory.

This work involves cast-in-

within 90 days of the bid opening.

Bids may be forwarded by

receive sealed bids for:

BOT Offerors and contractors, and segregated Facilities) sub-contractors must meet require-ments for a SRF funded project.

The project construction fees shall include General, Construction, Process, Mechanical, Electri-cal, Installation, Labor, Materials, Tools, Equipment, Taxes (both Fed-eral and State), Permits, Licenses, Insurance, Service Costs, and so forth, incident to and required for

Each Offeror is responsible for inspecting the Project Site and for reading and being thoroughly famil-iar with the Contract Documents and Specifications. The failure or omissions of any Offeror to do any of the foregoing shall in no way relieve the Offeror from any obliga-

tion with to its Proposal. Each Proposal shall be accompanied by a Certified Check or acceptable Bidder's Bond made of not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount of the highest aggregate proposal, which check or bond will be held by the Owner as evidence that the Bidder will, if awarded a contract or contracts, enter into the same with the Owner upon notification from him to do so within fourteen (14) days of said notification.

Approved Performance and Payment Bonds guaranteeing faithful and proper performance of the work and materials, to be executed by an acceptable surety company, will be required of each Offeror at the time of contract execution. The bond will be in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price and must be in full force and effect for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of written acceptance of and final payment of the work. Failure to execute a contract and to furnish a Performance and Payment Bond as hereinafter set out will be cause for forfeiture to the Owner of the amount of money represented by the Certified Check or Bidder's Bond, as and for liquidated damages

Project will be funded by a loan through Indiana Finance Authority and administered by the Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF). BOT Offeror and its contractor(s) and sub-contractors must comply with the current Consolidated Appropriations Act and all requirements of the SRF Loan Programs, the Indi-ana Finance Authority and State of Indiana which include, among oth-

2. **OEE-2** (Notice to Labor Unions or Other Organizations of Workers Nondiscrimination In Employment) 3. Davis-Bacon Act and relat-

ed laws and regulations apply for wages

a) A copy of the applicable Davis-Bacon wage determination will be included in all contracts and subcontracts for work

b) A copy of the wage deter-mination and the Davis-Bacon poster (WH-1321) will be posted at all times by the contractor and subcontractors at the Project site in a prominent and accessible place where it can be easily seen by workers.

c) All contracts and subcon-tracts for work will include terms and conditions similar to those provided in Attachments A-D in the Project Manual. 4. Project includes U.S. EPA

Green Project Reserve Compo-nents (GPR), contracts to include and provide portion of their bid allo-cated to GPR components.

5. Contract to include "Sus-pension and Debarment" provi-sions, terms, and conditions as noted in Attachment E of the Project Manual.

6. Successful Offeror and owner-contractor agreement is subject to compliance to the H.R. 3547 "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014", commonly referred to as the "American Iron and Steel'

act and provision. No proposals shall be with-drawn after the opening of pro-posals without the consent of the Owner for a period of ninety (90)

days after the scheduled time of receiving same. Starting Wednesday, Febru-ary 22, 2023, Project Request for Proposal and documents (drawings and project manual) can be purchased through APC can be purchased through ARC, 455 Fernhill Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46805, Phone (260) 483-8066, fortwayne.orders@e-arc.com. Request for Proposal documents and preliminary drawings are avail-able for viewing at the office of the Engineer, DLZ Indiana, LLC, 825 S. Engineer, DL2 Indiana, LLC, 825 S. Barr Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802; and the Owner, City Hall, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, IN 46714. CITY OF BLUFFTON BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

AND SAFETY, By: /s/ Tami Runyon,

Clerk Treasurer nb 2/18, 2/25

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN amount of the highest aggregate that the **City of Bluffton, Indi-ana**, by and through its Board of Public Works and Safety, herein-

Public Works and Safety, herein-after referred to as the Owner, will receive sealed bids for: CITY OF BLUFFTON BID PACKAGE F WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS (MW PRO JECT 89)

(WW PROJECT 8B) Bids may be forwarded by registered mail addressed to the Owner in care of the Board of Public Works and Safety, **City Hall**, **128 East Market Street**, Bluffton, IN 46714 or delivered in person to the bid opening and will be consid-ered by the Owner at an open public and regular scheduled Board of Works & Safety Meeting called to receive and open such bids, pro-vided the same shall have been received not later than 4:30 PM, local prevailing time, on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at the City Hall, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, IN 46714. Bids received after the bid opening process has begun will be returned unopened. Bids shall be submitted in an enclosed opaque sealed envelope, marked "BID PACKAGE F – WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVE-MENTS (WW PROJECT 8B)". Bids will be evaluated, and it is the intent that an award of contract be made within 90 days of the bid

opening. This work involves improvements and upgrades to the exist-ing Bluffton Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment of a peak daily flow of 13 MGD includ na but no limited to

proposal, which check or bond will be held by the Owner as evidence that the Bidder will, if awarded a contract or contracts, enter into the same with the Owner upon notifica-tion from him to do so within four-

teen (14) days of said notification. Approved Performance and Payment Bonds guaranteeing faith-ful and proper performance of the work and materials, to be executed by an acceptable surety company, will be required of each Contractor at the time of contract execution. The bond will be in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price and must be in full force and effect for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of written acceptance of and final pay-ment of the work.

Failure to execute a contract and to furnish a Performance and Payment Bond as hereinafter set out will be cause for forfeiture to the Owner of the amount of money represented by the Certified Check or Bidder's Bond, as and for liquidated damages.

Project will be funded by a loan through Indiana Finance Authority and administered by the Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF). Bid-ders and selected (lowest, most responsive/responsible) contractor must comply with the current Consolidated Appropriations Act and all bidding requirements of the SRF Loan Programs, the Indiana Finance Authority and State of Indiana which include, among others,

the following: 1. OEE-1 (Certification of Non-

against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. DATED AT BLUFFTON, INDI-

ANA, THIS 3rd DAY OF February, 2023.

Beth Davis CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA nb 2/11, 2/18 hspaxlp

90C01-2302-EU-000004 STATE OF INDIANA WELLS COUNTY IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT IN THE MATTER OF THE) ESTATE OF PATTI SUE SPARKS, Deceased

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED

ADMINISTRATION Notice is hereby given that DOUGLAS R. SPARKS was, on the 3rd day of February, 2023, appointed personal representa-tive of the estate of **PATTI SUE** SPARKS, deceased, who died on January 6, 2023, and was authorized to administer said estate without court supervision.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice. or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 6th day of February, 2023. Beth Davis Clerk, Wells Circuit Court Timothy K. Babcock Attorney No. 21526-90 DALE, HUFFMAN & BABCOCK 30 Premier Avenue Bluffton, Indiana 46714 (260) 824-5566 Attorney for Estate

nb 2/11, 2/18 hspaxlp

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Temporary electrical and controls, temporary chemical feed system, demolition of existing struc-tures and buildings, influent flow structure modifications, new influ-ent pump station, new oxidation ditch, new circular clarifiers with splitter box, scum grinder station, new RAS/WAS pump station, new gravity thickener with sludge pump station, new non-potable water sys-tem, modification to existing UV structure including new post-aeration system, new buildings (electrical building, plant control building, chemical feed building, and main-tenance building), electrical and SCADA upgrades, site utilities and improvements, and all appurtenance work

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 1:00 PM local time on Feb-ruary 20, 2023 at the City Hall, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana 46714. Attendance at the Prebid Conference is strongly encouraged but is not mandatory.

Site visits to the Wastewa-ter Treatment Plant are available on Monday, February 20, 2023 (10:00 AM-11:30 AM <u>and</u> 3:00 PM-4:00 PM).

Contractors and Sub-Contractors are required to pay not less than the **Federal Wage Scale** published by the U.S. Department of Labor. Project will be funded by a loan through Indiana Finance Authority and administered by the Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF). Bidders and selected contractor must meet requirements for SRF funded project

The work to be performed and the bids submitted, including any and all separate and combination bids, shall include sufficient and proper sums for all General, Construction, Mechanical, Electrical, Installation, Labor, Materials, Tools, Equipment, Taxes (both Federal and State), Permits, Licenses, Insurance, Service Costs, and so forth, incident to and required for the construction of the facilities.

Each Bidder is responsible for inspecting the Project Site and for reading and being thoroughly familiar with the Contract Documents and Specifications. The failure or omissions of any Bidder to do any of the foregoing shall in no way relieve the Bidder from any obligation with to its Bid.

All materials furnished, and labor performed incident to and required for the proper and satis-factory execution of the contracts shall be furnished and performed in accordance with the requirements of the contract documents as defined in the General Conditions of the Construction Contract, and any addenda thereto, prepared by the Engineer, DLZ Indiana, LLC. Said drawings are on file for view-Said drawings are on tile for view-ing in the office of the following: <u>Engineer, 825 S. Barr Street, Fort</u> <u>Wayne, IN 46802; and the Owner,</u> <u>City Hall, 128 East Market Street,</u> <u>Bluffton, IN 46714.</u> Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check or accept-ble Bidder's Bend made payable

able Bidder's Bond made payable to the Owner, in a sum of not less than five percent (5%) of the total 2. OEE-2 (Notice to Labor Unions or Other Organizations of Workers Nondiscrimination In

Employment) 3. Davis-Bacon Act and related laws and regulations apply for wages.

a) A copy of the applicable Davis-Bacon wage determination will be included in all contracts and subcontracts for work.

b) A copy of the wage deter-mination and the Davis-Bacon poster (WH-1321) will be posted at all times by the contractor and subcontractors at the Project site in a prominent and accessible place where it can be easily seen by workers.

c) All contracts and subcontracts for work will include terms and conditions similar to those provided in Attachments A-D in the Project Manual.

4. Project includes U.S. EPA 4. Project includes 0.5. LTC Green Project Reserve Compo-nents (GPR), bidders to include and provide portion of their bid allo-cated to GPR components.

5. Contract to include "Suspension and Debarment" provisions terms and conditions as noted in Attachment E of the Project Manual.

6. Successful bidder and owner-contractor agreement is subject to compliance to the H.R. 3547 "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014", commonly referred to as the "American Iron and Steel" act and provision

Bids shall be properly and completely executed on bid forms proided by the Engineer which shall include the Non-Collusion Affidavit. Each bid shall also include the revised Indiana Questionnaire Form No. 96, all as required by Statute. Responsible bidder shall show experience is the construction of public sanitary sewer facili-ties and must be qualified by either the state certification board or the Indiana Department of Transportation.

No bids shall be withdrawn after the opening of bids without the consent of the Owner for a period of sixty (90) days after the scheduled time of receiving same.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid, or all bids, or to accept any bid or bids, or to make combination of bids as may seem desirable, and to waive any and all

informalities in the bidding. Starting on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, the Project Drawings Project Manual, Technical Specifications, and all bid documents can be purchased through ARC, 455 Fernhill Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46805, Phone (260) 483-8066, <u>fort-</u> wayne.orders@e-arc.com. Plans are available for public viewing at 825 South Barr Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana (260.420.3114); and at the City of Bluffton, at the City Hall, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, IN 46714

46714. CITY OF BLUFFTON **BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS** AND SAFETY, By: /s/ Tami Runyon, **Clerk Treasure** nb 2/11, 2/18

hspaxlp

ers, the following: 1. **OEE-1** (Certification of Non-

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS Insurance, Service Costs, and so forth, incident to and required for that the City of Bluffton, Indithe construction of the facilities. ana, by and through its Board of Public Works and Safety, herein-

Each Bidder is responsible for inspecting the Project Site and for reading and being thoroughly famil-iar with the Contract Documents and Specifications. The failure or omissions of any Bidder to do any of the foregoing shall in no way relieve the Bidder from any obligation with to its Bid

All materials furnished, and labor performed incident to and required for the proper and satis-factory execution of the contracts shall be furnished and performed in accordance with the requirements of the contract documents as defined in the General Conditions of the Construction Contract, and any addenda thereto, prepared by the Engineer, DLZ Indiana, LLC. Said drawings are on file for viewing in the office of the following: Engineer, 825 S. Barr Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802; and the Owner, City Hall, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, IN 46714.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check or acceptable Bidder's Bond made payable to the Owner, in a sum of not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount of the highest aggregate proposal, which check or bond will be held by the Owner as evidence that the Bidder will, if awarded a contract or contracts, enter into the same with the Owner upon notification from him to do so within fourteen (14) days of said notification.

Approved Performance and Payment Bonds guaranteeing faithful and proper performance of the work and materials, to be executed by an acceptable surety company, will be required of each Contractor at the time of contract execution. The bond will be in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price and must be in full force and effect for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of written acceptance of and final payment of the work.

Failure to execute a contract and to furnish a Performance and Payment Bond as hereinafter set out will be cause for forfeiture to the Owner of the amount of money represented by the Certified Check or Bidder's Bond, as and for liqui-

dated damages. Project will be funded by a loan through Indiana Finance Authority and administered by the Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF). Bidders and selected (lowest, most responsive/responsible) contractor must comply with the current Consolidated Appropriations Act and all bidding requirements of the SRF Loan Programs, the Indiana Finance Authority and State of Indiana which include, among others,

the following: 1. **OEE-1** (Certification of Non-

2. OEE-2 (Notice to Labor Unions or Other Organizations of Workers Nondiscrimination In Employment)

3. Davis-Bacon Act and related laws and regulations apply for wages

a) A copy of the applicable Davis-Bacon wage determination will be included in all contracts and subcontracts for work.

b) A copy of the wage deter-mination and the Davis-Bacon poster (WH-1321) will be posted at all times by the contractor and subcontractors at the Project site in a prominent and accessible place where it can be easily seen by workers

c) All contracts and subcontracts for work will include terms and conditions similar to those provided in Attachments A-D in the Project Manual.

4. Project includes U.S. EPA Green Project Reserve Compo-nents (GPR), bidders to include and provide portion of their bid allo-cated to GPR components.

5. Contract to include "Suspension and Debarment" provisions, terms and conditions as noted in Attachment E of the Project Manual

6. Successful bidder and own er-contractor agreement is subject to compliance to the H.R. 3547 "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014", commonly referred to as the 'American Iron and Steel" act

and provision. Bids shall be properly and com-pletely executed on bid forms provided by the Engineer which shall include the Non-Collusion Affidavit. Each bid shall also include the revised Indiana Questionnaire Form No. 96, all as required by Statute. Responsible bidder shall show experience is the construction of public sanitary sewer facili-ties and must be qualified by either the state certification board or the Indiana Department of Transportation

No bids shall be withdrawn after the opening of bids without the con-sent of the Owner for a period of sixty (90) days after the scheduled

time of receiving same. The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid, or all bids, or to accept any bid or bids, or to make combination of bids as may seem desirable, and to waive any and all

informalities in the bidding. Starting Wednesday, Febru-ary 22, 2023 at 10 AM, the Project Drawings, Project Manual, Technical Specifications, and all bid nical Specifications, and all bid documents can be purchased through ARC, 455 Fernhill Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46805, Phone (260) 483-8066, fortwayne.orders@e-arc.com. Plans are available for public viewing at DLZ 825 South Barr Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana (260.420.3114); and at the City of Bluffton, at the City Hall, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, IN 46714. CITY OF BLUFFTON BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY, By: /s/ Tami Runyon,

/s/ Tami Runyon, **Clerk Treasure**

nb 2/18, 2/25 hspaxlp

hspaxlp

My family's turned their backs on me

Dear Annie: My biological family wants nothing to do with me or my new wife. Our story is long. My sons, their wives and children are all very mad at me for saying and doing a few things they didn't like. I have said I was very sorry, but nothing will ever change. I left their mother because of her anger problems, so that's two strikes against me. My middle son has even threatened legal action if I say anything else, so it seems like that's it. Any words of advice? - Forgotten anymore. What Father

Dear Forgotten Father: While you don't specify what actions have incited this domino effect, there's no doubt that turmoil among family members is potentially a tragedy. As difficult as it ing to regain your trust and prove he's is to do nothing, it sounds as though you've already said all that you can to make amends but that your family may not be in a place yet to hear it. Considering your divorce and your son's legal threats, the path forward seems clear: keep your head down and lay low for the foreseeable future while everyone cools off and comes to terms with your new family dynamic.

Whether it's through a text, phone call, letter or face-to-face conversation, assure your loved ones that you'll always be there for them, willing to talk whenever they are, and let them come to you when they are ready. Someday, hopefully, they will be.

Dear Annie: I've been married to my husband for five years. We have been together for over 25 years, at first as distant friends. I caught him cheating three years into our marriage with another woman and forgave him. He said he would never do it again and was sorry for hurting me, but now that that's over, he still lies about where he goes and he stays out late.

I recently had foot surgery and am at home on bedrest; my husband stays

gone until late, comes home and goes to bed. I have moved in with my sister because I need proper care post-procedure, and all he had to say about it was that my family is controlling me. I can't trust him do you think I should do? -AWife Who's Lost

Her Footing Dear Lost Footing: Instead of workcapable of change, your husband has taken your graciousness for granted. He broke a vow two years ago when he was first unfaithful to you, and now he's cast another promise aside: in sickness and in health. While I'm glad your sister has helped see you through your recovery, your husband's absence during this time is both disheartening and unacceptable.

Dear

Annie

by Annie Lane

If you're willing to give things another shot, see if your husband would be open to attending marriage counseling. The issues you're currently facing run deeper than here and now, and only by repairing the cracks in your foundation will you have any chance of going the distance.

"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.

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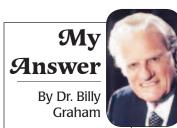
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Q: We live in a petcrazed society and it's good for my business since I'm a veterinarian. But while I'd do anything for the animal kingdom, I won't worship it. I also teach a Bible class and am shocked to see how people are convincing themselves that animals have souls. No one is teaching that man is trichotomous and animals are dichotomous,

Animals among God's many gifts to man

creature according to its kind.... And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:24-25). But the Bible is clear that only mankind was created in

the very image of God (Genesis 1:27). God gave animals to us for a purpose, because in the days of Noah, God preserved every kind of animal on the ark so they would inhabit the land again. Animals are among God's many diverse gifts to man. Who doesn't

to think of Jesus riding the colt of a donkey into Jerusalem -- and we wait breathlessly for His appearance on a white horse from Heaven (Revelation 19:11). Scripture speaks of the day that the wolf will live with the lamb. In that day, death and evil will be destroyed, perfect peace will reign, and everything that has breath will praise Him (Psalm 150:6). But the Bible makes clear that Jesus died for the sins

yet there are people who claim the Bible teaches that animals are equal to mankind. -A.C.

A: God's creation story is the first miraculous account in the Bible, which includes His creation of animals – a snapshot of His original handiwork: "Let the earth bring forth the living

smile while watching chimpanzees mimic one another?

We boast of "man's best friend" because a faithful dog will protect its owner at all cost. Fish are a source of food, and we love to envision Jesus sharing broiled fish with His disciples (Luke 24:42-43). We marvel

of mankind, sacrificing Himself on the cross for the souls of men, women, boys, and girls.

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

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