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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023

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Celestial 'kiss'

It's not too late to notice Jupiter and Venus in the western evening sky. The planets will appear in what is called a celestial kiss, or a conjunction. Tonight and Thursday night, the planets will be the closest, almost appearing to collide. (Photo by Carrie Penrod)

Northern Wells Pre-K programs are hoping to be On My Way

By GLEN WERLING

They're on their way to On My Way. Members of the Northern Wells Community Schools Board learned from Ossian Elementary School Principal Dee De Larkey the steps that Ossian and Lancaster elementary preschools are taking to qualify for participation in the Brighter Futures Indiana Paths to QUALITY and the Family and Social Services Administration On My Way Pre-K programs.

On My Way Pre-K awards grants to 4-year-old students from low-income families so that they may have access to a high-quality pre-K program the year before they begin kindergarten.

Currently the Northern Wells Pre-K program is self-funded, meaning it receives no state tuition support like the other grades receive.

The Pre-K programs are trying to achieve Level 3 of the Brighter Futures Indiana Paths to QUALITY which also qualifies the Northern Wells Pre-K program for stipends for materials and supplies. It also networks Northern Wells' Pre-K teachers with professional development opportunities.

To reach Level 3, the pre-school must first achieve Legally Licensed Exempt Provider status and demonstrate compliance with 33 safety standards.

Standards that Northern Wells currently is not doing, but will be, include testing children for tuberculosis and a national fingerprint background check for pre-school employees, Larkey said.

"Once we become LLEP certified, then we can start on our Paths to Quality," Larkey explained. Since Northern Wells already meets the requirements of the different paths, Larkey said she hopes that the pre-schools can move through the process relatively quickly.

"Once we qualify as Pathways to Quality Level 3, we can qualify as an On My Way provider," Larkey said, adding, "On My Way opens up a lot of different avenues. We get access to professional development and staff training. We get support from our local On My Way coordinator. Families will be provided more wrap-around services and we would receive weekly reimbursements for students who attend our school."

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Board of Works is urged to add personnel and reporting

By DAVE SCHULTZ

Two men who hold leadership positions in Bluffton's city government urged that the Board of Works and Public Safety make changes in how it does its business.

The first one to express his concerns was Chandler Gerber, who has been a member of the Bluffton Common Council since the end of November. He strongly recommended that two additional people be added to the city payroll to ease the burden that has been placed upon two individuals — Utilities Superintendent Jon Oman and City Engineer Kelly White.

Moments later, Josh Hunt, who has been a member of the Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety since the end of November and is also a member of the Bluffton Common Council, wants more regular reporting from department heads and White on where things stand when it comes to the city's several and various projects that are now underway or will be underway in the future.

Gerber — who routinely attends the Board of Works meetings, even though he is not a member — pointed out that the city has 100 employees but that it doesn't have a dedicated human resources person. Instead, a member of the clerk-treasurer's office handles those matters.

Also, Gerber said, the sheer number of city projects cries out for someone to assume primary responsibility for the projects that White is involved with.

The goal, Gerber said, would be to ease the burden on Oman and White going forward. He said the those two individuals are doing "commendable" work, but he said he was "concerned they're going to get burned out."

Gerber was chosen by a Republican caucus to serve out the term of Roger Thornton, who was elected in 2019 to the 1st District seat on the council. Mayor John Whicker appointed Thornton to the Board of Works.

Hunt was appointed to replace Thornton on the Board of Works and Gerber succeeded Thornton on the council. He made note that Thornton had said an individual to provide business leadership when it came to city projects — "some kind of a business manager" was the way he put it — would be beneficial.

He said that when White was hired as the city's first-ever engineer, she was plugged into a very busy situation with several projects demanding a share of her time. Gerber said that White was being forced "to drink water out of a fire hose."

Adding the two positions he mentioned could save the city money because those tasks would not require the city to hire consultants to do the work. "I think that would be best for the taxpayers of Bluffton," Gerber said.

Hunt agreed with Gerber on the need for a dedicated HR person. "I don't know too many 100-employee businesses that do

(Continued on Page 2)

Jack to be offered position of new Ossian police chief

By GLEN WERLING

Kurt Jack will be offered the position of Ossian Police Chief by members of the Ossian Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners.

The board made the 3-0 decision at a regular meeting held Tuesday evening instead of the usual first Tuesday of the month.

Jack, a rural Bluffton resident, is a nearly 40-year veteran of the Indiana State Police, having started with the ISP Dec. 25, 1983.

He's no stranger to Wells County as Wells and Adams counties have been his primary road patrol assignments.

Jack also has several specialty certifications and

secondary assignments for the ISP. He has 31 years of experience as a certified technical crash investigator with vehicle dynamics, and is trained in aircraft crash investigations. Jack has served as a field training officer and background investigator for the Indiana State Police Fort Wayne District. He has been involved in the hiring and training processes for numerous ISP employees.

In 2014 Jack was named the Trooper of the Year for the Fort Wayne Post, and has received awards for safe driving.

He is a 1980 Michigan State University graduate with a bachelor of arts

degree. His law enforcement career first began as a patrol officer with the Elkhart Police Department.

Jack was one of two applicants for the position. The other was interim police chief and long-time Ossian Police Department officer Brian McClish.

"I don't think we could have gone wrong with either candidate," commissioner Bob Miller said, adding that Jack has more management experience.

Commissioner Jay Esparza agreed with Miller that the decision was not an easy one to make.

Commissioner President Caleb Chichester presented

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Drones fly deep inside Russia; Putin orders border tightened

By SUSIE BLANN
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Drones that the Kremlin said were launched by Ukraine flew deep inside Russian territory, including one that got within 60 miles of Moscow, signaling breaches in Russian defenses as President Vladimir Putin ordered stepped-up protection at the border.

Officials said the drones caused no injuries and did not inflict any significant damage, but the attacks on Monday night and Tuesday

morning raised questions about Russian defense capabilities more than a year after the country's full-scale invasion of its neighbor.

Ukrainian officials did not immediately take responsibility, but they similarly have avoided directly acknowledging responsibility for past strikes and sabotage while emphasizing Ukraine's right to hit any target in Russia.

Although Putin did not refer to any specific attacks in a speech in the Russian capital, his comments came hours after the drones tar-

geted several areas in southern and western Russia. Authorities closed the airspace over St. Petersburg in response to what some reports said was a drone.

Also Tuesday, several Russian television stations aired a missile attack warning that officials blamed on a hacking attack.

The drone attacks targeted regions inside Russia along the border with Ukraine and deeper into the country, according to local Russian authorities.

A drone fell near the village

of Gubastovo, less than 60 miles from Moscow, Andrei Vorobyov, governor of the region surrounding the Russian capital, said in an online statement.

The drone did not cause any damage, Vorobyov said, but it likely targeted "a civilian infrastructure object."

Pictures of the drone showed it was a small Ukrainian-made model with a reported range of up to nearly 500 miles but no capacity to carry a large load of explosives.

Russian forces early Tues-

day shot down another Ukrainian drone over the Bryansk region, local Gov. Aleksandr Bogomaz said in a Telegram post.

Three drones also targeted Russia's Belgorod region on Monday night, with one flying through an apartment window in the capital, local authorities reported. Regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said the drones caused minor damage to buildings and cars.

The Russian Defense Ministry said Ukraine used drones to attack

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Outside

Mostly sunny today with slight wind gusts

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 63	High 48	High 48
Low 35	Low 33	Low 30

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Online

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Northern Wells Pre-K

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In other business, school board members Angie Topp, Gene Donaghy, Corey Krug, Chad Kline and Traci Neuschwander:

- Gave Superintendent Mike Springer permission to advertise for bids for a new high school baseball concessions and restroom building.
- Recognized the seventh and eighth grade girls basketball teams and the seventh grade boys basketball teams for winning Northeast 8 conference championships. Board members Chad Kline observed that the eighth grade girls team, in the conference championship game, handed the eighth grade girls from East Noble their first loss ever playing middle school basketball. The seventh grade boys finished 20-2 and the seventh grade girls finished 20-3.
- Recognized the state qualifying

members of the Norwell boys and girls swim teams.

- Recognized Ossian Elementary fifth grade students from Beth Malley's class who participated in a Bill of Rights project. Students completed art and essay projects and entered the projects into the U.S. Courts Third Annual Bill of Rights Day student contest. Students in grades fifth through eighth within the 7th and 8th Circuit Court Districts in 10 different states were competing for a cash prize.

Elias Nussbaum submitted a chalk drawing and artist statement and was a finalist. He represented the Northern District of Indiana. Also Grant Keller, Nolan Hitzfield, Harrison Koop and George Tucker received honorable mention for their Bill of Rights game show video.

- Approved a leave of absence for eighth grade teacher Kandi Riley.

- Accepted the resignation of Unified Track and Field coach Sue Elzey.
- Hired Travis Markley and Sydney Scherrer as girls softball volunteer assistant coaches; Bruce Imel and Mike Niermeyer as high school boys golf volunteer coaches; Brandon Sink as high school boys golf assistant coach; Lisa Williams as the Unified Track and Field coach; and Alice Easley as a high school interim social studies teacher
- Accepted a \$700 donation from the Wells County Foundation to be given to the Ossian Elementary School library for the purchase of books.
- Received an update on the progress of construction at Norwell Middle School.

The next regular meeting of the board is set for 5:30 p.m. March 14 at the administration office, 312 N. Jefferson St., Ossian.

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Board of Works

(Continued from Page 1)

not have an HR person," he said.

Hunt also agreed with Gerber about the need for a business manager, noting that Oman has been handling much of that responsibility.

Hunt spoke of the difficulty of serving on the Board of Works with events swirling around him. "The city is in a rebuild of aging infrastructure," he said. He wants to be provided with more information from White and the city's department heads about what's going on — both on a day-to-day basis and what could require the attention of city

leaders in the future.

"These complex public works projects require planning, design, execution, and punch lists to be completed," Hunt said. "I propose that the Board of Works is kept up to speed on all projects no matter what phase the project is in."

Hunt requested weekly updates from White and from the department heads on the week's operations.

Scott Mentzer, who — like Hunt — serves on both the Board of Works and the Common Council, agreed with Hunt. "Let's have Kelly as a standing agenda item," he said, referring to the Board of Works agenda.

"Let's have her give us a rundown."

No action was taken regarding adding two employees, but all agreed more reporting to the Board of Works would be helpful.

"In the end, I want to make sure we are putting our best foot forward and executing to the best of our ability," Hunt said.

In other business before the Board of Works Tuesday:

- The board members — Whicker, Mentzer, and Hunt — formally approved Street Commissioner Tim Simpson's recommendation that the contract for the city's Community Crossings

grant project be awarded to 1st Brooks Construction of Fort Wayne. The company had the lowest bid of \$321,977.56.

- A handicapped parking space was approved for a family in the 200 block of East Central Avenue.

• A water adjustment was approved for a resident in the 1300 block of West Cherry Street. A pipe had broken, but the water flowed into the yard and not into the city's sanitary sewer system. As per protocol, the city split the cost of the water bill with the property owner and also erased the sewer bill.

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Police chief

(Continued from Page 1)

the commissioners with the draft of a letter offering employment to chief candidate to be selected by the board. The letter was missing only the name of the person to whom the offer of the position was going to be made. The letter had already been reviewed by the town's attorney Mike Hartburg, Chichester said.

Chichester reminded the commissioners that the town council had authorized offering up to \$75,000 for the position. "I think we should make an initial offering of \$70,000 and in six months make a formal review and consider an increase at that time."

The other contents of the letter spelled out the benefits package for the position.

The commissioners agreed to give Jack until March 10 to respond and an April 3 start date.

The commissioners also learned from McClish that 19 people have applied for the open officer positions, which is the most applications he has received in awhile. The application period remains open through March 15.

McClish said that some of the names of the applicants he recognizes as having applied with the department before. Miller asked McClish to check the list and see if there are any lat-

eral officers — one who already are employed by a law enforcement agency elsewhere. "If there are laterals we need to reach out to them early and let them know we're interested," Miller said.

No date has yet been set for testing.

The board members also agreed to stick with the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy standards for training of officers after briefly considering possibly lowering the hiring standards in order to attract more candidates.

Esparza made a note that one of the applicants specifically cited the local newspaper as where he first learned

about the applications being accepted by the department.

• Learned that Stylus Productions is seeking an additional amount not to exceed \$1,000 for the installation of the four Watch Guard cameras into the patrol cars. The amount was not included in the company's original bid with the installation of the in-car computers. Chichester asked McClish to get a formal quote before broaching the topic with the town council.

The next regular meeting of the commissioners is set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, at the Collier's Comfort Building, 215 N. Jefferson St.

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Weather

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

(24-hour observations at 9:01 p.m. Tuesday)

High: 46; Low: 37; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 6.52 feet at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 63. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 48. Northeast wind around 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Rain likely, mainly after 1 a.m. Cloudy, with a low around 33. East wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to 15 to 20 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

Friday: Rain. High near 48. Windy. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent. New precipitation amounts between 1 and 2 inches possible.

Friday Night: A 40 percent chance of rain before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. Breezy.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 40.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 52.

Monday Night: A slight chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35.

Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 48.

Drones

(Continued from Page 1)

facilities in the Krasnodar region and neighboring Adygea. It said the drones were brought down by electronic warfare assets, adding that one of them crashed into a field and another diverted from its flight path and missed a facility it was supposed to attack.

Russia's state RIA Novosti news agency reported a fire at the oil facility, and some other Russian reports said that two drones exploded nearby.

While Ukrainian drone strikes on the Russian border regions of Bryansk and Belgorod have become a regular occurrence, other strikes reflected a more ambitious effort.

Some Russian commentators described the drone attacks as an attempt by Ukraine to showcase its capability to strike deep behind the lines, foment tensions in Russia and rally the Ukrainian public. Some Russian war bloggers described the raids as a possible rehearsal for a bigger, more ambitious attack.

Andrei Medvedev, a commentator with Russian state television who serves as a deputy speaker of Moscow's city legislature and runs a popular blog about

the war, warned that the drone strikes could be a precursor to wider attacks within Russia that could accompany Ukraine's attempt to launch a counteroffensive.

Russia hawks urged strong retaliation. Igor Korotchenko, a retired Russian army colonel turned military commentator, called for a punishing strike on the Ukrainian presidential office in Kyiv.

Another retired military officer, Viktor Alksnis, noted that the drone attacks marked the expansion of the conflict and criticized Putin for failing to deliver a strong response.

Also on Tuesday, authorities reported that airspace around St. Petersburg, Russia's second-largest city, was temporarily closed, halting all departures and arrivals at the main airport, Pulkovo. Officials did not give a reason for the move, but some Russian reports claimed that it was triggered by an unidentified drone.

The Russian Defense Ministry said it was conducting air defense drills in western Russia.

Speaking at Russia's main security agency, the FSB, Putin urged the service to tighten security on the Ukraine border.

U.S., World News Roundup

Fiery Greece train collision kills 29, injures at least 85

TEMPE, Greece (AP) — A passenger train in Greece carrying hundreds of people collided with an oncoming freight train in a fiery wreck in the country's north early Wednesday, killing 29 and injuring at least 85, officials said.

Multiple cars derailed and at least three burst into flames after the collision near Tempe, a small town next to a valley where major highway and rail tunnels are located, some 235 miles north of Athens.

Hospital officials in the nearby city of Larissa said at least 25 people had serious injuries.

"The evacuation process is ongoing and is being carried out under very difficult conditions due to the severity of the collision between the two trains," said Vassilis Varthakoyiannis, a spokesman for Greece's firefighting service.

Survivors said several passengers were thrown through the windows of the train cars due to the impact. They said others fought to free themselves after the passenger train buckled, slamming into a field next to the tracks.

Supreme Court seems ready to reject student loan forgiveness

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conservative justices holding the Supreme Court's majority seem ready to sink President Joe Biden's plan to wipe away or reduce student loans held by millions of Americans.

In arguments lasting more than three hours Tuesday, Chief Justice John Roberts led his conservative colleagues in questioning the administration's authority to broadly cancel federal student loans because of the COVID-19 emergency.

Loan payments that have been on hold since the start of the coronavirus pandemic three years ago are supposed to resume no later than this summer. Without the loan relief promised by the Biden plan, the administration's

top Supreme Court lawyer said, "delinquencies and defaults will surge."

Elizabeth Holmes has 2nd child as she tries to avoid prison

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Disgraced Theranos CEO Elizabeth Holmes is citing her recently born child as another reason she should be allowed to delay the start of a more than 11-year prison sentence while her lawyers appeal her conviction for duping investors about the capabilities of her failed company's blood-testing technology.

The birth of Holmes' second child was confirmed in court documents filed last week in advance of a March 17 hearing about her bid to remain free during an appeals process that could take years to complete.

The filing didn't disclose the date of the birth or the child's gender, but the news isn't a surprise. Holmes, 38, was pregnant at the time of her Nov. 18 sentencing in the same San Jose, California, courtroom where a jury convicted her on four felony counts of fraud and conspiracy.

The start of that trial had been delayed so Holmes could give birth to her first child, a son. Holmes had both children with her current partner, William "Billy" Evans. She met Evans after her 2016 break-up with her former lover and business partner, Ramesh "Sunny" Balwani, who was convicted on 12 counts of fraud and conspiracy in a separate trial.

New China committee debuts, warns of 'existential struggle'

WASHINGTON (AP) — A special House committee dedicated to countering China began its work Tuesday with a prime-time hearing in which the panel's chairman called on lawmakers to act with urgency and framed the competition between the U.S. and China as "an existential struggle over what life will look like in the 21st century."

While some critics have expressed concern the hearings could escalate U.S.-Chinese tensions, lawmakers sought to demonstrate unity and the panel's top Democrat made clear that he doesn't want a "clash of civilizations" but a durable peace.

Tensions between the U.S. and China have been rising for years, with both countries enacting retaliatory tariffs on an array of imports during President Donald Trump's time in office. China's opaque response to the COVID-19 pandemic, its aggression toward Taiwan and the recent flight of a possible spy balloon over the U.S. have fueled lawmakers' desire to do more to counter the Chinese government. The new Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party is expected to be at the center of many of their efforts over the next two years.

The committee's chairman, Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Wis., opened the hearing with a call for action. Addressing the difficulty of finding common ground on China-focused legislation, he said the Chinese government has found friends on Wall Street and in lobbyists on Washington's K Street who are ready to oppose the committee's efforts.

What time is it on moon? Europe pushing for lunar time zone

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — With more lunar missions than ever on the horizon, the European Space Agency wants to give the moon its own time zone.

This week, the agency said space organizations around the world are considering how best to keep time on the moon. The idea came up during a meeting in the Netherlands late last year, with participants agreeing on the urgent need to establish "a common lunar reference time," said the space agency's Pietro Giordano, a navigation system engineer.

"A joint international effort is now being launched towards achieving this," Giordano said in a statement.

U.S. sues chemical company over cancer risk to minority area

By MICHAEL PHILLIS and MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal officials sued a Louisiana chemical maker on Tuesday, alleging that it presents an unacceptable cancer risk to the nearby majority-Black community and demanding cuts in toxic emissions.

Denka Performance Elastomer LLC makes synthetic rubber, emitting the carcinogen chloroprene and other chemicals in such high concentrations that it poses an unacceptable cancer risk, according to the federal complaint. Children are particularly vulnerable. There is an elementary school a half-mile from the plant.

The former DuPont plant has reduced its emissions over time, but the Justice Department, suing on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency, said the plant still represents "an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health and welfare," including elevated cancer risks.

Denka, a Japanese company that bought the rubber-making plant in 2015, did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment. A company spokesperson said in September that advocates described a crisis that "simply does not exist."

Denka's facility makes neoprene, a flexible, synthetic rubber used to pro-

duce common goods such as wetsuits, laptop sleeves, orthopedic braces and automotive belts and hoses. Chloroprene is a liquid raw material used to produce neoprene and is emitted into the air from various areas at the facility.

Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta said every community, no matter its demographics, should be able to breathe clean air and drink clean water. "Our suit aims to stop Denka's dangerous pollution," she said in a statement.

The lawsuit demands that Denka eliminate dangerous emissions of chloroprene. Air monitoring consistently shows long-term chloroprene concentrations in the air near Denka's LaPlace plant as high as 15 times the levels recommended for a 70-year exposure to the chemical, the complaint says.

The complaint is the latest move by the Biden administration that targets pollution in an 85-mile stretch from New Orleans to Baton Rouge officially known as the Mississippi River Chemical Corridor, but more commonly called Cancer Alley. The region contains several hot spots where cancer risks are far above levels deemed acceptable by the EPA. The White House has prioritized environmental enforcement in communities overburdened by long-term pollution.

OBITUARIES

Michael P. Shadle, 78

Michael P. Shadle, 78, of Shelbyville, formerly of Montpelier, Zionsville, and Paoli, died Friday, Feb. 24, 2023 at Major Health Partners Hospital in Shelbyville. He was born Feb. 14, 1945, in Muncie.

He married Carolyn (Dixon) Shadle Oct. 15, 1981 in Paoli, Ind.

He is survived by his wife Carolyn (Dixon) Shadle, Shelbyville; son, Michael (Mick) Shadle, Shelbyville; daughters, Tamara Ikon, Shelbyville, Rebecca Schaper, Columbia City, Chelsi (Paul) Stewart, Shelbyville; sister, Connie J. (Ralph) Warner, Poneto; niece, Melissa (Tripp) Powell; nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Herman LeRoy Shadle; mother, Doris Mae (Ruble) Shadle; and infant sister, Julie Shadle.

There will not be any calling or service.

Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

Betty M. Baker, 99

Betty M. Baker, 99 of Bluffton, passed away on Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 28, 2023, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Funeral arrangements are currently pending with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Man shot by Indiana trooper remains in stable condition

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A central Indiana man who was shot by a state trooper he exchanged gunfire with after fleeing from officers remained hospitalized Tuesday in stable condition, police said.

Indiana State Police said Christopher Crouch, 36, of Nineveh was shot Monday morning on Indianapolis' south side by Trooper Nick Price, a 4 1/2-year veteran of the police force.

Crouch was treated at the scene for an apparent gunshot wound and taken to a hospital, state police said in a news release.

Price, who was not injured, has been placed on administrative duty, a routine step following officer-involved shootings.

State police said the investigation of the shooting continues but preliminary findings indicate Crouch, who was wanted on several felony warrants, fled from a hotel as troopers were tracking him.

Crouch left the scene in a car police later determined had been stolen in Terre Haute on Feb. 24. Police said Price briefly pursued Crouch in his police car before Crouch crashed the stolen car into a pond and ran from the scene on foot.

Price pursued Crouch on foot until he noticed he had a gun in his hand and gave Crouch "several commands to drop the weapon before the exchange of gunfire," state police said.

Former southern Indiana youth group leader is indicted

The former director stands accused of wire fraud of more than \$150K

By JON WEBB
Evansville
Courier & Press

DUBOIS COUNTY — The former director of a Southern Indiana youth organization has been indicted on embezzlement charges after federal officials said she used the nonprofit's credit card for more than \$150,000 worth of personal expenses.

Ellen L. Corn, 47, of Petersburg, faces 15 counts of wire fraud. According to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Corn is accused of embezzling \$156,000 over five years from Mentors for Youth, formerly Big Brothers Big Sisters, in Dubois County.

If convicted, she could face up to 20 years in prison. The purchases reportedly took place between March 2017 and August 2022, when Corn stepped down. She has pleaded not guilty.

"She attempted to conceal her unauthorized purchases by not entering them into the accounting software," a news release states. "Corn allegedly used the organization's credit card to purchase goods and services from various businesses, including Amazon, Target, Walmart, and to make payments to colleges."

In a statement, Mentors for Youth Executive Director Erin Kidwell said that since finding out about the

alleged improprieties, the organization has "worked hard to make substantive changes to ensure our policies and procedures will prevent this from occurring in the future."

"While our work in serving at-risk children was never compromised, we are genuinely sorry for any distress this may have caused," Kidwell said.

According to its website, the Jasper-based group takes kids between the ages of 6 and 14 who may not have a "naturally occurring mentor" in their life and matches them with adult volunteers.

According to Dubois County Herald archives, Corn took over as director in March 2017. She made her first appearance in U.S. District Court on Monday.

The indictment, which was also unsealed Monday, claims she used Mentors for Youth's credit card for "personal expenses without authorization," and then turned around and used the organization's checking account to pay off those expenses. She's also accused of using the organization's credit card to buy things through her personal PayPal account.

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

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Monday, 4:25 p.m., Bluffton Regional Medical Center parking lot, 303 S. Main St. Caller reported someone scribbled a racial slur on the hood of her car.

Monday, 5:10 p.m., First Merchants Bank North, 1405 Baker Place. Panic alarm. Officers responded. Alarm accidentally tripped.

Monday, 6:54 p.m., Wendy's restaurant, 860 N. Main St. Officer requested after a female customer in the drive-through drove around the vehicle of another customer in the drive-through. When the woman was told by a Wendy's employee she couldn't do that, the woman reportedly became angry and belligerent with the employee and then left in a huff.

Monday, 7:01 p.m., residence in the 300 block of Whitebridge Court. Burglar alarm. Officers responded. No sign of foul play found.

Monday, 8:31 p.m., residence in the Walnut Hills Mobile Home Park, 80 Sunset Drive. Officers, Bluffton Fire Department first responders, and Wells County EMS dispatched on a report of a man bitten on the leg by a German shepherd.

Tuesday, 11:58 a.m., 20/20 Custom Molded Plastics parking lot. Wallet found in the lot.

County:
Monday, 2:38 p.m., Ind. 3 near 900S. Tree blown down into the roadway. Sheriff's deputy responded and was able to remove the tree.

Monday, 3:34 p.m., Ind. 116 at Meridian Road. Part of the road washed out.

Monday, 4:52 p.m., 400E between 700N and 800N. Large hole developing in the road. Wells County Highway Department notified.

Monday, 6:09 p.m., residence on 1100S west of 1000W. Three handguns stolen from the residence.

Tuesday, 10:09 a.m., residence on 1100N west of 500W. Caller reported theft of \$10,000 from online bank account.

Ossian:
Monday, 5:10 p.m., Farmers and Merchants State Bank, 102 N. Jefferson St. Burglar alarm. Ossian police officer and sheriff's deputy responded. Alarm accidentally tripped.

Monday, 5:21 p.m., apartments on Countryside Drive in Ossian. Female caller reported neighbor woman was yelling at her. Officer and sheriff's deputy responded. Situation calmed.

Monday, 5:29 p.m., residence on North Main Street in Uniondale. Sheriff's deputies assisted the Wells County Probation Department in the search of a probationer's

residence. Allegedly during the search multiple illegal items were found including a container labeled "Holy Roller Consume Cannabis" that contained a green leafy plant-like material with the appearance and odor of marijuana, a glass smoking pipe and a bag labeled "Mojo" that reportedly contained THC-infused candy. THC is the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. O'Hern was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. She was released from custody on her own recognition.

ACCIDENTS

City:
Tuesday, 6:45 a.m., Main Street at Monroe Street. A 2014 Toyota Rav 4, driven by Travis Headley, 42, St. Helen, Mich., hit a 2006 Toyota Scion driven by Casey Kolkman, 49, Bluffton, from behind, pushing it into the rear of 2017 Hyundai Elantra driven by Michele Henderson, 48, Bluffton. Kolkman suffered a neck injury in the crash and was taken by Wells County EMS to Bluffton Regional Medical Center for treatment. Damage exceeded \$5,000. Bluffton Fire Rescue was also dispatched to the scene.

FIRE RUNS

Monday, 5:31 p.m., Valley Park Apartments, 320 W. Dustman Rd. Smoke in the laundry room. Bluffton Fire Department dispatched and mutual aid from Ossian and Liberty Township paged out. Firefighters traced the source of the smoke to a motor on a washing machine. Both Liberty Township and Ossian were advised to disregard.

Tuesday, 3:23 a.m., Ind. 1 north of 400N. Live power line down in the road. Bluffton Fire Department dispatched for standby and Bluffton police and sheriff's deputies closed down Ind. 1. American Electric Power contacted and made repairs to the line. The road was reopened at 5:31 a.m. While the road was closed, someone driving a pickup truck reportedly drove around one of the fire trucks barricading the road and drove through the area where the line was down. A sheriff's deputy caught up with the person and issued the driver a citation.

ARRESTS

Matthew John Springer, 46, Coldwater, Mich.; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony; possession of marijuana, a Class A misdemeanor; and possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$7,000.

Hoosiers could earn more for jury duty

Under House Bill 1466, Hoosiers could see the first pay increase for jury duty in two decades

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Hoosiers haven't seen a pay increase for jury duty in at least two decades, but that could change — even double — under a bill advancing steadily through the Statehouse.

But corresponding fee increases have sparked debate on how to fund the criminal justice system: as a public service, or through the people using it.

Hoosiers who show up for jury selection earn \$15 per day. Those chosen to serve earn \$40 per day — about \$5 dollars hourly for an eight-hour workday. That hasn't changed since at least 2004, when lawmakers reorganized the state's criminal justice codes.

"I say, if it's a 10-hour day, 'Thank you, and here's your \$4 an hour,'" Lake County Superior Court Judge Sam Cappas told lawmakers in committee this month. "That's what they're getting for the work that they do. They're grossly underpaid."

And jury pay is taxable. Some localities do offer mileage reimbursements.

House Bill 1466 would double daily appearance pay to \$30 and jury pay itself to \$80 for the first five days. Starting day six, jury pay would increase to \$90 daily.

But it would increase the \$2 jury fees defendants pay to \$6, and create a new \$75 jury fee for people filing civil torts or plenary actions, to fund the higher pay. The latter would be on top of an existing \$100 civil filing fee.

Local units of government pay jurors, and also collect the fees to help finance juries. State finance would be unaffected, according to a fiscal analysis of the bill.

Getting Hoosiers in the door

Some in the legal system say that low pay depresses the number of people that show up for jury duty. Still more potential jurors go hoping they'll get rejected.

"People don't want to be

there. I mean, people work very hard to get out of jury duty," Allen County Superior Court Judge Frances C. Gull told the Capital Chronicle. "... It is hard to get people to commit to jury duty because they are looking at financial hardship."

"Extreme" hardship is a legitimate way to get out of jury duty, but anything less severe won't get you out. That's in order to keep the broadest array of potential jurors possible.

"In each and every trial, invariably there are a handful of people that say they cannot afford to sit for jury service," Cappas, an Indiana Jury Committee member, told lawmakers. "They live check-to-check and when it's not enough to compensate them, they can't pay their bills."

If they're removed from the jury selection pool, he said, "that results in the parties not having a fair cross-section of the community ... The plaintiff and the defendant do not have the right people to hear the facts and testimony."

Indiana is actually middle-of-the-pack nationally for jury pay. Five states pay \$5-\$7.50 daily, at the low end, according to Jury Duty 101. At the high end, six pay \$50 daily.

The bill, authored by Rep. Michelle Davis, R-Greenwood, would put Indiana far ahead of the rest of the country. Davis didn't respond to requests for comment.

Making a mostly self-sustaining system

But to raise jury pay, Davis' bill gets money from elsewhere.

It hikes up the jury fee that people found guilty must pay, from \$2 to \$6. That increase is expected to bring in an additional \$1.1 million-\$1.7 million annually, according to the fiscal analysis.

The bill also creates a \$75 jury fee for people who file civil torts or plenary actions, which could generate an estimated \$552,000-\$706,000 annually.

The Indiana Jury Committee, which recommended the provisions contained in the bill, said it didn't want to leave local governments picking up the tab on higher pay.

"We didn't feel like it was our function or our decision to say this should come out of taxpayer dollars in some other fashion," Delaware Circuit Court Judge Kimberly Dowling told lawmakers.

Dowling, who is also a committee member, said that's why the group didn't add the \$75 filing fee to collections or mortgage foreclosure cases, because those typically don't use the jury system.

But some say the tab shouldn't go to people involved in the criminal justice system. Push for a "public service" funding approach.

"It should be a public service," Gull told the Capital Chronicle. "I'm a firm believer in that. It's unfortunate that we try to fund so many things in the criminal justice system on the backs of the users of that system."

She said 80 percent of the defendants in her courtroom have public defenders, meaning that they don't have the money to hire their own attorneys.

The Judicial Conference of Indiana, in a 2020 10-year strategic plan, called the state's current funding structure "inefficient and unfair." It recommended that the state kick in some more funding for needy local governments, and ideally cover the whole tab.

"I do hope that the General Assembly, in the future, will take that on holistically," Indiana Public Defender Council Executive Director Bernice Corley told lawmakers.

The outlook for Hoosiers

servicing jury duty

Brian Gould's first worry when he was called to serve late last summer was child care.

Gould took paid time off from his construction industry lobbying job, but knew neither he nor his wife — a nurse working long hours — would be able to make the 2:45 p.m. bus drop-off for their three children.

They managed to find care for the two-day Hamilton County trial, but Gould noted a longer trial of a week or more would've been "a huge commitment."

"There were a couple people in the jury that were retired, so it didn't impact their work schedule, it didn't impact their finances," Gould said. "But, you know, if you are having to take time off from work, you're not getting paid and now you're having to potentially pay for child care on top of that, I think [raising jury pay] is probably a wise thing to do."

The bill flew through its original committee and a financial one this month on unanimous votes. The House also passed it unanimously, on February 14.

It's now in the Senate awaiting consideration.

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

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Some parenting decisions are easy

Every decision you make as a parent isn't life or death. And the outcome of every decision may not have long-term effects on your child. But some decisions, you hope, steer him in the right direction, make a difference and stick with your kid for years to come.



Jessica Bricker

And sometimes, it can be as simple as deciding to dress your kid in crimson, teaching him the Indiana University fight song and related chants, and hoping that he sticks to the Light Side.

If you are a longtime reader of this page, you'll likely recall my love of women's college basketball. For years I've been saying I want to catch an IU women's game in Assembly Hall.

On a whim, I decided to make it happen. And I was able to introduce my son to collegiate basketball at the same time.

My mom and I took my 3.5-year-old son to an Indiana women's basketball in late January. It was a mid-afternoon Sunday game against Rutgers and it was an easy win, which made the six-hour round-trip much more bearable. Plus we beat the crowd before tip off and were able to enjoy some delicious Mother Bear's pizza, a Bloomington favorite.

My son has chanted "I-U" since he could talk — I take full credit for that — and he has attended many local basketball games this winter so I wasn't worried he wouldn't like it. Women's tickets are very affordable and are general admission, so you can sit where you'd like. We picked an aisle seat far enough from the band and the students so it wouldn't be too loud. Even then, halfway up the main section was about the closest we could get about 15 minutes after the doors opened. The Hoosiers are one of the top teams in the country and there was a late-season push to "pack the Hall" for home games. The last home game against Purdue sold out for the first time in program history. It's a good time to be an IU women's basketball fan (like there is a bad time).

Together we enjoyed all the traditions, from the numerous live performances of the school song by the band and the Martha the Mop Lady video to the flag show dubbed "the greatest timeout in college basketball" and the team singing IU's alma mater after the win.

Something new for me was downloading the IU Hoosiers app on my phone, which synced in the building to perform a light show with my phone's flashlight during player introductions. Seeing all the phones flash was so cool. My kid thought so too.

As a former student season ticket holder, I've attended numerous games in Assembly Hall but this was a special day. I highly doubt it will be my son's last game in Bloomington; and one day he'll have to take in his first football game at Memorial Stadium.

Introducing my kid to all the things I love gives me hope that we can share in the memories for a lifetime. And raising him to cheer on the Hoosiers is a great start.

Jessica Bricker is a former editor of The News-Banner. Although she's no longer in journalism, she enjoys writing about life in Wells County. jessicabrickerwrites@gmail.com

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 • E-Mail: email@news-banner.com • Fax: (260) 824-0700 • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714
 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. **Letters must be no more than 500 words.** Please mark your correspondence as a "Letter to the Editor," or if you wish to express an opinion to us but do not want it published, please mark as "Not for Publication."

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 1, the 60th day of 2023. There are 305 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 1, 1974, seven people, including former Nixon White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, former Attorney General John Mitchell and former assistant Attorney General Robert Mardian, were indicted on charges of conspiring to obstruct justice in connection with the Watergate break-in. (These four defendants were convicted in January 1975, though Mardian's conviction was later reversed.)

On this date:
 In 1867, Nebraska became the 37th state as President Andrew Johnson signed a proclamation.

In 1893, inventor Nikola Tesla first publicly demonstrated radio during a meeting of the National Electric Light Association in St. Louis by transmitting electromagnetic energy without wires.

In 1932, Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was kidnapped from the family home near Hopewell, New Jersey. (Remains identified as those of the child were found the following May.)

The News-Banner

(USPS 059-200)

Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929

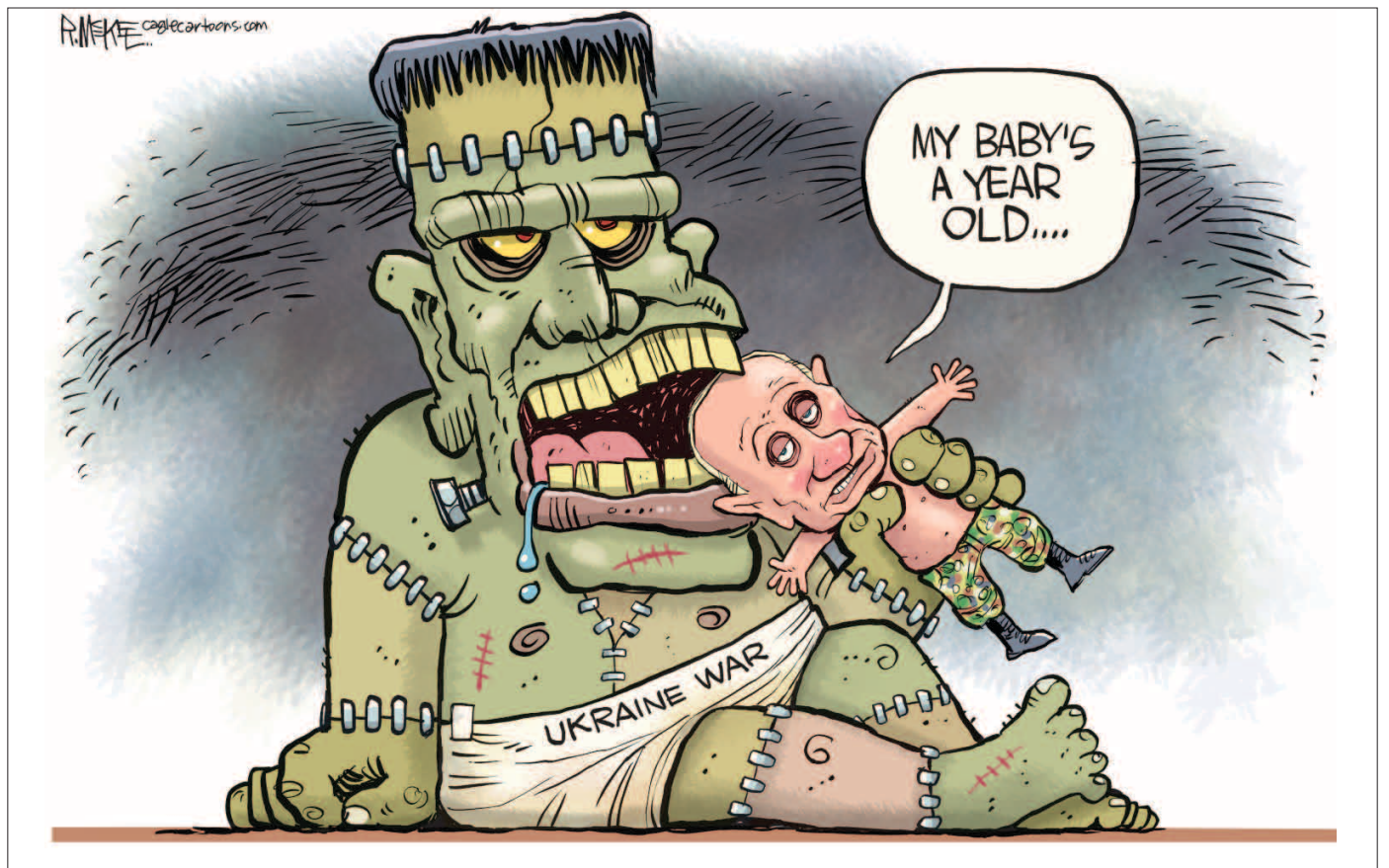
News-Banner Publications, Inc.

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Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714. Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

David Schultz, Editor
 Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

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



Putin pitches the American right with an ungodly invocation of God

Here's a scoop for you: Vladimir Putin is sounding like someone who wants to enter the 2024 Republican presidential primaries.

How else do you explain that in the middle of his bellicose speech Tuesday promising success in his assault on Ukraine, the Russian dictator fired a series of heat-seeking verbal missiles into our culture wars.

"Look at what they've done to their own people," he said of us Westerners. "They're destroying family, national identity, they are abusing their children. Even pedophilia is announced as a normal thing in the West." Never mind that Russia is a world leader in sex trafficking.

Putin didn't stop there. In one rather convoluted passage, he came out against same-sex marriage, backed off a bit, and then doubled down:

"And they're recognizing same-sex marriages," he said. "That's fine that they're adults. They've got the right to live their life. And we always, we're very tolerant about this in Russia. Nobody is trying to enter private lives of people, and we're not going to do this."

Well, not quite, but he pressed on: "However, we need to tell them, but look at the scriptures of any religion in the world. Everything is said in there. And one of the things is that family is a union of a man and a woman."

Among his enemies, Putin charged, "even the sacred texts are subjected to doubt." Also, watch out, Britain: The "Anglican Church is planning to consider the idea of a gender-neutral God," Putin mourned. "What can you say here? Millions of people in the West understand that they are being led to spiritual destruction."

It has become a habit to cast the struggle over Ukraine in Cold War terms. Maybe that's natural, given Putin's old job as a KGB agent and his determination to expand Russia's imperial reach to something closer to the hegemony once enjoyed by the old Soviet Union.

But it's closer to the truth to see Putin as trying to build a right-wing nationalist international movement (no pun intended). And it's obvious that his embrace of social and religious traditionalism is aimed at winning over right-wing opinion in the democracies and splitting the traditional right.

You don't have to watch Fox News commentators waxing warm about the Russian president to see that this strategy is working. Opposition to helping Ukraine is growing among rank-and-file Republicans.

A Pew Research survey in January found that 40 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said that the United States was providing too much help to Ukraine, up from 32 percent in the fall and

9 percent last March. A Jan. 27-Feb. 1 Washington Post/ABC News poll found 50 percent of Republicans saying that the United States was doing too much to support Ukraine, up from 18 percent in April.

Although it is fortunately true that many Republican leaders are resisting the lure of selling out Ukraine (Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky) has been especially outspoken), many are not so brave. Especially striking were the comments of former president Donald Trump's leading 2024 rival, Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida.

Back when he was in Congress, DeSantis was a devout Putin adversary and a critic of President Barack Obama for being too soft on Russia. "If you had a Reaganesque policy of strength," DeSantis told the Fox Business Network in 2015, "I think you would see people like Putin not want to mess with us."

There's nothing "Reaganesque" about his response to Putin now. When President Joe Biden visited Ukraine, DeSantis accused him of "neglecting" domestic problems.

"I don't think it's in our interest to be getting into a proxy war with China, getting involved over things like the borderlands or over Crimea," DeSantis said on Fox News. He added: "It's important to point out the fear of Russia going into NATO countries and all of that and steamrolling that is not even coming close to happening. I think they've shown themselves to be a third-rate military power."

About all that the two statements had in common were attacks on a Democratic president and the media company providing him with a venue.

As a narrow political matter, DeSantis has been crafty in straddling the fence dividing Republican opinion. He has been Trumpy enough for the former president's base, but different enough to appeal to those in the GOP who want to be done with Trump. On Ukraine, DeSantis fell off the fence. It was not an auspicious illustration of how he will deal with the balancing act he faces.

The much larger problem is for U.S. foreign policy. For the medium term, enough Republicans share Biden's view of the Russian threat and Ukraine's heroism to maintain assistance to the war effort.

But Putin is very shrewd about opinion on the right end of politics - in the United States and in Western Europe, too. He is counting on a backlash against social liberalism and the idea of a "gender-neutral" God to rustle up support for ungodly aggression.

E.J. Dionne is on Twitter: @EJDionne



E.J. Dionne

Glenn Youngkin is no surly GOP brawler. Many might welcome that.

If Glenn Youngkin wants the Republicans' 2024 presidential nomination, he might have to enroll in scowl school. Virginia's governor needs to study not anger management but anger cultivation. Or how to feign anger. He lacks a knack for sustained grumpiness fueled by ever-multiplying grievances. Affability can ruin a Republican's reputation with the party's surly base.

In a recent conversation that took place about nine blocks from the White House, Youngkin said, "I've made it through two years without calling anyone a name." He had better pick up his pace of invectives if he wants to compete in the Republican pugnacity sweepstakes.

Youngkin, 56, was elected in 2021 partly because his opponent, former governor Terry McAuliffe, was incinerated by a cultural bonfire he ignited by saying, "I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach." Perhaps McAuliffe meant merely that K-12 schools should not become politicized. Parents know they already are. (What were you, dear reader, taught in third grade about gender fluidity?)

Republican presidential aspirants must enchant a nominating electorate dominated by people for whom politics is supremely important. People, that is, who are unlike most Americans. People who, so far, like the cut of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis's jib.

Winston Churchill, unenthralled, reportedly said Secretary of State John Foster Dulles was a bull who carried a china shop around with him. The GOP base, however, relishes the evident enjoyment DeSantis derives from trailing clouds of dust from myriad dustups. He has brawled with corporations that make political agendas part of their brands; with the multibillion-dollar



George Will

become unhealthily president-centric. It would become even more so with a president who, having campaigned as a brawler, could claim a mandate for incessant interventions in cultural disputes best conducted below the presidency.

Most Americans are not angry; they are exhausted and embarrassed by exhibitionistic political anger. So, they might want someone more, shall we say, emollient than Florida's governor. Or than Joe Biden, who periodically wants in on the fun of shrill nonsense (e.g., last year he called Georgia's mild voting reforms — the ones followed by record turnouts — "Jim Crow 2.0").

Biden recently said, accurately, that there was a time when festive crowds gathered for lynchings, snapping photographs. Then he added: "And some people still want to do that." This slander of the nation was just tone-deaf Joe fumbling with a foreign language: progressive-speak. Still, it shows that wretched excess is almost everywhere.

That includes Richmond, where some Democrats are as obsessed by race, and as unpleasant, as were their predecessors when implementing "massive resistance" to school desegregation. Youngkin recently nominated to the state Board of Education Suparna

Dutta, a dark-skinned (sorry, pigmentation is, alas, pertinent) American. An India-born Hindu, she is the mother of a former student at the acclaimed Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, where she has resisted policies designed to make the school less selective in the name of "equity" but for the purpose of reducing the number of Asian American students.

After a Virginia Senate committee voted 14-0 (all its Democrats concurring) to confirm Dutta, some progressives (in conjunction with some Virginia Muslims) branded her a "white supremacist." Democrats control the state Senate, and teachers unions control many of them. The Senate killed her nomination.

Youngkin advocates expanded school choice for a state that has only seven charter schools, 128 fewer than neighboring District of Columbia. Terming himself pro-life, he favors limiting abortions to the first 15 weeks of pregnancy, when about 95 percent of U.S. abortions occur. This is what a conservative electable in a purple state looks like.

A Harvard Business School graduate, Youngkin was co-CEO of the Carlyle Group private-equity firm before he, in today's ideologically loaded language, went into "public service," as though wealth-creation is not a grand service to the public. Biden, who immoderately invokes the specter of "extremism," has said this menace can come in an assault on the Capitol or "in a smile and fleece vest," a reference to Youngkin's demeanor and his signature campaign apparel.

Again, Biden is innocent of sincerity. Youngkin, however, is guilty of politics practiced without gritted teeth or clenched fists. Nowadays this is eccentric, but potentially welcomed by many.

georgewill@washpost.com

To quote the song: 'Round and around and around we go'

"Ball of confusion ... that's what the world is today." — *concisely stated by The Temptations*

Welcome to the first day of March, which is the 60th day of the year — meaning there are a mere 305 days remaining in 2023. March, named for the Roman god of war, is also the month when most of us think spring. It has always been a month of change, contradictions, and conundrums for me, but then so much of life



Billy Kreigh

seems that way any more. The saying if March comes in like a lion, it will exit as a lamb is an example of those opposites. Positive aspects of March include March Madness basketball; Women's History Month, as designated in 1987; and, since 1914, March 8 is International Women's Day. The spring equinox is March 20. There is also March 12, where we "spring forward" setting the clocks one hour ahead; March 15, which is the Ides of March (let's hear it for The Bard); St. Patrick's Day; the start of Ramadan; and lest we forget, March 16 is Absolutely Incredible Kid Day. One of my favorites is actually today, Zero Discrimination Day, established in 2014.

A person would not be remiss to question why we need a "zero discrimination day" designated. Wouldn't it be logical to assume that every single day would be such a day? I guess I consider that same point about the necessity of International Women's Day. Are we to believe that there is no need for an International Men's Day? (Or perhaps that would be the other 364 days of any given year.) But that takes me to the aforementioned changes, opposites, and conundrums I am battling this particular March.

Let's begin. Indiana legislators passed HB 1177, which will arm teachers in K-12 classrooms. While participation is voluntary and paid for through state funds, the fact remains that if the bill is passed by the Indiana Senate, armed teachers could be in our classrooms. Now what comes to my mind initially is: What kind of sense does this make? Where will said weapon be carried or stored? Will it be loaded at all times? Who is responsible for any unintended casualties? What if an armed teacher or other school personnel draws, fires, and hits the "wrong" person? A pathetic point of irony, this legislation passed on Feb. 14, which is, to the day, five years from when a shooter killed 17 students in South Florida. Now



Here's the Thing

ly change the results, but perhaps not all in a positive way. I'm just asking us to think about that.

Missouri passed legislation that makes it legal for any child 18 and under to carry a firearm in public without adult supervision. The argument for those in favor was again 2nd Amendment concerns. Those in opposition questioned what could be acceptable reasoning for an 8-year-old to have a loaded weapon at any time — especially in light of the 6-year-old who shot his teacher just days before. The response to this inquiry was that "we cannot prohibit the 2nd Amendment only because of what 'might' happen." We have already seen this movie and witnessed over and over what "might" happen. When will we say "enough" and then freaking do something?

Perhaps in honor of women everywhere, Virginia's governor vetoed legislation that would shield women's menstrual information from search warrants and any "governmental tracking." Once again I am left to ponder exactly what situation would require menstruation information?

How would it be "tracked" and by whom? For a whole slew of people who want "less government interfering in their lives," this would appear to be a huge contradiction. Maybe I am missing something here. I will think about it.

And then we have a member of the U.S. House of Representative advocating for a "national divorce" between "red and blue states." I have so many questions about this one that I can barely form a coherent response. A paramount concern is what would the logistics of this kind of "divorce" even look like. Can you imagine anything that would further foster more separation and conflict in our nation? This person also stated that she thinks that those who move to another state (from red to blue or vice versa), not be allowed to vote "for say up to 5 years." Now that would definitely affect voting rights that are fundamental to the very tenets of democracy. Does a national divorce make sense to anyone? Is it even Constitutionally feasible? Think about that.

Among the most troubling issues confounding me on this March 1 is the "national hoax in schools." Schools across the country are dealing with multiple phone threats from unidentified sources that there will be gun violence in their schools that day. While many of the threats have not been deemed credible, schools in several states have initiated lockdowns in conjunction with local law enforcement and the FBI to

deal with this ongoing pattern of what is referred to as "swatting." "Swatting" is a hoax call to 911 falsely reporting an emergency such as an active shooting or bomb threat. This is not a small problem as there has been a 600 percent increase in such calls in the last four years. Look it up, and think about it.

Here's the thing: These concerns are clearly not relegated to only March. What we have here are conundrums we confront year around. I didn't even get to the elimination of AP courses, CRT debates, the possible politicization of school boards, prayer being removed from schools (anyone anywhere can pray any time — no one can remove prayer from another's head), book banning, pronoun usage, conspiracy theories, LGBTQ, Ukraine, immigration, environment, inflation, humanitarian crisis in Yemen, racism ... well, the list seems endless primarily because it is. We have much to do, much to understand. Best we get to it then and stop with the petty divisiveness that gets us no closer to any worthwhile solutions.

Editor's Note: This is one of a series of articles written by a group of retired and current teachers — Ken Ballinger, Billy Kreigh, and Anna Spalding. Their intent is to spur discussions at the dinner table and elsewhere. You may also voice your thoughts and reactions via The News-Banner's letters to editor.

Area Things to See and Do

ALL FOR ONE PRODUCTIONS, FORT WAYNE
No shows until April. www.allforonefw.org

ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM
Fort Wayne Home and Garden Show, March 2-5; Cody Johnson, March 3. www.memorialcoliseum.com

ARENA DINNER THEATER, FORT WAYNE
"No Sex Please, We're British, March 10-25; Info: www.arenadinnertheatre.org
CLYDE THEATER, FORT WAYNE

Wishbone Ash, March 2; Flogging Molly, March 5; Blue October, March 9; Sixteen Candles, March 10. ClydeTheatre.com or at 1-800-514-3849.

EMBASSY THEATER, FORT WAYNE
Bluey's Big Play, March 9; Raheem DeVaughn, March 17. Box office hours 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Info at www.fwembassytheatre.org

FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS
Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," March 23-25. University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center. Tickets at fireandlightproductions.com

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN THEATER, FORT WAYNE
"Godspell," March 24, 25, and 26. Tickets: 250-422-6329 and www.firstpresbyteriantheater.com

FOELLINGER-FREIMANN BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY
"California Dreamin,'" focusing on the sun, sand, and surf of a vacation in the Golden State, is now on display. 1100 S. Calhoun St. in Fort Wayne. www.botanicalconservatory.org

FOELLINGER OUTDOOR THEATER, FORT WAYNE
No shows until spring. Info: (260) 427-6715 or FortWayneParks.org

FORT WAYNE ARTLINK
"Waning Elements," through March 12. www.artlinkfw.com

FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATER
"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)," March 17-April 2. Arts United Center box office 260-424-5220; info at www.fwcivic.org

FORT WAYNE MUSEUM OF ART
Tuesday through Saturday and until 8 p.m. on Thursday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. www.fwmoa.org

FORT WAYNE YOUTH THEATRE
"Baghdad Zoo," March 3-5. artstix.org
FURTH CENTER — ANGOLA
Herman's Hermits, March 17. Info at trine.edu/furth

HONEYWELL CENTER and EAGLES THEATRE, WABASH
Honeywell: Davey Britton's Space Oddity, March 4. **Eagles:** The Winery Dogs, March 3. www.honeywellcenter.org
NISWONGER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, VAN WERT, OHIO
Air Supply, March 3; "Newsboys," March 4. Info: NPACVW.org

PURDUE-FORT WAYNE THEATER
No shows until April. Productions at Williams Theatre on the Purdue-FW campus; tickets at Purdue box office, 260-481-6555.

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Ossian Rotary to hear from Maller

This Thursday Ossian Rotary will hear from Rhonda Maller, writer, speaker, and co-founder of both the Wells Association of Christian Home Educators and The Bluffton Christian Writers Group. Maller is also the program director for the Northern Wells Community Schools chapter of LifeWise Academy.



Rhonda Maller

sons based on the Bible in a public school setting.

Maller began writing professionally more than 25 years ago, and in 2004, she earned a Professional Writing Certificate from Taylor University. Her writings

have been featured in various publications, including "Focus on the Family," "Pray," "Mature Living," and "Chicken Soup for the Soul."

As the co-owner and president of OnPoint Professional Writing Services, she provides marketing and social media content for businesses across the United States.

Rotary's weekly Thursday meetings are held at 7:30 a.m. at Ossian Baptist Church, 1001 Dehner Drive, in Ossian.

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Endangered Mexican gray wolf population continues to make strides in the U.S.

By SUSAN MONTROYA BRYAN
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Endangered Mexican gray wolves are making more strides, as more breeding pairs and pups have been documented since reintroduction efforts began in the southwestern U.S. more than two decades ago, federal wildlife managers said Tuesday.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released the results of its annual survey in New Mexico and Arizona, saying this is the first time the population has topped 200 and the seventh straight year that the numbers have trended upward.

In all, at least 241 of the predators were counted, marking a nearly 23 percent increase over the previous year and a doubling of the population since 2017.

Since the first wolf release in 1998, the program has had its share of fits and starts due to illegal killings, a lack of genetic diversity and legal wrangling over management.

“To go from zero wild Mexican wolves at the start to 241 today is truly remarkable,” Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator Brady McGee said in a statement.

The annual count started in November, with members of the interagency field team conducting ground and aerial surveys of a rugged forested area along the Arizona-New Mexico line. Aside from tracking radio-collared wolves, they used remote cameras and collected scat to estimate the population.

The work is done over the winter when the population is most stable.

It’s estimated that thousands of Mexican wolves once roamed from central Mexico to New Mexico, southern Arizona and Texas. Predator eradication programs began in the late 1800s and within several decades, the wolves were all but eliminated from the wild.

The rarest subspecies of gray wolf in North America, Mexican wolves were listed as endangered in the 1970s and a U.S.-Mexico captive breeding program was started with the seven remaining wolves in existence.

Wolf-livestock conflicts have been a major challenge of the reintroduction program over the past two decades, with ranchers saying the killing of livestock by wolves remains a threat to their livelihood despite efforts by wildlife managers to scare the wolves away and reimburse some of the losses.

Jim DeVos, Arizona Game and Fish Department Mexican Wolf Coordinator, said recovery for any endangered species is difficult and this has proven to be the case for the Mexican wolf. Still, he described growth over the last year as stunning.

“By every possible measure, progress was made,” he said, pointing to 31 breeding pairs that produced 121 pups, about two-thirds of which survived to the time of the count. The survival rate for pups in their first year is typically around 50 percent.

The field team was able to capture and collar 21 wolves during the survey. Officials said the additional collars will help them gain a better understanding of wolf activity and help with on-the-ground management.

The cross-fostering of captive bred pups with packs in the wild also has added to the population and has helped to address concerns about genetic diversity. This year, two of the 11 pups that were fostered survived.

Officials also documented the lowest annual total of wolf deaths since 2017 — six in Arizona and six in New Mexico for 2022. In 2020, 29 wolves were reported dead and another 25 the following year.

Environmental groups celebrated the numbers but cautioned Tuesday that more work needs to be done to improve genetics among the wild population and that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service needs to allow wolves to roam beyond what they call arbitrary boundaries that have been established for the recovery area.

Citing low survival rates for cross-fostered pups, the groups have been pushing for more family groups — adult wolves with pups — to be released into the wild.

Suspected schoolgirl poisoning attacks rattle a shaken Iran

By JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Over the past three months, hundreds of young girls attending different schools in Iran have become overpowered by what are believed to be noxious fumes wafting into their classrooms, with some ending up weakened on hospital beds.

Officials in Iran’s theocracy initially dismissed these incidents, but now describe them as intentional attacks involving some 30 schools identified in local media reports, with some speculating they could be aimed at trying to close schools for girls in this country of over 80 million people.

The reported attacks come at a sensitive time for Iran, which already has faced months of protests after the September death of Mahsa Amini following her arrest by the country’s morality police.

The authorities have not named suspects, but the attacks have raised fears that other girls could be poisoned apparently just for seeking an education — something that’s never been challenged before in the over 40 years since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Iran itself also has been calling on the Taliban in neighboring Afghanistan to have girls and women return to school.

The first cases emerged in late November in Qom, some 80 miles southwest of Iran’s capital, Tehran. There, in a heartland of Shiite theologians and pilgrims, students at the Noor Yazdan-shahr Conservatory fell ill in November. They then fell ill again in December.

Other cases followed, with children complaining about headaches, heart palpitations, feeling lethargic or otherwise unable to move. Some described smelling tangerines, chlorine or cleaning agents.

At first, authorities didn’t link the cases. It’s winter in Iran, where temperatures often drop below freezing at night. Many schools are heated by natural gas, leading to speculation it could be carbon monoxide poisoning affecting the girls. The country’s education minister initially dismissed the reports as “rumors.”

But the schools affected at first only taught young women, fueling suspicion it wasn’t accidental. At least one case followed in Tehran, with others in Qom and Boroujerd. At least one boys’ school has been targeted as well.

Slowly, officials began taking the claims seriously. Iran’s prosecutor-general ordered an investigation, saying “there are possibilities of deliberate criminal acts.” Iran’s Intelligence Ministry reportedly investigated as well.

On Sunday, Iran’s state-run IRNA news agency filed multiple stories with officials acknowledging the scope of the crisis.

“After several poisonings of students in Qom schools, it was found that some

people wanted all schools, especially girls’ schools, to be closed,” IRNA quoted Younes Panahi, a deputy health minister, as saying.

A Health Ministry spokesman, Pedram Pak-aien, said the poisoning didn’t come from a virus or a microbe. Neither elaborated further.

Ali Reza Monadi, a national parliament member who sits on its education committee, described the poisonings as “intentional.”

The “existence of the devil’s will to prevent girls from education is a serious danger and it is considered a very bad news,” he said, according to IRNA.

Already, parents have pulled their students from classes, in effect shuttering some schools in Qom in recent weeks, according to a report by Shargh, a reformist news website based in Tehran. On Tuesday, another suspected attack reportedly occurred targeting a girls’ school in Pardis on the eastern outskirts of Tehran.

The poisonings come as getting verifiable information out of Iran remains difficult given the crackdown on all dissent stemming from the protests and internet slowdowns put in place by the government. At least 95 journalists have been arrested by authorities since the start of the protests, according to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

Overall, the security force crackdown has killed at least 530 people and seen 19,700 others detained, according to Human Rights

Activists in Iran.

Attacks on women have happened in the past in Iran, most recently with a wave of acid attacks in 2014 around Isfahan, at the time believed to have been carried out by hard-liners targeting women for how they dressed. But even in the chaos surrounding the Islamic Revolution, no one targeted schoolgirls for attending classes.

Jamileh Kadivar, a prominent former reformist lawmaker and journalist, wrote in Tehran’s Ettelaat newspaper that as many as 400 students have fallen ill in the poisonings.

She warned “subversive opposition” groups could be behind the attacks. However, she also raised the possibility of “domestic extremists” who “aim to replace the Islamic Republic with a caliphate or a Taliban-type Islamic emirate.”

She cited a supposed communication from a group calling itself Fidayeen Velayat that purportedly said, “the study of girls is considered haram” and threatened to “spread the poisoning of girls throughout Iran” if girls’ schools remain open.

Iranian officials have not acknowledged any group called Fidayeen Velayat, which roughly translates to English as “Devotees of the Guardianship.” However, Kadivar’s mention of the threat in print comes as she remains influential within Iranian politics and has ties to its theocratic ruling class. The head of Ettelaat newspaper also is appointed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.



BIDDING ENDS 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: 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: 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*, www.meritauctions.com, 833-273-9300.

MARCH 10 8 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 3½ miles south on SR 1 to CR 500 S, then west approx. 1½ 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.

Elephants in U.S. zoos? Without breeding the future is uncertain

By AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — Mabu saunters across a grassy field and raises his long, gray trunk to wrangle food from a hole carved inside a large boulder, captivating the attention of a girl propped up on her father’s shoulders.

At this zoo in a central California farming community, the 32-year-old African elephant is key not only to drawing visitors but also to ensuring there are elephants for zoogoers to see in the years to come — a future some animal lovers want to avoid.

Over the past year, the Fresno Chaffee Zoo has been pulled into a growing global debate over the future of elephants in zoos. In recent years, some zoos have phased out elephant exhibits due to the complexity of the animals and their needs. Still, others, like Fresno’s zoo, say they are committed to keeping elephants and are turning to breeding, arguing that a sustainable population of zoo elephants will help spur a commitment to wildlife conservation among future generations of visitors.

The zoo in Fresno, while beloved by local residents, has been targeted by animal activists in a report criticizing living conditions for the elephants and in legal actions trying to free them. Broadly, some elephant experts say urban zoos simply don’t have the space that African elephants, who roam extensive distances in the wild to forage for hundreds of pounds of vegetation each day, need for a normal life.

The zoo opened a revamped and expanded multi-species African Adventure exhibit in 2015 to better accommodate elephants, lions and gazelles by giving them more space to roam. It’s also been working with other zoos around the country on breeding more of the animals, which are endangered in the wild, in the United States.

Mabu came to the zoo

from one in Arizona last year after Vus’Musi, another male elephant, showed little interest in breeding. Mabu has sired offspring at other zoos and there’s hope he can do so again to grow the Fresno zoo’s population.

“Lions, tigers and bears. People are coming to see charismatic megafauna — that’s the term we use,” said Jon Forrest Dohlin, chief executive officer of the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, comparing an elephant to a larger-than-life figure like pop star Justin Bieber. He said visitors who see animals in real life — instead of in a photo or on a screen — are more likely to support conservation efforts. “We’re telling large stories, so it is something that is important for conservation writ large,” he said.

In recent years, some larger zoos such as the Toronto Zoo and San Francisco Zoo have phased out their elephant programs, sending their aging animals to sanctuaries in the United States that have far more space. The Los Angeles Zoo is also discussing sending its Asian elephant, Billy, to a sanctuary.

In some cases, animal rights activists have started legal efforts aimed at removing elephants from zoos.

In New York, the Nonhuman Rights Project filed legal papers to try to free the Asian elephant Happy from the Bronx Zoo but lost in court. The group then filed similar papers to try to free Fresno’s three African elephants — a mother-daughter pair and Vus’Musi — but a judge ruled against the group.

This month, the group filed a case in an appeals court and swapped in Mabu. Jake Davis, an attorney for the Nonhuman Rights Project, said the case isn’t over — especially since the zoo sent Vus’Musi to a zoo in San Diego so it could bring in Mabu in a bid to boost breeding.

“He really is their golden ticket,” Davis said. “Hopefully we can get him out.”

Some elephant experts argue the more humans

learn about elephants’ intelligence and social networks the more compelling the argument to release them — or at the very least to stop breeding them in zoos. They also note that poaching of elephants and habitat destruction in Africa continue despite conservation efforts by zoos and question the difference they’re making in hosting visitors who are largely seeking recreation.

“It’s wrong to be bringing more elephants into living 60 years, or whatever they live to, in a captive situation,” said Joyce Poole, co-founder of the advocacy group Elephant Voices, adding that in the wild elephants make decisions about where to find food and water and meet with relatives, something they simply can’t do in zoos. “It’s like seeing a person in prison.”

Elephants were brought to U.S. zoos for decades, but transfers of African elephants have become rare in recent years amid rising international concern over the numerous threats they face in the wild — which also prompted the International Union for Conservation of Nature to change the species from vulnerable to endangered in 2021. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is also drafting new rules for elephant imports aimed at protecting African elephants, which have dwindled from 26 million in the 18th century to 415,000.


At a meeting last year, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora put the trade of African elephants on hold to hash out conditions for transfers to take place.

As a result, the future of elephants — which have relatively few offspring and a 22-month gestation period — in zoos hinges largely on breeding. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums, which has a program aimed at sustaining the zoo population, said about 160 African elephants currently live in U.S. zoos.


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Raiders end season in battle with Cavaliers

By RYAN WALKER

WABASH — Southern Wells gave everything it could give in the sectional quarter-final against Canterbury Tuesday night in a 65-53 loss that was closer than the scoreboard would indicate.

The Cavaliers (7-16) came into the Southwood sectional with a deceiving record having one of the area's tougher schedules and being favored by over 20 points over the Raiders (6-16), according to the johnharrell.net website.

Between many short-scoring runs and defensive adjustments, Southern Wells wouldn't go down without a fight.

"I think what we wanted to do tonight is demonstrate the growth that we've undergone as a group, and I think defensively, we were maybe a little too spread out in the first quarter," head coach Joel Roush said after the game. "We got that rectified. We just fought and scratched and clawed, and we were right there until the end."

That score projection looked as if it would come to life after Reed Hayes threw a one-handed slam down to cap off a 6-0 Canterbury run and go up by eight, but a pair of threes from Nick Lozoya and Chandler Oswalt settled the Raider bunch back into it.

That momentum would carry into the second, as Oswalt hit two more triples and held the lead within one possession for most of the

second quarter.

The Raiders also held the Cavaliers to just six points in the second — a much needed adjustment was made to solve some of the issues in the paint. The team gave up 23 in the first, all of which were either close to the basket or driving the lane and getting to the free-throw line.

"We made a conservative effort to squeeze the lane to try and cut off — we don't like to allow straight drives in our program, and we weren't necessarily straight line drives for layins, but they were getting into the lane with little floaters and little bank shots, and that's not what we want," Roush said.

The only issue for Southern Wells was foul trouble. By the 3:08 mark in the third quarter, three of its starters had four fouls and had to use up bench minutes more than it is used to.

Eight of the 15 third-quarter points for Canterbury were from the charity stripe and would grow bigger as the game got down to crunch time. The Raiders, however, stayed within striking distance with two more threes from Oswalt and getting junior guard Evan Pennington more involved.

With 5:25 left in the fourth quarter and a six-point lead for Canterbury, center Perrin Gates fouled out for Southern Wells, who didn't have much playing time picking up fouls early in the game. Senior guard

Jenson Nusbaumer would also foul out a few minutes later.

The Cavaliers would make the majority of their free throws down the stretch, and despite an effort from Pennington scoring six in a short run, it was the ultimate difference in the game.

Canterbury went 64 percent from the line, but when it shot as many as they did (29-45), it was more than enough to seal the deal.

With the final loss of the season, there are seniors wrapping up their last game. Southern Wells will lose Kedrik Sonnigsen, Lozoya, Nusbaumer, and Gage Roberts this season, and the four gave it all out on the line. Coach Roush couldn't have been more proud.

"Those seniors, you can see it from the looks on their faces and their behavior," he said. "This means something to them. It's not just something that they do, and those are the guys I want. I want guys that love it, I want guys that care, I want guys that will fight for it, and these seniors have had kind of a rough go of it, but they really acquitted themselves well. They've just been good leaders, they've been good examples, and no matter how good of players they are, they're better people."

sports@news-banner.com

CANTERBURY 65, SOUTHERN WELLS 53
At Southwood High School
CANTERBURY (7-16): William Russell 5-10 14-18 25, Devon Lewis 2-12 8-10 12, Taurean Brown 0-3 1-4 1, Ashton Dressler 4-6 0-0 8, Reed



Southern Wells forward Chandler Oswalt (left) goes in for a layup over Canterbury's Jack Cowan in the Southwood sectional quarterfinal Tuesday night. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

Hayes 6-10 4-9 17, Jack Cowan 0-5 0-0 0, Deacon Wardlow 0-2 0-0 0, Christian Urberth 0-0 2-2 2, Aiden Greider 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 17-48 29-45 65.

SOUTHERN WELLS (6-16): Chandler Oswalt 10-20 0-2 23, Evan Pennington 5-8 5-6 15, Kedrik Sonnigsen 1-5 0-0 2, Jenson Nusbaumer 1-4 0-0 3, Perrin Gates 1-2 1-1 3, Andrew

Aker 0-2 0-0 0, Gage Roberts 0-3 2-2 2, Nick Lozoya 1-3 0-0 3, Bryar Gearheart 0-0 0-0 0, CJ Reber 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 18-47 8-11 53.

Canterbury 23 6 15 21 — 65
So. Wells 16 12 14 11 — 53
Three-point FG: Canterbury 2-8 (Russell 1-2, Hayes 1-1, Cowan 0-1, Lewis 0-2, Brown 0-2), Southern Wells 7-19 (Oswalt 5-11, Nusbaumer 1-3,

Lozoya 1-2, Sonnigsen 0-2, Aker 0-1). Rebounds: Canterbury 35 (Russell 11, Hayes 8, Cowan 3, Dressler 1, Wardlow 1, Greider 1, Brown 1), Southern Wells 19 (Sonnigsen 6, Nusbaumer 3, Oswalt 3, Roberts 3, Pennington 1, Gates 1, Aker 1, Lozoya 1). Turnovers: Canterbury 11, Southern Wells 8. Fouls: Canterbury 13, Southern Wells 26. Fouled Out: None. Technicals: None.

Murray scores 26 points to lead Iowa past No. 15 Indiana

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — Iowa came into Tuesday night game weary of playing catch-up. So, the Hawkeyes avoided the trap completely.

Just three days after a completing an historic comeback, Kris Murray scored 26 points, Tony Perkins flirted with the first triple-double in school history and the Hawkeyes never trailed in a 90-68 rout at No. 15 Indiana.

"I thought him making those first two 3-pointers was big," coach Fran McCaffery said, referring to Murray. "I thought our ball movement and screening and cutting with a purpose was critical."

Whatever the explanation, the Hawkeyes (19-11, 11-8 Big Ten) did everything right.

Murray made five of Iowa's 13 3-pointers and grabbed seven rebounds. Perkins finished with 23 points, 10 rebounds and a career-high eight assists while returning to his home state. Flip Rebecca and Payton Sanford each had 16 points and the conference's highest-scoring team also played defense.

The combination was virtually unbeatable and seemingly at the perfect time after rallying from a 13-point deficit in the final 94 seconds of regulation to beat Michigan State 112-106 in overtime Saturday

— the highest-scoring Big Ten game all season. For the encore, Iowa produced the highest-scoring first half (47-36) in a conference game this season and claimed its fourth straight win in the series and it's most lopsided ever in Bloomington.

"We're really hitting our stride," Murray said. "About this time last year, we were doing the same thing, winning big games that we need on the road."

Indiana (20-10, 11-8) meanwhile, struggled all night in its worse home loss since a 20-point shellacking against Purdue Fort Wayne in December 2017.

Yes, Trayce Jackson Davis led the Hoosiers with 26 points and 13 rebounds and passed Alan Henderson and Walt Bellamy to become the school's career rebounding leader with 1,096.

But the Hoosiers looked flat after winning at rival Purdue on Saturday, and Iowa wasted no time taking advantage.

The Hawkeyes scored the first six points, quickly extended the margin to 16-5 and still led 47-36 at half-time. The Hawkeyes then used a 14-2 second half run to make it 61-40 and continued pulling away over the final 15 1/2 minutes.

"It's the worst day of the season for us," Indiana coach Mike Woodson said on his postgame radio show. "They were hitting 3s, 2s, whatever they wanted. That's not Indiana basketball and it's unacceptable."

BIG PICTURE

Indiana: Whatever the explanation, the Hoosiers looked lost. They had no flow and never got in sync, a stark contrast from the previous six weeks when they showed steady improvement and some real fight. Neither existed in this game and while it may be an anomaly, coach Mike Woodson knows it cannot happen again.

UP NEXT

Indiana: Plays its home finale Sunday against Michigan.

High School Calendar

WEDNESDAY, Mar. 1
BOYS BASKETBALL: (sectional) Bluffton vs. Manchester at South Adams, 6 p.m.; Norwell vs. Northwestern at Peru, 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, Mar. 2
No events scheduled.
FRIDAY, Mar. 3
No events scheduled.

SATURDAY, Mar. 4
No events scheduled.
MONDAY, MARCH 6
No events scheduled.
TUESDAY, MARCH 7
No events scheduled.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8
No events scheduled.
THURSDAY, MARCH 9
No events scheduled.

Cubs OF Suzuki out of WBC, could miss opening day

By DAVID BRANDT
AP Sports Writer

MESA, Ariz. (AP) — An oblique injury will keep Japanese outfielder Seiya Suzuki out of the World Baseball Classic. It also jeopardizes his status for opening day with the Chicago Cubs.

Cubs manager David Ross said Tuesday that the Suzuki suffered a "moderate" strain to his left oblique while swinging during batting practice over the weekend. Suzuki was on Japan's roster for the 2017 WBC and played on Japan's gold-medal team in the one-year delayed Tokyo Olympics.

"It's really unfortunate that it had to come down to this decision," Suzuki said on Tuesday through an interpreter. "I know a lot of people were excited to see me out there playing."

Ross said there's still hope that the 28-year-old Suzuki can be ready for the

Cubs' regular season opener against the Brewers on March 30. But he also said the team wouldn't rush his return.

"The goal for us is that when he's back, we don't lose him again," Ross said. "So pushing toward some date that we all look forward to doesn't make a lot of sense. We want him to get back completely healthy."

"If that's opening day — great. If it's five days — great. If it's two weeks — fine."

Suzuki hit .262 with 14 homers, 46 RBIs and nine stolen bases for the Cubs in his first big league season last year. The outfielder said the team was waiting for the injury's inflammation to subside before deciding the next steps in his recovery. "We'll put a plan in place, react to how he's feeling, let him build back up," Ross said.

Rangers acquire star winger Patrick Kane from Blackhawks

By JAY COHEN
AP Sports Writer

The New York Rangers acquired Patrick Kane in a trade with the Chicago Blackhawks on Tuesday, reuniting the star winger with former teammate Artemi Panarin and stamping themselves as a Stanley Cup contender in the loaded Eastern Conference.

New York was believed to be out of the running for Kane after it acquired Vladimir Tarasenko from St. Louis on Feb. 9. The 34-year-old Kane also had been non-committal when asked about leaving his only NHL home.

But Kane loved play-

ing with Panarin for two seasons at the beginning of the Russian winger's NHL career, and the three-time Stanley Cup champion was in control of his situation because of a no-movement clause in his contract.

"This has been an emotional time for me and my family, but I feel this decision puts me in the best spot to immediately win another Stanley Cup," Kane said in a release. "This isn't about me leaving the Blackhawks, but this is an opportunity for me — the Blackhawks did everything they could to put me in a great position and I will forever be grateful."

After days of rumors and salary cap maneuvering, the Rangers sent a conditional 2023 second-round draft pick, a 2025 fourth-round and minor league defenseman Andy Welinski to the rebuilding Blackhawks for Kane and minor league defenseman Cooper Zech. Chicago also acquired Finnish defenseman Vili Saarijarvi from Arizona as part of the trade.

The Coyotes received a 2025 third-round pick from the Rangers to retain 25% of Kane's salary, with the Blackhawks paying 50%.

The conditional second-round pick that Chicago got from New York becomes

a 2024 first-round pick if the Rangers reach this year's East final. If it remains a second-round selection, the Blackhawks will have eight picks in the first three rounds of the upcoming draft.

"A lot of emotions, to be honest. It doesn't seem real right now, that we traded Patrick Kane," Blackhawks general manager Kyle Davidson said. "But really excited for him to get a chance to play for the Rangers, play at Madison Square Garden with a really good team, and we're looking forward to watching him compete with New York."

Five Knight events compete at swim state

Five of Norwell's boys' swim team made it to the state final round last Friday at IUPUI's Natatorium in Indianapolis. A total of five difference swimmers competed in the events, three individual races and two relays.

Here are the results:
• Mikey Reidenbach placed 31st in the 50-yard freestyle.
• Samuel Peterson placed 31st in the 100-yard butterfly.
• Reidenbach placed 30th in the 100-yard freestyle.
• Emerson Graft, Rodrigo Segovia, Reidenbach, and Peterson placed 30th in the 200-yard freestyle relay.
• Graft, Segovia, Reidenbach, and Peterson placed 31st in the 400-yard freestyle relay.



News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

High School

Tuesday Boys' Scores
Sectional First Round
Class 4A

1. Munster
Hammond Central 62, Gary West 54
2. Crown Point
Crown Point 54, Portage 45
3. LaPorte
Michigan City 70, S. Bend Adams 62
4. Elkhart
Northridge 55, Warsaw 51
5. Carroll (Fort Wayne)
E. Noble 44, DeKalb 40
Ft. Wayne North 79, Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 48
6. Columbia City
Ft. Wayne Wayne 84, New Haven 58
Homestead 52, Huntington North 42
7. Kokomo
Lafayette Harrison 54, Lafayette Jeff 39
8. Carmel
Fishers 68, Hamilton Southeastern 49
9. Muncie Central
Pendleton Hts. 62, Richmond 58
10. Warren Central
Warren Central 61, Lawrence Central 58, OT
11. Perry Meridian
Decatur Central 55, Indpls Roncalli 52
12. Plainfield
Terre Haute South 61, Avon 58
13. Center Grove
Bloomington North 101, Mooresville 58
14. Columbus North
Columbus North 40, Franklin 38
Shelbyville 54, E. Central 47, OT
15. Seymour
Jennings Co. 72, Bedford N. Lawrence 71, 2OT
New Albany 60, Floyd Central 49
16. Evansville North
Evansville Reitz 53, Castle 41
Jasper 51, Evansville Harrison 48
Class 3A
17. Hanover Central
Lake Station 68, Griffith 57
River Forest 56, Boone Grove 35
18. Knox
Glenn 68, Tippecanoe Valley 55
19. Jimtown
Mishawaka Marian 69, S. Bend Clay 44
20. NorthWood
NorthWood 52, Wawasee 23
21. Garrett
Ft. Wayne Dwenger 64, Angola 56
22. Frankfort
Western 61, W. Lafayette 53
23. Peru
Peru 71, Mississinewa 63
24. New Castle
Delta 63, Centerville 41
25. Danville
Crawfordsville 57, Monrovia 40
26. Danville 68, Western Boone 61
27. Northview
Northview 77, Owen Valley 63
28. Indpls Shortridge
Indpls Brebeuf 71, Heritage Christian 63
29. Greensburg
Franklin Co. 50, Rushville 45
30. Charlestown
Corydon 60, N. Harrison 52
31. Washington
Heritage Hills 42, Southridge 37
32. Boonville
Boonville 58, Mt. Vernon (Posey) 49
33. Evansville Mater Dei 58, Evansville Bosse 57
Class 2A
33. Whiting
Gary 21st Century 93, Whiting 57
34. N. Judson
LaVelle 70, Hebron 47
35. Westview
Prairie Hts. 63, Fremont 47
Westview 74, Churubusco 49
36. Rochester
Cass 65, Pioneer 29
Winamac 66, N. Miami 48
37. S. Adams
Adams Central 53, Whitko 49
38. Delphi
Carroll (Flora) 80, Seeger 56
Clinton Prairie 42, Lafayette Catho-

lic 37	31	32	492	13
39. Taylor	31	32	492	13
Taylor 67, Blackford 38	29	31	483	13½
40. Monroe Central	28	33	459	15
Muncie Burriss 61, Winchester 42				
41. Shenandoah				
Northeastern 47, Shenandoah 41				
42. Eastern Hancock				
Eastern Hancock 75, Indpls Irving-ton 25				
43. Cascade				
University 58, Sheridan 30				
44. Southmont				
Parke Heritage 60, Greencastle 42				
45. S. Ripley				
Milan 59, Switzerland Co. 56				
46. Southwestern				
Henryville 66, Austin 52				
47. N. Knox				
Vincennes (South Knox)— 47, Sul-ivan 35				
48. Tell City				
N. Posey 58, S. Spencer 56				
Class 1A				
49. Morgan Twp.				
Kouts 60, Washington Twp. 47				
Morgan Twp. 54, Tri-Township 15				
50. Triton				
Culver 42, S. Bend Trinity 27				
51. Hamilton				
Bethany Christian 66, Hamilton 26				
52. W. Central				
Frontier 44, Caston 40				
W. Central 59, S. Newton 36				
53. Southwood				
Ft. Wayne Canterbury 65, Southern Wells 53				
54. Fountain Central				
Faith Christian 70, Clinton Central 67				
Fountain Central 58, Attica 8				
56. Tri				
Blue River 59, Tri 52				
57. White River Valley				
Bloomington Lighthouse 60, Shaka-mak 50				
58. Indiana Deaf				
Bethesda Christian 61, Indiana Deaf 15				
Traders Point Christian 74, Indpls International 29				
59. Indpls Lutheran				
Greenwood Christian 53, Indpls Tind-ley 47, OT				
Providence Cristo Rey 77, Eminence 65				
60. Edinburgh				
S. Decatur 52, Edinburgh 45				
61. W. Washington				
Borden 40, W. Washington 37				
Rock Creek Academy 40, Christian Academy 37				
62. New Washington				
New Washington 61, Madison Shawe 52				
Rising Sun 69, Medora 42				
63. Loogootee				
Loogootee 88, Vincennes Rivet 30				
64. Wood Memorial				
Ev. Day 89, Cannelton 34				
Evansville Christian 48, Wood Memo-rial 46				
Sectional Semifinal				
Class 1A				
55. Tri-Central				
Tri-Central 80, Anderson Prep Acad-emy 39				
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCEL-LATIONS				
Forest Park vs. Crawford Co., ppd. to Mar 1st.				

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	44	18	.710	—
Philadelphia	39	21	.650	4
New York	36	27	.571	8½
Brooklyn	34	27	.557	9½
Toronto	31	32	.492	13½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	33	29	.532	—
Atlanta	31	31	.500	2
Washington	29	32	.475	3½
Orlando	26	36	.419	7
Charlotte	20	43	.317	13½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	44	17	.721	—
Cleveland	39	25	.609	6½
Chicago	28	34	.452	16½
Indiana	28	35	.444	17
Detroit	15	47	.242	29½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	37	23	.617	—
Dallas	32	31	.508	6½
New Orleans	30	32	.484	8
San Antonio	15	47	.242	23
Houston	13	48	.213	24½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	44	19	.698	—

Minnesota	31	32	492	13
Utah	31	32	492	13
Portland	29	31	483	13½
Oklahoma City	28	33	459	15
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	36	25	.590	—
Phoenix	33	29	.532	3½
L.A. Clippers	33	30	.524	4
Golden State	31	30	.508	5
L.A. Lakers	29	33	.468	7½
Monday's Games				
Charlotte 117, Detroit 106				
Miami 101, Philadelphia 99				
New York 109, Boston 94				
Orlando 101, New Orleans 93				
Tuesday's Games				
Toronto 104, Chicago 98				
Milwaukee 118, Brooklyn 104				
Washington 119, Atlanta 116				
Memphis 121, L.A. Lakers 109				
Denver 133, Houston 112				
Sacramento 123, Oklahoma City 117				
Indiana 124, Dallas 122				
San Antonio 102, Utah 94				
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers, 10 p.m.				
Portland at Golden State, 10 p.m.				
Wednesday's Games				
Chicago at Detroit, 7 p.m.				
Phoenix at Charlotte, 7 p.m.				
Brooklyn at New York, 7:30 p.m.				
Cleveland at Boston, 7:30 p.m.				
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.				
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.				
Memphis at Houston, 8 p.m.				
Orlando at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.				
New Orleans at Portland, 10 p.m.				
Thursday's Games				
Toronto at Washington, 7 p.m.				
Philadelphia at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.				
Indiana at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.				
L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 10 p.m.				
Friday's Games				
Orlando at Charlotte, 7 p.m.				
Brooklyn at Boston, 7:30 p.m.				
Portland at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.				
New York at Miami, 8 p.m.				
Phoenix at Chicago, 8 p.m.				
Utah at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.				
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, 10 p.m.				
Memphis at Denver, 10 p.m.				
New Orleans at Golden State, 10 p.m.				
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.				

College

Tuesday, Feb. 28
EAST

American 64, Bucknell 59
Georgia Tech 96, Syracuse 76
Loyola (Md.) 73, Holy Cross 69
Maine 66, Bryant 64
New Hampshire 59, NJIT 58
Robert Morris 67, IUPUI 64
UMBC 70, Binghamton 67, OT
Vermont 79, Albany (NY) 61
Villanova 76, Seton Hall 72

SOUTH

Arkansas St. 86, Coastal Carolina 69
Boston College 71, Wake Forest 69
Duke 71, NC State 67
E. Kentucky 73, North Alabama 48
Florida 77, Georgia 67
Kennesaw St. 67, Queens (NC) 66
Liberty 76, Bellarmine 56
Lipscomb 83, Stetson 70
VCU 79, Saint Louis 67
Virginia 64, Clemson 57

MIDWEST

Akron 87, Ball St. 83
Ashland 81, Lake Erie 69
Bowling Green 88, E. Michigan 68
Buffalo 85, N. Illinois 75
Dayton 77, La Salle 53
Detroit 81, Fort Wayne 68
Grace 80, Huntington 74
Hillsdale 87, Cedarville 57
Iowa 90, Indiana 68
Kent St. 82, Ohio 75
Malone 82, Tiffin 75
Marquette 72, Butler 56
Miami (Ohio) 77, W. Michigan 62
Minn. St. (Moorhead) 79, Minn. Duluth 69
Toledo 99, Cent. Michigan 65
Walsh 75, Kentucky Wesleyan 70
Wright St. 77, Green Bay 57

SOUTHWEST

Texas St. 81, Georgia St. 76

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE							
Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT/PTS	GF	GA	
Boston	59	46	8	5	97	222	126

Toronto	60	37	15	8	82	207	158
Tampa Bay	60	37	19	4	78	213	180
Buffalo	59	31	24	4	66	223	208
Florida	62	30	26	6	66	214	214
Ottawa	60	30	26	4	64	189	188
Detroit	60	28	24	8	64	182	196
Montreal	59	25	30	4	54	163	214
Metropolitan Division							
	GP	W	L	OT/PTS	GF	GA	
Carolina	58	39	11	8	86	198	151
New Jersey	59	39	15	5	83	208	157
N.Y. Rangers	60	34	17	9	77	201	168
N.Y. Islanders	64	31	25	8	70	184	176
Pittsburgh	60	30	21	9	69	195	191
Washington	62	29	27	6	64	188	187
Philadelphia	61	23	28	10	56	161	228
Columbus	61	20	35	6	46	159	205
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OT/PTS	GF	GA	
Dallas	60	31	16	13	75	195	159
Minnesota	61	34	21	6	74	177	167
Colorado	58	34	19	5	73	185	157
Winnipeg	61	35	24	2	72	188	165
Nashville	58	29	23	6	64	170	174
St. Louis	60	26	29	5	57	183	220
Arizona	59	20	30	9	49	160	211
Chicago	59	21	33	5	47	149	213
Pacific Division							
	GP	W	L	OT/PTS	GF	GA	
Vegas	60	35	19	6	76	192	169
Los Angeles	62	34	20	8	76	211	192
Seattle	60	33	21	6	72	208	191
Edmonton	61	32	21	8	72	232	205
Calgary	60	27	21	12	66	193	188
Vancouver	60	24	31	5	53	205	243
San Jose	60	18	30	12	48	179	223
Anaheim	61	20	34	7	47	156	252
NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.							
Monday's Games							
Florida 6, Detroit 2							
Boston 3, Edmonton 2							
Vancouver 5, Dallas 4, OT							
Colorado 3, Vegas 0							
Anaheim 4, Chicago 2							
Tuesday's Games							
Florida 4, Tampa Bay 1							
Ottawa 6, Detroit 1							
Columbus 5, Buffalo 3							
Pittsburgh 3, Nashville 1							
Seattle 5, St. Louis 3							
Minnesota 2, N.Y. Islanders 1, SO							
Los Angeles 6, Winnipeg 5, SO							
Boston at Calgary, 9 p.m.							
Chicago at Arizona, 9 p.m.							
Montreal at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.							
Wednesday's Games							
N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.							
Toronto at Edmonton, 8 p.m.							
Arizona at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.							
New Jersey at Colorado, 9 p.m.							
Carolina at Vegas, 10 p.m.							
Washington at Anaheim, 10 p.m.							
Thursday's Games							
Buffalo at Boston, 7 p.m.							
Nashville at Florida, 7 p.m.							
Ottawa at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.							
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.							
Seattle at Detroit, 7 p.m.							
Dallas at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.							
Seattle at Detroit, 9 p.m.							
Toronto at Calgary, 9 p.m.							
Minnesota at Vancouver, 10 p.m.							
Montreal at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.							
St. Louis at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.							
Friday's Games							
Seattle at Columbus, 7 p.m.							
Winnipeg at Edmonton, 9 p.m.							
Carolina at Arizona, 9:30 p.m.							
Montreal at Anaheim, 10 p.m.							
New Jersey at Vegas, 10 p.m.							

Washington	2	2	.500
NY Mets	2	3	.400
Atlanta	1	2	.333
Pittsburgh	1	2	.333
Miami	1	3	.250
Arizona	1	4	.200
Chicago Cubs	1	4	.200
Monday's Games			
Miami 4, Houston 3			
Boston 4, Minnesota 1			
St. Louis 12, N.Y. Mets 7			
Tampa Bay 14, Baltimore 2			
Atlanta 7, Toronto 0			
Philadelphia 9, Pittsburgh 7			
Cleveland 12, Chicago Cubs (ss) 4			
Colorado 7, Oakland 3			
Milwaukee 10, Kansas City 4			
Chicago White Sox 10, Seattle 1			
Texas			

New perspectives on groundbreaking weight loss drugs

Dear Readers: In a recent column, I was critical of the sudden popularity of using diabetes drugs to lose weight. I was responding to news reports that a growing number of people are using them for casual weight loss to drop a few pounds. But too many readers felt that I was not current on the latest scientific studies in this area for the clinically obese. I am grateful for the many letters I received on this topic and want to share a few of them with you:

Dear Annie: I feel compelled to respond to your recent dialog with an individual writing about their friend who is successfully losing weight with the aid of GLP-1 receptor medications like Ozempic and Wegovy.

Yes, healthy eating and exercise are an important part of any lifestyle, but there are those of us who, through a mix of genetics and other factors, find ourselves 50 or even 100-plus pounds overweight. We are not like you; our weight challenges are not simply a failure to exercise proper willpower.

I lost 50 pounds on my own through healthy choices before turning to these new miracle medications after two years of not being able to lose more on my own. Once on the medication for a couple of months, the most puzzling emotion came over me: anger. This is what it feels like to be in a regular body. A body where blood sugar swings causing ravenous hunger don't ruin our lives and ravage our bodies. Those of us who have been obese for our entire lives are just starting to feel what it's like to be in a body like yours, and we are more than a little angry that it took this long. We are angry that we've been told our issues were willpower-based or simply a failure of balancing energy in with energy out.

These drugs were discovered initially in the treatment of Type 2 diabetes — and there is a stigma for obese non-diabetics accessing the medications — but Type 2 diabetes is where most of us are headed with untreated obesity. I do not feel one bit guilty about intervening in my obesity now instead of waiting around for Type 2 diabetes to take me.

We already face huge barriers on accessing these medications. For instance, most insurance plans still get away with excluding coverage for obesity treatment, so we have to pay \$350-\$1,350 a month out-of-pocket, depending on the medication. But of course, if we get so sick that we become Type 2 diabetics, the drugs are paradoxically covered without issue.

I ask you to encourage your readers not to pass judgment on the use of these miracle medications — at least until they have carried around an extra 100 pounds every day of their life. — Enlighten the Skinny

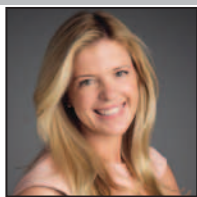
Dear Enlighten: You state the case so clearly that you could be the spokesperson for the clinically obese who are benefiting from these medications. I very much appreciate your important comments.

Dear Annie: I am a registered nurse who is administering this class of drugs to patients who suffer from obesity-related diseases and have difficulty losing weight by traditional diet and exercise alone. There are a whole host of factors for some individuals that make losing weight by traditional methods next to impossible. There are factors such as thyroid disease, PCOS, autoimmune, certain medications, insulin resistance, genetics, etc., that make losing weight so difficult. — Ignorance Is Never Bliss

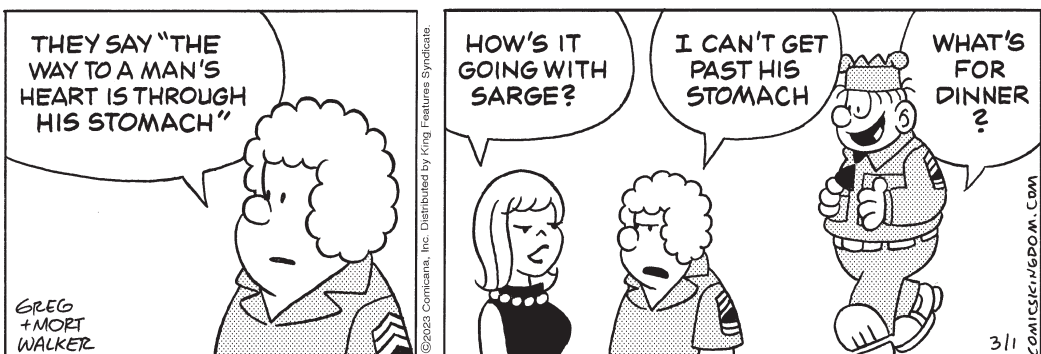
Dear Annie: I urge everyone to watch the Nova special called "The Truth About Fat," which dives into the science and new knowledge behind the explosion of obesity globally. Science now knows that the gene for obesity occurs in over 30% of the population. — Science Matters

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2023 CREATORS.COM

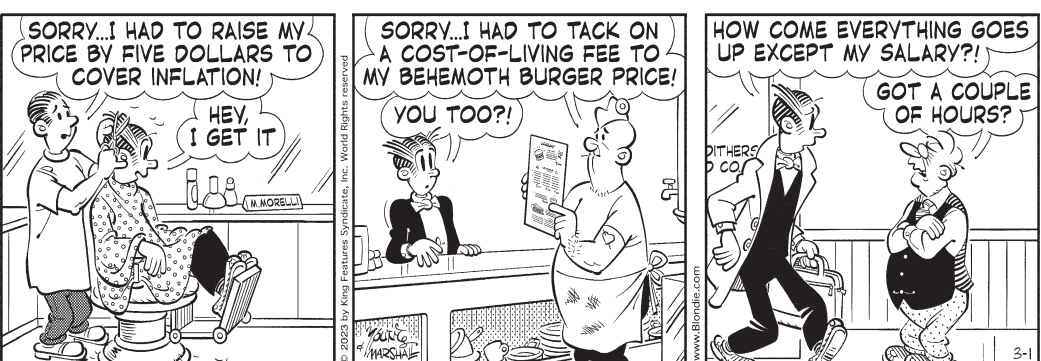
Dear Annie by Annie Lane



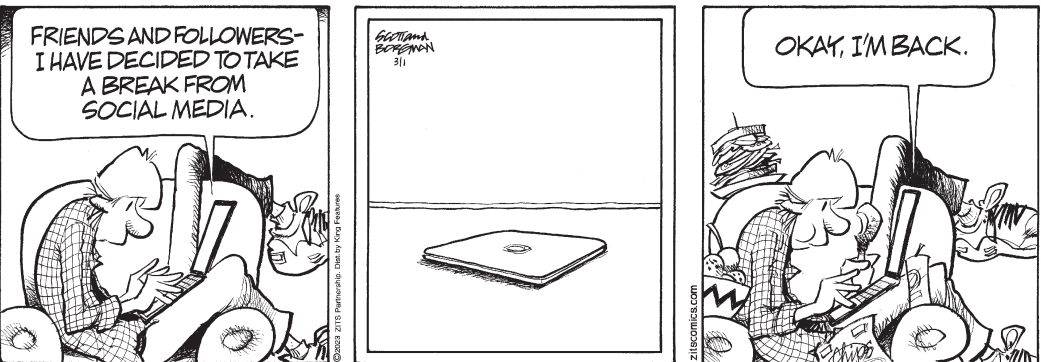
BEETLE BAILEY



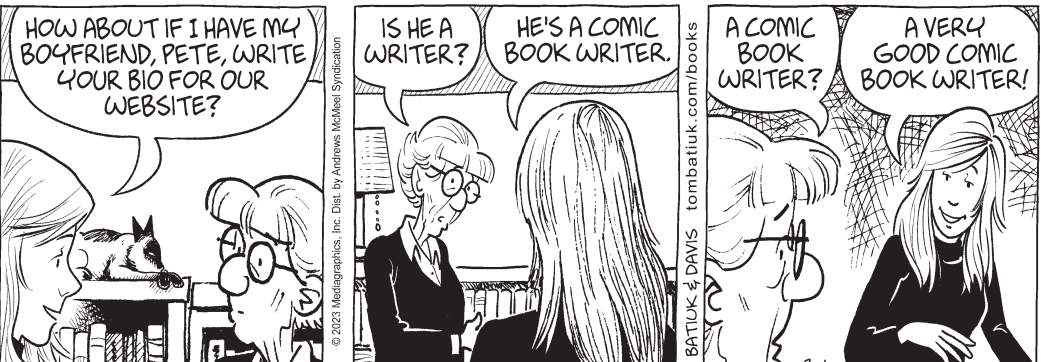
BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Emotions are not wrong or sinful

Q: I struggle with emotional instability though I have no clear diagnosis but my own. Is being overly emotional a sin, and if not, what can a person do to tone down the emotional highs and lows? — E.I.

A: God wove various personality traits into His created beings. Emotions in themselves are not wrong or sinful. Often the differences complement one another. Some are quiet while others are talkative. Some are quick to respond while others are slow to action.

We shouldn't despise or deny these differences. If we didn't experience

emotions, we couldn't know God's peace and joy. No two people are exactly alike. Our Creator is unique and everything He does is also unique. As a result, there are varieties of personalities and we can learn from one another. But most important, we can learn from the Bible as we study and pray, asking the Lord to develop in us the fruits of the Spirit.

Perhaps it surprises many to realize that God experiences emotion, and we are all created in His image. This is a staggering thought but true. How empty life would be without emotions!

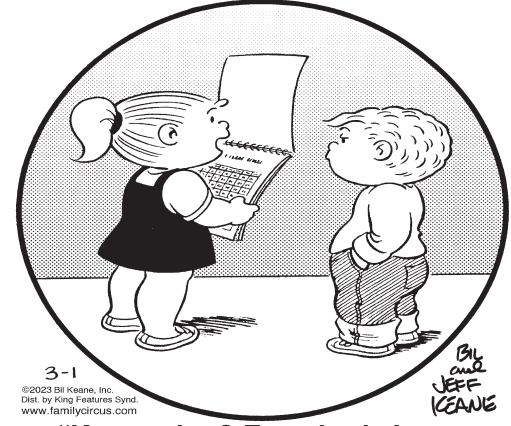
The psalmist declared, "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). This does not refer only

to the human body but everything about us — our minds and emotions. Each person is complex and while we may have challenges in understanding one another, God perfectly understands everything about us.

We must admit, though, that our emotions can become twisted and even destructive, leading us to do or say things that are harmful to others and ourselves. We must rely on Christ to fill our minds with the things that please Him and bring glory to Him.

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

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"Know what? Everybody in our family has a birthday in the same year."

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Table with 24 columns (03:01 to 12:30) and 24 rows (WINM to TMC) listing TV channels and their programming schedules.

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SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

3-1

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1994 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN, 2500, 184,000 miles, white/blue, 4x2, 6.5 turbo diesel, new paint, loaded, Reese hitch, trailer brakes, original. 260-450-2432.

Lottery Numbers

Tuesday's Drawings
HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 24-32-34-36-45
Cash4Life — 03-07-19-38-51, Cash Ball: 03
Quick Draw Midday — 01-05-10-14-15-17-18-29-30-36-37-38-39-40-54-55-65-69-73-76, BE: 10
Daily Three-Midday — 03-04-01, SB: 03
Daily Three-Evening — 04-08-03, SB: 01
Daily Four-Midday — 02-06-07-00, SB: 03
Daily Four-Evening — 09-07-05-05, SB: 01
Quick Draw Evening — 04-09-14-19-24-28-30-31-32-40-43-47-50-51-57-60-62-71-73-74, BE: 04
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$116 million
MEGA MILLIONS 14-16-40-52-59; Mega Ball: 13; Megaplier: 2X.
POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$143 million

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF WELLS, SS:
IN THE WELLS COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
CAUSE NO.
90C01-2302-EU-000006

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
VELMA F. SOUERS, DECEASED
**NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA

Notice is hereby given that Emily Y. Bothast were on the 7th day of February, 2023, appointed Executrix (Personal Representative) of the estate of Velma F. Souers, deceased, who died on the 17th day of January, 2023, and is authorized to administer said estate without Court supervision.

All persons who have claims against said 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 Huntington, Indiana, this 7th day of February, 2023.
Beth Davis
Clerk,
Wells County Circuit Court

BOWERS, BREWER, GARRETT & WILEY, LLP
Joseph K. Wiley
Atty. I.D. #1237-35
301 Warren Street
Huntington, Indiana 46750
Telephone: (260) 356-4800
Attorney for Personal Representative,
Emily Y. Bothast

nb 2/22, 3/1
hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

Difficulty: ★★★

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EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

PART TIME HANDYPERSON needed for yard work and miscellaneous jobs, 565-3780.

BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 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

SAF-T-LITE - LOOKING for individuals that want to work. See the products you'd be making at www.safelite.com. Multiple positions, locally owned business, 1st shift hours, competitive pay, benefit package, family friendly environment. Contact us, jobs@safelite.com, (260) 824-3440, apply in person, 1336 W Wiley Ave., Bluffton. (EAP2)

Help Wanted



CDL CLASS A DRIVER Looking for more than a steering wheel holder. I need a professional. You would interact with our customers east of the Rockies. We make milk runs out and back. You won't be dropping off a load and heading to another state to pick up something else. It's out and back. If you like driving, but not the typical trucking company nonsense, this is for you! REBA Transport is the private fleet for Smith Brothers of Berne. Home weekends and possibly during the week. Insurance is based on a manufacturing model and better than the typical trucking company. Stop pay/ overnight pay/ Hotel plan/ yearly performance bonus up to \$2K/ paid vacation/ etc... Call 260.589.2131 for more info! May train the correct individual.

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, order 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 working with Excel spreadsheets. For more information, contact Sue or Vicki (260) 824-5070. <https://wellscommunityboysgirlsclub.com/>

NOW HIRING

THE NEWS-BANNER IS looking for a part-time accounts receivable/payable position to fill an immediate opening. Excel, Quickbooks experience preferred. Send resume to Doug Brown, doug@news-banner.com or PO Box 436, Bluffton, IN 46714.

HELOISE HINT: If co-workers aren't getting along and there is obvious tension. Do not get involved. Allow them to sort it out privately and with their bosses. If the tension escalates to a point that you can no longer ignore, then let your manager know. Email HELOISE@Heloise.com.

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LENGERICH MEATS IS looking for a motivated and reliable individual with great attention to detail to join our team. The position is for general labor starting at \$15.00/hr. Send your resume to Lengerich@frontier.com or stop in and fill out an application.

Public Notices

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of Southern Wells Community Schools, Wells County, Indiana, that the proper legal officers will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year at their regular meeting place at Southern Wells Community Schools, at seven o'clock p.m., on the 14th day of March, 2023.

Fund Name:	AMOUNT
Major Budget Classification:	
Personal Services	\$
Supplies	\$
Other Services & Charges	\$
Township Assistance	\$
Debt Service	\$
Capital Outlays	\$145,500.00
TOTAL for Rainy Day Fund:	\$145,500.00

Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance (Department). The Department will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken.
Dated 2/28/2023

Lora Warner, Treasurer
nb 3/1
hspaxlp

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