

# The News - Banner

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MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

## Doden pitches plans for rural areas and teachers

**By DAVE SCHULTZ**

There are three candidates for the Republican nomination for Indiana governor. The one that's closest to home for residents of northeast Indiana is Eric Doden.

The current U.S. senator from Indiana, Mike Braun, is not running for re-election so he can run for governor. The current lieutenant governor of Indiana, Suzanne Crouch, is seeking to move up to the governor's office.

Braun is from Jasper and Crouch is from Evansville. Doden, who has never held an elective office, is from Fort Wayne.

Doden did run for mayor of Fort Wayne in 2011 but did not win the GOP primary. He has statewide government experience as the former head of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

Doden is familiar with Bluffton. He was in the city the evening of March 11, in fact, for a Right to Life event at the Wells County Community Center at the 4-H Park.

He's the only one of the three candidates who has never held an elective office. He certainly does not consider that to be a negative.

"I have been involved in state government with (former Gov.) Mike Pence," he said during a telephone interview last week.

He says he brings "a fresh perspective and new ideas to the equation."

"We have a bold vision where we think we can improve the lives of Hoosiers all over the state," he said.

Doden gives a lot of credit for his ideas on government to Jon Costas, the former mayor of Valparaiso (2003-19) who is seeking to return to that office this year. Doden met Costas in law school.

"He just really believes that the most important thing we do is serve the people," Doden said. "Beyond that, he has taught me about bringing people together to solve problems."

When asked why Hoosiers should vote for him, Doden made note of three ideas he is bringing forward as he runs:

- **Support for smaller communities.** "We're the first candidate for governor to have a plan for our small towns through the Indiana Main Street initiative," he said. "We spent more than \$1 billion per year in economic development. We've never had a plan for the 2 million people who live in our small towns. We'll take \$100 million out of that \$1 billion and put it toward small towns."
- **More money to the Regional Cit-**



Eric Doden of Fort Wayne, one of three candidates in the Indiana Republican gubernatorial primary, speaks to people at a Right to Life event held in Bluffton on March 11. (Photo provided)

**ies Initiative.** This program is something Doden was involved with when he served with Pence. "We need all of (Indiana's) regions to be successful, not just one or two of them," he said. He wants to take another \$200 million out of the \$1 billion spent on economic development to beef of the growth budget for each region of Indiana.

"That will allow them (the regions) to

## Southern Wells is in the running for READI funds

**By LISA ESQUIVEL LONG**  
**Fort Wayne Business Weekly**

The Indiana Economic Development Corp. has approved READI funding for a Topeka housing project and repairs to the Fort Wayne arts campus.

A preschool program at Southern Wells Community Schools has also been approved.

Northeast Indiana Regional Development Authority held its regular meeting March 14

at the offices of Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership in Fort Wayne.

Representatives of Topeka had requested \$3 million in Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative funds in hopes of building a \$28 million, 151-unit housing development. The Performing Arts sought \$6 million for upgrades to the Arts United Center designed by world-renowned architect Louis Kahn

and built in 1973. The building serves as an anchor of the Arts Campus and is home to the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre.

The total project, estimated at nearly \$30.24 million, will address electrical systems and lighting, mechanical and air handling systems, roofing, masonry, windows, accessibility, efficiency and function, safety for employees and volunteers, security for patrons and performers, modern stage technol-

ogy and historic preservation.

"I'm especially pleased to see that one go through as quickly as it did given the complexity of the projects," Ryan Twiss, executive director of the authority told board members. "...It's money that's actually going out the door."

A third project that's been fully approved for Southern Wells Community Schools Preschool inside Southern Wells Junior/Senior High School. Southern Wells requested

\$59,400 for that project, which will require an additional teacher and aide, furniture for the children, technology for an additional classroom, a playground area at the high school, and safety measures installed for both the high school and preschoolers.

The authority is just waiting on some more details from the school district.

Twiss also updated the board

## Wells' jobless rate was at 2.8 percent during January, state reports

**By DAVE SCHULTZ**

Wells County had an unemployment rate of 2.8 percent in January, according to preliminary results announced this month by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

Wells' rate is Indiana's 14th lowest.

In an interesting turn of events, the counties of northeast Indiana — which have been listed for several months as having among the lowest unemployment rates in the state — actually had only four counties under a 3.0 jobless rate. Two northeast Indiana counties, Lagrange and Noble, had the state's highest unemployment rates as they were tied at 5.2 percent.

Adams County had an unemployment rate of 2.5 percent, tied with two other counties for the state's fifth lowest jobless rate. Wells (2.8) and Steuben and Whitley (each 2.9) were the other three area counties with an unemployment rate under 3.0.

Other area counties were Allen and DeKalb, each 3.0; Huntington and Jay, each 3.1; Wabash, 3.3; Grant, 3.5; and Blackford, 3.8.

Wells' unemployment rate in January of 2022 was 3.0, indicating a 0.2 percent change from year to year.

The lowest unemployment rate in Indiana in January, according to the DWD's preliminary listing, belonged to Boone and Hamilton, two of the "collar counties" around Indianapolis, and Gibson County in southern Indiana. All were at 2.3 percent.

The unemployment rate for the Fort Wayne metropolitan statistical area, which includes Wells, Whitley, and Allen counties, was 3.0 in January of 2023 after being listed at 3.1 in January of 2022.

The numbers for the state of Indiana were 3.4 in January of 2023, seasonally adjusted to 3.1. Those numbers in January of 2022 were 3.3 and 2.9.

Nationally, the unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in January of 2023, a number that shrinks to 3.4 when seasonally adjusted. Those numbers in January 2022 were 4.4 and 4.0 percent, respectively.

daves@news-banner.com

## China's Xi to meet Putin in Moscow

**By EMILY WANG FUJIYAMA and JOE McDONALD Associated Press**

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese leader Xi Jinping is due to meet Vladimir Putin in Moscow in a political boost for the isolated Russian president after the International Criminal Court charged him with war crimes in Ukraine.

Xi's government gave no details of what the Chinese leader hoped to accomplish. Xi and Putin declared they had a "no limits friendship" before last February's attack on Ukraine, but China has tried to portray itself as neutral. Beijing called last month for a cease-fire, but Washington said that would ratify the Kremlin's battlefield gains.

The Chinese government said Xi would visit Moscow from Monday to Wednesday but gave no indication when he departed. The Russian government said Xi was due to arrive at midday and meet later with Putin.

China looks to Russia as a source of

## Putin makes surprise visit to Mariupol

**By KARL RITTER Associated Press**

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin visited the occupied port city of Mariupol, his first trip to Ukrainian territory that Moscow illegally annexed in September and a show of defiance after the International Criminal Court issued a warrant for his arrest on war crimes charges.

Putin arrived in Mariupol late Saturday after visiting Crimea, southwest of Mariupol, to mark the ninth anniversary of the Black

Sea peninsula's annexation from Ukraine, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Sunday. He was shown chatting with Mariupol residents and visiting an art school and a children's center in Sevastopol, Crimea.

Mariupol became a worldwide symbol of resistance after outgunned and outmanned Ukrainian forces held out in a steel mill there for nearly three months before Moscow finally took control of it in May. Much of the city was pounded to rubble by Russian shelling.

chance to show they have "powerful partners" at a time of strained relations with Washington, said Joseph Torjigan, an expert in Chinese-Russian relations

## Study: Military pilots, ground crews at risk for cancer

**By TARA COPP Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Pentagon study has found high rates of cancer among military pilots and for the first time has shown that ground crews who fuel, maintain and launch those aircraft are also getting sick.

The data had long been sought by retired military aviators who have raised alarms for years about the number of air and ground crew members they knew who had cancer. They were told that earlier military studies had found they were not at greater risk than the general U.S. population.

In its yearlong study of almost

900,000 service members who flew on or worked on military aircraft between 1992 and 2017, the Pentagon found that air crew members had an 87 percent higher rate of melanoma and a 39 percent higher rate of thyroid cancer, while men had a 16 percent higher rate of prostate cancer and women a 16 percent higher rate of breast cancer. Overall, the air crews had a 24 percent higher rate of cancer of all types.

The study showed ground crews had a 19 percent higher rate of brain and nervous system cancers, a 15 percent higher rate of thyroid cancer and a 9 percent higher rate of kidney or renal

cancers, while women had a 7 percent higher rate of breast cancer. The overall rate for cancers of all types was 3 percent higher.

There was some good news reported as well. Both ground and air crews had far lower rates of lung cancer, and air crews also had lower rates of bladder and colon cancers.

The data compared the service members with the general U.S. population after adjusting for age, sex and race.

The Pentagon said the new study was one of the largest and most com-

**Inside**

Local/Area

Obituaries . . . . . 3  
Indiana News . . . . . 3

**Opinion**

Dave Schultz . . . . . 4

**Also...**

Sports . . . . . 6-7  
Classifieds . . . . . 9  
Diversions . . . . . 8

**Outside**

**Sunny today, we'll see a warmup during the week**

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 46	High 54	High 55
Low 30	Low 41	Low 52

More Weather on Page 2

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## Doden

(Continued from Page 1)

have success in growing their economies and jobs and retaining our kids and grandkids to live in our communities," he said.

• **A teacher investment plan.** "We know that education's going to be critical and we have a crisis brewing, especially in our small rural communities, where we don't have enough teachers," he said. "We know if we don't educate our children, that puts our future at risk.

What Doden wants to do is to allow teachers to be exempt from state income and property taxes. Under his

plan, the state will replace the property taxes paid by teachers which support local government.

"It'll be an average pay raise, we think, of about \$4,000 to \$5,000 per teacher," Doden said. "And that has been really well-received and people are very excited about that."

Doden was the first candidate to announce his bid for governor, ahead of Braun and Crouch. It does not bother him that they have experience in elective office but he doesn't.

"If outsiders like me don't run, nothing changes," he said.

He notes that the 2023 Republi-

can primary for Indiana governor will be the first such contested race in two decades.

"We welcome competition," he said. "We think it's healthy.

"And that has been a good and robust debate, a very healthy debate, a much-needed debate about the future of Indiana," he continued. "We're actually very excited to have Suzanne Crouch and Mike Braun join the race. We're looking forward to that healthy debate and discussion and we think it's going to be good for the state of Indiana."

daves@news-banner.com

## Southern Wells

(Continued from Page 1)

on the \$5 million request for the Lofts at Headwaters at Clinton and Superior streets. The project has been on hold after rising supply costs left developer Barrett and Stokely looking for more financing. Its original projected cost three years ago of \$67 million has ballooned to \$98.67 million. In recent months, the Allen County-Fort Wayne Capital Improvement Board approved another \$3 million for the project, and the Fort Wayne Redevelopment Board

added another \$1.6 million.

The target to close on financing for the project is this week, Twiss said.

The nearly \$98.67 million mixed-use project will feature a 6-story structure with 217 apartments, 15 townhomes, 12,000 square feet of retail space and a 651-space parking garage.

The authority has been charged with \$50 million in READI funds for transformative projects in the Northeast Indiana region that deal with downtown revitalization, housing, workforce growth and entrepreneurship. It sends

projects it has approved for final ratification by the IEDC.

The money must be used by the recipients by 2026.

The authority has been meeting with other groups in case the Indiana General Assembly in session now approves another round of funding as part of a READI 2.0, Twiss said.

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

## China's Xi

(Continued from Page 1)

at American University in Washington.

"China can signal that it could even do more to help Russia, and that if relations with the United States continue to deteriorate, they could do a lot more to enable Russia and help Russia in its war against Ukraine," Torigian said.

Beijing's relations with Washington, Europe and its neighbors are strained by disputes over technology, security, human rights and the ruling Communist Party's treatment of Hong Kong and Muslim minorities.

Some commentators have point to a possible parallel between Russia's claims to Ukraine territory and Beijing's claim to Taiwan. The Communist Party says the self-ruled island democracy, which split with China in 1949 after a civil war, is obliged to unite with the mainland, by force if necessary. Xi's government has been stepping up efforts to intimidate the island by flying fighter jets nearby and

firing missiles into the sea.

China has stepped up purchases of Russian oil and gas, helping to top up the Kremlin's revenue in the face of Western sanctions. Beijing appears largely to have complied with U.S. warnings not to give military support.

This week's meeting follows the ICC announcement of charges that Putin is responsible for the abductions of thousands of children from Ukraine.

Governments that recognize the court's jurisdiction would be obligated to arrest Putin if he visits. Putin has yet to comment on the announcement, but the Kremlin rejected the move as "outrageous and unacceptable."

Xi said in an article published Monday in the Russian newspaper Russian Gazette that China has "actively promoted peace talks" but announced no initiatives.

"My upcoming visit to Russia will be a journey of friendship, cooperation and peace," Xi wrote, according to text

released by the official Xinhua News Agency.

"A reasonable way to resolve the crisis" can be found if "all parties embrace the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security," Xi wrote.

The trip follows the surprise announcement of a diplomatic thaw between Iran and Saudi Arabia following a meeting in Beijing, a diplomatic coup for Xi's government.

Xi wants to be seen as a global statesman who is "playing a constructive role" by talking about peace but is unlikely to press Putin to end the war, said Torigian.

Beijing is worried about "potential Russian losses on the battlefield" but doesn't want to be seen to "enable Russia's aggression," said Torigian.

"They won't spend political capital" on pressing Moscow to make peace, "especially if they don't think it will get them anything," he said.

## Military pilots

(Continued from Page 1)

prehensive to date. An earlier study had looked at just Air Force pilots and had found some higher rates of cancer, while this one looked across all services and at both air and ground crews. Even with the wider approach, the Pentagon cautioned that the actual number of cancer cases was likely to be even higher because of gaps in the data, which it said it would work to remedy.

The study "proves that it's well past time for leaders and policy makers to move from skepticism to belief and active assistance," said retired Air Force Col. Vince Alcazar, a member of the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association, which had lobbied the Pentagon and Congress for help. Alcazar is on the association's medical issues committee.

The study was required by Congress in the 2021 defense bill. Now, because higher rates were found, the Pentagon must conduct an even bigger review to try to understand why the crews are getting sick.

Isolating potential causes is difficult, and the Pentagon

was careful to note that this study "does not imply that military service in air crew or ground crew occupations causes cancer, because there are multiple potential confounding factors that could not be controlled for in this analysis," such as family histories, smoking or alcohol use.

But aviation crews have long asked for the Pentagon to look closely at some of the environmental factors they are exposed to, such as jet fuels and solvents used to clean and maintain jet parts, sensors and their power sources in aircraft nose cones, and the massive radar systems on the decks of the ships they land on.

When Navy Capt. Jim Seaman would come home from a deployment aboard an aircraft carrier, his gear would reek of jet fuel, his widow Betty Seaman said. The A-6 Intruder pilot died in 2018 at age 61 of lung cancer. Betty Seaman still has his gear stored and it still smells of fuel, "which I love," she said.

She and others wonder if there's a link. She said crews would talk about how even the ship's water systems

would smell of fuel.

She said she and others have mixed feelings about finally seeing in data what they have suspected for years about the aviation cancers. But "it has the potential to do a lot of good as far as early communication, early detection," she said.

The study found that when crew members were diagnosed with cancer, they were more likely to survive than members of the general population, which the study suggested was because they were diagnosed earlier due to regular required medical checkups and were more likely to be in better health because of their military fitness requirements.

The Pentagon acknowledged that the study had gaps that likely led to an undercount of cancer cases.

The military health system database used in the study did not have reliable cancer data until 1990, so it may not have included pilots who flew early-generation jets in the prior decades.

The study also did not include cancer data from the Department of Veterans Affairs or state cancer registries, which means it did not

## Trump's call for protests receives muted response from supporters

By ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Donald Trump's calls for protests ahead of his anticipated indictment in New York have generated mostly muted reactions from supporters, with even some of his most ardent loyalists dismissing the idea as a waste of time or a law enforcement trap.

The ambivalence raises questions about whether Trump, though a leading Republican contender in the 2024 presidential race who retains a devoted following, still has the power to mobilize far-right supporters the way he did more than two years ago before the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. It also suggests that the hundreds of arrests that followed the Capitol riot, not to mention the convictions and long prison sentences, may have dampened the desire for repeat mass unrest.

Still, law enforcement in New York is continuing to closely monitor online chatter warning of protests and violence if Trump

is arrested, with threats varying in specificity and credibility, four officials told The Associated Press. Mainly posted online and in chat groups, the messages have included calls for armed protesters to block law enforcement officers and attempt to stop any potential arrest, the officials said.

The New York Young Republicans Club has announced plans for a protest at an undisclosed location in Manhattan on Monday, and incendiary but isolated posts surfaced on fringe social media platforms from supporters calling for an armed confrontation with law enforcement at Trump's Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago.

But nearly two days after Trump claimed on his Truth Social platform that he expected to be arrested on Tuesday and exhorted followers to protest, there were few signs his appeal had inspired his supporters to organize and rally around an event like the Jan. 6 gathering. In fact, a prominent organizer of rallies that preceded the Capitol riot posted on Twitter that he intended to remain on the sidelines.

## Weather

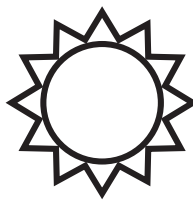
Monday, March 27, 2023

(24-hour observations at 9:14 p.m. Sunday)

High: 35; Low: 14; Precipitation: 0.1" (snow)

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.94 feet at 8:45 p.m. Sunday

## Wells County forecast



**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 48. Southwest wind 10 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 30. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Tuesday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 54. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** A 50 percent chance of rain. Cloudy, with a low around 41. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Wednesday:** A 50 percent chance of rain. Cloudy, with a high near 55. Breezy.

**Wednesday**

**Night:** A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 2 a.m. Cloudy, with a low around 52. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

**Thursday:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 62. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

**Thursday Night:** Rain likely. Cloudy, with a low around 42. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

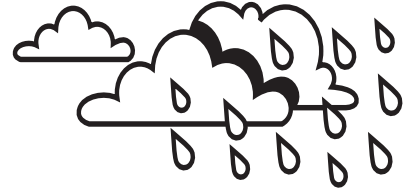
**Friday:** A 40 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 50.

**Friday Night:** A 40 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36.

**Saturday:** A 20 percent chance of rain. Mostly sunny, with a high near 50.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 33.

**Sunday:** A slight chance of rain. Mostly sunny, with a high near 58.



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**OBITUARIES**

**Ronnie R. Gibson, 76**

Ronnie R. Gibson, 76, of Huntington, died Sunday afternoon, March 19, 2023, at the River Terrace Estates in Bluffton.

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

**Rebecca L. Johnson, 69**

Rebecca L. Johnson, 69, of Ossian, died early Sunday morning, March 19, 2023, at her residence.

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

**IU Public Policy Institute study strives to show the viability of the state's 1002 townships**

By SCOTT L. MILEY  
For CNHI News Indiana  
(Terre Haute) Tribune-Star

The Indiana Township Association hopes that results from a study will convince legislators of the viability of the form of government that has been in the Indiana Constitution since 1852, despite calls in the past to eliminate townships.

"We banked on the belief that if we could tell our story, who is doing what and where and at what cost, the long battle might be over," said Deborah Driskell, executive director of the association that represents Indiana's 1,002 townships. The study, paid by ITA and considered one of its most comprehensive, was conducted through the Indiana University Public Policy Institute. Out of the study came 27 recommendations ranging from mandating continuing education for elected trustees and their three-member boards to merging townships for efficiency.

Township trustees are known for providing poor relief, cemetery maintenance and fire protection. However, the study found that trustees perform some nontraditional programs including answering questions on fence line disputes and removing noxious weeds.

"Our study revealed that there were a lot of services being provided locally that had never been collected or documented before," Driskell said.

The study has been discussed in the legislature, where there are currently three pieces of legislation, down from an initial six, that address township government. None calls for eliminating townships as has been discussed in prior sessions.

One tied into the study would set up a pilot program for the merger of townships in Blackford, Crawford and Switzerland counties. Representatives in those counties contacted the ITA regarding merging with one another, officials said.

However, funding for the program was axed by a House committee. The amended House Bill 1355 now goes to the Senate.

Since 2004, there have been dozens of legislative bills attempting to alter, if not eliminate, township government.

House Bill 1355 is an attempt to bridge many of those efforts. "There's data to support that there are specific areas where township government is very effective," said Rep Doug Miller, R-Elkhart.

"There's also data to support areas across the state where we don't need four, five, six townships in a county with a small population.

"They could all merge and actually provide a higher level of service specifically for police, fire and ambulance, based on a broader tax base that they can use to help ensure those Hoosiers get those three basic services that they want and desire," said Miller, the bill's author.

Rep. Chris Campbell, D-West Lafayette, who serves on the House Ways and Means committee, voted in favor of passing the bill.

"It's very complicated to merge. This just creates a conversation in a few counties who'll have that opportunity to work together and see if that's a potential possibility for their community. It doesn't force a merger.

"I would like to see the pilot move forward just to see if this is something that we could address in our state. Instead of having legislation every year that just wants to completely take out our townships," Campbell said.

There have been township mergers and consolidations in Indiana. In what is considered the first merging of townships, Franklin, Needham and Union townships in Johnson County merged last year into a single township — Franklin Union Needham (FUN) Township.

Among the township association's 27 recommendations:

- Support townships that want to voluntarily merge by creating criteria to evaluate if merging is appropriate and by developing a program within the ITA to offer assistance for townships that wish to merge. State funding could be sought.

- Encourage interlocal agreements to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of township services.

- Update statutes to remove challenges to mergers. One answer is to allow varied tax rates among merging units. Opponents have said that a township with fewer taxpayers would be forced to take on tax burdens of a larger township; this recommendation would ease that concern.

- Standardize guidelines for administering township assistance, known as poor relief, which had a value of \$49 million statewide in 2021 mostly for housing and utilities. The ITA study noted that many services are not consistently reported to the state.

- Simplify processes for townships to form a fire territory, which is currently complex with specific time limitations.

- Mandate annual education for elected officials and critical staff; less than 15% of townships reported board members attending training sessions offered by the State Board of Accounts, the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance and at ITA's annual conference.

Finding candidates for township offices can be difficult; about 25 townships have no trustee. Mergers can occur only if trustees and boards concur.

Currently in the legislature, Senate Bill 182 would allow an easier process for a township that does not have a trustee or board to merge with an adjoining township.

"If we have vacancies in offices, obviously there's no interest or ability to run; therefore, it would be best to merge those townships with a township that has leadership and is willing to run both of them," Driskell said.

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

**Hoosiers could benefit from EPA proposal which would place the first limits on toxic 'forever chemicals' in drinking water**

By ENRIQUE SAENZ  
Indiana Environmental Reporter

Thousands of Hoosiers are currently drinking water contaminated with toxic "forever chemicals." A new federal proposal could soon change that.

The Biden administration announced a proposal to limit the amount of six toxic and persistent PFAS chemicals found in drinking water, the first enforceable regulation on the chemicals in their 80 years of existence.

The proposed national drinking water standards will require water systems to reduce PFOA and PFOS levels in drinking water to 4 parts-per-trillion, the lowest amount that can be reliably detected.

The proposal also targets four other chemicals, PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS and GenX, also known as HFPO-DA. The four chemicals would be regulated as a mixture, meaning water systems will use a formula called a hazard index calculation to determine what level of the chemicals pose a risk.

Water systems will be required to notify the public if levels for any of the six PFAS chemicals exceed the standards.

"It's the resilient and durable qualities that make these chemicals so useful in everyday life, but it's also what makes them particularly harmful to people and the environment," said U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator Michael Regan. "We anticipate that when fully implemented this rule will prevent thousands of deaths and reduce tens of thousands of serious PFAS-related illnesses."

The proposal could lead to cleaner drinking water for Hoosiers throughout the state, especially those that are served by 10 medium-sized water systems where Indiana Department of Environmental Management sampling has identified PFAS chemicals in treated drinking water.

**USEFUL BUT TOXIC**

The six chemicals targeted for regulation are part of a family of thousands of manmade chemicals known as PFAS.

PFAS chemicals have been used since the later 1940s to make products that are resistant to fire, water, grease and stains.

One of the first PFAS chemicals, PTFE, was used to make seals and gaskets at a plant that produced weapons-grade uranium during the World War II-era Manhattan Project. After the war, PTFE was used to make civilian products like Teflon pans and Gore-Tex clothing.

3M Co. created offshoot chemicals PFOA and PFOS in the 1950s. The chemicals were used in other military and civilian applications, like Scotchgard fabric protector and aqueous film

forming firefighting foam.

Over decades, thousands more PFAS chemicals were created and used to make products for many industries at tens of thousands of sites across the U.S., including at least 150 in Indiana.

PFAS are sometimes called "forever chemicals" due to their persistence — their ability to remain in the environment without breaking down. That persistence has allowed the chemicals to travel around the globe. PFAS chemicals have been found in Mt. Everest and Antarctica.

The chemicals have also been found in the blood of hundreds of millions of Americans, staying there for at least five years after they are introduced.

They are also found locally. Limited IDEM testing of medium-sized water systems has found PFAS chemicals in the treated water of Indiana American Water — Charlestown, Rural Membership Water Corp. of Clark County, Dubois Water Utilities, Danville Water Works, Rensselaer Water Department, Canaan Utilities, B&B Water Project Inc. in Monroe County, Morgan County Rural Water Co., North Manchester Water Department and Tennyson Water Utility.

IDEM said it would release results of PFAS sampling at the state's small water systems this spring and would test the largest water systems this year.

The widespread presence of PFAS chemicals is a problem for Hoosiers. The chemicals have been linked to kidney and testicular cancer, liver damage, increased cholesterol levels and high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women.

**EXPENSIVE UPGRADES**

The EPA's proposed standards will be costly, especially for small water systems.

A 2021 assessment by the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

found that a 4-parts-per-trillion standard for PFOA and PFOS would cost the state of New York \$1.5 billion to implement, or about \$1.3 million per water system. A further \$78 million per year would also be required for operation and maintenance.

The Biden administration planned for the change by allocating about \$9 billion over five years for water systems to address PFAS through the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The money was allocated to help small or disadvantaged communities address emerging contaminants, like PFAS. The funding will help pay for scoping, planning, testing and remediation of emerging contaminants in source water.

The money will be distributed by the states through their state revolving funds. The Indiana Finance Authority will be in charge of deciding which water systems will receive the state's share of the money, which is about \$13.8 million for the 2022 fiscal year.

The first projects selected for emerging contaminant funding were chosen in October 2022, before the PFAS standards were announced.

The IFA will first fund Columbus City Utilities to address 1,4 dioxane found in some of the city's drinking water wells. The IFA also selected the Wakarusa Water Works, New Richmond Utilities and Spiceland Municipal Utilities to address iron and manganese in the towns' water systems.

Communities have already asked the IFA for funding to address PFAS contamination. The City of Evansville has applied for State Revolving Fund money for a new water treatment plant and PFAS treatment.

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

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**Prosecutors: Officer justified in fatally shooting man**

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP) — A Fort Wayne police officer was justified in fatally shooting an 18-year-old man last year and will not be charged, the Allen County Prosecutor's Office said.

Officer Andrew Fry shot Wyatt Beckler on Nov. 2, and Beckler died of gunshot wounds while in surgery at a hospital, the Allen County Coroner's Office said.

There's no evidence of criminal liability

and that Fry "was justified in using force, as he reasonably believed that force was necessary to prevent serious bodily injury or death" to himself or others, the prosecutor's office said in a news release.

The Fort Wayne Police Department said in a statement that the department and Indiana State Police have determined that Fry's actions "were consistent with department policy and the use of force was reasonable."

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## Where there's life, there's hope. And I have Narcan.

I have something new that I want to keep with me all the time. No, not my car keys. Not my (own) medication. Not even my phone.

It's true that all of those things will more than likely be with me at any given time. However, one thing I will want to be sure is with me is the Narcan medication I picked up when the 24/7 dispensary opened for business last Wednesday.

The call came in several days ago that a box to make naloxone available in Bluffton was going to be the subject of a ceremony. Could somebody from the News-Banner be there?

Wednesday morning, my fellow reporter Holly Gaskill, my only colleague in the editorial department right now, texted me to be sure I'd be going to the gathering. The way we've got things going on right now is that I always work second shift and Holly comes in during first shift. Since there's only two of us, it's easy to figure out who's doing what.

Anyway, I had read about naloxone — Narcan is its brand name — and I know there's been more than a little bit of controversy about it. The package I have on my desk while I'm writing this states what it does right on the label: "Overdose reversal."

To summarize the controversy: Are we enabling substance abusers by making it possible to take overdose after overdose of their favorite opioid while medics, police officers, firefighters, and now the general public can show up and give them another chance at life?

I understand that life is precious. In fact, the more I scratched my head — and my tummy — to think about it, I decided this much: I am firmly on the side of life.

I talked to Mayor John Whicker and to Police Chief Kyle Randall last Wednesday. Is this a good idea or not, that we make Narcan available to everyone? They both understood the controversy, but it's significant to note that they were both there, a few steps from City Hall behind the Community Thrift store on South Main Street, to mark the opening of the dispensary.

I was there, too.

I stayed afterwards to talk with Chris Walker, with Chris Walker, the executive director of Community Care of Northeast Indiana, and Molly Hoag of Citizens Against Drug Abuse, to about the project.

Walker, as I noted in the story about the site that appeared in Thursday's News-Banner, had a daughter that nearly died of a heroin overdose. She recovered and she's turned her life around; she's now working at a church in Huntington.

What if no one was there to rescue the young woman from an overdose? There would have been a very sad mother, as well as other family members, and friends, and for that matter, an entire community.

In the story, I summarized the argument for the overdose reversal medication with simple observation: Where there's life, there's hope.

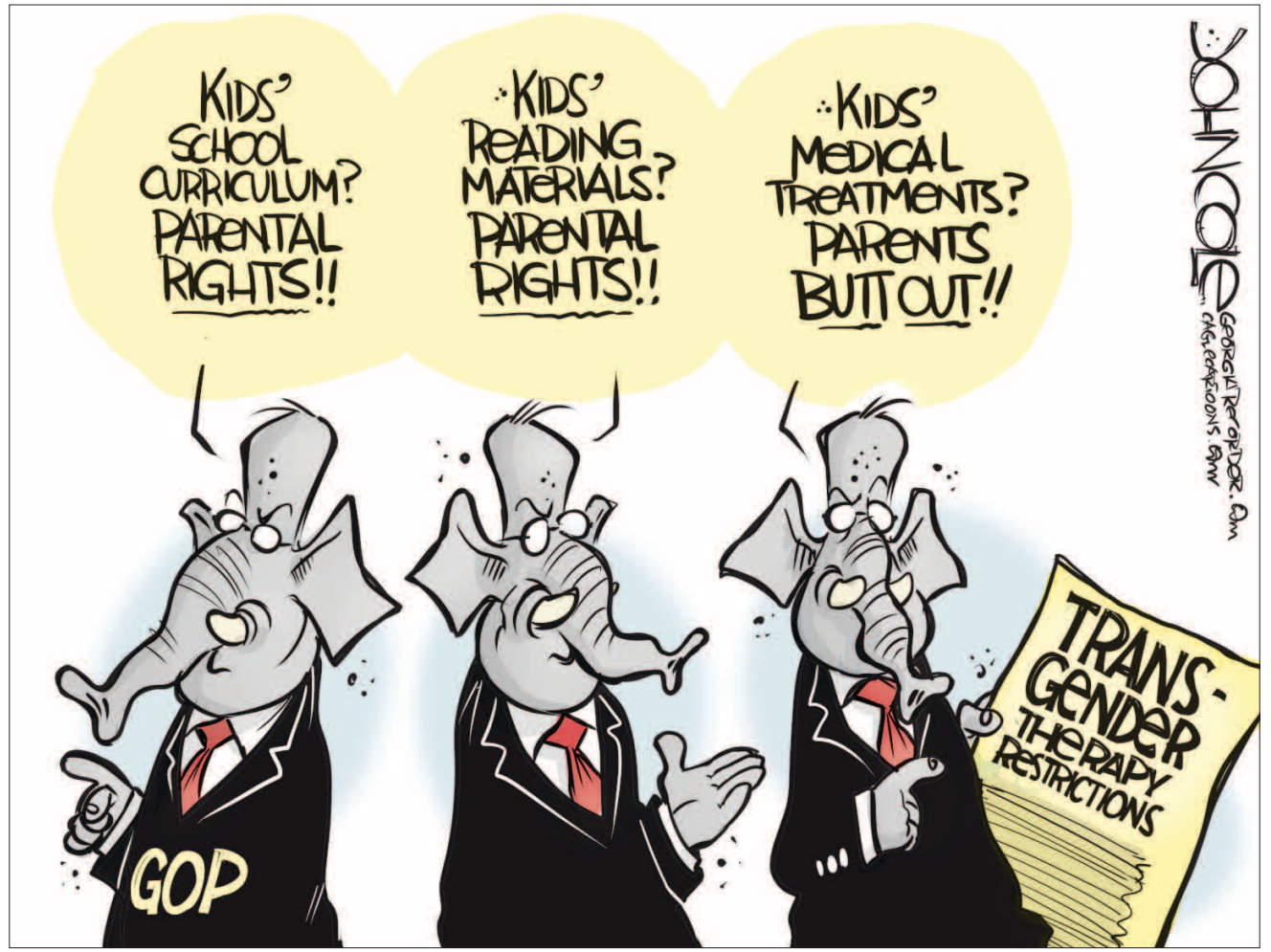
So I now possess a package with the Narcan in it. It's been sitting on my desk until now. As I finish this column, it's coming off of my desk and it's going into my bookbag/briefcase. If you come across someone who may be a victim (and yes, that's the term I am going to use) of an overdose, and I happen to be somewhere close at hand, I'll have my naloxone within a few steps of where I am. Just let me know.

I'm here to help. I've got Narcan.

daves@news-banner.com



Dave Schultz



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## A transgender bill time out

In March 2022, Gov. Eric Holcomb vetoed a transgender athletics bill that quite possibly could end his political career.

In his veto letter, Holcomb said that the legislation was a "solution" for a problem that didn't exist in Indiana. "It implies that the goals of consistency and fairness in competitive female sports are not currently being met," Holcomb wrote. "After thorough review, I find no evidence to support either claim even if I support the overall goal."

The governor said the enrolled act fell short of providing a clear and consistent policy.

Last May, the Republican super majorities overrode that veto by wide party-line margins. In June, in an act of retribution against Holcomb-appointed Secretary of State Holli Sullivan, she was defeated for renomination at the Indiana Republican Convention, with a number of delegates telling Howey Politics Indiana that it was a payback for Holcomb's veto.

This past week, the transgender youth scenario was again in the headlines. Senate President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray assigned HB1407 to the Senate Rules Committee and an almost certain demise. It was filed by State Rep. Dale DeVon after a transgender child had been removed by the Department of Child Services following multiple reports that the child's mother was emotionally and mentally abusive.

The DeVon bill is one of around 150 such bills filed by Republicans in the 50 state legislatures in a concerted effort to capitalize on transgender issues.

"All's I'm trying to do is, in this bill, is to protect parents from government's overreach [in] taking their children from them without having harmed them," DeVon, R-Granger, said on the House floor (Capital Chronicle). "I don't know if this bill is the right answer, but our government took that child away ..."

A spokesman said Bray "did not see a path forward" for the bill, both because of concerns about the policy and the ongoing lawsuit that will be heard by the Indiana Supreme Court.

The Capital Chronicle covered State Rep. Wendy McNamara's floor testimony prior to House passage. "I don't think any parents should be separated from their child and have an undue process to be able to receive that child back," she said. "But I also feel there is a better route and way for this bill to go." To fix this wrong, she added, "it might put in jeopardy hundreds of other kids in our system."

As with the transgender athletic bill that was vetoed, I spent a few hours trying to learn of the scope of the issue. There is a compelling lack of data. It was unclear how many DCS cases involve the removal of transgender kids from their families.

What I did learn came from the Indiana Youth Institute. It said 4.5 percent of Indiana's population identify as LGBTQ+, and 34 percent of the LGBTQ+ population has children. As of September 2020, Indiana was home to 43,000 LGBTQ+ youth ages 13 to 17; 7.8 percent of this population comprised 3,350 transgender youth. According to Gallup and the Williams Institute, approximately 4.5 percent of U.S. adults identified as LGBT in 2017 (about 14.65 million people). This includes about 1.4 million people who identify as transgender (0.6 percent of the U.S.

adult population in 2016). In Indiana, 4.5 percent of Indiana adults identify as LGBT (about 300,000 people). This includes 0.56 percent who identify as transgender (about 27,600 people).

According to a summary of HD1407 by the Indiana Family Institute, the bill "would elevate parental rights to a fundamental right. It makes clear that parents have a right to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of their child, and that the government of Indiana may not

interfere. The only exceptions that allow government involvement are legitimate abuse and neglect. The bill clarifies several key areas that are not appropriate reasons for government involvement."

The ACLU of Indiana also weighed in, saying, "This bill would make it illegal for child services agencies to consider failure to provide a safe and affirming environment to a trans youth when deciding whether to remove a child from a potentially abusive home. This bill attempts to capitalize on unfounded public fear that parents will be 'forced to accept' trans youth. There simply aren't examples of Indiana agencies removing children from homes for the sole reason that parents didn't provide trans-supportive care."

While the number of DCS cases involving transgender youth is a missing data set, the issue will continue to make headlines.

On the day that Bray killed HB1407, the Anderson Herald Bulletin reported that a Pendleton Heights HS counselor had been fired in "an apparent effort to withhold information from parents about student gender transition decisions." Kathy McCord was fired after she brought public attention to an apparent effort by the school to withhold information from parents about student gender transition decisions, according to Scott Underwood, editor of the Herald Bulletin. According to school board member Buck Evans, McCord admitted to being untruthful about whether she provided Tony Kinnett with a blank copy of the gender support plan and, according to Evans, did not "correct misleading statements within his article, although she did read it before it was published." Kinnett wrote a story about the Pendleton Heights controversy for The Daily Signal, a news website funded by The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

Board President Mike Hanna, responding at a March 2 meeting to a pointed question from a parent about whether a gender support plan exists, described it as "a work in progress," according to the Herald Bulletin.

The key phrases jumping out are DeVon's ("I don't know if this bill is the right answer") and Hanna's ("work in progress") assertion from Pendleton Heights.

There's a great deal to sort out here, with impacts facing transgender kids, perhaps the most vulnerable Hoosiers among us, as well as their families.

Bray was wise to pull HB1407 and await more information on the scope of the dilemma and its impacts.

The columnist is publisher of Howey Politics Indiana at www.howeypolitics.com. Find him on Facebook and Twitter @hwypol.



Brian Howey

## Politicking

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## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 20, the 79th day of 2023. There are 286 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On March 20, 1996, a jury in Los Angeles convicted Erik and Lyle Menendez of first-degree murder in the shotgun slayings of their wealthy parents. (They were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.)

**On this date:** In 1413, England's King Henry IV died; he was succeeded by Henry V.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte returned to Paris after escaping his exile on Elba, beginning his "Hundred Days" rule.

In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe's influential novel about slavery, "Uncle Tom's

Cabin," was first published in book form after being serialized.

In 1854, the Republican Party of the United States was founded by slavery opponents at a schoolhouse in Ripon, Wisconsin.

In 1952, the U.S. Senate ratified, 66-10, a Security Treaty with Japan.

In 1969, John Lennon married Yoko Ono in Gibraltar.

In 1976, kidnapped newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was convicted of armed robbery for her part in a San Francisco bank holdup carried out by the Symbionese Liberation Army. (Hearst was sentenced to seven years in prison; she was released after serving 22 months, and was pardoned in 2001 by President Bill Clinton.)

## Who's Who

A continuing series on how to contact government officials

### School Boards

#### Bluffton-Harrison MSD:

Bruce Holland (District 2), president, 260-824-4308, bholland@bhmsd.org  
Mike Murray (District 1), vice president, 260-273-0717, mmurray@bhmsd.org  
Julie Thompson (at-large), secretary, 260-760-5631, jthompson@bhmsd.org  
Trent White (District 3), 260-341-1289, twhite@bhmsd.org  
Angie Sheets (at-large), 260-307-3462, asheets@bhmsd.org

#### Northern Wells Community Schools

Angie Topp (Lancaster Township), president, angie.topp@nwcs.k12.in.us 260-273-2224  
Chad Kline (Rockcreek Township), vice-president, chad.kline@nwcs.k12.in.us 260-302-6252  
Gene Donaghy (Jefferson Township), secretary, gene.donaghy@nwcs.k12.in.us 260-437-9823  
Corey Krug (at-large), member, corey.krug@nwcs.k12.in.us 260-273-7389  
Traci Neuenschwander (Union Township), member, traci.neuenschwander@nwcs.k12.in.us 260-402-5924

#### Southern Wells Community Schools

Delora Schneider (Liberty Township), 260-442-4760;  
Chad Roush (Jackson Township), 765-348-6234;  
Andrew Pursifull (Chester Township), 260-273-8373;  
Todd Fiechter (Nottingham Township) 260-413-7475

## State should strengthen nepotism laws

It only took a few months in office for Diego Morales to expose a need for reform in state law, yet the revelation has nothing to do with elections.

Indiana's newest secretary of state hired his brother-in-law as co-director of the agency's Auto Dealer Services division. The post pays a cool \$108,000 annually.

While Morales' brother-in-law, Shawn Grady, has experience in auto sales at a Southern Indiana car dealership, such a hire screams nepotism. Unfortunately, Indiana's laws don't address the situation.

Most close familial connections are covered under the state's nepotism policy, but the rules do not include brothers-in-law or sisters-in-law.

That needs to change.

Regardless of how qualified a relative might be for a position, an officeholder shouldn't be allowed to hire a family member. Doing so brings into question matters of fairness, performance and compensation.

Will the boss treat the person he's going to see at the holiday family get-together the same as an employee he or she might encounter only in the

workplace? Will the boss's evaluation of his family member/employee be swayed by the family relationship? Can the public truly believe that an employee's qualifications trumped other candidates for the job if the person hired for a position is related to the employer?

What about pay? Will a family member/employee be paid equally to

an unrelated colleague? While reportedly in our secretary of state's case, the pay rate is the same, who will be responsible for monitoring each situation to ensure fairness?

At the state and local levels, Indiana's nepotism restrictions are too lax. Government isn't the family business. It's not a private venture.

Hires should be above reproach so that the public can trust that officeholders are bringing the best and brightest on board. When an elected official hires a family member, the public has good reason to doubt the decision.

These loopholes should be closed by state lawmakers. It's unfortunate that those we trust to govern and lead us even need such rules to be put into place, but Morales gives us an example of why such laws are needed.

Jeffersonville News and Tribune

## The News-Banner

(USPS 059-200)

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

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

### News-Banner Publications, Inc.

George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board  
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Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.



**Events at the Creative Arts Council of Wells County, 428 S. Oak St. in Bluffton 260-824-5222**

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**CREATIVE ARTS SUMMER CAMPS**

Registration is now open for four summer arts camps sponsored by the Creative Arts Council of Wells County.  
 The camps are:  
 • Theater Intensive “The Wizard of Oz” for youth ages 12-18. Auditions are April 29 and performances are June 16 and 17.  
 • Theater Intensive: “Disney’s Winnie the Pooh” for youth ages 8-11. Auditions are May 13 and performances are June 23 and 24.  
 • Summer Dance Camp, for ages 4-18, to be held June 26 through June 30. Classes are as follows: Intermediate Advanced Class (Ballet 4, 5, or 6), 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. tuition \$350; Continuing Ballet (Ballet 3), 10:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., tuition \$125; Ballet Basics (6-8 year olds), 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., tuition \$125; Creative Movement (4-5 year olds), 10 to 10:45 a.m., tuition \$75.  
 • Summer Arts Academy, for elementary-school students.  
 For more information on the CAC Summer camps, visit <https://www.wellscocreativearts.com/creative-arts-summer-camps-2023>

**CREATIVE ARTS THEATER SINGS**

Hits from your favorite musicals will be presented April 21, 22, and 23 at the Life Community Church auditorium.  
 An evening of musical entertainment featuring your favorite songs from various musicals with a cast of all ages.  
 Tickets, at \$10 per person, go on sale



March 8 at <https://www.wellscocreativearts.com/upcoming-shows-1>

Performances will be at 7 p.m. Friday, April 21; 7 p.m. Saturday, April 22; and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 23. The auditorium is at 428 S. Oak St. in Bluffton.

**ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

**Creative Crew:** Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Life Community Church. All forms of creativity are welcome — painting, drawing, needlework, and more. Spend the morning working on your craft and socialize with other artists. Enter Door 1 or Door 10 at Life Community Church. The creative crew meets in the café.  
**Readers’ Brown Bag Luncheon:** Meeting the last Tuesday of the month at noon at Life Community Church; enter Door 10. All readers are welcome. Call the CAC office for more information.

**Important Scheduling Note:** Changes can occur after Creative Happenings have been published. Confirm dates and times before planning to participate in programs and activities.

*Creative Arts Council activities are supported by memberships, sponsors and grants from funders including Arts United, a regional agency; the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts, a national agency.*

**Zanesville News**

by Melba Edwards

We had some light snow and maybe that will be the last this year. We could have used a lot less wind this winter as it makes cold weather unbearable.

We are getting ready for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 1, the Lions 5K on May 27, and our big celebration on Saturday, July 29 so mark your calendars.

The Easter Egg Hunt is free on Saturday, April 1, at the Lions Club ballpark on 3088 W. VanHorn Street. The hunt begins promptly at 1 p.m. and just a few minutes after, there are lots of games for the kids to play inside the clubhouse. The hunt is for children up to 14 years old and the games are for anyone who wants

to play them. The Easter Bunny just may be on hand for pictures.

In case of terrible weather, we will postpone the hunt until the next Saturday which is April 8.

The Zanesville Lions Free Library will be open inside and out for you to pick up some books to take home. Games will be open until 3 p.m. You will get credit for two tickets for every game you play and that number can be used for game prizes. You can purchase our Pizza Hut punch cards at the hunt also.

Martha Jean “Granny” Thomas died March 5 at the age of 94. She and her husband lived a long time

on the old Thomas property just three miles south of Zanesville.

All men and boys of this area are invited to come and join in on food and fellowship for the final Men’s Lenten Breakfast that will be held Saturday morning, March 25, at the Tower Life Center on Wayne Street. Breakfast is served at 8 a.m. A short program will follow.

Don’t forget to get started on your family histories. Hand them to me anytime. I do have a few Zanesville History Books for sale. I have to charge \$20 each for them as the copies are more expensive now. We did them in 1976.

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**When does travel brand loyalty make sense for U.S. consumers?**

By SAM KEMMIS of NerdWallet

Travel brand loyalty is nothing new. Ever since Texas International Airlines and American Airlines created the first frequent-flyer programs in the late 1970s and early 1980s, travelers have been racking up miles, seeking elite status and pouring their airfare dollars into brands that offer the most perks.



how the juice might not be worth the squeeze for low-level status. Katy Nastro, a travel expert at flight deals website Going, emphasized the same goes for airline elite status, which disproportionately rewards high rollers.

Yet sticking with a single airline, hotel or rental car program comes with built-in limitations. It means narrowing one’s comparison shopping, for one thing, which can effectively increase prices. A person who’s loyal to, say, Delta Air Lines might pay \$100 more for a flight on Delta in order to earn miles and status. Is that trade-off worth it?

“It takes a lot of short flights to even reach the lowest rung of the ladder,” Nastro said in an email. “So you may be foregoing cheaper — and quite possibly better flights — for the potential of a reward in the future.”

Because the perks are so valuable for very frequent travelers, it almost always makes sense for them to maintain some travel loyalty, even at the cost of convenience.

**OTHER TRADE-OFFS TO CONSIDER**

“It has to be a really good deal for me to fly with another airline,” says Joanne Herd, travel advisor at Girasole Travel, a luxury travel booking service, who has been loyal to American Airlines for years.

While limiting one’s loyalty to a single travel brand can offer benefits for frequent travelers, it also has hidden drawbacks. Claire Sturzaker, who writes about travel on her blog Tales of a Backpacker, began traveling full-time seven years ago. Yet despite her bonafide frequent traveler status, she mostly avoids loyalty programs and the elite status rat race.

She recently took a business-class flight with Singapore Airlines because it cost thousands of dollars less than those available on an American Airlines partner.

“I want something different when I travel; that’s why I travel,” she says. “I would rather stay at a small guest house. I know money is going back into the community where I am, rather than a giant global corporation.”



Sam Kemmis

“I almost regretted it because I barely made the status I wanted,” she says.

Navigating these trade-offs is particularly fraught for semi-frequent travelers, who may not travel enough to earn high-level elite status perks, but still want to earn and use miles. Collecting a few hundred points from a smattering of loyalty programs might be more trouble than it’s worth, yet sticking with one program can limit travel options.

Sturzaker acknowledges that chain brand hotels offer reliability and convenience, but says those aren’t usually her top priorities. And she likes to visit off-the-beaten-path destinations, where no single airline alliance flies. Instead, she tries to fly nonstop with budget airlines whenever possible.

Here’s how to decide whether going monogamous with a travel brand makes sense.

So, who should bother with travel elite status programs? Those travelers for whom they were designed — frequent business travelers. Semi-frequent travelers who take a few trips per year might see some benefit from loyalty, but these perks are often offset by the increased cost of limiting one’s shopping choices.

**BIG PAYOFFS FOR BIG SPENDERS**

Travel brands like United Airlines and Marriott maintain their loyalty programs for a simple reason: They want to attract big spenders, particularly business travelers. To this end, loyalty programs will lavish benefits on travelers in proportion to how frequently they travel (and how much they spend).

And sticking with a single brand might make you miss the most magical aspect of travel — the unexpected.

“I stayed at a family-run place in a small village in Honduras, run by a husband and wife and three boys,” Sturzaker says. “There was a power outage during my stay, so we all just sat around and chatted. That would never happen at a Hilton.”

This might sound simple, but it affects the value of these programs for ultra-frequent travelers relative to leisure travelers. For example, a traveler with the lowest-level Hilton status will get about \$2 back in value for every \$100 they spend, according to a NerdWallet analysis, while someone with the highest-level status will get about \$49 in value for every \$100 they spend.

This article was provided to The Associated Press by the personal finance website NerdWallet. Sam Kemmis is a writer at NerdWallet. Email: [skemmis@nerdwallet.com](mailto:skemmis@nerdwallet.com).

**RELATED LINK**  
 NerdWallet: The best hotel elite status program <https://bit.ly/nerdwallet-best-hotel-elite-status-programs>

**Coffee with the FW Philharmonic Wednesday and Friday**

Fort Wayne’s Crescendo Coffee & More, by the Clyde Theater, is hosting two opportunities this week to have Coffee with the

Philharmonic  
 The events are at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 22, and Friday, March 24.

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# Hurricanes take down Hoosiers in 2nd round

By TOM CANAVAN  
AP Sports Writer  
ALBANY, N.Y.  
(AP) — Isaiah Wong and Jordan Miller led a decisive second-half spurt for Miami, which beat Indiana 85-69 Sunday night in the second round of the NCAA Tournament to reach its second straight Sweet 16.



Wong, the Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year who was limited to five points in a first-round win over Drake, had 27 points and eight rebounds for coach Jim Larrañaga's fifth-seeded Hurricanes (27-7), the only ACC team left in March Madness.

Miller, who had seven points on Friday, scored 19, while Indianapolis native Nijel Pack had 10 of his 12 points in the first half, getting Miami off to a fast start that allowed it to lead most of the game and end Indiana's hopes of a sixth national title.

Miami will face top-seeded Houston in the Midwest Region semifinals in Kansas City, Missouri, on Friday.

All-American Trayce Jackson-Davis had 23 points and eight rebounds for the Hoosiers (23-12), who have not been to the Sweet 16 since 2016. Freshman Jalen Hood-Schifino added 19 points and Race Thompson had 11.

team was in trouble early and called a timeout less than two minutes into the game with Miami ahead 6-0.

Miami didn't lose the lead until Indiana went on a 13-0 run bridging the halves to push ahead 43-40. The game was tied at 49-all when Miller, who spent a great deal of time denying Jackson-Davis the ball, hit a layup to ignite a 16-4 burst. Wong hit two 3-pointers and Miller had seven points during that stretch.

Miami led 69-60 when Wong drilled a 3 late in the shot clock, Bensley Joseph followed with a steal, and Miller fed Joseph in the corner for a wide-open 3 that made it 75-60 with 3:23 left.

### BIG PICTURE

Miami: The Hurricanes shared the ACC regular-season title with Virginia, which lost to Furman in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, and fell in the conference tournament to Duke, which was beaten by Tennessee in the second round Saturday. Pittsburgh was eliminated by Xavier earlier Sunday, making Miami the lone ACC team.

Indiana: Woodson has taken the Hoosiers to the NCAA Tournament in both years on the job. It might be tough next year without Jackson-Davis, Thompson and Miller Kopp.

# Indiana women open tourney with rout of Tennessee Tech

By MICHAEL MAROT  
AP Sports Writer

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — All-American center Mackenzie Holmes started Indiana's NCAA title quest on the bench.

She doesn't intend to stay there long. After watching Sydney Parrish score 19 points and grab eight rebounds and her replacement, Lilly Meister, add seven points and three blocks in the top-seeded Hoosiers' 77-47 rout of 16th-seeded Tennessee Tech, Holmes said she plans to return for Monday night's second-round game.

"It's something we had planned for a while. We're trying to be cautious after I got banged up in the Big Ten Tournament," Holmes said. "I'm being evaluated day by day and so we've got today, tomorrow and then we'll see Monday."

Holmes missed eight games last season with an injured left knee and still wasn't 100% when the Hoosiers' post-season run ended in the Sweet 16. While she acknowledged it was frustrating to watch again Saturday, the Hoosiers really didn't need her to advance through the first round.

With Parrish playing her role, Grace Berger adding 17 points, seven rebounds, four assists and three blocks and Meister and Alyssa Geary splitting minutes in place of Holmes, Indiana (28-3) looked the part of a No. 1 seed over the final three quarters.

But the Hoosiers may need Holmes against ninth-seeded Miami (20-12), a

62-61 winner over Oklahoma State in Saturday's second game.

"I thought Berger was exceptional. She led in every way," Tech coach Kim Rosamond said. "She was just tremendous, especially in the first half."

Maaliya Owens had 17 points and nine rebounds to lead the Golden Eagles (23-10), who had won their previous eight. They just couldn't hold up against the bigger, stronger, deeper Hoosiers — especially in front of a boisterous crowd that topped the 14,000 mark.

The score was tied at 18 after one quarter and Tennessee Tech took a 22-20 lead on Anna Walker's layup with 6:53 to go.

That's when the Hoosiers flipped the game.

Meister tied the score with a layup, Lexus Bargesser broke free for back-to-back fast breaks and when Berger made two free throws with 2:55 left in the first half, Indiana led 37-22. The Hoosiers took a 39-27 lead into halftime.

Tennessee Tech never got within single digits again.

"We've always called it sharing the sugar around here and this is a team that's unselfish, that's balanced," Hoosiers coach Teri Moren said after picking up her 200th career win. "This is a team that realizes it could be Grace's night, it could be Syd's night, it just doesn't matter as long as we get the win."

### BIG PICTURE

Tennessee Tech: Whether it was the  
(Continued on Page 7)



Franklin High School standout George Crowe went on to play professional baseball and basketball after being named Indiana's first Mr. Basketball in 1939. (Submitted photo)

# Let the debate begin: People invited to vote for the best Hoosier basketball moments

By RYAN TRARES  
Daily Journal  
of Johnson County

Basketball is never too far from the minds of Indiana residents.

But when the calendar turns to March, that roundball obsession ratchets up a notch. The games, players and rivalries defining Hoosier high school basketball have lived on for generations.

And over the next week, people have the chance to vote for the most impactful of the state's basketball traditions.

"We wanted to get some healthy conversation going, and nothing gets people going in the state like basketball," said Danny Lopez, vice president of external relations and corporate communications for Pacers Sports & Entertainment.

As Indianapolis prepares to host the 2024 NBA All-Star Game, organizers have unveiled an intersection of basketball, art and culture they've invited everyone to take part in. Hoosier Historia is an arts program letting people take a nostalgic look back at the state's hoops heritage.

Through March 23, people can go online to vote for the most important basketball memories in Indiana history from a curated slate of 50 players, places and moments. Among the options are two Johnson County-focused memories - the Franklin Wonder Five and George Crowe, the state's first Mr. Basketball.

The final 24 selections will be the inspirations for artworks displayed throughout downtown during the All-Star Weekend from Feb. 16 to 18.

"We have an irrational obsession with high school basketball. It defines our childhoods and their experiences growing up. Everyone can remember being in the gym for some big shot or unforgettable player," Lopez said. "We thought this was something to connect people

in 92 counties to All-Star in a different way."

Hoosier Historia was unveiled in late 2022 as a collaboration between the NBA All-Star 2024 Host Committee, the Indy Arts Council and the Capital Improvements Board. The art project was envisioned as a way to implement the arts community into the All-Star festivities, while making sure the people statewide could take part in the experiences surrounding the game.

The host committee has planned a number of initiatives in the lead-up to the game, including awarding grants for 24 Legacy Projects throughout the state. Grant recipients had to display ways the projects would leave a sustainable, lasting impact on local communities.

More than \$1.2 million was invested across the state, with projects impacting more than 100,000 Indiana children.

Hoosier Historia was another include people in the All-Star Game experience, Lopez said.

"All Star Weekend will have something for everybody. It will be a really fun experience and we want people from all over the state to come downtown," he said. "But we also realize that not everyone will be able to do that. We wanted to be sure people felt connected to the game and the experience in some meaningful way."

Organizers put together a subcommittee to look at the breadth of Indiana high school basketball history, tasked with the unenviable responsibility of narrowing it down to 50 people, places and moments. The group consisted of former Indiana High School Athletic Association officials, coaches, players and journalists who have spent decades covering boys and girls state basketball tournaments in Indiana.

They poured over different moments before winnowing down their list to

50.

"We knew that ultimately, the credibility of the thing hinged on who participated in it," Lopez said. "We weren't going to create that internally; we wanted to have voices who have lived through these experiences."

Some of the choices were no brainers - the Milan Miracle, or Crispus Attucks becoming the first Black team to win a state championship anywhere in the country. Legendary coaches and players such as John Wooden, Larry Bird and Oscar Robertson were recognized.

But the choices also include stories that may be famous in the communities where they happen, but not everyone knows about.

Among those are Johnson County's two entries.

The Franklin Wonder Five were the first of only two teams in Indiana history to win three consecutive state championships, which they did from 1920 to 1922. They went on to all play for Franklin College, where they had one undefeated season and won two state collegiate championships.

In 1939, George Crowe of Franklin High School became the very first Mr. Basketball in state history. Crowe, who was Black, attended what is now the University of Indianapolis and served in the U.S. Army in World War II before going on to play 14 years of professional baseball, including stops in the minor leagues and the Negro League before playing several seasons in Major League Baseball.

People are able to go onto the Hoosier Historia website and vote as many times as they want for their

favorite memories. The final 24 selections, which will be announced on March 24, will be used as inspiration for artists around the state to create sculptures that will be displayed downtown during NBA All-Star 2024.

The contest is fun, and a way to fall down the rabbit hole of basketball history, Lopez said. But organizers also hope that it sparks some curiosity about little-known Hoosier heritage.

"When you get on there and read through the stories, I think everyone is going to learn something," Lopez said. "There are things on there that you may not know, or you thought you knew. Hopefully, it's something fun that prompts you to do more research."

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

## Hoosier Historia

**What:** In advance of NBA All-Star 2024, which will be held in Indianapolis, the statewide arts partnership between the host committee, Indy Arts Council and the Capital Improvement Board gives Hoosiers in every county the chance to vote for the top 24 players, places, and moments in Indiana high school basketball history. The top choices will be represented in artwork throughout All Star Weekend.

**When:** Voting lasts through March 23 How to vote: Go to [nba.com/pacers/nba-all-star-2024-indianapolis/hoosier-historia](https://nba.com/pacers/nba-all-star-2024-indianapolis/hoosier-historia)


## High School Calendar

- MONDAY, MARCH 20**  
No events scheduled.
- TUESDAY, MARCH 21**  
No events scheduled.
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22**  
No events scheduled.
- THURSDAY, MARCH 23**  
No events scheduled.
- FRIDAY, MARCH 24**  
No events scheduled.
- SATURDAY, MARCH 25**  
No events scheduled.
- MONDAY, MARCH 27**  
No events scheduled.
- TUESDAY, MARCH 28**  
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# Doctor's disappearance hurts my feelings

Dear Annie: The doctor I have gone to for years recently took a five-month medical leave of absence. His office would not tell me anything, which I understand. I had been extremely distraught not knowing if he was all right. There was even gossip that he had passed away.

Turned out he had pneumonia. He once told me that if I ever moved out of state, we could still communicate and be long-distance friends. It is for that reason that I thought I would get some message from him saying he would return and would be OK. But I received nothing from him. My feelings are hurt. I see him next week. What do you think? — Hurt Patient

Dear Annie: I think that you should celebrate the fact that your doctor is doing better and feeling well enough to go back to work. If you feel that he is your friend and your doctor, then be a friend to him and allow him to take the space and time he needed to heal from pneumonia. His not responding to you about his absence didn't have anything to do with you and everything to do with him and his trying to get better. Please cut him some slack and be grateful that he made a full recovery.

Dear Annie: I am estranged from my son, his ex-wife and my grandchildren. I still have occasional contact with the other grandparents.

I have been wanting to know what, if anything, can be done about a wrongful death or elder abuse charge against my son. His actions kept my husband and me apart deliberately, believing he'd inherit his money. My husband left no will. There was real estate and cash in his account. His brother claimed next of kin status and took all cash and property.

I understand the statute of limitations has passed in order to file wrongful death charges against my son. It's the reason for the estrangement.

I have been awarded my husband's Social Security benefits. His brothers have used legal action to prevent any

contact between them and me. But I want to tell them of my son's actions and how those actions led to their brother's untimely death.

I have tried to discuss this subject with an attorney. Once he learned that I was divorced, he stopped the interview and said that I had no case. This attorney knew nothing about the actions my son took while my husband was alive.

Is there anything I can do? I would like to remain in contact with the other grandparents in order to keep up with the grandchildren. — Estranged

Dear Estranged: What you can do is seek the opinion of another lawyer. But how about shifting your focus away from the money and toward repairing the relationship between you and your grandchildren? Your letter is confusing because you said you are receiving your husband's Social Security benefits but later you said you were divorced.

Your son and grandchildren are the only family you have left, and instead of trying to repair any relationships, you are trying to fight and blame them. Ask yourself where you want to put your time, money and energy. Getting closer to your grandchildren might bring you more joy and happiness in the long run than getting closer to another lawyer and trying to prove something in court.

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

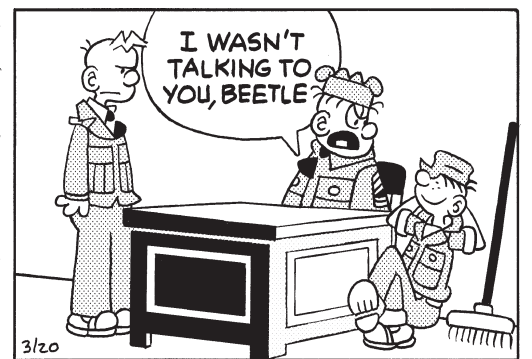
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## Dear Annie

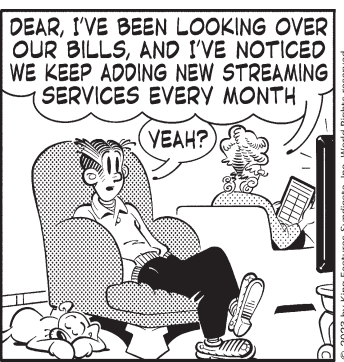
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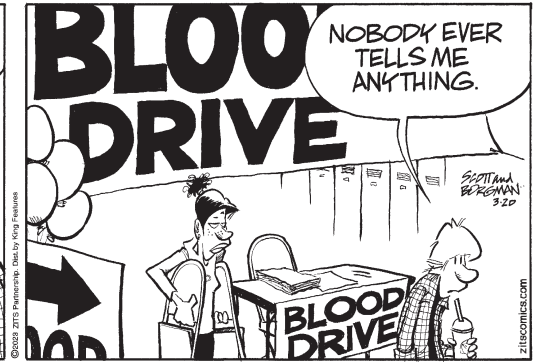
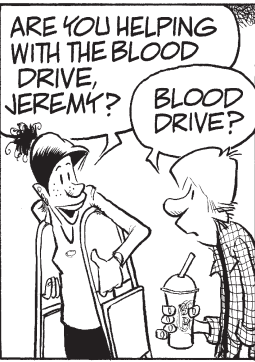
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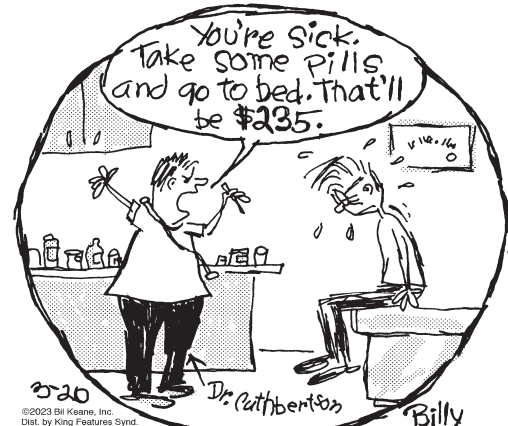
## CRANKSHAFT



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

## The LOCKHORNS



## My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



## Careless words stab like a sword

coming, understand the unconventional, tolerate the unpleasant, overcome the unexpected, and outlast the unbearable. It is said that laughter is the best medicine but few people know that these words come from Scripture (see Proverbs 17:22).

The Bible teaches us to be more concerned about the needs and feelings of others than our own. We never gain in life by hurting others. Sometimes we try to elevate our own insecure egos by degrading and belittling those around us. Yet this produces only a false sense of self-esteem.

The Bible tells us that angry people stir up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins. We live in an upside-down world. People hate when they should love,

quarrel when they should be friendly, fight when they should be peaceful, wound when they should heal, steal when they should share, and do wrong when they should do right.

Careless words stab like a sword, but wise words bring healing (see Proverbs 12:18). We are to encourage our loved ones, friends, neighbors, and associates — and anyone we speak to. A true servant of God is someone who helps others succeed. "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV).

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

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Daddy has a touch of the flu. Seven-year-old Billy fills in.

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"IT'S THE 'DEATH DO US PART' THAT GIVES ME SEPARATION ANXIETY."

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	1 Legal wrong	5 Turkish topper	8 Eyelid woe	12 Baseball's Moises	13 Swiss canton	14 Rock genre, briefly	15 Mad king of theater	16 Capital of Chile	18 Welsh dogs	20 Artist's surface	21 Ways to the WWW	23 Corp. boss	24 Kids' play areas	28 Trudge	31 "The Wire" ailer	32 Dined at home	34 Greek cross		
<b>DOWN</b>	19 Actress Fisher	22 Mirror fogger	24 "Quiet!"	25 — Dhabi	26 "Ba-loney!"	27 Sleeveless vests	29 Scull tool	30 Chap De —	33 "The Intern"	36 Ra, to some	38 Women's shoe style	40 College URL	42 Cruising	43 React in horror	44 Staffer	46 "Insecure" star	47 Elevator name	48 Crazy	50 — de plume

**Saturday's answer 3-20**

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WINM (12)	11	26	63		3D Woman	Julie & Friends	Unapologetic-J	Movie			TCT Today	News-watc	Prop. Com James Robison		Dr. Robert Jeffress	Creflo Dollar	Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor		Rabbi Lavin	
CBS WANE (15)	2	2	15	15	News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	News at 6 (N)	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Neighbor (N)	Bob Heart (N)	NCIS (N)		NCIS: Hawaii (N)	Nightcap (N)	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	(35) James Cordem			
Antenna WANE-2 (15.2)	106	20			Criminal Minds "North Mammot"	Criminal Minds "Empty Planet"	ABC21 (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC21 (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	Bachelor	An eligible bachelor dates multiple women over several weeks in hopes of finding true love.			The Good Doctor (N)	ABC21 (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!	(35) Nightline			
ABC WPTA-2 (21)	4	3	21	21	ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC21 (N)	Family Feud	The Voice	The four icons compete to find & transform America's inspiring voices into music's next phenomenon.				Quantum Leap (N)	News (N)	(35) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon	(35) Seth Meyers			
NBC WPTA-2 (21.2)	7	8		14	Pictionary	25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud	The Voice	The four icons compete to find & transform America's inspiring voices into music's next phenomenon.				Quantum Leap (N)	News (N)	(35) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon	(35) Seth Meyers			
MNT WPTA-3 (21.3)	10	9	56	34	King "Mild Bunch"	King "King Pong"	Modern Family	21Alive News at 6	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit				Seinfeld	Seinfeld "The Pie"	Mom	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs		
CV WISE (33)	8	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show	Judge Lake	Judge Lake	Judge Lake	Divorce Court	World News	All American "Legacy" (N)				The Liquidator	Chicago P.D. "Absolution"	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers		
PBS WFVA (39)	13	5	39	39	Royal Wives at War	PBS NewsHour (N)			World News	Matters of Mind	Antiques Roadshow "Wags to Riches" (N)				Independent Lens "Storming Caesars Palace" (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	Antiques Roadshow			
PBS WFFX (49)	3				Royal Wives at War	BBC News	World News	PBS NewsHour (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Wags to Riches" (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Wags to Riches" (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Wags to Riches" (N)				FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)	Big Bang	Big Bang	Neighbor	Neighbor		
FOX WFFT (55)	6	6	55	55	WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	9-1-1 (N)				Fantasy Island (N)						



# Miami Beach sets spring break curfew after 2 fatal shootings

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Miami Beach officials imposed a curfew beginning Sunday night during spring break after two fatal shootings and rowdy, chaotic crowds that police have had difficulty controlling.

The city said in a news release the curfew would be from 11:59 p.m. Sunday until 6 a.m. Monday, with an additional curfew likely to be put in place Thursday through next Monday, March 27. The curfew mainly affects South Beach, the most popular party location for spring breakers.

The release said the two separate shootings Friday night and early Sunday that left two people dead and “excessively large and unruly crowds” led to the decision. The city commission plans a meeting Monday to discuss potential further restrictions next week.

Miami Beach Mayor Dan Gelber said in a video message posted Sunday that the crowds and presence of numerous firearms has “created a peril that cannot go unchecked” despite massive police presence and many city-sponsored activities meant to keep people

busy.

“We don’t ask for spring break in our city. We don’t want spring break in our city. It’s too rowdy, it’s too much disorder and it’s too difficult to police,” Gelber said.

The latest shooting happened about 3:30 a.m. Sunday on Ocean Drive in South Beach, according to Miami Beach police. A male was shot and died later at a hospital, and officers chased down a suspect on foot, police said on Twitter. Their identities were not released, nor were any possible charges.

In the Friday night shooting, one male victim was killed and another seriously injured, sending crowds scrambling in fear from restaurants and clubs into the streets as gunshots rang out. Police detained one person at the scene and found four firearms, but no other details have been made available.

Under the curfew, people must leave businesses before midnight, although hotels can operate later only in service to their guests. The city release said restaurants can stay open only for delivery and the

curfew won’t apply to residents, people going to and from work, emergency services and hotel guests. Some roads will be closed off and arriving hotel guests may have to show proof of their reservations.

Last year, the city imposed a midnight curfew following two shootings, also on Ocean Drive. The year before that, there were about 1,000 arrests and dozens of guns confiscated during a rowdy spring break that led Miami Beach officials to take steps aimed at calming the situation.

# Sandler receives Mark Twain Prize – and praise from his comic pals

By ASHRAF KHALIL  
Associated Press  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Adam Sandler placed his hand on the bronze bust of Mark Twain and speculated that it “one day might be the weapon used to bludgeon me in my sleep.”

A host of comedic and enter-

tainment royalty gathered at Washington’s Kennedy Center as Sandler was presented with the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

Presenters including Drew Barrymore, Conan O’Brien, Chris Rock, Jennifer Aniston, Steve Buscemi, Dana Carvey, and

Luis Guzmán gave testimonials to Sandler’s creative longevity, while poking occasional fun at his uneven movie output and tendency to cast all his friends in his movies.

Sandler’s longtime writing and production partner Tim Herlihy joked that the pair were responsible for “31 motion pictures with a

combined Rotten Tomatoes score of 59.”

Buscemi, known largely for dramatic and often violent roles, portrayed a string of comedic characters in Sandler movies.

“He takes his comedy very seriously. I laugh hard at everything I do with him,” he said.

Judd Apatow, Sandler’s roommate during their early days in Los Angeles, recalled a young Sandler’s boundless confidence and obvious talent.

“The moment you met him, you knew Adam was going to be a big star,” Apatow said. “And so did Adam.”

## SUDOKU

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

### King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★ 3-20

### Lottery Numbers

**Saturday’s Drawings**  
**HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 19-30-34-36-42

Cash4Life — 16-23-26-36-37, Cash Ball: 01

Lotto Plus — 14-15-21-32-36-46

Quick Draw Midday — 01-05-06-09-13-14-29-36-39-41-48-52-55-59-60-61-70-74-77-80, BE: 70

Daily Three-Midday — 03-06-07, SB: 00

Daily Three-Evening — 05-07-00, SB: 02

Daily Four-Midday — 03-07-07-08, SB: 00

Daily Four-Evening — 03-05-08-08, SB: 02

Quick Draw Evening — 08-11-16-21-24-25-28-31-33-39-41-55-56-66-67-71-72-73-76-77, BE: 41

Hoosier Lotto — 10-20-31-34-37-40

**POWERBALL**  
14-20-30-54-69; Powerball: 11; Power Play: 2X

**Sunday’s Drawings**  
**HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 32-33-37-44-45

Cash4Life — 02-08-19-47-52, Cash Ball: 02

Quick Draw Midday — 07-11-12-14-20-22-28-30-35-44-47-49-52-54-57-61-64-71-75-79, BE: 57

Daily Three-Midday — 04-06-08, SB: 04

Daily Three-Evening — 03-04-02, SB: 09

Daily Four-Midday — 02-04-05-07, SB: 04

Daily Four-Evening — 05-02-09-09, SB: 09

Quick Draw Evening — 07-09-10-11-17-18-19-23-24-26-33-36-40-42-48-59-64-67-74-78, BE: 48

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$13 million

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$272 million

**POWERBALL**  
Estimated jackpot (for Monday): \$86 million

### Public Notice

**SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION**  
STATE OF INDIANA }  
COUNTY OF WELLS } SS:  
IN THE WELLS SUPERIOR COURT OF WELLS COUNTY  
Laura Defoe Plaintiff  
-v-  
Charles Defoe Defendant  
**NOTICE OF SUIT**  
The State of Indiana to the defendant(s) above named, and any other person who may be concerned. Your are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is:  
Divorce  
This summons by publication is specially directed to the following named defendant(s) whose addresses are:  
Unknown  
And to the following defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown:  
Charles Defoe  
In addition to the above named defendant(s) being served this summons there may be other defendants who have an interest in this law suit.  
If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney. On or before the day of April 20, 2023, (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit) and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the plaintiff had demanded.  
nb 3/6, 3/13, 3/20 hspaxlp

# The Classifieds

### VEHICLES Auto/Trucks

**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.

### SERVICES

#### Services

**LAWN CARE & LANDSCAPING**  
Ethan's Outdoor Services LLC is taking on new Residential & Commercial accounts for 2023. We offer Lawn Care, Landscaping & Landscape Maintenance. Free Estimates. 260-827-7945  
ethansoutdoor@gmail.com

### LICENSED & INSURED

**ANNOUNCE YOUR SERVICES** in the Bluffton News-Banner line classifieds. Contact the office, 260-824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., or www.news-banner.com and click on local classifieds.

### MARV'S CONSTRUCTION

Room additions, fix old saggy floors, all types remodeling. Redo bathrooms, old foundation repairs. Marv Schwartz: 260-525-8877.



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Located in Ossian United Methodist Church 201 W Mill Street Ossian, Indiana. Offering both 3 day and 5 day classes with either an a.m.9:00-11:30 or p.m.1:00-3:30 option. We have over 20 years experience. Classes are filling up fast so don't delay. Either stop in and pickup your registration paperwork or give us a call. 260-622-0194  
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### EMPLOYMENT

#### Help Wanted

**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

### Help Wanted



**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.

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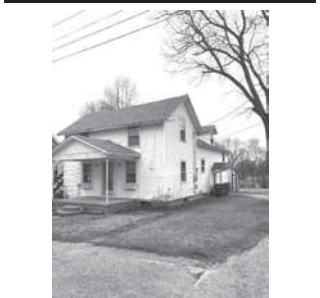
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### SOUTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY

Schools are seeking a full time Technology Support person. Please contact Trent Lehman at 765-728-5537 or tlehman@swraiders.com.

### FOR SALE

#### Miscellaneous

**LUMBER FOR SALE**  
8/4 Bald Cypress, up to 17 inches wide; 4/4 Red Oak, 7+ inches wide; 4/4 Northern White Cedar, very light weight; Sugar Maple. Gould, 6565 S 000 Rd., Berne.

## Public Sale Calendar

**MARCH 26-APRIL 2** - (Online Only Auction) - **Leffers Family Partnership, seller.** Huge online auction. Outstanding modern and antique furniture including Ridgeway grandfather clock, Amish made oak bedroom suite and dining room suite, wonderful curved front secretary, antique pump organ, feather weight sewing machines, glassware, primitives, tools, wicker patio furniture, rare Victor III talking machine, designer home decor, household. Preview: March 28 and 30 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., 12910 Tonkel Rd., Fort Wayne, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc., steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.*

**BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING APRIL 7 - 10 a.m. EST - Secured creditors and various consignors, owners.** Online only truck & equipment auction! Offering 400+ lots! 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, dump trucks, day cabs, utility trucks, utility trailers, 60+ various skid steer attachments, 40' shipping container, tents, work benches/tool boxes & much more! Preview by appointment, 815 Adams Street, Decatur. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.*

**APRIL 9-APRIL 16** - (Online Only Auction) - **Various consignors, seller.** Large collection of antique console and table top radios, railroad items including early 1900's map cabinet, antique and primitive furniture, coins, vintage jewelry, Fenton, Lesney Matchbox cars. Preview: March 30 and April 6 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 South Jefferson St., Ossian, IN, (Steffen Group Auction Gallery). *The Steffen Group Inc., steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.*

**APRIL 13 - 6 p.m. - Adams County Commissioners, owner.** Adams County 4H Park dining hall, 160 W. Washington St., Monroe. Land located on N 200E between US Hwy. 33 & 300N (both sides of road). 132+/- acres offered in multiple tracts, Washington Township, Section 13, Adams County, Decatur. Tract 1: 9.96+/- tillable. Tract 2: 29.96+/- tillable. Tract 3: 29.94+/- tillable. Tract 4: 61.42+/- tillable. Land sold as individual tracts or any combination! Possession to be taken immediately! *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.*

**APRIL 14-APRIL 21** - (Online Only Auction) - **Harkelroad Buildings, LLC, seller.** 8,142 SF multi tenant office building that has been well maintained. This building perfect for an owner occupant or as a multi tenant investment property. Zoned R-3 with variance, paved parking, prime NE Allen County location. Open house: April 11 and 18 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., 3705 Rupp Dr., Fort Wayne, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc., steffengrp.com, 260-426-0633.*

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### SUDOKU ANSWER

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



# Fear, grief follow deadly quake on Ecuador's coast

By GONZALO SOLANO and REGINA GARCIA CANO  
Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Some affectionally call Machala the “Banana Capital of the World.” This port community on Ecuador’s Pacific coast is home to about a quarter million people and normally bustles with commercial activity. But not this weekend, not after the deadly quake.

Grief hung in the air on Sunday, a day after a powerful temblor rocked this city, toppling homes and buildings along the coast and as far off as the Ecuadorian highlands and even parts of Peru.

Rubble covered some streets of Machala. Neighbors held simple funerals to bury the dead. A pier was no more. And a day after the quake that killed nine residents alone along this hard-hit coast,

many in Machala were feeling anguished and uneasy.

“The city is quiet, fear and mourning are felt,” resident Luis Becerra said. “You feel the pain, the drama, wherever you go. Everyone is alert, with great fear in case” a major aftershock.

The quake, which the U.S. Geological Survey reported at magnitude 6.8, killed at least 15 people and injured more than 445 others.

Fourteen died in Ecuador, and one in Peru.

The quake damaged and brought down hundreds of homes and buildings in vastly different communities, both in coastal areas and the highlands. But in Ecuador, regardless of geography, many of the homes that crumbled had much in common: many were old, did not meet modern building

standards of a quake-prone country and many of their inhabitants were poor.

Yajaira Albarraçin, Graciela Chila, Silvina Zambrano Chila and two children died under the rubble of their home in a low-income neighborhood of Machala. On Sunday, a few neighbors stopped by a tent where the caskets of the women were set out with floral arrangements and a crucifix. Some relatives said rescuers found the bodies of the women and children as if they had been clutching one another when disaster struck.

The earthquake was centered just off the Pacific Coast, about 50 miles south of Guayaquil, Ecuador’s second-largest city. Of the country’s 14 victims, 12 died in the southwest coastal state of El Oro, which includes Machala, and two in the highlands state of

Azuay.

Ecuador is particularly vulnerable to earthquakes. In 2016, a quake centered farther north on the Pacific Coast killed more than 600 people.

Machala resident Hamilton Cedillo said Sunday that he and his family barely slept in the hours afterward, fearful of deadly aftershocks. They have come up with an evacuation plan and watched videos on how to protect themselves should another quake strike.

“I am afraid of leaving and that my family will be left here alone at home,” Cedillo said.

Pope Francis offered prayers for the victims during his weekly Sunday noon blessing.

“I’m close to the Ecuadorian people and assure them of my prayers for the dead and suffering,” Francis said.

Ecuador’s government issued an emergency declaration covering the roads in Azuay, where the quake debris cut off several roads and worsened already poor conditions attributed to the winter’s rainstorms. One of the victims was a passenger in a vehicle crushed by rubble from a house in the community of Cuenca.

In El Oro, according to the Risk Management Secretariat, Ecuador’s emergency response agency, several people were trapped under rubble or in damaged buildings.

Quito-based architect Germán Narváez said houses hit hardest tend to be poorly built, lacking solid foundations, and deficient in structure and technical design. He added that the houses most vulnerable are often old and built with materials such as adobe, once frequently used in the region.

# UBS to buy Credit Suisse for nearly \$3.25B to calm turmoil

By JAMEY KEATEN and KEN SWEET  
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Banking giant UBS is buying troubled rival Credit Suisse for almost \$3.25 billion, in a deal orchestrated by regulators in an effort to avoid further market-shaking turmoil in the global banking system.

Swiss authorities pushed for UBS to take over its smaller rival after a plan for Credit Suisse to borrow up to 50 billion francs (\$54

billion) failed to reassure investors and the bank’s customers. Shares of Credit Suisse and other banks plunged this week after the failure of two banks in the U.S. sparked concerns about other potentially shaky institutions in the global financial system.

Credit Suisse is among the 30 financial institutions known as globally systemically important banks, and authorities worried about the fallout if it were to fail.

The deal was “one of great

breadth for the stability of international finance,” said Swiss President Alain Berset as he announced it Sunday night. “An uncontrolled collapse of Credit Suisse would lead to incalculable consequences for the country and the international financial system.”

Switzerland’s executive branch, a seven-member governing body that includes Berset, passed an emergency ordinance allowing the merger to go through without shareholder approval.

Credit Suisse Chairman Axel Lehmann called the sale “a clear turning point.”

“It is a historic, sad and very challenging day for Credit Suisse, for Switzerland and for the global financial markets,” Lehmann said, adding that the focus is now on the future and in particular on the 50,000 Credit Suisse employees, 17,000 of whom are in Switzerland.

Following news of the Swiss deal, the world’s central banks announced coordinated finan-

cial moves to stabilize banks in the coming week. This includes daily access to a lending facility for banks looking to borrow U.S. dollars if they need them, a practice which widely used during the 2008 financial crisis. Three months after Lehman Brothers collapsed in September of 2008, such swap lines had been tapped for \$580 billion. Added swap lines were also rolled out during market turmoil in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020.

## Special Feature

# Your MONEY \$ Your TAXES

## Insurance protection for emergency situations

Emergencies, especially storms, can be unpredictable and cause personal injury and costly damage to homes. The right insurance is essential to help mitigate damage from storms and soften the financial blow that such destruction can cause. Not all insurance is the same, and additional policies and riders may help reduce the impact of emergencies.

**Homeowners insurance**  
Standard homeowners insurance policies will cover a wide range of issues. American Family Insurance says damage from wildfires, wind storms, tornadoes, ice storms, lightning strikes, hail, power surges, and fallen trees is included. But additional coverage may be needed to cover excessive damage.

**Matching siding coverage**  
Some homeowners may want to replace all of the siding on their homes if parts are damaged and color or siding materials cannot be matched exactly by patching up damaged areas.

### Roof replacement insurance

This insurance will be used to pay for the full replacement of a roof, minus the deductible, which may differ from what’s covered through standard homeowners policies.

### Sump pump overflow insurance

Sump pumps are designed to engage and pump water out of basements and crawl spaces, helping to avoid flooding in the home. If the power goes out and the sump pump cannot work, or if the sump pump fails, homeowners typically are not covered for any ensuing damage. Sump pump overflow insurance provides additional peace of mind and protection.

### Flood insurance

Homeowners insurance may not cover flood damage, especially if a home is in a flood zone. Flood insurance can bridge the gap of coverage. The National Flood Insurance Program offers building coverage and contents coverage policies. Building cover-

age will cover carpeting, electrical and plumbing systems, window blinds, foundation walls, and more. Contents coverage protects curtains, personal clothing and furniture, artwork, and appliances, among other things.

### Umbrella insurance

According to Geico, umbrella insurance is extra insurance that provides protection that goes beyond limitations and coverage of other policies. It can offer coverage for injuries to people staying at your house or renting your property, property damage, personal liability, and certain lawsuits.

### Renters insurance

Renters insurance protects renters, yet the Independent Insurance

Adjusters & Brokers of America says almost two-thirds of residential lessees in the United States do not carry renters insurance. Renters insurance can protect belongings destroyed in a fire or weather event; provide assistance should someone be injured in your apartment; or it can protect you if you were



found legally responsible for damages to someone’s property, according to State Farm Insurance.

Many types of insurance can offer various levels of protection in emergency situations.

An insurance representative can walk interested parties through the policies available to customize an insurance package that will offer sufficient protection against emergencies.



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