

The News - Banner

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FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

APC OKs plan for church complex, new dental office

By DAVE SCHULTZ

The development plan for a church complex of nearly 18,000 square feet on Bluffton's north side was approved Thursday evening by the Wells County Area Plan Commission.

The APC also approved the development plan for a new dentist's office on Main Street, which will replace its current office.

iTown Church of Bluffton, which has been meeting at Bluffton High School since its founding, will build its own structure on Main Street/Ind. 1 on a 36-acre parcel. The building will be south of Lancaster Park and the church's property will adjoin the park.

Ryan Rediger of Stoepelwerth and Associates Inc. of Fishers presented the plans to the APC. He said the plans were revised to decrease the size of the complex. Rediger said conversations are ongoing with the Indiana Department of Transportation concerning deceleration and turning lanes in front of the church building. He also said the church's construction plans are mindful of the planned PokaBache trail, which will go through the area.

The Bluffton campus will be the iTown's third. It now has churches in Indianapolis and Fishers.

Brian McClelland, who lives just south of the church's planned development on Main Street, told the APC members that he had concerns about drainage. County Surveyor Jarrod Hahn said the plans show stormwater will flow east and north from the church building and only a small amount should flow south where it could impact McClelland's property.

The 11 members of the APC — Harry Baumgartner Jr., Tyson Brooks, Chandler Gerber, Hahn, Bill Horan, Kiera Lance, Jerome Markley, Tim Rohr, John Schuhmacher, Becky Stone-Smith, and Melissa Woodworth — all approved the development plan with some conditions. Among those conditions were approval from INDOT concerning the highway and entrance to the site and approval from the city of Bluffton for utilities.

Riverstone Dental has an office at 1429 Baker Place, but that office will be demolished and replaced by a new 3,700-square-foot building at the same location. Todd Bauer of ForeSight Consulting LLC said the current office will be used even as construction on the new office is underway.

The facility's parking lot will also be expanded to 29 spaces. Like the church's development plan discussion before it, the dental office's development plan was questioned by a neighbor concerned with drainage. Tony Terhune, who owns property adjacent to the dental office, was concerned about where stormwater will go when it drains off the property. One of the chief concerns was the intersection of Baker Place/Main Street/North Sutton Circle, which floods "every time it rains," one person said during the discussion.

(Continued on Page 2)



This scene on Bluffton's southwest side was replicated many times over Thursday and will be repeated many more times today and Saturday as Bluffton's citywide garage sale gets into full swing. (Photo by Dave Schultz)

City residents have stuff to sell

Today and tomorrow, Friday and Saturday, are the days for Bluffton's annual community wide garage sales.

The city's website, blufftonindiana.net, has a list of sites that are participating in the garage sale.

Many places opened up Thursday and some

sales may even continue through Sunday.

Traffic will be a problem in the city's most narrow streets. Measures will again be taken in the Willowbrook subdivision on Bluffton's north side as traffic will be one-way throughout Willowbrook with no left turn allowed as vehicles exit the subdivision onto Ind. 1/Main Street.

Missing person's truck found in river

By HOLLY GASKILL

A Geneva resident's vehicle was found unattended in the Wabash River Wednesday.

Branden Beer, 19, was reported missing to the Adams County Sheriff's Office earlier the same day but had not been seen since Sunday. Local law enforcement recovered his vehicle at approximately 1 p.m. near the White Bridge in Bluffton. No one was located near the vehicle.

A press release from Quinton Greer, a detective in the Wells County Sheriff's Department, stated law enforcement searched along the Wabash River

throughout Wednesday and Thursday. At the time of the release, no one has been found.

Searchers left the site Thursday afternoon after spending the better part of two days there.

Greer stated the investigation is ongoing, but current evidence indicates the incident as a single-vehicle accident.

The ACSD, Bluffton Police Department, Bluffton Fire Department, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Decatur Fire Department and Piqua Township assisted in the recovery effort.

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Celebration

A worship service concluded the Bible-reading event and marked the National Day of Prayer Thursday evening at the Parlor City Plaza. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

Fiechter: Parks department in strong financial position

By HOLLY GASKILL

The Bluffton Parks Department is in a strong position financially, said Superintendent Brandy Fiechter.

During the park board's monthly meeting Thursday, Fiechter reported the department's cash-on-hand is at a "healthy balance." Fiechter said they will continue to watch the balance and evaluate possible investment options in the fall. This cash-on-hand is separate from the department's budget.

Additionally, the department received donations of \$1,000 from the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission for race events and \$1,200 from Bargain Hut for Rocksteady Boxing.

Outside of these financial updates, Fiechter said the department has continued to have great attendance at its events. Despite delays for inclement weather, the department's Easter egg hunts welcomed 496 children and 34 dogs. The Princess Merida tea party also garnered 76 partici-

pants.

Other items were:
• Ground-breaking at Lancaster Park is tentatively scheduled for noon, June 2.

• Bluffton High School requested to use the Washington Park tennis courts, 8-10 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. on July 31 and then 3-5:30 p.m. weeknights after Aug. 7. This was approved unanimously.

• Outdoor Concepts planted their donated tree, a Starlite crabapple tree, at Veteran's Park.

• At the request of the Wells County Foundation, the roses at Angel of Hope will be replaced with some shrubbery and perennial flowers to freshen the space.

• The board approved raises for two employees, Laurie Baumgartner and Jonah Baumgartner, for their work anniversaries and certifications.

• The department hopes to begin filling the pool on Monday.

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Debt limit deadline looms as Democrats, GOP spar on spending

By KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats pressured Republicans on the increasingly menacing debt ceiling impasse Thursday, focusing on what they say will be painful reductions in government services if a bill the GOP

recently pushed through the House becomes law.

Republicans responded that they know the legal limit on government borrowing must be raised to avert a possible default. But they're insisting it be coupled with cuts in what they consider bloated federal spending.

No one expects that the House bill, which would increase the nation's borrowing authority as well as cut spending, will reach President Joe Biden's desk. The Democratic Senate won't let it.

Many Republicans admitted so when passing the measure. But they said the House action

was necessary to get Biden to the negotiating table with Republican Speaker Kevin McCarthy. A meeting at the White House with congressional leaders of both parties is set for next week.

Despite the legislation's certain demise, Democrats are eager to tie Republicans, particularly in swing

districts and states, to various provisions in the bill. Those include one that would cap next year's spending at 2022 levels and allow it to rise only 1 percent annually in ensuing years, much below the rate of inflation.

That spending limit, which
(Continued on Page 2)

Inside
Local/Area
Obituaries 3
Police Notebook . . . 3

Opinion
Danny Tyree 4

Also...
Sports 6-7
Classifieds 7
Diversions 5

Outside

Sunny today, tomorrow, rain likely Sunday

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 72	High 74	High 79
Low 49	Low 56	Low 60

More Weather on Page 2

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Vol. 94 No. 157
FRIDAY
May 5, 2023

RACING NEWS

NASCAR Stay on track with the latest news from the

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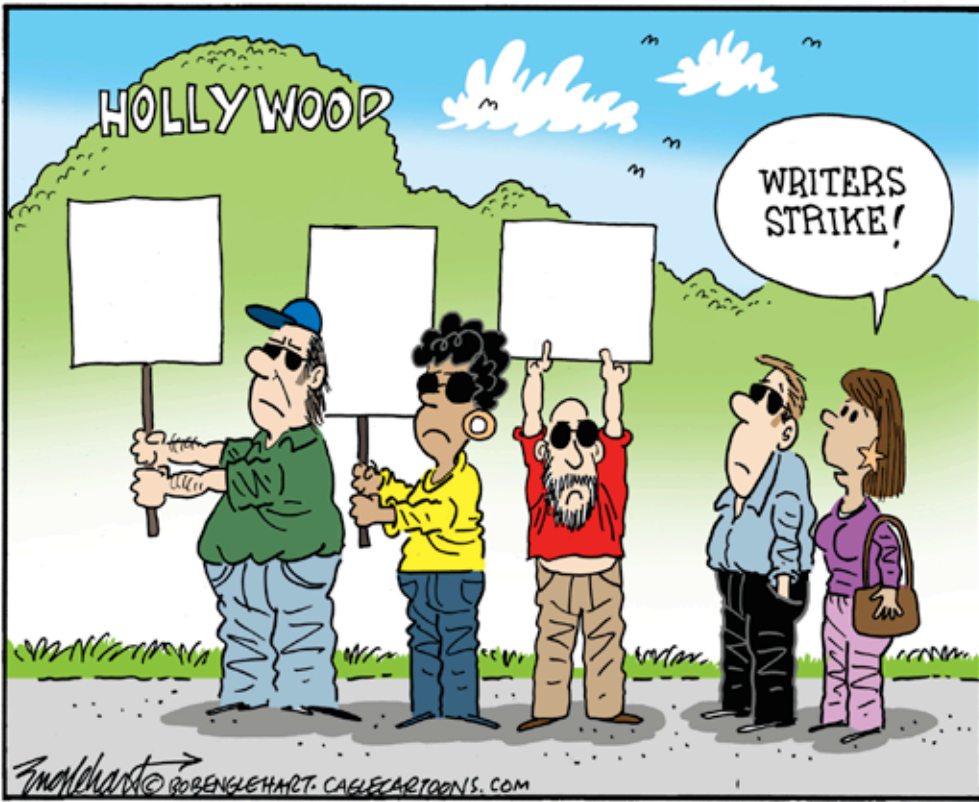
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The Week That Was - a look back at the week through cartoonists' eyes...



What else needs a baseball pitch clock?

My brother, the former Babe Ruth Leaguer, remains deeply skeptical of Major League Baseball's newly instituted pitch clock.

He is not alone in regarding the sport's leisurely pace as an integral part of its charm. But many analysts cheer any attempt to trim the bloated runtime of modern games.

"Field of Dreams" leaves older fans misty-eyed, but if you can erect a skyscraper on the field in the time it takes to play a double-header, "America's Pastime" is not going to hit a homerun with younger generations.

Have you ever wondered what other activities in life deserve a timeclock and a series of internationally recognized signals that someone needs to pick up the pace?

For starters, there are the raconteurs oblivious to their own snotty nose. They think you're hanging on their every word, but in fact you're more fascinated by what's hanging from their nostrils. After two minutes of patience, cut loose with a megapack of Kleenex fired from a T-shirt cannon.

Adrenaline-enhanced shopping excursions invite critique.

In all fairness, interminable home-repair and automotive-repair projects need restrictions, too.

How about "will he or won't he?" political candidates who spend months holding their finger to the wind and dipping their toe in the water? Okay, the first dip is free, but after that we're putting piranhas in the pond, dude.

Let's not overlook insufferable nonentities basking in their "15 minutes of fame." Let's shut this down early.

What about family members who hover in front of an open refrigerator for what seems like an eternity? I know, they're just trying to decide what grub strikes their fancy. Okay, but after the lettuce starts to wilt, they should be more worried about what size boot is going to be striking their gluteus maximus.

I propose zero tolerance for those recorded "Your business is very important to us" messages, as well as for restaurant waitstaff who hog your time with endless focus-group-tested adjectives.

How about the clueless people who run into old acquaintances and sprawl across the entire grocery aisle or five parking spaces for a traffic-stopping gabfest? You can arrange for professional crowd dispersal with just a few kind words.

Most ministers have already adapted to current attention spans, but many of you have encountered the kind who lose all track of time. Those clergymen can be conditioned to love their fellow humans more and the sound of their own voice less.

I would love to hear some of the things you readers want to put a timer on.

Pay no attention to the mysterious voice whispering, "Submit it and he will plagiarize."

tyreetyrades@aol.com or find him on Facebook



Danny Tyree

Tyrades

Republicans aren't disappearing – and may even be growing stronger

Reports of the death of the Republican Party continue to be premature.

You've heard the litany, often from reporters and commentators who never liked Republicans and, lately, from others who can't stomach former President Donald Trump. And they've got something of a point. Republicans have lost four of the last seven presidential elections and won fewer popular votes than Democrats in six of the seven. Republicans are no longer competitive in the nation's largest state, California, which they carried in nine of 10 elections from 1952 to 1988, during what political analyst Sean Trende calls the "Eisenhower alignment."

Republican core constituencies then were white college graduates and affluent suburbanites — groups that started trending Democratic in the 1990s and have become solidly Democratic since Trump was nominated in 2016.

Of course, if you've been following political demographics more closely than most people do, you know there are countervailing trends. Noncollege white people have been trending Republican since around 2000 and especially since 2016. Noncollege Hispanic people and black people seem to be headed their way, too.

Moreover, as the New York Times' Ross Douthat points out, Republicans have won the popular vote for House in four of the seven elections starting since 2008, and they won a majority of seats in a fifth (because Democrats' 2012 popular vote margin was due to heavy turnout for President Barack Obama in black-majority seats).

But there may be better news for Republicans in the long run. They benefited marginally from the reapportionment of House seats (and, therefore, electoral votes) following the 2020 census. Moreover, they stand to make much bigger gains in the census in 2030.

That's the news from the American Redistricting Project's forecast, based on extrapolations from 2022 Census Bureau estimates. ARP shows California, which gained seats in every census from 1850 to 2000 and lost just one seat in 2020, losing five seats in 2030. It shows New York losing three seats and Illinois two seats.

This reflects large-scale flight from our four most popular metropolitan areas, and from what are three of the most heavily taxed states, starting in the pandemic year (the 2020 census was taken as of April 1, when that flight was about to begin) and continuing as lockdowns were eased in the first half of 2022.

It also shows large-scale flight to low-tax states, with Texas and Florida each projected to gain four House seats in 2030 and Georgia, North Carolina,

Tennessee, Arizona, Utah, Idaho and Delaware one each.

What would such shifts do to the political balance? Take the 2016 and 2020 elections, in both of which the electoral votes were based on the 2010 census. Trump carried 25 states and one electoral vote in Maine in both elections, whereas Democrats Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden carried 19 states and the District of Columbia in both. Five states (Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin) and one electoral vote in Nebraska switched from Trump in 2016 to Biden in 2020.

In 2016, the balance between the consistently Trump and consistently Democratic electoral votes was precisely even, 232-232. The 2020 reapportionment would have changed that just slightly to 235-231, with the switching states dropping from 74 to 72 electoral votes.

But by applying the ARP's 2030 estimates, you get a different picture. The consistently Trump states would have 247 electoral votes, just 23 short of a majority, while the consistently Democratic states would have just 219. The switching states would stay at 72.

Looking at just the 10 largest states, which account for a majority of the nation's population, the consistently Trump states would have 114 electoral votes, the Democratic states just 91 and the switching states 50. And obviously, there would be a significant partisan shift in the House of Representatives toward Republicans.

This future isn't inevitable. Demographic trends can change over a decade, and the 2020-22 period was unusual. Still, those empty office spaces and rising crime rates in Manhattan, Chicago, Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area suggest that these states are still bleeding House seats and electoral votes to the likes of Florida and Texas.

Over time, politics tends to balance out. Republicans won the combined popular vote for president in the 10 elections of Trende's Eisenhower period, 52 to 45 percent, average margin, but in the 21 House elections in that stretch, Democrats won the popular vote 53 to 46 percent.

Since then, in the current ideologically polarized period, things have gotten closer. Over eight presidential elections, Democrats have won the popular vote 49 to 45 percent, but Republicans edged Democrats in House popular vote 48.2 to 48.1 percent. Bottom line: Don't look for either party to disappear any time soon.



Michael Barone

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Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 5, the 125th day of 2023. There are 240 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 5, 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became America's first space traveler as he made a 15-minute suborbital flight aboard Mercury capsule Freedom 7.

On this date: In 1494, during his second voyage to the Western Hemisphere, Christopher Columbus landed in Jamaica.

In 1821, Napoleon Bonaparte, 51, died in exile on the island of St. Helena.

In 1925, schoolteacher John T. Scopes was charged in Tennessee with violating a state law that prohibited teaching the theory of evolution. (Scopes was found guilty, but his conviction was later set aside.)

In 1942, wartime sugar rationing began in the United States.

In 1945, in the only fatal attack of its kind during World War II, a Japanese balloon bomb exploded on Gearhart Mountain in Oregon, killing the pregnant wife of a minister and five children. Denmark and the Netherlands were liberated as a German surrender went into effect.

In 1973, Secretariat won the Kentucky Derby, the first of his Triple Crown victories.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army hunger-striker Bobby Sands died at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland on his 66th day without food.

In 1994, Singapore caned American teenager Michael Fay for vandalism, a day after the sentence was reduced from six lashes to four in response to an appeal by President Bill Clinton.

In 2009, Texas health officials confirmed the first death of a U.S. resident with swine flu.

THE NEWS-BANNER

(USPS 059-200)
Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929
Telephone Number George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board
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260-824-0700 Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer
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Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN. Published every day except Sundays and Principal Holidays at 125 N. Johnson Street, Bluffton, IN. 46714. Post Office Box 436.

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

Is not splitting the pot stirring the pot?

Dear Annie: My younger brother "Chris" moved away and got married. He and his wife, "Julie," have a baby girl and two golden retrievers. They recently came to visit for a week, and they brought their dogs. My mom lives with me, and she already has three dogs. My brother's dogs are a total pain. I wish Chris had hired a dog sitter and left the dogs at home. I think it is selfish for them to bring their animals to a guest's home. Should I ask my brother to leave his dogs at home the next time they visit? — Too Many Dogs

you temporarily borrowed the \$20 buy-in from your shared account, so long as you replenished those funds, I'd consider you off the hook. You found the info on entering the bracket. You picked and compiled your teams. You followed along week after week. Was she aware you were participating? Did she express any interest or advice in selecting your bracket? If she wasn't a part of the process, she's not automatically entitled to be part of the reward.

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



Think: Say she went to play bingo with friends, borrowed \$20 from you to do it that she later paid you back for, and won the same amount of money you did here, would you expect a piece — let alone half — of the pie? I doubt it. Try explaining it to your wife this way over that nice dinner you mentioned, and when next year's bracket comes around, make sure she knows how to participate if she wants to.

It's not uncommon for partners in long-term marriages to start thinking of their money as the family's money, as opposed to his and hers. This seems to be your wife's outlook on it. Now sounds like the perfect time for a larger conversation about finances in general and setting firmer boundaries around money, as individuals and as a couple.

"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 dearnie@creators.com.

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Dear Too Many Dogs: If it's your home, then of course you have the right to ask Chris to leave the dogs behind next time. It might help if you explain to him why you feel that way — for example, you are allergic or the dogs shed on your furniture — so that he knows it's not coming from a place of hostility.

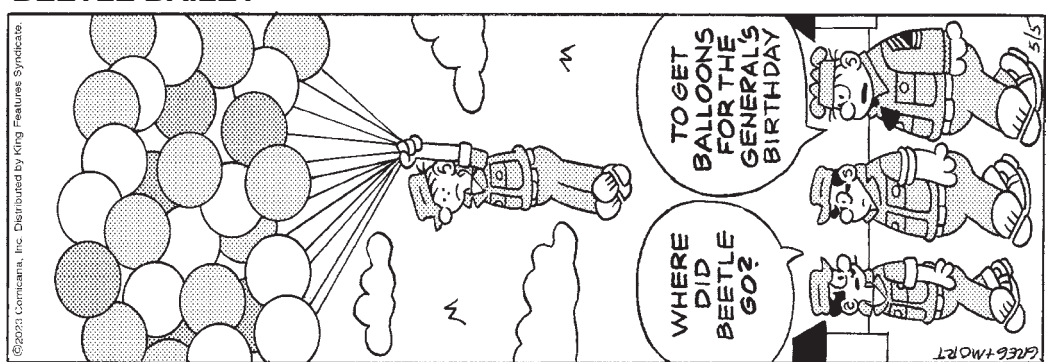
Dear Annie: I recently won over \$500 in a local March Madness basketball bracket. It was \$20 to enter, and my bracket came out on top. I told my wife about my winnings and, while happy for me, she expected me to split the winnings with her.

I must say that I did take the \$20 entry fee from our joint banking account. I replaced the original \$20 back into our account and offered to take her to dinner or give her \$100 as a token of unity and support. However, she felt that this consolation to her was inadequate and that we should split the winnings to get around \$250 each. I feel that this is not a fair deal as I was the one who took the initiative to enter the bracket and pick the ultimate winners.

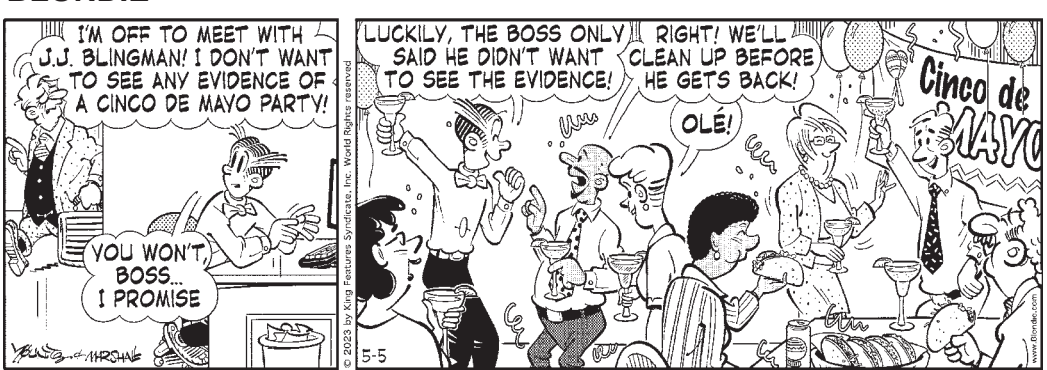
What do you think? Am I being stingy with the winnings, or am I justified to take the bulk of the reward because I was the one who won? — Busted in Birmingham

Dear Busted: It seems to me this was your own solo venture and so the rewards should be yours alone. While

BETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



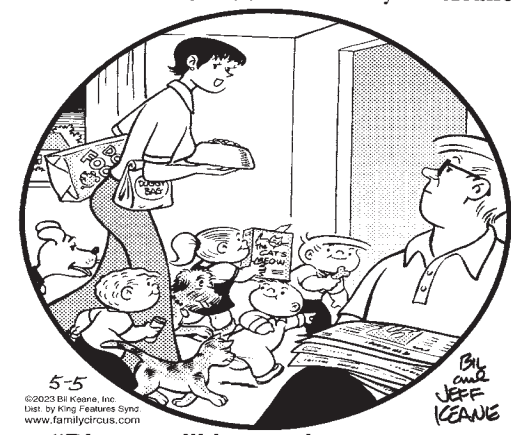
ZITS



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THE FAMILY CIRCUS



The LOCKHORNS



My Answer



God can take anything that happens to us

By Dr. Billy Graham

The idea that bad things happen to us because of our poor decisions, and not according to His will. We must take responsibility. Sometimes we don't know why God allows bad things to happen to us. Even then, however, God can use them to teach us and make us into better people.

our difficulties, inconveniences, trials, and suffering. These experiences also help develop the right attitude for Christian growth. Many people have said that as they walked through deep pain, they've felt God closer to them than ever before.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ ... who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

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

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Q: My daughter was brought up in church and in a Christian home. But since being away at college, she has come to believe that God is the one who brings evil things into our lives. How does a mother answer such absurdity? — A.D.

A: God can take anything that happens to us — even bad things — and use it to shape us and make us into better, more Christlike people if we will let Him. This doesn't mean God necessarily "causes" everything that happens to us; but sometimes He "allows" things to happen.

Many people dismiss

Disappointments and tragedies can teach us to turn in trust to God for the hope and comfort we need. These experiences can also teach us patience and make us more sensitive to others who are suffering. Hard times can cause us to draw nearer to God, demonstrating that Christ lives in us even in the midst of

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 25 mins and a grid for yesterday's answer.

Table with columns for time slots (5:00 PM to 12:30 AM) and rows for various TV channels (WIMM, CBS, WANE, etc.) listing programs and their descriptions.

Table with columns for time slots (12:30 AM to 12:30 PM) and rows for various TV channels (WIMM, CBS, WANE, etc.) listing programs and their descriptions.

Defensive mistakes lift Starfires to ACAC win over Raiders

By RYAN WALKER
PÖNETO — Defensive miscues cost Southern Wells in a conference baseball game against South Adams 10-7 Thursday.

The Raiders (3-14) came into the game with an 0-3 record in ACAC play but missed an opportunity to take one from an above .500 Starfires (9-7) team due to six errors.

“That’s a dagger,” first-year Raider head coach Evan Huffman said after the game. “It’s been what’s bitten us every single game that we’ve lost this year is the errors. I believe the tallies went all the way up to six tonight, which is completely unacceptable. We won’t win games that way.”

Despite those mistakes, Southern Wells scratched and clawed its way all night long. That kept the Raiders in the game.

After a 1-0 deficit in the first inning, senior Jenson Nusbaumer ripped a double to deep center field to tie the game. Brayar Gearheart gave his team the first and only lead with a pop fly that ended up dropping just feet from the infield to score another run.

South Adams responded within the next half inning

with three runs, but just one of them was by a hit.

The Starfires then took a 6-2 advantage in the top of the fifth inning, scoring two on a throwing error.

Just as Southern Wells looked as if it would control of the game, Carsen Smith scored on a passed ball with two outs, keeping the inning alive. Wyatt Yoder hit one to the South Adams outfield, which should have been out No. 3, but the ball popped out of the glove of Caleb Hirschfeld to score another run. Finally, Cody Perdue drove in the final run of the inning on a base hit and brought the lead down to just one.

Huffman was happy to see his team fight, noting that his team used its advantage of speed to cause havoc on the bases and kept the Starfires on their toes.

“We only had five hits. The guys would get on base no matter what it took and take the next base and take the next. Executing on the base paths, seeing them relay we’re a fast team, they’re throwing the ball around a little bit now, and to see them execute a little bit, that’s good,” he said.

South Adams, in the next inning, loaded up the bases for Hirschfeld, who cleared

the bases on a stand-up double and held a 9-5 lead. Will Mawhorr’s seventh-inning RBI single put the lead out of reach for good, but not without a little bit of fight.

Gearheart reached base and later came around to score after a pair of stolen bases (he had three in the game), while Wyatt Yoder’s RBI fielder’s choice scored another to make it 10-7 and scored the final run of the game.

At first glance, the score would indicate that pitching may have been an issue for Southern Wells as much as the defense was. However, starting pitcher Perdue only allowed four earned runs of the 10, walked just two Starfire batters, and struck out five. He went the full seven innings, tossing 114 pitches and threw 79 percent for strikes.

“I can’t say enough good things about Cody Perdue,” Huffman said. “He’s worked his tail off this year. Any game that we’ve been in is predominately due to him. He’s around the strike zone all day, he believes in his stuff, and he’s confident in what he throws.”

Southern Wells will travel to Muncie Burris at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 6.

sports@news-banner.com



Southern Wells catcher Bryar Gearheart tags out South Adams’ runner Kyle Minger at the plate during the third inning at Southern Wells High School. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

High School Calendar

FRIDAY, MAY 5
SOFTBALL: Eastside at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.; Bishop Luers at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.
TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): ACAC meet at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.; NE8 Conference meet at New Haven, 5 p.m.
SATURDAY, MAY 6
BASEBALL: Guerin Catholic at Norwell, 11 a.m.; Southern Wells at Muncie Burris, 11 a.m.
BOYS GOLF: Bluffton, Norwell, Bi-County meet at Southern Wells, 9 a.m.
GIRLS TENNIS: Tony Wright Memorial Tournament at Angola, 9 a.m.
TRACK & FIELD: NE8 Conference meet at, 5 p.m.
SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Norwell, 10 a.m.
UNIFIED TRACK & FIELD: Unified Relays at North Side, 12 p.m.
MONDAY, MAY 8
BASEBALL: Bluffton at Eastbrook, 5 p.m.; Daleville at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.
GIRLS TENNIS: Union City at Bluffton, 5 p.m.
SOFTBALL: Norwell at DeKalb, 5 p.m.
UNIFIED TRACK & FIELD: Norwell at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, MAY 9
BASEBALL: Norwell at DeKalb, 5:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Heritage, 5:30 p.m.; Jay County at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.
BOYS GOLF: New Haven at Norwell, 4:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Jay County, 4:30 p.m.
GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at DeKalb, 4:30 p.m.
SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Heritage, 5:30 p.m.; Jay County at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Norwell and Muncie Central at Marion, 5:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Whitko, 5:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10
BASEBALL: Norwell at Snider, 5:30 p.m.
BOYS GOLF: DeKalb at Norwell, 4:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Northfield, 4:30 p.m.
GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at North Side, 5:30 p.m.
SOFTBALL: Huntington North at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, MAY 11
BASEBALL: Norwell at Huntington North, 5:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Woodlan, 5:30 p.m.
BOYS GOLF: Southern Wells and Southwood at Eastbrook, 4:30 p.m.
GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at Huntington North, 4:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Carroll, 5:30 p.m.
SOFTBALL: Southern Wells at Woodlan, 5:30 p.m.
TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Norwell and Bellmont at Adams Central, 5 p.m.
FRIDAY, MAY 12
SOFTBALL: Northrop at Norwell, 6 p.m.; Southwood at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.
SATURDAY, MAY 13
BASEBALL: Norwell at Jay County, 10 a.m.; Bluffton at St. Marys Memorial, 11 a.m.
GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell JV Invitational, 9 a.m.
SOFTBALL: Bluffton at New Haven, 5:30 p.m.; Liberty Christian at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.
TRACK & FIELD: Norwell 9/10 Boys Invitational at Huntington North, 11 a.m.



Norwell’s Macy Felger eases the ball over the net during the No. 1 doubles match against East Noble in Kendallville Thursday afternoon. Felger, and partner Annabelle Johnson, handed their opponents a 6-0, 6-0 loss to help the Knights to a 5-0 conference win (Photo by Chad Kline)



<p>NASCAR CUP SERIES AdventHealth 400 Site: Kansas City, Kansas. Schedule: Saturday, practice, 5:05 p.m., and qualifying, 5:50 p.m.; Sunday, race, 3 p.m. (FS1). Track: Kansas Speedway. Last race: 2017 series champion Martin Truex Jr. of Joe Gibbs Racing ended a 54-race winless drought and won at Dover for the third time in his career. Next race: May 14, Darlington, South Carolina.</p> <p>NASCAR XFINITY SERIES Last race: Ryan Truex dominated at Dover, winning the first two stages, leading 124 of the 200 laps and claiming his first series victory by nearly 5 seconds. Next race: May 13, Darlington, South Carolina.</p> <p>NASCAR TRUCK SERIES Heart of America 200 Site: Kansas City, Kansas. Schedule: Saturday, practice, 12:05 p.m., qualifying, 12:35 p.m., and race, 8 p.m. (FS1). Track: Kansas Speedway. Last race: Corey Heim won at Martinsville on April 14. Next race: May 27, Concord, North Carolina.</p> <p>FORMULA ONE Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix Site: Miami Gardens, Florida. Schedule: Friday, practice, 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, practice, 12:30 p.m. and qualifying, 4 p.m.; Sunday, race, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN). Track: Miami International Autodrome at Hard Rock Stadium. Last race: Sergio Perez kept the Red Bull team 4-for-4 in race wins this season. Next race: May 21, Imola, Italy.</p> <p>INDYCAR Last race: Scott McLaughlin surged past Romain Grosjean, took advantage of it and was scarcely challenged the rest of the way to his fourth IndyCar win in Alabama. Next race: May 13, Indianapolis.</p> <p>NHRA Last events: Antron Brown won in Top Fuel and Matt Hagan won in Funny Car in Las Vegas. Next events: May 21, Ellwood, Illinois.</p> <p>WORLD OF OUTLAWS Next Events: May 5-6, Rossburg, Ohio.</p>	<p>INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING</p> <p>Be Summer Ready The Best On The Water. Loud & Clear! • Sound Systems for boats Powerful Sound For Off-Road Adventure • RV's • Golf Carts • ATV's</p> <p>OPEN TO SERVE YOU!</p> <p>(260) 724-2276 1421 Manchester St., Decatur ½ block west of U.S. 27 North www.icav.us</p> <p>PRECISION SERVICE Family, Farm and Fleet Vehicle Repair FLEET ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE 0520 S. Decker Dr. Bluffton "The Quality Service You Deserve!" FREE 260-824-9149 Estimates</p> <p>Bluffton Tire Inc. 1308 S. Main St. Bluffton</p> <p>10% OFF Discontinued Closeout Tires 1-260-824-0418</p>
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Sports Roundup

Tigers stomp Patriots in ACAC baseball

The Bluffton baseball team won in a rout at Jay County 12-1 in conference play Thursday.

The Tigers now sit in third place in the Allen County Athletic Conference standings with a 3-1 record, trailing Heritage and Woodlan, who are undefeated.

Andrew Onuegbu and Braxton Betancourt led the team with three hits each. Onuegbu hit a double and brought in two runs.

Austin Lewis drilled two home runs in the game, driving in a team-high three RBIs. Betancourt got the win, throwing six complete innings in the game ending in a mercy rule, allowing one run, four hits, and struck out 11.

Bluffton will host Adams Central at 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 5.

Norwell escapes East Noble with NE8 baseball win

Norwell’s baseball team traveled to East Noble and barely escaped with a 5-4 victory Thursday.

The win keeps the Knights unbeaten in conference play, improving to 3-0.

Trey Bodenheimer led the way with two hits. Drew Graft had the only extra-base hit for the Knights and drove in two runs.

Lleyton Bailey got the win for Norwell, throwing six innings, allowing four runs, six hits, and struck out seven. Brody Bolyn earned the save in a scoreless frame.

Norwell will host Guerin Catholic for a

doubleheader starting at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 6.

Norwell sweeps East Noble in girls’ tennis

The Norwell girls’ tennis team swept East Noble on the road in Northeast 8 Conference play Thursday.

Results for varsity:

- Addy Heyerly defeated Bree Walmsley 6-2, 6-4 in No. 1 singles.
- McKenna McNabb defeated Sadie Potts 6-2, 6-0 in No. 2 singles.
- Delaney Hoover defeated Ella Edwards 6-3, 6-3 in No. 3 singles.
- Annabelle Johnson and Macy Felger defeated Maria Bona and Brooke Lindseu 6-0, 6-0 in No. 1 doubles.
- Jordyn Xayyachack and Idoia Ochoa defeated Rylie Pasztor and Payton Quake 7-6(2), 7-6(1)

The junior varsity also earned a sweep, winning 10-0.

Results for JV

- Brooklyn Pine defeated Keegan Ball 8-6.
- Macie Saalfank defeated Makenna Strohn 8-2.
- Ella Krug defeated Georgia Bradley 8-0.
- Ciera Hiester and Gracie Rinckenberger defeated Ava Lash and Cayden Hulbert 8-3.
- Emma Roembke and Gabbi Hoepfner defeated Levi Moore and Shaina She Coil 8-2.
- Aubrey Meyer and Emmaline Johnson defeated Maddie Green and Kendyll Swary

(Continued on Page 7)

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