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FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023

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The turnaround

Local students presented with Turnaround Awards at luncheon

By SYDNEY KENT

Three students were recognized Thursday afternoon for turning their lives around.

The Turnaround Awards began 21 years ago in 2002 from a partnership between former Mayor Ted Ellis and the Wells County Foundation. Current Mayor John Whicker has continued the tradition of the Turnaround Awards.

"The Wells County Turnaround awards recognizes students who have turned their lives and their behaviors around in school after exhibiting behavioral or academic issues," Whicker said, "Recipients are determined in each school by administrators, teachers, and guidance counselors. Each high school student who is a winner receives a \$2,500 scholarship in an accredited post secondary educational institution."

The recipients of this year's awards are Simon Hanes of Bluffton High School, Taylor

Marschand of Norwell High School, and Cy Westfall of Southern Wells Junior-Senior High School.

Hanes was introduced as a recipient by Stacey Morrison, the assistant principal at Bluffton High School. Morrison explained that Hanes was not a "typical Turnaround Award recipient" in that he did not refuse to come to school or suffer academically, however, he did not enjoy school, contribute to class, and he would "allow his emotions to get in the way" at times.

"Each year, Simon became more and more confident in himself," Morrison said. "He became more social with his classmates, began contributing to class, and gained a better understanding of how to express himself if he did not agree with an assignment. I believe his senior year is his best year yet."

Morrison also shared thoughts



Mayor John Whicker poses with the three Turnaround Award recipients that were introduced Thursday at the Wells County Chamber of Commerce's Turnaround Awards Luncheon. At left is Simon Hanes of Bluffton High School, at center is Taylor Marschand of Norwell High School, and at right is Cy Westfall of Southern Wells Junior-Senior High School. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

from Hanes' teachers. Nick Miller, a German language teacher at Bluffton High School, said he is very proud of the person Simon has become.

Vicki Van Matre, Hanes' art teacher, said that although he "hated art" as a freshman, he continued to grow as a student and serve as "the best cadet she has

ever had" in her class. "Simon has done what we want all students to be able to do," Morrison said. "He's grown as a student." (Continued on Page 2)

White House vows aid to reduce homelessness in 5 cities, California

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Five major U.S. cities and the state of California will receive federal help to get unsheltered residents into permanent housing under a new plan launched Thursday as part of the Biden administration's larger goal to reduce homelessness 25 percent by 2025.

The All Inside initiative will partner the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and its 19 federal member agencies with state officials in California and local governments in Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, Seattle and the Phoenix metro area.

The goal is for the federal government to provide "knowledge, resources and elbow grease" to population centers where nearly half the nation's unsheltered residents live, said Susan Rice, Presi-

dent Joe Biden's domestic policy advisor.

The administration will offer "tailored support" for two years to improve efforts toward housing unsheltered people in the participating communities, including embedding a federal official in each area, officials said.

In addition, teams will be deployed to help the communities obtain federal funding, establish a network of resources and identify areas where regulations can be loosened and the process for securing housing can be sped up.

Philanthropic groups and private businesses will be invited to help identify opportunities for support and collaboration, according to the administration.

More than 580,000 Americans were homeless in 2022, with 4 out of 10 of them unsheltered and (Continued on Page 2)

World leaders gather for G7, ready to pile sanctions on Russia

By ADAM SCHRECK,
ZEKE MILLER
and FOSTER KLUG
Associated Press

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP) — Leaders of the world's most powerful democracies planned to devote much of the first full day of the Group of Seven summit to finding new ways to punish Russia for its 15-month invasion of Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's nuclear threats against Ukraine, along with North Korea's months-long barrage of missile tests and China's rapidly expanding nuclear arsenal, have resonated with Japan's push to make nuclear disarmament a major part of the summit. World leaders Friday were to visit a peace park dedicated to the tens of thousands who died in the world's first wartime atomic bomb detonation.

After the group photos and a symbolic tree planting, however, leaders were set to unveil a new round of sanctions against Moscow, with a focus on redoubling efforts to enforce existing sanctions meant to stifle Russia's war effort and hold accountable those behind it, a U.S. official said. Russia is now the most-sanctioned country in the world, but there are questions about the effectiveness of the financial penalties.

The U.S. official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to preview the announcement, said the U.S. component of the actions

would blacklist about 70 Russian and third-country entities involved in Russia's defense production, and sanction more than 300 individuals, entities, aircraft and vessels.

The official added that the other G7 nations would undertake similar steps to further isolate Russia and to undermine its ability to wage war in Ukraine. Details were to emerge over the course of the weekend summit.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who represents Hiroshima in parliament, wants nuclear disarmament to be a major focus of discussions, and he will formally start the summit at Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park. The visit by world leaders to a park dedicated to preserving reminders of Aug. 6, 1945, when a U.S. B-29 dropped an atomic bomb over Hiroshima, will be a striking image to start the summit. An estimated 140,000 people were killed, and a fast-dwindling number of now-elderly survivors have ensured that Hiroshima has become synonymous with anti-nuclear peace efforts.

On Thursday night, Kishida opened the global diplomacy with a sitdown with President Joe Biden after Biden's arrival at a nearby military base. Kishida also held talks with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak before the three-day gathering of leaders opens.

The Japan-U.S. alliance is the "very foundation of peace and (Continued on Page 2)

Prosecutor: author accused in husband's killing changed life insurance policies

By BRADY McCOMBS and SAM METZ
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A Utah woman who wrote a children's book about grief after her husband's death and was later arrested on accusations of killing him made changes to her husband's life insurance years before he was fatally poisoned, according to charging documents updated Thursday.

The additional allegations, which were previously mentioned in search warrants but not the charging documents, led to the postponement of a detention hearing scheduled for Friday that would have been the first time Kouri Richins was in court since her case became the latest true crime sensation earlier this month. The hearing has been rescheduled for June 12.

Prosecutors say Kouri Richins, 33, poisoned her husband, Eric Richins, 39, by slipping five times the lethal dose of fentanyl into a cocktail she made for him in March 2022. The mother of three later self-published a children's book titled "Are You with Me?" about an angel wing-clad deceased father watching over his sons. She promoted it on television and radio, describing the book as a way to help children grieve the loss of a loved one.

Years before, Kouri Richins bought four life insurance policies on her husband's life without his knowledge from 2015 to 2017 with benefits totaling nearly \$2 million, prosecutors alleged in the documents updated Thursday.

(Continued on Page 2)

China's loans pushing poorest countries to brink of collapse

By BERNARD CONDON
Associated Press

A dozen poor countries are facing economic instability and even collapse under the weight of hundreds of billions of dollars in foreign loans, much of them from the world's biggest and most unforbearing government lender, China.

An Associated Press analysis of a dozen countries most indebted to China — including Pakistan, Kenya, Zambia, Laos and Mongolia — found paying back that debt is consuming an ever-greater amount of the tax revenue needed to keep schools open, provide electricity and pay for food and

fuel. And it's draining foreign currency reserves these countries use to pay interest on those loans, leaving some with just months before that money is gone.

Behind the scenes is China's reluctance to forgive debt and its extreme secrecy about how much money it has loaned and on what

terms, which has kept other major lenders from stepping in to help. On top of that is the recent discovery that borrowers have been required to put cash in hidden escrow accounts that push China to the front of the line of creditors to be paid.

Countries in AP's analysis had

as much as 50 percent of their foreign loans from China and most were devoting more than a third of government revenue to paying off foreign debt. Two of them, Zambia and Sri Lanka, have already gone into default, unable to make even interest payments on loans (Continued on Page 3)

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Outside

Chance of rain today, thunderstorms tonight

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 78	High 66	High 75
Low 48	Low 45	Low 51

More Weather on Page 2

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Turnaround

(Continued from Page 1)

dent, but, more importantly, he's grown as a person."

Jason Wilson, guidance counselor at Norwell High School, introduced Marschand by saying she has "certainly lived up to the title" of the Turnaround Award. When Marschand joined the school two years ago, she was behind on credits, her grade point average was low, and she had poor attendance.

"In order for Taylor to graduate on time, she was going to have to be nearly perfect for the next two years," Wilson began. "Taylor never wavered, she was positive, and she said she was willing to do whatever it took to get through."

Wilson said Marschand passed all of her classes in her first semester at Norwell, a first for her in high school, and then passed her classes again in the second semester. Marschand then began her senior year committed to a heavy course load that included 7 classes and a work-required experience. Wilson said Marschand maintained a positive attitude while raising

her grade point average.

"For perspective, her GPA when she joined us was a .06," Wilson explained. "In the two years since she has been with us, she now has a 3.1. This is my 14th year as a counselor and I can't recall a time I have seen a turnaround this dramatic and inspiring."

Wilson said Marschand met and exceeded the challenges presented to her, and even received the Golden Shield Award from the Family and Consumer Science Department.

"Not only did she turn around, she completely, completely turned around. To say that she has come a long way is the understatement of the afternoon."

Doug Hunt, the engineering and design technology teacher at Southern Wells Junior-Senior High School, introduced Westfall as one of his students over the course of six years. Hunt said that Westfall was "low on enthusiasm" as a junior high school student, and in high school, continued to struggle to complete work and meet deadlines.

"Last year, as a junior, some interesting things began to happen inside," Hunt said. "He began talking about

what he would like to do after high school. This was new."

Hunt explained that during his junior year, Westfall's time in class became "increasingly more focused", he talked more about the work he would like to do after high school, and he designed and built a guitar.

"During his junior year, his best friend, also enrolled in the class, moved away, leaving an unfinished guitar behind. Cy not only built his own guitar, and did a fine job, he also finished his friends guitar for him," Hunt said. "At the end of the school year, Cy surprised his friend Justin with his finished guitar."

Hunt said Westfall, who previously struggled to complete assignments on time, showed signs of becoming a responsible young man.

"Cy proved to be an excellent spokesperson for the program when the Bluffton Optimist Club invited the students to present their guitars at a morning breakfast. He was engaging, poised, and confident. This is clearly a new Cy."

sydneym@news-banner.com

White House aid

(Continued from Page 1)

sleeping on sidewalks and in tents and cars, Rice said.

"We know we cannot meaningfully address our nation's homelessness problem without a distinct focus on unsheltered homelessness," she said during a livestreamed announcement with the cities' mayors and other officials.

Agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Social Security Agency, Department of Labor, Federal Emergency Management Agency, will be involved under Thursday's announcement to help coordinate housing opportunities.

Funding specifics were not offered, but the White House said the program will build on the \$2.5 billion already allocated to prevent homelessness under the

administration's American Rescue Plan and \$486 million in the Department of Housing and Urban Development funding released to local municipalities earlier this year.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said she hoped the initiative would unstick the current bottleneck plaguing her program Inside Safe, which offers homeless people motel rooms and a path to permanent housing with services. The City Council on Thursday passed the mayor's budget, which provides \$250 million for the LA initiative. It has over 1,200 enrollees so far but is moving slowly because of bureaucratic red tape.

"If anything, we know that our current system on the federal, state and county level isn't designed for the emergency that we are fac-

ing today," Bass, a Democrat, said.

Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell said the White House plan will "unite our systems," bringing solutions that are effective in some cities to other areas.

"What's working in one city will work here because we're dealing with the same American issues," Harrell, a Democrat, said.

The Seattle area had the nation's third highest population of homeless residents in 2022, after Los Angeles and New York, at more than 13,300, according to a one-night count required by the federal government.

Seattle, King County and nearby cities joined together to launch a regional homelessness authority two years ago. But many officials say the new agency has underperformed, been beset by political fights and had

trouble fulfilling administrative duties such as executing contracts with service providers.

G7 meetings

(Continued from Page 1)

security in the Indo-Pacific region," Kishida told Biden in opening remarks. Japan, facing threats from authoritarian China, Russia and North Korea, has been expanding its military but also relies on 50,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan and U.S. military might.

"We very much welcome that the cooperation has evolved in leaps and bounds," Kishida said.

Biden, who greeted U.S. and Japanese troops at nearby Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni before his meeting with Kishida, said: "When our countries stand together, we stand stronger, and I believe the whole world is safer when we do."

As G7 attendees made their way to Hiroshima, Moscow unleashed yet

another aerial attack on the Ukrainian capital. Loud explosions thundered through Kyiv during the early hours, marking the ninth time this month that Russian air raids have targeted the city after weeks of relative quiet.

"The crisis in Ukraine: I'm sure that's what the conversation is going to start with," said Matthew P. Goodman, senior vice president for economics at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One, Jake Sullivan, the White House national security adviser, said there will be "discussions about the battlefield" in Ukraine and on the "state of play on sanctions and the steps that the G7 will collectively commit to on enforce-

ment in particular."

The United States has frozen Russian Central Bank funds, restricted banks' access to SWIFT -- the dominant system for global financial transactions -- and sanctioned thousands of Russian firms, government officials, oligarchs and their families.

The Group of Seven nations collectively imposed a \$60 per-barrel price cap on Russian oil and diesel last year, which the U.S. Treasury Department on Thursday defended in a new progress report, stating that the cap has been successful in suppressing Russian oil revenues. Treasury cites Russian Ministry of Finance data showing that the Kremlin's oil revenues from January to March this year were more than 40 percent lower than last year.

Life insurance

(Continued from Page 1)

The documents don't disclose when Eric Richins discovered the changes but do say he met with a divorce attorney and estate planner in October 2020, a month after he discovered his wife had carried out several other major financial moves without his knowledge.

Prosecutors said Eric Richins found out that his wife had taken out a \$250,000 home equity line of credit and spent it, withdrawn \$100,000 from his bank accounts, and spent more than \$30,000 on his credit cards, according to the documents. Kouri Richins also stole about \$134,000 from her husband's business meant for tax payments, the documents state.

She agreed to repay her husband when he confronted her, according to the documents.

Family members interviewed by investigators indicated that Eric Richins was seeking to divorce Kouri Richins and had recently changed his will and life insurance policy.

Previous charging documents and warrants detail the yearlong investigation that authorities pursued before arresting Kouri Richins this month. The docu-

ments include interviews with an unnamed informant who says she dealt Richins hydrocodone and fentanyl in the weeks and months before her husband's death.

Richins, a real estate agent, told the dealer that both drugs were for an investor with back pain. The dealer said Richins purchased the hydrocodone shortly before Valentine's Day, when prosecutors say she laced drugs into Eric Richins' sandwich.

After he survived, his wife asked for stronger drugs, specifically "some of the Michael Jackson stuff," the dealer told investigators. When Jackson died of cardiac arrest in 2009, medical examiners found prescription drugs and powerful anesthetics in his system, not fentanyl.

Kouri Richins' attorney, Skye Lazaro, has declined to comment on the charges.

The case has directed the world's eyes to the sleepy towns on the backside of Utah's Wasatch Mountains, which are rapidly evolving from predominantly agricultural communities to high-end bedroom communities, where first- and second-time homeowners like the Richins can enjoy easy access to skiing, hiking trails and

the alpine lakes of the nearby Uinta Mountains. The Richins lived in a new development in the town of Francis, which is roughly 50 miles east of Salt Lake City.

Eric Richins descended from a large family, well-known locally, with members active in local politics and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He met Kouri Richins when she worked at a local Home Depot where he often shopped, a former colleague told KUTV.

Eric's family told investigators that he had raised suspicions that his wife had previously tried to poison him, including on a vacation to Greece a few years ago. They also raised questions about marital disagreements stemming from changes to his will and the purchase of an incomplete nearby mansion in Midway, Utah, that Kouri Richins bought hoping to quickly sell.

The person who says she sold Kouri Richins the fentanyl told investigators she left the pills at the expansion, unfinished home -- a 20,000-square-foot manor that, when complete, will have eight bedrooms and an indoor volleyball court, a video ad promoting its sale shows.

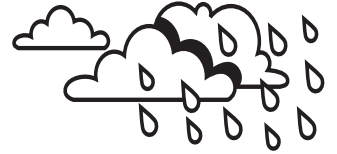
Weather

Friday, May 19, 2023

(24-hour observations at 8:51 p.m. Thursday)
High: 70; **Low:** 39; **Precipitation:** None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.95 feet at 7:45 p.m. Thursday

Wells County forecast

Today: A slight chance of showers between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 5 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 78. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.



Tonight: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm before 11 p.m., then showers likely between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Low around 48. Northwest wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 66. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 45. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 75.
Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 77.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 80.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 82.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 58.

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China's loans

(Continued from Page 1)
ing the construction of ports, mines and power plants.

In Pakistan, millions of textile workers have been laid off because the country has too much foreign debt and can't afford to keep the electricity on and machines running.

In Kenya, the government has held back paychecks to thousands of civil service workers to save cash to pay foreign loans. The president's chief economic adviser tweeted last month, "Salaries or default? Take your pick."

Since Sri Lanka defaulted a year ago, a half-million industrial jobs have vanished, inflation has pierced 50 percent and more than half the population in many parts of the country has fallen into poverty.

Experts predict that unless China begins to soften its stance on its loans to poor countries, there could be a wave of more defaults and political upheavals.

"In a lot of the world, the clock has hit midnight," said Harvard economist Ken Rogoff. "China has moved in and left this geopolitical instability that could have long-lasting effects."

A case study of how it has played out is in Zambia, a landlocked country of 20 million people in southern Africa that over the past two decades has borrowed billions of dollars from Chinese

state-owned banks to build dams, railways and roads.

The loans boosted Zambia's economy but also raised foreign interest payments so high there was little left for the government, forcing it to cut spending on healthcare, social services and subsidies to farmers for seed and fertilizer.

In the past under such circumstances, big government lenders such as the U.S., Japan and France would work out deals to forgive some debt, with each lender disclosing clearly what they were owed and on what terms so no one would feel cheated.

But China didn't play by those rules. It refused at first to even join in multinational talks, negotiating separately with Zambia and insisting on confidentiality that barred the country from telling non-Chinese lenders the terms of the loans and whether China had devised a way of muscling to the front of the repayment line.

Amid this confusion in 2020, a group of non-Chinese lenders refused desperate pleas from Zambia to suspend interest payments, even for a few months. That refusal added to the drain on Zambia's foreign cash reserves, the stash of mostly U.S. dollars that it used to pay interest on loans and to buy major commodities like oil. By November 2020, with little reserves left,

Zambia stopped paying the interest and defaulted, locking it out of future borrowing and setting off a vicious cycle of spending cuts and deepening poverty.

Inflation in Zambia has since soared 50 percent, unemployment has hit a 17-year high and the nation's currency, the kwacha, has lost 30 percent of its value in just seven months. A United Nations estimate of Zambians not getting enough food has nearly tripled so far this year, to 3.5 million.

"I just sit in the house thinking what I will eat because I have no money to buy food," said Marvis Kunda, a blind 70-year-old widow in Zambia's Luapula province whose welfare payments were recently slashed. "Sometimes I eat once a day and if no one remembers to help me with food from the neighborhood, then I just starve."

A few months after Zambia defaulted, researchers found that it owed \$6.6 billion to Chinese state-owned banks, double what many thought at the time and about a third of the country's total debt.

"We're flying blind," said Brad Parks, executive director of AidData, a research lab at William & Mary that has uncovered thousands of secret Chinese loans and assisted the AP in its analysis.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Wednesday, 4:34 p.m., corner of Jersey Street and West South Street. Street department found blue trampoline. Phone placed in lost and found.

Wednesday, 5:36 p.m., Bluffton Animal Shelter. Officer requested to deliver citation for non-immunized dog.

Wednesday, 6:39 p.m., the 400 block of Elm Grove Road. Caller reported male being physical with child before leaving in vehicle. Officer reported brothers were fighting and the parents handled the situation.

Wednesday, 6:46 p.m., Kings Highway Tabernacle. Abandoned vehicle reported.

Wednesday, 9:16 p.m., the 400 block of West Market Street. Caller reported fighting from neighbors. Tenants stated a scary movie was playing. Advised to keep the volume down.

Thursday, 3:05 a.m., Bluffton High School. Caller reported car parked in student parking lot.

Thursday, 11:31 a.m., the 700 block of Cedar Road. Caller reported a neighbor taking photos of her children while playing outside. When caller spoke to him, he went back inside.

County:
Wednesday, 1:34 p.m., Wells County Sheriff's Office. Report of a domestic disturbance.

Wednesday, 3:30 p.m., Sunlight Wesleyan Church. Two loose horses.

Wednesday, 10:49 p.m., South Hoosier Highway and East 250S. Caller reported a man swinging sticks at their vehicle.

ACCIDENTS

City:
Wednesday, 9:52 p.m., McDonald's parking lot, Owen Cupp was reversing from spot when his vehicle collided with a parked Chevy Impala. Minor damage sustained to both vehicles, estimated \$2,501-

\$5,000.

Wednesday, 4:42 p.m., Inteva, Cory Pinkerton was pulling out of Inteva parking lot as Ha Tin began to leave parking space. Tin's front passenger bumper collided with Pinkerton's front driver side door. No injuries reported; damages estimated at \$5,001-\$10,000.

ARRESTS

Dakota Donald Gebert, 24, Monroeville; possession of marijuana, a Class A misdemeanor, possession of meth, a Level 6 felony, and possession of paraphernalia, Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$7,000.

Emma Louise Treace, 19, Fort Wayne; possession of marijuana, a Class A misdemeanor, and possession of cocaine or narcotic drugs, a Level 6 felony. Bond set \$6,000.

Joshua Michael Gomas, 39, Bluffton; possession of a hypodermic syringe, a Level 6 felony,

resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor, resisting law enforcement, a Level 6 felony, and driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$13,000.

Andrew Michael Castenada, 24, Bluffton; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Tavis J. Beavans

Calling: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday, May 20.
Funeral: 1 p.m.
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Indiana Army vet convicted in road rage killing of Muslim man

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A suburban Indianapolis Army veteran has been convicted in the road rage shooting death of a Muslim man, after witnesses said he hurled ethnic and religious insults at the victim, including yelling, "Go back to your country," before opening fire.

A Marion County jury convicted Dustin E. Passarelli, 37, of murder on Wednesday after a three-day trial over the February 2019 killing of 32-year-old Mustafa Ayoubi. Passarelli, of Plainfield, could get up to 65 years in prison when he's sentenced June 21 on the murder charge.

He was also convicted of a firearm enhancement charge that could boost his sentence by up to 20 years, the county prosecutor's office said.

Defense attorney, Chris Eskew, told The Indianapolis Star that he and Passarelli were disappointed by the verdict, but he declined to comment further about the case until after the sentencing.

Passarelli shot and killed Ayoubi following a road rage incident on Interstate 465 that led to Passarelli fol-

lowing Ayoubi to an apartment complex on the city's northwest side, according to court documents.

Passarelli told police that Ayoubi either threw something at his car or collided with it on the highway and that after he followed Ayoubi to the apartment complex, Ayoubi broke one of Passarelli's car windows with a punch.

The defense argued that Passarelli was within his rights to fire at Ayoubi because it was self-defense.

Multiple witnesses said Passarelli and Ayoubi shouted inflammatory remarks at each other in front of a townhome. They said Passarelli yelled religious and ethnic insults at the unarmed Ayoubi, including, "Go back to your country," shortly before he shot him.

Passarelli claimed that post-traumatic stress disorder he developed during his time in the Army contributed to his behavior on the highway and was partially to blame for the shooting. But Passarelli's mental evaluation and PTSD claims were ruled inadmissible in court.

Passarelli was not charged with a hate crime. The FBI had said it was looking into whether Ayoubi's killing involved a federal civil rights violation, but no federal charges were ever filed.

Six weeks after Ayoubi's killing, Indiana lawmakers passed a hate crimes bill that included a provision allowing judges to impose longer sentences for crimes motivated by bias.

Before the bill became law, Indiana was one of five states without a hate crime law.

Ayoubi's sister, who had urged lawmakers to pass a hate crime law, told The Indianapolis Star that her family was originally from Afghanistan and arrived in the United States in 2001 as refugees. They later became U.S. citizens.

Zahra Ayoubi said Wednesday that the verdict can allow her family to finally begin to celebrate her younger brother's life four years after his killing.

"I wish this never happened," she said. "The true justice would be if we were all still together right now. However, he died. And he left a legacy."

Sentence upheld for Indiana man convicted of killing, cannibalism

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind. (AP) — The Indiana Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the life sentence without parole for a man convicted of killing his ex-girlfriend and eating parts of her body.

Joseph Oberhansley was convicted in September 2020 of murder and burglary in the slaying of Tammy Jo Blanton in Jeffersonville in September 2014. Clark Circuit Judge Vicki Carmichael sentenced Oberhansley to life in prison without parole, based on a jury recommendation.

Oberhansley's attorney, Victoria Casanova, argued before the court

last month that her client's mental health wasn't taken into consideration and that the jury didn't return a proper verdict form in weighing aggravating and mitigating circumstances.

The opinion written by Justice Christopher Goff said the jury made "the necessary weighing determination." Three other justices concurred and Justice Geoffrey Slaughter agreed in part.

The body of Blanton, 46, was found at her home the morning of Sept. 11, 2014, badly mutilated with more than 25 sharp force injuries and multiple blunt force injuries, authorities have

said. Oberhansley testified that two men had been at the victim's home when he arrived around 4 a.m. that day and said they were responsible for Blanton's death. He said they knocked him out and that he awoke when police arrived.

Clark County Prosecutor Jeremy Mull expressed relief at the ruling.

"I hope that the family of the victim can rest a bit easier now that the result of the proceedings has been reviewed and upheld," Mull said.

Oberhansley is incarcerated at the New Castle Psychiatric Unit of the Indiana Department of Correction.

Bluffton High School announces Senior Class Day, Commencement exercises

Senior Class Day will be held on Wednesday, May 24, in the gymnasium beginning at 9:10 a.m. Parents and community members are welcome to attend. Parking will be provided in the front parking lot of the high school. Please enter door 1.

Bluffton High School's commencement exercises will be held on Friday, May 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. Doors 2, 5, and 8 should be used when entering the school. Since parking is limited at the high school lots, it is asked that as many people as possible park at the middle school lot. In that way, people with handicaps or the elderly may park closer to the school.

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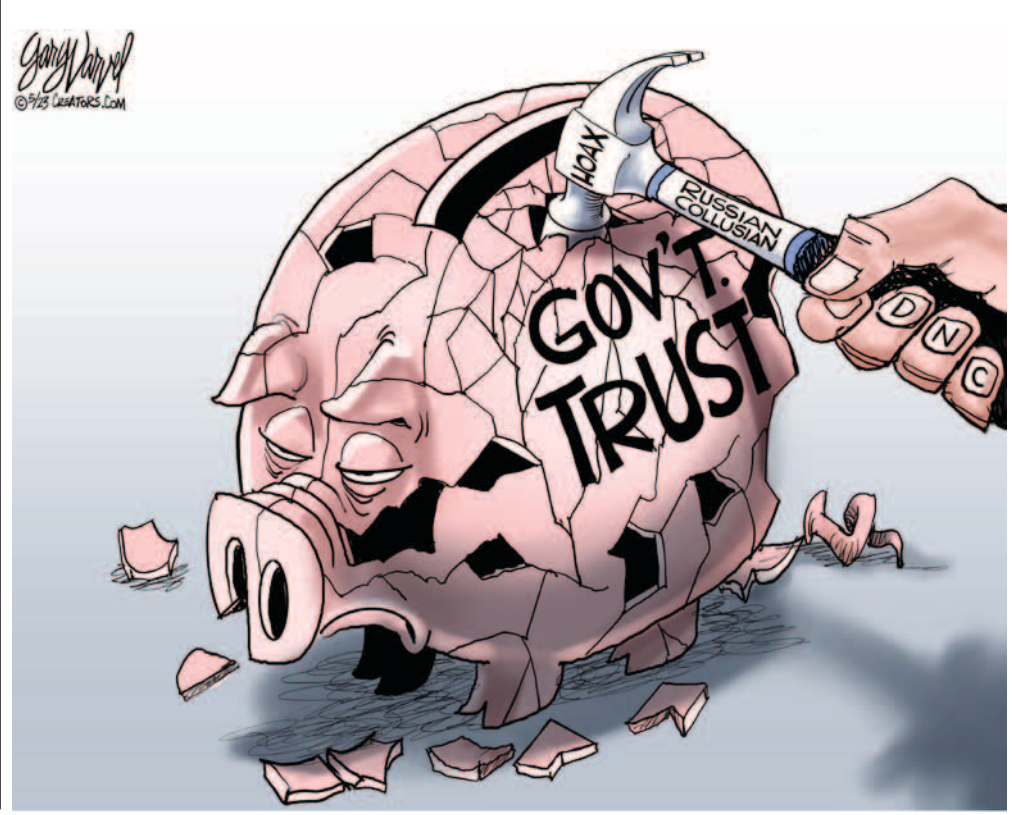
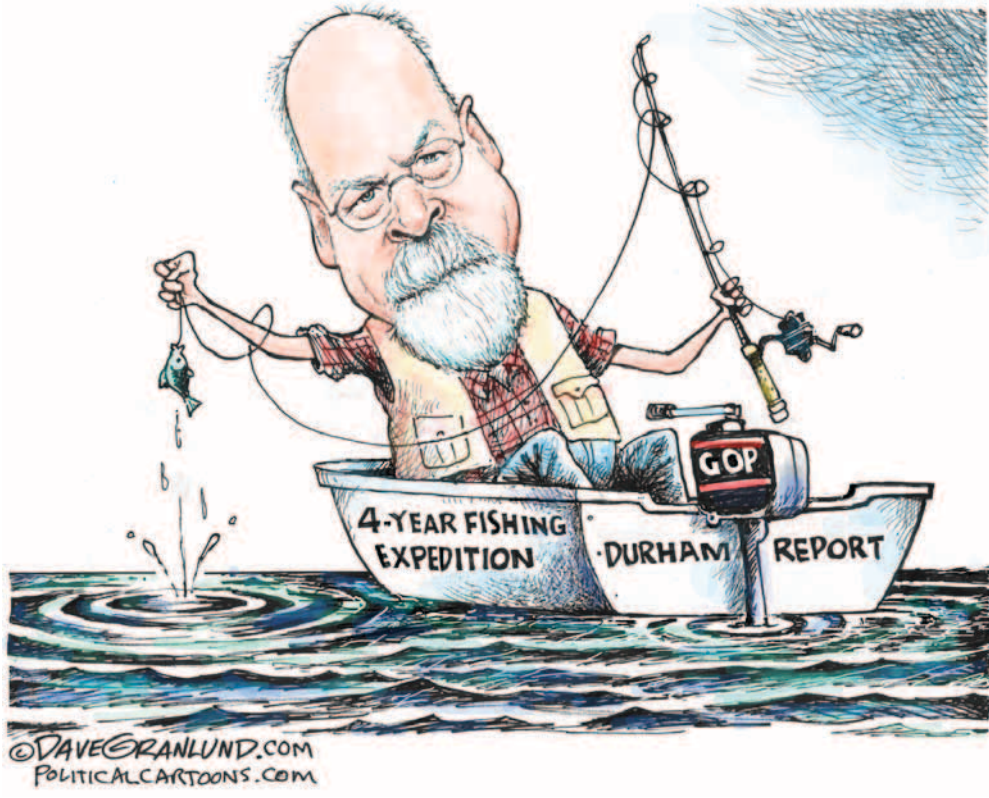
If additional information and/or a photo is desired to be included, or if the deceased does not meet the definitions of a "local" person, there is a charge.

Area funeral homes will provide details on the policy and will coordinate obituary publication.

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The Week That Was - a look at the variety of cartoonists' views on the Durham Report



Kristina Box, health chief, leaves a job well done

If anybody deserves a chance to relax a bit and spend more time with their family, it is Dr. Kristina Box, Indiana's health commissioner.

Hoosier Opinions

Box led the state through the COVID-19 pandemic with professionalism. Her weekly livestreamed updates — alongside Gov. Eric Holcomb, Indiana Department of Health chief medical officer Dr. Lindsay Weaver and other health professionals — kept Hoosiers informed about the coronavirus' movement through Indiana and best practices to avoid getting infected. Occasionally, she appeared exhausted, as did Weaver and Holcomb. COVID-19 itself was enough to exhaust Hoosiers. Yet Box and the health team also dealt with the damage from the spread of misinformation about the pandemic through social media and political rhetoric meant to divide Americans. Box handled the problem as carefully as any public health official in the country, and those weekly updates were refreshingly informational, compared to the circus-like White House pandemic sessions during the Trump presidency.

Now, after five years as Indiana health commissioner, Box has told the governor she will retire by the end of this month. Box grew up in Terre Haute, living here from age 3 through 18, when she graduated from Terre Haute North Vigo High School and then headed off to Indiana University for her medical studies. An obstetrician-gynecologist, Box was named health commissioner by Holcomb in 2017.

"The past five and a half years have been filled with challenges and opportunities unlike any that public health has ever encountered, and the public health workforce across the state has met those challenges with a heart and determination that have inspired me every day," Box said in a statement Friday. "I am incredibly proud of the work being done and will forever be grateful to those who continue to make improving the health and well-being of Hoosiers a priority."

Along with her guidance through the pandemic, Box also led the effort with Holcomb to boost funding for local public health departments around the state. Indiana's funding of its community health departments ranks 45th, near the bottom among U.S. states. Box launched the Governor's Public Health Commission, which critiqued the existing level of care and issued recommendations.

Box and Holcomb worked to get the funding approved through an Indiana General Assembly that included supportive legislators, but also includes some that cling to the politically sewn distrust of local public health leaders. The Legislature wound up approving about two-thirds of the funding Holcomb sought. Indiana will have an added \$225 million through the next two years to expand services in local communities, the Associated Press reported.

Those funds will help Indiana improve its poor health and high rates of obesity and smoking, low life expectancy and under-funded local emergency services.

Box also put into action a statewide network of services for mothers and babies, with Indiana's high infant mortality rates. She also led an initiative to prevent lead poisoning in kids.

Holcomb said Box "genuinely cares about the health and well-being of every single Hoosier, and because of her dedication to the betterment of our overall public health system, the state is at the forefront of transformational change that will result in a healthier Indiana."

Weaver will step into Box's role as the new commissioner, Holcomb said, and that is a positive step. Both Weaver and Box, actual physicians and longtime public health servants, displayed their concern for folks who live in Indiana through the harshest health crisis in a century. They deserve gratitude.

TERRE HAUTE TRIBUNE-STAR

The Durham report is a damning indictment of the FBI – and the media

Special counsel John Durham's report into the origins of the Trump-Russia collusion investigation is a damning indictment of the FBI — and, by extension, its enablers in the media who breathlessly reported the false allegations against Donald Trump. So, perhaps it's unsurprising that many in the media are seeking to downplay Durham's findings.

"After years of political hype, the Durham inquiry failed to deliver," a New York Times headline blared. Please. Durham's report outlines stunning abuses of power. That so many journalists don't get it underscores why public trust in the media is at an all-time low.

The FBI opened its investigation of Trump, Durham writes, "upon receipt of unevaluated intelligence information from Australia," which agents knew was flimsy. "Damn that's thin," one FBI official wrote in August 2016. "I know," replied another, "it sucks."

But they went ahead with a full investigation anyway, Durham reports, even though FBI personnel acknowledged "both then and in hindsight — that they did not genuinely believe there was probable cause to believe that the target [the Trump campaign] was knowingly engaged in clandestine intelligence activities on behalf of a foreign power." They "disregarded significant exculpatory information" and used "investigative leads provided or funded (directly or indirectly) by Trump's political opponents" to obtain search warrants. One FBI official falsified evidence presented to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

Worst of all, the FBI failed to inform the court that the primary source behind the Steele dossier, which the agency used to secure FISA warrants, was the subject of an unresolved FBI counterespionage investigation for ties to — wait for it — Russian intelligence.

Igor Danchenko, who was responsible for 80 percent of the information in the dossier, had a "long history with Russian intelligence officers," Durham reports. While working at the Brookings Institution, he asked a colleague he thought was about to join the Obama administration whether he would "be willing or able in the future to provide classified information in exchange for money." The colleague reported it to the FBI, which launched a full investigation after discovering that Danchenko "had been identified as an associate of two FBI counterintelligence subjects" and "known Russian intelligence officers." That investigation was left unresolved because the FBI incorrectly believed Danchenko had returned to Russia.

The FBI never "attempted to resolve the prior Danchenko espionage matter" before hiring him as a paid informant in the Trump investigation, Durham writes. Indeed, the Trump investigators brushed off concerns raised by officials vetting Danchenko that he was connected to Russian intelligence and falsely

claimed that there was no "derogatory" information about him and that he "had not been a prior subject of an FBI investigation." They gave him a letter of immunity, paid him hundreds of thousands of dollars and kept that information from the FISA court. It was possible, Durham writes, that "the intelligence Danchenko was providing . . . was, in whole or in part, Russian disinformation." (Durham attempted to prosecute Danchenko for lying to investigators about his sources, but Danchenko was found not guilty.)

In other words, the FBI knowingly relied on a source who had been under investigation as a possible Russian spy to investigate whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russia. You can't make it up.

Think of what that means: It was the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee that funded the Steele dossier, which relied on a Russian with suspected ties to Russian intelligence. The FBI then included the dossier as part of the materials it used to investigate Trump, paralyzing our country, undermining a newly elected president for two years while costing tens of millions of dollars — all over what ended up being a conspiracy theory.

You might think journalists would want to get to the bottom of how they were duped so that they could repair the reputational damage to themselves and their industry. Apparently not.

And make no mistake — that damage is severe and has had deep repercussions for our democracy. An Edelman poll in 2021 found that 59 percent of Americans believe "journalists and reporters are purposely trying to mislead people by saying things they know are false or gross exaggerations." A New York Times-Siena College poll last October found that 84 percent of respondents view the media as a threat to democracy, including 59 percent who agreed it is a "major threat." Indeed, more Americans said the media is a major threat to democracy than said Trump is.

This collapse in trust — particularly among the 74 million Americans who voted for Trump — directly contributed to the events of Jan. 6, 2021. Why did Trump supporters storm the Capitol? Because they believed Trump's false claims that the election was being stolen. And why did they believe him? If the media lied to them about Trump's collusion with Russia, why should they trust reports that Trump's election claims were false?

Durham's report lays bare why trust in the media lies in tatters. If in 2024, Americans decide that journalists are a greater threat to our democracy than a second Trump term, they have no one to blame but themselves.

Marc A. Thiessen is on Twitter, @marcthiessen.



Marc Thiessen

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 19, the 139th day of 2023. There are 226 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 19, 1536, Anne Boleyn, the second wife of England's King Henry VIII, was beheaded after being convicted of adultery.

On this date:

In 1780, a mysterious darkness enveloped much of New England and part of Canada in the early afternoon.

In 1920, ten people were killed in a gun battle between coal miners, who were led by a local police chief, and a group of private security guards hired to evict them for joining a union in Matewan, a small "company town" in West Virginia.

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Two's company, three's a crowd

Dear Annie: This is about "Unsure," who loved her job at a school but whose husband was pressuring her to find a higher-paying job so she could contribute toward college for their teenage children.

I am writing this from the perspective of a retired public employee who is very glad to have my defined benefits pension.

It is very important to look at the total compensation package, not just the take-home pay. (Note: I am assuming that "Unsure" works at a public school.)

In addition to her take-home, does the letter writer's employment provide:

1. Benefits that cover the whole family now, such as medical, dental, vision? What would it cost out-of-pocket for comparable coverage if these benefits are not available in the new job?

2. Does the school job provide a secure pension plan? It's amazing how much money has to be set aside to provide even a modest retirement income.

3. Also, does her current job post retirement medical (medigap), dental, vision? These needs don't go away. To the contrary, they increase as we age and have to be paid for somehow.

4. How much money have they saved on day care, summer programs, etc., over the years because her schedule matched their kids' schedules? It is probably considerable.

If "Unsure's" current job currently provides any or all of these benefits, how much more would a new, private sector job have to pay to provide comparable compensation? — Considering the Benefits

Dear Considering: I agree that it's important to consider the total compensation package when evaluating one's career. A number of readers also noted that "Unsure" could look for a summer job if money is still tight. An overwhelming number of you applauded "Unsure" for the passion she showed for her work, which is indeed something to be cherished.

Dear Annie: I have a question regarding my wife's friend. We haven't seen her for a few years due to being generally busy with life; there was no strife or problem. We ran into her at a musical event, and I complimented her on how

great she looked.

We invited her to a small party we were hosting. We had a great time, but before good-byes were said, she sidled up to me, and I think she rubbed my butt as she told me I had great dance moves. What message was she trying to convey? I don't think I should tell my wife, but I do often think of her. Your thoughts? — Sexy Senior

Dear Sexy Senior: This sounds like a slippery slope, my friend. It would be easy to pass off an innocent compliment or pleasantry as just that, but that's not what happened here. For this woman to have made a flirtatious comment while inappropriately touching her friend's husband — in her friend's home, no less — crosses the line.

The good thing is, it sounds like you two don't see this woman very often. If that changes and things continue to escalate, you should set a firm boundary with her. Tell her that you love your wife and you want to keep your friendship with her completely platonic.

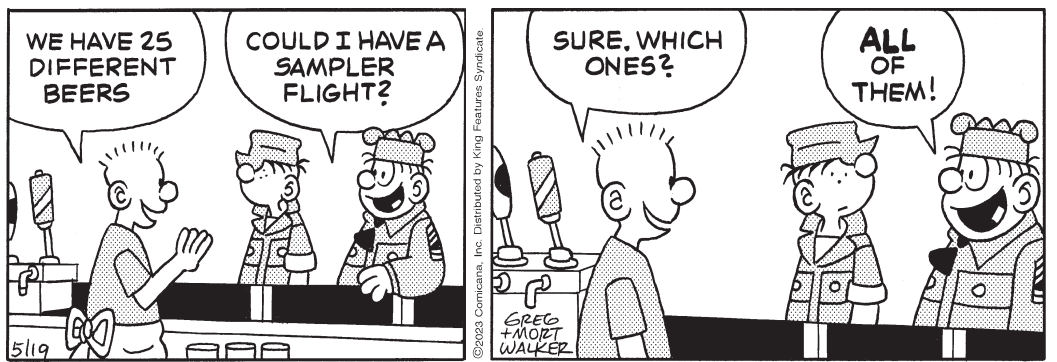
In the meantime, I would tell your wife what happened. Maybe this friend got confused. Maybe she misread the situation. Maybe she had too much to drink at the party. Maybe she's lonely. Regardless, this doesn't necessarily have to be the end of your friendship with her. But if it should come out to your wife in a different way, it's likely she'll feel you've been hiding this, and maybe wonder what else, from her.

"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. © 2023 CREATORS.COM

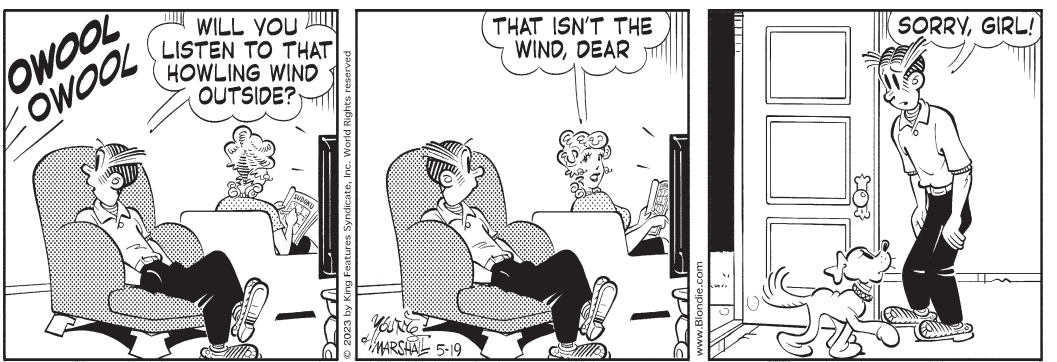
Dear Annie by Annie Lane



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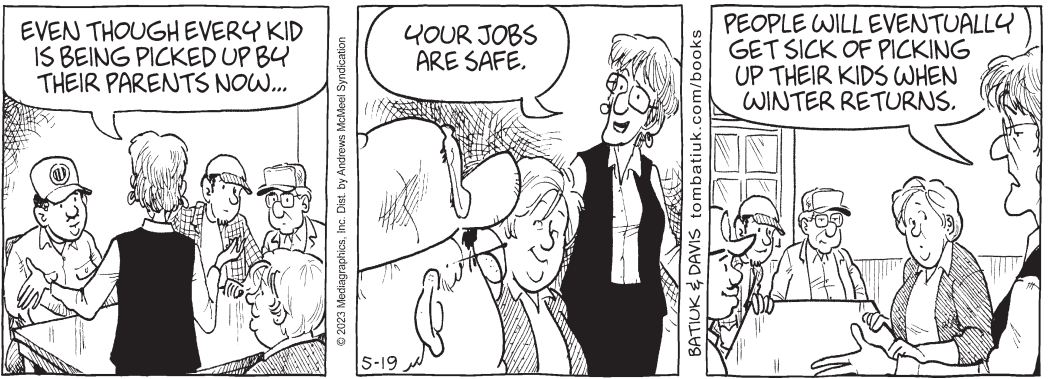
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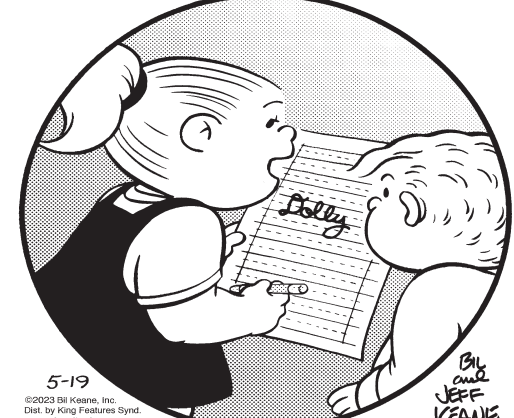
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Christians are in the service of God full time

rendered their lives to Christ for full-time vocational Christian service. All Christians ought to consider themselves in the service of God full time, no matter their calling, but it is a joy to give one's life wholly to the work of the Lord.

Young people are responding to Christ's call to service. While they seek adventure and excitement, they want something to believe in. God desires to make His people disciples, and it is the highest calling of mankind. Jesus said, "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor" (John 12:26).

Christian discipleship

gives us the privilege of being associated with Christ intimately. To know the will of God is the highest of all wisdom. Living in the center of God's will puts the stamp of true sincerity upon our service to God, and the faithful discharging of the glorious responsibilities of true disciples invokes the approval and favor of God Himself. "Be obedient... doing the will of God from the heart... doing service, as to the Lord" (Ephesians 6:5-7).

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

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Q: I'm just out of college and want to serve the Lord somehow, somewhere. I want to be obedient to Scripture and tell others about Christ. Is this what is meant by being a "fisher of men?" — F.M.

A: Jesus invites each of His followers to become His disciple. "Jesus said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men'" (Mark 1:17). We are saved to serve; we're redeemed to reproduce spiritually; we are "fished out of the miry clay" so that we in turn may become fishers of men.

People down through the centuries have sur-

Table with columns for date, channel, and program details. Includes sections for Cable Channels and Freeform.

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.

Knights fall just short in 2nd place, Tigers 6th at boys' track sectional

By RYAN WALKER

The three Wells County schools competed in the boys' track and field sectional at Marion High School Thursday night, with Norwell falling just short of first place.

The Knights had the lead for most of the night, but Oak Hill trailed by just one point with the final two races to go. In the 3200m, the Golden Eagles had two runners finish first and second in the 3200m and second place in the 4x400m relay to take the lead and win with 136 points to Norwell's 116.

As much as a disappointment it was, Norwell head coach Adam Prater couldn't have asked for anything more from his group of guys.

"We came in, and I told them, 'you don't have to be perfect, just give me your best,' and that's exactly what we got," Prater said after the meet. "You could see it, just the exhaustion. We didn't have anything left in the tank, and that's all I could ever ask is that they gave me their best. They gave each other their best, and I'm proud of them."

The Knights will be well-represented at the regional meet next week at Carroll High School, with multiple athletes to continue their season.

First, the two sectional champions. Kyle Zeddis won the discus with a throw of 144-4, and Winston Frauhiger won the high jump with a jump of 6-5.

Jake Parker made it in the 110m and 300m hurdles, Trevon Stoppenhagen in the 100m dash and in the 200m dash, Cohen Bailey in the long jump and the 400m, Zach Waldman in the 1600m, and the 4x100m relay team with Timothy Bonjour, Parker, Ryan Smith, and Brady Smith.

Prater is happy to keep some of his team going another week and plenty of them.

"We're all over the place with guys in distance, sprints, and throws," he said. "I mean, we bring a little bit of everything back, and that's real nice. We get

to keep quite a few guys around and go take a yellow bus someplace. So, I'm excited for next week and the opportunity for them to go to Carroll and run and give themselves a chance to get that state-run that not a lot of people get to enjoy."

Bluffton finished in sixth with a score of 43 points. The goal of the ACAC meet two weeks ago was to win it as a team, but the sectional was a time for the individuals to shine.

"You know, we feel really good," Kunkel said. "Our peak is the conference meet. That's what we want to focus on. Our kids ran their guts out two weeks ago now, so we're very, very happy and pleased with our season. Sectional I told them to be selfish and told them to go for something on their own. Conference is a team thing, and we make sacrifices. This is where we try and get guys in events."

The coach was happy to see both his underclassmen get experience as well as his three seniors in for their final race.

Freshman Khamel Moore made the finals in the 100m, while Trey Bustos in the long jump, Eli Bertsch in the 110m hurdles, and Alex Mechling in the 4x100m relay were noted as standouts to Kunkel.

Seniors Anthony Cruz, Sam Baumgartner, and Andrew Hunt ran their final races, and Hunt will advance to the regional with his third-place time in the 110m hurdles.

The highlight of Bluffton's night was one that was expected from Johnny Cruz, who was the winner in the shot put. The senior threw three feet further than second place did with a throw of 51-0.50.

Cruz won the sectional last year as well and was thrilled to do it again.

"It feels very good, considering I won last year. It's a great accomplishment, and I'm looking forward to next week," Cruz said.

Cruz also mentioned he will be working hard for next week to throw a heavier shot to eclipse the 55 feet mark.

Southern Wells tied for 11th with Alexandria Monroe and Northfield with a score of four points. Like the girls' team, head coach Gary Paxson liked what he saw from his group as both his boys' and girls' teams ran personal bests and gave everything they could.

"Again, just like the girls meet, we had several personal bests tonight," Paxson said. "How are the 4x800 team knocked off five seconds from their best time. Both of our 3200 guys either tied or got their personal best. Peyton Long almost hit 100 in the discus, and Miles Garrett showed a lot of grit and hard work that he's put in and got a personal best in the 400."

The points for the team score were scored by Kane Jenkins in the 110m hurdles, the 4x800m relay team of Potter Garrett, Miles Garrett, Andrew Aker, and Joshua Bricker, and the 4x100m relay team of Aidan Brewster, Peyton Ellis, Jenkins, and Nick Lozoya.

A number of freshmen competed well in their first season with the team, Paxson mentioning Jenkins and Ellis in the hurdles and in the relay races, as well as some other first or second-year runners.

Paxson said that over the last three years, Southern Wells had not won a track meet. This season, the Raiders not only won their first conference meet in a while against Adams Central but picked up four more wins against Daleville twice, Whitko, and Northfield.

"There are good times coming at Southern Wells on the track," Paxson said.

The regional meet will take place at Carroll High School for the boys starting at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 25.

Team scores — Oak Hill 136, Norwell 116, Marion 110, Wabash 74, Mississinewa 64, Bluffton 43, Eastbrook 25, Southward 22, Frankton 14, Blackford 8, (tie) Alexandria, Northfield, Southern Wells 4 each.

Wells County results (Point scorers only)

4 x 800 relay — 4. Norwell (Kwandrans, Morris, Welcher, Neuenschwander),

8:23.22; 5. Bluffton (Baumgartner, Baumgartner, Johns, Godwin), 8:29.28; 8. Southern Wells (Garrett, Bricker, Garrett, Aker), 9:00.8.

110m hurdles — 2. Jake Parker (N), 15.16; 3. Andrew Hunt (B), 16.08; 7. Kane Jenkins (SW), 17.75.

100m dash — 3. Trevor Stoppenhagen (N), 11.04; 7. Timothy Bonjour (N), 11.81.

1600m run — 3. Zach Waldman (N), 4:34.28; 7. Sam Baumgartner (B), 4:47.24.

4 x 100 relay — 3. Norwell (Bonjour, Parker, Stoppenhagen, Smith), 44.35; 4. Bluffton (Mechling, Ramseyer, Cruz, Moore), 45.30; 8. Southern Wells (Brewster, EDIis, Jenkins, Lozoya), 47.99.

400m dash — 4. Cohen Bailey (N), 52.17; 8. Kline Neuenschwander (N), 54.46.

300m hurdles — 2. Jake Parker (N), 39.96; 3. Hayden Bennett (N), 41.56; 4. Andrew Hunt (B), 42.28.

800m run — 4. Tyler Godwin (B), 2:04.26; 6. Zach Waldman (N), 2:05.26.

200m dash — 3. Trevon Stoppenhagen (N), 22.48; 8. Timothy Bonjour (N), 24.37.

4 x 400 relay — 7. Norwell (Bailey, Morris, Neuenschwander, Parker), 3:41.02; 8. Bluffton (Hunt, Laishevkin, Godwin, Baumgartner), 3:45.36.

Pole vault — 4. Jasper Kreigh (N), 11-6; 6. (tie) Trent Singleton (N), 9-6. *Singleton tied with two others for sixth.

Discus — 1. Kyle Zeddis (N), 144-4; 7. Tavin Frees (B), 132-2.

High jump — 1. Winston Frauhiger (N), 6-5; 5. Trace Moser (N), 5-10.

Long jump — 2. Cohen Bailey (N), 20-5.5; 4. Jase Harmon (N), 19-10.75.

Shotput — 1. Johnny Cruz (B), 51-0.5; 5. Kyle Zeddis (N), 43-2; 6. Sam Mechling (B), 43-0.

sports@news-banner.com



Bluffton's now two-time shot put sectional champion Johnny Cruz throws during the sectional at Marion High School Thursday night. The senior threw a 51-0.50 and earned the Tigers 10 team points (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Norwell's Kyle Zeddie throws during the discus Thursday, where he was the sectional champion with a throw of 144-4.

High School Calendar

FRIDAY, MAY 19

BASEBALL: Southern Wells at Anderson Prep, 5:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Southwood at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Wayne at Southern Wells, 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 20

BASEBALL: Southwood at Bluffton, 10 a.m.

BOYS GOLF: Norwell Meet at East Noble Cobble-

stone Golf Course, 9 a.m.; Bluffton, Southern Wells ACAC Meet at Celina Linx Golf Course, 9 a.m.

SOFTBALL: Whitko at Norwell, 10 a.m.

UNIFIED TRACK & FIELD: (sectional) Norwell at North Side, 12 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 22

SOFTBALL: (sectional)

Norwell vs. Oak Hill at Bellmont, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 23

BOYS GOLF: South Adams at Norwell, 4:30 p.m.; Huntington North at Bluffton, 4:30 p.m.; Northfield at Southern Wells, 4:30 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD (GIRLS): (regional) Norwell, Bluffton at Carroll High School, 5:30 p.m.

Sports Roundup

Knights top Tigers in Wells County baseball showdown

Norwell got the best of Bluffton Thursday with a 5-1 road victory over Bluffton.

The Knights were led by a two-for-three performance by Graham Gaier, who had two doubles in the game with three RBIs. Lleyton Bailey had a hit and an RBI.

Lane Lewis got the win, allowing just the one run in a complete game effort, striking out nine with four hits and a walk.

Bluffton got two hits, including a triple from Drew Pressler, and the lone RBI was by Kayden King.

Braxton Betancourt got the loss, throwing a complete game allowing five runs (two earned), striking out 10, and allowing five hits.

Norwell will play in the sectional next week in its next game at Oak Hill High School against Mississinewa. The game will start at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 24.

Bluffton will host Southwood at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 20, for a doubleheader.

Raiders top Argylls in boys' golf match

Southern Wells boys' golf team defeated Madison-Grant at home Thursday.

The Raiders shot a 180, while the Argylls shot a 240.

Gabe McElhaney was the medalist of the match, shooting a 39. Following him was Bailey Couch with a 44, Chandler Oswalt with a 46, and Quinton Mullins with a 51.

Southern Wells will be at Celina Linx Golf Course next for the ACAC meet starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 20.

Tigers lose to Golden Falcons in softball

Bluffton's softball team lost on the road at

Winchester 11-7 Thursday.

Marly Drayer and Claire Craighead led the team with three hits, and Craighead had two RBIs. Lily King had two hits and three RBIs, with a triple. Konley Ault also had a two-hit night.

King threw a complete game, throwing six innings and allowing 11 runs (three earned) while striking out three.

Bluffton will host Southwood at 5 p.m. Friday, May 19.

Southern Wells falls to Wapahani in softball

The Southern Wells softball team was defeated by Wapahani at home 12-2 Thursday.

The Raiders had four hits, one each by Emma Parks, Kyah Thomas, Raigen Tarr, and Morgan Jones. Parks and Tarr had two stolen bases.

Thomas had the lone RBI for the Raiders. Jones earned the loss, throwing four 1/3 innings, allowing eight runs (two were earned) and six hits.

Southern Wells will host Wayne at 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 19.

Knights edge Lions in junior varsity baseball

Norwell's junior varsity baseball team won 10-9 over Leo at home on Thursday.

The Knights were led by Adam McBride's three hits and two RBIs who had a double. Ryne Thornton, Will Case, Gary Riley, and Max Babcock all had two-hit games.

Noah Turk got the win, throwing four 2/3 innings, allowing five runs (only one earned) striking out five. Thornton threw two innings in relief and allowed one run.

Norwell will host Heritage at 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 19.

Italy flooding has the grand prix canceled

IMOLA, Italy (AP) — Formula One drivers Nyck de Vries and Yuki Tsunoda have shared stories of struggling to get out of the deadly flooding in northern Italy after this week's Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix was canceled.

Floods which have killed at least nine people, with more still unaccounted for, and caused more than 10,000 to be evacuated from their homes forced the race to be called off on Wednesday. The track is next to a swollen river. F1 said it wanted to avoid further burdening emergency services.

De Vries and Tsunoda drive for AlphaTauri, which is based in Faenza, a city close to the Imola track and which has been flooded. Rescuers used boats to transport people through the flooded streets of Faenza on Thursday.

Dutch driver de Vries said he was trying to reach Faenza shortly before midnight Tuesday ahead of marketing events at the factory scheduled for Wednesday but the roads were cut off.

"Faenza is already flooded and I am unable to get to my hotel. Returning to the highway is no option either. Stuck in a little village with one fully booked hotel," he posted on Instagram on Thursday, recounting his experience with pictures and video of roads blocked by landslides.

"Fortunately McLaren got stranded there earlier and their front jack (mechanic) Frazer was kind enough to give me his room. The following morning, the hotel lobby turned into an emergency shelter for people who were forced to escape their homes during the night."

De Vries said he eventually made his way home via the city of Florence after an "adventurous" drive on mountain roads and offered his thanks to local people who helped him on his journey.

His teammate Tsunoda, who began living in Faenza in 2021 to work with AlphaTauri, said the city was badly hit.

"After a horrible night the town is heavily impacted: dust, mud, and the smell of gasoline everywhere," the Japanese driver posted on social media on Wednesday. "Currently people are struggling to find food and especially places to stay, after many have been evacuated from their own homes."

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Knights capture sectional title with win over Braves

The Norwell girls' tennis team is back on top with a 3-2 victory over Belmont at the sectional Thursday.

The Knights won the sectional championship last year over the Braves 4-1, but this one felt much sweeter after Belmont got the best of Norwell with a 3-2 victory earlier in the season at home. This time, the Knights got to host and used home-court advantage to take the victory.

The deciding point came down to No. 3 singles, in which Delaney Hoover avenged her loss to Belmont's Leila Jin with a score of 7-6(9-7), 7-5, to earn the Knights the win.

Final results:
• Olivia Selking (B)

defeated Addy Heyerly (N) 6-3, 6-2 in No. 1 singles.

• Emy Faurte (B) defeated McKenna McNabb (N) 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 in No. 2 singles.

• Delaney Hoover (N) defeated Leila Jin (B) 7-6(9-7), 7-5 in No. 3 singles.

• Annabelle Johnson and Macy Felger (N) defeated Isabella Ortiz and Marisol Jackson (B) 6-2, 6-1 in No. 2 doubles.

• Jordyn Xayyachack and Idoia Ochoa (N) defeated Alyssa Coffee and Kaelyn Snyder (B) 6-2, 6-0 in No. 2 doubles.

Norwell will now head to the regional round at Carroll High School to take on an opponent later to be determined.



The Norwell Lady Knights tennis team secured a sectional championship with a 3-2 win over Belmont Thursday. Pictured are, from left, Assistant Coach Megan Wilson, Macy Felger, Idoia Ochoa, Annabelle Johnson, Addy Heyerly, Delaney Hoover, McKenna McNabb, Jordan Xayyachack, and Coach Holly Kimball. (Photo by Chad Kline)

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

5/19

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The Classifieds

Help Wanted

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



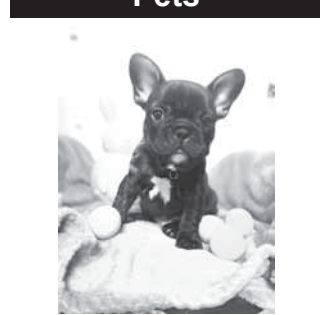
LENGERICH MEATS IS looking for a motivated and reliable individual with great attention to detail to join our team. The position is for general labor starting at \$15.00/hr. Send your resume to Lengerich@frontier.com or stop in and fill out an application.

Lottery Numbers

Thursday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 04-09-16-31-35
Cash4Life — 04-16-22-26-47, Cash Ball: 01
Quick Draw Midday — 04-10-17-20-25-26-29-31-35-42-43-51-58-59-62-64-65-67-71-78, BE: 59
Daily Three-Midday — 02-09-01, SB:04
Daily Three-Evening — 01-01-08, SB: 01
Daily Four-Midday — 01-05-01-08, SB: 04
Daily Four-Evening — 01-05-00-04, SB: 01
Quick Draw Evening — 03-09-10-12-15-22-23-26-27-39-41-46-57-58-60-62-68-76-78-79, BE: 78
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$17.7 million
MEGA MILLIONS
Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$132 million
POWERBALL
Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$162 million

FOR SALE

Pets



FRENCH BULLDOG PUPPIES 14 weeks- full AKC, all shots etc
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angela46992@yahoo.com
<https://m.facebook.com/groups/281436650673060/?ref=share&mibextid=S66gvf>
MINI DACHSHUND PUPPIES 2 chocolate and tan males and 2 chocolate tan females will be ready on 1st week june 1st shots worming vet checked due claws removed playful \$600 mom and dad on site 260-701-0666
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STATE OF INDIANA)
COUNTY OF WELLS) SS:
IN THE WELLS)
CIRCUIT COURT)
PROBATE DIVISION)
CAUSE NO.:)
90C01-2304-EU-000020)
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
RICKY L. CAPPS)
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
For Publication in Newspaper
Notice is hereby given that JESSE S. CAPPS was on May 8, 2023 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of RICKY L. CAPPS, deceased, who died on January 19, 2023.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Wells County, Indiana, this May 8, 2023.
Beth Davis
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court
Attorney for the Estate:
Robert A. Grubbs
GRUBBS LAW OFFICE PC
5746 Coventry Lane
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
Attorney#24916-02
nb 5/12, 5/19
hspaxlp

STATE OF INDIANA)
COUNTY OF WELLS) SS:
IN THE WELLS)
CIRCUIT COURT)
PROBATE DIVISION)
CAUSE NO.)
90C01-2305-EU-000023)
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
BRUCE G. THORPE, deceased)
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
For Publication in Newspaper
Notice is hereby given that FRANKLIN G. SNYDER, was on May 11, 2023, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of BRUCE G. THORPE, deceased, who died on the 15th day of February, 2023.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, May 15, 2023.
Beth Davis
CLERK,
WELLS CIRCUIT COURT
Attorneys for the Estate:
JEFFREY B. HARDING, ESQ., #17362-71
FRANK J. GRAY, ESQ., #7263-02
HALLERCOLVIN PC
ATTORNEYS FOR THE ESTATE
444 EAST MAIN STREET
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46802
TELEPHONE: (260) 426-0444
EMAILS: jharding@hallercolvin.com; Fgray@hallercolvin.com
nb 5/19, 5/26
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REAL ESTATE

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5 BEDROOM, 2 bath, Poneto home, 2+ acres, several out-buildings, many updates, Southern Wells School District, \$325,000, 260-273-1607.

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Public Notices

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS ESTATE NO. 90C01-2304-EU-000017
THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY
Notice is hereby given that JEFFREY A. DOLBY was on the 30th day of April, 2023, appointed as Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF PAUL W. DOLBY, deceased, who died on the 5th day of April, 2023.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
DATED AT BLUFFTON, INDIANA, THIS 30th DAY OF April, 2023.
Beth Davis
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA
nb 5/12, 5/19
hspaxlp

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
Sheriff Sale File number: 90-23-0007-SS
Date & Time of Sale: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.
Sale Location: Wells County Courthouse first floor, 102 W Market St, Bluffton, IN
Judgment to be Satisfied: \$93,644.16
Cause Number: 90D01-2210-MF-000035
Plaintiff: PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
Defendant: ROBERT D. RIGBY and BLUFFTON HEALTH SYSTEM LLC
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Superior/Circuit Court of Wells County Indiana, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said DECREE, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder at the date, time and location listed above, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate, a certain tract or parcel of land described as follows:
LOT NUMBERED 58 AS KNOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDED PLAT OF ARNOLD'S WEST ADDITION TO THE TOWN, NOW CITY OF BLUFFTON, ALSO, THE SOUTH PART OF LOT NUMBERED 15 AS KNOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDED PLAT OF WILEY'S SECOND ADDITION TO THE TOWN, NOW CITY OF BLUFFTON, BEING 50 FEET OF EVEN WIDTH OFF OF THE SOUTH END OF SAID LOT.
Commonly Known as: 738 S MARION ST, BLUFFTON, IN 46714-3226
Parcel No. 90-08-04-508-016,000-004
Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, this sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. In accordance to the requirements of IC 32-29-7-3, this Notice shall also represent service of Notice of Sale of this real estate upon the owners.
Matthew S Love, Plaintiff's Attorney
Attorney No. 18762-29
Feiwell & Hannoy PC
8415 Allison Pointe Boulevard, Suite 400
Indianapolis, IN 46250
(317) 237-2727
Scott Holliday, Sheriff
By: Krista Markley,
Phone: 260/824.3426
Chester Township
The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the commonly known address published herein.
nb 5/5, 5/12, 5/19
hspaxlp

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.

Read & recycle this paper

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
Sheriff Sale File number: 90-23-0011-SS
Date & Time of Sale: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.
Sale Location: Wells County Courthouse First Floor, 102 W Market St, Bluffton, IN
Judgment to be Satisfied: \$124,419.89
Cause No. 90C01-2211-MF-000040
Plaintiff: Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Defendant: Cody L. Hunter and United States of America Department of Housing and Urban Development
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Wells Circuit Court of Wells County, Indiana, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, at the hour of 1:00 PM of said day as listed above, at 102 W Market St, Bluffton, IN 46714, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wells County, Indiana:
Part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 21, Township 27 North, Range 12 East, Lancaster Township, Wells County, Indiana, described as follows: Starting at the Northeast corner of said Southeast Quarter found per record witness; thence Westerly 1279.0 feet along the North line of said Southeast Quarter to a PK nail found, which shall be the place of beginning; thence continuing Westerly 155.0 feet along said North line to a PK nail found; thence Southerly, deflecting left 89 degrees 58 minutes, 205.05 feet to a 5/8" rebar stake found; thence Easterly deflecting left 90 degrees 00 minutes, 155.0 feet to a 5/8" rebar stake found, thence Northerly, deflecting left 90 degrees 00 minutes, 205.21 feet to the place of beginning, containing 0.73 acres and also being tract Number 84 of the unrecorded plat of North Oaks Subdivision recorded in Misc. Record 43, page 481.
Commonly Known as: 2724 E 250 N, BLUFFTON, IN 46714-9207
Parcel No. 90-05-21-501-084.000-010
Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. This Notice shall also represent service of Notice of Sale of the above-described real estate upon the owners, pursuant to requirements of IC 32-29-7-3.
Scott Holliday, Sheriff of Wells County
By: Krista Markley,
Phone: 260/824.3426
Township of property location: Lancaster
Common street address of property: 2724 E 250 N, Bluffton, IN 46714-9207
Property Tax ID: 90-05-21-501-084.000-010
Attorney: BRYAN K. REDMOND
Attorney Number: 22108-29
Law Firm: Feiwell & Hannoy, P.C.
Contact Number: (317) 237-2727
F&H Reference #: 099317F04
The sheriff's office does not warrant the accuracy of the commonly known street address. It is the buyer's responsibility to research the legal description and associated legal filings.
nb 5/5, 5/12, 5/19
hspaxlp

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
Sheriff Sale File number: 90-23-0007-SS
Date & Time of Sale: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.
Sale Location: Wells County Courthouse first floor, 102 W Market St, Bluffton, IN
Judgment to be Satisfied: \$93,644.16
Cause Number: 90D01-2210-MF-000035
Plaintiff: PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
Defendant: ROBERT D. RIGBY and BLUFFTON HEALTH SYSTEM LLC
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Superior/Circuit Court of Wells County Indiana, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said DECREE, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder at the date, time and location listed above, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate, a certain tract or parcel of land described as follows:
LOT NUMBERED 58 AS KNOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDED PLAT OF ARNOLD'S WEST ADDITION TO THE TOWN, NOW CITY OF BLUFFTON, ALSO, THE SOUTH PART OF LOT NUMBERED 15 AS KNOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDED PLAT OF WILEY'S SECOND ADDITION TO THE TOWN, NOW CITY OF BLUFFTON, BEING 50 FEET OF EVEN WIDTH OFF OF THE SOUTH END OF SAID LOT.
Commonly Known as: 738 S MARION ST, BLUFFTON, IN 46714-3226
Parcel No. 90-08-04-508-016,000-004
Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, this sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. In accordance to the requirements of IC 32-29-7-3, this Notice shall also represent service of Notice of Sale of this real estate upon the owners.
Matthew S Love, Plaintiff's Attorney
Attorney No. 18762-29
Feiwell & Hannoy PC
8415 Allison Pointe Boulevard, Suite 400
Indianapolis, IN 46250
(317) 237-2727
Scott Holliday, Sheriff
By: Krista Markley,
Phone: 260/824.3426
Chester Township
The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the commonly known address published herein.
nb 5/5, 5/12, 5/19
hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

This Week's Garage Sales

Clip & Save

OSSIAN GARAGE SALE May 18, 8-3, May 19, 8-5, May 20, 8-2, 512 Meadow Lane. Mailbox, printer, fishing gear, Precious Moments, decos, toys, linens, more!

MULTI FAMILY GARAGE sale, Thurs. & Fri. 8-?, Sat. 8-noon, 1158 N 450 E, Bluffton. 30 designer purses & billfolds, Vera Bradley luggage, bags & more, household items, shoes, outdoor items, desk, up to size 5 boys clothes, up to size 12 girls clothes, adult clothes & Harley Davidson.

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN Church, Ossian, Friday, May 19, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., bag sale Saturday, May 20, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

8 FAMILY SALE Thursday, May 18, & Friday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 4360 E 900 N, Ossian. Furniture, kitchen items, gardening tools, DVDs, clothes, lots more items still coming.

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, May 20, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., 0200 East 100 South, Bluffton, IN, 1 mile west of Peyton's. Men, women, baby clothes, DVD's, books, PS4 games, household items, and more. Rain or shine.

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

THE CITY OF Bluffton Street Department has an opening for a Laborer. The minimum educational requirement is a high school diploma or equivalent. Applications and a job description may be obtained in the Clerk Treasurer's Office, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, IN from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or on the City website, www.blufftonindiana.net



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DRUG SCREEN

MARKLE, IN

HELOISE HINT: If you have applied for a job and get rejected. Be aware that just about everybody has experienced this. You will get over it. Take the rejection, move on and keep applying. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

Swiss Village, Inc. Berne, IN

NOW SEEKING: ADMISSIONS COORDINATOR ASSISTANT

Swiss Village, Inc. is now seeking a Part-Time OR Full-Time Admissions Coordinator Assistant to work 24-32 hours/week (depending on candidate preference), varying weekdays and times with a weekend on-call rotation required. The Admissions Assistant will be responsible for assisting the Admissions Coordinator with the healthcare admissions process, including gathering insurance information, developing relationships with hospital discharge planners, determining Medicare A eligibility and executing appropriate Medicare documentation, and to be the back-up when the Admissions Coordinator is out of the office. This position is also responsible for participating, as needed, in the admission process, including the pre-admission screenings, coordinating between referral sources and families/potential residents, and facility pre-admission set-up.

Seeking a candidate who is organized and timely in work habits and flexible with scheduling. A LPN or RN license is preferred. The successful candidate must also possess strong teamwork skills and have a Valid Indiana Driver's License and access to a reliable vehicle for routine business travel.

Apply in person, online at www.swissvillage.org, or send Resume to:
Taylor Lehman, Vice President of Human Resources
Swiss Village | 1350 W. Main St. | Berne, IN 46711
or email: careers@swissvillage.org
EOE

\$3B error means the Pentagon can send more weapons to Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon has overestimated the value of the weapons it has sent to Ukraine by at least \$3 billion — an accounting error that could be a boon for the war effort because it will allow the Defense Department to send more weapons now without asking Congress for more money.

The acknowledgment Thursday comes at a time when Pentagon is under increased pressure by Congress to show accountability for the billions of dollars it has sent in weapons, ammunition and equipment to Ukraine and as some lawmakers question whether that level of support should continue.

It also could free up more money for critical weapons

as Ukraine is on the verge of a much anticipated counteroffensive — which will require as much military aid as they can get. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has previously said the offensive was delayed because they did not yet have everything they needed.

The error was caused when officials overvalued some of the systems sent to Ukraine, using the value of money it would cost to replace an item completely rather than the current value of the weapon. In many of the military aid packages, the Pentagon has opted to draw from its stockpiles of older, existing gear because it can get those items to Ukraine faster.

“During our regular oversight process of presi-

dential drawdown packages, the Department discovered inconsistencies in equipment valuation for Ukraine. In some cases, ‘replacement cost’ rather than ‘net book value’ was used, therefore overestimating the value of the equipment drawn down from U.S. stocks,” said Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh.

She added that the mistake hasn’t constrained U.S. support to Ukraine or hampered the ability to send aid to the battlefield.

A defense official said the Pentagon is still trying to determine exactly how much the total surplus will be. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, said the comptroller has asked the military ser-

ices to review all previous Ukraine aid packages using the proper cost figures. The result, said the official, will be that the department will have more available funding authority to use as the Ukraine offensive nears.

The aid surplus was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

To date the U.S. has provided Ukraine nearly \$37 billion in military aid since Russia invaded in February 2022. The bulk of that has been in weapons systems, millions of munitions and ammunition rounds, and an array of trucks, sensors, radars and other equipment pulled from Pentagon stockpiles and sent quickly to Ukraine.

Members of Congress have repeatedly pressed Defense Department lead-

ers on how closely the U.S. is tracking its aid to Ukraine to ensure that it is not subject to fraud or ending up in the wrong hands. The Pentagon has said it has a “robust program” to track the aid as it crosses the border into Ukraine and to keep tabs on it once it is there, depending on the sensitivity of each weapons system.

There also is a small team of Americans in Ukraine working with Ukrainians to do physical

inspections when possible, but also virtual inspections when needed, since those teams are not going to the front lines.

In late February, the Pentagon’s inspector general said his office has found no evidence yet that any of the billions of dollars in weapons and aid to Ukraine has been lost to corruption or diverted into the wrong hands. He cautioned that those investigations are only in their early stages.



BIDDING STARTS CLOSING MAY 21 AT 6 P.M. EST - Joy A. Bauman estate owner. Online only! Real estate 6 p.m. 1.112 SF, 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath home, 2-car attached garage, .38 acre cul-de-sac lot, North Adams Community Schools. Personal property 6:30 p.m. Lifetime collection of Joy Bauman! Large collection 100's of pieces of Carnival, Fenton, Opalescent glassware, appliances, household & more! Pick up May 22, 3-6 p.m., 139 Riverside Ct., Decatur. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

BIDDING ENDS MAY 21 - (Online Only Auction) - Multiple consignors, seller. Outstanding antiques and collectibles including rare neon Coke Cola clock, Coca Cola advertising, antique and vintage furniture, vintage toys, Longaberger basket collection, glassware, military items, collectibles. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

MAY 21-MAY 28 - (Online Only Auction) - Life estate of Dortha Teagle, seller. Clean modern furniture, electric fireplace, Samsung flat screen TV, 1973 Gibson guitar, glassware, Craftsman riding lawn mower, tools, modern appliances, household, Trek tandem bicycle, much more. Preview: May 25 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 401 N. Meadow Lane, Hartford City, IN. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, <http://www.steffengrp.com>.

MAY 27-JUNE 3 - (Online Only Auction) - Schwartz, seller. Great collection of vintage car parts, Ford tractor, dump trailer, Bobcat backhoe & tracts, tools, mower parts, collectibles, construction equipment, much more. Preview: May 31 from 4 p.m.-7 p.m., 1055 US Hwy. 27, Berne. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006.

MAY 28-JUNE 4 - (Online Only) - Leffers Family, seller's. Huge complete estate closeout. 2008 Ford F250 Lariat super duty pickup w/35,711 original miles, 2011 Kubota L5240 tractor w/cab, 2018 Diamond C tandem axle dump trailer, tandem axle implement trailer, 2014 Kubota RTV-X utility vehicle, small farm equipment, farm, mechanics and construction tools, Ottawa hit and miss engine, complete windmill, lawn and garden furniture and equipment. Preview: May 30, 4-6pm and June 1, 5-7pm, 12910 Tonkel Road, Fort Wayne. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

JUNE 6 - 7 p.m. EST - Estate of Ida Hilty, Phillip Hilty, owner. 2499 S US Hwy. 27, Berne. Real estate auction! Modern Amish home with electricity, 3,056 sq. feet building, 1,200 sq. retail shop space w/bath, 1,800 sq. feet living area, 2 bedroom, 1 bath living space, 2+/- acres, 6' walls, beautiful hickory kitchen, built in 2019. Items selling following real estate: 10'x16' shed, propane heater, road sign, stove, refrigerator. Open house May 22, 5-6 p.m. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

JUNE 19-JUNE 23 - (Online Only Auction) - Golfo Di Napoli Realty, LLC, seller's. 7916 South Warren Road, Warren, IN. “State of the Art Organic Cheese Manufacturing Facility.” Tract 1: Modern 31,000 SF manufacturing building with retail area on 40+/- acres. Tract 2: Complete line of Italian cheese processing equipment. Tract 3: Combination of Tract 1 and 2. Brandon Steffen, sale manager, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, (260) 824-3006.

FDA advisers back RSV vaccine for pregnant women

WASHINGTON (AP) — A first-of-its-kind RSV vaccine for pregnant women guards their newborns against the scary respiratory virus — and federal health advisers on Thursday backed Pfizer’s shot despite some lingering questions.

RSV fills hospitals with wheezing babies each fall and winter, and the virus struck earlier than usual and especially hard in the U.S. this past year.

If the vaccine pans out, “many infants and their parents will breathe easier in the coming years,” said Dr. Jay Portnoy, a member of the Food and Drug Administration advisory panel from Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri.

The idea: Give women a single injection late in pregnancy, between 24 weeks and 36 weeks, so they develop RSV-fighting antibodies that pass through the placenta — just like they pass protection against other bugs to their babies.

In Pfizer’s international study of nearly 7,400 pregnant women, maternal vaccination proved 82 percent

effective at preventing severe RSV during babies’ most vulnerable first three months of life. At age 6 months, it still was proving 69 percent protective against severe illness.

Pfizer said there were no signs of safety problems but the FDA did ask its scientific advisers to consider whether a slight difference in premature birth between vaccinated moms and those given a dummy shot was of concern. Debate over whether that was really a hint of trouble or just due to chance dominated the panel’s daylong meeting.

Pfizer pledged to closely track the vaccine’s real-world use for more evidence. Ultimately the advisers unanimously decided that the shot is effective — and voted 10-4 that there’s adequate safety data. The FDA will consider Thursday’s recommendations in making the final decision on approval.

If the FDA ultimately approves the maternal shot, it would mark a second milestone in the decades-long quest to prevent the respiratory syncytial virus.

Earlier this month the FDA approved the world’s first RSV vaccine, rival GSK’s shot for older adults, who also are at high risk. There isn’t a vaccine yet for children, but Pfizer is about to begin testing one.

Here are some things to know:

RSV is a common threat
For most healthy people, RSV is a cold-like nuisance. But it can be life-threatening for the very young — infecting deep in the lungs to cause pneumonia or impeding babies’ breathing by inflaming their tiny airways. In the U.S. alone, between 58,000 and 80,000 children younger than 5 are hospitalized each year, and between 100 and 300 die, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“All young infants are at risk of severe disease with RSV,” but postponing infection even by a few months lessens that risk, said CDC’s Dr. Katherine Fleming-Dutra.

Vaccine’s potential impact
Pfizer’s vaccine isn’t intended to prevent RSV infection but to avoid the worst outcomes. In late-

stage testing, six infants born to vaccinated mothers had a severe RSV illness in their first three months of life compared to 33 infants whose mothers received a dummy shot. In addition, the vaccine cut in half the chances of needing any medical attention for an RSV infection by age 6 months.

The company predicts the U.S. could prevent as many as 20,000 infant hospitalizations a year, and 320,000 doctor visits, if enough pregnant women were vaccinated.

Safety data
Vaccine reactions included typically mild injection-site pain and fatigue. As for the prematurity question, vaccinated mothers had slightly more preterm infants — 5.7 percent versus 4.7 percent. The vast majority were born just a few weeks early. That’s better than the nation’s preterm birth rate — overall in the U.S., 1 in 10 babies were born premature last year — and the study imbalance wasn’t statistically significant, meaning it could be due to chance.

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