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## Vera Cruz man sentenced in criminal recklessness case

By SYDNEY KENT

A Vera Cruz man was sentenced to three years in prison after battering his wife and firing a gun into the ceiling of their home late last November.

Jerry Earl Britt Francis, 36, was sentenced immediately following a hearing in Wells Circuit Court last week, where he pleaded guilty

to criminal recklessness, a Level 5 felony, and one count of domestic battery committed in the presence of a child less than 16 years old, a Level 6 felony.

On Nov. 24, sheriff's deputies responded to a report that a man battered his wife and fired a gun into the ceiling of their home while their three children were present.

The report, made by Francis's wife, states that she did not want to press charges; however, she was concerned for her stepdaughter, who was still in the home.

According to the probable cause affidavit, Francis had been drinking for many hours the day of the incident, which was also the birthday of his recently deceased

mother. Francis reportedly woke up his wife over frustration with the illness of the family dog. The affidavit states that he strangled his wife multiple times, hit her in the back of the head with a closed fist, and broke multiple items during the argument before firing a gun into the ceiling of their home. Their children were present and

witnessed some of the abuse he inflicted.

Francis's lawyer, Patrick Miller, asked him to explain what happened leading up to the night of the crime.

"My mother had just died," Francis answered. "My stepdad didn't want me in his life anymore."

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Garden Walk

Genie Meyer, left, talks with Theresa Hoag in the back yard of her home on Wells County Road 800N southwest of Ossian during the Garden Walk Saturday. The Garden Walk, sponsored by the Wells County Master Gardeners, showcased three sites, including Meyer's, for viewing during a beautiful summer day. (Photo by Dave Schultz)

## Indiana high court hears medical privacy and malpractice cases

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana Supreme Court justices heard oral arguments for multiple cases Tuesday, weighing the stakes in a medical privacy case and considering an allegation of medical malpractice at a state prison.

Both cases are among the 10 being heard and weighed by the high court this month. It's not yet clear when opinions will be issued in either case.

In *Z.D. v. Community Health Network Inc.*, an unnamed woman — identified as "Z.D." — is suing Community Health Network after her medical diagnosis was mailed to the wrong person and then shared on social media.

After undergoing an examination and medical testing in the emergency department of an Indianapolis Community Health Network facility in 2018, hospital staff were unable to reach Z.D. to deliver her test results.

The lawsuit claims that a Community Health Network employee mailed a letter with Z.D.'s diagnosis and suggested treatment, but the letter was addressed to another person and instead reached a high school classmate of the woman's daughter, Jonae Kendrick, who then posted it on Facebook.

Multiple people, including Z.D.'s daughter, saw the online post, according to court documents.

Z.D. said in the court challenge that she learned about her own medical diagnosis from her daughter. The woman paid Kendrick a \$100 "bribe" in exchange for the letter, which was later removed from Facebook.

Case plays out in court

In January 2020, Z.D. filed a complaint against Community Health, alleging that hospital staff "distributed (her) extremely sensitive and private health information to unau-

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## No toxic gases are found after train derails in Montana

COLUMBUS, Mont. (AP) — Crews on Sunday were testing the water and air quality along a stretch of the Yellowstone River where train cars carrying hazardous materials fell into the waterway following a bridge collapse.

The mangled cars that carried hot asphalt and molten sulfur remained in the rushing river a day after the bridge gave way near the town of Columbus, about 40 miles west of Billings, Montana. The area is in a sparsely populated section of the Yellowstone River Valley, surrounded by ranch and farmland.

Water testing began Saturday and will continue throughout the incident, a spokesperson for train operator Montana Rail Link, Andy Garland, said in a statement Sunday. Montana Rail Link was working with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the federal Environmental Protection Agency on the cleanup, removal and restoration efforts, he said.

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Kehoe concert, but not at Kehoe

A standing crowd and upraised hands were the order of the evening Sunday as a community worship celebration was held in the auditorium of Life Church on Oak Street. The concert was the fourth in the Kehoe Summer Concert Series but it was the second one to be moved from Kehoe's outdoor venue to the Life Church's auditorium stage by the threat of bad weather. (Photo by Dave Schultz)

## As fuel taxes fall, states weigh charging by mile

By JULIE CARR SMYTH  
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Evan Burroughs has spent eight years touting the virtues of an Oregon pilot program charging motorists by the distance their vehicle travels rather than the gas it guzzles, yet his own mother still hasn't bought in.

Margaret Burroughs, 85, said she has no intention of inserting

a tracking device on her Nissan Murano to record the miles she drives to get groceries or attend needlepoint meetings. She figures it's far less hassle to just pay at the pump, as Americans have done for more than a century.

"It's probably a good thing, but on top of everybody else's stress today, it's just one more thing," she said of Oregon's first-in-the-nation initiative, which is run by

the state transportation department where her son serves as a survey analyst.

Burroughs' reluctance exemplifies the myriad hurdles U.S. states face as they experiment with road usage charging programs aimed at one day replacing motor fuel taxes, which are generating less each year, in part due to fuel efficiency and the rise of electric cars. The federal government is

about to pilot its own such program, funded by \$125 million from the infrastructure measure President Biden signed in November 2021.

So far, only three states — Oregon, Utah and Virginia — are generating revenue from road usage charges, despite the looming threat of an ever-widening gap between states' gas tax proceeds and their

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### Outside



Rain likely throughout the week, warm today

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 75	High 73	High 80
Low 61	Low 54	Low 57

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## Vera Cruz man sentenced

(Continued from Page 1)

My real father was in the Philippines, and he was supposed to be here today, but he's not. It was a hard year."

"What was your intention of the bullet?" Miller asked. Francis explained that he intended to put the gun in his truck to move out of the home the following morning potentially.

Miller noted that Francis cooperated with law enforcement during the night of the arrest and has not had any issues while being incarcerated so far.

Francis's wife was also present at the hearing last Wednesday. She gave a victim impact statement in favor of releasing Francis on a suspended sentence, noting that this is the most extended period the two have been separated since they began dating in 2018.

"He is a good father, a great husband, and he made the wrong choice

that night," she said. "He chose the wrong way to grieve. I don't think him going to jail would be worthwhile. He needs help with alcoholism."

Many tears fell from Francis's eyes as his wife voiced the isolation and difficulty of being a single mother over the last seven months. She added that she and their children miss him, and their three-year-old child asks about him daily.

His wife requested that the protective order between the two be removed.

Prosecutor Colin Andrews voiced concern about the no-contact order being dropped, mainly because Francis would face more stressors after being released from jail.

"The state is not asking for further incarceration," Andrews added. "I do think substance abuse classes and probation are appropriate."

Judge Kenton Kiracofe ultimately

approved the motion to remove the protective order and informed Francis and his wife that she could seek a civil order if she felt it was needed.

"The defendant has no prior history, which is a mitigating factor," Kiracofe said before his ruling. "It's also that he is likely to respond affirmatively to probation ... I am concerned that the alcohol use led to the point of you making these decisions. If I release you, you should address this with a clear head and make some changes."

Francis will receive credit for the 201 days of incarceration he has served. The remaining 827 days of his sentence are suspended. He was issued a concurrent sentence of 2 years, 182 days in prison, with 644 days suspended for the Level 6 felony, as well as two years of probation.

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## Indiana high court

(Continued from Page 1)

thorized person(s) and the general public" and that, as a result, she "suffered extensive injuries."

The lawsuit also maintained that Community Health was negligent in training, supervising and retaining its employees, and that the hospital "owes a non-delegable duty to its patients to protect the privacy and confidentiality of their protected health information" but had "breached its statutory and common law duties of confidentiality and privacy" by having "no warning system" to catch the mistake before it happened.

Community Health pushed back, arguing that the posting of the letter on Facebook was an unforeseeable "criminal act" that broke "the chain of proximate causation." The hospital held, too, that it could not be liable for negligent training and supervision if its employee was acting within the scope of employment.

The Marion Superior Court ultimately granted summary judgment to Community Health.

The Court of Appeals affirmed part of that ruling, but reversed and remanded for further proceedings on Z.D.'s invasion of privacy claim. The court additionally found that Z.D. was entitled to a trial on her claims for pecuniary damages resulting from Community Health's alleged negligence.

Neal Eggeson, an attorney representing Z.D., argued before the justices that Indiana is one of only three states still stipulating that emotional-distress damages can only

be recoverable if the plaintiff suffered a physical impact. He said the so-called "modified-impact rule" is "closing the doors" on cases like this.

But attorney Jenny Buchheit, representing Community Health, argued that getting rid of the modified impact rule would make "any type of mishandling of medical information" eligible for legal action.

Buchheit added that — while what happened to Z.D. was "completely unfortunate — the damages alleged by Z.D. stemmed from the posting of the letter to Facebook, not from Community Health sending the letter to the wrong person.

"If we're thinking about those old cartoons we all watched as children, somebody pulls a lever and the train goes off on the path, and then the train ends up crashing down a ravine and does not go where we intended to go," Buchheit said. "Miss Kendrick pulled that lever, the train careened off the path, and it crashed."

Buchheit argued, too, that Kendrick knew she wasn't the intended recipient of the letter and should have returned it to the post office or Community Health. The hospital also could not have foreseen that Kendrick would post the letter to Facebook, she said.

Even so, Indiana Chief Justice Loretta Rush questioned if it was actually Community Health that set the train off-path: "Maybe the lever was pulled earlier," she said.

**Alleged medical malpractice at Wabash Valley**

Separately, in Edward Zaragoza v. Wexford of Indiana LLC; Samuel J. Byrd, M.D.; Naveen Rajoli, M.D.; Jackie L. West-Denning, M.D., Indiana Supreme Court justices heard arguments in a case involving an inmate who alleged medical malpractice at the Department of Correction facility where he was incarcerated.

Edward Zaragoza filed a complaint in 2019 against Wexford of Indiana LLC, which provided medical care at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility in Terre Haute, where he is being held. He claimed the doctors employed by Wexford denied him treatment in violation of his Eighth Amendment constitutional rights.

Zaragoza, who remains incarcerated, was diagnosed with hypothyroidism, a chronic medical condition, and must take medication daily.

But in court documents, Zaragoza claims he suffers multiple adverse side effects from the prescribed medication — Synthroid — including headaches, muscle pains, neck tightness, cognitive problems, and blurred vision. He said Wexford's doctors repeatedly denied alternative medications.

One of the defendants, a doctor, claimed that alternative medication was requested, but that after a second opinion from the regional clinical pharmacist, the request was denied, in part because the alternative medication can make Zaragoza's condition more difficult to manage.

Zaragoza raises a lone issue in his legal challenge:

whether the trial court erred in granting summary judgment to Wexford.

In 2021, the Court of Appeals of Indiana affirmed the Marion Superior Court's ruling granting summary judgment to Wexford.

But Brian Karle, an attorney for Zaragoza, emphasized to Indiana Supreme Court justices Thursday morning that the state's summary judgment standard "imposes a heavy factual burden" on Wexford.

He noted that Wexford must affirmatively disprove an element of his client's claim, and only then does the burden shift to Zaragoza "to create a material issue of fact on that particular element."

In this case, Wexford only sought to disprove a single element of the Eighth Amendment claim — deliberate indifference — and only sought to disprove a single element of the medical malpractice claim — breach of the standard of care — Karle said.

"In this case, the trial court and the court of appeals deviated from Indiana's well established summary judgment standard and improperly raised the evidentiary bar for expert affidavits," Karle continued. He said the justices should reverse the trial court's summary judgment decision and allow that Zaragoza "may have his day in court."

Rachel Johnson, representing Wexford, said physicians at the prison "all laid out exactly why the treatment was provided" to Zaragoza, and that he "was treated properly."

## Weather

Monday, June 26, 2023

(24-hour observations at 8:59 p.m. Sunday)

**High:** 85; **Low:** 64; **Precipitation:** 0.68 inches of rain  
**Wabash River Level** (at the Main Street bridge): 1.51 feet at 9:45 p.m. Sunday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** A chance of showers, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 1 p.m. Cloudy, with a high near 75. West wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

**Tonight:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11 p.m., then a chance of showers between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. West wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

**Tuesday:** A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 73. Northwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers before 8 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 54. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 80.

**Wednesday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 57.

**Thursday:** A slight chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

**Thursday Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 63.

**Friday:** A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 87. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

**Friday Night:** A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65.

**Saturday:** A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 86.

**Saturday Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.

**Sunday:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 82.

## Train derailment

(Continued from Page 1)

"Montana Rail Link remains committed to addressing any potential impacts to the area as a result of this incident," he said.

Meanwhile, EPA's contractors monitoring the air downwind of the derailment have not detected any toxic gases, said Rich Mylott, a spokesperson for the agency's regional office. Contractors working for Montana Rail Link were doing the water testing, he said.

The amount of cargo that spilled from the seven cars in the river and the danger it poses to those who rely on the river for drinking and irrigation is still not known, said David Stamey, the head of Stillwater County Disaster and Emergency Services. Results of the water testing could be released by midday Monday, he said.

Garland said both hot asphalt and molten sulfur harden and solidify quickly when mixed with water and modeling suggests that the substances are not likely to move very far downstream.

Crews were still trying to figure out the best way to remove the cars since the crash was so extensive and there was a lot of damage to the cars, Stamey said.

The Federal Railroad Administration was lead-

ing the investigation into the cause of the derailment but did not have any preliminary information about the probe to share, spokesperson Daniel Griffin said.

The bridge collapse also took out a fiber-optic cable providing internet service to many customers in the state, the high-speed provider Global Net said. It was still providing service on a back-up route but some users do not have service or were experiencing very slow connections on Sunday, the company said in a recorded update on its phone line.

The Yellowstone saw record flooding in 2022 that caused extensive damage to Yellowstone National Park and adjacent towns in Montana. The river where the bridge collapsed flows away from Yellowstone National Park, which is about 110 miles southwest.

Robert Bea, a retired engineering professor at the University of California Berkeley who has analyzed the causes of hundreds of major disasters, said repeated years of heavy river flows provided a clue to the possible cause.

"The high water flow translates to high forces acting directly on the pier and, importantly, on the river bottom," Bea said Saturday.

## Fuel taxes fall

(Continued from Page 1)

transportation budgets. Hawaii will soon become the fourth. Without action, the gap could reach \$67 billion by 2050 due to fuel efficiency alone, Boston-based CDM Smith estimates.

Many states have implemented stopgap measures, such as imposing additional taxes or registration fees on electric vehicles and, more recently, adding per-kilowatt-hour taxes to electricity accessed at public charging stations.

Last year, Colorado began adding a 27-cent tax to home deliveries from Amazon and other online retailers to help fund transportation projects. Some states also are testing electronic tolling systems.

But road usage charges — also known as mileage-based user fees, distance-based fees or vehicle-miles-traveled taxes — are attracting the bulk of the academic attention, research dollars and legislative activity.

Doug Shinkle, transportation program director at the nonpartisan National Conference of State Legislatures, predicts that after some 20 years of anticipation, more than a decade of pilot projects and years of voluntary participation, states will soon need to make the programs mandatory.

"The impetus at this point is less about collecting revenue than about establishing these systems, working out the kinks, getting the public comfortable with it, expanding awareness around it," he said.

Electric car sales in the U.S. rose from just 0.1 percent of total car sales in 2011 to 4.6 percent in 2021, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. S&P Global Mobility forecasts they will make up 40 percent of the sales by 2030, while other projections are even rosier.

Patricia Hendren, executive director of the Eastern Transportation Coalition, said figuring out how to account for multistate trips is particularly important in the eastern U.S., where states are smaller and closer together than those in the West. Virginia's program, launched in 2022, is already the largest in the nation and will provide valuable lessons, she said.

Hendren's organization, a 17-state partnership that researches transportation safety and technology innovations, participated in one of the earliest pilot projects and eight others since. The biggest hurdle, she said, is to inform the public about the diminishing returns from the gas tax that has long paid for roads.

"This is about the relationship between the people who are using our roads and bridges and how we're paying for it," Hendren said. "We've been doing it one way for 100 years, and that way is not going to work anymore."

Eric Paul Dennis, a transportation analyst at the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, said the failure of states to convert years of research into even one fully functional, mandatory program by

now raises questions about whether road usage charging can really work.

"There's no program design that I have seen that I think can be implemented at scale in a way that is publicly acceptable," he said. "That doesn't mean that a program can't be designed to do so, but I feel like if you can't even conceive of the program architecture that seems like something that would work, you probably shouldn't put too much faith in it."

Indeed, a chicken-and-egg dispute over how to proceed in Washington state has stymied road usage charging efforts there.

Lawmakers passed a bill last month that would have begun early steps toward a program by allowing collection of motorists' odometer readings on a voluntary basis. Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee vetoed the measure, though, arguing that Washington needs a program in place before starting to collect citizens' personal data.

States also must grapple with the social and environmental implications of their plans for replacing the gas tax, said Asha Weinstein Agrawal, director of the National Transportation Finance Center at San Jose State University's Mineta Transportation Institute.

The institute has conducted national surveys every year since 2010 and found growing support for mileage-based fees, special rates for low-income drivers and rates tied to how much pollution a vehicle generates, she said.

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OBITUARIES

Eric D. Haley, 51

Eric D. Haley, 51, of Bluffton, died Thursday evening, June 22, 2023, at his residence. Eric was born in South Bend on Nov. 14, 1971, to Shirley and Nancy (Vanata) Haley. His mother survives in Deltona, Fla. Eric married Kristie Elliott in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., on Mar. 30, 2011; she survives. In addition to his mother and wife, Eric is survived by a son, Cody (Stephanie) Haley of Portland; a daughter, Alexis Haley (Garett Wehrkamp) of Fort Recovery, Ohio; three stepdaughters, Kathea Holdstock of Bluffton, Kayla Holdstock (Brad Green) of Geneva, and Khloe Lawrence of Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada; along with seven grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at a later date at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Bluffton. Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton has been entrusted with the arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [www.goodwin-caleharnish.com](http://www.goodwin-caleharnish.com).

Rokita's office files new appeal in lawsuit against abortion ban

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
The state attorney general's office filed to appeal a superior court judge's decision to grant class action certification to a lawsuit that seeks to strike down Indiana's near-total abortion ban on the basis of the state's controversial religious freedom law.

The legal challenge in question was certified as class action on June 6 by a Marion County Superior Court judge.

The underlying lawsuit was filed in August by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Indiana on behalf of Hoosier Jews for Choice, as well as four anonymous women who represent a variety of faiths. The lawsuit argues that the new abortion law violates Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The class is defined as, "All persons in Indiana whose religious beliefs direct them to obtain abortions in situations prohibited by Senate Enrolled Act 1 (the abortion-restricting legislation) who need, or will need, to obtain an abortion and who are not, or will not be, able to obtain an abortion because of the Act."

But attorneys with Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita's office maintained in a June 14 court filing that the trial court's order granting class certification "introduces new uncertainty as to how the preliminary injunction would apply to class members both now and, should the injunction be affirmed, in the future."

The state further questioned whether "the religious sincerity" of class members or "specifics of their religious practices" can be determined in a judicial setting.

"The trial court's class certification order not only overlaps significantly with the preliminary injunction ruling in several key areas, but also relies on the preliminary injunction order to arrive at several key conclusions," attorneys for the state said in their appeal request. "That interdependence, plus the trial court's multiple legal errors and manifest abuse of discretion in certifying the class, justify immediate appeal and consideration alongside review of the preliminary injunction."

Rokita's office appeals  
The attorney general requested that the Indiana Court of Appeals accept an interlocutory appeal of class certification order.

Rokita's office said, too, that the plaintiffs' claims are not "ripe," or timely, because they're contingent on future pregnancies.

The state additionally held that claims made in the underlying lawsuit by the plaintiffs — which include practitioners of Judaism, Unitarian Universalism, Episcopalianism and paganism, all belief systems that allow abortions under circumstances outside the ban's narrow exceptions — "fail on the merits" under RFRA.

An interlocutory appeal is requested when a final order has not been issued, but one of the parties seeks an appeal anyway because they stand to suffer damages if not resolved before

the entire case is over. Alternatively, an interlocutory appeals can be requested because an order involves a substantial question of law — that if answered early on in the case — will help bring the overall case closer to a resolution.

The state must get permission from the trial court and the Indiana Court of Appeals to proceed with the interlocutory appeal. The Court of Appeals has not yet decided if it will grant the request, however.

Already, Rokita's office filed an interlocutory appeal of a preliminary injunction granted in the case in December. State attorneys argued that plaintiffs "have not demonstrated that an injunction will prevent any certain RFRA violation."

At issue in the preliminary injunction appeal is whether the trial court can make a RFRA determination "months and years before a woman decides to get an abortion, when sincerity cannot be tested until the relevant circumstances come to pass and whether obtaining an abortion is itself a religious exercise."

That separate appeal of the preliminary injunction is set for oral argument in the Indiana Court of Appeals on Sept. 12.

In the meantime — while the appeals plays out — both parties in the case have requested for the underlying lawsuit to be stayed, or paused. The Marion County Superior Court granted that motion in a brief ruling on Wednesday.

Indiana Supreme Court decision still to come

This is the second case involving the ban. In January, Indiana Supreme Court justices heard a case against the ban based on liberty and privacy rights. They have not issued a ruling.

The new abortion ban was in effect for just a week in September before a Republican judge in Owen County issued a first temporary injunction in a separate ACLU lawsuit, which challenges the constitutionality of the law based on liberty and privacy protections.

The decision put the ban on hold while Indiana Supreme Court justices continue to weigh the case. Under that injunction, the state's previous abortion law stands — allowing abortions up to 20 weeks.

The Republican-dominated Indiana General Assembly advanced the abortion-restricting measure during a heated, two-week special session that concluded in August. That made Indiana the first state in the nation to approve such legislation since the high court ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade.

The ban outlaws all abortions except in the case of a fatal fetal anomaly and cases of serious health risk to the mother. One part of the law says these exceptions are up to 20 weeks but another part says they can be used anytime. Rape survivors can get an abortion up to 10 weeks post-fertilization.

It also strips abortion clinics of their state medical licenses, and provides that only hospitals and hospital-owned ambulatory surgical centers can provide abortions.

Panel weighs risks of \$200M in IEDC requests

The economic development quasi-public agency is leading a massive, expensive project in Boone County

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The quasi-public agency behind a mammoth innovation district reassured budget experts Thursday on the risks it's taking to win competitive business investments and speedily close those deals.

Indiana's State Budget Committee on Thursday approved a combined \$203 million in additional requests from Indiana's Economic Development Corporation. Nearly 78 percent of the total will go to projects within the controversial LEAP-Lebanon Innovation District.

"It seems like we're just moving forward and seeing where we might wind up on some of these projects," Rep. Greg Porter, D-Indianapolis, said. "... It's just — it's a lot of money, a lot of land. To me, there's too much uncertainty."

Other panel members, even as they weighed the chances some deals might fall through, offered sympathy.

"You're attempting to (make) state government move at the speed of the private sector," Sen. Chris Garten, R-Charlestown, told IEDC officials. "And that's a tough job."

"The reality is (that) the private sector works and operates and executes with a level of uncertainty," Garten continued later. "... I'm willing to accept some of that, because I do understand the nature of the business."

The committee is composed of lawmakers from both parties as well as state-employed fiscal experts.

More big state investments in Boone County

Committee members approved about \$158 million for three more land acquisitions for the LEAP district, but not before pushing IEDC officials on back-up plans and contractual safeguards.

That's because the IEDC plans to use two of the land buys to sweeten the deal for companies that have not yet committed to investing in

Indiana.

The largest line item, for \$122 million from the state's deal closing appropriations, will go toward the purchase of about 1,000 acres of property. Indiana is a finalist in the siting of a potential \$50 billion investment by an undisclosed global semiconductor company, according to the IEDC.

Executive Vice President David Rosenberg said Indiana has few mega-parcels suitable for such expansive projects. And the IEDC's option on the land is expiring this summer.

"LEAP has been a focus on those types of megasites that need that speed. Speed is the new incentive," Rosenberg said. "And being able to have the site ready for development — to make that billion-dollar investment and get that (return on investment) sooner — that's very, very attractive to the market."

Porter criticized the IEDC for the price: about \$122,000 per acre.

He and other committee members also questioned the IEDC for seeking to buy the land before the company has decided on Indiana, and for its willingness to transfer ownership of the land before the company delivers on specific economic development commitments — as opposed to after.

"What's the guarantee that they fulfill their end of the bargain?" State Budget Director Zac Jackson asked.

"I can't speak in guarantees, because it's an unknown," said Brock Herr, senior vice president of business development at the IEDC. "But I have a high degree of confidence that, should this company or another select to build at this site, that they're going to want to immediately take title to the land so they can get started."

If the company doesn't choose Indiana, the IEDC plans to sell the land — which it says is in high demand — and the money will go back to the state's General Fund. Officials asked the committee to, in

that event, put the money into a revolving fund for future acquisitions.

The committee also approved \$16 million for a 290-acre purchase meant to help the IEDC woo a data center project worth an estimated \$3.2 billion and creating up to 250 "high-wage" jobs.

The IEDC plans to sell the land to the company if it decides on Indiana. The money would similarly go back to the General Fund and the committee could also transfer it to the revolving fund.

And finally, the public-private partnership also won approval for a \$20.2 million purchase of 220 acres to build a new interchange and make other roadway improvements. It's meant to support a \$3.7 billion manufacturing facility investment by home-grown pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly & Co.

Committee members appeared baffled by the purchase's structure. About \$18 million is for land the Indiana Department of Transportation will build upon, and that agency may ultimately reimburse the IEDC.

The line item also generated a brief spat between lawmakers on the committee over the non-usage of eminent domain.

"I don't want to steal private land," said Garten of the court-run process.

"I just think what we're doing here is enriching some people at the expense of the public," said Indianapolis Democrat Ed DeLaney said, who called eminent domain "the number one weapon we have to make negotiations level."

Funding development

LEAP is at least 9,000 acres, according to the IEDC's website, but its total size and budget is unclear. The IEDC previously spent \$126 million on land in March, the Capital Chronicle first reported.

"It's kind of piecemeal. So, I don't have an overall cost because I don't know how many acres (the IEDC) has options on," committee chair Sen. Ryan Mishler told the Capital Chronicle.

The IEDC isn't beholden to the same public reporting and transparency rules as other government agen-

cies. And its officials often says they can't publicly discuss key details of deals in which they're involved. That has generated unease among transparency and fiscal responsibility advocates.

"It is kind of almost like a catch-22 because you can't reveal (trade secrets), because you're in negotiations, but then you're asking us for money," Mishler said.

He himself has signed a non-disclosure agreement in order to be let in on discussions. Mishler said his solution was to ensure the agreement would allow the state to "claw back" the land if the company in that deal didn't deliver.

IEDC officials said Thursday they hoped to include provisions giving Indiana the right of first refusal if a company the state sold land to wants to drop the land later. That could prevent companies from profiting off transactions with the state.

Mishler said if he's not comfortable with a budget ask, it won't go on the agenda — although he expressed sympathy for committee members who must vote without knowing "all the details."

"But I also feel like the IEDC wants to be upfront because, you know, ... they're going to come back and ask for more money," he added. "So they have every incentive to make it work and not try to deceive anyone."

Mishler said the state will continue evaluating spending in its two-year budget cycles, and that the budget committee will similarly continue its "oversight of the Legislature." Key for Mishler was limiting tax credits, because they're typically ongoing rather than one-time obligations.

The committee also approved two other IEDC asks for \$35 million and \$10 million in performance-based grants for projects in St. Joseph County and Fort Wayne.

Those incentives are delivered only after the state verifies and certifies the companies involved have made good on specific commitments, which can include investment amount, job creation and retention and wage metrics.

Holcomb appoints Daniel Shackle to DLGF

By MARISSA MEADOR  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Daniel Shackle, the former chief legal officer for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, will serve as the commissioner for the Department of Local Government Finance after being appointed to the position by Gov. Eric Holcomb Wednesday.

The DGLF oversees issues relating to property tax assessments and local government budgeting, including approving local taxes.

Shackle is replacing Wesley R. Bennett, who left to serve on the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. Bennett filled a vacancy left by Stefanie Krevda in May and begins his terms with

the IURC on June 26.

"During his time in state government, Dan has proven his commitment to improving the customer experience for Hoosiers through collaboration, purposeful leadership and effective public policy," Holcomb said in a statement. "He understands that local communities and their citizens are best served through respectful relationships and clear communication."

Prior to working at the BMV, Shackle served as the chief of staff and general counsel at the DLGF, where he developed the Business Personal Property Online Tax Filing System. He holds an undergraduate degree

from Indiana University and a law degree from the Oklahoma City School of Law.

"I am honored to serve Governor Holcomb and return to lead the DLGF team," Shackle said. "I look forward to continuing the success the department

realized under Commissioner Bennett and engaging with local governments across the state. Much like the BMV, DLGF and its dedicated employees provide a valuable service to Hoosiers. I am eager to get started."

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## New labor market data is eye opening but under used

It does not sound very exciting, but the past 25 years have seen an explosion of new data about jobs, wages and educational outcomes. As with any new technology, some places are using it very effectively, while others lag substantially. I'm particularly impressed with three new data sets, and the potential they offer for a much deeper understanding of jobs and schooling. The first is state-level linkage of schooling and employment data. The second is the web scraping of help wanted ads, and the third are Quarterly Workforce Indicators.



Michael Hicks

## Hoosier Opinions

The history of these data and what they can tell us is fascinating and a bit surprising. I've worked as an economist at three different state universities that collected and used these data, so I have a bit of insight into their use, lack of use and misuse.

In the 1990s, the Census, the Department of Labor and Department of Education became convinced that better data about the educational and workplace experience of Americans might tell us something about school and work. Each state, not the federal government, is responsible for education; therefore, the federal government sought to convince states to put data together in ways that would support serious study.

To accomplish this, states needed to connect individual school records to job records, or more precisely, from elementary through college or workforce programs to employment. Least anyone worry, one major challenge was ensuring that these data were completely anonymous. The goal of this work is to track experiences, not people, from school to job. For example, more than 20 years ago, I was contracted by a state commission on higher education to study labor market outcomes by degree holders from different state universities. They wanted to know if there was a difference in earnings associated with different schools.

To do this study, I built a statistical model that compared several dozen degrees, such as nursing, finance, or MBA. I accounted for student demographics, where the job was located, and for the MBA analysis, the undergraduate major. I found no statistical difference between schools, which the commission found informative. This was an internal study, done confidentially for West Virginia.

Many states use these data today to better understand the effect of education on wages, to help identify underperforming schools or college degrees, or to better evaluate the effect of particular degrees on wages and employment. Sadly, some states do almost no serious analysis of education and labor market outcomes, despite spending tens of millions of dollars per year to collect these data.

It is hard to know what internal analysis is being performed by each state. These things are often done quietly, as a roadmap for policy. Still, it is useful to see what questions little old West Virginia was asking and answering two decades ago. My hunch is that a lot of states who think themselves sophisticated data users are a few years behind West Virginia in 2003.

The second big data innovation of the past few years is the collection of online help wanted ads. This data is collected by a process known as web scraping, which is a form of artificial intelligence. This AI collects help wanted ads from variety of sources. Federally, these data are reported along with other labor market data and used by forecasters and economists to better understand changes to employment.

There are also commercial sources of these data, which report weekly ads by occupation, wages, location, educational requirements and other characteristics. I find them very useful in teasing out questions about the composition of labor demand, and specific characteristics such as new job openings for remote work, or changing educational needs in some industries. But, some caution is in order. Data itself tells us nothing; it is the analysis that matters. I'll use Indiana data as an example, but this mistake is commonplace.

I often hear from elected leaders that there are 200,000 unfilled jobs in Indiana, and most of them were for people with high school diplomas or less education. This data comes from help wanted ads, but many firms maintain help wanted ads constantly, particularly in high turnover occupations such as retail, truck drivers, and nursing assistants.

In fact, there is no correlation between raw help wanted ads and labor demand. For example, in April 2020, the first full month of the pandemic, Indiana had 167,000 open help wanted ads. That month we actually lost 463,000 jobs. In the following month, as employment leaped back by 120,000 jobs, help wanted ads dropped to only 126,000. Turnover, not growing demand, drives almost all help wanted ads.

For example, from 1998 to 2022, job turnover among adults in Indiana suggested that firms should have advertised about 191,000 jobs each month. But, over that same period, the state only added 228,000 total jobs among adults aged 25 and older. That is about 250 help wanted ads per net new job created over the past 25 years.

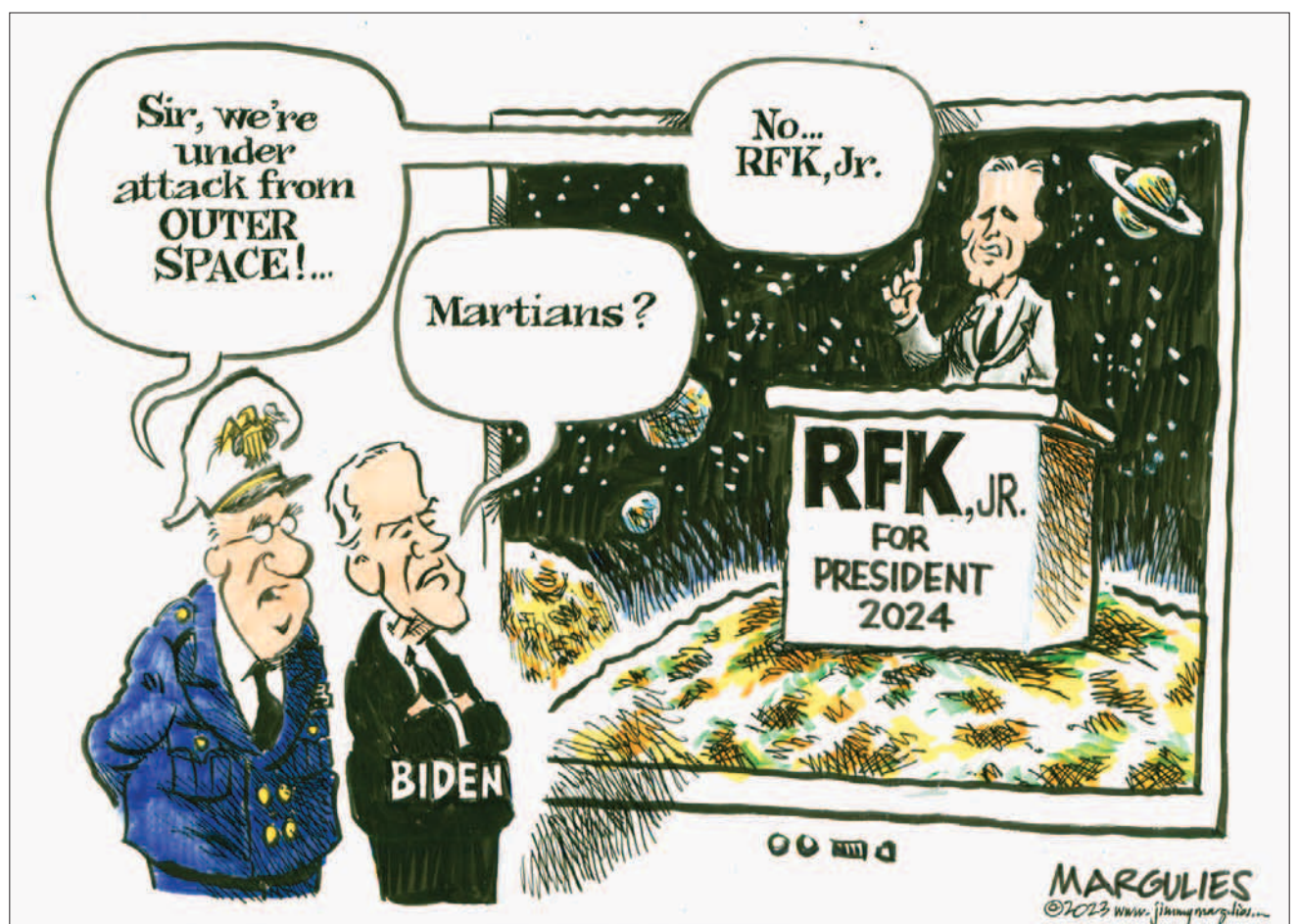
The third type of data is the Census and BLS Quarterly Workforce Indicators. This data set collects dozens of different pieces of information, by industry, at the county or higher level, by industry. It allows us to examine job growth, earnings, turnover by gender, age group and education.

Piecing these data together offers the potential for deep insight into labor markets. For example, it takes two of these data sets to understand the link between job turnover and help wanted ads. And, it is this type of analysis that should help protect state workforce, economic development and education officials from costly policy mistakes.

For example if you looked at help wanted ads, you'd think there was high demand for high school graduates in Indiana, and relatively low demand for college graduates. But, from 1998 to 2022 total job growth for people who'd been to college numbered over 190,000, but for high school total job creation was -41,000. Over that time the supply of high school graduates has grown much faster than the supply of college grads.

There's been more data created on labor and education in the past 25 years than in the preceding 25 centuries. It is accessible, rich and offers almost endless insights to folks doing deep, thoughtful study. I think states would dodge some of their most costly policy mistakes by more fully exploiting these data. That analysis would cost a tiny fraction of the public expense of collecting the data.

Michael Hicks is the George and Frances Distinguished Professor of Economics and the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University.



## No Labels can win Republican support if it nominates the right candidates

Democrats are panicking over No Labels, the bipartisan group laying the groundwork for an independent unity ticket as an insurance policy if Donald Trump wins the GOP nomination. Democrats complain No Labels would bleed support from President Joe Biden without winning Republican votes, thus handing the presidency to Trump.

In fact, No Labels can win Republican support — but only if it nominates the right candidates.

To be sure, a successful third-party ticket has been a quadrennial fantasy. And it's true that in normal times, third-party candidates are nothing more than spoilers. But these are not normal times. Overwhelming majorities of Americans say they do not want a Trump-Biden rematch. A HarrisX poll for No Labels — which surveyed more than 26,000 registered voters in all 50 states — found that 69 percent don't want Biden to run again and 62 percent don't want Trump to run again. That level of dissatisfaction with the major parties' top contenders is virtually without precedent.

If the system produces a Trump-Biden rematch anyway — as seems increasingly likely — then Republicans and Democrats who don't like their choices have no safe harbor on the other side. Most Republicans won't pull the lever for Biden, whom they consider the most catastrophic president since Jimmy Carter. And most Democrats certainly won't vote for Trump, who they say belongs in prison rather than the Oval Office. If you think Biden is incompetent and Trump is unfit — as millions do — you have nowhere to go.

Enter No Labels, which says it could offer these voters the safe harbor they are longing for. A whopping 59 percent of respondents told HarrisX that, if faced with a Trump-Biden rematch, they would consider a moderate independent ticket — including 59 percent of Democrats, 53 percent of Republicans and 70 percent of independents. In other words, No Labels starts out with a ceiling of potential bipartisan support more than 20 points higher than the ceiling for Ross Perot in 1992, who never polled higher than 38 percent.

But without names at the head of the tickets, these numbers demonstrate only a yearning for an alternative. To translate that desire into votes, No Labels needs candidates who can win actual support from voters of both parties.

If it nominates Sen. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.) for president, a possibility Manchin does not discount — and then selects a Republican of similar stature as his running mate — No Labels could put forward the first serious, credible third-party ticket in modern times. Unlike Evan McMullin, Jill Stein or even Perot, Manchin is a sitting senator and former governor with a national profile and record of accomplishment. In different times, he could credibly be the Democratic Party's presidential nominee.

If the worry is that No Labels can't draw Republican votes, then the solution is simple: Put a real Republican on the ticket for vice president — a full-spectrum conservative who in normal times could serve on a GOP ticket. Which means it can't be someone from the Never Trump wing, or a pro-choice Republican who would have no shot at ever winning the party's nomination.

For most Republicans, the main obstacle to voting for a third party is abortion. According to Gallup, nearly 8 in 10 Republicans today consider themselves pro-life, an all-time high. In 2016, abortion would have doomed a No Labels bid, because the Supreme Court was on the ballot. Many Republicans held their noses and voted for Trump, hoping he would appoint conservative justices who would overturn *Roe v. Wade*. He did just that, delivering a 6-3 conservative majority on the high court.

Ironically, Trump's perfect record on Supreme Court appointments has opened the way for No Labels to defeat him. With its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the court took the abortion issue out of federal hands and sent it to the states. And because no justices appear near retirement, the court's conservative majority seems secure, for the moment at least. This means a brief window exists in which pro-life Republicans can feel free to take a risk and vote for a third-party ticket — as long as it stays neutral on abortion and promises not to pursue federal legislation either to codify *Roe* or to restrict abortion.

If No Labels paired Manchin with a pro-choice Republican, that window would close: The ticket would rightly be seen by Republicans as a Democratic stalking horse. And without Republican support, it would be nothing more than the spoiler Democrats fear. But if No Labels neutralizes the abortion question, it can appeal to voters from both sides who are sick of being forced to choose between the extremes.

Let's be clear: A No Labels ticket should not be necessary. Right now, the Republican field offers an embarrassment of riches. Almost any serious GOP contender except Trump could crush Biden, who is one of the least popular presidents in the history of presidential polling. If the GOP squanders that opportunity and nominates Trump, many Republicans will face an agonizing choice in 2024. No Labels could offer them a centrist alternative — and give Americans a second chance for the unity and bipartisanship they thought they were voting for in 2020.

Just as 2016 gave us a populist uprising, 2024 could give us the revenge of the great American middle — and a bridge back to normalcy, sanity and moderation.

Marc A. Thiessen is on Twitter, @marcthiessen.



Marc Thiessen

## The allure and terror of the sea

The submersible Titan is now confirmed lost.

There's a tragic poetry to the debris of the vessel being found 1,700 feet from the bow of the Titanic, the watchword for disaster at sea that has been the object of fascination since it went down in the North Atlantic in 1912.

There have been lots of questions raised about all that led to the loss of the Titan, and the five souls aboard, perhaps most importantly, What were they thinking? How could they have taken such a monumental risk?

They were bolted inside a cramped, 22-foot-long vessel equipped with only enough oxygen for several days that could go farther down in the depths than almost anything that could conceivably rescue them if something went wrong. Why do that?

For the same reason that men have been driven to voyage on the sea, and venture under it when possible, from time immemorial. The quest for adventure, profit, survival and freedom have long motivated these nautical undertakings, and insane risk-taking has often been part of the bargain.

We rightly honor Ferdinand Magellan, but it takes only a cursory review of his famous 1519 voyage circumnavigating the globe — the mutinies, the appalling loss of life, the risky expeditions ashore — to realize he was not operating based on a nor-



Rich Lowry

mal risk-benefit calculus. Sure enough, he was killed in a battle on a Pacific island. The surviving men and ships returned from the epic journey nearly three years after it began.

It wasn't only Europeans, of course, who conquered huge distances. European sailors in the 16th century, as Lincoln Paine relays in his masterpiece "The Sea and Civilization," were shocked by the size of the Pacific, as well as the fact that the majority of the small islands dotted across the vastness were inhabited. One officer wondered of the people on the remote Tuamotu Islands, "Who the devil went and placed them on a small sandbank like this one and as far from the continent as they are?"

As it happens, no one placed them there — they got there under their own power.

Almost three-quarters of the Earth's surface is water, and it is enormously important economically and geo-strategically. According to the National Ocean Service, "In 2017, the U.S. maritime transportation system carried \$1.6 trillion of cargo through U.S. seaports to and from our international trading partners."

As Lincoln Paine notes, without its commitment to what he calls "maritime enterprise," we may never have seen the rise of Western Europe. Today, who ends up controlling the Taiwan Strait may eventually help

determine the future of the world.

Yet, it's easy to forget the centrality of the seas to the modern world, as Gregg Easterbrook points out in his book, "The Blue Age." Gigantic container vessels, the lifeline of the world economy, are mostly unseen, unless you live near a port. No one thinks of the undersea cables that support the internet. The pipelines under the ocean are similarly invisible.

For all its usefulness, the sea is a hostile and unforgiving environment. The great artist of the sea, the British painter J.M.W. Turner, brings home in his work the overwhelming force of the oceans and the terror when something goes wrong.

The margin for error at great depths especially is nonexistent. The U.S. submarine *Thresher* suffered a cascade of failures and imploded at a depth of roughly 2,300 feet during diving tests in 1963. The implosion took as little as one-twentieth of a second, "too fast to be cognitively recognized by the men within the submarine," as an article in *Naval History Magazine* puts it. The debris field spread over 33 acres of the ocean floor.

Lincoln Paine quotes an ancient Greek epigram that is unsparing: "All sea is sea...."

Pray if you like for a good voyage home.

But Aristagoras, buried here, has found

"The ocean has the manners of an ocean."

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

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**Next up: 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow'**

The next production for Creative Arts Theater will be "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," with performances scheduled for the evening of Friday, Oct. 27, and twice on Saturday, Oct. 28.

Auditions are scheduled for Friday, Aug. 11, starting at 6 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 12, starting at 10 a.m. Otto "Tank" Lowe will be the director, and he is asking those interested in auditioning to please be present at the start of auditions so he can have everyone there at the same time for the readings.

Those auditioning may be asked to sing something as well.

Those unable to make either of those audition times are asked to contact Lowe through Facebook Messenger, via email, or by calling him at 260-273-0636.

Rehearsals will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9 at Life Church starting Sept. 5. Rehearsals will be suspended a couple of days during the Bluffton Free Street Fair.

**ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

**Creative Crew:** Tuesdays from 8:30



a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Life Community Church. All forms of creativity are welcome — painting, drawing, needlework, and more. Spend the morning working on your craft and socialize with other artists. Enter Door 1 or Door 10. The Creative Crew meets in the café.

**Readers' Brown Bag Luncheon:** Meeting the last Tuesday of the month at noon at Life Community Church; enter Door 10. All readers are welcome. Call the CAC office for more information.

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

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

**Zanesville News**

by Melba Edwards

Let's Read It continues at the Zanesville Community Church of God. It was reported to me that they may have a few spots left for their Centershot Archery Program that begins on Monday, July 10, and continues to Monday, Aug. 28. There also may be some openings left at the Nine Mile United Methodist Church and they shoot on Tuesdays beginning July 11 and continuing through Aug. 29.

You can participate if you are 10 years old. Adults are also welcome. This is a basic training program teaching the fundamentals of archery. There will be a Bible study and a lot of fun and a chance to make new friends. No archery experience is required and we would like for you to sign up by July 1.

Contact Pastor Steve at the Zanesville Community Church of God, 638-4239, or Lori Sleas at Nine Mile United Methodist Church, 452-9869. This is an eight week program and the time is 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Mondays.

Everyone is getting ready for the upcoming Lions Summer Festival/175th Birthday of Zanesville on July 29. That is not very far away so get your garage sale things organized.

Looking forward to August a summer picnic has been planned to be held at the Lions Club Park on Saturday, Aug. 26, in the afternoon. This is sponsored by the Zanesville Community Church of God and the Zanesville Lions Club. All will be invited for a program, games and food so mark your calendars and save the date.

In September of 1998 we had a 150 year celebration that lasted over the Labor Day weekend. We had Spike and the Bulldogs for Friday evening with an estimated crowd of 1,000 people. On Saturday, the crowd grew to more than 3,000. On Sunday more than 200 came for the church service and in the evening 200 again came for the program, ice cream and the sign dedication.

It was estimated that 900 volunteers put this celebration together. Have you volunteered yet? Please call me if you want to.

As I have told you before the worst part of writing this column is reporting deaths. This death was unexpected and happened to be my only sister.

Mary Lou passed suddenly in her home supposedly after going to Huntington for groceries. It happened on Friday, June 9, and she already had the table set for Sunday dinner with the kids. It was a shock to all as she was not sick but she went the way we all want to go skipping pain and suffering.

My kids and grandkids will always remember the chickens in her barn that laid Christmas presents, her turkey that ran them around the yard, the suckers that were waiting at Legge Elevator for them when we went through Uniondale, the homemade noodles, delicious corn, deviled eggs, that she provided at Christmas and Thanksgiving gatherings of the McBride Family.

I remember her as my baby sister. Living on the farm growing up we spent lots of time together as we were the only girls in the family. Five of our brothers, Darrell, Cedric, and Doug Botts, and Roger and Maurice McBride are deceased. Dave and I are the only ones living. He owns the family farm.

In the summer we had lots of town friends who came to the farm to swim. In the winter they came to skate and even sometimes to work as they liked to work on the farm. Dad never left us ride the tractor as he felt that was no place for girls. We, however, helped with every other farming activities and mind you most of our time was spent when Dad farmed with wild mustang horses!

Sundays were not meant for work only milking the cows. Other families and friends came to Sunday dinner and we kids would make a hike north wading across the Eight Mile Creek and touring the cemetery. We also took a look at the Zanesville Dump that was then south of the creek and there we found lots of treasures that the townspeople had throw out.

We were considered lucky kids because on Saturday night, after the chores were done, we ventured to Huntington and while Mom got the groceries and Dad talked to the old guy across from the A & P, we went to the movie. When they were done they joined us for a second movie and then on the way home we ate a whole grocery sack of Coney Island hot dogs!

Those were the times when things were simple, there was no using the phone only for important things. There was no internet or cell phones or television. We shared one bicycle and the few toys we had. Mary Lou and I always got a doll for Christmas.

As I look back I cannot remember that we ever fought with each other in the 84 years that God gave me this great sister. Along with many others I will greatly miss her.

Mary Lou's memorial service was held at the Clear Creek Community Church just outside of Huntington. She loved this church!

As I close this column I realize that I could write a book of all the things we did together!



Young ladies at the Wells Community Boys & Girls Club, who have just completed the "Smart Girl's Journey" program, were guests at a noontime tea gathering on Wednesday of this week. Also guests were those who had sponsored the young ladies as they received a hat and a dress for the event. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)

**B&G Club celebrates 'Smart Girls Journey'**

By BARBARA BARBIERI

Young ladies who have been participating in the Smart Girls program at the Wells Community Boys & Girls Club were honored at a celebration tea on June 21st at the club.

Also guests were women from the community who had provided the funds so that each young lady had a party dress and hat to wear to the event. Red rose wristlet corsages were provided by Melinda Gilgen of A Perfect Blend and the Charcuterie Shop donated charcuterie cups for the tea/luncheon.

Renee, the club's Chef, created a fruit platter and helping with hostess duties were the club's teens.

For those not familiar with the Smart Girls program it is "an enrichment program designed for club girls ages 8 to 11 to explore their own societal attitudes, values, build life skills, learn about mental health, self



Each of the young ladies received a silk rose "wristlet" to wear for the tea, provided by Melinda Gilgen of A Perfect Blend, who is at right taking the photos. At left are Bridget and Addison as they modeled their dresses and flowers.



The Smart Girls Journey is a program now being offered each year at the Bluffton club to instruct girls on how to become young ladies. This was the second year for the noontime tea with young ladies who had completed the program last year assisting as hostesses. In addition to tea refreshments were provided by the Charcuterie Shop.

care and etiquette training."

This was the second year for the tea celebration.

barb@news-banner.com

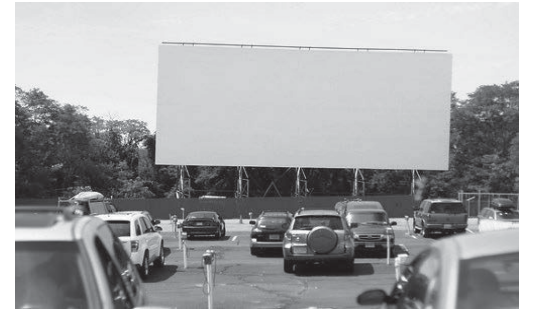


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# International African American Museum to open in South Carolina

The site is located at one of the country's most historically significant slave-trading ports

By **AARON MORRISON**  
**AP National Writer**  
**CHARLESTON, S.C.**  
 (AP) — When the International African American Museum opens to the public Tuesday in South Carolina, it becomes a new site of homecoming and pilgrimage for descendants of enslaved Africans whose arrival in the Western Hemisphere begins on the docks of the lowcountry coast.

The opening happens at a time when the very idea of Black people's survival through slavery, racial apartheid and economic oppression being quintessential to the American story is being challenged throughout the U.S. Leaders of the museum said its existence is not a rebuttal to current attempts to suppress history, but rather an invitation to dialogue and discovery.

Overlooking the old wharf in Charleston at which nearly half of the enslaved population first entered North America, the 150,000-square-foot museum houses exhibits and artifacts exploring how African Americans' labor, perseverance, resistance and cultures shaped the Carolinas, the nation and the world.

"Show me a courageous space, show me an open space, show me a space that meets me where I am, and then gets me where I asked to go," said Dr. Tonya Matthews, the museum's president and CEO.

It also includes a genealogy research center to help families trace their ancestors' journey from point of arrival on the land.

"I think that's the superpower of museums," she said. "The only thing you need to bring to this museum is your curiosity, and we'll do the rest."

The \$120 million facility features nine galleries that contain nearly a dozen inter-

active exhibits of more than 150 historical objects and 30 works of art. One of the museum's exhibits will rotate two to three times each year.

Upon entering the space, eight large video screens play a looped trailer of a diasporic journey that spans centuries, from cultural roots on the African continent and the horrors of the Middle Passage to the regional and international legacies that spawned out of Africans' dispersal and migration across lands.

The screens are angled as if to beckon visitors towards large windows and a balcony at the rear of the museum, revealing sprawling views of the Charleston harbor.

One unique feature of the museum is its gallery dedicated to the history and culture of the Gullah Geechee people. Their isolation on rice, indigo and cotton plantations on coastal South Carolina, Georgia and North Florida helped them maintain ties to West African cultural traditions and cre-

ole language. A multimedia, chapel-sized "praise house" in the gallery highlights the faith expressions of the Gullah Geechee and shows how those expressions are imprinted on Black American gospel music.

On Saturday, the museum grounds buzzed with excitement as its founders, staff, elected officials and other invited guests dedicated the grounds in spectacular fashion.

The program was emceed by award-winning actress and director Phylicia Rashad and included stirring appearances by poet Nikky Finney and the McIntosh County Shouters, who perform songs passed down by enslaved African Americans.

"Truth sets us free — free to understand, free to respect and free to appreciate the full spectrum of our shared history," said former Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley, Jr. who is widely credited for the idea to bring the museum to the city.

Planning for the Inter-

national African American Museum dates back to 2000, when Riley called for its creation in a State of the City address. It took many more years, through setbacks in fundraising and changes in museum leadership, before construction started in 2019.

Originally set to open in 2020, the museum was further delayed by the coronavirus pandemic, as well as by issues in the supply chain of materials needed to complete construction.

Gadsden's Wharf, a 2.3-acre waterfront plot where it's estimated that up 45% of enslaved Africans brought to the United States in the late 18th and early 19th centuries walked, sets the tone for how the museum is experienced. The wharf was built by Revolutionary War figure Christopher Gadsden.

The land is now part of an intentionally designed ancestral garden. Black granite walls are erected on the spot of a former storage house, a space where hunched enslaved humans perished

awaiting their transport to the slave market. The walls are emblazoned with lines of Maya Angelou's poem, "And Still I Rise."

The museum's main structure does not touch the hallowed grounds on which it is located. Instead, it is hoisted above the wharf by 18 cylindrical columns. Beneath the structure is a shallow fountain tribute to the men, women and children whose bodies were inhumanely shackled together in the bellies of ships in the transatlantic slave trade.

To discourage visitors from walking on the raised outlines of the shackled bodies, a walkway was created through the center of the wharf tribute.

"There's something incredibly significant about reclaiming a space that was once the landing point, the beginning of a horrific American journey for captured Africans," said Malika Pryor, the museum's chief learning and education officer.

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# Titan search and rescue leads to questions on price of search

*When wealthy adventurers take risks, who should foot the bill for rescue attempts?*

By ADAM GELLER and WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS  
Associated Press

When millionaire Steve Fossett's plane went missing over the Nevada range in 2007, the swash-buckling adventurer had already been the subject of two prior emergency rescue operations thousands of miles apart.

And that prompted a prickly question: After a sweeping search for the wealthy risktaker ended, who should foot the bill?

In recent days, the massive hunt for a submersible vehicle lost during a north Atlantic descent to explore the wreckage of the Titanic has refocused attention on that conundrum. And with rescuers and the public fixated first on saving and then on mourning those aboard, it has again made for uneasy conversation.

"Five people have just lost their lives and to start talking about insurance, all the rescue efforts

and the cost can seem pretty heartless — but the thing is, at the end of the day, there are costs," said Arun Upneja, dean of Boston University's School of Hospitality Administration and a researcher on tourism.

"There are many people who are going to say, 'Why should the society spend money on the rescue effort if (these people) are wealthy enough to be able to ... engage in these risky activities?'"

That question is gaining attention as very wealthy travelers in search of singular adventures spend big to scale peaks, sail across oceans and blast off for space.

The U.S. Coast Guard declined Friday to provide a cost estimate for its efforts to locate the Titan, the submersible investigators say imploded not far from the world's most famous shipwreck. The five people lost included a billionaire British businessman and a father and son from one of Pakistan's most prominent families. The operator charged passengers \$250,000 each to participate in the voyage.

"We cannot attribute a monetary value to Search and Rescue cases, as the Coast Guard does not

associate cost with saving a life," the agency said.

While the Coast Guard's cost for the mission is likely to run into the millions of dollars, it is generally prohibited by federal law from collecting reimbursement related to any search or rescue service, said Stephen Koerting, a U.S. attorney in Maine who specializes in maritime law.

But that does not resolve the larger issue of whether wealthy travelers or companies should bear responsibility to the public and governments for exposing themselves to such risk.

"This is one of the most difficult questions to attempt to find an answer for," said Pete Sepp, president of the National Taxpayers Union, noting scrutiny of government-funded rescues dating back to British billionaire Richard Branson's hot air balloon exploits in the 1990s.

"This should never be solely about government spending, or perhaps not even primarily about government spending, but you can't help thinking about how the limited resources of rescuers can be utilized," Sepp said.

The demand for those resources was spotlighted in 1998 when Fos-

sett's attempt to circle the globe in a hot air balloon ended with a plunge into the ocean 500 miles off Australia. The Royal Australian Air Force dispatched a Hercules C-130 transport aircraft to find him. A French military plane dropped a 15-man life raft to Fossett before he was picked up by a passing yacht.

Critics suggested Fossett should pay the bill. He rejected the idea.

Late that same year the US Coast Guard spent more than \$130,000 to rescue Fossett and Branson after their hot air balloon dropped into the ocean off Hawaii. Branson said he would pay if the Coast Guard requested it, but the agency didn't ask.

Nine years later, after Fossett's plane vanished over Nevada during what should have been a short flight, the state National Guard launched a months-long search that turned up the wreckage of several other decades-old crashes without finding the millionaire.

The state said the mission had cost taxpayers \$685,998, with \$200,000 covered by a private contribution. But when the administration of Gov. Jim Gibbons announced that it would seek reimbursement for the rest, Fos-

sett's widow balked, noting she had spent \$1 million on her own private search.

"We believe the search conducted by the state of Nevada is an expense of government in performance of government action," a lawyer wrote on behalf of the Fossett estate.

Risky adventurism is hardly unique to wealthy people.

The pandemic drove a surge in visits to places like national parks, adding to the popularity of climbing, hiking and other outdoor activities. Meanwhile, the spread of cellphones and service has left many feeling that if things go wrong, help is a call away.

Some places have laws commonly referred to as "stupid motorist laws," in which drivers are forced to foot the emergency response bill when they ignore barricades on submerged roads. Arizona has such a law, and Volusia County in Florida, home to Daytona, enacted similar legislation this week. The idea of a similar "stupid hiker law" is a regularly debated item in Arizona as well, with so many unprepared people needing to be rescued in stifling triple-digit heat.

# Librarians train to defend intellectual freedom, fight book bans at conference

By CLAIRE SAVAGE  
Associated Press/

**Report for America**  
CHICAGO (AP) — School librarian Jamie Gregory has been called a "pedophile" and "groomer," bombarded with private messages threatening harm, accused of distributing pornography in schools, and had her personal address posted on social media.

She takes it on the chin. "I'm just not going to quit. I'm not going to let them call me that, especially when I've worked my whole entire life to get to where I am," said Gregory, who was named the 2022 South Carolina school librarian of the year.

The "shocking" allegations made her think: "My whole entire adult life, and all of my education and all my work — what if this is over? I'm not going to let that happen." Gregory said Saturday to a room packed full of about 100 fellow librarians at a training session on fighting book bans at the American Library Association's annual meeting in Chicago.

The attendees broke into applause at Gregory's declaration.

Book bans and how to fight them is a major focus of the this year's ALA's conference. "The world's largest library event" provides training and education for library professionals, according to the conference website. Librarians may attend sessions, like the one Gregory spoke at, aimed at helping them confidently counter book challenges, fight legislative censorship and ensure the freedom to read.

The ALA conference hosts thousands of librarians, library staff, authors, publishers and educators as several states push to restrict access to books in schools and libraries — overwhelmingly those about race, ethnicity and LGBTQ+ topics. The association in March released data showing a record 1,269 demands to censor library books in the U.S. in 2022, a 20-year high.

"Addressing book censorship and protecting library users' intellectual freedom, protecting librarians' ability to provide for information in their communities, is at the forefront of this year's meeting," said Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom and executive director of the Freedom to Read Foundation.

All day Saturday, attendees are invited to climb atop a giant chair to read their favorite banned book.

Gregory selected "Gender Queer," Maia Kobabe's autobiographical comic on what it means to be to be nonbinary and asexual — the source of the firestorm against the school librarian and the most challenged book of 2022, according to the ALA. She also chose "Out of Darkness" by Ashley Hope Perez, a historical fiction novel about an inter-

racial teen romance.

"This one always makes them crazy," said Gregory, patting the copy of "Gender Queer" and ascending the stepladder to the massive velvet reading chair, books in hand.

Librarians "make information available to people freely and equitably," and Gregory said she plans to keep doing that.

"I don't impose my own personal moral system on students or patrons. They have to have their own, that's not my job," she said.

In Gregory's conservative

community in Greenville, South Carolina, the public library board is pushing branches to remove Pride displays. In March, she testified against a bill that would allow parents to challenge any educational materials they say violate banned teachings around white privilege and implicit bias.

Still, Gregory said she feels the majority of her community supports her, despite the vocal minority.

Parents always have the right to choose what their children read, but they don't have the right to restrict

access for the whole community, said Christine Emeran, director of the Youth Free Expression Program of the National Coalition Against Censorship, a First Amendment advocacy organization.

"You can't just concede to demands of a particular group of parents and to censor libraries," she said.

Emeran, who is scheduled to be featured in a panel discussion called "Help! They're coming for our books!" at the conference Sunday, began to notice an increase in book bans start-

ing in 2021, at the beginning of President Joe Biden's term. She attributed the shift to "a cultural backlash" against changing views on LGBTQ+ issues, women's rights and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Local libraries are calling in the National Coalition Against Censorship for help now more than ever. In the past, the organization assisted on a few book ban cases per year. "Now we're getting two or three a week," Emeran said.

"Librarians are under pressure and they're feel-

ing frustrated, discouraged," said Emeran, who encouraged readers to support local libraries, attend school board meetings and get involved in their communities to protect the right to read.

Groups such as Moms for Liberty, No Left Turn in Education and Citizens Defending Freedom have had an outsized effect on what is allowed to be read, she said.

"The majority may oppose censorship as a whole. But the problem is that the majority are silent," Emeran said.

# All About Health

## Dealing with post-pandemic COVID-19; posse and purpose matter

**Q** So, there's no more COVID-19 emergency, but it's still out there. I have the original vaccine and boosters. What do I need to do to continue being protected? -- Amy T., Fort Worth, Texas

**A** The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency has ended in the U.S., even though from April 27 to May 3 there were 1,109 deaths from COVID-19, most in folks over age 75. Clearly, while it's no longer the crisis it was -- because of vaccination, changes in the virus, acquired immunity -- it remains a concern for some folks. People in nursing homes are still contending with COVID-19, although the death rate is half of what it was in January of this year. And if you're medically compromised (at any age) taking precautions against infection is still vital.

For everyone, getting the original vaccine and boosters was wise. But as for the updated bivalent vaccine ... It seems that if you get the initial vaccine and boosters and then add on the latest bivalent mRNA booster, your immune system may be triggered to ignore the virus instead of react to it. This appears to happen in part because it switches your immune response to nonprotective IgG4, which induces tolerance -- like allergy shots do. And a study of employees at the Cleveland Clinic, finds that "the bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster was 30% effective in preventing infection ..." and if it was received after having been

vaccinated and boosted with the monovalent vaccine, it substantially INCREASED the risk of infection with Omicron -- sometimes, more than tripling the risk.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does say something different. They recommend that if you're 65 or older and it's been four months since your last jab, get a booster. As I said, we disagree, but that only means you need to talk to your practitioner to have the choice personalized to you.

Now about social interaction ... Isolation fuels poor health. If you and your posse are vaccinated and symptom free, get together. In crowds -- mask if you want. But rejoin the world.

**Q** You keep talking about how important it is to have a posse and a purpose. I kind of get it. But what does that have to do with staying healthy physically? -- George T., Boston

**A** Having a posse and a purpose is important for everything from countering loneliness to helping manage the stresses you may feel from inflation, political divisions, and gun violence. It also helps protect your heart health, keep your immune system strong, and your brain young.

The Surgeon General Dr. Vivek H. Murthy put out a report, "Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation." In it, he points out that loneliness and social isolation increase the

risk for premature death by 26% and 29% respectively -- and lacking social connections can increase the risk for premature death as much as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day.

We've been stressing the importance of connection in our books and on the RealAge website since 1998 when data from two major studies indicated that a posse of six could make a person who suffers three major stresses 30 years younger than they would be without the stress-relief benefits of connection.

Unfortunately, too few people have a life- and health-enhancing posse. A 2022 study found that only 39% of adults said that they felt very connected to others. So, how do you form or reinforce your posse and sense of purpose?

Reach out to others; refresh faded friendships; strengthen or form new bonds with colleagues and interact with new groups of people. But you can start slow. Cook dinner for one pal. Make a phone call; send a card.

Finding a purpose might come from completing a project you've always wanted to get back to. Or it may be the result of trying something brand new. Have fun exploring various activities until, click, one delights you and you're over the top with enthusiasm.

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**By Michael Roizen, M.D. and Mehmet Oz, M.D.**

# Trump returns to Michigan seeking to reclaim political territory

By **JOEY CAPPELETTI**  
Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Donald Trump appeared in Michigan on Sunday as he looks to reclaim territory that helped propel him to the White House but slipped from his grasp four years later.

Campaigning for a return to the presidency while facing a federal indictment for allegedly mishandling classified documents, Trump spoke in suburban Detroit, where he lost ground between 2016 and 2020 and would need to win it back if he becomes the 2024 Republican nominee. He would have to reverse the recent trend in Michigan that has seen Democrats make some of their biggest gains nationally since Trump's reelection loss.

Trump spoke at Oakland County GOP's Lincoln Day Dinner, where he was honored by the party as its "Man of the Decade." Trump frequently attacked President Joe Biden throughout his speech Sunday, saying Biden was a "catastrophe" for Michigan and auto pro-

duction in the state. Trump also criticized Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a co-chair of Biden's reelection campaign, for approving state funds for a foreign company.

It was his first campaign appearance in Michigan, one of three states, along with Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, that flipped in 2016 to put Trump in the White House and Biden, a Democrat, four years later.

Trump's popularity in Michigan has taken a hit since 2016.

"By Trump's calculations, he needs to win Michigan again to be the president. But he's been very disruptive here," said Dave Trott, a former GOP congressman. "Trump largely is the reason why the Michigan Republican Party is dead."

Last year, Trump's endorsed candidates in Michigan were among the loudest in repeating his unfounded claims that the 2020 election was rigged.

Trump's choice for attorney general, Matthew DePerno, spent the final months of his campaign

under investigation into whether he should be criminally charged for attempting to gain access to voting machines after the 2020 election. Secretary of State candidate Kristina Karamo, a former community college professor, was handpicked by Trump as the Republican nominee for secretary of state after claiming she saw election fraud as a poll challenger in Detroit.

In November, the statewide candidates he backed were overwhelmingly defeated, including Tudor Dixon, who lost by over 10 percentage points to Whitmer.

Michigan Republicans controlled all levels of state government from 2011 to 2019. Now, they are powerless for the first time in 40 years. The shift has been particularly evident in Oakland County, home to the largest number of Republican voters in the state.

"People who know Michigan electoral politics would say that it's pretty important that if Republicans are going to carry the state, they need to win Oakland County," Trott said.

While Trump lost the county in 2016 and 2020, Biden received nearly 100,000 more votes than Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton did there and won the state by about 155,000 votes, or 2.8 percentage points.

Trott, who represented Oakland County in the U.S. House from 2015 to 2019, initially endorsed Trump in 2016 but later said Trump was "unfit for office." Trump's support among Republicans in the Legislature has declined, with 25 lawmakers having already publicly backed Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis for president. Trump said Sunday that DeSantis has "no personality" and that his campaign is "falling like a rock."

Among state GOP officials, however, support for Trump has not wavered. In February, Republican precinct delegates selected Karamo to lead the party after she lost by 14% in the midterms. One of the first moves by new party leadership was a vote to change the state's traditional process of allocating all presi-

dential delegates based on a primary open to the public.

Under a new plan widely expected to help Trump, Michigan will award just 16 of the state's 55 delegates based on the results of the Feb. 27 primary. The distribution of the remaining 39 delegates will come four days later in closed-door caucus meetings, conducted by the same party members who selected Karamo to lead the party.

"The plan gives Trump a significant leg up over the rest of the field. He's a grassroots favorite in the state and he's made Michigan his political playground for the last seven years," said Jason Cabel Roe, a former executive director of the Michigan GOP.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Karamo said she will remain impartial in the primary. She contends the party was forced to make the change after Michigan Democrats voted to move the state's primary from the second week of March to Feb. 27, a violation of the Republican National Committee's rules

that could have resulted in a loss of delegates.

When asked whether Trump or his team had lobbied for the presidential primary change, Karamo refused to answer. She said she doesn't "discuss conversations with the different campaigns."

"We want to protect the voice of Michigan voters. So whether or not it may help one candidate over another, that's totally irrelevant," Karamo said.

According to Karamo, the Michigan GOP "worked on" the plan with the RNC and expects the national party to approve the new primary setup.

The RNC said its conversations with the state party "focused on rules and process rather than the substance and language of Karamo's specific plan — the sort of guidance they offer each state party as they begin to formulate their individual paths forward for delegate selection."

"We look forward to reviewing each state and territory's plans," RNC spokesperson Emma Vaughn said in a statement.

# Russia revolt over, mercenaries' future, direction of Ukraine war uncertain

The Associated Press

Russian government troops withdrew from the streets of Moscow on Sunday and the rebellious mercenary soldiers who had occupied other cities were gone, but the short-lived revolt has weakened President Vladimir Putin just as his forces are facing a fierce counteroffensive in Ukraine.

Under terms of the agreement that ended the crisis, Yevgeny Prigozhin, who led his Wagner troops in an aborted march on the capital Saturday, will go into exile in Belarus but will not face prosecution.

But it was unclear what would ultimately happen to him and his troops. Few details of the deal brokered by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko have been released, and neither Prigozhin nor Putin has been heard from. Top Russian military leaders have also remained silent.

U.S. Secretary of State

Antony Blinken described the weekend's events as "extraordinary," recalling that 16 months ago Putin appeared poised to seize the capital of Ukraine and now he has had to defend Moscow from forces led by his onetime protegee.

"I think we've seen more cracks emerge in the Russian façade," Blinken said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"It is too soon to tell exactly where they go and when they get there, but certainly we have all sorts of new questions that Putin is going to have to address in the weeks and months ahead."

It was not yet clear what the fissures opened by the 24-hour rebellion would mean for the war in Ukraine. But it resulted in some of the best forces fighting for Russia being pulled from the battlefield: the Wagner troops, who had shown their effectiveness in scoring the Kremlin's only land victory

in months, in Bakhmut, and Chechen soldiers sent to stop them on the approach to Moscow.

The Wagner forces' largely unopposed, rapid advance also exposed vulnerabilities in Russia's security and military forces. The mercenary soldiers were reported to have downed several helicopters and a military communications plane. The Defense Ministry has not commented.

"I honestly think that Wagner probably did more damage to Russian aerospace forces in the past day than the Ukrainian offensive has done in the past three weeks," Michael Kofman, director of Russia Studies at the CAN research group, said in a podcast.

Ukrainians hoped the Russian infighting could create opportunities for their army, which is in the early stages of a counteroffensive to take back territory seized by Russian forces.

"Putin is much diminished and the Russian military, and this is significant as far as Ukraine is concerned," said Lord Richard Dannatt, former chief of the general staff of the British armed forces. "... Prigozhin has left the stage to go to Belarus, but is that the end of Yevgeny Prigozhin and the Wagner Group?"

Under terms of the agreement that stopped Prigozhin's advance, Wagner troops who didn't back the revolt will be offered contracts directly with the Russian military, putting them under the control of the military brass that Prigozhin was trying to oust. A possible motivation for Prigozhin's rebellion was the Defense Ministry's demand, which Putin backed, that private companies sign contracts with it by July 1. Prigozhin had refused to do it.

"What we don't know, but will discover in the

next hours and days is, how many of his fighters have gone with him, because if he has gone to Belarus and kept an effective fighting force around him, then he ... presents a threat again" to Ukraine, Dannatt said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he told U.S. President Joe Biden in a phone call on Sunday that the aborted rebellion in Russia had "exposed the weakness of Putin's regime."

In their lightning advance, Prigozhin's forces on Saturday took control of two military hubs in southern Russia and got within 120 miles of Moscow before retreating.

People in Rostov-on-Don cheered Wagner troops as they departed late Saturday, a scene that played into Putin's fear of a popular uprising. Some ran to shake hands with Prigozhin as he drove away in an SUV.

Yet the rebellion fizzled

quickly, in part because Prigozhin did not have the backing he apparently expected from Russian security services. The Federal Security Services immediately called for his arrest.

"Clearly, Prigozhin lost his nerve," retired U.S. Gen. David Petraeus, a former CIA director, said on CNN's "State of the Union."

"This rebellion, although it had some applause along the way, didn't appear to be generating the kind of support that he had hoped it would."

Rostov appeared calm Sunday morning, with only tank tracks on the roads as a reminder of the Wagner fighters.

"It all ended perfectly well, thank God. With minimal casualties, I think. Good job," said one of the residents, who agreed only to provide his first name, Sergei. He said the Wagner soldiers used to be heroes to him, but not now.

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EOE

# SUDOKU

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

## King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★

6/26

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**Saturday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 09-29-32-36-41  
Cash4Life — 07-10-14-23-42, Cash Ball: 04  
Lotto Plus — 02-04-20-32-33-42  
Quick Draw Midday — 01-02-03-09-11-18-19-21-22-23-34-37-47-54-55-60-71-75-76-77, BE: 55  
Daily Three-Midday — 06-07-08, SB: 05  
Daily Three-Evening — 02-06-01, SB: 06  
Daily Four-Midday — 05-04-08-00, SB: 05  
Daily Four-Evening — 00-01-02-05, SB: 06  
Quick Draw Evening — 16-18-28-31-35-36-38-40-41-43-45-46-48-49-56-60-64-71-78-79, BE: 78  
Hoosier Lotto — 10-16-21-23-32-42  
**POWERBALL**  
02-38-44-50-62; Powerball: 19; Power Play: 3X

**Sunday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 05-11-17-18-38  
Cash4Life — 05-41-43-48-50, Cash Ball: 03  
Quick Draw Midday — 03-06-07-12-18-22-26-32-34-37-40-46-50-52-53-55-58-59-72-80, BE: 52  
Daily Three-Midday — 02-04-05, SB: 00  
Daily Three-Evening — 02-09-02, SB: 03  
Daily Four-Midday — 00-01-02-05, SB: 06  
Daily Four-Evening — 06-03-00-07, SB: 03  
Quick Draw Evening — 03-16-18-20-32-35-39-40-43-46-49-52-55-70-71-73-75-76-77-79, BE: 76  
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$21.1 million  
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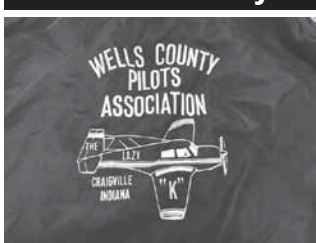
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**JULY 2-9 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Jeffery C. Hill, seller.** 8303 Cha Ca Peta Pass, Fort Wayne, IN. John Deere E100 hydrostatic lawn mower, Toro SS-4225 zero turn hydrostatic lawn mower, single axle utility trailer, lawn & garden items, Craftsman lg. & sm. power tools, Coleman 4-HP/20 gal. air compressor, modern furniture, Frigidaire refrigerator freezer, Whirlpool Cabrio washer, Whirlpool electric Cabrio dryer, Fine Arts Sterling Crown Princess flatware, unique divided relish serving tray, glassware, collectibles. Preview: June 29 and July 6 from 3-6 p.m. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).

**BIDDING NOW OPEN & STARTS CLOSING JULY 11 - 6 p.m. EST - Brittany & Ryan Kemp, owners.** 327 W. Wabash, Bluffton. Online only real estate auction! 1,744+/- sq. feet, 3 bed, 2 full bath, slab, 16'x17' detached garage. .15 acre lot, Zoned: Residential, M.S.D. Bluffton-Harrison Schools, Harrison Township, Section 4, Wells County, Indiana. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, [Kjauction.com](http://Kjauction.com).

**BIDDING NOW OPEN & STARTS CLOSING JULY 11 - 7 p.m. EST - Randy McKean, owner.** Online only real estate auction! 604+/- sq. feet, 1 bed, 1 bath, slab, 20'x22' detached garage. .15 acre lot, Zoned: Residential, North Adams Community Schools, Root Township, Section 34, Adams County, Indiana. Perfect investment property! Open house by appointment only, 827 Dierkes Street, Decatur. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, [Kjauction.com](http://Kjauction.com).

**BIDDING STARTS CLOSING JULY 12 - 6 p.m. EST - Beverly Schindler, owner.** Online only real estate & personal property! Real estate at 6 p.m. 1,044 sf, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 car attached garage, 8'x12' utility shed, 1.27 acre lot, South Adams Community Schools, Wabash Township, Section 21, Adams County. Personal property at 6:30 p.m. Household, collectibles, antiques, tools, automobile, & more! Preview: June 29, 5-6 p.m., 835 Rainbow Road, Geneva. Pick up: July 13, noon-6 p.m. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, [Kjauction.com](http://Kjauction.com).

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

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# Spouse's social media fame straining our marriage

Dear Annie: My spouse has become a viral social media sensation. They have been quite popular, and I recently learned of many "friendships" that have developed with members of the opposite sex. One in particular has become, and I quote, "the best friend I have ever had."

The last year has been filled with many struggles on my end, and I fell into a very deep depression. My spouse chose to ignore this and reach out to these "friends." They claim they are all platonic.

We have been trying to work on our marriage, but I am really hurt by this. I love this person with all of my heart and really want to make our marriage work. We have had some amazing heart-to-heart conversations recently, and I think they are starting to understand how badly I am hurting by the way they have behaved.

I just don't know if I can trust the words they say. My intuition says yes, but my head makes me cautious.

Social media is not positive for our marriage, but they won't give it up. Please help. I am already so heartbroken. — Lonely and Sad

*Dear Lonely and Sad: Social media, or any online connection, doesn't hold a candle to the real heart-to-heart conversation you have had with your spouse. Continue to be open with your feelings and listen to your intuition. If the social media is part of your spouse's job, then asking them to give that up is not the solution either. The solution is to have personal boundaries on what your partner can and cannot allow on social media.*

*Talk about what you both feel comfortable with. Healthy communication and trust are great muscles to work in a marriage, and your spouse's newfound social media fame is certainly giving you the opportunity to do just that. Best of luck to you. In addition, I would encourage you to seek the help of a professional therapist if you are suffering from depression. Try to surround yourself with friends and family when you are feeling down.*

## Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



Dear Annie: In recent columns, you have addressed the issue of helping a disabled child. I agree that we need to take care of ourselves before we can help others.

In my own case, at age 66, I ended up having knee surgery after assisting my physically disabled son during an emergency. Because of that surgery, I am not as much help to my son as I used to be.

Every disabled person's condition is unique, and some disabilities are progressive, so things can get worse over time.

But what a parent does now can provide security for what comes later, especially after the child is an adult and the parent unable to help. One suggestion is to do research to find alternative caregiving sources, such as durable medical equipment (DME), transportation options, proper medical care and a permanent living place.

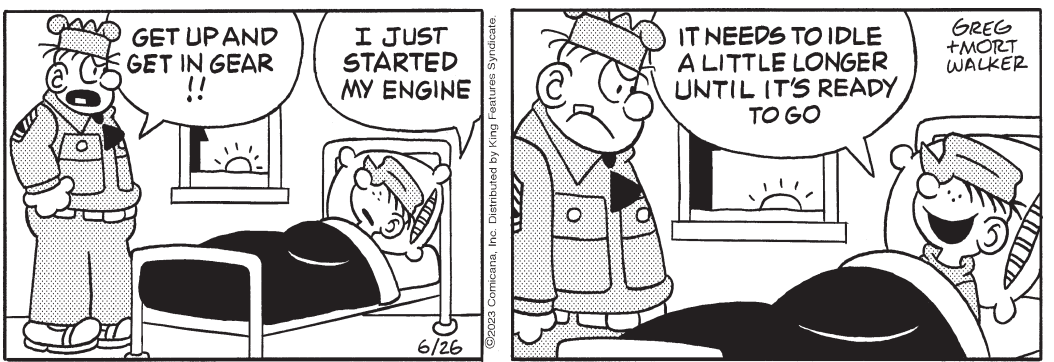
Do these things while you can afford them rather than waiting until they are absolutely necessary — because the child's illness has progressed so much. In a recent letter from the 63-year-old mother of a disabled daughter, I would suggest that, if possible, Mom pays off her car loan or home mortgage payment. Remodel her home for upcoming physical changes unique to her disease. Provide whatever DME she needs. Load up her bank accounts. Look to patient groups for specific disabilities as they have information, as well as medical staff, doctors and social workers.

Another mom, hopefully doing the best for her beautiful disabled son. — Another Mom

*Dear Another Mom: Thank you for your very helpful suggestions, and best wishes with your son. He is lucky to have such a wise and caring mother.*

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

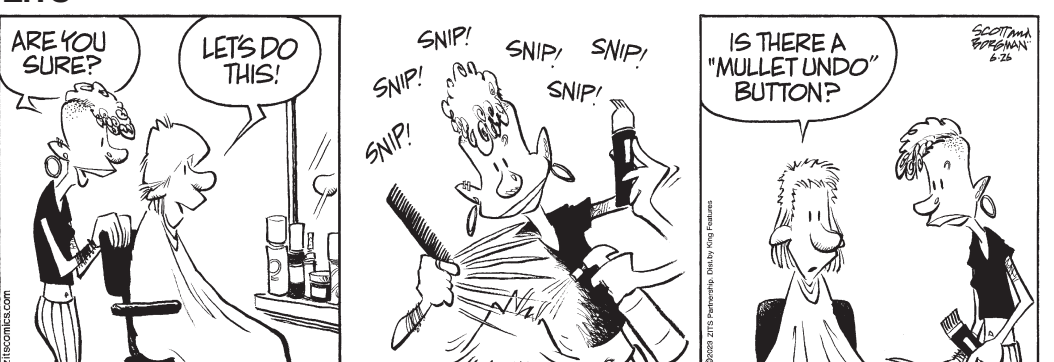
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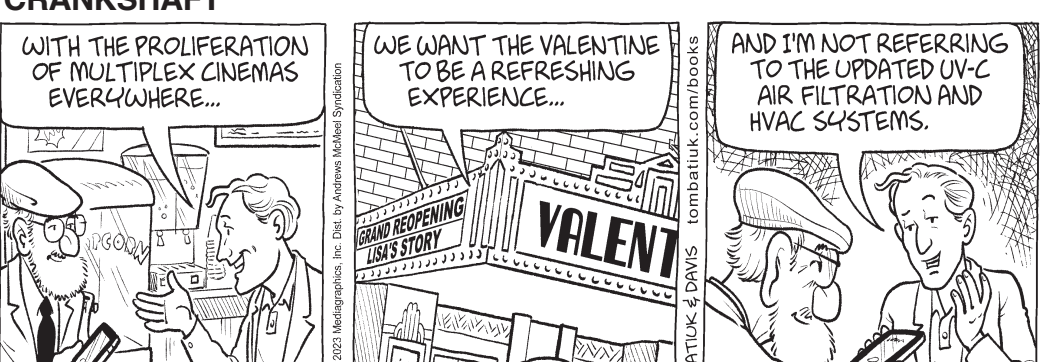
## BLONDIE



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## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

## The LOCKHORNS

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## My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



# Christ will reign on Earth as in Heaven

*Q: In my college course work, I'm learning the history of the United Nations and that the UN headquarters had designated a meditation room where people could go to withdraw into themselves, a place where a higher power to whom man worships is known by many names and in many forms. No wonder the world is in the chaos it's in. — W.P.*

*A: Shortly after the United Nations building had been erected on the banks of the East River in New York City, an ambassador from another country led a tour that included an empty room. He said, "This is the prayer room."*

It was empty; there was no symbol, nothing to indicate [the presence of God]. When the United Nations was founded it was agreed the word God should be left out of its charter. The world has left God out of its planning.

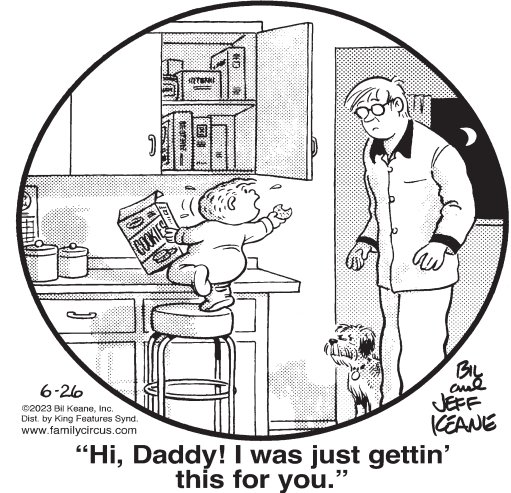
People may think they can just brush God aside, but Christ will reign on Earth as in Heaven. Political confusion will be turned to order and harmony, social injustices will be abolished, and moral corruption will be replaced by righteousness. For the first time in history, the whole world will know what it's like to live in a society governed by God's truth. Satan's influence will not be present to hinder world

peace, unity, equality, and justice. Global harmony will be realized, and every person who has ever lived will stand before God's judgment. Those who have repented of their sin in rebellion against God and accepted Jesus as their Savior will be ushered into Heaven and will see God face-to-face. What a glorious hope for God's people.

For those who do not know Him as Lord and Master, today is the time for repentance. Today is the day of salvation.

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

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## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 21 mins. and Saturday's answer 6-26.

Table with columns for time slots (5 PM to 12:30 AM) and rows for various TV channels (WINM, CBS, WANE, etc.) listing program titles and times.

Table with columns for time slots (1 to 11) and rows for various TV channels (WINM, CBS, WANE, etc.) listing program titles and times.