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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

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Saving grace

Top, Grace and Mercy Program Director Bethanie Burns (left) and graduate Karen Shaw speak with visitors about the nonprofit at the open house Thursday evening. "They stuck by me when I couldn't even stick by myself," Shaw said. Bottom, recent Grace and Mercy graduate Karley Vaughn spoke to a visitor about her time in the program. Vaughn found a safe home and resources to restart her life after she fled an abusive relationship. At right, Ella Miller enjoyed the playground during the open house. Miller once resided at Grace and Mercy as an infant. (Photos by Sydney Kent)



Staffing woes

Health Department continues struggle with understaffing

By HOLLY GASKILL

Little progress has been made on understaffing in the Wells County Health Department, reported interim administrator Marlene Hoag.

In a health board meeting Thursday morning, Hoag said she's only received a few applications between the four posted roles — administrator, environmental specialist in the septic division, medical assistant and vital records assistant. The medical assistant and vital records assistant are advertised as part-time.

Since the board's last meeting, the Health Department has also lost an employee working part-time with vital records and assisting the public. These responsibilities now solely fall on Hoag, who has also been partially handling septic items in addition to administrative duties. Hoag had filled an

administrative and vital records role before her retirement in 2022, and she returned as interim in June to assist the short-handed staff.

The job openings, Hoag said, have been posted on every major platform and health job boards. She advised she had also contacted Ivy Tech Community College.

Board member Steven Bales asked if Hoag had made any moves on utilizing a job recruiter, which Commissioner Jeff Stringer had previously mentioned. Hoag said she had not heard from Stringer regarding a recruiter, and Commissioner Blaker Gerber, who was present, said he had not heard anything either.

"You might find someone outside of what you're thinking as the health network, so to speak," said board member Molly Hoag. "I think (a recruiter) is the big one

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Council gives initial OK to noticeably smaller city budget

By DAVE SCHULTZ

Scott Mentzer, president of the Bluffton Common Council, had a rather boring Labor Day weekend. He spent his time with the city's budget.

Four members of the Bluffton Common Council assembled in the Council Chambers on City Hall's second floor Thursday and gave their official but preliminary approval to a city budget that will be 30 percent less than last year's — at least when it comes to the General Fund.

Mentzer, who was elected to the council in 2019, has been frustrated by the budgeting process. This year, with apologies to Paul

Anka, he decided — as Anka's famous song says — to do it "my way."

He talked to department heads and used a "zero-based" budget system. Basically, rather than start with the previous year's budget and account for inflation, he scoured the sources of city revenue and took nothing for granted. For instance, grant money was not written into the budgets but property taxes with the appropriate increases allowed by state law — were included.

"This year, I said, we're not going to look at budgets," he said he told the department heads.

(Continued on Page 2)

Significant progress made with Lancaster Park construction

By HOLLY GASKILL

The vision for Lancaster Park is beginning to take shape.

The Bluffton Parks Department toured the construction site — soon to be a park — before their regular meeting on Thursday evening. At that time, the walking path had been paved, installation of multiple utilities had been completed, the restroom and pavilion showed significant progress, and playground installation had begun, among other items.

Superintendent Brandy Fiechter said she expects the contracted work to finish in September. City crews will then complete the remaining work.

However, one item just received bid approval — a pickleball court. The long-awaited item was a dream for Fiechter, but there was no initial funding. Fiechter informed the board a donor had stepped forward for half the project in August, and another was

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Crews have begun work to install the playground at Lancaster Park, located across from Lancaster Elementary School. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

APC advises Zanesville on dilapidated buildings, OKs subdivision

By DAVE SCHULTZ

Issac Zent, the new president of the Zanesville Town Council, went to the Wells County Area Plan Commission Thursday night to ask a question: What can his town do about dilapidated buildings?

There are garages that pose a threat to public safety, he said, with large holes in the roofs. He wanted to know what options the town has to remove them.

Mike Lautzenheiser, executive director of the APC, said that

Bluffton and Ossian have unsafe building ordinances but Wells County does not. He suggested that Zent contact those two communities for ideas.

Another suggestion made reference to Zanesville's geography in

that the town straddles the county line and is partially in Wells County and partially in Allen County. If Allen County has an unsafe building ordinance, perhaps it could be applied in Zanesville.

In other business, the APC:

• Approved a minor subdivision for property at 3930W-1100N, which has a Markle address in Union Township. The request was to split off 7.05 acres from an original parcel of 16.44 acres which

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Outside

Small chance of showers, breezy and chilly tonight

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 70	High 74	High 76
Low 57	Low 53	Low 54

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September 8, 2023

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Health Department staffing

(Continued from Page 1)
that we really want to get moving,” added board member Chis Easterling.
Upon recommendation from the board, Marlene Hoag said she would contact other area colleges with the job openings. Several board members also requested the URL addresses for the postings be sent to them so they could distribute them within their networks.
Public Health Nurse Lynn Blevins asked if the postings had competitive salaries, and Hoag said they were comparable to neighboring health departments but not the private sector.

Regarding septic issues, Hoag said she’s encountered an influx of requests as people reach out in advance to combat delays. Joe Rakoczy from the Indiana Department of Health has also been assisting with septic once a week.
Meanwhile, Hoag will not be in office during Ossian Days, Sept. 14-16, and has been working on permits. She said they’re also preparing for the Bluffton Street Fair, Sept. 19-23, when they’ll need to give over 70 permits. Ryan Bennett, environmental specialist in the food division, will be out monitoring conditions during that week as well.

Blevins then reported that the department would soon carry the newest flu and COVID-19 vaccines but has not heard the cost. He added that he has been fully booked with vaccination appointments, as parents are notified which vaccinations are still needed.
A vaccination clinic, Molly Hoag shared, will be offered by the Indiana Immunization Coalition from 4-7 p.m. on Oct. 2 at the 4-H Fairgrounds. The Council on Aging has also advertised “save-the-date” information for a vaccination clinic on Oct. 12. Additionally, at 7 p.m. on

Sept. 14 at the fairgrounds, guest speaker duo “Cody and John Speak” will share their addiction stories and information about drug prevention. Information about how to get involved in drug prevention will be available at 6 p.m. Blevins noted he would be giving Naloxone demonstrations where people can receive their own to carry.
All board members were present for the meeting. The next health board meeting is at 6:30 a.m. on Oct. 19, however, the board discussed holding another meeting earlier should there be progress on applications.
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Weather

Friday, September 8, 2023
(24-hour observations at 8:40 p.m. Thursday)
High: 72; Low: 64; Precipitation: 0.01 inches of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.23 feet at 8:45 p.m. Thursday

Wells County forecast

Today: A slight chance of showers before 11 a.m., then a slight chance of showers after 2 p.m. Cloudy, with a high near 70. North wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 74. Northeast wind around 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 53. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 76.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77.

Monday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.

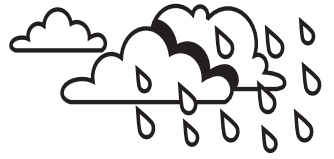
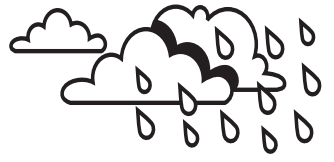
Tuesday: A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 72. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 68.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 48.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70.



City budget

(Continued from Page 1)
“We’re going to look at your spend rate. So, zero based, we’re going to look at what you’re spending, and what you must spend next year. If you’re going to increase (the budget), there’s got to be a reason.” Mentzer received department budgets and cut back on the requests with that
In other words, budgets for 2024 were going to be cut back based on needs assessment.

Here’s how three key city budgets shaped up for next year:

- General Fund: \$7,627,435 was requested; \$5,253,658 was in the paperwork distributed to council members Thursday.
- Parks and Recreation Department: \$996,715 requested; \$932,107 approved.
- Street Department: \$1,600,690 requested; \$1,297,315 approved.

The Parks Department and Street Departments have their own “pots of money” as they are supported by property tax revenue separate from the city’s General Fund.
“So the other misconception on

the departments was if we pass their budget that they actually received that amount of revenue,” he said as he summarized the process. “And that’s not accurate. The previous budgets weren’t tethered to a revenue number. So now, I’m purposefully matching and aligning those two numbers that their revenue will align with the budget.”

Thursday’s meeting featured Mentzer in front of the white screen on the west side with his fellow council members Chandler Gerber, Josh Hunt, and Rick Elwell seated around him (Janella Stroncsek was absent). Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Tami Runyon, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer (and Runyon’s successor in the office) Michelle Simon, and Mayor John Whicker.

“I don’t have a vote, but I support what you’ve done here,” Whicker said, referring to Mentzer.

“Looking at the budget process like this makes me feel a whole lot better,” Elwell said.

The city was under an unofficial deadline because the budget proposal had to be posted on the state’s Gateway

website by Friday.

Thursday’s discussion was wide-ranging, and it appears that a plan for a tax increment financing district in downtown Bluffton may be in the works. Money from a downtown TIF could, for instance, fund the Community Re-Investment Program that the Bluffton NOW! revitalization group runs using city funds.

The budget includes a 3 percent pay increase for all civil city personnel except police officers. A pay matrix has been established for the Police Department, Mentzer said.

Mentzer said he could possibly establish a pay matrix for city employees by the end of the year, but it would not be applicable for the city’s 2024 budget.

“We have cut our budget by 30 percent. We have created a balanced budget where we are not budgeting to spend more than we’re expecting to bring in,” he said, wrapping up Thursday’s discussion.

The budget will be up for its first reading on Oct. 3 and for its second and final reading on Oct. 17.

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Lancaster Park

(Continued from Page 1)
recently secured.

The pickleball court will be located near the wheelchair-accessible Gaga ball pit by the parking lot. The area also features a solar-powered phone charging station.

The board approved a bid package for the pickleball court and a new parking lot, estimated at \$245,000 for both. The parking lot will include 78 spaces along the road-facing boundary of the park, with 14 parallel parking spaces along the edge of the lot.

Other features of the park include a 10-foot wide half-mile walking path, a human foosball court, cornhole sets, a bike repair station, a fire pit, a disc golf course, a football/soccer field, a basketball court, sand volleyball courts, and a pavilion.

That said, the meeting wasn’t all happy updates — a recent review of the Bluffton parks found over \$400K in improvements were needed to make the parks ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. Some of these needs include wheelchair-accessible paths and additional signage.

Knowing this is half the battle, Fiechter said. She hopes to address these items throughout the coming years.

Additionally, Fiechter



Parks Department Superintendent Brandy Fiechter guided the park board through a tour of the Lancaster Park construction site on Thursday night, highlighting the recent progress made. Pictured, the group takes the walking path to view the pavilion building. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

informed the board members that the department has a 2 percent decrease in budget requests for 2024. She stated Bluffton Common Council Scott Mentzer had advised her to make her requests as close to what she’s used this past year, but she noted there are some unknowns with maintenance and events.

Fiechter does expect the department to receive \$250K-\$320K from the remaining city ARPA funding. However, she’s review-

ing many projects that need attention across the parks department resources — like the eroding bank of the Rivergreenway, interurban trail costs, warped wood flooring in the city gym, and parking lot needs, amid several other projects.

Other updates were:

- Leander Schwartz donated siding for the Wells Community Pool, which Fiechter noted will help with some maintenance costs.
- Fiechter also said

pool attendance for the summer was 10,351. The pool normally runs at a loss, but given early season cool weather, Fiechter was impressed with this total. Expenses for running the pool were roughly \$99,000, and income was \$71,000.

Over 700 people attended the Touch A Truck event, many of whom were from outside the county. 26 trucks were featured.

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APC meeting

(Continued from Page 1)
is zoned A-1 (agricultural) and is owned by Judith K. Booth. The request was approved 10-0.

Reviewed three violations. Two of them, at 803 S. Main St. in Bluffton and at 3815E Ind. 124, were cleared, and a third one, at 602 W. Mill St. in Ossian, was continued for 90 days.

Heard from Lautzenheiser that his office is in the process of drafting ordi-

nance amendments that will fit with some of the goals of the Wells County Vision 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

Members present for Tuesday night’s meeting were Chandler Gerber, Melissa Woodworth, Becky Stone-Smith, Kiera Lance, Harry Baumgartner Jr. John Schuhmacher, Tyson Brooks, Jarrod Hahn, Jerome Markley, and Tim Rohr. Bill Horan was absent.

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Your Questions about Medicaid and Spend Down: ANSWERED

September 12

Start 10:00 AM

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OBITUARIES

Becky Sue Love, 61

Becky Sue Love, 61, of Bluffton, passed away Thursday morning, Sept. 7, 2023, at Swiss Village in Berne.

Becky was born in Bluffton on Feb. 18, 1962, to Robert G. and Virginia "Ginny" (Dubach) Harter. Her father survives in Bluffton. Becky was preceded in death by her mother, along with her stepmother, Jo Ann (Baumgartner) Harter.

Becky was a 1980 graduate of South Adams High School. She attended Life Community Church in Bluffton and retired from Keebler Foods in Bluffton in 2015, after 22 years of service. She also worked at the Country Cupboard in Bluffton for several years.

Hobbies of Becky's included reading, doing puzzles, and she loved her cats. She was a people person who loved making others laugh. She also loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

In addition to her father, Becky is survived by three sons, Jeffrey (Erica) Love of Petroleum, Jarvis (Myndi) Love of Ossian, and Jagger Love of Carmel; three grandchildren, Sophia Heshner, Remington Cornett, and Axton Love; and two sisters, Debbie (Mike) O'Dell of Berne and Sally (Jeffrey) Bailey of Plant City, Fla.

A memorial service will be held Monday, Sept. 11, 2023, at 10:30 a.m., at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton, with one hour of public visitation prior to the service. Tony Garton will officiate. The family requests that attendees dress casually, as this is a celebration of Becky's life.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Amyloidosis Center at Cleveland Clinic.

Online condolences may be made at www.goodwin-caleharnish.com.



Royal Raiders

Pictured above is the senior homecoming court of Southern Wells Jr./Sr. High School — in the back, Bryce Jackson, Perrin Gates, Joshua Bricker and Bryar Gearhear, and in front, Bella Bradley, Malaina Culbertson, Ella Lahr and Cambri Leas. Their football team will face off against Wes-Del 7 p.m. Friday. Homecoming king and queen will be crowned during the game's half time. (Photo submitted)

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Wednesday, 2:01 p.m., North 450 East and East 700 North. Driver issued citation for speeding.

Wednesday, 2:21 p.m., 3000 East Ind. 124. Report of smoke from a possible controlled burn. Officer advised fire was put out.

Wednesday, 5:03 p.m., East Poplar and South Main streets. Driver issued citation for expired license plates.

Wednesday, 7:50 p.m., 500 block of West Miller Street. Report of theft that occurred earlier this month.

Wednesday, 8:15 p.m., 500 block of West Miller Street. Caller reported a man from a previous incident was pounding on the door.

Wednesday, 9:00 p.m., 900 block of East River Road. Caller reported hearing a vehicle crash near the river, possibly into the river.

Thursday, 12:14 a.m., 500 block of South Marion Street. Woman requested assistance finding relatives house. Officer located the residence.

Thursday, 12:37 a.m., 800 block of Kimberly Drive. Caller reported a subject passed out in a vehicle. Officer located a family member and assisted the subject to their home.

Thursday, 12:58 a.m., 800 block of Helen Drive. Report of a vehicle with a door open. Owner advised family returned home recently and must have forgotten to shut it. Nothing missing.

Thursday, 4:48 a.m., 400 block of West Market Street. Caller reported hearing someone attempt to get into doors in front of the residence. Officers did not find any subjects or damage to doors.

Thursday, 5:42 a.m., 800 block of West Market Street. Caller dialed 911 and hung up, yelling heard in background. Officers found couple that was arguing, couple left separately after they spoke to officers.

Thursday, 10:14 a.m., Praxis. Subject arrived at station to report an incident at Praxis.

Thursday, 11:21 a.m., Walgreens. Report of a belligerent grown up man in the lobby sitting in the cubby hole. The full sized toddler advised he was not happy with the results of the no return policy for a credit card he purchased. He left shortly after the tantrum, refusing to take the card.

Thursday, 12:39 p.m., 1500 Highland Court. Caller reported a dog attacked him in his yard.

Thursday, 1:32 p.m., 500 block of West Market Street. Caller reported a couple arguing with a baby walking around. Woman advised it was verbal and she was leaving.

County:
Wednesday, 3:11 p.m., Ind. 224 and North 75 East, Uniondale. Report of a dog running loose. Resident advised he was dog sitting while owners find a place to live that is animal friendly. Caretaker secured the dogs again.

Wednesday, 3:29 p.m., Wells County Jail. Subject requested assistance with how to store guns safely.

Thursday, 9:37 a.m., 2300 West 100 North, Bluffton. Caller reported sheep in the roadway. Officers were unable to locate the frequent nuisances.

Thursday, 11:24 a.m., East 1200 South and South 700 East. Caller reported a man in an orange shirt knocking on doors and running, leaving in a newer Cadillac.

Thursday, 11:50 a.m., 2900 South Main Street, Liberty Center. Report of a man standing partially in the road with a sign cursing and yelling at drivers to slow down.

Ossian:
Wednesday, 5:22 p.m., 8600 North 100 East, Ossian. Caller reported finding a lost cat and making a Facebook post for the animal. Multiple people claimed the cat belonged to them, the owner put it in a cage on his property. When he returned, the cat was gone.

Wednesday, 1 1:32 p.m., Ind. 1 and East 1050 North,

Ossian. Officer pulled over subject for lack of headlights, and found he smelled like alcohol. The subject refused a chemical test and insisted he was a sovereign being that was being held against his will and would not submit to a blood draw. He complied to the blood draw. He refused a PBT as per jail intake procedure, and the jail refused custody. Michael Lynn Turner was transported back to the hospital for clearance. Turner was charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated (refusal), a Class C misdemeanor, open container violation, and improper headlights, both Class C Infractions.

Thursday, 10:39 a.m., 3700 East 1200 North, Ossian. Caller reported an unwanted subject on their property.

ACCIDENTS
City:
Wednesday, 9:00 p.m., River Road and Riverview Drive. Jonah Cole's Ford Mustang collided with two trees after sliding on wet pavement. Cole stated he did not remember driving that fast and complained of pain all over. Damages not exceeding \$25,000.

Sunday, 4:30 p.m., East Spring Street at mile marker 216. Harvey Ziegler reported an accident that occurred multiple days prior. Ziegler stated he was traveling in

alley behind East Silver Street when a Chevy Tahoe backed out of the driveway, striking Ziegler's Lincoln Town Car. The driver was identified as Felicitas Mendez, insurance info exchanged.

County:
Tuesday, 10:21 p.m., Ind 1. Connor Bussel was traveling southbound behind Edith Carranza on Ind. 1 when he slowed to await northbound traffic. The front end of Carranza's vehicle struck the rear end of Bussel's vehicle. Damages not exceeding \$10,000.

ARRESTS
Ryan Manley Stinson, 37, Bluffton, charged with sexual misconduct with a minor, a Level 4 felony. Bond set at \$15,000.

Barry Back Holzapfel, 62, Fort Wayne, charged with failure to return to lawful detention, a Level 6 felony, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor.

Michael L Turner, 47, Ossian, charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated. Bond set at \$500.

Michael Calderon, 20, Fort Wayne, charged with operating without ever obtaining a license, a Class C misdemeanor.

Austin Jake Lewis, 20, Bluffton, charged with minor transport an alcoholic beverage, a Class C misdemeanor.

Monthly community services at Tower Life begin Sept. 13

Tower Life Center, formerly known as the ZUM church, will begin its "Worship Night" series for the 2023-24 season on Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m..

The special services are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month from September through May.

While these services, as are the church's regular

Sunday morning services, open to all, "we want to especially invite churches and those individuals who have recently disaffiliated to attend," a spokesperson for the church said in a news release, "for a night of praise, worship, communion and prayer."

Tower Life Center is located at 11811 N. Wayne St., Zanesville.

State project aims to give diapers to safety net recipients

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle

A new state-funded service project aims to get diapers into the hands of impoverished parents. Advocates hope it will improve infant health and provide indirect financial aid to the state's neediest.

The Indiana Diaper Bank, based in central Indiana, will helm the 2-year, \$4 million project, which will distribute 200 diapers every other month to qualifying families.

"We know this is probably not enough. It sounds like a lot of money but diapers are not cheap," Ashley Burns, the president and CEO of the Indiana Diaper Bank told the Indiana Capital Chronicle.

Burns reported that her small nonprofit had quadrupled the number of diapers it distributed in the last year — from 30,000 in May 2022 to 171,000 in May of 2023 — signifying the ongoing and outstanding need.

"... Our hope is that it's the beginning," Burns continued. "And we can really collect that data and say, (to legislators), 'This has a big impact... (on) employment and maternal mental health. This is one thing that we can do.'"

"A diaper seems like such a simple thing but it's so meaningful for families that are struggling to provide this basic need."

Burns warned that launching the project would take time — especially since her staff of two full-time employees (including herself) and three part-time employees would be tasked with personally distributing the toiletries, which includes wipes and other diapering needs.

Products would be dispensed in the parking lots of various Women, Infant and Children offices, providing a direct connection to hundreds of Indiana residents whose gross monthly income is at or below 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level — or \$6,250 for a family of four — which is the cutoff for eligibility.

"Families have to go through so many hurdles to be able to get basic needs," Burns said. "If they receive WIC, SNAP, TANF, (etc.) ... if they're living below (250 percent of) the federal poverty line, then that means that they're (lacking) basic need and they can apply for this service," Burns said.

Corrections and clarifications

The Bluffton Common Council voted 4-0 to pay a share for the demolition of the building at 123 S. Marion St. Council member Chandler Gerber abstained from the vote due to association with a company used by the demolition team.

For clarification, the \$25,000 from Bluffton NOW! came from a CRP reimbursement grant funded by the City of Bluffton for downtown building improvements.

Arnold Lumber Co.
425 S. Winchester St., Decatur, IN
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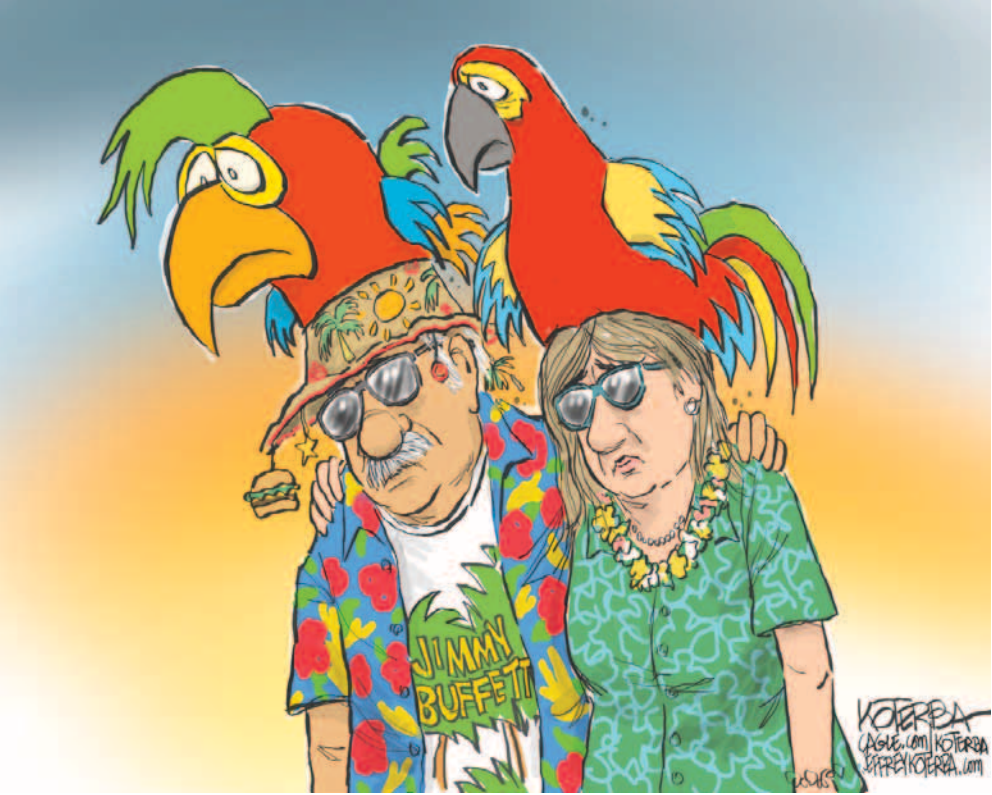
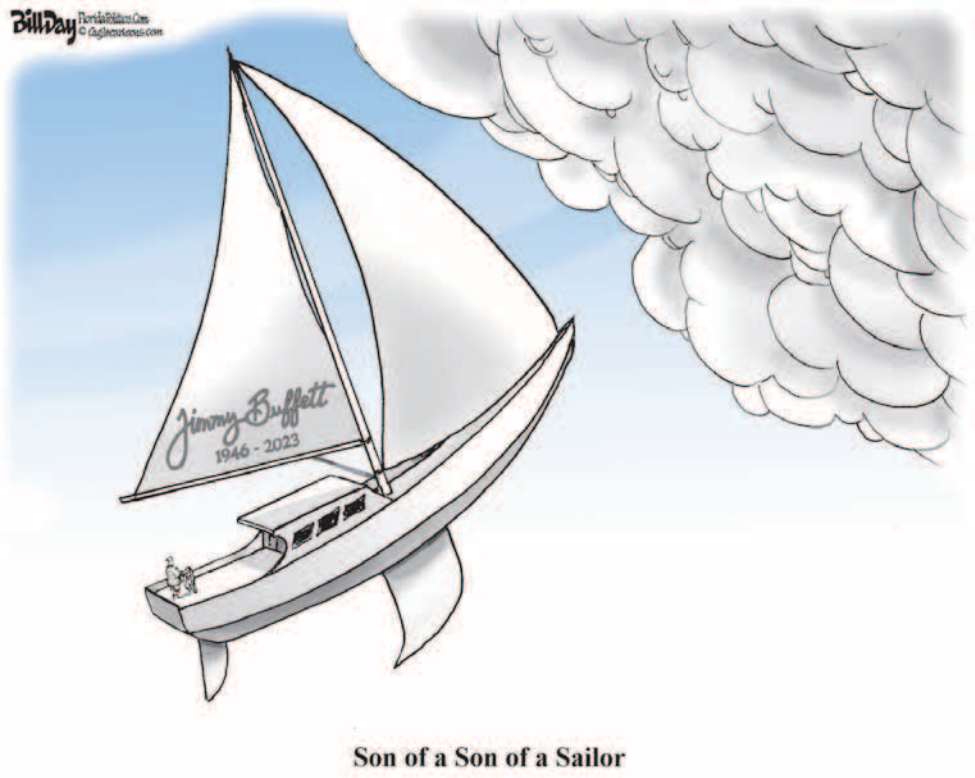
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A nothing special day

Last Friday was a fairly quiet, nothing special day. The last business day before a holiday usually is.

The entirety of the week was chaotic and overwhelming. We had people on vacation, a few huge deadlines and normal end of month stuff to accomplish. It was a week that I'm happy came and went.

Monday through Thursday the goal was just to survive the day. I'm happy to report that everyone did.

The resulting quietness of Friday allowed me the chance to hear people coming and going at our front counter.

One woman came in to pay her subscription bill and noted how much she missed Jim Barbieri.

She isn't alone in that remark.

There is a statue dedicated to Jim in our front lobby. The artist who created it was our now-retired former employee Carol Studabaker. From time to time we hear comments about the statue as well as Jim's legendary career at The News-Banner.

I never had the privilege to meet Jim, but I was surely aware of who he was. His legendary status wasn't confined to Wells County. I worked at the newspaper in Columbia City earlier in my career. Everyone there knew who he was and revered him.

Friday, after hearing the comments at the front counter, I caught up with Barb Barbieri to see if she had heard what was said about her husband. She did, of course. Barb doesn't miss anything.

I'm sure it's comforting to know Jim's legacy lives on after so many years.

Other phone calls and in-person conversations were less reflective but equally important.

I took some constructive criticism and helpful suggestions about our 4H publication, one of the major deadlines last week.

A phone call drew unsolicited compliments about our newly-minted editor Holly Gaskill and sports editor Ryan Walker.

We appreciate the compliments just as much as the constructive criticism. Our goal is to get better every day. Some days we win, some days we lose.

Friday we did both.

Later, my thoughts returned to Jim's legacy. He received the Wells County Distinguished Citizen Award, the Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Citizen of the Year, was named grand marshal of the Wells County 4-H Fair parade and the Street Fair parade. He was twice awarded a Sagamore of the Wabash. Jim is also a member of the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. My mind then wandered to Joe Smekens, who was one of the kindest souls I have ever met. He was also a great newspaperman. Joe belongs in the Journalism Hall of Fame alongside Jim. There is an ongoing effort to make that happen.

Larisa and I have had a *Rose is Rose* comic strip on our refrigerator for the better part of two decades. Each panel in the strip shows a mundane chore that the family is accomplishing together. Fixing the porch, they note that it sounds like a nothing special day. While gardening, they say it smells like a nothing special day. Sitting together on a porch swing eating apples, they comment that it tastes like a nothing special day. In the final panel, the parents have tucked their son in bed. As they close the door, the son says "Who would have guessed it was something special all along?"

That nothing special Friday ended up as a day filled with reflection.

As it turns out it was something special all along.

dough@news-banner.com



Doug Brown

Donald Trump and the coming ordeal

A new Wall Street Journal national poll over the Labor Day weekend has shaken some observers' views of the 2024 Republican presidential campaign. The bottom line: It's no longer a two-man race between former President Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. Trump has pulled so far ahead, and DeSantis has fallen so far behind, that it is now inaccurate to characterize the two as locked in a head-to-head battle.

The numbers: Trump was the choice of 59% of poll respondents, while DeSantis was the choice of 13%. After DeSantis came former South Carolina governor and U.N. ambassador Nikki Haley at 8% and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy at 5%.

In an earlier Wall Street Journal poll in April, Trump led DeSantis 48 to 24 — a 24-point lead. Now, it's 59 to 13 — a 46-point lead. "What was once a two-man race for the nomination has collapsed into a lopsided contest in which Trump, for now, has no formidable challenger," the Journal wrote.

There are no foreseeable events in the next few months that will change that dynamic. That means the possible game changers come next year, at two times. One is when voting starts with the Iowa caucuses on Jan. 15. The other is when the first of Trump's many criminal trials begins, possibly on March 4.

When the voting starts is when Republicans have to stop thinking about the race in terms of a distant decision and start thinking about it as a commitment they have to make right now. Sometimes, the preferences they have related to pollsters in the preceding months do not survive. For example, in 2007-2008, former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani led the Republican race the whole way, from the earliest polls in February 2007 to the eve of the Iowa caucuses in January 2008. At that point, with voting underway, Giuliani collapsed. By Jan. 30, 2008, he was out of the race.

But there are big differences between Giuliani then and Trump now. Giuliani was popular among Republicans as a former big-city mayor, but Trump is on an entirely different level as a former president and proven vote-getter with Republicans nationwide. There is simply no comparison between the two. Plus, Giuliani's biggest lead over the full field in the RealClearPolitics average of national polls was 14.6 points. Trump is currently up by 39.3 points — a lead that has more than doubled in the last few months.

It seems clear at the moment that the far bigger threat to Trump is the coming legal onslaught. Right now, Trump's trial on federal charges relating to the 2020 election and Jan. 6 is scheduled to start in Washington, D.C., on March 4 — the day before Super Tuesday. On March 25, his trial on charges brought by a local prosecutor in New York is scheduled to start. On May 20, his trial on federal charges related to his handling of classified documents is scheduled to begin in Florida. Unscheduled so far is the trial on charges brought by a local prosecutor in Atlanta over the 2020 election. And that does not count the various lawsuits that Trump will have to fight in 2024, as well.

It is hard to imagine now how taxing that schedule, or a similar schedule if some dates change, will be for a presidential candidate. The prosecutions will

drain Trump's time, energy and money at a time when he will most need all three. And many of his supporters, energized by Trump's defiant stance toward his accusers, simply have not fully envisioned what will happen. Perhaps Trump himself hasn't, either.

In his interview last month with Tucker Carlson, Trump was asked, "How do you get indicted every week and stay cheerful?" "I think it is a lot easier because I'm so high in the polls," Trump answered, "because it means that people get it. The people see it's a fraud."

Maybe Trump can remain cheerful now — although there are plenty of reports, supported by common sense, that suggest he is deeply upset by the indictments. And some of his supporters are thrilled by the public bravado he has shown in the face of one charge after another.

But think about next year. A thought: You know how Ukraine valiantly fought back when a vastly superior Russian force invaded in February 2022? Ukraine's grit led to cheers worldwide, lots of financial and military aid, and the hope that maybe, just maybe, the little guy could defeat the mighty Russian machine.

But there was no quick Ukrainian victory, even when Russian forces showed stunning incompetence. And then time dragged on. The Russian machine kept grinding and grinding and grinding. Now the best one can say of Ukraine's position is that it is holding on. The firepower and numerical superiority of Russia has, in time, ground down Ukrainian defenses.

Back to the subject: Trump supporters cheer as he resists one indictment after another. Look, they say, his support is rising, even as Democratic district attorneys and Biden special counsels throw everything they have at him! Is it possible that he could defeat the mighty prosecution machine?

Well, next year is the year when time drags on and the machine keeps grinding and grinding and grinding. Perhaps Trump can hold on, but the toll will be terrible. The prosecution machine will impose crippling costs on Trump's daily life, on his campaign, on his bank account. It would not be surprising to see him spend everything he has raised for his campaign on his legal bills instead. And in the end, with four indictments and 91 felony counts so far, the machine will convict him of something, perhaps a lot of things.

What will that do to Trump's support? Certainly many of his most devoted supporters will become even more devoted as they watch the spectacle of his trials. But other, less devoted supporters might well be ground down along with Trump. At some point, they might decide it's just not worth it. Trump's adversaries, they will realize, will never, ever quit. Should they, his supporters, keep fighting?

So yes, Trump has a huge lead today, so much so that the Republican nomination race no longer seems to be a contest. But 2024 is coming. Perhaps Trump will manage to maintain his dominance in the GOP even then. But it will be an ugly, protracted and unimaginably costly fight.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner



Byron York

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Watchdog describes border wall harm

PHOENIX (AP) — The construction of a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border under former President Donald Trump toppled untold numbers of saguaro cactuses in Arizona, put endangered ocelots at risk in Texas and disturbed Native American burial grounds, the official congressional watchdog said Thursday.

A report released by the Government Accountability Office offers the first independent assessment of damage caused by the building of more than 450 miles of wall while in-depth environmental reviews were waived and the concerns of Native American tribes were largely ignored in the rush to finish the barrier.

Now, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Interior Department should work together to ease the damage, the GAO said. It recommended that the agencies coordinate to decide how much repair work will cost, how to fund it, and how long it will take.

A Customs and Border Protection spokesman said Wednesday that the agency is working on a response

to the report. An Interior Department spokeswoman said the agency would have no comment.

"What makes Trump's border wall so egregious is that his administration waived dozens of environmental, public health, cultural preservation and even contract procurement laws to build it," said U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva, a southern Arizona Democrat who requested the GAO review. "Before construction even started, communities, tribes and other stakeholders were raising the alarm about the colossal damage that bypassing such fundamental protections would have."

Grijalva said he is urging fellow lawmakers to transfer at least \$225 million from Homeland Security to the Interior Department and Forest Service in the upcoming budget for restoration efforts.

Trump and his supporters have argued that a strong physical barrier along the border is necessary to keep out drugs and people trying to enter the U.S. illegally.

"We applied a common-sense, balanced approach

in an effort to address environmental concerns while prioritizing our main goal of securing the nation's border to reduce a vast set of complex threats from entering the U.S.," said Mark Morgan, who was Customs and Border Protection's acting commissioner during the Trump administration.

"Speaking personally, if we disrupt a butterfly habitat or a few cacti die in exchange for disrupting the cartel's operational capacity to threaten our nation's safety and national security, I'm OK with that tradeoff," said Morgan, now a visiting fellow at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank in Washington. "The wall saved lives and disrupted the cartel's ability to improve their operational control of our country's borders."

Environmental groups said the GAO report confirmed their earlier complaints. They said future repair work could benefit from more involvement by the Interior Department, a lead manager of the federal land where much of the damage occurred.

"We hope this report will

help people understand the degree of destruction the wall truly inflicted," said Laiken Jordahl, Southwest conservation advocate for the Center for Biological Diversity, among the groups consulted.

A key aspect of the report was "identifying the fact that the Department of the Interior needs to play a larger role in repairing the damage," said Michael Dax, Western program director for the Wildlands Network, which also gave the GAO input.

Emily Burns, program director for the ecological group Sky Island Alliance, called it "refreshing to see the accountability from the federal government."

The border stretches across nearby 2,000 miles along California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Sections of what Trump called his "big, beautiful wall" were installed between January 2017 and January 2021 by contractors for U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Defense.

President Joe Biden paused construction after he took office in January 2021.

Maui beckons tourists to stave off economic disaster after wildfires

KAHULUI, Hawaii (AP) — Richie Olsten has been in Maui's helicopter tour business for a half century, so long he's developed a barometer for the tourism-dependent economy: rental cars parked at the island's airport.

There are so many since wildfires killed 115 people in the historic town of Lahaina that Olsten is worried about a full-blown economic catastrophe. Restaurants and tour companies are laying off workers and unemployment is surging.

State tourism officials, after initially urging travelers to stay away, are now asking them to come back, avoid the burn zone and help Maui recover by spending their money. Airlines have started offering steep discounts, while some resorts have slashed room rates by 20 percent or are offering a fifth night free.

"I know what a terrible disaster that was. But now we're in crisis mode," Olsten said. "If we can't keep the people that have jobs employed, how are they going to help family members and friends that lost everything?"

The number of visitors arriving on Maui sank about 70 percent after the Aug. 8 fire, down to 2,000 a day.

Olsten's Air Maui Helicopters now flies one or two flights a day, compared with 25 to 30 before the fires.

As Air Maui's director of operations, Olsten said his company has laid off seven of its 12 dispatchers. Pilots have been spared because they only get paid when they work. Typically, they fly eight times a day, four to five days a week. That has fallen to one day a week, and only one or two flights.

Many Maui hotels are housing federal aid workers and Lahaina residents who lost their homes. Even so, only half of available hotel rooms are occupied, said Mufi Hannemann, president of the Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association.

Even those in South Maui, 30 miles south of Lahaina, are half empty. Hannemann called the situation "pretty grim."

One of Maui's most venerable restaurants, Hali'imaile General Store, laid off about 30 workers and temporarily closed after business shrank to one-tenth of pre-fire levels.

"It just fell off a cliff," said Graeme Swain, who owns the place with his wife, Mara.

They cut staff to preserve cash and spare Hali'imaile the fate of the San Diego software company Swain was running in 2008. When the housing bubble burst and the U.S. plunged into recession, he kept all employees "to the bitter end," crushing the business.

Swain wants Hali'imaile — which was founded as a general store for pineapple plantation workers a century ago and became a restaurant in 1987 — to last decades more.

"It takes a lot of soul-searching of what's the right thing to do to protect that place," said Swain, who plans to hire everyone back. He aims to reopen next month.

Mass layoffs are showing up in government data. Nearly 8,000 people filed for unemployment on Maui during the last three weeks of August compared with 295 during the same period in 2022.

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Public Sale Calendar

SEPTEMBER 9 - 9 a.m. - Various consignors, sellers. Lehman Feed Mill, 511 S 000 Rd., Berne. Farm machinery consignment auction. Tractors, hay wagons, grain carts, discs, planters, plows, trucks, trailers, semis, livestock trailers, tools, lawn and garden equipment, shop equipment, livestock equipment and more! Consign through Sept. 8 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. *Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.*, 260-724-3499, heartlandauctionrealty.com.

SEPTEMBER 9 - 10 a.m. - Les Conrad, owner. 8383 N 700 W, Decatur. Live onsite Les Conrad woodworking retirement auction! Online bidding available! Nearly 6,000' board foot lumber & timber! Featuring 250+ lots! This impressive assortment includes an abundance of walnut, cedar, cherry, oak, live edge, various other species, custom made wood furniture, Latina band saw, Leneave 8" jointer, Super Max drum sander, Woodmizer LT15 portable sawmill. Preview Sept. 8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

SEPTEMBER 9 - 10 a.m. - Melvin J & Effie Graber, owners. 7820S 850W, South Whitley, 40+/-A offered in 4 tracts, Cleveland Township, Whitley County. Tract 1: 20+/-A farmland, 850W frontage. Tract 2: 4+/-A w/home, outbuildings. Tract 3: 8+/-A, corner lot, 800S and 850W frontage, possible building site. Tract 4: 8+/-A wooded pasture or possible building site, fence w/mature trees. Auction manager Ritter Cox, 260-609-3306, *Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.*, schraderauction.com, 800-451-2709.

BIDDING ENDS SEPTEMBER 10 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Vincent Tippmann, seller. 2300 Meyer Rd., Fort Wayne, Indiana. "An auction of the year." One of the midwest's largest Indian and Native American artifact collections, unique antiques and collectibles, large butcher block on legs, outstanding coin collection, art, bronze sculptures, vintage stoves, much more. Brandon Steffen, sale manager, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

BIDDING STARTS CLOSING SEPTEMBER 12 - 10 a.m. EST - Whites Meat Market, owner. Complete liquidation! Delivery trucks, trailers, Kubota BX2230 tractor w/loader, Cat forklift, walk-in coolers, Southern Pride SC-200SM smoker, meat saws, scales, display coolers, retail shelving, stainless sinks and tables, more! Pick up: Sept. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EST, Second pick up location TBD. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

SEPTEMBER 14 - Online - 2-6 p.m. - Farm: GRS Holdings. Property location: 7370 E US 224, Craigville, IN. Wells Co., Lancaster Twp., 2.243+/- acres include: 1,952 sf 2-story home (4 bedrooms, 2 baths), attached garage, basement, 4,860 sf pole barn (metal roof, half concrete floor), 5,000+ sf historical pin frame barn (metal roof), (3) steel grain bins. *Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management*, 800-424-2324, halderman.com, Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181.

SEPTEMBER 26 - 6 p.m. - Steven H. Arnold, seller. OK Modern Dry Cleaners, 404 S. Main St., Bluffton. Empty building, 1,078 sq. ft., 70'x55' lot, half bath. Open house Sept. 12, 4-6 p.m. *Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.*, heartlandauctionrealty.com, 260-724-3499.

BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING SEPTEMBER 26 - 6 p.m. EST - Leo Thieme, owner. Real estate 6 p.m.: 1,780 sq. feet, full basement, 3 bedroom, 2 full bath home, oversize 2 car attached garage, 3 acres. Personal property 6:30 p.m.: 2007 Dodge Grand Caravan, 131k miles, appliances, antiques, collectibles, furniture, fish and animal mounts, household items, tools, etc. Preview Sept. 12, 5-6, 6850 E 700 N, Decatur. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

SEPTEMBER 28 - 1 p.m. AND SEPTEMBER 29 - 8 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. 815 Adams St., Decatur. Truck & equipment and online only equipment. Day 1: skid loader attachments, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 1 Trip 40' high side shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter containers, truck take off parts, more! Day 2 live and online bidding: 700+ lots! 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, dump, utility, & bucket trucks, day cabs, utility & semi trailers, SUVs, pickups, skid steer attachments. Accepting consignments! *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

OCTOBER 1-8 - (Online Only) - Estate of Robert Isch, seller. 1978 White 2-50 diesel tractor, 2015 Ex-Mark Laser-Z zero turn riding lawn mower, 2002 Simplicity lawn mower, 2006 Simplicity Legacy riding lawn mower, single axle utility trailer, tandem axle trailer, 14' hay wagon, 3 bottom plow, Winco generator, lawn and garden, tools, antique & modern furniture, antiques, primitives, glassware, household. Preview: Sept. 28, Oct. 5, from 3-6 p.m., 601 E St. Rd. 124, Monroe. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING OCTOBER 8 STARTING AT 4 PM EST - Larry Beer, owner. Sports collector's dream! 950+ lots featuring lots of sports memorabilia, signed jerseys, bats & balls, MLB, NFL, MLB cards (some cards Graded), die cast toys, stamp collection, yard & hand tools, Yamaha gas powered golf cart, like new Cub Cadet riding lawn mower, household, furniture, Fenton glass, Roseville & Hull pottery, more! Preview: Oct. 5, 4-6 p.m., 909 Woodridge Ct., Decatur. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.



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Knights earn sweep over Braves, avenges last loss to Barons in NE8 play

By RYAN WALKER

After a tough 3-2 loss to DeKalb Wednesday night, Norwell got back on track with a 5-0 sweep over Belmont in boys' tennis Thursday.

The Knights, now 7-2 on the season and 2-1 in Northeast 8 Conference play, had no issues in a match that went slightly over an hour. The night prior had the group staying up late with two games going to a deep third set on the road at DeKalb.

The win over the Braves was a bit refreshing for the team, especially head coach Noah Tobias.

"It was definitely nice to have a more relaxing night because last night — it was pretty tough," Tobias said.

All five matches went two sets, all with less than four games lost. In fact, most games were 6-0.

Bellmont is still breaking in its young head coach, Kyle Arnold, who Tobias complimented after the game with his ability to add numbers.

Just last year, the Braves were forced to forfeit one of the five matches due to only six players on the roster. A year later, Arnold has a full starting seven, along with two junior varsity players.

Norwell and Belmont have gotten familiar with one another over the years as both are in the same conference and sectional, potentially playing two matches in one year.

"Bellmont has definitely improved since last year," Tobias said. "Huge props to Kyle, their coach. He's trying to build a program there, and he's doing a really good job. They're starting to give our guys some fight, which is great to see, and I'm really happy for them."

With the loss to DeKalb, the Knights are in a tough position to win the NE8 Conference but still stand a chance.

Leo, Huntington North, and now DeKalb are some of the top schools, and Norwell still needs to play two out of the three.

Tobias believes his team has a chance to finish in the top half of the NE8 but can even reach higher based on one factor: which identity of his team will show up on the court.

"It really depends on which team of ours comes out," Tobias said. "If we're the strong, confident team that I know that we can play like or if we're going to come out and be timid and a little bit scared. If we're a strong, confident team, I really do think believe we can beat anybody."

The match against Leo and Huntington North will have to wait, with both matches being in two weeks. In the meantime, the Knights conference games to look for are next week against East Noble and New Haven.

Norwell's next regular season match will be at home against Bluffton at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 11.

sports@news-banner.com

Results

- Grant Mishler defeated Hayden Huss 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 singles.

- Bodie Zimmer defeated Bryson Ball 6-0, 6-0 at No. 2 singles.

- Gavin Reynolds defeated Layne Lemaster 6-3, 6-3 at No. 3 singles.

- Jaden Payne and Jake Hoover defeated James Miller and Kaden Ramsey 6-1, 6-0 at No. 1 doubles.

- Eddie Archbold and Ayden Quintanilla defeated Larry Knous and Ben Mendoza 6-0, 6-2 at No. 2 doubles.

Norwell's junior varsity team won 3-1 over Belmont.

JV Results

- Brayton Trout defeated Braxton Jarvis 8-1

- Landon Diver (N) defeated Raiden Knittle 8-0.

- Christian Werling (N) defeated Raiden Knittle 6-0.

- Braxton Jarvis (B) defeated Alex Baker 6-2.



Norwell's No. 2 singles player Bodie Zimmer goes up for a serve in a match over Belmont Thursday afternoon at home. Zimmer won his match 6-0, 6-0 over Bryson Ball to help the Knights to a 5-0 sweep over the Braves. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

Lions spoil Chiefs' celebration of Super Bowl title by rallying for a one-pt win in the NFL's opener

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Jared Goff threw for 253 yards and a touchdown, new Lions running back David Montgomery ran for the go-ahead score with 5:05 remaining in the game, and Detroit held on for a sloppy 21-20 victory over the Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs in the NFL's season opener Thursday night.

Amon-Ra St. Brown had six catches for 71 yards and a score, and Lions rookie Brian Branch returned Patrick Mahomes' first pick in an opener 50 yards for another touchdown, helping Detroit snap the Chiefs' eight-game Week 1 winning streak.

The Lions were trying to run out the clock when Goff had a fourth-down pass near midfield batted down with 2:30 left, giving the Chiefs a chance. But they made a mess of it: Kadarius Toney dropped a potential 20-yard gain, a deep completion was called back for holding, Skyy Moore dropped a pass and a false start left Mahomes heaving a fourth-and-25 throw downfield.

When it fell incomplete and Detroit took over, Montgomery ran for a first down that allowed the Lions to run out the clock.

Mahomes finished with 226 yards passing and two touchdowns, despite his receivers dropping a slew of passes. He also was the leading rusher for the Chiefs, whose self-inflicted wounds proved too much to overcome.

There had been equal parts anticipation and anxiety leading up to the game in Kansas City, where the Chiefs celebrated their previous Lombardi Trophy in the midst of a pandemic, and only about 18,000 fans were able to join in the revelry.

Hundreds began tailgating outside the Arrowhead Stadium parking lot Thursday, waiting for the gates to open 14 hours prior to kickoff, and NFL commissioner Roger Goodell joined several celebrities to see the Chiefs raise a championship banner.

That was the anticipation. The anxiety came from the absence of Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce and fellow All-Pro Chris Jones, who is in the midst of a contract hold-

out. The defensive tackle was expected to miss the opener, but Kelce had only been questionable since Tuesday, when he hyper-extended his knee in the final full practice before game day.

Detroit scored first in a showdown of two of the league's top offenses a year ago. Goff took advantage of a clean pocket, thanks in part to Jones sitting in a stadium suite, to march down field and find St. Brown with a 9-yard touchdown pass.

The Chiefs answered with Mahomes finding five different wide receivers, the last of them rookie Rashee Rice, who atoned for an earlier drop by snaring a short touchdown pass to knot the game at 7-apiece.

It remained that way until Detroit coach Dan Campbell made a questionable decision late in the half.

The Chiefs were facing fourth-and-2 near midfield but had been called for holding, and rather than decline it, Campbell chose to push them back. Mahomes responded to third-and-17 by hitting Marquez Valdes-Scantling with a 24-yard strike. He added a 26-yard pass to Justin Watson, then hit Blake Bell with a short TD throw to give the Chiefs a 14-7 halftime lead.

With the Lions' offense going nowhere, the defense stepped up. Branch caught a pass that bounced off Toney's hands — he had several drops in the game — and found nothing but 50 yards of grass separating him from the end zone and a 14-all tie.

Up to that point, Mahomes had thrown 20 touchdown passes and no interceptions in five-plus season openers.

The Chiefs tacked on two field goals, but the missed chances to get into the end zone proved costly. The Lions followed up Harrison Butker's second field goal by driving 75 yards, twice converting on third down, with Montgomery capping the march with a 9-yard touchdown run to give Detroit the lead for good.

UP NEXT

Lions: Play their home opener on Sept. 17 against Seattle.

Chiefs: Visit Jacksonville on Sept. 17 for a divisional playoff rematch.

Sports Roundup

Tigers win ACAC opener over Jay County in tennis

The Bluffton boys' tennis team defeated Jay County on the road in its first ACAC Conference match of the year 3-2.

Results

- Abraham Dirksen (JC) defeated Anthony Hartman 6-1, 6-0 at No. 1 singles.

- Nolan Lambert (B) defeated Eli Dirksen 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 at No. 3 singles.

- Jacob Ribich (B) def. Liam Garringer 6-4, 6-2 at No. 3 singles.

- Sam Myers and Gage Sims (JC) defeated Kade Abbott and Ben Maggard 6-2, 6-2 at No. 1 doubles.

- Dane Schlagenhaufl and Coy Lantz (B) def. Luke Muhlenkamp and Isaac Miller 6-4, 6-0 at No. 2 doubles.

Bluffton won the junior varsity match 6-2.

Results for JV

- Jed Logan (B) defeated Gabe Pinkerton 9-7.

- Grant Reifsteck (B) defeated Dylan Chalbert 8-6.

- Braden Lemler (B) defeated Joseph Nichols 8-1.

- Chase Spencer (JC) defeated Chase Houser 8-6.

- Alex Maggard and Lance Moser (B) defeated Jacob Monroe and Blake Kahlig 8-5.

- Evan Klopfenstein and Graham Linderwell (B) defeated Jacob Monroe and Blake Kahlig 9-8 (9-7).

- Lincoln Rodgers (B) defeated Joseph Nichols 8-1.

- Gabe Pinkerton (JC) defeated Jackson Meyer 8-1.

Bluffton will be at the Madison-Grant Invitational at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9.

Knights top Tigers, Patriots in girls' golf match

Norwell's girls' golf team defeated Bluffton and Heritage Thursday afternoon at Timber Ridge Golf Course.

The Knights with a team score of 180, while the Tigers placed second at 215, and the Patriots third with 226.

Leading the way for Norwell was Anna Dodane with a 42 and was the medalist, followed by Ellie Gatton (43), Savanna Simmerman (47), Nevada Lenwell (48), and Emmy Heaston (49).

Emma Schwartz and Piper Morgan were the top golfers for the Tigers, with a score of 47, followed by Eve Corkwell (58), Addison Kauffman (63), and Aleeah Grover (65).

Bluffton will be at the ACAC meet at Celina Lynx Golf Course starting at 8 a.m.

Saturday, Sept. 9.

Norwell will be at the NE8 meet at Cross Creek at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9.

Knights defeat Bruins in volleyball in three sets

The Norwell volleyball team defeated Blackford Thursday night at the Castle.

The Knights won the first set 25-35, the second 25-19, and the third 25-20.

Stat leaders for the night were Vanessa Rosswurm and Kennody Williams with nine kills, Jordyn Xayyachack with 15 digs, Autumn Lee with three aces, Macie Saalfrank and Emma Vachon with 13 assists, and Mekynzi Beck and Mallory Falls with one block.

With the win, the team improves their record to 10-5 on the season.

The junior varsity team won in two sets (25-11, 25-17).

The freshman team lost 2-0 to Belmont (25-13, 25-18).

Norwell will be at Eastbrook at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 11.

Norwell drops boys' soccer match to Bishop Luers

The Norwell boys' soccer team dropped a home game 1-0 to Bishop Luers Thursday night.

Noah Fromm was the Knights goaltender and allowed just the one goal and made nine saves.

Norwell will host NE8 foe Leo at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9.

Tigers lose in volleyball game to Starfires

The Bluffton volleyball team dropped to 0-2 in ACAC Conference play and 3-9 overall with a road loss to South Adams Thursday night.

The Tigers lost the first set 25-18, the second 25-9, and the third 25-23.

Stat leaders for the Tigers were Haley Gibson with 16 assists and one ace, Maryn Schreiber with six kills, one ace and two stuff blocks, Isabella Stout with one ace, Madyson Sonnigen with one ace and Marly Drayer with 19 digs.

The junior varsity team lost in two sets 25-21 and 25-19.

Stat leaders for the junior varsity team were Madelyn Funk six digs, Isla Gibson with two kills, two assists and one stuff block, Sophie Eisenhut with two kills and four aces, Ella Borror with two assists and Rylenn Penick with two kills.

Bluffton will be at Woodlan at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12.

Bengals QB Joe Burrow becomes NFL's highest-paid player with \$275 million deal, AP source says

By ROB MAADDI and MITCH STACY
AP Sports Writers

CINCINNATI (AP) — Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow became the highest-paid player in the NFL on Thursday, agreeing to a five-year, \$275 million contract extension, according to a person familiar with the deal.

The contract includes more than \$219 million guaranteed, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because it hadn't been announced.

The deal, which will pay Burrow an average of \$55 million a year, puts him ahead of other top quarterbacks in the league who signed new deals in the offseason.

Signing the 2022 Pro Bowler and 2021 AP NFL Comeback Player of the Year to an extension was a goal of the team this summer, but the deal wasn't finalized until three days before the Bengals' season opener at Cleveland.

"This is where I want to be my whole career," Burrow told reporters on Wednesday. "You've seen what the front office has done and what (coach) Zac (Taylor) has done in their time here. I'm a small part of that. I'm excited to be a part of that. And we have great people in the locker room that grind every day, that are excited to go and showcase their talents and excited to go and do it in the city of Cincinnati."

High School Calendar

FRIDAY, SEPT 8

FOOTBALL: Belmont at Norwell, 7 p.m.; Bluffton at Woodlan, 7 p.m.; Wes-Del at Southern Wells, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT 9

BOYS SOCCER: Leo at Norwell, 11 a.m.
BOYS TENNIS: Bluffton at Madison-Grant Invitational, 9 a.m.

CROSS COUNTRY (CO-ED): Norwell, Bluffton. Southern Wells at Wildcat Class Invitational at Indiana Wesleyan University, 9 a.m.

GIRLS GOLF: NE8 Meet at Cross Creek CC 10 a.m.; Bluffton, Southern Wells ACAC at Celina Linx, 9 a.m.

GIRLS SOCCER: Norwell at Leo, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, SEPT 11

BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at East Noble, 7 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS: Bluffton at Norwell, 4:30 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at Eastbrook, 7:30 p.m.; Bishop Luers at Bluffton, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT 12

BOYS TENNIS: Norwell at New Haven, 5 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF: Norwell at Canterbury, 4:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Jay County, 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER: Eastbrook at Norwell, 7 p.m.

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL

Detroit 21, Kansas City 20

BASEBALL

American League

East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Baltimore	88	51	.633	
Tampa Bay	85	56	.603	4
Toronto	77	63	.550	11½
Boston	72	68	.514	16½
New York	70	70	.500	18½

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	73	67	.521	
Cleveland	67	73	.479	6
Detroit	64	76	.457	9
Chicago	54	86	.386	19
Kansas City	44	97	.312	29½

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	80	61	.567	
Seattle	79	61	.564	½
Texas	76	63	.547	3
Los Angeles	64	76	.457	15½
Oakland	43	97	.307	36½

Chicago White Sox at Detroit, 6:10 p.m.

Oakland at Texas, 7:05 p.m.
San Diego at Houston, 7:10 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Angels, 9:07 p.m.

St. Louis at Cincinnati, 6:40 p.m.

San Diego at Houston, 7:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
Colorado at San Francisco, 9:05 p.m.

National League

East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	91	48	.655	
Philadelphia	77	62	.554	14
Miami	72	68	.514	19½
New York	64	75	.460	27
Washington	63	77	.450	28½

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	77	62	.554	
Chicago	76	65	.539	2
Cincinnati	73	69	.514	5½
Pittsburgh	65	75	.464	12½
St. Louis	61	79	.436	16½

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	85	54	.612	
Arizona	73	68	.518	13
San Francisco	70	70	.500	15½
San Diego	66	75	.468	20
Colorado	51	88	.367	34

Wednesday's Games
Pittsburgh 5, Milwaukee 4
Chicago Cubs 8, San Francisco 2
Arizona 12, Colorado 5
Philadelphia 5, San Diego 1
Miami 11, L.A. Dodgers 4
Seattle 8, Cincinnati 4
Washington 3, N.Y. Mets 2
St. Louis 11, Atlanta 6

Thursday's Games
Arizona 6, Chicago Cubs 2
L.A. Dodgers 10, Miami 0
Atlanta 8, St. Louis 5

Friday's Games
Arizona (Gallen 14-7) at Chicago Cubs (Taillon 7-9), 2:20 p.m.
St. Louis (Rom 0-2) at Cincinnati (Abbott 8-4), 6:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Sheehan 3-1) at Washington (Gore 7-10), 7:05 p.m.
Miami (Pérez 5-4) at Philadelphia (Sánchez 2-3), 7:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Rea 5-5) at N.Y. Yankees (Severino 4-8), 7:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Keller 11-8) at Atlanta (Elder 11-4), 7:20 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Senga 10-7) at Minnesota (Keuchel 1-1), 8:10 p.m.
San Diego (Snell 12-9) at Houston (Brown 10-10), 8:10 p.m.
Colorado (Blach 2-1) at San Francisco (Harrison 1-1), 10:15 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Milwaukee at N.Y. Yankees, 2:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Minnesota, 2:10 p.m.
Arizona at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at Washington, 4:05 p.m.
Miami at Philadelphia, 6:05 p.m.

Midwest League

Thursday's Games
Dayton 4, Fort Wayne 3
Friday's Games
Fort Wayne at Dayton, 7:05 p.m.

BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
W	L	Pct	GB	
x-New York	32	7	.821	—
x-Connecticut	26	12	.684	5½
x-Atlanta	18	20	.474	13½
x-Washington	18	20	.474	13½
Chicago	16	22	.421	15½
Indiana	12	26	.316	19½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
W	L	Pct	GB	
x-Las Vegas	32	6	.842	—
x-Dallas	20	18	.526	12
x-Minnesota	19	19	.500	13
Los Angeles	16	23	.410	16½
Seattle	11	27	.289	21
Phoenix	9	29	.237	23

Wednesday's Games
Atlanta at Washington, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Seattle at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Las Vegas at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

Saturday's Games
No games scheduled.

Sunday's Games
Chicago at Connecticut, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Indiana, 1 p.m.
Washington at New York, 1 p.m.
Los Angeles at Seattle, 3 p.m.
Phoenix at Las Vegas, 3 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Thursday's Transactions
BASEBALL
Major League Baseball American League

DETROIT TIGERS — Placed RHP Matt Manning on the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP Trey Winger from Toledo (IL). Sent LHP Andrew Vasquez to Toledo (IL) on a rehab assignment.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Optioned 1B Matt Beatty to Omaha (IL).

Colts are looking to end their opening day woes and start a new era against Jaguars

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — New Indianapolis Colts coach Shane Steichen was willing to be patient with Anthony Richardson before naming the rookie quarterback his starter.

The wait is almost over. On Sunday, a little more than four months after Indy selected the former Florida prep star with the draft's fourth overall pick, Richardson will trot onto the field Sunday against Jacksonville as the face of the Colts' future — and present.

"I'm just trying to prepare for the game and make sure I'm on point," he said Wednesday after spending eight hours on an off day preparing. "Running out of the tunnel and all that, that's going to come, but me being on point and being ready — that's all I'm focused on right now."

It's been a crash course for the 21-year-old rookie who will become the youngest opening day starting quarterback in franchise history and the third-youngest in NFL history.

For the Colts, this is more than just a new season. It's a new era.

This marks the seventh straight season Indy will use a new starting quarterback in Week 1, a streak they're hoping Richardson breaks next September. Steichen will be making key decisions for the first time as a head coach. The Colts even added a new, high-priced kicker in Matt Gay.

And it all starts with a home opener against the defending AFC South champion Jaguars, an old nemesis that eliminated Indy from playoff contention in a shocking 2021 season finale.

Even Jags coach Doug Pederson isn't sure what to expect.

"It's interesting, because we know (Colts defensive coordinator) Gus Bradley on defense. Second year in that system with those guys and all of that. The offensive side might be a little different or look a little different. Obviously, a young ascending quarterback, that can look a little different. I think you can prepare just by going back and understanding the history of their coaches and where they've been and who they've coached."

The Jags are a known quantity, though.

Trevor Lawrence, the top overall pick in the 2021 draft, improved dramatically over the second half of last season and may now be the division's top quarterback. His budding supporting cast includes veteran receivers Christian Kirk and Zay Jones, 1,000-yard rusher Travis Etienne Jr. and new addition Calvin Ridley, who is expected to appear in his first game since Oct. 24, 2021.

The bigger unknown, however, is the

6-foot-4, 244-pound Richardson, who went 6-7 as a college starter.

"When push comes to shove and somebody has the ball in their hands, you just try to get them down," Jags linebacker Foye Oluokun said. "I know he's big, I know he's fast and explosive, it's just the mentality. As soon as somebody gets the ball in their hands, you've just got to attack them."

ROOKIE WAVE

This game marks the first of five the Jags are scheduled to play against rookie quarterbacks in 2023 — two against Richardson, two against Houston's C.J. Stroud and one vs. Carolina's Bryce Young in December.

"A lot of times you get a rookie guy, he's (confused by) looks, maybe bringing some pressure from where it looks like it's coming (elsewhere)," said Oluokun, one of 11 returning defensive starters.

Jacksonville also plays three games against second-year QBs — Desmond Ridder of Atlanta, Kenny Pickett of Pittsburgh and Brock Purdy of San Francisco.

THE OTHER STREAK

Indy also enters this weekend with a nine-game winless streak on opening day. They snapped the eight-game losing streak with last year's tie at Houston, but the Colts still haven't won in Week 1 since beating the Oakland Raiders 21-17 in September 2013.

"I think when you win your first home opener or on the road, I think it gives your team confidence," Steichen said. "Even if you lose the game, it doesn't mean you lose confidence. But yeah, obviously you want to win every game and obviously, the first one is a big one."

ROAD WOES

Pederson has made Jacksonville's struggles in Indy one of his weekly talking points. The Jaguars have lost five straight at Lucas Oil Stadium since 2017.

"We didn't handle the road great last year and we didn't handle this opponent great on the road last year," he said. "Quite frankly, they've beaten us nine out of the last 10 (in Indy). We've got our work cut out for us. The unknown is just, 'Hey, how are we going to respond to that?'"

COMMITTEE PLAN

With 2021 NFL rushing champion Jonathan Taylor mired in a contract dispute, still on the physically unable to perform list following offseason ankle surgery, and Taylor's backup, Zack Moss (broken right arm), returning to practice Wednesday, Steichen plans to take a committee approach.

Veteran Deon Jackson and rookie Evan Hull would be the featured running backs if Moss doesn't play. Jake Funk and Jason Huntley are the only other backs on the roster. They're on the practice squad.

Pham homers twice, D-backs top the Cubs to move in NL WC spot

CHICAGO (AP) — Tommy Pham hit two first-pitch home runs, Ryne Nelson was efficient on the mound in his return from the minors and the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Chicago Cubs 6-2 on Thursday night.

Ketel Marte added his 22nd homer to help the Diamondbacks win their second straight and move a half-game ahead of Miami for the last of the three NL wild-card spots. Chicago holds the No. 2 wild card, three games ahead of Arizona.

Nelson (7-7), recalled from Triple-A Reno a night earlier, gave up two hits while striking out three and walking two in the first 5 2/3 innings. Paul Sewald,

the last of five Arizona relievers, finished for his 31st save.

Seiya Suzuki tripled and scored the first run for Chicago, which saw a four-game streak end and missed a chance to trim idle Milwaukee's NL Central lead to one game. Dansby Swanson added a ninth-inning RBI single off reliever Joe Mantiply.

Pham had a solo shot off Javier Assad (3-3) in the first and Marte added a two-run homer in the fourth to give Arizona all the offense it needed. Pham drove in two more with his 15th homer in the eighth inning off reliever Keegan Thompson and Marte added an RBI single in the ninth.

Assad pitched the first 5 1/3 innings, giving up seven hits while walking one with no strikeouts.

Nelson was optioned to Reno on Aug. 12, a day after giving up six earned runs in a 10-5 loss to San Diego.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Diamondbacks: OF Corbin Carroll led off a night after leaving Wednesday after being hit on the wrist by a pitch. ... C Seby Zavala, claimed off waivers a day earlier from the White Sox, was available to play Thursday night.

UP NEXT

Arizona's Zac Gallen (14-7, 3.48 ERA) faces fellow right-hander Jameson Taillon (7-9, 5.73) on Friday.

Online Directory

Check out these websites of local & area companies and businesses.

Genesis Pest Services genesispestservices.com	DAZEYS SUPPLY dazeys.com/bluffton-in	ABOVE BEYOND Vehicle Reconditioning abovebeyondrecon.com
The McM Family thegmcfamily.com	JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE jcsgaragedoor.com	Daniel's JEWELERS daniels-jewelers.net
FISHER'S GARAGE DOORS fishersgaragedoors.com	3 RIVERS 3riversfcu.org	Myers FUNERAL HOMES myersfuneralhomes.com
STEFFEN Financial Group steffinancial.com	RiverStone DENTAL riverstonedental.net	Bluffton Tire bluffontire.com
INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS icav.us	HIDAY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP hidaymotors.com	MOSER & SON Heating & Air Conditioning 219 E. Perry St., Bluffton Find Us On Facebook
Lengerich MEATS lengerichmeats.com	Jerry Flack & Associates jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com	State Farm Erin Daugherty 260.827.0527 www.hidaymotors.com
Still Waters FAMILY DENTISTRY stillwatersfamilydentistry.com	Bi-County Services of Adams & Wells County bi-countyservices.com	La Fontaine Center A RHF Community lafontainecenter.org
Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home thomarich.com	NBC Digital nb-digital.com	HOME COURT HOME CARE

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<h3>NASCAR CUP SERIES</h3> <p>Hollywood Casino 400 Site: Kansas City, Kansas. Schedule: Saturday, practice, noon, and qualifying, 12:45 p.m.; Sunday, race, 3 p.m. (USA). Track: Kansas Speedway. Last race: 2021 series champion Kyle Larson passed Tyler Reddick coming off pit road and led the final 55 laps at Darlington to win the opening race of the playoffs. Next race: Sept. 16, Bristol, Tennessee.</p>	<h3>INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS</h3> <p>AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING</p> <p>UTV</p> <p>Marine</p> <p>Motorcycle Sound Systems</p> <p>Rockford Fosgate</p> <p>(260) 724-2276 1421 Manchester St., Decatur ½ block west of U.S. 27 North www.icav.us</p>
<h3>NASCAR XFINITY SERIES</h3> <p>Kansas Lottery 300 Site: Kansas City, Kansas. Last race: Denny Hamlin, one of several Cup Series regulars in the field, passed Austin Hill on the final restart to win in overtime for his sixth Xfinity Series victory at Darlington.</p>	<h3>PRECISION SERVICE</h3> <p>Family, Farm and Fleet Vehicle Repair FLEET ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE 0520 S. Decker Dr. Bluffton "The Quality Service You Deserve!" 260-824-9149 Estimates</p>
<h3>NASCAR TRUCK SERIES</h3> <p>Kansas Lottery 200 Site: Kansas City, Kansas. Schedule: Friday, practice, 3:35 p.m., qualifying, 4:05 p.m., and race, 9 p.m. (FS1). Last race: Grant Engfer led 95 of 175 laps and passed Carson Hocevar on the 159th lap to win in Milwaukee. His third victory of the season advanced him into the next round of the playoffs. Next race: Sept. 14, Bristol, Tennessee.</p>	<h3>FORMULA ONE</h3> <p>Last race: Two-time defending series champion Max Verstappen won his record-breaking 10th consecutive Formula One race, leading a 1-2 finish for Red Bull at Monza. Verstappen (12) and teammate Sergio Perez have won all 14 races this season and 24 of the last 25. Next race: Sept. 17, Marina Bay, Singapore.</p>
<h3>INDYCAR</h3> <p>Firestone Grand Prix of Monterey Site: Monterey, California.</p>	<h3>NHRA DRAG RACING</h3> <p>Last event: Antron Brown won in Top Fuel and Ron Capps won in Funny car in Indianapolis. Next event: Sept. 14-17, Mohnton, Pennsylvania.</p>
<h3>WORLD OF OUTLAWS</h3> <p>Next events: Sept. 7, 8 and 9, Chico, California.</p>	<h3>Service with a Smile!</h3> <p>Barry Scott Service Manager Mark Foreman Service Consultant Marion Wells Service Consultant</p> <h2>Hiday Motors</h2> <p>1743 N. Main St., Bluffton • 824-0900</p>

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Longing for more family time

Dear Annie: We have elderly neighbors who have allowed their 62-year-old son and his wife of five years to move in with them while they look for a house.

The son lost his job in California, which he used as an excuse to move here to Washington. That was three months ago. They don't seem to be looking for a house. When the elderly homeowners asked why they were not looking, the reply was that they can't afford it.

We have been helping the elderly neighbors for years — mowing their lawn and keeping up their yard. Since the son moved in, he has not done a thing to help around the place.

Our feeling is they are just waiting for the elderly couple to pass away and they will take over the house, which is paid for. How can we help the elderly couple? — Concerned Neighbors

Dear Concerned Neighbors: My first question is: Did your elderly neighbors ask for your help in confronting their adult son? It's not clear from your letter, but there is a distinct possibility that they are fine with the arrangement and grateful to have their son close by.

If they did ask for your help, the best you can do is to advise them to communicate their needs. It is admirable that you want to help, but this is a conversation that is best had between your neighbors and their son.

Dear Annie: My nephew, by marriage, has a large family. I deeply love each one of their children. We live in the same state but a couple hours away (you would think it was a couple of states away). I try to create events for us to see each other — meet here, we can do this or that, attend special shows together.

The problem is I may invite them

and the other relatives on that side to 10-15 things throughout the year. They may accept two. They complain that I invite too much. I'm trying to find things they would like. My desire is to build a strong relationship with their children. I'm at a TOTAL loss!! — Discouraged Great Aunt

Dear Discouraged: You sound very caring and thoughtful with nothing but good intentions. That said, your family members have expressed feeling overwhelmed by your invitations. That doesn't mean you should stop pursuing a relationship with them, but instead meet them where they are. Listen and respect their boundaries.

Relationships are two-way streets, and the only thing we can control is how we show up for the people we love. Hopefully, as these relationships gradually grow, your family will be more receptive to your invitations and put more effort into building bonds with you.

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

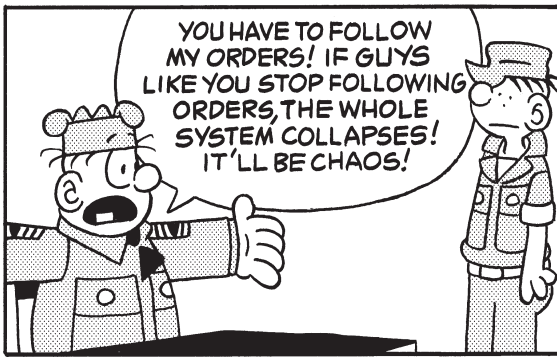
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Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



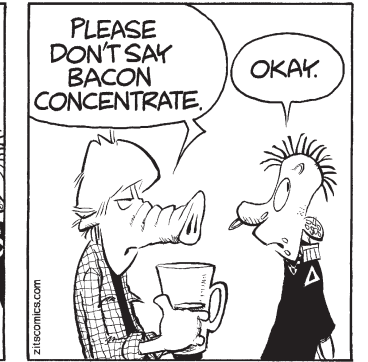
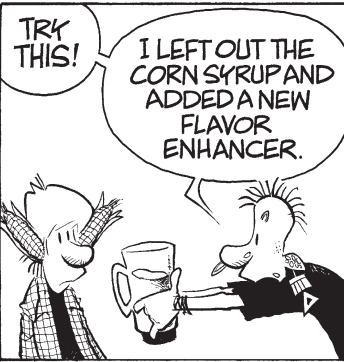
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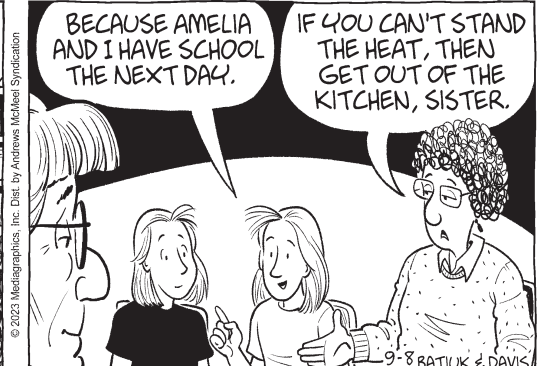
BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



In God's sight we are without guilt, clothed forever with Christ's righteousness

Q: I've done some very bad things in my life that brought me to the point of not wanting to live anymore, and then a friend told me about God's forgiveness. It was hard at first for me to accept this truth because I, myself, have told others I would forgive them, but I still harbored bad feelings toward those who have hurt me. While it is hard to understand, I've experienced this wonderful freedom. How does one explain this life-changing miracle? — G.F.

A: There is nothing more exciting than a personal testimony from a person who has experienced a spiritual rebirth. This is more than an interesting story or fas-

radation of our past, present, and future. The only reason our sins can be forgiven is because Jesus Christ paid their full penalty on the cross.

Guilt feelings provide the basis for many dramatic plots. Guilt feelings are the focal point of much psychiatric counseling. God's goodness in forgiving us goes even farther when we realize that when we are converted we are also declared just — which means that in God's sight we are without guilt, clothed forever with Christ's righteousness.

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.) ©2023 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

radation of our past, present, and future. The only reason our sins can be forgiven is because Jesus Christ paid their full penalty on the cross.

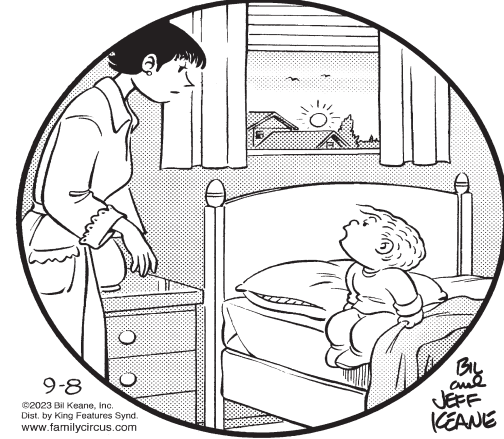
Guilt feelings provide the basis for many dramatic plots. Guilt feelings are the focal point of much psychiatric counseling. God's goodness in forgiving us goes even farther when we realize that when we are converted we are also declared just — which means that in God's sight we are without guilt, clothed forever with Christ's righteousness.

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By Bil Keane



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8							9	
		7	8	4		2		
2								
	8	1			9	4	6	
6		3		2	4			
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September GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY

This Week's Garage Sales
Clip & Save

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY
9-5, Quonset Hut at 4-H Park. Women's clothes L-4XL, men's clothes L-3X, knick knacks, Halloween decor, Magic The Gathering Cards, movies, books, misc.

SEPTEMBER 8 & 9, 122 E. Ohio St., Bluffton, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Matchbox cars (regular & mini), small appliances (toaster oven, bread maker, microwave, etc.), household items, & much more.

GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE, Forgotten Children Worldwide, 650 N. Main St., Bluffton, Sept. 7 & 8, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., sack sale Sept. 9, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tools of collectibles, retro & classic video games, books, jewelry, Halloween & fall decor, Halloween costumes, new & gently used clothes, purses, home decor, toys, housewares, bedding & linens, games & puzzles, luggage, much more.

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922 S. Main St., Bluffton, Fri., Sept. 8, Sat., Sept. 9, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hunting & fishing items, knives, tools, antiques, toys, jewelry, household items, U.S. & Foreign coins & currency, old postcards, pictures & documents plus much, much more.

HELOISE HINT: When organizing your garage sale. Look through boxes that you may have stored in the basement or attic. If you find all kinds of stuff that has been left over from hobbies you are no longer interested in, like scrap booking material or sewing projects, include them all in the sale. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

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Public Notices

90C01-2308-EU-000037 NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
In the Circuit Court of Wells County, Indiana
In the Matter of the Unsupervised Estate of Robert S. Smith, deceased.
Notice is hereby given that Robert Smith was on the 29th day of August, 2023 appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Robert S. Smith, deceased, who died on the 13th day of August, 2023.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the Decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 29th day of August, 2023.
Beth Davis
Clerk of the Wells Circuit Court
HARTBURG ROTH GARROTT HALVERSTADT GARRETT LLP
(Lisa M. Garrott) #24624-64
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Date & Time of Sale: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 1:00 pm
Sale Location: Wells County Courthouse First Floor, 102 W Market St, Bluffton, IN
Judgment to be Satisfied: \$126,459.43
Cause Number: 90C01-2212-MF-000042
Plaintiff: ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC.

Defendant: TODD J. GAWRONSKI AND MARSHA E. GAWRONSKI

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Superior/Circuit Court of Wells County Indiana, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said DECREE, with interest and cost, I will expose to public sale to the highest bidder at the date, time and location listed above, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate, a certain tract or parcel of land described as follows:

Lot Numbered R-58 as known and designated on the recorded plat of Rose Ann Heights, fourth Addition to the town of Ossian, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 4, page 9, in the office of the Recorder of Wells County, Indiana.

Commonly Known as: 515 INGLE DR., OSSIAN, IN 46777
Parcel No. 90-02-16-512-058,000-009

Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, this sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. In accordance to the requirements of IC 32-29-7-3, this Notice shall also represent service of Notice of Sale of this real estate upon the owners.

* An entire Sheriff's Sale may be cancelled due to inclement weather or other county emergencies. If the entire Sheriff's Sale is cancelled, each parcel will be assigned to the next available sale (normally 2 months from original sale). This will allow compliance with Indiana Code concerning posting, publication, and serving time frames. Also, new Sheriff's Sale fees will be assessed and the parcels will be automatically re-advertised. The plaintiff will be responsible for the new fees and advertising costs.

Scott A. Hale,
Plaintiff's Attorney
Attorney No. 35534-64
Doyle & Foutty, P.C.
41 E Washington St., Suite 400
Indianapolis, in 46204
(317) 264-5000
Atty File#: 35534-64

Scott Holliday, Sheriff
By: Krista Markley,
Phone: 260/824-3426
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The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the commonly known address published herein.

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Trump White House official Navarro convicted of contempt

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Trump White House official Peter Navarro was found guilty Thursday of contempt of Congress charges for refusing to cooperate with a congressional investigation into the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

The verdict came after a short trial for Navarro, who served as a White House trade adviser under President Donald Trump and later promoted the Republican's baseless claims of mass voter fraud in the 2020 election he lost.

Navarro was the second Trump aide to face contempt of Congress charges after former White House adviser Steve Bannon. Bannon was convicted of two

counts and was sentenced to four months behind bars, though he has been free pending appeal.

Navarro vowed to appeal the verdict, saying the "die was cast" after a judge ruled that he couldn't fight the charges by arguing he couldn't cooperate with the committee because Trump had invoked executive privilege.

U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta found that Navarro didn't have enough evidence to show Trump had invoked it.

"This is a landmark case that's bound for the Supreme Court," Navarro said. Defense attorney John Rowley echoed that, saying "this case is not over by a long shot."

Mehta scheduled Navarro's sentencing for Jan. 12.

Navarro was convicted in Washington's federal court-house of two misdemeanor counts of contempt of Congress, both punishable by up to a year behind bars.

The verdict came after a four-hour jury deliberation. After it was read, defense attorney Stanley Woodward moved for a mistrial, saying that the jurors had taken an outdoor break near where protesters and media regularly gather outside the court-house and came back with a verdict shortly after. Mehta did not immediately rule, but said he would consider written arguments on the issue.

Prosecutors argued at trial that Navarro acted as if he were "above the law" when he defied a subpoena for documents and a deposition from the House Jan. 6 committee.

A defense attorney countered that Navarro didn't purposely ignore the House Jan. 6 Committee. Navarro instead told staffers to contact Trump about what might be protected by executive privilege, something that didn't happen, Woodward said.

Prosecutors, though, argued that even if Trump had invoked executive privilege, Navarro should have handed over what material he could and flagged any questions or documents believed to be protected. They said much of the material the committee sought was already publicly available.

"Peter Navarro made a choice. He chose not abide by the congressional subpoena," prosecutor Elizabeth Alois said. "The defen-

dant chose allegiance to former President Donald Trump over compliance to the subpoena."

Barred from relying on the executive privilege argument at trial, the defense argued that Navarro had not acted "willfully" or only out of loyalty to Trump.

"Do we know that his failure to comply beyond reasonable doubt wasn't the result of accident, inadvertence or mistake?" Woodward said.

The House Jan. 6 committee finished its work in

January, after a final report that said Trump criminally engaged in a "multi-part conspiracy" to overturn the lawful results of the 2020 election and failed to act to stop a mob of his supporters from attacking the Capitol.

Trump, meanwhile, faces a federal indictment in Washington, D.C., and a state indictment in Georgia over his efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Joe Biden, a Democrat. He has denied wrongdoing and has said he was acting within the law.

Hundreds of military promotions on hold

Republican Senator Tuberville leads blockade in demand to end abortion policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top defense officials are accusing Republican Alabama Sen. Tommy Tuberville of jeopardizing America's national security with his hold on roughly 300 military promotions, raising the stakes in a clash over abortion policy that shows no signs of easing.

Tuberville brushed off the criticism, vowing he will not give in. "We're going to be in a holding pattern for a long time," he said, if the Pentagon refuses to end its policy of paying for travel when a servicemember goes out of state to get an abortion or other reproductive care.

It's a classic Washington standoff with rippling effects across the country, placing the lives of servicemembers effectively on hold as they await what has traditionally been routine Senate approval for their promotions.

Frustration mounting, the secretaries of the Navy, Air Force and Army wrote an op-ed in the Washing-

ton Post this week saying Tuberville's efforts were not only unfair to the military leaders and their families but also "putting our national security at risk."

They noted that three military branches — the Army, Navy and Marine Corps — have no Senate-confirmed chiefs in place. Those jobs are being performed without the full range of legal authorities necessary to make decisions that will sustain the United States' military edge, they wrote.

In a CNN interview, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro accused Tuberville of "playing Russian roulette with the very lives of our servicemembers by denying them the opportunity to actually have the most experienced combat leaders in those positions to lead them in times of peace and in times of combat."

Looking ahead, the secretaries said in their op-ed that prolonged uncertainty and political battles over military nominations "will

have a corrosive effect on the force."

"The generals and admirals who will be leading our forces a decade from now are colonels and captains today," they wrote. "They are watching this spectacle and might conclude that their service at the highest ranks of our military is no longer valued by members of Congress or, by extension, the American public."

Tuberville took umbrage with the three defense secretaries. He said they should have spoken with him first "if you're gonna run your mouth in the paper."

"I have not heard from any of them," he said.

If they were truly worried about readiness at such a dangerous time for the world "you would think they would be calling, 'Coach, let's work this out.' Zero," said Tuberville, a former college football coach.

However, there have been multiple attempts by both the department's top civilian leaders and its top uniformed personnel to try and show Tuberville how the holds are doing harm, a

senior military official and defense official said.

A senior military official familiar with previous meetings with Tuberville said that despite telling the senator about the real-world and personal challenges that his hold has created on servicemembers, Tuberville has not seemed willing to change his position.

Tuberville said that during the August break, he visited six states, and "I didn't have one negative comment from anybody. I had questions, but I didn't have any negative comments."

He insisted that he would lift his hold on the military nominations only after the Pentagon rescinds the policy that Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin put into place in October, after the Supreme Court ended the constitutional protections for abortion that had been in place nearly 50 years.

Once the Pentagon returns to pre-memo policies on travel reimbursement, Democratic leaders could bring up for a Senate vote whatever replacement policy they want to enact, he said.

Kavanaugh predicts 'concrete steps soon' to address ethics concerns

CLEVELAND (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh told a judicial conference on Thursday he hopes there will be "concrete steps soon" to address recent ethics concerns surrounding the court, but he stopped short of addressing calls for justices to institute an official code of conduct.

"We can increase confidence. We're working on that," Kavanaugh told the conference attended by judges, attorneys and other court personnel in Ohio. He said all nine justices recognize that public confidence in the court is important, particularly now.

Public trust in the court is at a 50-year low following a series of divisive rulings, including the overturning of Roe v. Wade federal abortion protections last year, and published reports about the justices' undisclosed paid trips and other ethical concerns.

"There's a storm around us in the political world and the world at large in America," Kavanaugh said. "We, as judges and the legal system, need to try to be a little more, I think, of the calm in the storm."

Justice Clarence Thomas acknowledged recently that he took three trips last year aboard a private plane owned by Republican megadonor Harlan Crow even as he rejected

criticism over his failure to report trips in previous years.

Reporting by the investigative news site ProPublica also revealed that Justice Samuel Alito failed to disclose a private trip to Alaska he took in 2008 that was paid for by two wealthy Republican donors, one of whom repeatedly had interests before the court.

The Associated Press also reported in July that Justice Sonia Sotomayor, aided by her staff, has advanced sales of her books through college visits over the past decade. The AP obtained thousands of pages of documents that showed how justices spanning the court's ideological divide lent the prestige of their positions to partisan activity — by headlining speaking events with prominent politicians — or to advance their own personal interests.

"My perspective is we're nine public servants who are hard-working and care a lot about the court and care a lot about the judiciary as a whole," Kavanaugh said. He added that he believes justices "respect the institution and want that respect for the institution to be shared by the American people, recognizing that people are going to disagree with our decisions."

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