

The News - Banner

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

Wells library votes to drop ALA membership

By HOLLY GASKILL
A small crowd was yet again in attendance for the meeting of the Wells County Public Library board Tuesday night. This time around, the discussion followed the library's membership in the American Library Association. Ultimately, the board voted 6-1 to lapse their membership to the ALA, which was up for renewal this month. Board members John Stauffer, Deb Johnson, Dawn

Ulfig, Dustin Brown, Matt Yergler, and Kim Gentis voted in favor of the motion; Steve Tabor opposed. The ALA is a nonprofit organization that lobbies with the federal government on behalf of library funding, promotes libraries and library development, and offers resources to libraries. However, the ALA has recently been criticized for its appointment of Emily Drabinski as president and its defense of books challenged

by bans. In deciding to leave the ALA, both Montana and Texas state libraries cited a tweet from Drabinski last year where she self-identified as a "Marxist lesbian." Library Director Sarah MacNeill told the Wells County Council on Sept. 5 that she had pulled the \$600 membership fee from the library's claims to a discussion item following recent actions by the ALA. At the time, MacNeill dis-

cussed the matter as the organization violating First Amendment neutrality. She elaborated on this point Tuesday by referencing a recent webinar where the speaker, a committee chair of the intellectual freedom committee, allegedly advised librarians how to circumvent allowing certain groups' use of library meeting rooms. This, MacNeill emphasized, was what she took main issue with. "Anyone is allowed to use the

library, anyone is allowed to use their rooms, and we shouldn't try to find loopholes to block," she said. "More than 'are they pushing diversity and inclusion?' is the fact that they're violating their mission." MacNeill then referenced the board's discussion before this, considering the removal of "Blazing Saddles" from the collection. The 1974 movie is a satire starring Gene Wilder and Cleaven Little (Continued on Page 2)

A piece of the pie

For nearly 40 years, Helen Witte's pies have brought Wells County together

By SYDNEY KENT
Almost 40 years ago, some animals were late to a livestock auction. This may not seem like a moment worth mentioning, however, it was a pivotal point for Helen Witte and the Wells County Community. She offered up a pie to sell instead. Ray Shaw, the auctioneer at the 4-H fair in 1985, auctioned Witte's cherry pie for \$27.50. Witte has auctioned her pie's and donated the proceeds ever since. The next annual Helen Witte Pie Auction will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, the opening night of Ossian Days, in the event tent. While nearly \$30 for one pie is nothing to balk at, it pales in comparison to the prices paid as years passed. Witte recalled the first time she broke her personal record when one of her pies sold for \$800. "I thought, '\$800? There isn't even 800 cherries in it!'" Witte exclaimed. "It was so humbling, I couldn't help it — I cried." Witte beat her personal record again last year when two French apple cream pies sold for a combined \$8,400. Witte said she has put some miles behind her pies for this years auction in attempt to find a specific brand of apples. Multiple stores were out of the brand she needed. "I'm using four different types this year," Witte grinned. "You can't use just one, it will all fall apart." (Continued on Page 2)



Helen Witte (left) and Larry Heckber hold two pie plates, made by local potters, from former years' auctions. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

Norwell school board discusses athletics construction projects

By CHET BAUMGARTNER
After sharing some "good numbers," Tuesday, Superintendent Mike Springer and members of the Norwell Community School Board further discussed the proposed athletics-related construction projects. Springer said companies have submitted 28 bids to build baseball and football buildings, and none of them exceeded the estimated costs district officials calculated when they approved a \$6.105 million construction and renovation package. Because of this, Springer said, this first phase of construction work won't disrupt any other potential construction projects under the bond. The board did not take any action during their

discussion. Instead, Springer said, Wiegand Construction of Fort Wayne will "scope scrub" the lowest bids, or vet them to assure they meet all the project requirements and to look for any cost savings. Based off this review, Springer will then ask board members to approve a "Guaranteed Maximum Price" to contract with Wiegand to coordinate the construction. That price, he said, will cover the entire project, and Wiegand will cover any extra costs. Furthermore, the district will not increase the tax rate to fund these projects, Springer said, as the district is set to pay off other debts. (Continued on Page 2)

Community event will address addiction and ongoing opioid crisis

By HOLLY GASKILL
A free community event will be offered Thursday night at the 4-H Community Building to address issues of the opioid crisis. The main event will include a presentation from speakers Cody Knuckles and John Humphries, also known as Cody and John Speak, who address mental health, drug abuse, and their journeys with the two. The duo is also slated to speak at the local high schools this week, as both of their struggles with addiction began in their teens. Local organizations will open the building at 6 p.m., including 16 different opportunities to learn about various recovery, housing, and mental health resources. During this time, Citizens Advocating for Drug Awareness and Wells County EMS will provide demonstrations on administering Naloxone, an opioid overdose treatment. The groups will also have Naxolone available for those wanting to carry their own. Knuckles and Humphries will follow with their presentation at 7 p.m., and a time for questions will be available afterward. The speaker series is a product of a recently formed group drug task force. Erin Prible, executive director of the Wells County Chamber of Commerce, said the group's impetus followed a meeting with U.S. Rep. Jim Banks, who asked to bring local community members together to (Continued on Page 10)

McCarthy directs House to open impeachment inquiry into Biden

WASHINGTON (AP) — Speaker Kevin McCarthy announced Tuesday he is directing the U.S. House to open an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden over his family's business dealings, launching historic proceedings ahead of the 2024 election. McCarthy said that House investigations so far "paint a picture of a culture of corruption" around the Biden family as Republicans probe the business dealings of the president's son, Hunter Biden, from before the Democratic president took office. "These are allegations of abuse of power, obstruction and corruption, and they warrant further

investigation by the House of Representatives," McCarthy, R-Calif., said at the Capitol, announcing he was directing the House led by the Oversight Committee "to open a formal impeachment inquiry." The White House shot back, calling the action in the midst of the presidential campaign "extreme politics at its worst." "House Republicans have been investigating the president for nine months, and they've turned up no evidence of wrongdoing," said spokesman Ian Sams. Acting on his own, the Republican speaker McCarthy faces mounting pressure from his right flank to take action against Biden or risk being ousted from his

leadership job — while he also is struggling to pass legislation needed to avoid a federal government shutdown at the end of the month. McCarthy is launching the inquiry without a House vote, and it's unclear if he would even have enough support from his slim GOP majority. Some lawmakers have panned the evidence so far as not reaching the Constitution's bar of "high crimes and misdemeanors." The White House and others pointed to McCarthy's past statements when he insisted a speaker acting unilaterally to launch an impeachment inquiry would have no legitimacy. McCarthy "flip-flopped because he doesn't have (Continued on Page 10)

U.S. 224 in Kingsland to close on Sept. 18

The Indiana Department of Transportation has announced the closure of U.S. 224 in Kingsland for a railroad crossing to be rebuilt. Starting on or after Sept. 18, crews will be working between Market Avenue and N 250 E. Work on the railroad crossing is expected to last for approximately one week. All work is weather-dependent and schedules are subject to change. During construction, drivers should use the posted detour of State Road 116 and State Road 1, or seek an alternate route. INDOT encourages drivers to slow down, use extra caution, and drive distraction-free when traveling in and around all work zones. Motorists in Northeast Indiana can monitor road closures, road conditions, and traffic alerts any time via Facebook and Twitter at @INDOTnortheast and 51.lin.org

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Today	Thursday	Friday											
High 69	High 71	High 74											
Low 45	Low 45	Low 48											

Wells County library

(Continued from Page 1)

and was nominated for three Academy Awards and two British Academy Film Awards. The film also includes multiple racial slurs and racist themes.

The library board did not vote to withdraw the content, citing that the movie was satire and was not available for minors to check out. Johnson connected the film to similar arguments of "To Kill a Mockingbird" — that the book is a "product of its time, but holds value in its message."

MacNeill said she sees a similar argument in defense of many disputed books and thinks that advocacy should be a function of the ALA. It was the allusion to restricting some group's use of the library — and a corresponding lack of response from the ALA — that has bothered her.

However, a conversation regarding book bans is inevitably intertwined with a conversation about LGBTQ materials. The ALA's defense and promotion of these materials, Yergler said, represents a political agenda.

"We have a lot of children that come off the street into our library, and parents are trusting this institution to let their children come here and not be disciplined or indoctrinated," Yergler said.

County Council member Brandon Harnish opened public comment by claiming a "supermajority" of council members favored leaving the ALA.

"It is not appropriate for Wells County government institutions to maintain memberships, ecological organizations that push divisive political causes," Harnish continued. "In my view, the only way for our library to maintain community trust is to pursue a general policy of value neutrality."

Harnish also stood firmly against the ideologies associated with Drabinski and her leadership.

Community members John Senac, Ted Claghorn, and Bob Johnson echoed these sentiments. Regarding book bans, Claghorn referenced a situation in which the South Bend Tribune did not allow an opinion column to include a quote from a disputed book in the content.

"I think it's time people started thinking about — do you want to save this nation as a free nation and a Christian nation, or do you want to tear it apart by trying to give everybody what they want?" Johnson said.

Jason Habegger, manager of Adult Services, later chimed in that there is likely content in thousands of books that wouldn't be considered appropriate for a newspaper audience.

John Huseman, however, disagreed with the arguments at hand. Huseman called the prevalent controversy about Drabinski's "Marxist lesbian" comment a dog whistle for the political right. He cautioned that the county not be so quick to fall in the same line as the Montanan and Texan libraries, who he said have not set good models in other regards. "If this is where you're growing your information from and looking for guidance, I think you ought to broaden your view just a bit," Huseman said.

Huseman continued to reference attempted bans that have targeted books like "Charlotte's Web" or "Where's Waldo" as examples of where these attempts to regulate libraries have gone too far. Referencing his personal experience with an LGBTQ family member, Huseman shared how having diverse resources available to a diverse public is valuable.

"Parents should have a right to control what their children read, but don't think they have the right to control what everybody else's children read," Huseman said. "It implies that, as citizens, we're not capable of how best to govern ourselves and determine what's appropriate for our children ... Brandon Harnish says he's frustrated with their political agenda, but withdrawing our support from the ALA, which one of their functions is to fight these book bans — that's a political statement in itself."

Carla Castro and Jessica Brown similarly noted the importance of allowing diverse viewpoints. They also, however, noted that should the association not serve the library financially, they would understand the board's decision.

This is subsequently what the decision narrowed down to — does ALA membership bring value to the WCPL?

MacNeill advised that although the membership supports lobbying for funding, the library would not be prohibited from receiving funding if they were not members. As members, the library receives discounts for some materials and access to training and conferences. The library is also still a member of the Indiana Library Federation.

Community Relations Manager Emily Marshall added that the ALA coordinates a variety of community awareness campaigns, like September as Library Card Sign-Up Month. Should WCPL sever ties completely, Marshall noted, they would have to be careful of their endorsement of these ALA programs and materials.

Stauffer said that, like the summer reading program, the WCPL could continue to drive programs locally.

"I'm very encouraged by the fact that this whole discussion has moved away from Drabinski and her identity and has become more about what are the benefits, or lack of benefits, to the Wells County Public Library," Brown said. "And I think that's the right discussion to be having tonight."

The board also approved amending employee policies mentioning ALA membership.

Other library updates were:
 • The summer reading program for adults jumped in participation — 1.5 million pages were logged this summer, compared to just over 1 million last summer.

• Digital reminders for check-out receipts, hold updates, and due dates have been updated to be more engaging and clear. The library also hopes to coordinate these with lock pick-ups, which allow individuals to get books outside of library hours.

• The children's book festival is on Oct. 7. The festival's featured author is Shannon Anderson, an award-winning children's book author, and Jill Gill as musical entertainment.

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Weather

Wednesday, September 13, 2023
 (24-hour observations at 8:09 p.m. Tuesday)
High: 72; Low: 62; Precipitation: 0.10 inches of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.21 feet at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Patchy fog before 9 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 69. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Patchy fog after midnight. Otherwise, mostly clear, with a low around 45. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

Thursday: Patchy fog before 9 a.m. Otherwise, sunny, with a high near 71. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 45. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 74.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

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

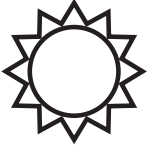
Sunday: A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 72. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Sunday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 50.

Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 72.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 50.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77.



Priceless pies

(Continued from Page 1)

Larry Heckber, the President of the Ossian Revitalization Committee, said Witte has raised \$49,825 for the town since her auction at the 2009 Ossian Days Festival. Heckber also said her pies have raised around \$50,000 for the Wells County 4-H organization.

Witte explained that some of the funds have been

used to provide scholarships to students in 4-H, and that as a 10-year member herself, the cause is close to her heart. Heckber added that a portion of the funds for revitalization were used to develop the Archbold-Wilson Park in Ossian.

The two laughed as Witte recalled a recent surprise birthday celebration held in her honor. Her

daughter planned the event. She detailed the beautiful decorations, her favorite foods from a myriad of restaurants, and the large number of friends and family that showered her with love.

"You've made a lot of friends and touched a lot of people," Heckber said.

"That's what this life is all about," Witte replied

with a smile.

Witte said that when she can no longer make the pies, she will pass the torch to her daughter.

"My daughter told me, 'Mom, when it gets to the point that you can no longer do this, I want to step up,'" Witte said proudly. "This is a family tradition now."

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Norwell construction projects

(Continued from Page 1)

After Springer updated the board about the bids, he again reiterated the need for these buildings, specifically citing the limited amount of restrooms and handicap accessibility.

"Something needs to be done," he said. "This isn't a frivolous thing."

During Tuesday's discussion, board member Corey Krug asked if the district could use its construction trade students to work on some less-complicated aspects of the baseball and football buildings and save the district money. In response, Director of Maintenance Adam Heckber said he would review the projects, but he didn't necessarily think the district would save a significant amount.

None of the eight members of the public who attended Tuesday's meeting vocally opposed the project after President Angie Topp asked for comments.

After the meeting, Steve Garza wrote on the district's Facebook Video page that "the Ossian (renovations) should be above the sports issue."

In other business, board members Topp, Chad Kline, Gene Donaghy, Krug and Traci Neuschwander:

• Discussed the proposed 2024 fiscal year budget.

• Approved two procedural resolutions that will enable district officials to purchase the bonds to fund the construction projects.

• Accepted the retirement of Cindy Schlichter, a Lancaster Central Elementary latchkey supervisor.

• Terminated the temporary contract of Lancaster special education teacher Nicole Burns. Board members later approved hiring Jennifer Osborn for a permanent position.

• Also approved hiring Elyssa Chubb, Lancaster teaching assistant; Allyson Schwartz, Lancaster STEAM activity sponsor; Andrea Johnson, Lancaster Robotics Club sponsor; Kelleigh Hart, Lancaster Student Council sponsor; Kasey Harris, Lancaster Student Council sponsor; Shelbie Reuille, Lancaster food service staff; Jordan Rundquist, Lancaster food service staff; Nacayla

Price, Ossian Elementary School food service staff; Jeffery Smith, Lancaster STEAM activity sponsor; Kandance Tom-Dunwiddie, Norwell High School math teacher; Judi Sonnigsen, bus driver; Rosemary Jones, Ossian teaching assistant; and Janice Snyder, Lancaster teaching assistant.

• Accepted donations of \$100 from the Six Mile Church for student assistance, \$60 from the class of 1963 for the band and choir, \$8,050 from multiple sponsors for Norwell High School Cheer, \$2,000 from Lancaster United Methodist Church for student needs.

• Accepted multiple donations for the Norwell Middle School Robotics Club: \$200, Adams Wells Internet Telecom TV; \$250, MH Equipment; \$200, Welches All Vehicle Repair; \$500, Roembke MFG & Design; \$200, Almco Steel Products Corp.

• Learned of two out-of-state trips. Board members will meet again at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26, at Norwell High School, 1100 E. U.S. 224, Ossian.

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OBITUARIES

Oliver Andrew "Skip" Spaulding, 86



Oliver Andrew "Skip" Spaulding, 86, of Newburgh, Ind., went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Monday, Sept. 11, 2023.

Skip was born April 30, 1937, in Jackson Township, Ind., to Dustain E. and Violet Lucille (Matson) Spaulding. He graduated from Jackson Township High School in 1955. June 8, 1957, he married Betty Ann (Rittenhouse) Spaulding where they resided in Warren.

They were active in Boehmer United Methodist Church where he organized the "Cycles for Christ" traveling from Michigan to Kentucky, riding bikes for hundreds of miles a day, and stopping at churches for the young teens to sing and share their faith with others along the way. He went to work for International Harvester as a diesel mechanic and retired in 1969. In 1970, Skip and Betty entered into a full-time missionary ministry with Child Evangelism Fellowship and started in Anderson, to Galveston, Texas, and ended their ministry in Rio Rancho, N.M., in 2011. They ministered side by side for 41 years. He traveled with his missionary work from South America to Russia, and he spent his life telling others of how they could come to know Jesus.

In 2011, they moved to Newburgh, to be closer to family. He prayed for and with all the doctors and nurses during his many hospital visits, sharing his faith and encouraging others. He prayed daily for his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and he loved them dearly. He was a prayer warrior, loved studying his Bible, fishing, reading, working outdoors, gardening, taking drives through the country, eating out, and spending

time with his family. He touched many people's lives and will be missed by all who knew him.

Skip was married to Betty Ann for 64 years; She predeceased him in death Jan. 24, 2022. They had three children, Steven Spaulding (Elaine) of Hempstead, Texas, Jean Ann Hallahan (William) of Boynton Beach, Fla., and Diana Couch (Daryl) of Newburgh. He was the youngest of eight children, and his brother, Gene Spaulding is the surviving sibling. Also surviving are grandchildren, Brent Couch (Sara), Courtney Poole (Lee), Kayla Waldon (Jamie), Scott Larsen (Paige), Joseph Hallahan, Brian Hallahan, and William Hallahan; and great-grandchildren, Vera Pool, Bear Poole, Hudson Couch, Addie Waldon, AJ Waldon, Everett Waldon, and Ellie Waldon.

Skip is preceded in death by his parents, Dustain and Violet Spaulding; sisters, Veda Nitsco, Twilo Cline (Jim), Betty Bell (Howard), Maxine Dudelston (Dud), and Margaret Hahn (Bill); and brother, Robert Spaulding (Ennie).

A life celebration will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023, at Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home, 203 North Matilda Street, Warren, IN, with a meal to follow at Warren Church of Christ. Burial will be private. Friends may visit from 10:00 a.m. until service time, Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023, at Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home.

Boone Funeral Home in Evansville, and Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home in Warren have been entrusted to work together in honoring Skip's wishes.

Condolences may be made to the family online at boonefuneralhome.net or www.glancyfuneralhomes.com

Brian Mahorney, 44

Brian "Runt" Mahorney, 44, of Montpelier, passed away on Aug. 15, 2023, in Indianapolis.

He was born on April 25, 1979, in Hartford City. He married Christina (Townsend) Mahorney on April 4, 2019.

He will be sadly missed by his wife, children, Victoria Bartley-Mahorney, Lillian Mahorney, Lacy Mahorney, Elizabeth Swanson, Gene Epps Jr., Justin Epps, Kala

Epps, and two grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, G. Alex Mahorney Jr. and Janet S. (Downhour) Mahorney.

There will be a celebration of life from 4-8 p.m. Sept. 16, 2023, with a service starting at 6 p.m. The Rev. Clint Abney will be officiating.

Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

Janet E. Simmons, 84

Janet E. Simmons, 84, of Montpelier, died at 8:25 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023, at IU Health-Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie. She was born Thursday, July 13, 1939, in Blackford County. She married Tommy M. Simmons Sr. Saturday, Nov. 19, 1960 in Blackford County.

Janet is survived by her daughters, Tamara (David) Leas, Montpelier, Teresa Lynn (Warren Casterline) Simmons, Montpelier, Cristi Banter, Montpelier; son, Tommy M. (Lisa) Simmons, Jr., Montpelier; six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Tommy M. Simmons Sr.; father, Adelma Wane Fear; mother, Romain Arvilla (Gray) Fear; sisters, Joyce Smith, Jneane

Besser, Linda Gregory, and great-grandson, Jenson A. Reynolds.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home 109 W Windsor St. Montpelier Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

A service to celebrate her life will follow at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023 with Pastor Troy Kaufman officiating. Interment will follow in the Brookside Memorial Park in Montpelier.

Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

Online condolences may be made at www.glancyfuneralhomes.com

Weekend activities at Ouabache

Adventure Backpacks may be checked out from the Ouabache State Park office for exploring at the park between the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Report back to the office for prizes. For weekend programs kids under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult to participate.

Thursday: 12 noon for Lunch and Learn at the Lodge by the Lake. Jody Heaston, volunteer and Indiana Master Naturalist Coordinator will talk about Fail Trail Tales.

Friday: Interpretive Naturalists Bret Dausch and Rose Nevil will be at the campground with information about weekend events.

Saturday: 10 a.m., Bison Feeding at the feeding station at the Bison Enclosure; 10:30 a.m.: CCC Challenge Hike, leaving from the Bison Enclosure—a 4-mile guided hike with those completing the hike receiving a free bumper sticker; 4 p.m.: Ouabache Bingo at the Campview Shelter for prizes.

Sunday: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Adventure Backpack activities for prizes.

Obituary Policy

The News-Banner and Ossian Journal publishes "basic" obituaries free of charge for "local" deaths. "Basic" obituaries will include the deceased's name, age, community of record, date and place of death, basic genealogical information, the date, time and location of calling hours and services and the name of the funeral home handling arrangements.

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

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

LiGHT to coordinate Wells prom dress exchange



Pictured are Kristen Reinhard, Laura Gerber, Kim Gentis, Jessica Beste, Tammi Daughtery and Tammy Slater. (Photo submitted)

The steering committee of LiGHT has recently taken over coordination of the Wells County Prom Dress Exchange Program. The steering committee began discussions with Suzanne Feeback and Becky Goshorn, co-chairwomen of the program as they were making plans to transition out of their coordinating positions.

LiGHT strives to improve the quality of life for women and children in Wells County. Given this program directly benefits young women from Wells and surrounding counties, the steering committee believed it to be a worthy project to assume responsibilities for. LiGHT is a women's giving initiative organized through The Wells County Foundation, Inc. The Foundation is equipped to handle the administrative details of the Prom Dress Exchange, while volunteers for the program

will be coordinated through the LiGHT steering committee and LiGHT membership. The 2024 sale dates have been set for 4-7 p.m. Friday, March 8 and 10 a.m. - noon Saturday, March 9 at the First United Methodist Church in Bluffton. All dresses are \$10. Prom or bridesmaids dresses are accepted throughout the year and may be dropped off at the First United Methodist Church from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or the Wells County Foundation from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. While dresses of all sizes are appreciated, there is currently a short sup-

ply of plus-sized dresses.

The Prom Dress Exchange also accepts donations of short formal which are distributed through Bluffton Middle School. These dresses may be viewed by contacting Stephanie White at the Bluffton Middle School. The short formals are available free-of-charge.

Inquiries regarding the Prom Dress Exchange can be directed to the office of The Wells County Foundation, Inc. Follow the Wells County Prom Dress Exchange page on facebook for current information as well.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City: Monday, 3:19 p.m., Washington Park. Report of issue between two juveniles.
Monday, 3:38 p.m., 600 block of South Marion Street. Report of screaming. Subjects advised it was a verbal argument and a woman was warned for disorderly conduct.
Monday, 4:05 p.m., West Washington and South Marion streets. Welfare check requested. Subject was resting.
Monday, 10:10 p.m., 500 block of West Wabash Street. Report of a domestic issue.

County: Monday, 6:02 p.m., Ind. 224 and North 200 West, Uniondale. Driver cited for speeding.
Monday, 7:32 p.m., Wells County Jail. Protective order served to James Burkhardt.

with disorderly conduct, a Class A misdemeanor, and driving while suspended - prior suspension, a Class A misdemeanor.
Trevor Lee Pitzer, 24, Cutler, domestic battery - person has a protection order, a Level 6 felony, and intimidation, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$30,000.

ARRESTS Joseph Daniel Downing, 31, Fort Wayne, driving while suspended - prior suspension within 10 years, a Class A misdemeanor, and leaving the scene of a crash, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,500.

Nichole Suzanne Nusbaumer, 41, Bluffton, charged with possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, possession of marijuana, a class B misdemeanor, possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$6,500.

Michael Stephen Clayton, 40, Ossian, charged with strangulation, a Level 5 felony, and domestic battery against family or member less than 14 years old, a Level 6 felony. No bond set.

Tuesday, 7:08 a.m., West Wabash and North Johnson streets. Subject needed to get to Almco. Officer gave escort.
Tuesday, 8:48 a.m., North Main Street and Capri Court. Report of siding in the roadway with nails.
Tuesday, 10:34 a.m., Bluffton High School. Student was cited for possession of vape.

Yelbin Adonis Serrano Ruiz, 26, Fort Wayne, charged with operating without ever obtaining a license, a Class C misdemeanor.
Ernest Jerome Nelson, 32, Fort Wayne, charged

VISITATION & SERVICES

Suzanne (Susie) Jacobs Shadle
Calling: 3 - 7 p.m.
Wednesday, September 13 and one hour prior to the service.
Service: 10:30 a.m. Thursday, September 14 at the funeral home.

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www.thomarich.com

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MAIN EVENT SEP 23 AT 6:00PM
WASHINGTON ST STAGE

CASH PRIZES
1st \$700.00
2nd \$300.00
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- Must be 17 or older
- Must qualify in the Preliminary Qualifications
- Vocally adept to qualify
- Anonymous judges will determine finalist for Main Event on Street Fair Stage

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For effective Congressional oversight, ask the right questions

One of the hardest things to watch as Congress has evolved over the past decade or more is the extent to which its oversight muscles have atrophied. Sure, committees on Capitol Hill still haul members of the administration in front of them to ask uncomfortable questions. But while there has always been a tinge of theater to the practice, these days it often seems to be mostly about the show — and in particular about scoring political points — and not so much about helping our government operate effectively.

To be blunt, this is a waste. I've always believed that what our founders had in mind was to encourage a creative tension between the president and Congress that would inspire constructive policy-making and produce government action in the nation's best interests. Oversight is Congress's chief tool for achieving this.

One big reason is that making government work well is tough — and always has been. Even when accomplished officials are doing their best, they can struggle to ensure that their agencies and programs are being both efficient and effective, not to mention hewing to what Congress intended. Congress's job is to look into every nook and cranny of the executive branch, pay attention to what's being done in the people's name, weigh whether it's the right course, and, if necessary, legislate improvements.

But there's more to it than that. I'm not suggesting Congress should directly be involved in the management of federal programs, but it does have a responsibility to ensure that the president and his administration are operating in ways that serve US interests, take into account public sentiment, and meet a very high standard for prudence, foresight, and even wisdom.

My knowledge on this front lies with foreign policy, thanks to several decades serving on and then chairing the House Foreign Affairs Committee. One of the things I tried to do in hearings, both at the subcommittee and full committee level, was to ask policy makers to articulate their approach and then to defend it. This was neither a simple nor a quick task, since the core idea is to give the people creating US policy a platform to lay out their thoughts and explore the details — which in my experience often meant extended hearings. I wanted plenty of time to delve into the policies themselves, and then to hear how officials defended them.

This meant asking a series of questions. What was the policy itself? What were its objectives? Its strengths and weaknesses? The risks involved? If the policy an administration is pursuing succeeds, what will the world look like a year from now, or two years, or five? And if it's put in place successfully, what will the US itself look like a few years down the road? How will American interests be served? If we're talking about foreign policy, how will it affect US standing in the world? And if it's domestic policy, how will it affect the quality of life in this country?

These are all questions you'd hope public officials ask themselves as they're formulating policy. Sometimes, they do. But it's not a given, and it's Congress's job to ensure those questions get asked and answered.

There's great power in this. Good oversight can repair unresponsive bureaucracies, catch mistakes, encourage course corrections early in the game, expose misconduct, lay bare incoherent or chaotic thinking, avoid failure, and help policy makers improve their game for the next time. It takes effort, expertise, and a deep interest in helping the US government succeed, whoever's in charge. In the end, robust congressional oversight is about ensuring that government can meet its challenges while at the top of its game. It would be nice to have a Congress that thought so, too.

Lee Hamilton is a distinguished scholar with the IU School of Global and International Studies. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 13, the 256th day of 2023. There are 109 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 13, 1971, a four-day inmates' rebellion at the Attica Correctional Facility in western New York ended as police and guards stormed the prison; the ordeal and final assault claimed the lives of 32 inmates and 11 hostages.

On this date: In 1788, the Congress of the Confederation authorized the first national election, and declared New York City the temporary national capital.

In 1814, during the War of 1812, British naval forces began bombarding Fort McHenry in Baltimore but

were driven back by American defenders in a battle that lasted until the following morning.

In 1948, Republican Margaret Chase Smith of Maine was elected to the U.S. Senate; she became the first woman to serve in both houses of Congress.

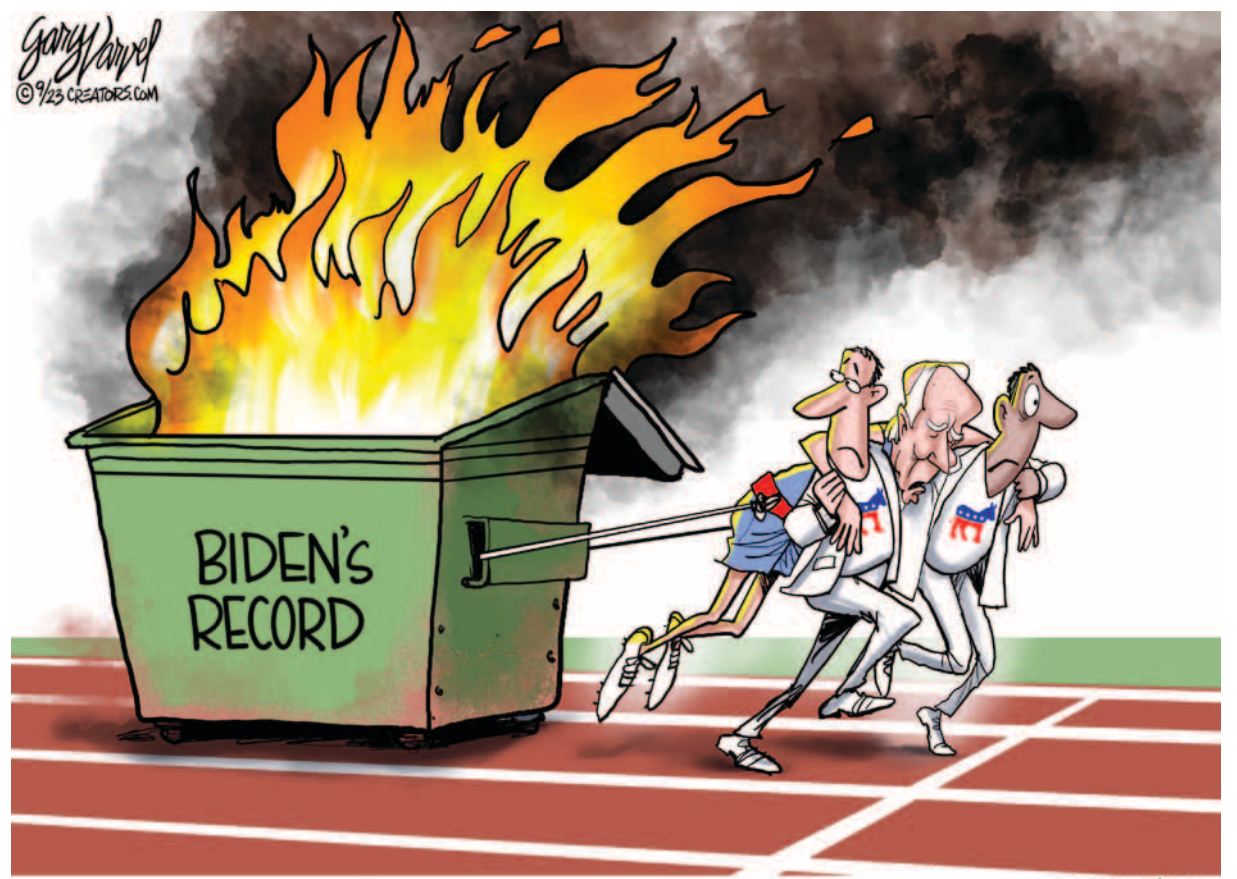
In 1962, Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett rejected the U.S. Supreme Court's order for the University of Mississippi to admit James Meredith, a Black student, declaring in a televised address, "We will not drink from the cup of genocide."

In 1993, at the White House, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat shook hands after signing an accord granting limited Palestinian autonomy.



Lee Hamilton

Hoosier Opinions



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Joe Biden's Mariel boatlift

"Worse than Jimmy Carter" is an epithet Republicans often throw at Democratic presidents.

It's a label, though, that Joe Biden clearly deserves on immigration, an area where — along with inflation and the Afghan debacle — there are echoes of the Carter years.

Back in 1980, an overwhelmed Carter administration struggled to cope with the Mariel boatlift, a rapid surge of Cubans into South Florida, just as the hapless Biden White House is watching the current migrant crisis strain communities around the country.

A promising young Democratic governor, Bill Clinton, ended up collateral damage when boatlift migrants housed at a fort in Arkansas rioted. Clinton's predicament brings to mind the political agony of New York City Mayor Eric Adams and other Democratic officeholders now paying the price for a failed border policy outside their direct control.

Of course, the two crises, separated by more than 40 years, aren't the same. The scale of the influx today, running into the millions, is much larger than the boatlift of about 125,000 people; the 1980 crisis largely involved just one city, Miami; and no foreign leader is manipulating the situation with the blatant cynicism of Fidel Castro.

No, rather than a communist dictator flooding the U.S. with migrants out of spite, it is Joe Biden doing it to himself and his country with his incompetence and willful negligence at the border.

That's not to say that Jimmy Carter wasn't indecisive and ineffectual. Embarrassed by thousands of Cubans who crowded the Peruvian embassy seeking asylum, Castro said that anyone could leave the port of Mariel as long as someone came to pick them up, catalyzing a mad dash of Cubans from Miami in boats who wanted to pick up their compatriots.

Carter equivocated. One day, he said the flow would be cut off; the next day, he said that "ours is a country of refugees." The day after those remarks, 4,500 Cubans arrived, more in a single day than the

total Carter had talked about taking in at the outset.

Castro didn't literally empty out the jails, as his often said, but he did mix prisoners and mental patients among the migrants. Nicholas Griffin, author of the book about Miami in 1980, "The Year of Dangerous Days," estimates that no more than four percent of the Cubans who arrived were criminals. Still, that created an unjustly negative impression of all the so-called Marielitos.

Regardless, tens of thousands of people showing up with nothing is going to be a burden at any time and any place. Miami begged for federal aid and used the Orange Bowl for temporary shelter.

Cubans in the community were genuinely open-handed and intent on helping the newcomers; Martha's Vineyard, this was not.

But the governor at the time, Democrat Bob Graham, sounded a lot like today's Democrats in areas struggling to cope with the mass arrival of migrants. Graham warned of the threat migrants "pose in terms of jobs, pressure on schools, and welfare support. We are in a period where national sympathy for refugees is at a low point."

Just as we've heard during the current crisis in places like Chicago, African Americans in Miami complained about so much focus and energy getting devoted to people who just arrived. "The feeling is that the Black community was waiting in line and now our time had come," an influential Black lawyer said. "Only it hasn't."

The boatlift wasn't Jimmy Carter's biggest political problem, but it added to the sense of things being out of control. "It's a mess," Carter said at one point, "but we're doing the best we can." To his credit, he did not add — as his successor 40 years later might — "and now I'm going to bed."

In the fall of 1980, Castro ended the boatlift. In 2023, there's no indication that the man most responsible for today's crisis, a president of the United States beholden to his party's left, wants to stop the ongoing debacle at the border.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry



Rich Lowry

For the U.S. and Vietnam, the road to reconciliation is paved by the personal

It was a moment when time seemed to evaporate, as if dawn and sunset were converging. A young Vietnamese diplomat, new to her post in the embassy's political section, was trying to explain to older American guests at a formal luncheon what she called her country's resilient DNA.

Sitting across from her in the embassy's grand dining room was an American man nearly 70 years her senior, who had served as a senior Pentagon official during the Vietnam War. Like most Americans who were involved in the war, he doesn't talk about it much. But this was a special occasion, as I'll explain.

The young diplomat said the war had touched her family, as it did everyone in Vietnam. She lost an uncle, a cousin, probably many more people than that. But by the time she was born, the family's scars had healed, and the war was mostly a distant memory. Her grandmother, who recalled the painful days, explained to her: "Life has to move on." The young woman repeated the words for us.

The United States today is admired by about 90 percent of Vietnamese, another young Vietnamese diplomat said, adding that few foreign countries have such a level of support in Vietnam. There's no foreign country that has such support. Vietnamese people know about the horrors of war, the carpet-bombing of villages with Agent Orange. But time and growing trust in the United States have dulled what anger remains.

The setting for this encounter was timeless, in its way: A Beaux-Arts mansion along Embassy Row, with elegant parquet floors dating perhaps to the 19th century. The food reflected mostly the delicate flavors of Vietnam: lightly fried spring rolls of minced prawn; stir-fried mien glass noodles topped with crabmeat. And



David Ignatius

for American tastes, pan-seared filet mignon.

This story of reconciliation between the United States and Vietnam should be a "case study," taught at Harvard Business School, the young woman said. It teaches how conflicts are resolved. The older American man nodded. As it happened, he had begun his career as a junior instructor at the business school before he founded a company and then went to the Pentagon.

The older ex-Pentagon official nodded at that, too. He said that America's problem in Vietnam had been partly that it couldn't see the war through its adversary's eyes. He recalled that when the Viet Cong attacked a big U.S. military facility at Pleiku in February 1965, during a visit by national security adviser McGeorge Bundy, the Johnson administration responded by bombing North Vietnam, a sharp escalation.

The Pentagon's retaliation mirrored its own thinking. The Pleiku attack was so provocative that officials believed it must have been ordered by Hanoi to coincide with Bundy's visit. In fact, said the former American official, it turned out that it had been ordered by a local Viet Cong commander who had no idea who Bundy was. That brought nods of assent from the Vietnamese hosts. Wars often turn on misread signals.

So what was this special occasion? The lunch was hosted by Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Dung. It was meant to celebrate a breakthrough moment that's just ahead in the long and complicated journey of the United States and Vietnam.

President Biden visited Hanoi Sunday. During his trip, Vietnam formally upgraded its diplomatic relationship with the United States. The marked one of most important strategic realignments in the Indo-Pacific in recent years.

Biden underlined the theme of reconciliation by offering American help in finding the remains of the hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese who went missing during more than a decade of war. That's a reciprocal gesture, to match at last Vietnam's help, starting more than 35 years ago, in finding the remains of Americans missing or killed in action.

Another guest of honor was the former Pentagon official. He's named Paul Ignatius, now 102, and he's my father. During the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, he served as assistant secretary and undersecretary of the Army, assistant secretary of defense and secretary of the Navy. He may be the oldest surviving presidential appointee who served in the Kennedy-Johnson Pentagon through the Vietnam years. He uses a walker now, but he spoke in a firm, measured voice.

As the lunch was ending, my father told a story about the aircraft carrier on which he served during World War II. He explained to the Vietnamese hosts how the USS Manila Bay, as his ship was called, had survived the ferocious Battle of Leyte Gulf, perhaps the greatest naval battle in history, and several subsequent Japanese suicide bombing attacks.

Many years after the war, my father recalled, he read in a newspaper that the Manila Bay was being towed to Japan as scrap metal to produce steel for Toyotas or other industrial products. It was his way of saying that life goes full circle. Like the young Vietnamese diplomat, my father journeyed back in time to grasp the significance of the present.

Some wounds never heal. But when President Biden touches down in Hanoi, we should take a moment to remember how far the United States and Vietnam have come since their terrible conflict. If that pain can be overcome, almost anything is possible.

David Ignatius is on X @IgnatiusPost

The News-Banner

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Big Bad John, Big Bad John and other spoken lyrics

Do you get distracted? I get distracted easily. At home I march confidently into a room with clear intention only to discover I've forgotten the task that inspired my confident march. I am often found staring into the refrigerator, just wondering how and why I got there. My wife gives me a soft nudge and no words to move along. She knows me. I was searching for an important document when the refrigerator caught my eye and my feet followed to that wonderful food sanctuary.

Distractions are why I cannot think of anything to write right now. Hmm...Write right now. That sounds odd. It seems nothing funny nor interesting is in the playing cards today. Maybe I need a distraction to clear my mind. That's the ticket. If I walk the dog first, maybe it will free my mind. I mean the walk, not the dog. We don't have a dog. Maybe we should get a dog.

For sure if I had read those first two paragraphs from a writer

(quasi) I would have stopped reading by now. But then I think, how about if I offer the reader a meaningless but interesting distraction. Lists on the internet always get me off the track, so to speak. The other day, a list came up on a news site titled, "Top ten signs you will have dementia." I've got to read that. After clicking through 15 pop-up ads, I finally get to the list. Hallelujah! I only have nine of them. Feeling good. Another was titled, "Top five Universities in the Big Ten." I've got to see where IU and Purdue fall. Next, the "Top ten Sports Illustrated swimsuit models of all time." I love sports, so there goes another twenty ads and ten minutes.

Here is my meaningless Top Ten list of Spoken Lyrics I propose to distract you from whatever you should be doing. This is my list of songs where the artist talks, rather than sings. It is storytelling, typically preceding a verse or chorus as a setup, or as postscript. Now, sensing that I am losing readers with every word I write, here we go.

As preface, every worthy list begins with number #10 and



builds with dramatic intent to #1. With that in mind, I implore you, the reader, to not look immediately to the bottom of the page. Please show some respect for the list as an eclectic artistic creation. Try to demonstrate some self-discipline for once in your life for gosh-sakes.

I will list the song title, the artist, and follow with the salient (according to me) spoken lyric. Eyes up, and hold on to your hats:

- #12 - Lonely at the Top - Randy Newman
"You'd think I'd be happy, but I'm not...It's lonely at the top."
- #11 - The Cover of Rolling Stone - Dr. Hook
"We sing about beauty, and we sing about truth for \$10,000 a show."
- #10 - Bad, Bad, Leroy Brown - Jim Croce
"Don't go round makin' people strange to you, even if you do got a two-piece custom-made pool cue."
- #9 - I Wish it Would Rain - The Temptations
"Sunshine, blue skies, please go away. My girl has found another and gone away."
- #8 - The Corvette Song -

George Jones
"Son you just don't understand, it ain't the car I want. It's the brunette in your 'Vette that turns me on."

#7 - I Can't Write Left-Handed - Bill Withers

(An homage to a Vietnam veteran who had lost his right arm.)
"I can't write left-handed. Would you please write a letter to my mother. I don't think I'm going to live much longer."

#6 - Theme from Shaft - Isaac Hayes

"He's a bad...I'm just talkin' about Shaft."

#5 - Hello in There - John Prine (master lyricist)

"We had an apartment in the city...Me and Loretta liked living there. It's been years since the kids have grown...Left us alone...We lost Davy in the Korean War. I still don't know what for."

#4 - A Legend in My Time - Johnny Cash (what a life story)

"If they gave gold statuettes for tears and regrets, I'd be a legend in my time."

#3 - Taxi - Harry Chapin (master storyteller)

"She gave me \$20 for a \$2.50 fare and said, 'Harry, keep the change.' Well, another man might have been angry, and another man might have been hurt, but

another man never would have let her go...I stuffed that bill in my shirt."

#2 - A Natural Man - Lou Rawls (the incomparable)

"You know, there was a time when someone told you to do something, you did it...Bam! Right On! No questions asked...It was, yes sir, and yes ma'am! You never said no... It's a new day baby."

#1 - Big Bad John - Jimmy Dean (sung on every variety show in my youth)

"Kinda broad at the shoulder and narrow at the hip...and everybody knew ya didn't give no lip to Big John...At the bottom of this mine lies a big, big man. Big John. Big bad John."

Here's the thing: That's the list from a Boomer. A child of the '60s. As for you the reader, get back to the work you should be doing...after a stop at the refrigerator of course.

ken.ballinger@yahoo.com

Editor's Note: This is one of a series of articles written by a group of retired and current teachers - LaNae Abnet, Ken Ballinger, Billy Kreigh, Kathy Schwartz, and Anna Spalding. Their intent is to spur discussions at the dinner table and elsewhere. You may also voice your thoughts and reactions via The News-Banner's letters to editor.

Norwell Internship Spotlight award Amarea Chandler

Senior Amarea Chandler has been selected to receive the weekly Norwell Internship Spotlight award. She is interning at Smile Works Youth Dentistry of Fort Wayne with mentor Callie Brooks. Amarea is the daughter of Steven and Annette Chandler of Ossian.



Amarea Chandler

Amarea has spent a great deal of time observing cavity fillings, cleanings, and x-rays. She assists with the mixing of filling materials used by the dentists. Amarea has also been given the opportunity to document each patient's visit to the dentist.

Upon graduation, Amarea plans to attend Indiana University to study dental hygiene.

Norwell High School ICE Student Spotlight Jacob Morgan

Senior Jacob Morgan has been selected to receive the Norwell ICE Program Student of the Week Spotlight award.



Jacob Morgan

He is employed at Pena's Mechanical Contractors of Ossian with HR supervisor Missy Buck. Jacob is the son of Lester and Amy Morgan of Fort Wayne.

Pena's focuses on custom builds in the pipe work industry. They manufacture tank holders and cat walks at the facility in Ossian. Pena's also travels to their clients for general maintenance and installations. Jacob operates fork lifts, Bobcats, scissor lifts, and cranes. He does fabricating which involves grinding, cutting, shearing, and iron work.

After graduation, Jacob would like to continue working at Pena's to build his resume with various skill levels. He may have the opportunity to join the GM Truck facility in Fort Wayne in the future.

FW Philharmonic free concerts

A series of free concerts are being offered by small groups of Fort Wayne Philharmonic musicians in a variety of places in the area.

Friday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m.: Harrison String Quintet will be in concert at the Club Room at the Clyde Theatre.

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 4 p.m.: Wayne Street Strings will present the story "Oh the Places You'll Go" with narration by Erin Bean at the Renaissance Pointe YMCA in Fort Wayne.

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 11:30 a.m., Calhoun Brass Quintet will present the

story "Where the Wild Things Are" with Abby Cleveland narrating at the Parkview Family YMCA.

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 12 noon: West Central Winds with "Live at Lunch" at Sweetwater Sound.

Friday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m., The Resonators presenting the story of "Carnival of the Animals" with Jonah Farnum narrating at the Jackson R. Leman YMCA.

Sunday, Sept. 24, 3 p.m., Wayne Street Strings at the Union Street Market at Electric Works in Fort Wayne.



Free Friday night concert at the plaza

Rylie Lynn, center, and her Band will be playing at Bluffton's Parlor City Plaza Friday evening (Sept. 15) from 7 to 10 p.m. Musicians include left to right Marc Cady (guitar/harmonica), Jason Smith (basses), Rylie, Jim Chilton (fiddle/mandolin) and Jimmy Royal (drummer/percussionist). Food and beverages will be available for purchase beginning at 6 p.m. with ID needed for alcoholic beverage purchase. Those attending should bring their own seating. (Photo provided)

Rollin' at the River Comedy Show and adult game nites

On Friday, Sept. 15, 7-9 p.m. the Rollin' at the River" Comedy Show will be presented at the Promenade Park Foundation Pavilion in Fort Wayne. Admission is \$20 for adults (18+). More information at 260-427-6000.

Adult Game Nights will be held at the Park Foundation Pavilion on:

Friday, Sept. 28, 7-9 p.m.: Tincture of Trivia: Sit-coms

Friday, Nov. 17, 7-9 p.m.: Music Maestro Bingo

Admission is \$5 for

adults (18+) with more information at fortwayneparks.org.

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6:30 pm Lance Hunter Humanitarian Award Announcement

7:00 pm Coalition Quartet

Friday, September 15th

5:00 - 8:00 pm Whole hog sausage dinner \$12 - Norwell Show Choir.

5:30 - 7:30 pm Free face painting provided by Ossian Days Inc beside the Ossian Days booth.

6:00 pm Ossian Days Prince & Princess Contest

7:00 pm Applejack Cloggers in front of the Event Tent.

8:30 - 10:00 pm Nathan's Karaoke/ DJ Service

Saturday, September 16th

7:00 - 8:30am Fishing Tournament

7:00 - 10:30am Pancake & Sausage Breakfast \$8 for Adults; \$3 for Children (6-12 years old); Under 5 are FREE - St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus of Yoder, sponsor.

9:30 am Big Wheel Race sign-ups begin Ages 3-6. Farmer's & Merchant/Ossian State Bank parking lot.

12 noon Donut Hole Eating Contest in front of the event tent. Register at Ossian Days Booth. Contestants under 18 must have parent/guardian signature to compete.

1:00 pm Bessie's Movement behind event tent on Craig Street.

4:00 pm Parade line up:

5:00 pm Parade Begins

6:00 - 9:00 pm Free face painting and balloon animals provided by Ossian Days Inc beside the Ossian Days booth.

7:00 - 9:00 pm Austin City Band Live music in the event tent.

Visit our website for more details - www.ossiandays.com

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Growing Knights squad earns 5th win in last six games in win vs. Panthers

By RYAN WALKER

A goal scored by Morgan Batdorff set the tone early on offense in a 4-0 home victory for Norwell's girls' soccer team Tuesday night.

The Panthers (4-4-1) controlled the pace of play from the first touch and, for a few minutes, took a few shots and created offensive chances. That all changed when Batdorff found the back of the net under eight minutes into the game.

"I mean, I think there's always a little breathing room when you get an early goal," Norwell head coach Dan Batdorff said after the game. "It kind of set the pace that we had a threat, and that was a great thing. ... I think any time we score a goal, especially one or two early, it plays on the other team."

The Knights took control after that, Batdorff admitting he thought Eastbrook's group "broke down after (Norwell) started scoring."

Despite many chances, the Knights were unable to score until the 13:59 mark in the first half when Batdorff scored her second goal on the night and sixth of the season.

By halftime, there was clear separation between the two teams when Norwell got the ball rolling its way. It could have scored on other close chances as well, but the Eastbrook defense held up at two goals at the time.

"We're still continuing to develop, but what I really appreciated tonight was the opportunities," Batdorff said. "We had a ton of goal-scoring opportunities."

It was Grace Mann's turn in the second half, scoring two goals to her team-leading 14 this season. The first, Mann received the pass from Batdorff past midfield and weaved her way in front of the net. On the second, Mann sent a rocket towards the top

of the net on a deep penalty kick right under the crossbar.

Ridley Sheets tallied an assist in the match.

Over the last six games, the Knights have scored 6.3 goals per game. In that span, they've posted a 5-1 record with the only loss to 2A's No. 1 Leo 2-0.

The offense isn't just the only part of the team's development; it has been the defense, too.

Coach Batdorff is a defensive-minded coach, and in the win over Eastbrook, he saw some of his starters and younger talent step their game up. He mentioned that early in the season, his team wasn't as prepared to keep up with some of the top-tier opponents, but now, there's been some growth that has even helped the offense.

"We were out of position out early in the season," Batdorff said. "I don't know. Some of it maybe was conditioning. We weren't as conditioned as we should have been, so we were just a little lazy in getting there and moving off the ball. I'm seeing that better. Our passing of the back has been a whole lot better. Our goal kicks are improving. These are the type of things we work on all the time."

Goaltender Gracie Rinkenberger, combined with Abby Wagner, have a combined four shutouts in the 5-1 showing. As the starter, Rinkenberger has allowed just 1.2 goals per game.

Norwell's next match will be at home against South Adams at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14.

Norwell's junior varsity team also won 3-0 over Eastbrook. Hadley McSorley, Hallie Smith, and Shae Brooks scored in the game. Wagner and Emma Garner contributed to the shutout in net.

sports@news-banner.com



Norwell attacked Grace Mann (middle) pushes through to try an outrun Eastbrook's Kinlee Hackman (right) in the 4-0 win in the girls' soccer match at Norwell High School. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Norwell's Morgan Batdorff (left) escapes Eastbrook defender Estah McKim during the home match Tuesday night.

Sports Roundup

Knights continue hot streak with V-ball win over Giants

The Norwell volleyball team notched its fourth win in a row in a sweep against Marion on the road Tuesday night.

With the win, the Knights are now 12-5 on the season.

The Knights won the first set 25-15, the second 25-15, and the third 25-18.

Stat leaders for the night were Mallory Falls and Vanessa Rosswurm with five kills each, Marlee Wenger with five aces, Macie Saalfrank with 10 assists and seven digs, and Mekynzi Beck and Hope Mitchell with one block each.

Norwell also won the junior varsity game in two sets (25-10, 25-13).

The Knights' next match will be at home against Leo for the NE8 Conference opener starting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14.

Norwell will host East Noble for another conference match starting at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14.

Southern Wells picks up win in girls' golf at Jay County

The Southern Wells girls' golf team unofficially defeated Jay County on the road with a team score of 218 on Tuesday.

The Patriots did not have a full team and, therefore, did not have a team score.

The Raiders were led by Kolbie Beavans with a score of 46, followed by Sophie Meeks (55), Caroline Ripperger (58), and Erika Beavans (59).

Southern Wells will be at the sectional at Arbor Trace starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 16.

Tigers fall to Woodlan in ACAC volleyball match

Bluffton's volleyball team lost to Woodlan in three sets on the road Tuesday night.

With the loss, the Tigers are now 3-9 on the season.

The Tigers lost the first set 25-13, the second 25-12, and the third 25-23.

Stat Leaders on the night were Haley Gibson with 12 assists, Maryn Schreiber with five kills and one block, and Marly Drayer with three aces and ten digs.

The junior varsity team lost in two games (25-8, 25-12).

Stat leaders for the junior varsity team were Isla Gibson with one kill and one assist, Ella Borrer with one assist, Riley Roby with two aces, Rori Drayer with three digs, and Allie Koby with one kill.

Bluffton will host Southern Wells in an ACAC showdown starting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14.

Raiders lose conference match against Patriots

Southern Wells fell in three sets against Heritage

With the loss, the Raiders are now 0-9 on the season.

The Raiders lost the first set 25-10, the second 25-13, and the third 25-9.

Southern Wells will travel to Bluffton in an ACAC match starting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14.



Green Valley Tuesday Senior Golf tournament final

The Green Valley Senior Golf League Tournament took place on Tuesday. Rick Murphy earned the Champion Flight with a net of 33, Tom Greych had the A Flight with a net of 29, Don Pettit had the B Flight with a net of 32, and Joe Langle had the C Flight with a net of 32. Greych had the closest to pin, and Steve Folk had the longest putt. Pictured above, from left to right are Rick Murphy, Tom Greych, Don Pettit, and Joe Langle. (Photo provided)

High School Calendar

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 13
BOYS TENNIS: Bluffton at Bishop Luers, 5 p.m.
BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at Concordia, 7 p.m.
GIRLS GOLF: Bishop Luers and South Adams at Norwell, 4:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, SEPT 14
BOYS TENNIS: East Noble at Norwell, 5 p.m.; Bluffton at South Adams, 5 p.m.
GIRLS GOLF: Belmont at Bluffton 4:30 p.m.
GIRLS SOCCER: South Adams at Norwell, 5 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Leo at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Bluffton, 6 p.m.
FRIDAY, SEPT 15
GIRLS GOLF: (Sectional) Norwell, Bluffton at Chesnut Hills, 9 a.m.; Southern Wells at Arbor Trace, 7 p.m.
FOOTBALL: Norwell at New Haven, 7 p.m.; Bluffton at Jay County, 7 p.m.; Woodlan at Southern Wells, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY, SEPT 16
CROSS COUNTRY (CO-ED): Norwell at Riverview Health Invitational at Northview Christian Church, 9 a.m.; Bluffton, Southern Wells at South Adams Invitational, 10 a.m.

Tyler Stephenson has RBI single in 10th to lift Reds past Tigers

By DAVE HOGG
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Tyler Stephenson had an RBI single in the 10th inning in the Cincinnati Reds' 6-5 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Tuesday night.

Stephenson led off the 10th with a single off Tigers closer Alex Lange (6-4), with Noelvi Marte sliding around Jake Rogers' tag at the plate.

Joey Votto then reached on an error, but Detroit turned a 6-3-4 double play and Lange struck out pinch-hitter Jake Fraley.

In the 10th, Spencer Torkelson's fly ball moved Andy Ibanez to third, but Akil Bad-doo grounded to Jonathan India, who threw Ibanez out at the plate.

Farmer then struck out Kerry Carpenter end the game. The Reds bullpen pitched

six scoreless innings, allowing two hits with seven strikeouts.

The Tigers took the lead with three runs in the first. With one out, Ibanez homered to left, and Williamson compounded the problem by allowing singles to the next four Detroit hitters. The last two, by Kerry Carpenter and Miguel Cabrera, drove in Spencer Torkelson and Jake Rogers.

Cincinnati tied it in the second. Third baseman Zack Short threw away Stephenson's grounder. Votto grounded out, but Elly De La Cruz drew a walk.

Harrison Bader flew out, but TJ Friedl made it 3-1 with an RBI single.

That proved costly as India hit a two-run single. Nick Senzel doubled, but Parker Meadows made a running catch in the gap to prevent Spencer Steer from putting the Reds ahead.

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News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

High School

Table with columns: Rcd, TP, Pvs. Rows include Brownsburg, Center Grove, etc.

Table with columns: Rank, Team, Score, Opponent, Status.

BASEBALL

American League

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Baltimore, Tampa Bay, Toronto, etc.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Minnesota, Cleveland, Detroit, etc.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Houston, Texas, Seattle, etc.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Baltimore, Texas, Oakland, etc.

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National League

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Tuesday, Sept. 12: Peoria 4, Cedar Rapids 3

Thursday, Sept. 14: Peoria at Cedar Rapids, TBD.

Friday, Sept. 15: Peoria at Cedar Rapids, TBD.

BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Monday's Games

Tuesday's Games

Wednesday's Games

Thursday's Games

Friday's Games

Monday's Games

Tuesday's Games

Wednesday's Games

Thursday's Games

Friday's Games

Monday's Games

Tuesday's Games

Wednesday's Games

Thursday's Games

Friday's Games

Monday's Games

Tuesday's Games

Wednesday's Games

Thursday's Games

Friday's Games

Monday's Games

Tuesday's Games

Wednesday's Games

Thursday's Games

Friday's Games

Shreve for assignment. MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Sent CF Blake Perkins and 1B Darin Ruf to Nashville (IL) on rehab assignments.

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New Blue Jackets coach Babcock blasts report saying he invaded players' privacy

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Hockey Writer

New Columbus Blue Jackets coach Mike Babcock said Tuesday he had done nothing wrong in asking players to show him photos off their phones...

me but for our players and staff, as well. And to have them depicted like this is irresponsible and completely inaccurate."

Jenner said Babcock asked him about his family, where he's from and his upcoming wedding, along with hockey-related conversation.

"He then asked if I had pictures of my family, and I was happy to share some with him," Jenner said.

Bissonnette responded to the statements with a profane social media post that told Babcock to knock it off.

"Enough with putting guys on the spot in the coaches room asking them to link their phones up to airplane mode and grilling them," Bissonnette said on X...

Johnny Gaudreau, the Blue Jackets' biggest star and highest-paid player, said at the NHL/NHLPA Player Media Tour in suburban Las Vegas that he's had great interactions with Babcock...

Gaudreau said Babcock asked him for family photos and the coach showed his own as a way to get some familiarity.

"I just think it was a really cool and unique way of getting to know your player," Gaudreau said. "I thought it was kind of a good little starting point for us to get to know each other."

Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said he spoke with NHL Players' Association assistant executive director Ron Hainsey and that the league and union looked into the situation and found nothing wrong.

Babcock is back in the league after a nearly four-year absence. When the 2008 Stanley Cup-winning coach was fired by Toronto in 2019, reports emerged of some polarizing old-school coaching techniques...

After taking the job in Columbus in July, Babcock said he has evolved as a coach and learned how better to deal with players.

"Change in all of us takes time," Babcock said over the summer. "I think what this has done is given me a chance to get outside my body and have a look and see what I'm doing and understand you needed to change, you needed to grow."

"(Hainsey's) reports are that the players involved had no concerns at all with respect to the interactions that were had," Daly said.

"They weren't inappropriate, they weren't improper and to the extent they were suggested to be, it was a misperception."

"Change in all of us takes time," Babcock said over the summer. "I think what this has done is given me a chance to get outside my body and have a look and see what I'm doing and understand you needed to change, you needed to grow."

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Jets' odds to win the Super Bowl plummet after Rodgers' injury

By MARK ANDERSON AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The New York Jets' odds to win the Super Bowl plummeted after quarterback Aaron Rodgers suffered a season-ending torn Achilles tendon on Monday night's 22-16 overtime victory over the Buffalo Bills.

New York's odds to win it all went from 16-1 to 50-1 at Caesars Sportsbook and 18-1 to 66-1 at BetMGM. The line movements at BetMGM were similar for the Jets to win the AFC championship (9-1 to 30-1) and AFC East (2.5-1 to 5.5-1).

"Since the Rodgers injury, bettors are not interested in backing Zach Wilson," said Seamus Magee, BetMGM trading team lead.

At Caesars, the Jets went from a 3 1/2-

point underdog Sunday at Dallas to as high at 9 1/2 before being bet down to 8 1/2. Their win total dropped from 9 1/2 to 8 1/2 and went from minus-140 to make the play-offs to minus-250 to miss the postseason.

"I'm not willing to sell and say the Jets have no chance, however," Caesars assistant trading director Adam Pullen said. "We currently have them at 50-1 to win the Super Bowl and that seems right. ... People are understandably less bullish on them, but they have that defense, so we'll see."

The Jets drove much of the preseason NFL betting thanks to their trade for Rodgers from the Green Bay Packers. More money was bet on New York than any other AFC team at BetMGM, and the Jets were Caesars' biggest financial liability.

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Forever competing with spouse's twin

Dear Annie: I am married to a man who has an identical twin brother. Our marriage is in trouble because my husband favors his twin over me. His brother thinks my husband should always help him out when he has a failed relationship — and that's happened a lot. His twin also has had trouble holding down a job.

My husband and I have helped his twin seven times now with a place to stay when his wife, or a girlfriend in between a marriage, kicks him out. My husband and I have been together 15 years, and seven times is ridiculous! This last time, my husband moved his twin into our house while I was at work and didn't even ask me about it. We got into a huge argument about this, and I have decided to call it quits. I married one of the twins, not both.

During our argument, my husband flat-out told me that his twin comes before me, that he was there before I was. His twin has even done things in the past to break up our relationship. He told my husband he has seen me out with other men, and he said that my kids aren't his, so quit being bothered with them. When my husband and I are alone, without his twin invading our space, we are good. My husband calls himself a Christian, but I thought the Bible says your spouse comes first.

I have decided to leave my husband and get out of this situation. It's going to be hard, but I can't keep putting up with this all the time. I even suggested counseling for my husband and me, but he says he doesn't need it. What is sad is that my husband has raised my kids since they were 1 and 2 years

old. They know this man as their dad, and it is not good for my kids to hear him say these things to me. He should set an example of how a husband should treat a wife.

Annie, am I wrong for walking away from this and starting over with just me and the kids? — Not Feeling Like his Wife

Dear Not Feeling Like His Wife: Starting over with you and your children is never easy and not a decision that should be taken lightly. What your brother-in-law is doing is toxic, but before you call it quits, I suggest you go to couples therapy with your husband — insist on it. You could also talk about the four of you (you and your husband plus the twin and his spouse) going, assuming his twin is still married. I know that twins have a very unique and special bond. Are any of my readers twins or the spouses of twins who have some advice as to how to proceed?

If your husband continues to allow his brother to be more of a priority in his life than you, then yes, you are left with no choice but to leave.

"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.

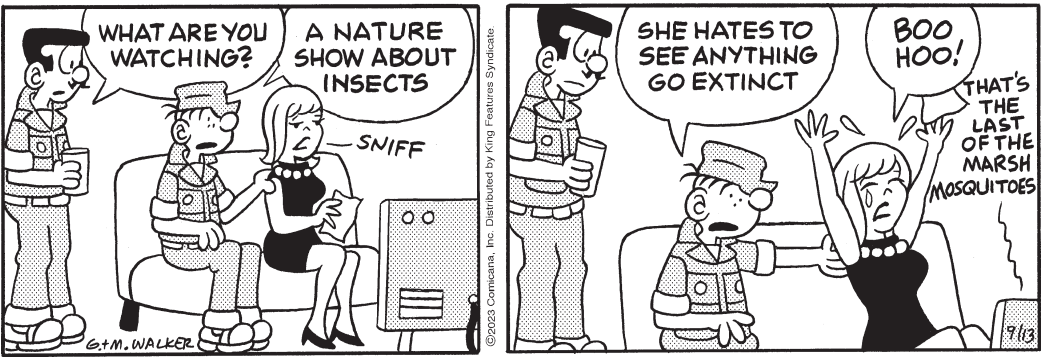
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Dear Annie

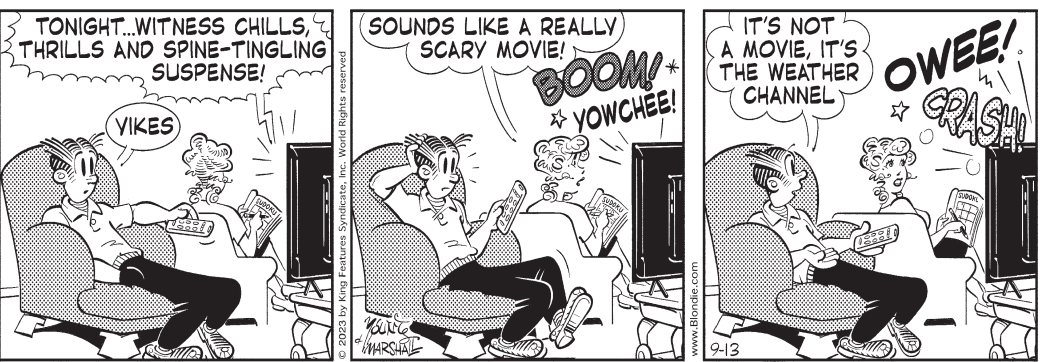
by Annie Lane



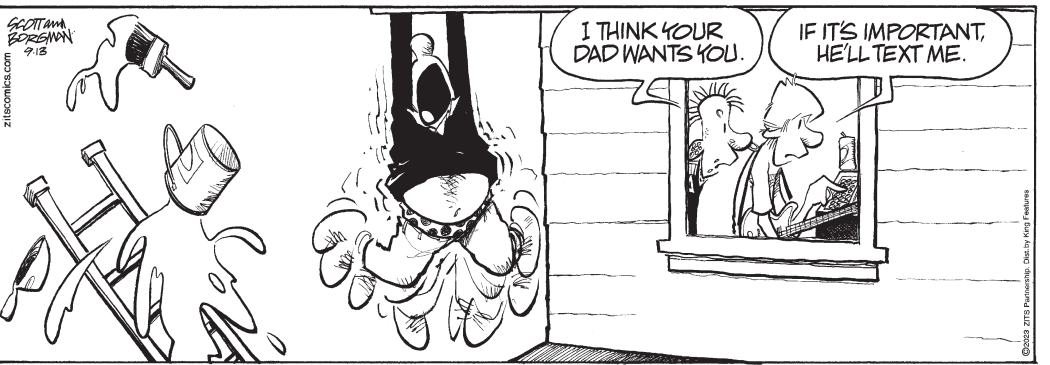
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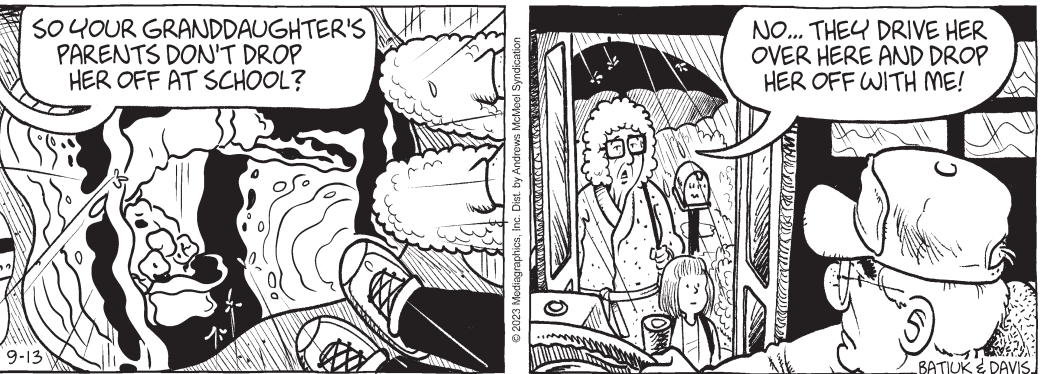
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ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



My Answer



By Dr. Billy Graham

Pray for God's wisdom to deal with whatever causes us to fret

Q: The world has come through the great pandemic that started this third decade of the third millennium, and the fear and worry has had a profoundly negative impact on the human race. Society was cloaked in worry because of COVID-19 and its aftermath that continues. Being worry-free is not something people are good at. What is the secret to praying about this in order to find peace in the midst of terror? — W.F.

A: The Bible's answer to worry couldn't be clearer: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which sur-

passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

To have assurance of God's promises, one must belong to Him by believing in Him and every word that proceeds from His mouth. We must ask Him to increase our faith and place our complete trust in Him that He is leading us in and through difficulties. Our minds must be centered on Christ.

Jesus used the carefree attitude of the birds to underscore the fact that worry is unnatural. As long as we look only at the situation in the world today, life will seem very hard to overcome our worries because it is true that there are many prob-

lems out of our control. But God is in control.

We must pray for God's wisdom to deal with whatever causes us to fret. Some people spend so much time worrying about what might happen that they never enjoy what is happening in the present. Today is the tomorrow we worried about yesterday. Only the Holy Spirit can give us peace in the midst of the storms of restlessness and despair. "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace" (John 16:33).

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

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09/13	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30
WINM (12)	11	26	63		3D Woman	Julie & Friends	Movie			Berean Endeavors	TCT Today	News-5	Love Worth	James Robison	Dr. Robert Jeffrey	Jewish Jesus	Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor		Rabbi Lapin
CBS WANE (15)	2	2	15	15	News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	News at 6 (N)	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy!	Big Brother Strangers, cut off from the outside world, coexist in an isolated house. (N)	Blue Bloods "School of Hard Knocks"	Blue Bloods "Legacy"	Blue Bloods "Tale of Two Cities"	Blue Bloods "Close Friends, Love, and Loyalty"	Nightcast (N)	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	(35) James Corden		
Antenna WANE-2 (152)	106	20			Blue Bloods "Second Chances"	ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC World News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	The Conners	Got Talent "Qualifiers 4"	Mod Family "Egg Drop"	The Conners	The Conners	The Rookie "Going Under"	ABC21 (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!	(35) Seth Meyers		
NBC WPTA (21)	4	3	21	21	Family Feud	25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud	Last Man Standing	DateLine	DateLine	DateLine	Chicago P.D.	News (N)	News (N)	The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon	Golbergers "Cocoon"	(35) The Goldbergs	
NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8	14	14	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	Modern Family	21Alive News at 6	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	The Swarm "Episode 1"	Penn & Teller: Fool Us	Penn on Fire	Dish Nation (N)	Chicago P.D. "Saved"	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers		
MNT WPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	The Steve Wilkos Show	TMZ Live (N)	Dish Nation (N)	BBC News America	LIFE Ahead	America "Arkansas: Hidden Gems"	NOVA "Rebuilding Notre Dame"	NOVA "Rebuilding Notre Dame"	NOVA "Rebuilding Notre Dame"	Evolution Earth "Islands" (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	America "Arkansas: Hidden Gems"	America "Arkansas: Hidden Gems"		
CV WISE (33)	8	4	33	33	Evolution Earth "Earth"	PBS NewsHour (N)	NBC News America	PBS NewsHour (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)	Big Bang	Big Bang	MasterChef Amateur chefs compete to become a culinary master and earn the title MasterChef. (N)	FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Neighbor				
PBS WFWA (39)	13	5	39	39	Evolution Earth "Earth"	Context	BBC News America	PBS NewsHour (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)											
PBS WFPB (49)	3	5	49	49	WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)												
FOX WFTL (55)	6	6	55	55																

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Hot tub
- 4 Craving
- 8 Ella's style
- 12 Up to
- 13 Pisa farewell
- 14 Story
- 15 French article
- 16 Payments to a speaker
- 18 Russian villa
- 20 Capita lead-in
- 21 Recedes
- 24 "Barbie" director
- 28 Teen drama starring Emmy winner Zendaya as Rue Bennett
- 32 Saint Laurent of fashion
- 33 Opposite of "post"
- 34 Big name in tractors
- 36 Before
- 37 Disney exec Robert

DOWN

- 17 Rule, for short
- 19 Sneaky laugh
- 22 La —
- 23 Strainer
- 25 Always
- 26 Actress Hatcher
- 27 On the Baltic, say
- 28 Monumental
- 29 Incite
- 30 Rind
- 31 God of war
- 35 Arise (from)
- 38 Summa's "— Night"
- 40 Ger. neighbor
- 42 However
- 45 TV explorer
- 47 "Lotus" discipline
- 48 Standard abbr.
- 49 Business
- 50 Rockies hrs.
- 51 Have debts
- 52 Scooted
- 53 Tear
- 54 Conditions

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-13

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Community event

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discuss drug issues locally and nationally. Led by the chamber's advocacy committee and CADA, they formed an intentional group to address ongoing issues.

Over 40 individuals from various sectors — including law enforcement, public officials, school administration, business owners, and more — have signed up to serve on the task force. "Cody and John Speak" is the first event the group has held since forming, and one they hope brings a worthwhile conversation to the

forefront.

"This event is not a one and done with the Taskforce Committee," Prible said. "This is just the beginning. We want to provide resources, information, and programming from youth to adult. The stigma needs to change. You are worthy, you are supported, and there are people here locally that want to help. Our hope is to educate people from this event on the dangers of fentanyl, overdoses, and prevention."

"Cody and John Speak" was initially booked by Bluffton High School last

year, and, in meeting as a committee, the group decided to extend the reach of the message. The Wells County Foundation provided additional funding for the school events, and the City of Bluffton, the Town of Ossian, the Town of Poneto, Wells County Commissioners, National Oil and Gas, and Renovate Counseling helped support the community event. Wells County, Bluffton, and Ossian supported the event through opioid settlement funds.

In addition to the resources, demonstrations,

and presentations, each person who attends will be entered in a drawing for a gift basket, bracelets for the Bluffton Street Fair, and a \$25 gas card.

Prible added, "My favorite quote by Margaret Mead is, 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.' We can't put the blinders on and deny drugs are not in our community, because they are here. However, when we all come together, we can make a change."

holly@news-banner.com

Public Sale Calendar

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. *Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.*, heartlandauctionreality.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, 6850 E 700 N, Decatur. Personal property 6:30 p.m.: 2007 Dodge Grand Caravan, 131k miles, appliances, antiques, collectibles, furniture, fish and animal mounts, household items, tools, etc. *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 and 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.

Impeachment inquiry

(Continued from Page 1)
support," Sams said.

An inquiry is a step toward impeachment, which used to be rare, and McCarthy essentially outlined the potential charges ahead. With Donald Trump now the Republican front-runner to challenge Biden in next year's election, GOP allies are working to detract attention from the indicted former president's legal challenges and turn a negative spotlight on Biden.

The inquiry will be led by Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer, in coordination with Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan and Ways & Means Chairman Jason Smith. They are heading across the Capitol Wednesday to brief the Senate.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell has warned House Republicans off the effort, but said Tuesday, "I don't think Speaker McCarthy needs advice from the Senate."

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries called it an "illegitimate impeachment inquiry" and said Democrats will defend Biden "until the very end."

"There is not a shred of evidence that President Joe Biden has engaged in wrongdoing," Jeffries said.

"President Joe Biden is a good man. He's an honest man. He's a patriotic man."

The Republican speaker is once again at a political crossroads — trying to keep his most conservative lawmakers satisfied and save his own job. It's a familiar political bind for McCarthy, who is juggling the impeachment inquiry and a government shutdown threat with no clear end game.

Government funding is to run out on Sept. 30, which is the end of the federal fiscal year, and Congress must pass new funding bills or risk a shutdown and the interruption of government services.

Minutes after McCarthy spoke a chief Republican critic stood on the House floor deriding the inquiry as merely "a baby step" and reviving the threat of ousting the speaker. "We must move faster," said Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla.

The White House has insisted Biden was not involved in his son's business dealings. And Democrats are stepping up to fight against what they view as unfounded claims against him ahead of the 2024 election as Republicans attempt to blur the lines with Trump.

Former President Trump was twice impeached by the

House but acquitted by the Senate. He now faces more serious charges in court, indicted four times this year, including for trying to overturn the 2020 election Biden won.

House Republicans are probing the business dealings of Hunter Biden but so far have not produced hard evidence linking them and the president. They have shown a few instances, largely during the time the elder Biden was Barack Obama's vice president, when he spoke by phone with his son and stopped by dinners his son was hosting with business partners.

An impeachment inquiry would provide more left to the House investigation, especially as the Oversight Committee battles in court for access to Biden family financial records.

Republicans contend the Justice Department has not fully probed the allegations against Hunter Biden, and say he received preferential treatment in what they call a sweetheart plea deal that recently collapsed. The Department of Justice has appointed a special prosecutor in that probe.

"We will go wherever the evidence takes us," McCarthy said.

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