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Who was William Wells?

Story of county's namesake
part of Kekionga book series

By MARK MILLER

Wells County residents will have an opportunity during the upcoming Bluffton Free Street Fair to get better acquainted with the county's namesake, William Wells.

Fort Wayne resident Jim Pickett, who has written a series of four books about the village of Kekionga and the battles and struggles of northeast Indiana's first settlers, will be setting up shop in the Industrial Tent. William Wells and his complicated legacy played an important role in those events.



William Wells

Pickett's other local connection is that his books were published by Bluffton-based Oak Creek Media, one of Ed Schwartz' initiatives.

"I think it is safe to say that William Wells struggled with who he was and where his loyalties were," Pickett says.

Briefly, Wells was kidnapped by Miami Indians at the age of 13 and was raised as an Indian. He would eventually become a son-in-law of Chief Little Turtle. At first he fought on their side, but through a series of events became a spy for General Mad Anthony Wayne (Spy Run in Fort Wayne is named after Wells County's namesake). He then served as an Indian agent for the U.S. government. Wells appears in three of

Pickett's books "until he met his Waterloo in 1812," Pickett explains.

Pickett's books are "historical fiction," he emphasizes.

"My intention was not to make this a history book or a history series," he says. "It's an adventure story, a fun way to learn our history."

He estimates that about 80 percent of the characters and events are factual, but he invented characters on both sides — settlers and Indians — through whom the stories are told. For example, he created a chaplain serving the American forces through which he weaves his Christian faith into the narrative.

Pickett retired in 2011 from a middle-school teaching career in the DeKalb County schools. Raised in New Haven, he has since been a life-long resident of Fort Wayne and "was always intrigued by the local history," he says. An avid runner into his retirement years, an injury caused him to reevaluate what his focus might be. He was also doing some drivers-ed teaching in retirement and his encounters with young people convinced him that there was a need for more education on local history.

"So why not write a book?" he asked himself.

By 2017 he had completed what he thought would be his only book — "The Bones of Kekionga" — and was looking around for publishing options. None



Fort Wayne author Jim Pickett holds the four books he has written about the struggles of early settlers in the Fort Wayne area from about 1790 to 1813. He will be in the Industrial Tent on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday during the Street Fair. (Photo provided)

appealed to him until he came across Oak Creek Media, "right here in nearby Bluffton, Indiana," he says.

"I reached out to Ed, sent him my manuscript, we met and talked," Pickett continues. "It's been a perfect match."

Schwartz, who also founded Loving Shepherd Ministries, launched Oak Creek Media in 2004 when he identified a need for a small publishing house to "assist authors in getting their passion into the hands of oth-

ers," he says.

"Jim has a deep passion for history, especially the Fort Wayne region which includes Bluffton," Schwartz continues. "It was an honor to see his goal accomplished with his first book. He didn't know there would be three more after that, but God did."

Reactions to his first book led to encouragement for more. "The March to Kekionga" was published in 2019 and "The

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Days of caring

A group of Bluffton churches
join together to participate in
local volunteer projects

• More photos on Page 3
By BARBARA BARBIERI

For several years, a group of Bluffton churches have participated in a Fall Day of Sharing, when they participate in volunteer projects to assist non-profit groups in the area.

In past years the Sunday event was organized by Dr. George Babcock of the First Presbyterian Church while this year the Knights of Columbus from St. Joseph Church took over the leadership role with Mike Morrissey and Jeff Miller doing the organizing. This year the volunteering took place over three days—Sept. 14, 15, and 16.

Five sites were selected to receive assistance and included the Wells Community Boys & Girls Club (landscaping), Rivergreenway's Gazebo (landscaping and painting), Community Thrift Store (sorting clothing), Forgotten Children (sorting clothing) and Hannah's House (furniture assembling).

Among the churches furnishing work crews were: St. Joseph, First Presbyterian, First United Methodist and Sonlight Wesleyan.

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At Hannah's House, the projects included assembling furniture for the yet-to-be-opened home that will eventually house women before they can become residents at Grace & Mercy. Assembling outdoor furniture were Ryan Nunley and Mike Berkshire from the Sonlight Wesleyan Church. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)



Work at the Gazebo area along the Rivergreenway was underway on Friday as the Gazebo was painted and the gardens were weeded. The St. Joseph and Presbyterian churches were represented by left to right Andy Vogel, Jeff and Jennifer Burns (all weeding) and Twilla Herr (painting).

BHMSD explores new calendar and renovation projects

By HOLLY GASKILL

Preliminary mock-ups of a new Bluffton High School entrance were presented to the Bluffton-Harrison school board Monday night.

In planning to renovate parts of the roof and walls for moisture issues, the school will be able to make several design choices with the exterior of the building. Superintendent Brad Yates showed several proposals from Elevatus Architecture, each of which incorporated some combination of the school's colors and logos at the building's entrance.

Yates advised the architecture firm had organized a small committee to discuss design plans, and board member Trent White will represent the board as faculty liaison. Additionally, the board also approved a series of formal resolutions determining the need and funding for the project.

The board also discussed the 2024-25 school year calendar, which may include several changes compared to the year's past. Notably, students may attend school on the Friday of the Bluffton Street Fair.

Yates said the district surveyed families online and had 456 respondents, 56 percent of whom were parents and guardians. In the results, 42.4 percent of respondents pre-

(Continued on Page 2)

Indiana Attorney General Rokita faces misconduct charges

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle

One of the allegations outlined in the disciplinary complaint states that Rokita improperly disclosed on national television last summer that his office was investigating Indianapolis OBGYN Dr. Caitlin Bernard. Doing so could be deemed a violation of Indiana's Rules of Professional Conduct, which prohibits such a disclosure if the investigation is still pending.

At the time of Rokita's statements, the Bernard investigation was still pending, and a formal complaint against the doctor had not yet been filed with the Indiana Medical Licensing Board.

The complaint additionally alleges that by publicly referring to Bernard as an "abortion activist acting as a doctor — with a history of failing to report," Rokita broke a professional rule that bars attorneys from using means "that have

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Outside



A beautiful day
for a Street Fair

Today	Wed.	Thursday
High 73	High 81	High 83
Low 53	Low 56	Low 57

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TONIGHT AND TOMORROW AT THE STREET FAIR

TUESDAY, Sept. 19

(\$25 wristbands on Poor Jack Amusement rides, 5 p.m. to close)

6 to 7 p.m. — Musiclectics performance, intersection of Main and Market streets.

7 p.m. — Performance of the “Star-Spangled Banner” at Main and Market streets.

7 p.m. — Bluffton Free Street Fair’s Opening Parade, with Grand Marshal Tara Cocanower, on the Midway. The Opening Night Parade will be followed by the Jeep Parade. (Parade float award presentation will be held after the parade at Main and Market streets.)

8 p.m. — Street Fair Band, Johnson and Washington streets

9:30 p.m. — Street Fair Band, Main and Market streets

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 20

(\$25 wristbands on Poor Jack Amusement rides, 5 p.m. to close)

Noon to 5:30 p.m. — Antique and Classic Car Show, along South Main Street on the Midway. (Line up and judging begins at noon, with awards at 5:30 p.m.)

6 p.m. — Antique and Classic Car Parade, Midway

6:15 p.m. — High School Band Parade, Midway.

7 to 8:30 p.m. — Community Worship Night, main stage on West Washington Street.

7:30 p.m. — Street Fair Band, Main and Washington streets.

9 p.m. — Street Fair Band, Market and Johnson streets.

School calendar

(Continued from Page 1)

ferred to attend school on “Street Fair Friday.”

Additionally, 58 percent preferred the school year starting on or after Aug. 15, 64.8 percent preferred a six-day spring break, 60.1 percent preferred a five-day fall break, 84.1 percent preferred a 10-day winter break, 50.8 percent preferred a President’s Day to be a school day, 46.4 percent preferred Martin Luther King Jr. Day to be a school day, 67.7 percent preferred Good Friday to be a non-school day, 65.7 percent preferred a three-day Thanksgiving break, and 67.2 percent preferred ending the school year before Memorial Day.

Considering every factor, Yates explained, it’s difficult to meet every want and state requirement.

In the presented calendar, Aug. 8, 2024, was the first student day, and May 22, 2025, was the last student day. The school would have a five-day fall break, a three-day Thanksgiving break, a 10-day winter break, a six-day spring break, and Good Friday off. School staff would begin school on Aug. 6, 2024, end on May 23, 2025, and similar holiday breaks outside of Thanksgiving, which would be a two-day break.

Days off may also include Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President’s Day, and an additional Friday before winter break, pending approval from the Indiana Department of Education.

The drafted calendar was approved by the school board, but several members expressed flexibility to amend the calendar following public feedback.

Additionally, the administration recognized a series of recent awards, grants, and accomplishments. Notably, the Indiana Department of Education awarded the district \$250,000 through the Excellence in Leading & Learning Award. Yates said the administration is still in the process of determining the use of this grant, but he anticipated a significant portion will be used on professional development.

Assistant Superintendent Julie Meitzler noted that the district had also received a school safety grant, a paraprofessional grant for instructional assistants to pursue professional development opportunities, and a \$500 Paths to Quality Appreciation Award.

Bluffton High School Principal Steve Baker then shared that the US News and World Report’s recent rankings show BHS largely within the top 15 percent of high schools but closer to the top 3 and 4

percent for performance and graduation within Indiana.

Other items of discussion were:

- Jinny Broderick, clinical program manager at Park Center, thanked the board for their partnership for a suicide awareness walk taking place at the school on Saturday, Sept. 30.

- There were several positive highlights to the district’s ongoing projects. The middle school’s roof replacement is expected to be “substantially completed” by the end of the month; the parking lot and tennis courts are also expected to be soon completed. Additionally, the high school’s HVAC project is complete, and the maintenance team will soon be trained on the new system.

- The resignations of Sally Fornwalt, a middle school food service employee, and Kaleigh Massman, an elementary instructional assistant, were accepted.

- The board approved the employment recommendations for Angie Edwards, middle school intense intervention instructional assistant; Leah Tullis, elementary school intense intervention instructional assistant and childcare supervisor; Natalya Nuttle, childcare supervisor; Alexandria Craig, Amy Hipsher, Tyler Sonnigsen, Griselda Martinez, and Madison Siders as substitute teachers; and Ron Heck, bus driver. The transfer of Jessica Clark from elementary intense intervention instructional assistant to middle school food service was also approved.

- The board approved the following high school coaching staff: Craig Teagle, varsity boys’ basketball head coach; Mark Prible, Marcus Morgan, and Chad Grieser, varsity boys’ basketball assistant coaches; Doug Curtis, varsity girls’ basketball head coach; Bryan Bowman, Jaci Moser, and Abby Ault, varsity girls’ basketball assistant coaches; Ben Sprunger, boys’ wrestling head coach; Tim Zeis, boys’ wrestling assistant coach; Justin Uptgraft, boys’ swimming head coach; Steve Linderwell boys’ swimming assistant coaches; Caleb Geimer and Alyssa Cyrus, high school boys’ swimming volunteer coach; Hunter Cunningham, girls’ swimming head coach and boys’ and girls’ diving coach; Kristi Searles, girls’ swimming assistant coach; and Schlaura Linderwell, girls’ swimming volunteer coach.

- Additional approved coaching hires were: Matthew Sturgeon, middle school boys’ basketball coach; Brett Bothast and Scott Ribich, middle school

boys’ basketball volunteer coaches; Jeff Blair, middle school girls’ basketball coach; Lauren Brinneman, middle school girls’ basketball coach; Aaron Sturgeon, Matthew Sturgeon, Jackson Lambert, Marcus Morgan, Matt Beste, Adam Atkins, Denny Squires, Phillip Heer, Clint Renner, Vic Reinhard, Eric Keifer and Preston Kaehr, boys’ Future Tigers basketball coaches; Kelli Kistler, Felicia McElveen, Tristan Dick, Marah Hill, Zoey Smith, Kelli Kistler, Chrissy Craig, Andrea Herrold, and Tim Garrett, Lauren Brinneman, girls’ Future Tigers basketball coaches; and Eric Mounsey, Brett Bothast, Clint Renner, Vic Reinhard, Justin Uptgraft, Phillip Heer, Spencer Harris, and Matt Beste, boys’ travel basketball volunteer coaches. Harris was also approved 4-0 as boys’ Future Tigers basketball coach — board members Mike Murray, Bruce Holland, Julie Thompson, and Angie Sheets were in favor, and White abstained.

- The district announced its intent to employ a middle school boys’ basketball coach, elementary school intense intervention instructional assistant, and middle school instructional assistant.

- The board received donations of \$500 from St. Joseph Catholic Church to the high school Life Skills ECA fund; \$900 from Park Community Church for unpaid lunch accounts; \$1,951.92 from Gay Saunders to purchase a copy of “Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus” for every kindergarten student and \$300 donation to the elementary library; \$500 from Paths to Quality to the preschool for the Level 3 Milestone 5-Year Award; \$500 from Farmers & Merchants State Bank, \$100 from Shelton Financial Group, and \$750 from an anonymous donor for pork chop dinner supplies for the high school football program fundraiser; \$1,500 from an anonymous donor to high school football students in need; a book and goodie bag for every first grade student from Indiana Farm Bureau Ag; and five umbrellas for staff to use in the elementary car rider line from Amber Arnold.

- As part of their regular review of district policies, the board voted to delete policies JQ-E Application For Use of School Facilities for the Purpose of Operating a School Age Child Care Program, JQ-E1 School Age Childcare Program Survey, and JQ-E2 School Age Childcare Program Waiver Form. They also approved a new policy, EDB-1 Chemical Management Policy.

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Weather

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

(24-hour observations at 8:50 p.m. Monday)

High: 69; Low: 50; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.19 feet at 8:45 p.m. Monday

Wells County forecast

Today: Patchy fog before 9 a.m. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 73. Southwest wind around 5 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. East wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. South wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56. South wind around 5 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 83.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 57.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 57.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 81.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 57.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 77.

Sunday Night: A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

William Wells

(Continued from Page 1)

Siege at Kekionga” in 2021. His latest edition and, he believes, his last, “The Taming of Kekionga” was recently released.

Kekionga was a village at the confluence of the three rivers in Fort Wayne, and accommodated more trade volume than Detroit, Mich. at the time.

Pickett is looking forward to coming back to Bluffton. He played basketball and baseball in high school for New Haven and remembers playing at the old Tiger Den.

“I always learn more about local history from the people I talk to,” he says. His research into William Wells includes a “complicated and interesting life,”

he continues, that he’d be happy to share.

Pickett has also gained enough appreciation of Schwartz’ efforts to donate a portion of all of his books’ sales to Loving Shepherd Ministries.

He plans to “set up shop” in the Industrial Tent Wednesday, Friday and Saturday during the fair to offer his books and discuss the history behind their stories. Exact times each day will vary but his plans are to be there Wednesday and Friday from at least mid-afternoon until early evening and Saturday beginning at noon.

Pickett’s books are also available at www.jimpickett-books.com.

miller@news-banner.com

Optimist Club to sponsor Pedal Pull Saturday

The Bluffton Optimist Club will be sponsoring a Kid’s Pedal Tractor Pull Contest during the Bluffton Street Fair Saturday, Sept. 23, at West Washington Street in front of the Wells County Library.

The event is free and sign in will begin at 11 a.m. with the contest beginning at 11:15 a.m. Boys and girls weighing up to 60 lbs. may participate. Weights will determine the classes.

Prizes will be award to all participants and class winners will be recognized. The pedal tractors are provided.

The Optimist Club is a service club for women and men in the community. They meet on Tuesday mornings at the Hoosier House Restaurant in Bluffton for breakfast. To learn more about becoming an Optimist member contact Steve Higgins, 260-273-2711.

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Upcoming Events

September

Saturday 2nd

Jacks Rolling Food Shack 4 - 8 p.m.

October

Saturday 21st

Texas Tenderloins 12 - 8 p.m.

Rough Sunday Saturday Sept. 16 Concert 6-9 p.m.

Rylie Lynn Band Saturday Oct. 28 Concert



Street Fair sweatshirts

Every year there is a new design for the Street Fair sweatshirts the Bluffton Tri Kappa’s sell from their booth at the corner of Market and Johnson. Assisting with preparing the booth were Ben Blaubert and Brandon Wright (at left). Preparing to hang the T-shirts and sweatshirts, pictured left to right, were Bonnie Ramsey, Daphne Dahl, and Jena Wright. Not pictured were the Bluffton High School cross country team and Ted and Phillip Smith. Planning to assist with the tearing down of the booth will be members of the Norwell High School Swing Choir. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

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From Rwanda to the Bluffton Street Fair

Writing about travel has always been one of my favorite topics to share with our readers and is certainly a labor of love.

I have used this space since August to share anecdotes and vignettes about the week that my wife and I spent in east Africa. Our seven days in and around Kigali, Rwanda, in June were unforgettable — a sentiment that I hope I was able to express in the five pieces about our experiences there.

Each day was filled with a new adventure that we will always remember, and I can say with certainty that we'll return soon to spend more time in Rwanda.

I appreciate all of the feedback from our readers about the series. Perhaps a few of you are now considering a trip to Rwanda in the coming years. You might just see us there as well if you happen to go in the summer.

Our time in Rwanda, however, was just one week of our 21-day sojourn to Africa. From there, we boarded a plane to fly to Cape Town, South Africa. We spent another two weeks in and around Cape Town, and I'm looking forward to writing several more columns about our time there.

Look for those columns to begin later this month or the first week in October as I share stories from another safari we did in which some hungry-looking lionesses got a little too close to our vehicle. I'm also looking forward to writing about a hike to the most south-western point of the African continent, in addition to sharing anecdotes about the delicious food we enjoyed.

Speaking of delicious food ... I couldn't end this week's column without at least mentioning Bluffton's annual five-day fall festival that opens today in downtown.

Those of us born and raised in Bluffton — with the exception of a handful of Parlor City residents — love the Street Fair as much as we look forward to the holidays.

This year's fair will be the 112th to take place in Bluffton. The first Street Fair occurred in 1898, but officials had to cancel the fair a handful of times since its beginning, including in 2020.

My grandpa and I are fairly certain that our family has been attending the Street Fair since its beginning in 1898, as our family has called Bluffton home for more than 100 years. The fair has been an important annual part of our lives, and I'm sure the same is true for you.

This year's fair will be a bit different for my family, as my grandma Delenia passed away last October a couple of weeks after the fair ended. Grandma had not been able to go to the fair the past couple of years, but it was always one of her favorite times of the year in Bluffton.

She always enjoyed watching the parades, walking along the Midway and sampling all of the Street Fair delicacies. Her favorite activity, however, was the mouse game. She was the luckiest of all the Peepers and always managed to win each time she played.

If you were to stack up all of the quarters she spent at the mouse game over the years and measure the pile, I'm fairly certain it would equal the number of inches Jim Barbieri wrote during his tenure at The News-Banner.

Grandma Peeper's love of the Street Fair rubbed off on my cousins and I as we were growing up, and it just won't be the same at this year's fair without her.

I'm hoping some of her luck rubs off when I put my quarters down at the mouse game this week to try to win a prize that will probably end up being one of my golden retriever's newest toys.

I'm sure that she'll be looking down as my cousins and I play the game that she taught us to love so much.

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Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 19, the 262nd day of 2023. There are 103 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 19, 1995, The New York Times and The Washington Post published the manifesto of Unabomber Ted Kaczynski, which proved instrumental in identifying and capturing him.

On this date:

In 1796, President George Washington's farewell address was published. In it, America's first chief executive advised, "Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all."

In 1881, the 20th president of the United States, James A. Garfield, died 2 1/2 months after being shot by Charles Guiteau; Chester A. Arthur became president.

In 1955, President Juan Peron of Argentina was ousted after a revolt by the army and navy.

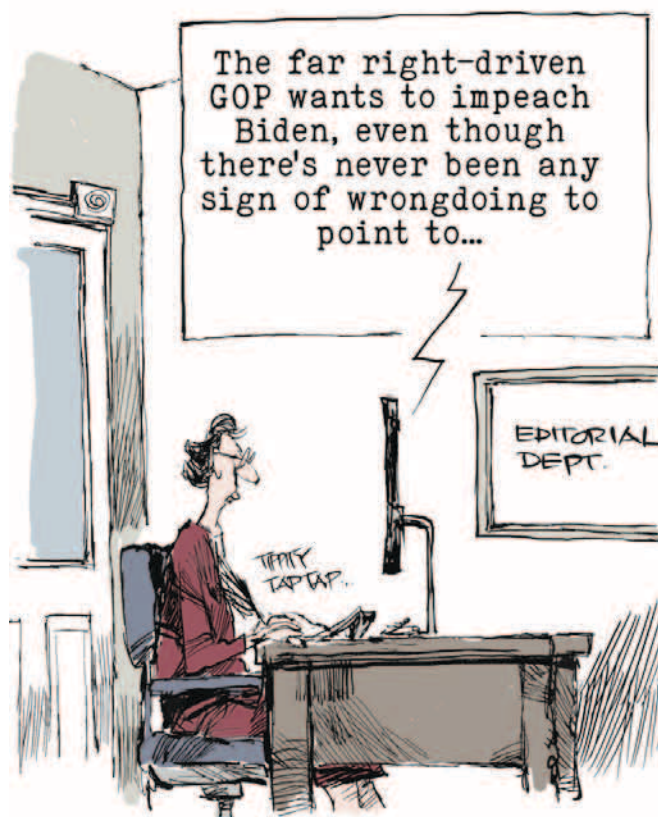
In 1957, the United States conducted its first contained underground nuclear test, code-named "Rainier," in the Nevada desert.

In 1970, the "Mary Tyler Moore" show debuted on CBS.

In 1985, the Mexico City area was struck by a devastating earthquake that killed at least 9,500 people.



Justin Peeper



"None whatsoever..."



The Biden impeachment inquiry was inevitable

President Biden couldn't dismiss the recently announced impeachment inquiry as a "witch hunt" because that turn of phrase had already been claimed by Donald Trump. So his administration had to settle for "goose chase" (they probably meant "wild-goose chase").

Maybe it is, maybe it isn't. But here's what it definitely was: inevitable.

From even before Trump took office, Republicans watched as Democrats engaged in a nonstop effort to undermine and destroy him. First, they falsely accused him of conspiring with Russian President Vladimir Putin to steal the 2016 election, paralyzing our country for nearly two years with an investigation into a conspiracy theory. Then came Trump's first impeachment, launched after a phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, which most Americans believed was deplorable but not impeachable. Then came his second impeachment on the charge of inciting the Jan. 6, 2021, riot; the politicized hush-money indictment by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg; a federal indictment over mishandling classified information (after Hillary Clinton was not indicted over her mishandling of classified information); a federal indictment around Jan. 6 and the most recent indictment in Georgia on charges of attempting to overturn the results of the 2020 election. And now some Democrats are seriously talking about using the 14th Amendment to kick Trump off the ballot — effectively asking secretaries of state to do what Trump shamefully asked Vice President Mike Pence to do and deny the American people their votes.

As I have repeatedly made clear, Trump has given Democrats every pretext to go after him. But this has been a sustained and unprecedented onslaught against the man Americans legitimately elected to the presidency in 2016.

At the same time, Republicans have watched as Democrats abused our institutions to protect the Bidens. First came the apparent collusion between the FBI, the intelligence community, the Biden campaign and social media platforms to suppress the Hunter Biden laptop story and falsely discredit it as Russian disinformation. Then came the allegations by IRS whistleblowers that the Biden Justice Department repeatedly undermined their investigation into Hunter Biden. Then Attorney



Marc Thiessen

General Merrick Garland named David Weiss special counsel in the Hunter Biden investigation — although Weiss had already mismanaged the ongoing probe, including by offering Biden a sweetheart plea deal so bad that it fell apart after a federal judge questioned its terms. Republicans on Capitol Hill see Garland's move as nothing more than an effort to stymie congressional investigators — thus necessitating this impeachment inquiry to give Congress the expanded subpoena power it needs to get to the bottom of the Biden family's alleged corruption.

This should come as a surprise to no one; it was only a matter of time before Republicans used the same tools and followed precedents set by Democrats to go after Biden.

The first 222 years of U.S. history saw just two presidential impeachments. We could be on a path toward the third in four years. And it won't end there. There will be enormous pressure on the next Republican president to use the justice system against Democrats the same way Democrats have weaponized it against Republicans. If this goes on, it won't be long before we truly become a banana republic where each sitting president's administration indicts his or her predecessor.

Meanwhile, public trust in the integrity of our key institutions has effectively collapsed in recent years. The irony is: The left justifies its campaign against Trump by citing the threat he poses to our democratic institutions. Yet their efforts to stop him have done as much damage to those institutions as he has.

This is precisely why Danielle Pletka and I called on President Biden to pardon Trump when he was indicted in the classified documents case — not because Trump didn't do anything wrong, but because of the dangers his prosecution poses to our democracy. Newton's Third Law — that for every action in nature there is an equal and opposite reaction — applies to politics as well. The more Democrats use extra-democratic means to try to stop Trump from retaking the presidency, the more likely it becomes that Republicans will renominate him and that he will return to the Oval Office.

So, brace yourself, folks. Because this impeachment inquiry is only the beginning, and the blowback might have only just begun.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen @marcthiessen on X

Lower drug prices threatens future medicines

On Aug. 29, the Biden administration announced the first 10 prescription drugs that will be subject to price negotiation. In other health-care policy news, on Sept. 11, the Food and Drug Administration approved updated versions of mRNA coronavirus vaccines that are better tailored to one of the most common current variants of covid-19.

Why am I telling you these two things together? Because Pfizer makes one of the vaccines and one of the drugs on the negotiation list. And taken together, they illustrate the core of our pharmaceutical dilemma: We want drugmakers to keep creating new treatments, but once they have, we would like to pay as little as possible for them — even if it blunts their incentive to invent future medicines.

Some pharma companies have filed lawsuits making various arguments that this negotiation policy is unconstitutional — not to mention more of a price control than a negotiation. That latter argument, at least, is correct: This is effectively a price control, carried out via an elaborate pseudo-negotiation that seems to have been layered on top mostly so the government doesn't have to call it that.

Drugmakers already negotiate the prices of drugs with the insurers that provide Medicare Part D plans. These are actual negotiations, in which the parties wrangle and jawbone until they settle on a mutually acceptable price.

In contrast, under the government's new authority, companies that "negotiate" will have to accept whatever price Medicare decides to set — even if it's absurdly low. This is not very negotiation-like. Nor can companies refuse to negotiate; if they do, they'll be slapped with an excise tax so stiff,



Megan McCordle

they could end up losing money on every unit they sell to Medicare. The only way for a company to avoid paying the tax or accept the "negotiated" price is to withdraw all its drugs from Medicare and Medicaid, which together account for 40 percent of drug spending in the world's richest market.

Good! you might be thinking. If federal drug spending is so lucrative they can't afford to give it up, we ought to use that muscle to get cheaper prices for ourselves. In fact, we ought to be doing this a lot more.

This is an understandable sentiment, but two things should give pause. First, the Constitution might not allow the government to force its subjects into heads-I-win-tails-you-lose dealmaking. Even if it does, encouraging the government to make offers its subjects can't refuse might not be wise.

The second problem is that, as any economist will tell you, price controls reduce supply. Artificially hold down the price of bread, rental housing or anything else, and you end up with a shortage. Artificially reduce the price of pharmaceuticals, and ... well, actually, you might not end up with shortages of existing drugs, because of the odd structure of the pharmaceutical market: It costs very little to produce most drugs, but billions to winnow a single successful candidate from many promising failures and shepherd that treatment through expensive rounds of clinical trials.

Once a drug exists, it might still be profitable to produce even at a much lower, controlled price. But drastically reduced profit margins make it much less attractive to invest the capital needed to develop the next drug. A number of drugmakers have

already announced they're cutting back on development candidates in response to the new controls, and estimates from the Congressional Budget Office suggest that, thanks to the cost-control measures in the Inflation Reduction Act, we'll end up with perhaps a dozen fewer drugs over the next couple of decades. Other research suggests that number could be much higher.

Of course, as Larry Levitt of KFF pointed out in a recent op-ed for the New York Times, we don't know which drugs we'll lose — a revolutionary cancer treatment or some Viagra knockoff. But note that even the much-derided Viagra might boost longevity in men who use it regularly. Meanwhile the new mRNA vaccines the FDA just approved are that eternal bane of progressive op-ed writers, the minor update of an existing molecule. I, for one, would rather have the update than settle for 1.0.

Unfortunately, there's a perversity to the way we think about pharmaceuticals. Once we have a drug, we want to keep it. But we also want to pay as little as possible. And, thanks to the peculiar economics of drug production, we can get away with price controls in the short term.

In the long run, however, we lose other treatments we don't yet know about. And while it's easy to dismiss those future drugs as hypotheticals, many of us are alive today because of medicines that were until very recently just some researcher's hypothesis. Given the choice, how many of us would give up very real advances in exchange for saving money 20 years ago?

Some readers, I'm sure — but, if we're honest, not many. So why does the same choice feel so different when it's today's money and tomorrow's healthier lives?

Follow Megan McCordle @asymmetricinfo on X

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

OBITUARIES

Ernest E. Harris, 62

Ernest E. Harris, 62, of Bluffton, passed away on Saturday, September 16, 2023, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Ernest was born Sept. 27, 1960 in New Jersey to Donald and Irene Harris. He attended Norwell High School and served his country in the United States Army. He worked in various jobs as a carpenter.

Ernest is survived by his two sons; Michael (Juanita) Harris and Joseph (Beth) Harris of Mich.; and their daughter, Priscilla of Mo.; along with his siblings, Don Harris of Bluffton, Jewel Tappy of Ala., Brian Harris of Decatur, and Angel Harris of Bluffton.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Roland Harris.

Private family services will take place at a later date. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.



Days of Caring



Wells Community Boys & Girls Club

On Saturday morning a landscaping crew worked at the Wells Community Boys & Girls Club as they trimmed trees, weeded the gardens and did some mulching. The workers were from the St. Joseph and Presbyterian churches. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)

'Success coaches' to hit Indiana colleges after budget approval

By **LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ**
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Less than half of Hoosier college students finish their degrees on time, according to state data — but some may soon have help from new “success coaches.”

The Indiana State Budget Committee on Friday approved \$2.5 million to embed 31 success coaches in higher education institutions across the state. Officials also nabbed funding boosts for capitol security and a tornado-damaged state park.

During the program's first year, coaches will focus primarily on getting pre-approved students to complete enrollment, said Michelle Ashcraft, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's chief programs officer. And because many students drop out during the first year, the coaches will also concentrate on first-year retention.

Later, they'll extend that focus to overall student retention, on-time completion, early graduation and even graduate retention — keeping new graduates.

CHE also wants to coordinate the program with the career-coaching provisions tucked within the state's career-focused efforts to “reinvent” high school, Ashcraft told the committee.

The money will go toward salaries, benefits and start-up costs like training and office supplies, she said. CHE totaled the per-coach costs, then divided the \$2.5 million request by that number to arrive at 31 coaches.

The effort will serve as a launching platform for institutions.

In their applications for the funds and associated coaching positions, colleges and universities must also include sustainability plans “for how they would continue these positions moving forward,” Ashcraft said.

CHE is laying the groundwork for more robust student support as Indiana anticipates a swell in the number of higher education-seeking students.

State lawmakers this spring authorized auto-enrollment to the 21st Cen-

tury Scholars program. The scholars are low-income students who meet certain academic requirements in exchange for state-covered tuition and fees at Indiana colleges and universities.

Previously, the state said it was spending substantial amounts of money encouraging eligible students to sign up by the eighth-grade cutoff — and less than half did.

The first class of students to be automatically enrolled numbered 40,000 — double the previous year's enrollment. These students will graduate high school in 2027, and the state will begin subsidizing their tuition and fees thereafter.

“We won't see these students ... for a few years now, but we do have many students who are in the pipeline,” Ashcraft said.

“This would allow the campuses to start to build support on their campuses, not only to support current students, but to prepare for auto-enrollment to come in a few years.”

The program is based on a model used by Purdue University for over a decade to support its 21st Century Scholars, according to Ashcraft. As a result, Purdue has logged a 12.5 percent increase in the four-year completion rate for first-generation and non-white students, and a 25 percent increase for students overall.

Committee members lauded CHE for its efforts, but also said Indiana should better resource the high school version of a success coach: a school counselor.

“My daughter ... missed two weeks of instruction — advanced placement statistics — because she was placed in the wrong math class, because the counselors have 400-500 students (each),” said Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis.

“We're putting all of these dollars to advance 21st Century Scholars and others to help students transition, and enroll in time, and graduate on time,” he continued. “But within the school system, we don't have enough counselors to guide” students through the complex application process.



Forgotten Children Worldwide

All three days the help at Forgotten Children Worldwide included the sorting of clothes to be sent overseas. The Thursday morning crew included folks from the First United Methodist Church and the First Presbyterian. Left to right are Deb Shantz, Jean Studebaker, Carol Blevins, Ann and Gary Boone, Nancy Johnson and Ron Blevins.



Community Thrift store

At the Community Thrift Store the volunteer job was to sort clothing that had been donated. Here all if the store's staff are volunteers — so they are all pictured including those from the Presbyterian Church. In the front row are Karen Hedrick, Jan Babaock and Brenda Thomas while behind them are Lisa Jack, Store Manager Edna Bassett, Lesa Asher and Linda Griffith.

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.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023
6pm - Antique & Classic Car Parade - Midway
6:15pm - High School Band Parade - Midway
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POOR JACK AMUSEMENTS

Hot dog sampling at the library

By BARBARA BARBIERI

As part of the county's celebration of the One county One read book of John Green's "The Anthropocene Reviewed," the Wells County Public Library hosted a Hot Dog Around the World sampling session Wednesday evening.

Green writes about two hot dog experiences in his book and it is the story about the "Hot Dogs of Baejarins Beztu Pylsur" that took place in Iceland that encouraged the hot dog sampling evening.

Participants could sample five hot dogs as prepared in five different countries including Chili, Canada, Mexico, USA (Hawaii) and Iceland. And then like Green they could rate the experience from one to five stars.

An unofficial tally



At the library's "Hot Dogs Around the World" event Herb Bergman, at left, is shown with hot dogs from five countries on his plate. Also adding the correct condiments to her hot dogs was Deb Barrick, at right.

seemed to give the hot dog from Iceland the most stars. The bun had to include crisp fried onions, chopped raw onions, ketchup, sweet brown mustard and Remoulade sauce—along with the hot dog.

While dining the guests could watch an

Iceland Travelogue and view the hot dog stand Green wrote about as well as play Hot Dog Trivia.

Another program in the One county One Read series will be the Musiclectics Concert on Wednesday, Oct. 11, at 6:30 p.m.

Zanesville News

by Melba Edwards

The Zanesville Lions will be having their annual Halloween Party on Monday evening, Oct. 30th. Get your costumes ready so you can win a cash prize. After the judging, the Lions will serve you free hot dogs, chili, chips, cookies and punch. You can then stay to play free bingo for great prizes. All ages are welcome to attend.

Regular happenings are going on in Zanesville. Check with the new business "Just Add Chips" as they are extending their hours and will be open a little later than usual. The Kinseys, who own the business, have also moved their family to the apartment upstairs at their business. Stop in and get acquainted with this now Zanesville family.

If you have not been a customer of the County Line Pizza and Pub you will want to check out their great place to eat in town check to see their open hours.

Of course, you can get lots of prepared food at Lengerich Meats as they have a large variety in their showcase. They are open six days a week and are known all over for their meats.

The Tower Life Center Church on Wayne Street has announced that they have begun having a "worship Night" series for the 2023-24 season. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings that will be held at the church. The special services are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month through the month of May 2024. The next service in the series will be at 7 p.m. at the church on Oct. 11.

The churches of Zanesville are all three open to all who want to attend any services and special activities happening at their sites. You are all welcome.

In the midst of so many things to do in September, I spent a few days attending my sister Mary Lou McBride Burkhardt's estate sale down towards Huntington on Hosler Road. She collected lots of family things so I wanted to buy some if they were included in the sale. I found 10 or 15 old books with my dad's name in them, some had my

grandpa Dr. J.L. McBride in them, and also some were old school books of my Uncle Dr. Maurice McBride.

One in particular was a numbered library book from the library of Ida Taylor who ran a library in her home here in Zanesville many years ago. The home still stands, was built in 1904, and sets on the corner of Wayne and Broadway. To historians it is know as the Dr. Botts house. Dr. Botts was married to Ida Taylor.

I loaded a box of books and they agreed to bring them up for sale. Another young man was looking at them and I thought, "Oh, no! It looks like he is very interested in making a bid." I had to think for a while of what I was willing to spend on family history. The bidding started and the young man was bidding against me! He went as high as \$85 and then he stopped.

A few more things sold and then this young man came over and I supposed he wanted to buy one of the books he was interested in. Not so! He had in his hand a roll of bills which he gave to me and said he was paying for my books as he never intends to bid against family. Thank you Jared Foote, I will be calling him soon to let him know how much I am enjoying these books.

Of special interest to me was the book on Teddy Roosevelt who my father idolized. My father Don McBride's name was inside the cover. I need to read much of it as my Dad was known to tell tall tales and one was about Teddy Roosevelt's Poncho Villa and my Dad going up San Wan Hill so I need to verify this and I might just find an answer.

I will be forever thankful that my father loved history and loved to tell us all about it. Without his input we could not have compiled the Zanesville 1976 History Book that I am still selling for just the copy price. We have sold about 1,500 of them and I get compliments on the publication all the time. I may have a few copies available at Pioneer Days in Huntington at my booth inside.

The day before the sale

I noticed a pile of some kind of egg shaped hunks of heavy metal. Memory served me well as I remembered Dad having them at the barn. They were all rusted and there were different weights in the pile. I told the auctioneer, who didn't know what they were, that they were weights for bulls horns. You put the horn inside and tightened them with two screws. With these hanging on the horns the horns grew down not straight out.

My Dad was an old fashioned farmer or I wouldn't have known this and we had some pretty scary bulls! In fact, we had a set of blinders that kind of look like a women's bra made of metal. If Dad looked at a pretty woman my brother Dave, when he was little, would remind Mom to, "Get the blinders." Now you can look these up on your computer.

I purchased other things at the sale. The sugar scoop to my mother's sugar bowl that now belongs to our son's family along with her Seller's cabinet, and her sugar cookie cutter that will be added to the cabinet's collection. My Mother bought the cabinet in 1931 from her brother for \$30 when she married my father.

The sale went well and how interesting as my sister had lots of things tagged for history. I need to do that too!

Hints on hiking Ouabache's five trails

By BARBARA BARBIERI

At the Friends of Ouabache State Park's Lunch & Learn gathering Thursday at the park, program presenter Jody Heaston, Indiana State Park Naturalist, told about the five hiking trails and one bicycle trail at Ouabache.

All those attending were provided a map for locating the trails.

Trail 1 is one mile in length and travels around the bison enclosure. It is rated easy with a level, but not paved, path.

Trail 2 is 1.25 miles in length and is also rated easy.

Trail 3 is 1.5 miles in length and is known as the Tree Trail as it has 25 trees labeled with QR codes for identifying them. It begins by the campground area.

Trail 4 is 3 miles in length and is labeled moderate for ease in walking. It goes around Kunkel Lake as well as parts of other trails in the park.

Trail 5 is 6 miles in length and covers almost the entire park. It too can be started by the campground area.

The Bike Trail covers 2.68 miles and is considered moderate in difficulty.

Heaton then discussed the Adventure Backpacks that may be checked out at the park's office to go along with the hiking experience.

Next she went over what every hiker should have in their backpack as they hike—starting with the backpack being rain resistant.

Her backpack includes: a first aid kit with IVYX wipes, small army knife, whistle, compass, small flashlight, bandana, small binoculars, field guide or nature apps on a cell phone (Eye Seek or Merlin), snacks (including candy and Doritos), matches some lint for fire starting, water. (Did you know that Doritos are a good fire starter?)

She also explained that a hiking stick also can be of great help and be used for brushing aside debris to clear a path. Another handout from the American Hiking Society



Jody Heaston with a "survival" bandana, one of the items she always includes in her hiking backpack. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

added sun screen, sun glasses and rain gear on their backpack list.

Another "trick" Heaston shared with the learners was that a cap of an acorn can be detached and used as a whistle in an emergency—which she demonstrated.

Attendees also were presented a tree identification handout that explained by examining the leaves and how they grow on a tree that the tree can be identified. She further explained that folks may take leaves, nuts and berries out of the park, but never rocks.

As the program was presented attendees enjoyed a dessert of cherry cobbler, provided by Corner Depot Catering.

The next Lunch & Learn event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 12 when Janet McGowan from St. Joseph Parks will present a program on how animals prepare for the winter. Reservations to friendsfoouabache@gmail.com or call (260) 824-0926.

Bluffton Lions Club meeting notes

The Bluffton Lions Club met on Tuesday, Sept 5 with District Governor Terry Marker installing the 2023-2024 officers.

The meeting was opened by President Don Smith, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Past President Jim Ottjes, God Bless America by guest Mrs. Lowell Tillman and Prayer offered by Ottjes. After the minutes, the financial report and information about upcoming events were presented to the club members, a meal and fellowship followed. A new idea had been brought up to plant a tree in the Lions Club name. The club is saving plastic caps and plastic medicine bottles to have made into park benches. Caps can be turned into the lion's club meetings at Milli's Restaurant on the 1st or 3rd of the month, contact Past IPCC Jerry Ziegler at 437-8183 or use the drop bag on the porch at 1121 Ridgewood Lane in Bluffton.



Check presentation for the Cancer Control program in memory of Rita Engle. Past District Governor Sandy Zeigler, left, and club treasurer Lin Harrold.

We will host guest speaker, fellow Lion member Dr. Christina Williams, for the Foundation "Rebuilding Lives Inc." at an upcoming meeting.

An anonymous donor gave \$1,000 to the Lions

for the Maui cleanup and humanitarian efforts. The club also received a \$50 check for the Cancer Control program from Dean Engle in memory of his wife Rita Engle who passed away from cancer.

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Tigers escape boys' tennis match with win over Jets

By RYAN WALKER

The Bluffton boys' tennis team got the job done on its most important match of the season in a 3-2 nail-bitter over Adams Central on Monday.

The Tigers needed a win to stay alive in the Allen County Athletic Conference standings. The entire four-team league has a 1-1 record, with the trophy awaiting its new home by this Thursday after South Adams plays Jay County.

Recently, the coaches determined that there would be one champion and no shared title.

For Bluffton to stay alive, it needed a win over Adams Central and have Jay County beat South Adams.

The Tigers beat the Jets and the Patriots but lost to South Adams. So, their 2-1 record would get them the ACAC crown if Jay County defeats South Adams on Thursday due to a tiebreaker, but would lose it if the Starfires were to win on Thursday.

Therefore, Bluffton's 2-1 record needs to match with Jay County since the Tigers won earlier in the season over them. South Adams, with a win on Thursday, would be 2-1 and would receive the tiebreaker since it beat Bluffton.

"(Bluffton) played well, and I hate to keep harping on last Thursday, but if they would have played like this last Thursday (against South Adams), we're taking a picture with the trophy right now," Bluffton head coach Robert Vanderkolk said after the match. "Now, we've got to wait on Jay County, and hopefully, they can take care of business against South Adams since we couldn't do it last Thursday."

Last season, Bluffton's final conference match was against Adams Central for what was technically the "championship," as both teams were 2-0. The Tigers won and celebrated their first ACAC championship since 2008.

In this year's match, there wasn't an opportunity for any photo-taking, but just to keep the dream alive for a few more days.

The match wasn't easy, with Adams Central also looking to win the conference, too. The Jets also wanted to avoid Bluffton ending their hopes for the second straight year.

The first three games went rather quickly, with Bluffton's Ben Maggard and Kade Abbett winning No. 2 doubles and Adams Central's Logan Heiman winning No. 3 singles.

Vanderkolk, though, was pleased with his No. 2 singles guy Nolan Lambert for his two-set win and is peaking at the right time. His match was crucial to get the Tigers up 2-1.

"Nolan Lambert's starting to play tennis like he's capable of," Vanderkolk said. "He's played really well the last couple weeks at No. 2 singles."

Another player Vanderkolk has been happy about is Anthony Hartman, who ended up losing his match at No. 1 singles but is showing signs of improvement, after head-to-head with each school's best player. His coach said that he's working hard on his game and has developed as a leader for the young roster as well.

In the final match, to determine if the Jets or Tigers would continue on, it came down to Coy Lantz and Dane Schlagenhauf, who

have spent this season mostly at No. 2 doubles. Due to a win in the last practice over Abbett and Lambert, Vanderkolk was forced to make a switch.

"(Lantz and Schlagenhauf have) stepped it up," Vanderkolk said. "They beat Ben and Kade at practice. That's why I flipped the doubles teams. That's within the rules: If you get beat at practice, that's your spot. It's just like cross country or swimming. If you beat the guy standing across from you, it's pretty simple math there."

Lantz and Schlagenhauf took the first set and were down early in the second, but after taking the lead back, the two took control and won the game and officially the match.

South Adams and Jay County play on Thursday, the same day as Bluffton's road match against Concordia, making it impossible for the Tigers to watch in person. Instead, Vanderkolk will be relying on the Patriots' head coach, Donald Gillispie, to send updates. The two talk regularly, and Vanderkolk even helps tie their broken tennis racket strings. There shouldn't be any lack of communication for scores on Thursday.

Or, perhaps another solution is in the works.

"It wouldn't shock me if I sent one of my assistants down there or somebody to watch on my behalf," Vanderkolk laughed. "... On the other side of it, we put ourselves in that spot. If we would have just taken care of business last Thursday, like I said a minute ago, we're taking pictures on these courts for a second straight year."

Bluffton will face Bellmont on the road starting at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20.

sports@news-banner.com

Full results

- Ean Brown (AC) defeated Anthony Hartman 6-2, 6-4 at No. 1 singles.
 - Nolan Lambert (B) defeated Ethan Gentis 6-2, 6-2 at No. 2 singles.
 - Logan Heiman (AC) defeated Jacob Ribich 6-2, 6-0 at No. 3 singles.
 - Coy Lantz and Dane Schlagenhauf (B) defeated Krew Clark and Cody Ausland 6-4, 6-4 at No. 1 doubles.
 - Kade Abbett and Ben Maggard (B) defeated Mason Fruechte and Tyler Ausland 6-1, 6-3 at No. 2 doubles.
- Bluffton also won the junior varsity match 6-2.

Results for JV

- Lance Moser (B) defeated Chris Espinosa 8-6.
- Graham Linderwell (B) defeated Brody Ish 8-6.
- Michael Summers (AC) defeated Evan Klopfenstein 8-4.
- Lincoln Rodgers (B) defeated Eli Wellman 8-6.
- Logan Johnson (B) defeated Daymon Froke 8-6.
- Jackson Meyer (B) defeated Sam Johnson 8-5.
- Eli Wellman (AC) defeated Braden Lemler 6-2.
- Chris Espinosa (AC) defeated Chase Houser 6-0.
- Brody Ish and Michael Summers (AC) defeated Jed Logan and Grant Reifsteck 6-4.

T.J. Watt's scoop-and-score lifts Steelers past the Browns

By WILL GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — T.J. Watt scooped up a fumble by DeShaun Watson and ran 17 yards for the go-ahead touchdown midway through the fourth quarter, and the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns 26-22 on Monday night in a game overshadowed by a serious knee injury to Cleveland star running back Nick Chubb.

The Steelers (1-1) beat the Browns (1-1) for the 20th straight time at home in the regular season when outside linebacker Alex Highsmith — who returned an interception for a touchdown on the game's first snap — beat Cleveland left tackle Jedrick Willers Jr. off the edge and chopped the ball out of Watson's hands.

Watt picked it up and raced home as Pittsburgh extended its home winning streak on Monday night to 21 straight dating to 1991. Cleveland allowed an opponent to score two defensive touchdowns for the first time since Pittsburgh did it on Oct. 16, 1983.

The Browns played most of the final three quarters without Chubb, who was carted off the field with what appeared to be his second major left knee injury. He suffered a dislocation and three torn ligaments while in college at Georgia.

Chubb took a handoff from Watson early in the second quarter and reached the Pittsburgh 3 when Steelers safety Minkah Fitzpatrick dove at Chubb's legs. The four-time Pro Bowler's left leg bent awkwardly underneath him as he rolled over Fitzpatrick, with his knee being pushed one way while the rest of his body went another.

The injury was so disturbing to watch that a replay was shown just once inside

the stadium, and ESPN declined to show replays on its telecast. Players on both teams knelt in prayer while Chubb was tended to by medical personnel.

Chubb, respected by his teammates because, as former quarterback Jacoby Brissett put it, "he's an All-Pro and acts like he's on the practice squad," was taken off on a cart.

Jerome Ford, Chubb's replacement, ran for 106 yards and caught a 3-yard touchdown pass for the Browns, but Cleveland's miscues cost it a chance to win at Pittsburgh in the regular season for the first time since 2003. The Browns beat the host Steelers in the playoffs after the 2020 season.

Watson completed 22 of 40 for 235 yards with a touchdown and an interception. He was also flagged twice for unsportsmanlike conduct for grabbing the facemask of a Steeler while running. The penalties cut a pair of promising drives short.

The Browns were penalized eight times for 81 yards and turned it over four times, two of which ended with one member of the best edge-rusher tandems in the NFL celebrating in the end zone.

The Steelers avoided their first 0-2 start since 2019 even though their offense continued to sputter. Kenny Pickett connected on 15 of 30 passes for 222 yards, a third of them coming on a 71-yard catch-and-run touchdown by George Pickens in the second quarter that briefly brought the Acrisure Stadium crowd to life.

Cleveland still appeared to be in good position when Ford raced 69 yards to set up a 1-yard dive by Pierre Strong that put the Browns ahead 22-19 midway through the third quarter.



Bluffton's No. 2 singles player Nolan Lambert backhands the ball during his match with Adams Central's Ethan Gentis 6-2, 6-2. He won the match and helped the Tigers to finish the ACAC season with a 2-1 record. The Tigers will await South Adams and Jay County to determine the overall winner on Thursday. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

High School Calendar

TUESDAY, SEPT 19
BOYS TENNIS: Huntington North at Norwell, 4:15 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL: Columbia City at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Adams Central at Bluffton, 7 p.m.; Canterbury at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 20
BOYS TENNIS: Adams Central at Norwell, 4:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Bellmont, 4:30 p.m.
GIRLS SOCCER: Heritage at Norwell, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT 21
BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at Heritage, 6:15 p.m.
BOYS TENNIS: Norwell at Leo, 5 p.m.; Bluffton at Concordia, 5 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL: DeKalb at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Eastbrook at Bluffton, 6 p.m.; Southern Wells at Whitko, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT 22
FOOTBALL: East Noble at Norwell, 7 p.m.;

Southern Wells at Bluffton, 7 p.m.
GIRLS GOLF: (regional) Norwell, Bluffton at Noble Hawk, 8:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT 23
BOYS SOCCER: Columbia City at Norwell, 11:30 a.m.
BOYS TENNIS: Norwell at Delta Varsity Invitational, 9 a.m.
CROSS COUNTRY (CO-ED): Norwell, Bluffton, Southern Wells at Huntington University, 9 a.m.
VOLLEYBALL: ACAC Tournament, Bluffton, Southern Wells at Heritage, 9 a.m.

MONDAY, SEPT 25
BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at Huntington North, 6:30 p.m.
GIRLS SOCCER: Huntington North at Norwell, 6:30 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at Adams Central, 7:30 p.m.; Bluffton at New Haven, 6 p.m.; Southern Wells at Tri-Central, 6 p.m.

Sports Roundup

Knights edge Panthers in boys' tennis match

Norwell won over Snider at home 3-2 in a nonconference match on Monday. With the win, the Knights are now 11-2 (4-1) on the season.

Results

- Grant Mishler (N) defeated Camden Davis 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 singles.
 - Bodie Zimmer (N) defeated David Crothers (6-7(3-7), 6-3, 10-8) at No. 2 singles.
 - Talan Rowe (S) defeated Gavin Reynolds 6-3, 6-1 at No. 3 singles.
 - Jaden Payne and Jake Hoover (N) Tyler Martin and Jak Mohrman 6-4, 6-2 at No. 1 doubles.
 - Eddie Archbold and Ayden Quintnailla (N) defeated Jace Easton and Tavis Rowe 6-4 7-5 at No. 2 doubles.
- Snider won the junior varsity match 5-2.

Results for JV

- Sam Cormany (S) defeated Braylon Troutt 8-1.
 - Ryan Weibel (S) defeated Christian Werling 8-1.
 - Evan Taylor (S) defeated Alex Baker 8-2.
 - Sam Cormany (S) defeated Kabyn Peterson 8-0.
 - Colden Kline and Brody Hirsch (S) defeated Rylan Heyerly and Landon Diver 8-3.
 - Ryan Ewing and Ethan Williamson (N) defeated Silas Burke and Bobby Cameron 8-2.
 - Jasper Kreigh and Philip Mayer (N) defeated Silar Burke and Bobby Cameron 8-3.
- Norwell will host Huntington North at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 19.

Knights top Archers in V-ball

Norwell defeated South Side in three sets on the road Monday night. The Knights won the first set 25-13, 25-18 in the second, and 25-23 in the third. They are now 13-6 on the season. Stat leaders for the night were Vanessa

Rosswurm with six kills, Jordyn Xayyachack with four aces and 15 digs, Marlee Wenger with 16 assists, and Mekynzi Beck with two blocks.

The junior varsity team won in two sets (25-10, 25-5), and the freshman in two sets as well (25-3, 25-9).

Norwell will host Columbia City at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 19.

Knights top Barons in girls' soccer on penalty kicks

The Norwell girls' soccer team defeated conference foe DeKalb on the road on penalty kicks on Monday night.

The Knights are now 9-3-1 (4-2 NE8) on the season.

The score was 1-1, with Issie Isch scoring the goal and Makenzie Fuess with the assist.

Grace Mann and Karrigan Melcher scored the two goals during the shootout for the win.

Gracie Rinkenberger made two great saves, according to head coach Dan Batdorff, and forced two other misses in the shootout.

Norwell and DeKalb tied in the junior varsity match.

Shae Brooks scored the only goal for the Knights, while Abby Wagner and Emma Garner were the goalies.

Norwell will host Heritage at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20.

Barons beat Knights in boys' soccer on penalty kicks

Norwell fell to DeKalb at home on penalty kicks Monday night.

Both teams failed to find a winner after the final time and two overtimes.

The Knights are now 4-7-1 (3-2 NE8) after the loss in conference play.

Noah Schamerloh scored the only goal for Norwell, while Noah Fromm made 11 saves in net.

Norwell will be at Heritage at 6:15 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21.

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News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL

New Orleans 20, Carolina 17
Pittsburgh 26, Cleveland 22

BASEBALL

American League

East Division			
	W	L	Pct
z-Baltimore	93	56	.624
z-Tampa Bay	92	59	.609
Toronto	83	67	.553
New York	76	74	.507
Boston	75	76	.497
Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Minnesota	79	72	.523
Cleveland	72	79	.477
Detroit	70	79	.470
Chicago	58	93	.384
Kansas City	49	102	.325
West Division			
	W	L	Pct
Houston	84	66	.560
Texas	82	68	.547
Seattle	81	68	.543
Los Angeles	68	82	.453
Oakland	46	103	.309

z-clinched playoff berth

Sunday's Games
Pittsburgh 3, N.Y. Yankees 2
Cleveland 9, Texas 2
Toronto 3, Boston 2
Houston 7, Kansas City 1
Baltimore 5, Tampa Bay 4, 11
innings
Minnesota 4, Chicago White Sox 0
Detroit 5, L.A. Angels 3
L.A. Dodgers 6, Seattle 1
San Diego 10, Oakland 1

Monday's Games
Kansas City 6, Cleveland 4
Cincinnati 7, Minnesota 3
Chicago White Sox 6, Washington 1
Boston 4, Texas 2
Baltimore at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
Seattle at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.

Detroit at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
L.A. Angels (Sandoval 7-13) at Tampa Bay (Bradley 5-7), 6:40 p.m.
Minnesota (Maeda 5-7) at Cincinnati (Cruz 1-1), 6:40 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Ureña 0-6) at Washington (Rutledge 0-1), 7:05 p.m.
Toronto (Kikuchi 9-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Schmidt 9-8), 7:05 p.m.
Cleveland (Allen 7-7) at Kansas City (Cruz 0-0), 7:40 p.m.
Boston (Houck 5-9) at Texas (Eovaldi 11-4), 8:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Gibson 14-9) at Houston (Brown 11-11), 8:10 p.m.
Seattle (Castillo 13-7) at Oakland (Blackburn 4-5), 9:40 p.m.
Detroit (Olson 4-7) at L.A. Dodgers (TBD), 10:10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Minnesota at Cincinnati, 12:35 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Washington, 1:05 p.m.
Boston at Texas, 2:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Houston, 2:10 p.m.
Cleveland at Kansas City, 2:10 p.m.
Seattle at Oakland, 3:37 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Tampa Bay, 6:40 p.m.
Toronto at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Detroit at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

San Francisco 76 74 .507 16
San Diego 72 78 .480 20
Colorado 56 93 .376 35½
x-clinched division

Sunday's Games

Pittsburgh 3, N.Y. Yankees 2
N.Y. Mets 8, Cincinnati 4
Miami 16, Atlanta 2
St. Louis 6, Philadelphia 5
Washington 2, Milwaukee 1, 11
innings
San Francisco 11, Colorado 10
L.A. Dodgers 6, Seattle 1
San Diego 10, Oakland 1
Arizona 6, Chicago Cubs 2

Monday's Games

Cincinnati 7, Minnesota 3
N.Y. Mets 2, Miami 1
Chicago White Sox 6, Washington 1
Philadelphia 7, Atlanta 1
St. Louis 1, Milwaukee 0
Colorado at San Diego, 9:40 p.m.
Detroit at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Minnesota (Maeda 5-7) at Cincinnati (Cruz 1-1), 6:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Lucchesi 3-0) at Miami (Garrett 9-6), 6:40 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Ureña 0-6) at Washington (Rutledge 0-1), 7:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (Sanchez 2-4) at Atlanta (Strider 17-5), 7:20 p.m.
Pittsburgh (TBD) at Chicago Cubs (Assad 3-3), 7:40 p.m.
Milwaukee (Houser 6-4) at St. Louis (Rom 1-2), 7:45 p.m.
Colorado (Fellner 2-3) at San Diego (Snell 14-9), 9:40 p.m.

San Francisco (Cobb 7-6) at Arizona (Gallen 15-8), 9:40 p.m.
Detroit (Olson 4-7) at L.A. Dodgers (TBD), 10:10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Philadelphia at Atlanta, 12:20 p.m.
Minnesota at Cincinnati, 12:35 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Washington, 1:05 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 3:40 p.m.
Colorado at San Diego, 4:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Miami, 6:40 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, 7:40 p.m.

Milwaukee at St. Louis, 7:45 p.m.
Detroit at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

Midwest League

Midwest League Playoffs (x-if necessary)
Semifinal
(Best-of-3)
Great Lakes 2, Fort Wayne 1
Tuesday, Sept. 12: Fort Wayne 5, Great Lakes 0
Thursday, Sept. 14: Great Lakes 3, Fort Wayne 2
Friday, Sept. 15: Great Lakes 2, Fort Wayne 1
Peoria 1, Cedar Rapids 1
Tuesday, Sept. 12: Peoria 4, Cedar Rapids 3
Thursday, Sept. 14: Cedar Rapids 9, Peoria 4
Friday, Sept. 15: Cedar Rapids 9, Peoria 3
Championship
Best-of-3
Cedar Rapids 1, Great Lakes 0
Sunday, Sept. 17: Cedar Rapids 10, Great Lakes 6
Tuesday, Sept. 19: Great Lakes at Cedar Rapids, 7:35 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 20: x-Great Lakes at Cedar Rapids, 7:35 p.m.

BASKETBALL

WNBA

(x-if necessary)
First Round
(Best-of-3)
No. 1 Las Vegas 2, No. 8 Chicago Sky 0
Wednesday, Sept. 13: Las Vegas 87, Chicago 59
Sunday, Sept. 17: Las Vegas 92, Chicago 70
No. 2 New York 1, No. 7 Washington 0
Friday, Sept. 15: New York 90, Washington 75
Tuesday, Sept. 19: Washington at

MSU tells football coach Mel Tucker it will fire him for misconduct with rape survivor

By LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

Michigan State informed suspended football coach Mel Tucker on Monday that he will be fired without compensation for misconduct involving activist and rape survivor Brenda Tracy in a sordid case that dates back more than a year.

"The notice provides Tucker with seven calendar days to respond and present reasons to me and the interim president as to why he should not be terminated for cause," athletic director Alan Haller said in a statement released by the school.

If Tucker does not present "sufficient reasons to dispute" multiple contract violations, the school will fire him Sept. 26, three days after the program's Big Ten opener in what was hoped to be a bounce-back year for the Spartans.

Tucker is in the third year of a \$95 million, 10-year contract and if he is fired for cause, the school would not have to pay him what's remaining on his deal. Tucker, his agent and his attorney did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

Haller said the decision does not affect the ongoing investigation into Tracy's allegations of sexual harassment, which is being handled by the school's office for civil rights.

Tracy said Tucker sexually harassed her during a phone call in April 2022. Several months later, Tracy filed a complaint with the school's Title IX office and the investigation was completed in July. A hearing is scheduled for the week of Oct. 5 to determine if Tucker violated the school's sexual harassment and exploitation policy and a ruling could take up to 60 days.

Tracy's allegations were made public by USA Today earlier this month. The 51-year-old Tucker, who said he is estranged from his wife and has two children, said the allegations against him are "completely false." Tucker insisted that the intimate phone call he had with Tracy was consensual and outside the scope of both Title IX and school policy.

The school, however, said the actions Tucker acknowledged were unprofessional and unethical. It told

Tucker he is being fired for "breaches" in his contract and for engaging "in any conduct which constitutes moral turpitude or which, in the university's sole judgement, would tend to bring public disrespect, contempt or ridicule upon the university."

Tracy is known for her work with college teams educating athletes about sexual violence. Michigan State paid her \$10,000 to share her story with the football team.

The Spartans (2-1) were routed 41-7 by No. 8 Washington on Saturday in Harlon Barnett's debut as interim coach. Michigan State hosts Maryland (3-0) on Saturday.

Tucker began his coaching career with Nick Saban as a graduate assistant for the Spartans in 1997. He returned to the school with one of the biggest contracts in college sports after leading Colorado for one season and serving as an assistant coach at Georgia, Alabama and Ohio State.

Tucker also worked in the NFL, leading the Jacksonville Jaguars as interim coach during the 2011 season.

The Chicago Bears are reeling and things aren't about to get easier with Chiefs up next

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
AP Sports Writer

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — The Chicago Bears are reeling after two discouraging losses to start the season. As if things weren't bad enough for them, look who's up next.

The Bears are staring at a trip to Kansas City to take on Patrick Mahomes and the defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs.

"I think it's about us," linebacker Jack Sanborn said Monday. "We got to do our jobs and do it to the best of our ability. It's the NFL. It's crazy how this game works. You go in there, cause a few turnovers, get the ball, take advantage of opportunities when they're given. It's the NFL."

Beating the Chiefs is no small task for any team, but it's a particularly daunting challenge for the Bears given their lackluster start. A 27-17 loss at Tampa Bay on Sunday and another rough outing for Justin Fields coming off a discouraging opener against Green Bay at Soldier Field squelched the optimism surrounding the team following a busy offseason.

The Bears' losing streak is up to 12 in a row since a Monday night win at New England in Week 7 last year. With the Chiefs up next, there's a good

chance it reaches 13.

"We are steadfast, we are straightforward and we are all in this together," said coach Matt Eberflus, who called plays against the Buccaneers with defensive coordinator Alan Williams missing the game for personal reasons. "So as coaches, players, and we are looking at a great Wednesday practice and looking into Kansas City. That's what we're looking at."

WHAT'S WORKING

Special teams. The Bears got some big plays from their special teams on Sunday. Rasheem Green put Chicago in prime position early in the second quarter when he blocked Chase McLaughlin's 40-yard field goal attempt. The Bears took over at mid-field, only to squander the opportunity by going three and out. Cairo Santos nailed a 52-yarder with just under two minutes left in the half.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The pass rush. The Bears have just one sack through two games and that was in the opener. The only team with zero is the New York Giants. The Bears had Baker Mayfield in their hands a few times, but were unable to take him down.

STOCK UP

Chase Claypool. The receiver

redeemed himself at least a little bit after an awful opener. He caught a 20-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter to cap a 90-yard drive that cut it to 20-17. Claypool didn't exactly light it up with three receptions for 36 yards. But it was an improvement over the previous week, when he failed to catch either of the two passes thrown his way and his effort running routes and blocking on the perimeter was so poor it raised the possibility of him being inactive against the Buccaneers.

STOCK DOWN

Fields. The 24-year-old quarterback got off to a terrific start, leading a 75-yard touchdown drive on the Bears' first possession. But five of their next six possessions ended in punts, with a field goal along the way.

Fields completed six passes on a 90-yard drive that ended with Claypool's TD. The Bears took over at their 7 with 2:24 remaining. But instead of leading a late scoring drive, the comeback hopes got squashed.

Throwing from the end zone, Fields tried a short pass to Khalil Herbert that was picked off by Shaquil Barrett, who returned the interception 4 yards for a touchdown that sealed the win for Tampa Bay. He threw another interception about a minute later.

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Indiana Attorney General

(Continued from Page 1)
no substantial purpose other than to embarrass, delay, or burden a third person.”

A third count contends that — because Rokita disclosed his office’s investigation into Bernard before making a referral to the Medical Licensing Board — he broke another professional rule that describes any lawyer’s actions that are “prejudicial to the administration of justice” as misconduct.

The complaint requests Rokita be disciplined for professional misconduct and pay required expenses.

Rokita promptly filed a response Monday defending his actions and maintaining the complaint “stemmed from grievances, which mainly referenced media reports.”

He said “no confidentiality should be required,” given that Bernard “violated her duties of confidentiality” by initially disclosing information about her patient to the media. He further argued the professional rules only prohibit discussion of “complaints and information pertaining to the complaints,” which he said he “did not discuss.”

Rokita said, too, that he “has a duty to keep the public informed of the office’s actions and decisions,” but noted it’s “unclear” if the confidentiality statute applies to the elected attorney general himself, or only to non-elected employees of the office.

“Hoosiers, in the larg-

est number on record, elected me Attorney General because they knew they were getting a passionate fighter who — like them — is beating back the culture of death, grievance and transiency being pushed by radicals in workplaces, schools, media and government,” Rokita said in a separate statement. “This work certainly includes vindicating vulnerable children (our most precious gift) for having their privacy rights unlawfully violated — without consent — by healthcare providers to further their political agenda and their ‘bottom line.’ I won’t stop in this and my other work.”

Rokita’s conduct in question

Marion County Superior Court Judge Heather Welch ruled in December that the Republican attorney general violated the state licensing statute’s confidentiality provision when he disclosed his office was investigating Bernard. He made the public statements on Fox News before he filed a complaint against the doctor with the Medical Licensing Board.

Bernard performed an abortion on a 10-year-old rape survivor from Ohio in June 2022. Although she gave few identifying details when she told the Indianapolis Star about it, the case went national.

Rokita told Fox News commentator Jesse Watters last summer that his office was investigating Bernard, the Indiana abortion doc-

tor who brought the case to light nationally. But he provided no details during the appearance.

“And then we have this abortion activist acting as a doctor with a history of failing to report. So we’re gathering the information,” Rokita said on air. “We’re gathering the evidence as we speak, and we’re going to fight this to the end, including looking at her licensure if she failed to report it. In Indiana, it’s a crime for — to not report, to intentionally not report.”

That summer, former Indiana University Maurer School of Law Dean Lauren Robel alleged that Rokita made “false or baseless” statements about Bernard. She filed a complaint with the disciplinary commission in July.

Robel further asserted to the disciplinary commission that Rokita did not retract those comments even after they were shown to be false.

“If he can throw the entire weight of his office without consequence to attack Dr. Bernard, he can do so to target any private citizen with whom he disagrees,” Robel wrote in a letter obtained by the Indiana Citizen. “This is the opposite of the rule of law.”

Rokita maintained on Monday that his statements referred to terminated pregnancy reports being sought by his office, which “did not concern anything confidential” and should have already been made public by the state. He added that those

reports “were not yet part of a licensing investigation.”

Indiana’s professional conduct for attorneys states that lawyers holding public office assume legal responsibilities “going beyond those of other citizens.” A lawyer’s abuse of public office “can suggest an inability to fulfill the professional role of lawyers.”

The rules instruct lawyers not to “make a false statement of material fact or law,” and instead “be truthful when dealing with others on a client’s behalf.”

Attorneys are addition-

ally required to avoid “misrepresentations,” which can occur if a lawyer “incorporates or affirms a statement of another person that the lawyer knows is false.”

Misrepresentations can also occur when making “partially true but misleading statements or omissions that are the equivalent of affirmative false statements,” according to the attorney guidelines.

Lawyers who “engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation” are in violation of the professional conduct rules

and subject to discipline.

It has been rumored that numerous other grievances were also filed against Rokita, but none have been confirmed.

Bernard was ultimately disciplined by the Indiana Medical Licensing Board earlier this year for mishandling the 10-year-old abortion patient’s information and violating patient privacy laws. The board declined to take action affecting Bernard’s ability to practice, however. Before the decision, she had never been disciplined by the licensing board.

Officials find debris from F-35 fighter jet that crashed in South Carolina after pilot ejected

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — The crash site for a stealth fighter jet that went missing during the weekend after its pilot ejected was located Monday in rural South Carolina after the military asked the public for help finding an aircraft built to elude detection.

The debris field was discovered in Williamsburg County, about two hours northeast of Joint Base Charleston. Residents were being asked to avoid the area while a recovery team worked to secure it.

“We are transferring incident command to the USMC this evening, as they begin the recovery process,” the base posted Monday on the X social media platform.

Authorities had been searching for the jet since the pilot, whose name hasn’t been released, parachuted to safety into a North Charleston neighborhood about 2 p.m. Sunday. He was taken to a hospital, where he was in stable condition, Marines Maj. Melanie Salinas said.

“The mishap is currently under investigation, and we are unable to provide additional details to preserve the integrity of the investigative process,” the Marine Corps said in a news release on

Monday evening.

The Marine Corps announced earlier Monday it was pausing aviation operations for two days after the fighter jet’s crash — the third costly accident in recent weeks.

Gen. Eric Smith, the acting commandant of the Marine Corps, ordered the stand-down while authorities searched near two South Carolina lakes for the missing FB-35B Lightning II aircraft.

It’s the third event documented as a “Class-A mishap” over the past six weeks, according to a Marine Corps announcement. Such incidents occur when damages reach \$2.5 million or more, a Department of Defense aircraft is destroyed, or someone dies or is permanently disabled.

Commanders will spend the stand-down reinforcing safe flying policies, practices and procedures with their Marines, according to the Monday release.

The announcement gave no details on the two previous incidents. But in August, three U.S. Marines were killed in the crash of a V-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft during a training exercise in Australia, and

a Marine Corps pilot was killed when his combat jet crashed near a San Diego base during a training flight.

Cpl. Christian Cortez, a Marine with the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, said the details of what prompted the pilot to eject from the aircraft Sunday were under investigation.

Based on the missing plane’s location and trajectory, the search was initially focused on Lake Moultrie and Lake Marion, said Senior Master Sgt. Heather Stanton at Joint Base Charleston. Both lakes are north of North Charleston.

A South Carolina Law Enforcement Division helicopter joined the search after some bad weather cleared in the area, Stanton said. Military officials appealed in online posts Sunday for any help from the public in locating the aircraft.

The pilot of a second F-35 returned safely to Joint Base Charleston, Salinas said.

The planes and pilots were with the Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501 with the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing based in Beaufort, near the South Carolina coast.

Wednesday
September 20th
Rain Date:
Friday September 22nd

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In the Merchants Tent

A variety of groups will have displays set up in the Merchants Tent, which has returned to its usual spot on West Market St. On Monday afternoon the Wells County Friends of the Shelter were preparing their area as they worked on signs. Left to right are Patti Langel, Mary Martin (the group's President) and Tammy Schaffer. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

Native American remains returned for reburial

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — For centuries, Europeans carving up the prairie to suit their own idea of settlement dug up the graves of Native Americans as they conquered lands and pushed tribes to the West.

Now, Native Americans whose ancestors' remains ended up held for study in sterile, nondescript boxes on shelves in educational facilities or displayed in cultural locales hope a new Illinois law will speed their recovery for proper reburial in their homeland.

"I always have a bit of unease because I know if I'm going to a university or to a museum ... that chances are pretty high that we've got some ancestors sitting in a basement or in a closet somewhere," said Raphael Wahwassuck, tribal preservation officer for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Mayetta, Kansas. "I hope that this (law) will help ease those concerns, knowing that we are working on correcting that and taking care of our ancestors to put them in a good resting place."

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed The Human Remains Protection Act last month, which updates a rudimentary 1989 state statute. It also complements a federal law adopted a year later, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. It requires the return of human remains and funerary, sacred and cultural objects unearthed in the past 200 years by plows and bulldozers, by archeologists, or by profiteering marauders to the associated tribe.

Key to the measure is first-time authority for tribes to rebury recovered remains in Illinois, which they much prefer to relocating them to states to which the U.S. government forced their relocation nearly two centuries ago.

The Illinois State Museum, which holds remains from about 7,000 individuals, is prepared to reunify 1,100 of them with their tribes, according to Brooke Morgan, the museum's curator of anthropology. Overall, institutions in Illinois can identify nearly 13,000 individuals that must be repatriated.

What the soil produced

often ended up in scholarly institutions across the state, from Chicago's Field Museum to Southern Illinois University, as well as the state museum.

Illinois is the nation's fifth-largest repository of human remains, according to the National Park Service, which administers the repatriation program. And large numbers of remains recovered from Illinois are held by institutions in other states. Nationally, the remains of nearly 209,000 individuals have been reported to the federal government and must be surrendered to descendants.

Information about past cultures and lives lived gleaned from anthropologists' study of the remains is not without merit, Morgan said, but research must be "ethically informed."

"While there's a lot that can be learned, it's not it's not without consequences or outcomes that could be damaging to modern communities," Morgan said.

The law also toughens monetary penalties, including required restitution, for disturbing human remains and items buried with them or for displays — something the Illinois State Museum did at Dickson Mounds in Lewistown, 200 miles southwest of Chicago, before disbanding the feature in 1992.

While repatriation in Illinois during the federal law's first three decades has been sluggish, at best, in 2020, the late Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, the museum's director, pushed her staff to gauge interest with Native American tribes in repatriating the Dickson Mounds holdings.

Now, the museum is on the cusp of returning the remains of 1,100 individuals from Dickson Mounds to 10 tribes whose ancestors were laid to rest there, Morgan said. The process has wrought stronger relationships with affected tribes, which could prove critical as the new state law requires consultation — meaningful dialog among holding institutions and tribes about handling and transferring remains — rather than simple notification.

"It can be emotionally

taxing. It can be really traumatic to learn about how their ancestors have been studied or how they've been housed or how they've been cared for or not cared for," Morgan said.

What scholars now call a period of ethnic cleansing began with President Andrew Jackson's signature on the Indian Removal Act of 1830. It forced indige-

nous people to move west of the Mississippi River, clearing the eastern United States for white settlers, particularly for expansive cotton cultivation in the south.

Prior to the new law, "repatriation" meant turning remains over to tribes who had little choice but to take them back to the states to which they were forcibly removed.

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Purdue Agricultural and Biological Engineering undergrad program is ranked number one in U.S.

By MAUREEN MANIER
Purdue University

Purdue University's Agricultural and Biological Engineering undergraduate program is ranked No. 1 in its category in the 2024 U.S. News & World Report undergraduate program rankings, released Monday. The ranking marks the 13th consecutive year the program has earned a spot in the top two.

"ABE has consistently achieved this ranking because the faculty and staff focus on making a global impact in key areas of research and preparing our students to take that impact to the next level," said Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agricultural and Biological Engineering.

ture Bernie Engel, who is also an ABE professor and former department head. "I am grateful to ABE's department head, Nate Mosier, for his skilled leadership and to all the faculty and staff members for their commitment. Our students have numerous positive experiences during their time in ABE, from exceptional mentorship and research opportunities to multiple student organizations."

John A. Edwardson Dean of the College of Engineering Arvind Raman said, "ABE's No.1 ranking with one of the nation's largest numbers of enrolled agricultural and biological engineering majors is emblematic of Purdue's signature excellence at scale. I am grateful to the faculty and staff for their exceptional effort to deliver top-notch educational programs to students."

Mosier, who is the Indiana Soybean Alliance Soybean Utilized Endowed Chair focuses his research on bioprocessing and the conversion of renewable resources to fuels, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, praises the department's research diversity. "I believe our department earned this honor for many reasons," he said. "But when I look at our distinguished team of faculty, staff and students and consider all the areas in

which my colleagues excel, I take pride knowing that depth translates into preparing our students to make a major difference across industries. It's no surprise to me that our students become



Purdue Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE) students in front of the ABE Building on Purdue's West Lafayette campus. (Photo by Tom Campbell, Purdue Agricultural Communications)

incredibly successful alum Last year the 32 members of ABE's faculty garnered 82 awards for research, totaling \$15.4 million. ABE's 378 undergraduate students represent 64 coun-

ties in Indiana, 29 states and 11 countries. Over 95 percent of last year's graduates either accepted a full-time position or are continuing their education after graduation.

Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge semi-finalists announced

By AGDAILY

The American Farm Bureau Federation and Farm Credit have announced the 10 semi-finalist teams in the 2023 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge. The challenge is a partnership between the two organizations that focuses on advancing agricultural innovation by supporting start-up businesses nationwide.

The competition provides an opportunity for individuals to showcase ideas and business innovations in agriculture. This is the 10th year of the challenge, which was

the first national business competition focused exclusively on rural entrepreneurs launching agriculture and food-related businesses. Farm Bureau is offering \$165,000 in startup funds throughout the course of the competition.

The 10 semi-finalist teams are being awarded \$10,000 each. They are:

- anu, Indiana. Team lead: Scott Massey
- Appanoose Manufactured Products, Iowa. Team lead: Mark Mendick
- Barn Owl Precision Agriculture, Colorado. Team lead: Sarah Hinkley

• Idem Irrigation, Nebraska. Team lead: Phil Holliday

• ReptoHealth Technologies, Indiana. Team lead: Jim Donahue

• Secret Garden Bees, North Carolina. Team lead: James Hartman

• Share Farm, Washington. Team lead: Vincent Peak

• Smooth Ag, Texas. Team lead: River McTasney

• UAV-IQ Precision Agriculture, California. Andreas Neuman

• Udder Ways LLC, New York. Team lead: Jody Neal

The final round will happen at the AFBF Convention.

The 10 semi-finalist teams will compete at the AFBF Convention on Friday, Jan. 19, to advance to the final round, where the four finalist teams will receive an additional \$5,000, bringing their total to \$15,000 each.

The final four teams will compete live in front of Farm Bureau members, investors, and industry representatives on Sunday, Jan. 21, to win three top titles and prizes:

- Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge Winner,

mentorship from Cornell University's SC Johnson College of Business faculty prior to competing at AFBF's Convention. In addition, the top 10 semi-finalist teams will have the opportunity to network with industry leaders and venture capital representatives from USDA's Rural Business Investment Program.

for a total of \$50,000

• Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge Runner-up, for a total of \$20,000

• People's Choice Team selected by public vote for an additional \$5,000 (all ten semi-finalist teams compete for this honor)

The top 10 semi-finalist teams will participate in pitch training and

Indiana leading in high oleic soybean acres

The demand for high oleic soybeans continues to grow. 13 states grow high oleic soybeans with the highest concentration of acres in Ohio and Indiana. The United Soybean Board hosted an event in late August just south of Fort Wayne for farmers to attend in an effort to grow those acres even more.

Cass County farmer Kevin Wilson spoke to the crowd on hand about his experience growing high oleic beans. He says it's far different now than it was when he first started around 7 or 8 years ago. The obstacles back then are

largely gone now, and the differences between high oleic and conventional soybean management are miniscule.

"Basically, it's not much. When the planter is about empty you switch over and it's not like you have to go through and blow your planter boxes completely out and flush the combine or anything like that anymore. If you've got a little extra now, you know, we can put Plenish back into the regular beans and it's no big deal."

And companies are paying big premiums for high oleic.

"Depending on your

situation, whether you're going to deliver in-season, or during the fall, or if you're going to store and deliver later on, for this past year's crop, it was anywhere between \$2 to \$2.20 a bushel," Wilson says. "From what we're hearing, the '24 crop will be somewhere around \$1.75 a bushel."

Yield drag and weed control used to be the two big obstacles facing growers in their decision to grow high oleic soybeans. Traci Bulte-meier, Northeast Indiana Territory Manager for Pioneer, says strong pre-plant and pre-emerge weed control programs have helped

alleviate the weeds issue.

As for yield drag, "There is no yield drag to these. When you take a look at the lineup of Enlist E3 genetics compared to our Plenish varieties, they yield right up there all together... When you put maturity zones to maturity zones, they all yield right with each other."

You can learn more about high oleic soybeans from the United Soybean Board. The Indiana Soybean Alliance also has information regarding Indiana elevators accepting them. Contact your local Pioneer sales rep to get started.

EPA investigates Illinois Smithfield plant after complaints

By AGDAILY

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency opened up an investigation of a Smithfield Foods meat processing facility in St. Charles, Illinois, after Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, a Democrat, wrote a letter last month.

The letter requested that the EPA look into the Smithfield Foods facility's wastewater treatment processes and equipment.

"Local residents are increasingly reporting malodorous air conditions, which impact their quality of life and health. In recent discussions with St. Charles city officials, representatives of Smithfield Foods have cited

various efforts to mitigate the odors," wrote Krishnamoorthi. "However, constituents living near the plant continue to express concerns over malodor from the industrial agriculture operations."

News sources report that the source of the odor is the plant's wastewater treatment facility, where 90,000 gallons are generated each day.

However, expansions and production increases since 2019 have increased odor concerns. To control the odors, plant managers say that they've upgraded processes and installed odor control systems, also bringing on wastewater consultants.

In response last week,

Debra Shore, the EPA's regional administrator, responded to the request.

"Due to a long-standing policy of limiting third-party communications regarding enforcement matters, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is not able to share findings from ongoing investigations," Shore said in the letter. "Please be assured that we are in contact with the City of St. Charles and with the Smithfield Foods facility. And we will be pleased to provide you with the information concerning the inspections when publicly available."

Back in July, workers from the plant gave a pre-

sentation to the Government Operations Committee members during a city council meeting. According to Shaw Local News Network, however, representatives were dissatisfied, saying that the problem odors impact on the community has not been solved.

Smithfield Foods has been the target of several litigations over the years, including over 29 cases and 500 plaintiffs. Two recent lawsuits alleged false advertising by Smithfield involving its "crate-free" pork claims. Another suit claims that Smithfield exploited consumers and workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Brother conned our mother until the end

Dear Annie: When my mother was in a coma, dying, my brother closed her safety deposit box. He was co-executor of the estate. Life insurance policies, jewelry and all her personal and important belongings were gone.

I was stuck listing, cleaning and selling her home. There are a total of four children, and I had to drive nearly two hours to complete the task while everyone else was within a few miles of her. They enjoyed their trips while I worked my bum off.

However, I try to look at the positive side. For instance, I got to spend some alone time in the house I grew up in. I was able to add new memories and closures. The attorney I hired said, "Before this is over, somebody in the family will not be speaking!" How true.

My brother left a small life insurance policy to bury mom, and we had to fight to get the will. Unfortunately, he submitted one where he got \$5,000 more than anyone else in the family for his friendship. To add insult to injury, the money was distributed before we realized the will was never filed with the state.

He lives very well in his home in Florida, but of course, he's a great scammer. He scammed his employer, stating that he was unable to work, and his lawyer fought and won early retirement for him.

People like this exist right under our own noses. The saddest part is the fact that the night before Mom had a stroke, he told her he would no longer help her. My mom called me in tears. I told her she could move out of state with me and we'll figure it out. She died knowing who truly loved her, and — while dying in a hospital — she realized that her son was stealing from her. — A Con Artist for a Brother

Dear Con Artist for a Brother: No amount of money in the world will buy peace of mind and a good night's sleep. It sounds like your brother is a crook

and you know it, your mother knew it and he knows it. That is really sad, but it is the way he has chosen to live his life.

Dear Annie: Your recently published letter about a 79-year-old man and his desire to continue driving was a bit off the mark. He said he was a more defensive driver and had slowed down on the road. My guess is he is one of those drivers who travel 25 miles per hour in a 45 mph zone. I am 73 and aware of too many elderly drivers who are now afraid of their surroundings while at the wheel. My mother-in-law drove until her mid-80s, and I believe she was dangerous on the road. Anything over 45 mph scared her to death, and her driving reflected this. Not until she had a few minor accidents did she stop driving. Luckily, she hurt no one else.

This man might want to have an impartial third party evaluate his driving skills and accept the results. I imagine the reason for his letter was that someone was already concerned about how he drove and he did not appreciate those comments. — A Third Party Review

Dear Third Party: Thank you for your letter. A great number of you wrote in about the importance of having a third party evaluate elderly drivers.

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Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Our lives should reflect the praise of the One who redeems lost souls

Q: Why has church become more about worship leaders and praise songs than about the God to be worshiped in good and bad times? — P.W.

A: "Praise and worship" has become a cliché. Praising the Lord is not something we're called to do only on Sunday morning. It's a way of life — praising God no matter what we do or where we are. It's relatively easy to sing for an hour in church, but it's another matter entirely to live day in and day out praising the Lord with our obedience.

When we are discouraged, "praise Him" (Psalm 42:5). Praise to God is the antidote for every trouble. When we praise Him, we're worshipping Him by

keeping our eyes on Him. Scripture speaks of praising the Lord continually — past, present, and future. Praise should be on our lips and in our hearts; in our thinking, speaking, and singing; but most of all, in how we live.

The patriarchs praised the Lord throughout the generations. The prophets praised Him for deliverance. The apostles praised Christ in two of His glory, and the people praised the Messiah who came and is coming again. The praise did not flow only in times of victory, but also in times of imprisonment, in times of despair, and in the face of death.

One of the most compelling passages about praise, however, is when Jesus Himself praised

His Father in Heaven for revealing the truth to the people whose ears and hearts had been opened to the Gospel. He had been preaching this message to Jewish leaders, but they rejected His message and sought to kill Him. He rebuked them for scoffing at those who had received His Word with gladness (see Matthew 11:25).

Our lives should reflect the praise of the One who redeems lost souls. It should be demonstrated in our lives because this will be the grandeur of Heaven, praising Him eternally.

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

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TV schedule table with columns for date, time, and channel, listing various programs like 3D Woman, CBS News, Wheel of Fortune, etc.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid and clues. Across: 1 Small-scale singer, 5 Tummy muscles, 8 Shakespeare title, etc. Down: 1 "The A-Team" actor, 2 Chit, 3 Dijon, etc.

Yesterday's answer 9-19 crossword puzzle grid with filled-in letters.

