Chairman of Joint

Chiefs is confirmed

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The Hemz-Banner.com

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22 2023

BLUFFTON, INDIANA · Wells County's Hometown Connection

¢4 00



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Smiling faces on parade

Thursday evening was Street Fair's Industrial Parade and no one left empty handed. Above is the Elevate Wells County float, and at right, this year's Grand Marshal Tara Cocanower waves to crowds. (Photos by Sydney Kent) Below, Vietnam veterans were honored by parade watchers standing and applauding as they rode by. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

Related photos on Page 5





Festival worker charged with child solicitation

By SYDNEY KENT

A man working at the Bluffton Street Fair attempted to meet with a 12-year-old girl at Pak A Sak to engage in sexual acts earlier this week.

Instead, he was met by a decoy from Bikers Against Predators.

Teddy Hussung, 48, Aurora, was charged with child solicitation, a Level 4 Felony. Hussung pleaded not guilty to the crime during his initial hearing Wednesday morning in the Wells Circuit Court. Larry Mock was appointed as his public defender.



Teddy Hussung

According to a probable cause affidavit, Hussung told officers he met "Gabby" on Snapchat. Gabby is the name used by the decoy, Robert Bloom. Hussung reportedly told "Gabby" he wanted to impregnate her. He also referred to her as his wife in several text messages and called himself her husband when he sent a photo of his genitals. In a written statement, Hussung said, "I messed up. I should have (Continued on Page 2)

Number of Hoosiers without health insurance declines

By WHITNEY DOWNARD Indiana Capital Chronicle

The number of Hoosiers without health insurance decreased between 2021 and 2022, falling 0.6 percent to 7 percent uninsured, according to a release from the United States Census Bureau.

"For seven of the states with lower uninsured rates in 2022, the difference was driven by increased private coverage. For 10 states, the uninsured rate decrease was related to increased public coverage," said David Waddington, a division chief with the bureau.

The report credits increased insurance coverage in Indiana to an enrollment uptick in public health insurance options, such as Medicaid, rather than any significant change in private insurance plans. Six other states fell into the same category, including Alabama, California, Georgia,

(Continued on Page 2)

Tropical storm warning issued for East Coast ahead

MIAMI (AP) — A tropical storm warning was issued Thursday from coastal North Carolina to Delaware ahead of a potential tropical cyclone that's approaching the densely populated East Coast.

The National Hurricane Center announced the formation of "Potential Tropical Cyclone Sixteen" on Thursday morning. The storm was located about 340 miles southeast of Charleston, South Carolina, and moving north at 7 mph, according to a 8 p.m. advisory from the center. The storm had top sustained winds of 35 mph.

The hurricane center defines a potential tropical cyclone as a disturbance that poses a threat of tropical storm or hurricane conditions to land within 48 hours. The current system could reach the North Carolina coast around Friday night or early Saturday.

Meteorologist Maria Torres, a public affairs officer with the Miami-based center, said people along the Atlantic coast need to watch the storm's progress, gather supplies and make preparations over the next 24 to 48 hours for its arrival.

"This will bring some tropical storm force winds and storm surge along with the high winds to the East Coast through the weekend, mainly from the Southeast to the Mid-Atlantic states," she told The Associated Press

The tropical storm warning is in effect from Cape Fear, North Carolina, to Fenwick Island, Delaware. It also includes the Chesapeake Bay south of North Beach, Tidal Potomac south of Cobb Island and Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds.

Virginia emergency management offi-(Continued on Page 2)



Norwell's homecoming court

Pictured above is Norwell High School's 2023 senior homecoming court. In back is Timothy Bonjour, Trey Bodenheimer, Trace Moser, Quentauris Jones and Chase Hulvey, and in front, Lillian Norris, Annabelle Johnson, Grace Gerber, Gracie Rinkenberger and Emily Edmiston. The Norwell Knights will face the East Noble Knights at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22, and the homecoming king and queen will be crowned during the game's half-time. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

Zelenskyy delivers upbeat message to U.S. lawmakers

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Volodymyr Zelenskyy worked to shore up U.S. support for Ukraine on a whirlwind visit to Washington on Thursday, delivering an upbeat message on the war's progress while facing new questions about the flow of American dollars that for 19 months

have helped keep his troops in the fight against Russian forces.

The Ukrainian leader received a far quieter reception than the hero's welcome he was given last year from Congress, but also won generally favorable comments on the next round of U.S. aid he says he needs to stave off defeat.

Zelenskyy, in long-sleeve olive drab, came to the Capitol with a firm message in private talks with Republican and Democratic leaders. The Ukrainians have a solid war plan, and "they are winning," lawmakers quoted him as assuring them, at a time that the world is watching Western support for

Kyiv

President Joe Biden gave Zelenskyy a red-carpet arrival on the White House South lawn and more ceremony than world leaders normally receive, and made clear his concern with Congress.

Intensifying opposition to continued Ukraine funding from a

faction of congressional Republicans largely aligned with the party's presidential frontrunner Donald Trump is threatening what had been easier congressional approval for four previous rounds of funding for Ukraine, delivering \$113 billion. Any momentum (Continued on Page 2)

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Outside



Sunny and hot today and tomorrow

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 82	High 76	High 75
Low 52	Low 48	Low 52

More Weather on Page 2

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2023 BLUFFTON FREE STREET FAIR SCHEDULE

2023 BLUFFTON FREE STREET FAIR SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, Sept. 22

(\$18 wristbands on Poor Jack Amusement rides, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.)

2 p.m. — Street Fair Dixieland Band, Main and Market streets.

3:30 p.m. — Street Fair Dixieland Band, Market and

Johnson streets. 5 to 6 p.m. — Creative Arts ballet students, Parlor City

6 p.m. — Street Fair Band concert, children's area. 7 to 9 p.m. — FNX Wrestling, main stage on West Wash-

ington Street.

7:30 p.m. — Street Fair Band, Market and Marion

9:15 p.m. — Street Fair Band, Main and Market streets.

SATURDAY, Sept. 23

(\$18 wristbands on Poor Jack Amusement rides, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; \$30 wristbands rides, 5 p.m. to close)

11 a.m. — Pony Pull, 4-H Park.

11 a.m. — Diaper Derby baby crawl race, in front of the

11:15 a.m. — Optimist Tractor Pull for children 3 to 7 years old, in front of the main stage on West Washington

11:30 a.m. — Big Wheel race for children 6 to 8 years old, in front of the main stage on West Washington Street. Noon — Prince and princess crowning (4 to 6 years of age), Parlor City Plaza.

1 p.m. — Heavyweight Horse Pull, 4-H Park.

2 p.m. — Street Fair Dixieland Band, Market and Mari-2 p.m. — Circus Variety Act, Parlor City Plaza.

3:30 p.m. — Street Fair Dixieland Band, Parlor City

4 p.m. — Circus Variety Act, Parlor City Plaza.

5 p.m. — Barbarian Bike Giveaway at the Wells County Public Library on West Washington Street.

6 p.m. — Street Fair Band, Parlor City Plaza. 6 p.m. - "Street Fair Idol," main stage on West Washington Street.

7 to 9 p.m. — KNO Warrior karaoke with DJ Frank Smith III, Parlor City Plaza.

7:30 p.m. — Street Fair Band, Marion and Market streets 9 p.m. — Concert by Fooz Fighters (Foo Fighters tribute band), Ruoff Main Stage on West Washington Street.

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

main stage on West Washington Street.

Health insurance

(Continued from Page 1)

Illinois, Michigan and Oklahoma.

Three other states — Missouri, New York and Virginia — saw decreases in private coverage, but overall coverage increased due to public enrollment growth, accounting for the 10 states where the uninsured rate dropped due to programs like Medicaid.

Growth in Medicaid coverage However, the uptick in coverage

could be temporary.

The number of Hoosiers enrolled in Medicaid grew under COVID-19 policies meant to mitigate the pandemic's tumultuous economic impact, as millions lost their jobs and therefore, private insurance coverage.

The federal government increased its portion of Medicaid spending to incentivize states not to drop anyone's coverage during the Public Health Emergency, which ended earlier this

Medicaid enrollment grew from 1.4 million prior to the pandemic in 2020 to a high 2.2 million in April of 2023, according to Indiana's Family and Social Services Administration, which oversees the program.

In a multi-month "unwinding" process, more than 208,000 Hoosiers have lost their coverage since FSSA started reviewing Medicaid rolls in April. Another 363,000 retained their coverage, according to a Medicaid Tracker from the nonprofit health policy organization KFF.

The findings from the Census Bureau cover 2022's enrollment, meaning that health care coverage could fall in next year's report.

Between 2021 and 2022, coverage in public insurance grew from 35.9 percent to 36.8 percent, according to the bureau. Employment-based coverage fell over the same period from 58.2 percent to 57.4 percent, while direct purchase coverage grew slightly from 12.6 percent in 2021 to 13 percent in 2022.

Other changes in income, poverty

The Indiana findings come from the annual American Community Survey conducted by the Census Bureau, which also found that Indiana's median household income decreased while senior citizen poverty increased. At the same time, the percentage of households receiving supplemental food

assistance fell.

Last week's release didn't speculate on causes or identify state-level percentages, though several other states had similar findings. The median household nationwide was \$74,755 in 2022, a 0.8 percent decline from the previous year after adjusting for inflation. Indiana was one of 17 states with median incomes that fell, while another five saw increases.

The overall rate of poverty didn't increase in any state, but one state -West Virginia — saw an increase in childhood poverty, and 19 states saw an increase in the poverty rate for those aged 65 and older, including Indiana.

Indiana was also one of 11 states where the percentage of households receiving Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program benefits fell, though eight other states saw those numbers increase.

The Census Bureau is scheduled to release additional one-year statistics from the survey over the coming months as well as a compiled 5-year estimate. Topics range from educational attainment to computer use.

Weather

Friday, September 22, 2023 (24-hour observations at 8:14 p.m. Thursday) High: 81; Low: 54; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.20 feet at 8:45 p.m. Thursday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. East wind 5

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 52. East wind 5 to 10 mph. **Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 76. East wind 5 to 10

mph. **Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 48. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 75.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 52.

Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 73.

Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51. **Tuesday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 72.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 49. Wednesday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly

sunny, with a high near 70. Wednesday Night: A chance of showers. Partly cloudy,

with a low around 50.

Thursday: A slight chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 71.

Festival worker

(Continued from Page 1) not come and should have waited."

Bikers Against Predators is the second group to arrange sting operations in Bluffton in recent months. Predator Catchers Indianapolis, or PCI, is responsible for more than five arrests in the county this year. The majority of the people arrested by PCI or BAP are not Bluffton or Wells County residents. Videos of BAP sting arrests, including Hussung's, are available on their Facebook page.

Hussung is currently being held in the Wells County Jail on bond for \$5,000. He is scheduled for a pretrial conference in this matter at 9 a.m. on Nov. 8 in the Wells Circuit Court. The News Banner will follow this case for updates.

sydney@news-banner.com

East Coast

(Continued from Page 1) cials warned of heavy rain, high winds and flooding in the next few days.

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management said on social media Thursday that officials are coordinating with local weather service offices to watch the system developing off the coast. Officials called on residents to prepare for the storm and impacts on the region throughout the weekend.

North Carolina Emergency Management warned that large swells from distant Hurricane Nigel also would reach the state's coast on Thursday, boosting the rip current risk. The combination of those swells and the low-pressure system could mean additional ocean overwash, beach erosion and coastal flooding.

The hurricane center said storm surge between 2 and 4 feet was expected.

A storm surge warning is in effect from Duck, North Carolina, to Chincoteague Virginia, including Chesapeake Bay south of Wind-

mill Point, and for the Neuse River, the Pamlico River, and portions of Pamlico

A storm surge watch also was issued from Surf City in North Carolina to Duck, North Carolina, along with Chesapeake Bay north of Windmill Point to Smith Point, the Tidal Potomac south of Colonial Beach and Albemarle and the remainder of Pamlico Sound.

Meanwhile, Hurricane Nigel continued to grow in size late Thursday as it headed toward cooler North Atlantic waters as a Category 1 storm. The hurricane center said Nigel was expected to become a strong post-tropical cyclone in the coming nighttime hours.

Nigel's maximum sustained winds were 80 mph. The system was centered about 630 miles east-southeast of Cape Race, Newfoundland, and moving eastnortheast at 37 mph. There are no coastal watches or warnings associated with Nigel.

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Zelenskyy speaks to lawmakers

(Continued from Page 1) toward opposing U.S. aid for Ukraine also potentially risks public backing for the war effort.

Asked about the funding issue after meeting with Zelensky, Biden answered, "I'm counting on the good judgment of the United States Congress. There's no alternative."

It was Zelenskyy's second visit to Washington since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022 and came as Biden's request to Congress for an additional \$24 billion for Ukraine's military and humanitarian needs is hanging in the balance. Resistance to the latest request could lead to delays or reductions.

The administration did announce another \$325 million Thursday in what's known as presidential drawdown assistance for Ukraine. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the package would include additional air defense, artillery ammunition, cluster munitions and other arms.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who faces opposition to the Ukrainian funding package from the Republicans aligned with Trump, notably chose not to join House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, a Democrat, in greeting Zelenskyy when he arrived. And Republican McCarthy also confirmed that he declined Zelenskyy's request for a joint session of Congress, as happened during the Ukrainian president's dramatic visit to Washington last winter, saying there wasn't time for that on short notice.

But McCarthy praised the answers that Ukraini-

A Purchase of \$3000 or More

ans delivered to lawmakers Thursday.

"It was direct, I thought it was honest, they were answering the questions," McCarthy said. "I heard a lot of positive things."

Lawmakers who attended the private meeting described questioning Zelenskyy on the way forward for Ukraine's counteroffensive, as the fight to roll back invading Russian forces moves closer to the twovear mark without major breakthroughs in Russia's heavily mined lines.

Zelenskyy "conceded that it's tough, very tough to overcome entrenched defenses," Independent Sen. Angus King said. "They believe they will make slow but steady progress, but it's not going to be quick."

Back home, Russia launched its heaviest strikes in a month in the hours before Zelenskyy's arrival at Congress, killing three, igniting fires and damaging energy infrastructure as Russian missiles and artillery pounded cities across

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan underscored Thursday that Biden would seek to drive home with Zelenskyy's visit that the U.S. and the world "send the unmistakable message that in the 21st century, a dictator cannot be allowed to conquer or carve up his neighbor's ter-

ritory."
"If we allow that here. it will happen elsewhere in ways that will undermine the fundamental security, not to mention the values that the American people hold so dear," Sullivan said.

Biden has called on

A Purchase of \$4000 or More

world leaders to stand strong with Ukraine, even as he faces domestic political divisions at home. A hardright flank of Republicans, led by Trump, Biden's chief rival in the 2024 race for the White House, is increasingly opposed to sending more money overseas.

Zelenskyy was scheduled to address the Canadian Parliament and meet with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Ottawa on Fri-

He faces challenges in Europe, as cracks emerge in what had been a largely united Western alliance behind Ukraine.

Wednesday, Late Poland's prime minister said his country is no longer sending arms to Ukraine, a comment that appeared aimed at pressuring Kyiv and put Poland's status as a major source of military equipment in doubt as a trade dispute between the

neighboring states escalates. Zelenskyy's visit comes with U.S. and world government leaders watching as Ukrainian forces struggle to take back territory that Russia gained over the past year. Their progress in the next month or so before the rains come and the ground turns to mud could be critical to rousing additional global support over the winter. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who hopes to outlast allied backing for Kyiv, will be ready to capitalize if he sees Ukraine is running

low on air defense or other weapons.

The political environment has shifted markedly since Zelenskyy addressed Congress last December on his first trip out of Ukraine since the war began. He was met with rapturous applause for his country's bravery and surprisingly strong showing in the war.

His meeting with senators Thursday took place behind closed doors in the Old Senate Chamber, a historic and intimate place of importance at the U.S. Capitol, signifying the respect the Senate is showing the foreign leader.

Zelenskyy received a warm welcome from both parties on his stop in the Senate. Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and Majority Leader Chuck Schumer flanked him as he walked in. A few lawmakers of both parties wore clothes with blue and yellow, the colors of the Ukrainian flag.

Schumer told reporters afterward one sentence summed up the meeting: "Mr. Zelenskyy said if we don't get the aid, we will lose the war."

Senate Republican leader McConnell, who is trying to keep his party in line behind support for Ukraine, said afterward he was proud to welcome Zelenskyy to the Capitol.

'Americans' support for Ukraine is not a charity," he said. "It's an investment in our own self-interest."

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OBITUARIES

Doris Jean Brovont, 73

Doris Jean Brovont, 73, of Decatur, passed away Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 19, 2023, at her home, surrounded by her family

She was born Jan. 16, 1950, in Galion, Ohio to Donald and Doris (Carter) Wake.

On Sept. 6, 1969, Jean and Thomas O. Brovont were married at the Iberia United Methodist Church in Ohio. He preceded her in death Aug. 07, 2023, and after 43 days apart, they have

been reunited forever in Heaven!

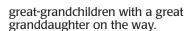
Jean could be described as the "Queen of Arts & Crafts!" During high school, she designed and painted the high school logo on the center of the basketball court. She operated a ceramics shop in Ohio and enjoyed stamping, quilting, and spending time with her family. Jean retired in 2015,

Prosecutor's office, Child Support Division.

She was a very strong and devoted
Christian and a longtime member of the
Bluffton Church of God.

after 20 years working in the Allen County

Survivors include her children, Terri (Toby) Bridegam of Ossian, Tammy (Lane) Roe of Decatur, Lori (Tony) Eberle of Fort Wayne; along with 9 grandchildren; and 6



She is also survived by her siblings, Sandy Magnusson and Donald (Carolyn) Wake, Jr., all of Ohio, and Peggy (Steve) Redelman of Bluffton.

She is preceded in death by her parents and her stepfather, Ben Graff.

Funeral services will take place at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023, at Bluffton

Church of God with Pastor John Roe officiating. Visitation will take place at the church from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Memorials may be made in Jean's memory to the family and can be directed to the funeral home.

A memorial service for Jean and her husband Thomas will take place at a later date at the Iberia Community Church followed by burial at Iberia (Washington Township) Cemetery, all in Iberia, Ohio.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can share online condolences with the family at www.thomarich.com.

Richard Dean Longenberger, 86

Richard "Dick" Dean Longenberger, 86, was born Dec. 15, 1936, in rural Adams County, Ind. to Ernest and Pearl (Frauhiger) Longenberger, and passed away Thursday morning, Sept. 21, 2023, in Bluffton.

Dick was the seventh, and youngest, child of Ernest and Pearl, and grew up on the family farm in Adams County. Dick graduated from Adams

Central High School in 1954. Dick married Judith M. Nussbaum in 1958. Judy passed away in 1991, and Dick married Joyce (Roberts) Sills in 1993. Dick enjoyed tractor pulls, restoring antique tractors, wintering in Florida for many years, and spending time with his grandchildren and 6 great-grandsons.

In addition to his parents and his first wife, Judy, Dick was pre-deceased by three sisters and their husbands, Lucille (Robert) Bucher, Helen (Marvin) Redding, and Betty (Arthur) Bertsch; two brothers and their wives, Harry (Devona) Longenberger, and Roger (Marilyn) Longenberger; and one brother-in-law and his wife, Wayne (Judie) Nussbaum.

Dick is survived by his wife, Joyce; one brother, William (Betty) Longenberger; one brother-in-law, Gregg (Judy) Nuss-



baum; as well as his three children with Judy, Thomas (Becky) Longenberger of Bluffton; Sheryl (Tim) Gerber of Firestone, Colo., and Linda (Tom) Bushee of Bluffton. Dick is also survived by two grandchildren and six greatgrandsons, Caleb (Jill) Longenberger and their sons Sam, Ben and Sawyer Longenberger, all of Zionsville; and Lydia (Alex) Hebbert and their sons Griffin, Cooper and Wyatt Hebbert, all

of Mead, Colo. Dick is also survived by three stepchildren, Jean (Gary) Halcomb, Jan (Mike) Webb, and Travis (Leah) Sills; 12 step-grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and 15 step-great-grandchildren.

Services will take place at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Burial will follow at Six Mile Cemetery in Bluffton.

Visitation will take place from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023, at the funeral home and for one hour prior to the service.

Preferred memorials are to the Friends Who Care Cancer Relief Foundation.

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

Randall "Randy" Studebaker, 68

Randall K. "Randy" Studebaker, 68, passed away Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 19, 2023, at Lutheran Hospital with his family by his side.

Randy was born in Fort Wayne, on Dec. 20, 1954, to Clinton B. Studebaker Jr. and Virginia A. (Wood); both parents preceded him in death. He attended Bluffton High School and worked for over 40 years with Meadowvale Nursing Home

and Bi-County Services, serving in Maintenance and Transportation service. Randy enjoyed baking, card playing, bingo, traveling and hiking. He loved visiting Indiana's many state parks. His greatest love was being a servant to the Lord. He attended First Church of the Nazarene in Bluffton.



He is survived by two brothers, Steve (Cindy) Studebaker and Tim Studebaker, both of Bluffton, and several nieces and nephews. Randy was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Clinton "CB" Brooks III, and a nephew, Adam Studebaker.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023, at Goodwin – Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel, followed immediately by a funeral ser-

vice at 2 p.m., at the funeral home. Mike Hershey will officiate services. Burial will follow at Six Mile Cemetery in Bluffton.

Memorials in Randy's memory can be made to Bi-County Services, Bluffton, IN.

Online condolences can be made at www.goodwincaleharnish.com.

Indiana state senator Jack Sandlin dies at age 72

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)

— Republican state Sen.

Jack Sandlin, a retired police officer who had rep-

police officer who had represented parts of Indianapolis and its southern suburbs since 2016, died Wednesday, his press secretary said. He was 72.

Sandlin died unexpectedly on Wednesday but "out of respect for his family we have nothing further to share," his press secretary, Abbey Webb, said Thurs-

day.

Sandlin represented Senate District 36, which covers parts of southern Marion County and northern Johnson County. He was a retired Indianapolis police officer who served on the Indianapolis City-County Council from 2010 until his 2016 election to the Indiana Senate, the Indianapolis Business Journal reported.

I reported.
Sandlin, who was reelect-

ed in 2020, is survived by his wife Lydia, a daughter

and three grandchildren.
Gov. Eric Holcomb
called Sandlin "a true public
servant."

"Senator Jack Sandlin was a gentleman who devoted his life to serving others, in public safety on the front lines and in our State Senate. His clear voice and integrity will be missed," Holcomb said in a statement.

Bluffton Street Fair * 2023 Kids Day Schedule Saturday, September 23rd **EVENTS AT THE CONCERT STAGE** 11:00 AM DIAPER DERBY *FOR AGES 1 & UNDER 11:15 AM TRACTOR PULL *FOR KIDS 60 LBS & UNDER 11:30 AM BIG WHEEL RACE *FOR AGES 6-8 YEARS EVENTS AT THE COURHOUSE PLAZA STAGE 12 PM PRINCE & PRINCESS JUDGING *FOR AGES 4-6 YEARS **AN APPLICATION & PHOTO (LINK AVAILABLE ON FACEBOOK PAGE) MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SEPTEMBER 1ST** If you have questions, please contact Andrea Mann at (260) 433-3417/andrea.abcstudio@gmail.com. You can also visit the Bluffton Street Fair Association Facebook page.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Wednesday, 2:42 p.m., 900 block of West South Street. Report of 12 year old out of control.

Wednesday, 2:50 p.m., 70 block of Capri Court. Report of cursing and yelling all day from neighbor, issue is ongoing. Dispatch advised tenants to contact management about the issues at Capri.

Wednesday, 3:37 p.m., West Washington and South Williams streets. Caller reported two cars parked in a no parking zone.

Wednesday, 3:47 p.m., 100 block of West South Street. Caller reported a disagreement over street parking, issue was resolved.

Wednesday, 7:07 p.m., South Williams and West Washington streets. Subjects parked in no parking zone, three citation issued.

Wednesday, 7:18 p.m., PNC Bank. Profed card found.

Wednesday, 7:55 p.m., Hardees. Report of car parked improperly.

Wednesday, 8:54 p.m., South Johnson and West Washington streets. Officers searching for man with face tattoo regarding him showing a gun to people. Unable to locate.

Wednesday, 9:19 p.m., East Elm and South Main streets. Robert Hagins arrested on warrant.

Wednesday, 10:39 p.m., 900 block of Lancaster Street. Report of ex husband wanting to obtain his belongings, he was not welcome at the time of night. Officer requested to remove

hin

Thursday, 7:46 a.m., 500 block of East Silver Street. Subject waved down officer and advised a dog was running in the road. The dog went back into the yard.

Thursday, 8:27 a.m., 900 block of South Mulberry Street. Report of someone rummaging through callers vehicles through the night, air pods pinged in vacant home nearby. Officer searched area where subjects phone showed the air pods to be, could not locate.

Thursday, 11:20 a.m., West Perry and North Marion streets. Report of a lost wallet. Wallet taken to lost and found at the police department.

Thursday, 12:00 p.m., Bluffton Police Department. Report of a stolen check.

Thursday, 12:05 p.m., West Washington and South Williams streets. Report of two vehicles parked wrong side of the street.

County:

Tuesday, 1:11 p.m., Ind. 3 and Willow Road, Warren. Subject reported they ran over a black dog. Second dog taken to animal shelter due to no identification.

Tuesday, 4:46 p.m., Ind. 124 and South 600 West, Markle. Caller reported erratic driving behavior. Officer located and followed the vehicle home. Officer did not observe any erratic driving behavior, subject was upset officer had come to her house to talk to her about it.

Tuesday, 6:54 p.m., 4000

West 700 North, Markle. Subject requested a no trespass warning be issued against another person for his property

his property.
Wednesday, 2:54 a.m.,
Walmart. Driver cited for
driving 75 MPH in a 55
MPH zone.

Wednesday, 7:21 a.m., North 100 East and East 700 North, Ossian. Driver issued citation for speeding.

Wednesday, 9:39 a.m., 1400 block of West South Street, Bluffton. Subject arrested on warrant for methamphetamine charge.

Ossian:

Wednesday, 7:21 a.m., North 100 East and East 700 North, Ossian. Driver issued citation for speeding.

ACCIDENTS itv:

City:

Tuesday, 4:07 p.m., intersection of Jersey and Cherry streets. Nicholas Dafforn was driving from a stop sign and failed to notice Tonya Roser already in the intersection. Dafforn's vehicle collided with Roser's vehicle. Dafforn was cited for driving without insurance and his vehicle was impounded. Damages not exceeding \$10,000.

County:

Wednesday, 6:13 a.m., West Ind. 116. Emily E Monticue was driving straight when a deer ran into the front of her Chevrolet Blazer, causing damage to the grill. Damages not exceeding \$2,500.

ARRESTS

Scott Riley Youngblood, 35, Wintersville, OH., charged with two counts of family offense - nonsupport of dependant, a Level 6 felony.



A cheerful parade

Norwell cheerleaders marched through the Industrial Parade Friday, gearing up for Norwell's homecoming Friday Night. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

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.

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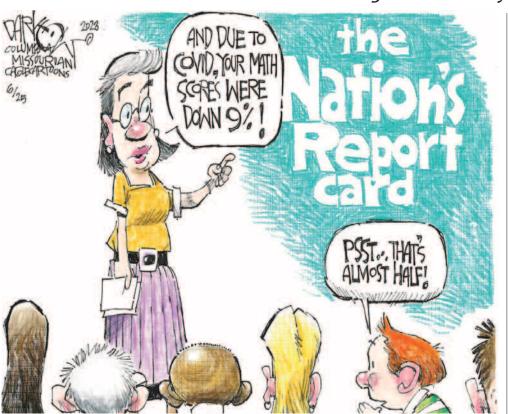
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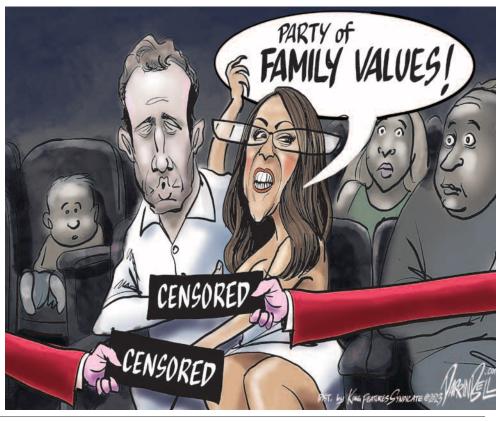
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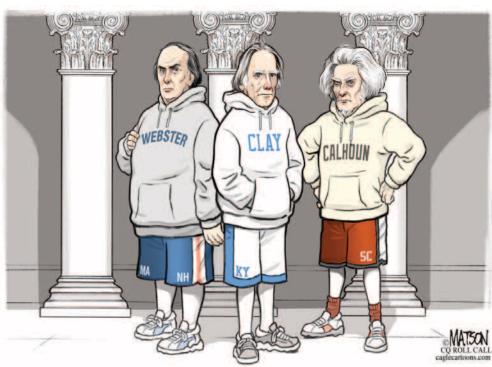
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The Week That Was - a look back through cartoonists' eyes...









US SENATE FASHION - A Revisionist History

Other Opinions

Pandemic fraud reaches new heights

You know a robbery is bad when it takes years to figure out how much was stolen. States have long known that they paid billions in fraudulent unemployment claims during the pandemic. But this week the federal government more than doubled its estimate in stolen payments to as much as \$135 billion.

The new figure comes from a report released Tuesday by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The finding is a rebuke to the Biden Administration, which had previously put the fraud total as low as \$45 billion based on surveys of state programs. Congressional Republicans suspected the estimates were low and asked GAO to conduct its own study.

The agency reached its estimate by assessing a sample of more than 2,500 unemployment insurance payments issued from 2020 to 2023. The Labor Department's previous tally relied largely on adding confirmed fraud cases reported by states, but GAO auditors say that produced a massive undercount. The oversight agency assumed a higher, more plausible fraud rate by comparing unemployment insurance to similar federal programs.

The \$135 billion finding places the pandemic unemployment program in a new tier of government disaster. Fraud claimed 11% to 15% of the nearly \$900 billion that Washington paid out over three years. The theft rate is another demerit for a program that caused incredible harm even when it worked as planned. Federal and state governments provided an incentive for millions of people not to work with a \$600 weekly jobless bonus in 2020 and up to 79 weeks of total unemployment benefits.

The GAO reports that states had recovered only \$1.2 billion of stolen payments by May, out of about \$56 billion of identified fraud cases. Recoveries have been sluggish despite \$1.4 billion in federal aid to help states track and penalize fraudsters.

House Republicans passed a bill in May that boosts the incentive to recoup stolen payments, letting states keep up to a quarter of the federal cash they get back. Yet few Democrats signed on, the Senate hasn't voted on it, and the White House blasted the bill as a threat to Washington's "well-functioning UI system."

Well-functioning? In a sane government, the fraud explosion would be a call to action. But in today's Washington all that matters to politicians is how much money they can spend, not whether it's wasted or stolen.

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> Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

The mystery of the missing F-35

It was one of the weirdest stories in years. The U.S. military lost a state-of-the-art F-35 fighter jet, last seen flying pilotless over North Charleston, South Carolina, and was asking the public for help in finding the \$80 million plane. As South Carolina Republican Rep. Nancy Mace said: "How in the hell do you lose an F-35?'

The military has not been particularly transparent about what happened. We know the plane was a Marine jet that took off Sunday from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, about 70 miles southwest of Charleston. We know that the pilot, who has not been publicly identified, bailed out over the Charleston suburbs and landed in a residential area, near South Kenwood Drive in North Charleston. Why did the pilot, who is now hospitalized, eject? All the Marine Corps will say is that a "mishap" occurred and that it is under investiga-

Obviously, bailing out of an airplane over a heavily populated area is something a pilot really, really, really does not want to do. It is, needless to say, of great concern to the public. It's a particularly relevant issue in this case because there was, nearby, a very large ocean into which the pilot could have

ditched the F-35. But for so far unknown reasons, the pilot bailed out

over North Charleston and the plane kept flying. It is not publicly known how long the plane flew without a pilot. But we do know the Marines couldn't find it. The Associated Press reported that "based on the missing plane's location and trajectory, the search was initially focused on Lake Moultrie and Lake Marion," which are north of Charleston. Whether the plane actually flew over either lake is not known. Then the Marines actually asked the public to send in any tips they might have about the plane's location.

That set off lots of jokes that echoed Rep. Mace's question. The Babylon Bee posted an article headlined, "Military Personnel Seen Wandering Forest

Pressing Button On F-35 Key Fob," with an accompanying illustration of troops in full gear doing just that.

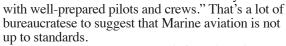
Yes, that's funny. But this is not a funny story. According to the Census Bureau, the population of Charleston is 419,279, and the population of North Charleston is 118,608. That means the pilot abandoned an aircraft that is 51 feet long, with a 35-foot wingspan, that weighs at least 35,000 pounds, with who knows what kind of armaments, over a metro area with more than a half-million people in it. It is hard to imagine anything more dangerous. Even the rural county in which the plane eventually crashed has a population of around 30,000.

On the day the wreckage was found, the Marines

announced that all its flight operations would be stopped for two days to "discuss aviation safety matters and best practices." The Pentagon continued: "This stand down is being taken to ensure the service is maintaining operational standardization of combatready aircraft

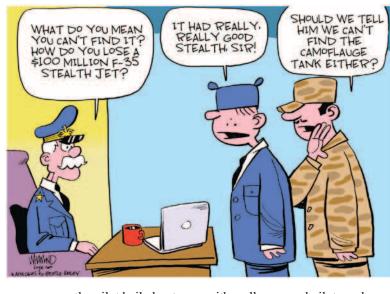
Byron

York



Now, the Pentagon needs to inform Americans precisely how this incident happened. Was it pilot error? Was it equipment failure? Some other factor? Given the taxpayers' obvious interest in the functioning of the armed services, and given the extremely serious public safety issues involved, the report should be absolutely transparent about what happened. Most of all, it should answer the question: "How in the hell do you lose an F-35?"

> Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner





By The Associated Press Today is Friday, Sept. 22, the 265th day of 2023. There are 100 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, declaring all slaves in rebel states should be free as of January 1, 1863 if the states did not end the fighting and rejoin the union.

On this date:

In 1776, during the Revolutionary War, Capt. Nathan Hale, 21, was hanged as a spy by the British in New

In 1911, pitcher Cy Young, 44, gained his 511th and final career victory as he hurled a 1-0 shutout for the Boston Rustlers against the Pittsburgh Pirates at Forbes Field.

In 1949, the Soviet Union exploded its first atomic bomb.

In 1961, the Interstate Commerce Commission issued rules prohibiting racial discrimination on interstate buses.

In 1975, Sara Jane Moore attempted to shoot President Gerald R. Ford outside a San Francisco hotel, but

In 1980, the Persian Gulf conflict between Iran and Iraq erupted into

full-scale war.

In 1985, rock and country music artists participated in "Farm Aid," a concert staged in Champaign, Illinois, to help the nation's farmers.

In 1993, 47 people were killed when an Amtrak passenger train fell off a bridge and crashed into Big Bayou Canot near Mobile, Alabama.

In 1994, the situation comedy "Friends" debuted on NBC-TV.

In 1995, an AWACS plane carrying U.S. and Canadian military personnel crashed on takeoff from Elmendorf Air Force Base near Anchorage, Alas-

ka, killing all 24 people aboard. In 2020, U.S. deaths from the coronavirus topped 200,000, by far the highest confirmed death toll from the virus in the world at that point, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University.

In 2017, as the scale of the damage from Hurricane Maria started to become clearer, Puerto Rican officials said they could not contact more than half of the communities in the U.S. territory, where all power had been knocked out to the island's 3.4 million people.

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

Bluffton Street Fair Industrial Parade



Fort Wayne Mizpah Shriners joined Bluffton's Masonic Lodge No. 145 for the Industrial Parade. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)



Many parade watchers came prepared with large bags to collect the candy and brochures being handed out by marchers. Barbara Oswalt, middle, was handing out candy from the Wells County Pubic Library that explained how to become a Friend of the Library.



Friends of the Library joined the Wells County Public Library staff and assisted with candy distribution. Left to right are Barbara Oswalt, Ginger Bolinger, Natilie Eschenbacher, and Barbara

A grandmother seeks justice for **Native Americans after thousands** of unsolved deaths, disappearances

HARDIN, Mont. (AP) — Yolanda Fraser is back near a ragged chain-link fence, blinking through tears as she tidies up flowers and ribbons and a pinwheel twirls in the breeze at a makeshift roadside memorial in a small Montana town.

This is where the badly decomposed body of her granddaughter Kaysera Stops Pretty Places was found a few days after the 18-year-old went missing from a Native American reservation border town.

Four years later, there are still no answers about how the Native American teenager died. No named suspects. No arrests.

Fraser's grief is a common tale among Native Americans whose loved ones went missing, and she's turned her fight for justice into a leading role with other families working to highlight missing and slain Indigenous peoples' cases across the U.S. Despite some early success from a new U.S. government program aimed at the problem, most cases remain unsolved and federal officials have closed more than 300 potential cases due to jurisdictional conflicts and other issues.

As she told her granddaughter's story, Fraser pushed past tears and began listing other names among the thousands of disappearances and violent deaths of Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

'My nephew Victor, my nephew Dane Fisher, my close relative Christy Rose Woodenthigh — and it just goes on and on," Fraser said.
"It just became obvious that there's a pattern to all of it. There's a line between these Native lives and other lives. ... But our voice is getting louder. People are listening.'

U.S. officials share frustration over the unsolved cases, which critics say reflects racial injustice, particularly when compared to the media frenzy that erupts when a white woman goes

"The patchwork of jurisdictions makes it so hard to get started on these investigations. And when you lose time, your chances of solving these cases goes down," said Assistant Secretary of Interior Bryan Newland. "It's frustrating for everybody."

Federal law enforcement has jurisdiction over most Native American reservations, which often don't have their own police force yet experience people going missing at several times the rate of the rest of the nation. That's set against a backdrop of historical injustices that include massacres of Native Americans by U.S. troops, forced assimilation of Native children in abusive boarding schools and the removal of many tribes from their traditional lands.

Members of several victims' families joined Fraser recently to dedicate a billboard honoring victims along Interstate 90 just outside the town of Hardin where Stops Pretty Places died. The billboard lists four dozen missing and slain people and other victims on the Northern Cheyenne and Crow reservations in southeastern Montana.

As the names were recited over a loudspeaker some relatives of victims cried as they leaned into one another.

When we're divided we're not strong at all, but when we're together we're powerful," said Blossom Old Bull, whose son was killed in a car crash at 17 while being pursued by

police whom the family blames for his death.

With backing from nonprofit groups and her family, Fraser hopes to erect similar billboards near reservations across the U.S. She wants to highlight the names behind crime statistics and for local officials to be confronted with the victims within their community.

Stops Pretty Places died in Big Horn County, just outside the Crow Indian Reservation and about 55 miles from Muddy Creek, the Northern Cheyenne Reservation community where Fraser largely raised her. She'd been missing for several days when her body was found at the edge of a fenced-in yard next to a busy road, one door down from where she'd last been seen with some friends.

For years, the family's pleas for an outside investigation went unanswered. This spring they learned county authorities had finally agreed to federal assistance. Agents from the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Missing and Murdered Unit are now reexamining the

The unit was formed in 2021 by U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland amid rising criticism over the mishandling of crimes involving Native Americans. Its agents have received 845 case referrals, primarily from victims' families, including 117 that were solved and 372 still under review or being investigated.

More than 350 were closed with no resolution, often because of jurisdictional issues that prevent federal agents from working off-reservation without an invitation from local authorities.

Chairman of Joint Chiefs confirmed as GOP senator blocks nominations

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and TARA COPP

Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Wednesday confirmed Gen. CQ Brown as the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, putting him in place to succeed Gen. Mark Milley when he retires at the end of the month.

Brown's confirmation on a 83-11 vote, months after President Joe Biden nominated him for the post, comes as Democrats try to maneuver around holds placed on hundreds of nominations by Alabama Sen. Tommy Tuberville over the Pentagon's abortion policy. The Senate is also expected to confirm Gen. Randy George to be Army Chief of Staff and Gen. Eric Smith as commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps this week.

Tuberville has been blocking the Senate from the routine process of approving military nominations in groups, frustrating Democrats who had said they would not go through the time-consuming process of bringing up individual nominations for a vote. More than 300 nominees are still stalled amid Tuberville's blockade, and confirming them one-by-one would take

But Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., reversed course on Wednesday and moved to force votes on Brown, George and Smith.

"Senator Tuberville is forcing us to face his obstruction head on," Schumer said. "I want to make clear to my Republican colleagues — this cannot continue.'

Tuberville did not object to the confirmation votes, saying he will maintain his holds but is fine with bringing up nominations individually for roll call votes. White House national security spokes-

man John Kirby said that Brown's confirmation, along with expected votes on Smith and George, is positive news. But "we should have never been in this position," he "While good for these three officers, it doesn't fix the problem or provide a path

forward for the 316 other general and flag officers that are held up by this ridiculous hold," Kirby told reporters. Brown, a career fighter pilot, was the Air Force's first Black commander of the Pacific Air Forces and most recently its first Black chief of staff, making him the first African American to lead any of the military branches. His confirmation will also mark the first time the Pentagon's top two posts were held by African Americans, with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin as the top civilian leader.

In a statement late Wednesday, Austin said Brown would be a "tremendous leader" as the new chairman.

Brown, 60, replaces Joint Chiefs Chairman Army Gen. Mark Milley, who is retiring after four decades in military service. Milley's four-year term as chairman ends on

Tuberville said on Wednesday that he will continue to hold up the other nominations unless the Pentagon ends its policy of paying for travel when a service member has to go out of state to get an abortion or other reproductive care. The Biden administration instituted the policy after the Supreme Court overturned the nationwide right to an abortion and some states have limited or banned the procedure.

"Let's do one at a time or change the policy back," Tuberville said after Schumer put the three nominations up for a vote. "Let's vote on it."

In an effort to force Tuberville's hand, Democrats had said they would not bring up the most senior nominees while the others were still stalled. "There's an old saying in the military, leave no one behind," Senate Armed Services Chairman Jack Reed said in

But in a frustrated speech on the Senate floor, Schumer said Wednesday he was left with no other choice.

'Senator Tuberville is using them as pawns," Schumer said of the nominees.

The votes come as a host of military officers have spoken out about the damage of the delays for service members. While Tuberville's holds are focused on all general and flag officers, they carry career impacts on the military's younger rising officers. Until each general or admiral is confirmed, it blocks an opportunity for a more junior officer to rise.



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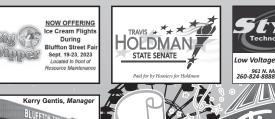
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Patriots shut out Knights in boys' soccer game

Tigers capture second ACAC

boys' tennis title in a row

By RYAN WALKER

MONROEVILLE—A first-half break-away goal by Ar Zit Cahn was all the Heritage Patriots needed to defeat Norwell 1-0 Thursday night.

The goal came with just over 10 minutes left in regulation when Cahn broke free after a pass down the field in a wideopen chance. Despite the defensive miscue, Norwell gave the 6-4-2 Patriots team a run

"(The Patriots) pass the ball well," Norwell head coach Kiel Nunn said after the game. "They got that one breakaway, and that's really the difference in this game. It got through the middle. Other than that, I think we played strong. We played solid. We just couldn't get it to fall."

Heritage possessed the ball for the majority of the second half to wind down the clock, but the first half had the Knights chomping at the bit.

Kyler Morris had two of the better opportunities.

The first was a rebound right in front of the net, attempting to kick the ball in midair with defenders around him. The kick just didn't have enough juice on it, and harmlessly went to goaltender Toby Henning.

The second came on a corner kick toward the end of the half. Morris sent the ball down near the goal, and the ball bounced around right in front of the net. Henning had to dive backward to snatch the ball just inches from the line and perhaps on it.

The Patriots defense deserves some credit. The strategy appeared to have pressure in the middle, where leading goal-scorer Morris plays and force the Knights on the outside. Nunn stated that his team didn't do well enough adjusting to that and overshoot-

With Jay County's 5-0 win over South

The match would determine a tiebreaker

Adams, the Bluffton tennis team officially

won the ACAC championship Thursday

between South Adams and Bluffton, and the

night.

ing passes back to Heritage.

For a defensive-minded team like Heritage, small mistakes add up and allow the Patriots to play their way.

"Our boys fought hard. A 1-0 loss is tough," Nunn said. "We had our shots, we had our moments, we just couldn't get them on frame, or we just had a pass that went too far and couldn't connect. Little things like that kind of got us tonight."

With the loss, the Knights fall to 4-8-1 on the season with three games remaining.

The sectional, set to take place in two weeks, will announce pairings this Sunday night at 7 p.m. For those who want to watch, the link is on the IHSAA's website, where it will be covering both the boys' and girls' soccer pairings.

The sectional will be held at Woodlan on a turf field like Heritage. The Knights had some issues playing the ball on the turf as opposed to their home natural grass.

Nunn said that he could tell the difference with some of their passes and first touches. To combat it, the team will be practicing on the football field.

"Our first touches. You can tell we don't play a lot on turf," Nunn said. "Our natural element is on grass — I'm a grass fan myself. We just need to work on touches. We need to get some practices out on the turf on our football field and just kind of get comfortable with that."

Norwell's next match will be against Columbia City at home starting at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23.

Noah Fromm made 16 saves in net for the Knights.

The junior varsity team also lost 1-0. Elijah Nunn made six saves.

Starfires' loss meant the Tigers win.

trophy Monday after school.

back champions

Last season, the Tigers broke a 14-year

The team will be taking a photo with the

drought in the ACAC and are now back-to-



Norwell's Kyler Morris (left) kicks the ball in mid-air during a match at Heritage Thursday night. The ball was stopped by the Patriots' goaltender, Toby Henning, who shut down the Knights for zero goals. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

Sports Roundup

Knights top Barons for first NE8 volleyball win

Norwell earned its first conference victory of the season with a 3-1 win over DeKalb at the Castle Thursday night.

The Knights lost the first set 25-19, won the second 25-10, won the third 25-21, and won the fourth 25-23. Their record is now 14-7 (1-2 NE8).

Macie Saalfrank was the leader in kills with 17, Marlee Wenger with three aces and 26 assists, Vanessa Rosswurm with two blocks, and Jordyn Xayyachack with 22

The Junior varsity team won in two sets (25-11, 25-15), while the freshmen also won in two sets (25-12, 25-14).

Norwell will be at Adams Central at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 25.

Tigers lose in final regular season boys' tennis match

Bluffton fell in boys' tennis on the road against Concordia 5-0.

Results

• Chris Stamm defeated Anthony Hartman 6-4, 1-6, 6-1 at No. 1 singles.

• Evan Gerig defeated Nolan Lambert

4-6, 6-2, 6-3 at No. 2 singles. • Josh Mayson defeated Lance Moser

6-1, 6-2 at No. 3 singles. • Noah Schlicker and Will Butler defeated Kade Abbett and Ben Maggard 6-0, 4-6,

7-5 at No. 1 doubles. Nico Conley and Nathan Bryan defeated Dane Schlagenhauf and Coy Lantz 6-4,

6-2 at No. 2 doubles. The Tigers lost the junior varsity math

Results for JV

- Richard Peperkorn defeated Jacob Ribi-
- · Adam Bible defeated Alex Maggard
- Hudson Kraft defeated Grant Reifsteck
- Noah Nuter defeated Braden Lemler
- Richard Peperkorn defeated Lincoln
- Rodgers 6-4. Hudson Kraft defeated Jed Logan 6-2.
 - Noah Nuter defeated Chase Houser 6-1
- Charlie Lang and Nick Moter defeated Evan Klopfenstein and Graham Linderwell
- Charlie Lang and Nick Moter defeated Logan Johnson and Jackson Meyer 6-2.

Bluffton will play in the sectional at Norwell for its next game on either Tuesday or Wednesday. The pairing show will take place Monday night on the IHSAA's web-

Knights fall to Lions in NE8 boys' tennis game

Norwell was swept by Leo in boys' tennis Thursday night on the road.

The Knights are now 11-4 on the season (4-3 NE8).

Results

- Evan Winters defeated Grant Mishler 6-4, 7-6 (7-3) at No. 1 singles.
- Isaac Copeland defeated Bodie Zimmer 6-0, 6-3 at No. 2 singles. Jonathan Plattner defeated Gavin Reyn-
- olds 5-1, 6-3 at No. 3 singles. Andrew Roth and Eli Lagrange defeat-
- ed Jaden Payne and Jake Hoover 6-4, 6-0 at No. 1 doubles. Maddox Nelson and Rabon Forest
- defeated Eddie Archbold and Ayden Quintanilla 6-1, 6-4 at No. 2 doubles.

Norwell lost the junior varsity match 5-0.

Results for JV

- Charlie Amstutz and Evan Andrews defeated Rylan Heyerly and Landon Diver
- Parker Wilson and Tyler Crawford defeated Ryan Ewing and Ethan Williamson
- Evan Ott and Ben Meyer defeated Braylon Troutt and Landon Diver 6-3. • Skyler Vachon and Michael AMbush
- defeated Alex Baker and Christian Werling • Caiden Reiman and Stewart Steidinger
- defeated Jasper Kreigh and Kabyn Peterson Norwell will play in the sectional at

home for its next game on either Tuesday or Wednesday. The pairing show will take place Monday night on the IHSAA's website.

Tigers top Panthers in V-ball

Bluffton fell in three sets at home against Eastbrook Thursday night.

The Tigers lost the first set 25-22, the second 25-22, and the third 25-17. The Tigers are now 7-11 on the season.

Stat leaders for the Tigers were Maryn Schreiber with 11 kills and seven stuff blocks, Haley Gibson with 18 assists and three aces, and Marly Drayer with 23 digs.

The junior varsity team won in two sets (25-15, 25-16).

Stat leaders for the junior varsity team were Rylynn Penick with four kills, four aces, and one stuff block, Ella Borror with seven assists, Sophie Eisenhut with four kills and one stuff block and Madelyn Funk with 16 digs.

Bluffton will face Adams Central in game one of the ACAC Tournament at Heritage High School starting at 9 a.m. Saturday,

High School Calendar

Norwell's Macie Saalfrank (right) tips the ball over the net past two DeKalb defenders in Thurs-

day night's conference game at Norwell. The Knights defeated the Barons 19-25, 25-10, 25-21,

FRIDAY, SEPT 22

at Noble Hawk, 8:30 a.m.

FOOTBALL: East Noble at Norwell, 7 p.m.; Southern Wells at Bluffton, 7 p.m. GIRLS GOLF: (regional) Norwell, Bluffton

and 25-23 for the 3-1 win. (Photo by Chad Kline)

SATURDAY, SEPT 23 BOYS SOCCER: Columbia City at Norwell,

BOYS TENNIS: Norwell at Delta Varsity Invitational. 9 a.m.

CROSS COUNTRY (CO-ED): Norwell, Bluffton, Southern Wells at Huntington Univer-

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 Nor-

VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at Adams Cen-

tral, 7:30 p.m.; Bluffton at New Haven, 6 p.m.; Southern Wells at Tri-Central, 6 p.m. TUESDAY, SEPT 26

BOYS TENNIS: (Sectional) Bluffton, Norwell at Norwell 4:30 p.m. TBD. WEDNESDAY, SEPT 27

GIRLS SOCCER: Norwell at Woodlan, 5:30

THURSDAY, SEPT 28

BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at Blackford, 6:30

VOLLEYBALL: New Haven at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Woodlan, 7:30 p.m. FRIDAY, SEPT 29

FOOTBALL: Norwell at DeKalb, 7 p.m.; Bluffton at Heritage, 7 p.m.; Adams Central at Southern Wells, 7 [.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT 30

CROSS COUNTRY (CO-ED): Norwell at NE8 CC Championship at Columbia City, 10 a.m.; Bluffton at Bluffton Invitational, 9 a.m.

Tigers hire Jeff Greenberg as GM

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Tigers have hired Jeff Greenberg to be their general manager, adding a former Chicago Cubs and Blackhawks executive to work with team president of baseball operations Scott

"It's an extraordinary honor to take on this role with one of the most historic franchises in Major League Baseball," Greenberg said Thursday. "Throughout my conversations with Scott, (team owner) Chris Ilitch and the rest of the team with the Tigers, it became clear that this organization is headed in a great direction with an incredible culture of development and innovation that I'm excited to be part of.

"Another constant message in those conversations was that Tigers fans want to see winning baseball deep into October. I'm excited to get to work with our front office on offseason and longer-term plans to make that our reality.

Detroit is tied with the Los Angeles Angels for the longest active postseason drought that dates to 2014.

Greenberg was the Blackhawks' associate general manager for 1 1/2 years after working in baseball for 15-plus years.

No. 6 Ohio State gets a chance for a big statement in Saturday night showdown at No. 9 Notre Dame

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — No. 6 Ohio State has been dogged at times this season by doubts about its firepower. Two lackluster wins to open the season didn't help even though the Buckeyes have beaten all three of their opponents by at least 20 points and never given up more than 10.

They have a chance to silence some of the doubters Saturday night at No. 9 Notre Dame (4-0), a showcase game with potential implications for the College Football Playoff.

'You build up in these first few games to figure out where you are going into this game and you go from there," Ohio State coach Ryan Day said. "I think we got some confidence going into this game. We've got a rhythm."

The Buckeyes rank third in total defense, giving up 223.7 yards per game. After struggling early, the offense found its footing last weekend in a 63-10 rout of Western Kentucky.

The Fighting Irish also own one of the nation's top defenses, limiting opponents to 234.3 yards per game, right behind Ohio State. With Wake Forest transfer Sam Hartman at quarterback, the offense has undergone a seismic transformation.

Notre Dame averaged 25 points (94th) and 5.4 yards per play (96th) through its first four games last season. In 2023, the Irish have scored 46 points per game (ninth) and gained 8.3 yards per play (5th).

The Buckeyes (3-0) are a slight favorite, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

Coach Marcus Freeman doesn't want a repeat of last year's matchup at Ohio Stadium, where the Irish hoped to control the clock on offense and keep the ball away from the explosive Buckeyes. Ohio State scored 14 unanswered points in the game's final 16 minutes, defeating Notre Dame 21-10.

"I don't want to play not to lose," Freeman said. "I don't want to play that way. I want our guys to be aggressive and our guys to be attacking. We will play complementary football, but our objective isn't just to hold the ball and huddle every single play. (That's) what my mindset probably was last

FOOTBALL

NFL

San Fransisco 30, New York Giants 12.

BASEBALL

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	W	L	Pct	GB
-Baltimore	95	58	.621	
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GB 72 81 81 .529 .474 .467 Minnesota 8½ 9½ Cleveland Detroit 58 95 51 102 Chicago Kansas City 51 102 ... **West Division** Chicago GB **L** 68 Houston 85 68 68 .553 .553 1/2 1/2 Seattle Texas 69 84 46 106 .451 Oakland

z-clinched playoff berth

Wednesday's Games Minnesota 5, Cincinnati 3 Washington 13, Chicago White

Sox 3 Texas 15, Boston 5 Kansas City 6, Cleveland 2 Houston 2, Baltimore 1 Seattle 6, Oakland 3

Seattle 6, Oakland 3 L.A. Angels 8, Tampa Bay 3 Toronto 6, N.Y. Yankees 1 Detroit 4, L.A. Dodgers 2 Thursday's Games Tampa Bay 5, L.A. Angels 4 N.Y. Yankees 5, Toronto 3 Cleveland 5, Baltimore 2 Detroit 4t Oakland Jets Detroit at Oakland, late Friday's Games
Toronto (Bassitt 14-8) at Tampa Bay

(Glasnow 9-6), 6:40 p.m. Arizona (Pfaadt 2-8) at N.Y. Yankees (Weaver 2-5), 7:05 p.m. Baltimore (Kremer 12-5) at Cleveland (Bieber 5-6), 7:10 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Toussaint 4-7)
at Boston (Sale 6-4), 7:10 p.m.
Seattle (Miller 8-5) at Texas (Dun-

ning 10-6), 8:05 p.m. Kansas City (Ragans 6-4) at Houston (Valdez 12-10), 8:10 p.m.

L.A. Angels (Daniel 0-0) at Minnesota (López 10-8), 8:10 p.m. Detroit (Gipson-Long 1-0) at Oakland (Waldichuk 3-8), 9:40 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Arizona at N.Y. Yankees, 1:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Mannesota, 2:10 p.m. Detroit at Oakland, 4:07 p.m. Chicago White Sox at Boston, 4:10

Toronto at Tampa Bay, 4:10 p.m. Baltimore at Cleveland, 6:10 p.m. Seattle at Texas, 7:05 p.m. Kansas City at Houston, 7:10 p.m.

National League **East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	98	55	.641	
Philadelphia	84	69	.549	14
Miami [']	79	74	.516	19
New York	71	82	.464	27
Washington	68	86	.442	301/2
	tral D	ivisi	on	
	W	Ĺ	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	87	66	.569	
Chicago	79	74	.516	8
Cincinnati	79	75	.513	81/2
Pittsburgh	72	81	.471	15
St. Louis	67	86	.438	20
We	st Div	visio	n	
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Arizona	81		.529	1 3
San Francisc	o 76	76	.500	171/2
San Diego	75	78	.490	19
Colorado	56	96	.368	371/2
x-clinched div	vision			
Wedne	sday	's Ga	ames	
Minnesota 5,	Cinc	innat	i 3	

Philadelphia 6, Atlanta 5, 10 innings Washington 13, Chicago White

Arizona 7, San Francisco 1 San Diego 3, Colorado 2 N.Y. Mets 8. Miami 3 Milwaukee 8, St. Louis 2 Pittsburgh 13, Chicago Cubs 7 Detroit 4, L.A. Dodgers 2 Thursday's Games

Milwaukee 6, St. Louis 0 Philadelphia 5, N.Y. Mets 4 Atlanta 10, Washington 3 Pittsburgh 8, Chicago Cubs 6 San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers, late Friday's Games
Colorado (Davis 0-2) at Chicago

AP Sports Writer

highlights and piles of points - so many

points at every level — Connor Bedard has

arrived at his first NHL training camp with

light and incredibly composed at just 18

you try not to be starstruck or whatever,

anything like that," Bedard said Thursday.

"But yeah, waking up and talking to my par-

ents last night about it, it's pretty special. To

be here with the fans in this city and every-

thing, it's remarkable. I feel super fortunate.

they used a surprise win in the NHL draft

lottery to take the highly touted center with

the No. 1 overall pick. The stands were

packed for his first practice of camp, dotted

him to Chicago - overshadowed every-

thing else that happened on the Blackhawks'

first day back together on the ice. Forwards

Taylor Hall, Colin Blackwell and Jalen

Luypen were held out because of lower-

body injuries, and Jeff Greenberg left the

team's front office to become the general

It was all about Bedard, the new center-

"I think it's hard when you're that young

getting all this hype and pressure, notori-

ety over things, and he seems to not care

too much about that," defenseman Connor

Murphy said. "He just wants to be a player

and wants to improve and play at the highest

every level. He had 71 goals and 72 assists

in 57 games in his final season with the

Regina Pats, the most points in the West-

ern Hockey League since 1995-96. He also

was the tournament MVP when he helped

Canada win gold at the world junior hockey

championship in January.

So far, Bedard has been a success at

manager of baseball's Detroit Tigers.

piece of the rebuilding Blackhawks.

level he can.'

Bedard — and the hope he brought with

The Blackhawks feel the same way, after

Even Bedard, used to the hockey spot-

"Once you're on the ice, it's hockey, and

the Chicago Blackhawks.

years old, knew it was a moment.

It's definitely a dream right now.

with No. 98 Bedard jerseys.

CHICAGO(AP) — After years of hype,

Cubs (Taillon 7-10), 2:20 p.m. Milwaukee (Burnes 9-8) at Miami (TBD), 6:40 p.m. Pittsburgh (Ortiz 4-5) at Cincinnati (Abbott 8-5), 6:40 p.m. Arizona (Pfaadt 2-8) at N.Y. Yan-kees (Weaver 2-5), 7:05 p.m. Atlanta (Morton 14-12) at Washing-ton (Corbin 10-13), 7:05 p.m. N.Y. Mets (Meqill 8-8) at Philadel-N.Y. Mets (Megill 8-8) at Philadel-phia (Walker 15-5), 7:05 p.m. St. Louis (Hudson 6-2) at San Diego

St. Louis (Hudson 6-2) at San Diego (Waldron 1-3), 9:40 p.m. San Francisco (Manaea 6-6) at L.A. Dodgers (TBD), 10:10 p.m. Saturday's Games Arizona at N.Y. Yankees, 1:05 p.m. Atlanta at Washington, 1:05 p.m. Colorado at Chicago Cubs, 2:20

p.m. N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia, 4:05 p.m. Milwaukee at Miami, 4:10 p.m. Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 6:40 p.m. St. Louis at San Diego, 8:40 p.m. San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers,

Midwest League Midwest League Playoffs

By The Associated Press

Midwest League Playoffs All Times EDT (x-if necessary) Semifinal 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

Thursday, Sept. 14: Cedar Rapids Friday, Sept. 15: Cedar Rapids 9, Peoria 3

Rapids 3

Championship (Best-of-3) Cedar Rapids 2, Great Lakes 1 Sunday, Sept. 17: Cedar Rapids 10, Great Lakes 6

Wednesday, Sept. 20: Great Lakes 4, Cedar Rapids 2 Wednesday, Sept. 20: Cedar Rapids 7, Great Lakes 6

BASKETBALL

WNBA

WNBA Playoffs (x-if necessary) First Round

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 2, No. 7 Washing-

Friday, Sept. 15: New York 90, Washington 75 Tuesday, Sept. 19: New York 90, Washington 85, OT No. 3 Connecticut 2, No. 6 Minnesota 1

Wednesday, Sept. 13: Connecticut 90, Minnesota 60 Sunday, Sept. 17: Minnesota 82, Connecticut 75

Wednesday, Sept. 20: Connecticut 90, Minnesota 75 No. 4 Dallas 2, No. 5 Atlanta 0

Friday, Sept. 15: Dallas 94, Atlanta Tuesday, Sept. 19: Dallas 101,

Atlanta 74
Semifinals (Best-of-5) Connecticut/Minnesota vs. New

Sunday, Sept. 24: Connecticut at New York, 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26: Connecticut at New York, 8 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 29: New York at Connecticut, 7:30 p.m. x-Sunday, Oct. 1: New York at Connecticut, TBD

x-Tuesday, Oct. 3: Connecticut at New York, TBD Dallas vs. Las Vegas

Vegas, 5 p.m.
Tuesdy, Sept. 26: Dallas at Las
Vegas, 10 p.m.

Friday, Sept 29: Las Vegas at Dallas, 9:30 p.m. x-Sunday, Oct. 1: Las Vegas at Dal-

Bedard takes the ice for his first

NHL training camp with Chicago

x-Tuesday, Oct. 3: Dallas at Las Vegas, TBD **Finals** Oct 8-20

TRANSACTIONS

Thursday's Transactions BASEBALL Major League Baseball American League CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Recalled RHP Hunter Gaddis from Columbus (IL). Optioned RHP Michael Kelly to Columbus.

DETROIT TIGERS — Named Jeff

Greenberg general manager.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Promoted Danny Ontiveros to vice president of scouting. Named Brian Bridges director of amateur scouting. Jim Cuthbert director of pro personnel & strategy and Daniel Guerrero director of international scouting. Sent LHP Daniel Lynch IV to Omaha (IL) on a rehab assignment. Sent 1B Matt Beaty outright to Omaha. TAMPA BAY RAYS — Reinstated

RHP Jason Adam from the 15-day IL. Optioned LHP Jalen Beeks to Durham (IL).

National League

CINCINNATI REDS — Released

RF Hunter Renfroe.
MIAMI MARLINS -Sent RHPs Huascar Brazoban and Sandy Alcantara to Jacksonville (IL) on rehab assignments.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Sent

LHP Aaron Ashby to Nashville (IL) on a rehab assignment. SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS —

Recalled RHP Tristan Beck and INF Marco Luciano from Sacramento (PCL). Selected the contract of INF/
OF Tyler Fitzgerald from Sacramento.
Optioned RHP Sean Hjelle to Sacramento. Placed INF Brandon Crawford on the 10-day IL. Released INF Paul **FOOTBALL**

National Football League BUFFALO BILLS — Signed LB A.J. Klein to the practice squad. Announced the retirement of LB Christian Kirksey.
CHICAGO BEARS — Re-signed

QB Nathan Peterman. HOUSTON TEXANS DE Derek Rivers from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed CB D'Angelo Ross to the practice squad. INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed OL Dakoda Shepley to the practice squad. Placed CB Isaac Taylor-Stuart

on the practice squad injured reserve LOS ANGELES RAMS — Signed CB Michael Ojemudia to the practice squad. Traded RB Cam Akers to Min-

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Placed WR Jalen Nailor on injured reserve. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS Signed CBs Azizi Hearn and Breon

Border to the practice squad. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS moted LB Ty Summers from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed WR Kirk Merritt to the practice squad. NEW YORK GIANTS — Pro-

moted OL Jaylon Thomas and OLB Oshane Ximines from the practice ostate Alimines from the practice squad to the active roster.

NEW YORK JETS — Signed

OL Cedric Ogbuehi to the practice squad. Released OL Ryan Swoboda

from the practice squad. SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS – Released CB Anthony Brown. Promoted CB Shemar Jean-Charles and WR Chris Conley from the practice squad to the active roster.

Signed CB Tre Swilling.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Resigned LB Tyreke Smith to the practice squad. Released OL Greg Eiland from the practice squad. Siged CB Teez Tabor to the practice

squad.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed DL Jayden Peevy to the practice

HOCKEY National Hockey League CALGARY FLAMES — Signe LW Parker Bell to a three-year, entry-level contract. OTTAWA SENATORS — Signed

D Djibril Toure to a three-year, entry-level contract.
WINNIPEG JETS — Signed LW
Colby Barlow to a three-year, entrylevel contract.
Minor League Hockey

ECHL
READING ROYALS — Signed F

News-Banner Scoreboard Nick Chubb's injury underscores running backs' pleas for bigger contracts and teams' fears

By ROB MAADDI AP Pro Football Writer

Nick Chubb's injury underscores why running backs want better contracts and why NFL teams are reluctant to pay

Chubb's season ended abruptly when he suffered the devastating knee injury that was too gruesome for replay in Cleveland's loss to Pittsburgh on Monday night. The four-time Pro Bowl pick faces a long, arduous road to recovery with no guaranteed money coming his way beyond the \$10.85 million he's making this season.

Chubb will be attempting his second comeback from a significant injury to the same knee at age 28 with a non-guaranteed salary of \$12.2 million due in 2024. The Browns would assume a \$4 million dead cap hit if they release him next year, according to Spotrac.com.

Running backs have been arguing for bigger contracts and more guaranteed money in recent years because they're underpaid in comparison to their peers. Only kickers and punters had a lower franchise tag than running backs (\$10.1 million) in 2023. The franchise tag represents the average of the top five salaries at the player's position for the current year. It was \$32.4 million for quarterbacks, \$19.7 million for wide receivers and \$18.2 million for offensive linemen.

Five years ago, the franchise tag for running backs was significantly higher at \$14.5 million. The devaluing of the position became a contentious issue for top running backs over the past offseason. Giants star Saquon Barkley and Raiders All-Pro Josh Jacobs refused to sign their franchise tags and were unhappy about not getting long-term contracts. Pro Bowl running back Tony Pollard signed his franchise tag with Dallas.

"Every player wants to have that longevity, that contract to ensure you're safe longevity-wise," Pollard said on the AP Pro Football Podcast. "But, it is what it is. We couldn't get a deal done within the deadline. So at this point, I'm just playing ball, going out there trying to win games.'

Jonathan Taylor, a 2021 All-Pro, has been locked in a contract dispute with the Colts and was placed on the physically unable to perform list to start the season because he's recovering from offseason ankle surgery.

Many backs, including, Chubb voiced their concerns about the disparity in pay throughout the summer. The NFL Players Association agreed to the franchise tags in the collective bargaining agreement. "Right now, there's really nothing we

can do," Chubb said in July. "We're kind of handcuffed with the situation. We're the only position that our production hurts us the most. If we go out there and run 2,000 yards with so many carries, the next year they're going to say, you're probably worn down. It's tough."

against the NFLPA, alleging that union leaders, including President JC Tretter, have advised running backs to "consider feigning or exaggerating injuries" to help increase their leverage in contract negotiations.

Last Monday, the NFL filed a grievance

The grievance will be reviewed by an

Meanwhile, legitimate injuries are piling up for running backs.

JK Dobbins suffered a season-ending Achilles tendon injury in Week 1. Barkley was ruled out for New York's game against San Francisco on Thursday because of an ankle injury. Austin Ekeler and Aaron Jones missed games last week. David Montgomery and Jamaal Williams left their last game with injuries.

Injuries are part of the sport. They're common regardless of position. But running backs absorb more hits than anyone else on the field. They're tackled when they carry the ball or when they catch it. They have to block when they don't get the ball. The average career length for an NFL player is 3.3 years, per Statista. It's 2.7 years for running backs.

Teams view running backs as interchangeable. Many clubs aren't willing to invest big money on running backs because late-round picks and undrafted free agents have had plenty of success. Only three Super Bowl champions in the past 15 years had a 1,000-yard rusher in the regular season compared with 11 in the 15 seasons before that.

When Chubb went down, Jerome Ford stepped in and ran for 106 vards on 16 carries. Ford, a fifth-round pick in 2022, got 69 of those yards on one run. The Browns also brought back Kareem Hunt to take Chubb's roster spot.

Filling Chubb's shoes won't be easy, however. Chubb, a second-team All-Pro last season, has averaged 5.3 yards per carry over his six-year career. That's the secondhighest in NFL history among running backs with at least 1,000 carries.

"You don't replace Nick Chubb. You just don't do that," Browns coach Kevin Stefanski said. "Great players in the league, you look around, they go out. It's always not one person that replaces a player of his caliber. So everybody's got to do a little bit more, a little bit more everywhere."

Do more for less. That's been life for running backs in the NFL.

Hamlin doubles down

in his declaration to win the NASCAR title

By JENNA FRYER AP Auto Racing Writer

Denny Hamlin didn't chill Sunday with his bravado that

this is indeed the year he will finally win a NASCAR championship. The day after his win at Bristol Motor Speedway hurdled

Hamlin and his No. 11 team into the second round of NAS-CAR's playoffs, Hamlin was still pumping his chest. "It's our year," Hamlin posted on social media alongside

four photos from Saturday night's victory.

He said the same thing to a hostile crowd in the Tennessee mountains. The fans booed Hamlin in driver introductions, booed him when he won his 51st career race and booed him as he celebrated with Bubba Wallace, who drove into the second round of the playoffs to give Hamlin coowned 23XI Racing both of its cars in the next round alongside the boss, who drives for Joe Gibbs Racing.

Hamlin shared a back-and-forth with the crowd, and that's when he first declared that this is, finally, his year.

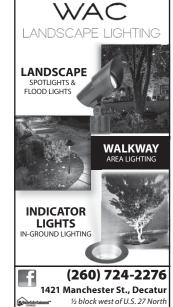
Hamlin is considered NASCAR's greatest driver to never win a Cup title, and in his 18 seasons driving for Gibbs he just signed an extension — he's come awfully close. He's lost in the head-to-head format, and the winner-take-all final four format.

A year ago, Hamlin didn't even make it to the final four: Ross Chastain used a last-lap video-game-style move to slingshot past Hamlin and beat him for a spot in the championship round on points.

This year, Hamlin wants his spot in Phoenix firmly in control. He and the No. 11 team were in the mix to win the playoff openers at Darlington (Kyle Larson) and Kansas (Tyler Reddick) and got another boost at Bristol when Joey Logano and Kevin Harvick, former NASCAR champions and Logano the 2022 titleholder, were eliminated.

As Hamlin gnawed on the gladiator-style sword awarded the Bristol winner, he played to the booing reception.

"At some point I've got to realize, 18 years in, that I'm probably not going to win the most popular driver award. I've come to the conclusion of that. I understand it," Hamlin said of the way crowds have been receiving him this season.



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vid and Sidney Crosby, and he begins the season as the FanDuel Sportsbook favorite for the Calder Trophy for NHL rookie of the year. He warmed up for training camp with three goals and an assist in an impressive performance in his only game in the Tom Kurvers Prospect Showcase in Minnesota last weekend.

The biggest concern with Bedard heading into his first NHL season just might be his relative lack of size. He was listed at 5-foot-10 and 185 pounds on the team's training camp roster, and he no doubt will be a marked man when the regular season

Bedard himself doesn't sound too concerned.

"I've been hit a good amount over the course of my life," he said. "These guys are bigger, stronger, but for me it's just having my head up and being smart. I can't go out there being scared to get hit so it's not something I thought about too much."

Richardson, a longtime NHL defense-

"He's got the baby face and the young grin and the cool hairdo, you know he's young, but he's very mature beyond his years and he knows what's going on out there," Richardson said. "He's built really low, wide, very much like how you describe a lot of Russian players skate, great balance

"I think he's kind of wired where he knows how to bounce off people that are coming at him and spin off, like a Crosby, and use that as a propellent. I'm not comparing him to Crosby, but he uses a technique like that as not the biggest player in the world. I think he's used to that.'

He has been compared to Connor McDa-

"This is the top league in the world, so he's excited to be here," Blackhawks coach Luke Richardson said. "He belongs here. We just hope he keeps growing. We're not putting any limits or restrictions on him. We're just going to let him play within our team system and use his talents as he has in the past. Hopefully he just continues to

grow.'

man, also felt Bedard would be fine.



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Annoyed by neighbor's 'jokes'

Dear Annie: Somehow, sometime, it was determined by my family members that since I was living at home after being disabled, that I would be the sibling (out of six) who would be responsible for caring for our parents until their death.

My father passed away about 12 years ago, while Mom is still with us. However, she requires more care than The only prob-I can give, but my siblings don't see lem is he masks that.

I recently came into funds that would allow me to relocate to Tennessee and an independent living community where I went to college. But my five siblings want me to stay and nurse Mom till the end.

If I can, I'm going. I'm already planning a visit to Tennessee to visit several facilities to make a final decision. I expect pushback from all five siblings, but I am tired of trying to meet other people's expectations. I figure with 800 miles distance, I can finally get away from them.

Is it right to want to be me at 59? – When Is It My Time?

Dear My Time: If you already know you'll get pushback, why not be proactive and have a conversation with your siblings before the move?

Of course it's not fair for you to be solely responsible for your mother's caretaking, but jetting off without any communication is not quite fair either. Explain to your siblings that you are seizing this opportunity to live in Tennessee, and then start brainstorming a plan for your mother's care. Ideally, the six of you can all chip in; not only would this be the most fair, but it would also give your mother the opportunity to spend time with all of her children.

Dear Annie: We have this wonderfully helpful neighbor who is always willing to help folks in the neighborhood when needed and quite often does.

his sarcasm and



Dear

Annie

by Annie Lane

insults as jokes and everyone laughs. This is directed at everyone EVERY TIME we talk with him. Honestly, I'm tired of his insults and don't quite know how to handle him anymore. Any suggestions would be very much appreciated. — Tired of Being Insulted

Dear Tired: If one person says it, 10 think it. I would imagine that your fellow friends and neighbors are also fed up and uncomfortable by these comments.

The next time this man says something rude or off-color, call him out on it. It's possible he doesn't realize how what he thinks are jokes impact those around him. If he continues even after you've confronted him, limit your interactions with him. Perhaps a bit of distance will make him realize the seriousness of his words.

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

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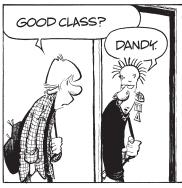


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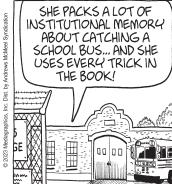






CRANKSHAFT







My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Q: There are over 10,000 religions in the world. How is this possible when there is only one true God? – W.R.

A: A famous military conqueror from the past was able to state a truth, without realizing that he had charged right past the real Truth. Napoleon Bonaparte stated, "I would believe in a religion if it existed ever since the beginning of time, but when I consider Socrates, Plato, Muhammad, I no longer believe. All religions have been made by man."

John Bunyan once said, "Religion is the best armor that a man can have, but it's the worst cloak."

When did man invent

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300 501 (4:25) *** Detour (16) (:05) *** Unbreakable (2000, Thriller) Samuel L. Bel Powley, Tye Sheridan. Jackson, Robin Wright, Bruce Willis.

(3:45) \(\frac{\psi}{\psi}\times\) (45) \(\frac{\psi}{\psi}\times\) The Promise (2016, History) Charlotte Le Bon, Orphan Christian Bale, Oscar Isaac.

35) ♥★★★ Cloverfield ('08) Mike

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News (N) NBC News Family

Religion is the best armor a man can have

this maze of religion? It began with a couple of fellows who are rather well

known. When Adam and Eve had their sons, we might have thought they would have been able to instill in both of them the importance of a right relationship with God. However, Cain wanted to do it his own way. He approached the first altar with his offering of "the fruit of the ground," trying to regain "paradise" without accepting God's plan of redemption. Cain brought what he had grown, the distinctive elements of his own culture. Today we would call Cain's gift his attempt at salvation by works. But God never said we could work our way to Heaven. His brother Abel obeyed God and humbly offered

the first of his flock in a sacrifice of blood. Abel agreed with God that sin deserved death and could be covered before God only through the substitutionary death of a guiltless sacrifice.

The Bible declares, "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Hebrews 9:22, NIV). This is why Christ shed His blood on the cross. Knowing that man would sin is why God sent His Son to pay the penalty for mankind's redemption. This is what distinguishes Christianity from all the religions of the world.

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

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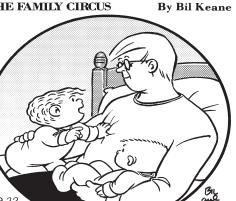
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"I like it when you talk us a story, Daddy. It's like a book with no pages."

The LOCKHORNS



"I'M SORRY, BUT GIVING YOU A LOAN TO PAY OFF OTHER LOANS IS NOT A WORKABLE PLAN."

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This Week's Garage Sales

THIS IS ALL from the barn.

Something for everyone. 2231 SE St. Rd. 116, Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m.-2

"STILL DOWNSIZING", 2335 N. Fairway Lane, Bluffton, Sept. 21-22, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sept. 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Quality furniture.

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE at the Imel barn, 8313 N. 600 W. Markle, Friday and Saturday September 22 and 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. As always lots of great items, clean and well marked. Nice, small women's clothes, furniture, household. Bonus... Markle townwide sales as well!

316 S. WAYNE St., Bluffton, Sept. 21, 22, 23, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$1 to \$5 table, tools, toolbox, padlocks with keys, NEW Coleman camping stove, jewelry, purses, knitting supplies, diamond art supplies, home decor, ladies clothes (large to extra large), insulated lunch bags, much more. No kids clothes

HELOISE HINT: Have lots of costume jewelry that you are not wearing? Put it all in your garage sale. Arrange the items so customers can see them well. If you have extra help get a big handheld mirror and let customers try on jewelry. If they do this, they will be more likely to buy something. Write to Heloise, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001.

Cash 5 — 16-19-38-40-43

\$33.3 million

SEPTEMBER 26 - 6 p.m. -

Steven H. Arnold, seller. OK

Modern Dry Cleaners, 404 S. Main St., Bluffton. Empty build-

ing, 1,078 sq. ft., 70'x55' lot, half bath. Heartland Auction

& Realty, Inc., 260-724-3499.

BIDDING NOW OPEN AND

STARTS CLOSING SEPTEM-

BER 26 - 6 p.m. EST - Leo

Thieme, owner. Real estate 6

p.m.: 1,780 sq. feet, full basement, 3 bedroom, 2 full bath

home, oversize 2 car attached garage, 3 acres, 6850 E 700

N, Decatur. Personal property 6:30 p.m.: 2007 Dodge Grand

Caravan, 131k miles, applianc-

es, antiques, collectibles, furniture, fish and animal mounts.

household items, tools, etc. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty

LLC, Kjauction.com, 260-724-

SEPTEMBER 28 - 1 p.m. AND SEPTEMBER 29 - 8

a.m. - Secured creditors &

various consignors, owners.

815 Adams St., Decatur. Truck

& equipment and online only

equipment. Day 1: skid loader

attachments, tool boxes, work-

benches, iron gates, chains

7402.

heartlandauctionrealty.com.

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Help Wanted



WE ARE HIRING 1ST SHIFT COMPETITIVE WAGES FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT

APPLY ONLINE AT HTTPS://ALH-BUILDING. COM

> MUST PASS DRUG SCREEN

MARKLE, IN

NEWS-BANNER seeking a general assignment reporter to join our staff We'd like to emphasize the 'general" in the job description — the reporter may cover school boards, local city councils, and crime, with room for occasional feature or enterprise stories. Photography experience is a plus News-Banner is an The award-winning daily. A new reporter will join a staff of several full-time reporters, as well as multiple part-time and freelance reporters. Please send a cover letter, resume requirements and three relevant clips (if appli-

cable) to publisher Doug

banner.com. No phone calls,

Brown.

please.

Lottery Numbers

Thursday's Drawings

HOOSIER LOTTERY

Quick Draw Midday — 05-08-15-17-24-25-26-30-38-40-45-50-55-57-61-69-72-73-75-79, BE: 50

Quick Draw Evening — 02-03-22-24-26-28-33-36-39-46-47-54-57-61-63-64-67-74-77-78, BE: 67

MEGA MILLIONS

POWERBALL

Public

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday):

Cash4Life — 08-16-19-47-60, Cash Ball: 04

Daily Three-Midday — 03-00-02, SB:04

Daily Three-Evening — 06-08-09, SB: 07

Daily Four-Midday — 02-05-08-08, SB: 04

Daily Four-Evening — 00-04-00-06, SB: 07

Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$205 million

Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$725 million

dougb@news-

Help Wanted



NOW HIRING Openings on all shifts!

Competitive pay and benefits along with Gold Level insurance plan available after 30 days!

24/7 online www.WayneMetals.com

HELOISE HINT: If you find yourself flustered during the middle of an interview. It's normal to feel jitters. Pause for a moment to gather your thoughts and take your time answering the interviewer's questions. Keep your answers short and simple, though! Send your job-success story to Heloise, P.O. Box 795001. San Antonio, TX 78279-5001

PETS

Pets

USE HAPPY JACK® Kennel Dip™ as an area spray to control deer ticks, fleas, stable flies & mosquitoes where they breed At Tractor Supply® (www.happyjackinc.com) (I)

HELOISE HINT: Just got a new pet bird? Cough and crusty eyes are signs that can indicate your bird is not well. You might also notice that their behavior has changed or that your pet bird is unhappy. Write to Heloise, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001

SERVICES

Services

MARV'S CONSTRUCTION Room additions, fix old saggy floors, all types remodeling. Redo bathrooms, old foundation repairs. Marv Schwartz: 260-525-8877.

Public Notice

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL
ESTATE AND ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
Sheriff Sale File number:
90-23-0016-SS

Date & Time of Sale: Wednes-day, October 11, 2023 at 1:00 pm Sale Location: Wells County Courthouse First Floor, 102 W Market St, Bluffton, IN

Judgment to be Satisfied: Cause Number: 90C01-2212-

Plaintiff: ROCKET MORT-GAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN

LOANS INC.

Defendant: TODD J. GAW-RONSKI AND MARSHA E. GAW-

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

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

County, Indiana. Commonly Known as: 515 INGLE DR., OSSIAN, IN 46777 Parcel No. 90-02-16-512-

058.000-009 Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, this sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement laws. In accordance to the requirements of IC 32-29-7-3, this Notice shall also represent service of Notice of Sale of this real estate

upon the owners.

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

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

By: Krista Markley, Phone: 260/824.3426 Jefferson Township
The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the commonly known address published herein.

PLEASE SERVE: MARSHA E. GAWRONSKI 66 GUNN AVE COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51503

TODD J. GAWRONSKI 66 GUNN AVE COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51503

OCCUPANTS OSSIAN, IN 46777 nb 9/8, 9/15, 9/22

Services

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET. WE instantly compare speed, pricing, availability to find the best service for your needs. Starting at \$39.99/month! Quickly compare offers from top providers. Call 1-844-961-0666 (I)

NOTICE

Notices

HAVING UPCOMING AN event? A 20 word, line classified ad in the Bluffton News-Banner for six days is only \$24.50. Add a border for an additional \$1 or a graphic for an additional \$5. Contact the office at 260-824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St. or submit online at www.news-banner.com click on classifieds.

LINE CLASSIFIED **AD DEADLINES**

Monday editions: Friday by 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday editions: dav-before by 4 p.m. Saturdays: Friday by noon

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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9/22

September / September DS & S

The HIDEAWAY BEER SOURBON

THURSDAY -**Dollar Off Drinks** (Excludes Pop) **WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE** FRI. & SAT. - Live Music

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will do roofing, siding, remodeling, pole barns. Specializing in redoing old barns. Free estimates. Call **260-438-2508**

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Commercial-Industrial-Residential 24 Hr. Emergency Service Charles Miller-Electrican 1233 W. Cherry St., Bluffton Estimates

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1800 S. Wayne St. | Bluffton

 1 & 2 Bedrooms Maintenance Free

· All Ground-level

 Private Entrances Water Included

²⁶⁰ 824-5280

For those 62 + or disabled, regardless of age. 1 E

260-223-4276 **Primary** Free Contracting, LLC **Estimates**

Decks • Garages • Pole Barns • Siding • Remodeling Metal and Shingle Roofing • Storm Damage •Trim Wood Working and more! Owner - Edwin Wickey **COMPETITIVE RATES!**



Jerry Flack & Associates Jerry Flack & Julie Myers

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As a resident of the Wells County As a resident of the wells Country community for decades, Attorney, Gerret J. Swearingen, has devoted his legal practice to assisting clients in preserving the family assets from the high cost of Nursing Home and In-Home Healthcare.

As your guide through the "Medicaid Planning" process, Swearingen Elder Law will provide the right path to both protect your life savings and receive the quality of care we all deserve. care we all deserve. -OSSIAN-

1645 Hillcrest Dr., Suite 2A Ossian, IN 46777 Attorney Gerret J. Swearinger

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U.S. 27 and S.R. 124 Office at 1180 N. Main, Bluffton

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All makes & models • broken springs & cables Owner: James Fisher • Sales: Carl Fisher "50 Years of Combined Experience" Call us at **824-3262**

www.seamlessgutter.net **Wickey Construction**



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... you can keep your name in the public eye!

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PER ISSUE Increase your business with regular advertising!

or 622-4108 Oct. deadline is Tues., Sept. 26!

14' hay wagon, 3 bottom plow, Monroe. Sale manager, Patrick

& binders, 1 Trip 40' high side shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter containers, truck take off parts, more! Day 2 live and online bidding: 700+ lots! 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, dump, utility, & bucket trucks, day cabs, utility & semi trailers, SUVs, pickups, skid steer attachments. Accepting consignments! Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, Kjauction. com, 260-724-7402. OCTOBER 1-8 -(Online Only) - Estate of Robert Isch, seller. 1978 White 2-50 diesel tractor, 2015 Ex-Mark Laser-Z zero turn riding lawn mower, 2002 Simplicity lawn mower, 2006 Simplicity Legacy riding lawn mower, single axle utility trailer, tandem axle trailer, Winco generator, lawn and garden, tools, antique & modern furniture, antiques, primitives, glassware, household. Preview: Sept. 28, Oct. 5, from 3-6 p.m., 601 E St. Rd. 124

Carter, The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-**BIDDING NOW OPEN AND** STARTS CLOSING OCTO-BER 8 STARTING AT 4 PM

EST - Larry Beer, owner. Sports collector's dream! 950+ lots featuring lots of sports memorabilia, signed jerseys, bats & balls, MLB, NFL, MLB cards (some cards Graded), die cast toys, stamp collection, yard & hand tools, Yamaha gas powered golf cart, like new Cub Cadet riding lawn mower, household, furniture, Fenton glass, Roseville & Hull pot-

tery, more! Preview: Oct. 5, 4-6 p.m., 909 Woodridge Ct., Decatur. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, Kjauction.com, **BIDDING NOW OPEN AND** STARTS CLOSING OCTO-BER 15 STARTING AT 4 PM EST - Randy Rossman, owner and multiple consignors. Online only consignment auction. 1,000+ lots! Featuring furniture, household items, collectibles, antiques, tools, guns, & much more! Auction preview: Oct. 12, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm St., Decatur. Pick up times: Oct. 16, 1-6 p.m. & Oct. 17, 9 a.m. noon, 3 pick up locations in Decatur. Krueckeberg Auction

& Realty LLC, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402 BIDDING STARTS CLOS-ING OCTOBER 17 START-ING AT 6 P.M. EST - Ronald L Franke estate, owner. Real estate 6 p.m.: 812 sf, full basement, 2 bed, 2 full bath, 14'x22' detached garage, .29 acre lot, Fort Wayne Community School, Wayne Township, Allen County. Personal property 6:30 p.m.: 2006 Chevy Monte Carlo SS, 105k miles, household, tools, riding lawn mower, furniture, collectibles, more! Preview: Oct. 9, 5-6 p.m., 930 Irene Ave., Fort Wayne. Pick up: Oct. 18, 3-6 p.m. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

SUDOKU ANSWER

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Biden: Norfolk Southern must be held accountable for Ohio derailment

But won't declare disaster

By JOSH FUNK **Associated Press**

President Joe Biden ordered federal agencies to continue holding Norfolk Southern accountable for its February derailment in eastern Ohio and appoint a FEMA official to oversee East Palestine's recovery, but he still stopped short of declaring a disaster.

Biden issued the executive order Wednesday evening. Part of the order essentially directed the environmental, health and transportation officials to continue doing what they are doing to make sure Norfolk Southern fulfills its responsibilities and report on the progress. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will name a recovery coordinator to monitor the situation.

The lack of a disaster declaration has been a key concern for many residents of the area where the derailment happened near the Ohio-Pennsylvania border, but officials have said this situation doesn't easily fit the definition of a disaster because Norfolk Southern is paying to clean up the mess and help the town recover so unpaid bills aren't piling up. The railroad has committed \$95 million to the town already as part of a response the railroad expects to cost at least \$803 million.

Still, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine requested a disaster declaration back in July to make sure any unmet needs would be covered if Norfolk Southern did renege in its often-stated promise to make things right in East Palestine.

DeWine's spokesman, Dan Tierney, said the governor is glad the Biden administration "affirmed their long-term commitment to supporting the residents of East Palestine, including the consideration of federal disaster aid should Norfolk Southern not fulfill its obligation to fully compensate the residents of East Palestine and clean up the aftermath of the derailment."

East Palestine resident Jessica Conard said the order is a step in the right direction, but she still has

"It's a lofty title for an incremental change," she

In particular, she questioned how the FEMA coordinator will effectively assess unmet needs of residents without chemical testing to their bodies or homes.

"I'm hopeful that we as residents can direct this narrative and that the emergency management services that are in place will support the residents through this process.'

The railroad has reimbursed residents for relocation costs since the derailment and compensated the fire department for equipment that was damaged while fighting the fire and dealing with the chemicals that were released after the derailment. Norfolk Southern has also promised to pay for upgrading East Palestine's parks and water treatment center. On Thursday, the Atlantabased railroad announced plans to build a \$20 million regional training center for first responders in East Pal-

Norfolk Southern has also said it will establish funds to pay for lost home values, any long-term health concerns and water contamination issues that result from the derailment. The railroad announced a preliminary program to compensate homeowners earlier this week although the final details of those funds are still being negotiated with Ohio officials.

The railroad said it is committed to helping East Palestine now and in the

"From the beginning, Norfolk Southern has committed to making it right in East Palestine and covering all costs associated with the clean-up. In the months since, we have made significant progress, keeping our promises to safely and thoroughly clean the derailment site, support the needs of the community, and invest in its future," Norfolk Southern said in a statement.

Jami Wallace, who helps lead the East Palestine Unity Council group that's trying to get residents' concerns addressed, said it would be better if the federal government would step in and compensate residents directly and then seek reimbursement from the railroad instead of forcing residents to deal with Norfolk South-

Also, she thinks more should be done to make sure the railroad does what it

'Commitment to holding Norfolk Southern accountable? People are still sick and living in homes that haven't been tested. They are begging NS for assistance to survive," Wallace

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, who co-sponsored a package of railroad safety reforms after the derailment that's still awaiting a vote in the Senate, said it's important to make sure that Norfolk Southern delivers on all its promises.

"This is an overdue but welcomed step to support the people of East Palessaid Brown. "There is still much more work to do to make this community whole and I will continue to push the administration to deliver for East Palestine and hold Norfolk Southern accountable.'

The White House said that if FEMA identifies needs that aren't being met or if Norfolk Southern changes the aid it is offering, it will reassess the disaster declaration.

Ohio police suggested charging an 11 year old for her explicit photos

By CLAUDIA LAUER and SAMANTHA **HENDRICKSON Associated Press**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — When an Ohio father learned that his 11-year-old daughter had been manipulated into sending explicit photos to an adult, he turned to the police

But instead of treating the girl as a crime victim, an officer seemingly threatened to charge her under a law most people view as designed to protect child

The shocking interaction was recorded last week on body camera audio and by the father's doorbell camera in Columbus, Ohio. The footage drew criticism from the public and from experts who said law enforcement officials have long misused laws meant to protect children by threatening to charge them with being part of the same crime.

Experts said the incident also showed that training for officers on how to respond to child exploitation cases is spotty and not standardized between police departments.

"It was a complete fail on a legal level and on a human level," said Scott Berkowitz, founder and president of the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network — the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization. "I don't know who immediately goes to blaming a child in a situation like that. It's inconceivable."

camera recording obtained by The Associated Press, the father asks if there's anything the police can do.

A female officer is heard replying that his 11-year-old could be charged with creating "child porn."

The parent protests that she is a child, a victim who was manipulated by an

"It doesn't matter," the officer said. "She's still creating it.'

The angry father ends the conversation and slams the door behind him. The video he posted to TikTok had been watched more than 750,000 times as of Thursday.

Police have not released the father's name. The AP, which does not identify victims of alleged sexual abuse, reached out to him on social media and by phone this week but did not receive a response.

Columbus Police Chief Elaine Bryant responded quickly in a statement that the officers' conduct was being investigated and that it did not meet the division's standards for how victims should be treated.

Columbus police spokesperson Andrés Antequera said the agency has a nuanced policy that considers each case individually, but that "the focus is to protect the minor through education, counseling and social services, not criminal charges."

He said the department sometimes provides information on those resources to parents, as well as referrals for services.

But Antequera said

ultimately decide when to file charges, but he did not answer when asked whether Columbus police had arrested minors under similar circumstances in the past.

The AP filed a written request with the Franklin County prosecuting attorney's office seeking information on whether minors have been charged under the statute, but had not received a response as of Thursday afternoon.

Rebecca Epstein, the executive director of the Center on Gender Justice and Opportunity at Georgetown Law, said charges against victims are common. Epstein co-authored a report in April looking at how survivors of sexual assault and abuse are often criminalized.

"Girls who experience sexual abuse are often the ones who are punished for the sexual abuse that they experience. Rather than being treated as survivors who need support, they are funneled into the criminal justice system," she said. "Our culture assigns complicity to girls who are too young to legally even consent to sex.'

Epstein said minors who are trafficked or coerced into sexual acts or into creating or soliciting sexual materials can often be charged with crimes.

In the early 2000s, as cellphone cameras became common and "sexting" entered the national vernacular, juvenile justice advowith other minors.

senior managing director of the Juvenile Law Center, said the center was part of that advocacy and has continued to raise concerns about sexual exploitation laws being used against child victims.

"These laws were really intended to prevent sexual abuse of children, to protect against the exploitation of children," Shah said. "So weaponizing these laws against children to bring charges against them really misunderstands the law, and even worse, is flouting the law's purpose."

It's hard to know how many children are charged, partly because prosecutors can use the charges to elicit guilty pleas to lesser offenses, she said.

Shah, who said she also has an 11-year-old daughter, called the police response to a parent seeking help disappointing but not surprising. "There was no investiga-

tion into who the individual was who has these images in their possession," Shah said. "It went right to punishing her, which unfortunately is all too common in a system that really isn't designed to help first, but rather to punish first."

action reflected the importance of training and the scarcity of standardized training for interviewing and interacting with child

victims of sexual crimes. The AP requested information on any training the responding officers had received, and asked why the father's call was not directed to specialized departments within the Columbus Division of Police, but police had not responded as of Thursday afternoon.

Berkowitz said a possible lack of training resources doesn't excuse the officers' behavior.

"This should be pretty basic stuff that when an adult abuses a child, you do everything you can to stop it, not to blame the child,



Check out these

