

# The News - Banner

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

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### Mighty kids

Saturday hosted a variety of 'Kids Day' activities, including the annual pedal pull competition. Shown above is a smiling Milo Fiechter, who was narrowly beaten by Jace Fiechter in a tiebreaker. At right, Summer Hamilton, the 2022 Street Fair princess, swaps her dress shoes for sneakers to compete in the competition before passing on her crown at the Prince and Princess competition at noon. **Additional photos on Page 12.** (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



## Felony downgraded to misdemeanor for Bluffton Guardsman

By SYDNEY KENT

The trajectory of a young father's future was changed in the Wells Circuit Court earlier this month.

Melvin Emilio Hernandez, Jr., 22, Bluffton, was sentenced to one year at the Wells County Jail with all time suspended and one year of probation. The sentence was issued immediately after Hernandez pled guilty to criminal recklessness where the defendant shoots a firearm, a Level 5 felony. The charge was downgraded to a Class A misdemeanor due to the details of the case and his position in the National Guard.

According to a probable cause affidavit, Hernandez allegedly discharged a gun into the front driver's side tire of a vehicle that belonged to his ex-girlfriend, Trinity Wine. The crime occurred immediately after Wine broke into his Bluffton residence in August of last year and attempted to flee.

Specialist Nathan Martin with the Indiana National Guard, along with additional servicemen, were present at the hearing to testify on Hernandez's behalf. According to each of the men who testified, a felony level charge would result in an immediate dis-

charge from the National Guard, effectively ending Hernandez's military career.

"Specialist Hernandez has been in my platoon for over two years," Martin said. "He's given me selfless exemplary service and leadership to his team and squad."

Richard Thonert, Hernandez's lawyer, asked Martin if he would recommend a reduced sentence. Martin agreed. The courtroom was silent for a moment.

"What do you think happened in this case?" Prosecutor Colin Andrews questioned.

"Like the judge said, a momentary lapse in judgment," Martin said firmly. "I read about it on MyCase. I know what could have been grave situations here, I thank God that no one was hurt. The judge asked if this would carry over in the National Guard. I believe it can carry over in the way that he can teach his junior leaders the consequences of such actions."

"What did he do in the crime?" Andrews asked.

"He discharged a firearm in a violent manner," Martin responded, reciting the

(Continued on Page 2)

## Absentee ballot application outage frustrates election officials, others unaffected

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑOZ  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

For more than two months, Hoosier voters attempting to apply for an absentee ballot online were met with a block of bright red text informing them that the function was down while the state complied with new — and controversial — voter identification requirements.

The service went back online Friday, with just a month and a half before the ballots themselves are due for the November 7 municipal elections.

Although voters could apply by other means, some county election officials — of both major parties — called the outage "concerning" and "inexcusable" for voters. Others said they encountered no problems.

"The Secretary of State has been providing resources and support to complete the application as quickly as possible," spokeswoman Lindsey Eaton said in a statement to the Capital Chronicle.

"Cutting corners on the development, testing, bipartisan review, and approval," she added, "is not an option."

### Voter I.D. hits absentee ballot applications

Hoosier voters can only apply for an absentee-by-mail ballot for 11 reasons under Indiana law, in stark contrast to the 27 states that offer "no-excuse" mail-in voting.

(Eight states conduct elections entirely by mail, so voters there don't have to apply for or request a mail-in ballot — it's sent automatically.)

But in Indiana, the birthplace of the voter I.D. movement, lawmakers have expanded verification requirements.

House Enrolled Act 1134, which became law in May, requires voters to submit at least one of a variety of identification numbers to apply for a ballot: the last four numbers of a social security number, an Indiana driver's license number, a non-driver identification card number or a unique identifier for those who registered to vote decades ago.

A voter could instead include a photocopy of their license, non-driver card or other proof of identification — like a passport or state university-issued ID card — in the envelope with the application.

The catch? The information must match what's on file — a potential challenge for Hoosiers who signed up to vote long ago. Without a match, election officials must work with the voter to resolve the errors, delaying receipt of the ballot.

During the legislative session, voting rights advocates called the legislation "unnecessary" and said it could disenfranchise some, while the bill's Republican author and supporters said it would bring mail-in voting security "up to par" with in-person voting.

When the law went into effect in July, Republican Secretary of State Diego Morales' office had an updated paper form readily available. Voters could mail, email, fax or hand-deliver their applications to their county election officials.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Menendez rejects calls to resign and says cash found in home was not bribe proceeds

By DEEPTI HAJELA and MIKE CATALINI  
Associated Press

UNION CITY, N.J. (AP) — Democratic U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey defiantly pushed back against federal corruption charges on Monday, saying nearly half a million dollars in cash authorities found in his home was from his personal savings, not from bribes, and was on hand for emergencies.

Rejecting rising calls for him to resign, the influential chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said he believed he'd be cleared of charges that he took cash and gold in illegal exchange for helping Egypt and New Jersey business associates.

"I recognize this will be the biggest fight yet, but as I have stated throughout this whole process, I firmly believe that when all the facts are presented, not only will I be exonerated, but I still will be New Jersey's senior senator," Menendez said at Hudson County Community College's campus in Union City, where he grew up.

He did not respond to questions and did not say whether he would seek reelection next year.

Addressing allegations in the indictment unsealed Friday that authorities found cash stuffed in envelopes and clothing at his home, Menendez said that stemmed from his parents' fear of confiscation of funds

from their time in Cuba.

"This may seem old fashioned, but these were monies drawn from my personal savings account based on the income that I have lawfully derived over those 30 years," he said.

Authorities recovered about 10 envelopes with tens of thousands of dollars in cash that had the fingerprints of one of the other defendants in the case on them, according to the indictment.

Menendez also addressed his relationship with Egypt, which plays a central role in the indictment against him, suggesting he's been tough on the country over its detention of Americans and other "human rights

(Continued on Page 2)

## Seven candidates qualified for second GOP presidential debate

By MEG KINNARD  
Associated Press

The field for the second Republican presidential debate will be smaller than the first.

Seven candidates have qualified for Wednesday night's debate at Ronald Reagan's presidential library in California, the Republican National Committee said, confirming that former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson did not make the

cut this time.

Former President Donald Trump, the early Republican presidential front-runner who skipped the first debate, will also be missing from the stage and will instead hold events in the battleground state of Michigan.

To qualify for the second debate, candidates needed at least 3 percent support in two national polls or 3 percent in one national poll as well

as two polls from four of the early-voting states — Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina.

The White House hopefuls also needed at least 50,000 unique donors, with at least 200 of those coming from 20 states or territories. They also had to sign an RNC pledge promising to support the party's eventual nominee.

A look at where the candidates stand:

### Who's in? Ron DeSantis

The Florida governor had long been seen as the top rival for Trump, finishing a distant second to the current GOP front-runner in both early-voting state and national polls, and raising an impressive amount of money.

But those sands have begun to shift as DeSantis' effort has struggled to live up to high expectations

for his campaign. Republican support for him nationally has slipped substantially from its high point earlier this year.

### Tim Scott

The senator from South Carolina did not have a breakout moment in the first debate in Milwaukee and is hoping to change that during Wednesday's event.

### Nikki Haley

(Continued on Page 2)

### Inside

#### Local/Area

Obituaries . . . . . 3  
Police Notebook . . . 3

#### Opinion

Kathleen Parker . . . 4

#### Also...

Sports . . . . . 6-7  
Classifieds . . . . . 10  
Diversions . . . . . 11

### Outside



Fall weather moves in with storms today, tomorrow

Today	Wed.	Thursday
High 78	High 71	High 72
Low 58	Low 57	Low 54

More Weather on Page 2

### Online

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## Discharging firearm

(Continued from Page 1)  
charge description from Hernandez's case details.  
"You didn't read the probable cause affidavit," Andrews stated. "Can you imagine that reading that would change your opinion of the outcome?"

"No sir," Martin answered. "I understand the dangers of the situation."

"Your honor, my intentions were never to hurt anyone," Hernandez said during the hearing. "I made a mistake and I learned from it. You will not ever have a problem with me again. I just want to do right by my son."

"There is this concept in sports," Judge Kenton Kira-

cofe stated before he issued his ruling. "You should never put yourself in a position where the officials control the outcome of the game. You are who you associate with. You have not controlled this part of your life."

"Your honor," Hernandez interjected. "We were apart when—"

"You made a decision to have a child with this person," Kiracofe interjected. "That is the person you chose to be with. At the custody hearing, I heard her faults. I understand why you reacted the way you did. Decisions do have consequences."

"This happened in a residential neighborhood,"

Andrews continued. "People that handle weapons know not to do that. I am bothered that the gentlemen testifying don't know what happened. I can't forget that he shot at people, in our town and community, putting others at risk."

The prosecution, who did not ask for jail time, concluded that while Hernandez's case is indeed a felony, the men who testified on his behalf made a compelling argument.

"Miss Wine also was charged," Thonert added. "This court awarded custody of the child to Melvin Hernandez. The Indiana constitution specifically provides for rehabilitation instead of

punishment. In all of my cases, I have never met a young man who is more deserving of a situation of granting him immediate misdemeanor treatment."

Trinity Evelyn Wine, 21, Montpelier, was charged with residential breaking and entering, a Level 6 felony. She pled guilty to the crime in the Wells Superior Court in April and was sentenced to one year at the Indiana Department of Correction with 349 days suspended and 16 days of jail credit.

Hernandez was also ordered to pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$360.

*sydney@news-banner.com*

## Absentee ballot

(Continued from Page 1)  
But that month, online submission went dark.

**'Nothing in my hopper'**  
The online submission option, which has been available since 2020, automatically delivers a populated PDF form to an official's queue.

And its sudden absence prompted alarm for some.

"This is something that the voters have come to rely on," Elkhart County Clerk Christopher Anderson, a Republican, told the Capital Chronicle. "It is a way for those voters, who want to vote by mail, of getting their application to us in an extremely timely basis — because it's almost instantaneous."

Anderson hadn't known the option was unavailable. He logged into IndianaVoters.com, muttering while he keyed in his information.

"Really?" Anderson asked, after reading the red text of the notice. "Yeah, this is kind of — yeah, it is a little concerning."

"Maybe that's why I have nothing in my hopper," he said. "I did not know that it was down. I was beginning to wonder."

The Indiana Secretary of State's Office said its bipartisan technical committee, which administers the online absentee voting applications, took the function down in July "in response to requests from County Clerks."

"Processes to allow counties to verify ID information provided by appli-

cants needed to be designed, built, tested, and approved," the office's Eaton said.

"Overall, the state-wide voter registration system, network and security features involved, is quite complex," she continued. "The bipartisan team, (information technology) contractors, and web hosting resources required considerable time to schedule the design, review, building, testing and approval steps."

She said they'd been "working diligently" to implement the law's requirements since its passage, and had even had to rearrange resources and schedules for other planned work to get the changes done.

Some still weren't happy.

**Outage means more work for some**  
For Marion County election officials, online submission was the go-to workaround for other problems — until it was taken down.

The county is Indiana's most populous, with — by far — the state's largest number of active voters, according to 2022 general election turnout data.

Marion County Election Board Deputy Director Patrick Becker, said the county was struggling to match voter information against a database the county uses, so it directed voters to apply online instead.

"The database has inaccuracies," Becker said. "... We were telling people to use the online application process because it validates your driver's license number. ... And then, with no warning, the state just shut that off."

"The state was aware of (the updates) when the law was passed. They knew they had to build a tool," Becker added. "They knew they had to open new forms, and they're rolling this change out the day that counties have to send ballots out for the first time."

Under state law, county election officials must mail out a first batch of ballots — in answer to the applications received since after the May primary election — by September 23. Since it's a Saturday, most consider Friday the functional deadline.

For applications submitted between Sunday and October 26, counties send out the corresponding ballots daily, on a rolling basis.

Marion County Clerk Kate Sweeney Bell, a Democrat, said the outage had forced her office to expend more time and resources helping voters through paper applications.

She said workers had been "taking a lot of telephone calls" and looking up voters' information because people didn't remember what identifying number they'd used to register to vote. Becker added that it had been challenging to explain to confused voters why applications submitted months ago needed fixes.

"To take almost the entirety of the functionality of IndianaVoters.com offline has been very, very frustrating for us," Sweeney Bell said. "But for voters who — that's what they have gotten used to, and that's what they know — it's inexcusable."

## Calls to resign

(Continued from Page 1)  
abuses."

"If you look at my actions related to Egypt during the period described in this indictment and throughout my whole career, my record is clear and consistent in holding Egypt accountable," he said.

Prosecutors say he met with Egyptian military and intelligence officials, passed along non-public information about employees at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo and ghostwrote a letter on behalf of Egypt asking his Senate colleagues to release a hold on \$300 million worth of aid. He did not directly address those allegations Monday.

The state's Democratic leadership, including Gov. Phil Murphy, the state party

chairmen and leaders of the Legislature, along with some of Menendez's congressional colleagues, are calling on him to resign

In Washington, however, where his party holds a bare Senate majority, some of Menendez's Democratic colleagues have stopped short of urging him to give up his seat, notably Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York, and Majority Whip Dick Durbin of Illinois.

Even though Schumer has not called for Menendez to step down, other members of his caucus have. Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown and Vermont Sen. Peter Welch called for his resignation on Monday, following Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman on Saturday.

Menendez did, however, step down as required as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Schumer said on Friday, when the indictment was unsealed.

If he seeks reelection, Menendez will face at least one challenger in a primary next year after Democratic Rep. Andy Kim announced over the weekend that he will run for the Senate because of the charges against the state's senior senator.

Menendez's reelection campaign could face significant hurdles besides the criminal indictment, the second one he has faced in eight years, in light of opposition from state party leaders.

If the Democratic Party

abandons Menendez, he could lose a potent benefit of party support: the so-called party line, or preferred ballot placement in the primary, widely regarded as a significant boost to incumbents and those with establishment backing.

Menendez has denied any wrongdoing in the federal case against him, his wife and three of their business associates. In an emailed statement last week, he accused prosecutors of misrepresenting "the normal work of a congressional office" and said he will not allow his work in the Senate to be distracted by "baseless allegations." A lawyer for his wife said she "denies any criminal conduct and will vigorously contest these charges in court."

## Presidential debate

(Continued from Page 1)  
The only Republican woman on stage — and in the field — Haley experienced a fundraising bounce after her performance in the first debate. Her campaign said she raised at least \$1 million in 72 hours, a record period for her.

Two recent polls of her home state of South Carolina found that Haley — a former United Nations ambassador and South Carolina governor — was in second place, well behind Trump but slightly ahead of other GOP rivals.

**Vivek Ramaswamy**  
The political newcomer scored several memorable moments at the first debate, criticizing some rivals as "super PAC puppets" who were using "ready-made, pre-prepared slogans" to attack him. He was a frequent target of incoming attacks on his lack of experience.

Those jabs helped boost both Ramaswamy's campaign coffers and his name ID in the broad Republican field.

**Chris Christie**  
The former New Jersey governor opened his campaign by portraying himself

as the only candidate ready to take on Trump, calling on the former president to "show up at the debates and defend his record."

Without Trump at the first debate, Christie was left without his primary intended target. At times, he was drowned out by the audience's boos as he pushed back aggressively on questioning as to whether the candidates would support Trump even if he is convicted of felony charges.

**Doug Burgum**  
Burgum, a former software entrepreneur now in his second term as North Dakota's governor, nearly missed the first debate due to a tendon injury sustained while playing basketball with his campaign staff. But Burgum still participated, telling reporters afterward that he stood on one leg behind the podium.

Burgum has been using his fortune to boost his campaign, giving away \$20 gift cards — "Biden Relief Cards," hitting Biden's handling of the economy — in exchange for \$1 donations. Critics have questioned whether the offer violates campaign finance law.

**Mike Pence**  
Campaigning on his reputation as a statesman and experienced elected official, Trump's vice president showed off his debate chops last month and is angling to see more action in California.

Pence had combative moments with several other candidates in Milwaukee

over some of the biggest dividing lines in the Republican nominating contest.

Pence himself was also the subject of a pivotal debate question, with the candidates largely agreeing that he had been correct to protect the results of the 2020 election against Trump's pressure campaign.

## Weather

**Tuesday, September 26, 2023**  
**(24-hour observations at 8:41 p.m. Monday)**  
**High: 69; Low: 54; Precipitation: None**  
**Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.21 feet at 8:45 p.m. Monday**

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 78. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Low around 58. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

**Wednesday:** Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. High near 71. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

**Wednesday Night:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 2 a.m., then a chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. East wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

**Thursday:** A chance of showers before 11 a.m., then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 72. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 54.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 55.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 78.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 54.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 79.

## Family Centered Services receives \$483K grant

Family Centered Services, Inc. is a recipient of the Early Years Initiative from Early Learning Indiana. Through this grant, FCS will receive \$483,800 over the course of three years to hire both a nurse and licensed mental health counselor that will provide services at FCS or in-home based on a client's needs. This initiative aligns with the mission of FCS, "to strengthen our community by empowering families and youth through services that educate and inspire."

The Early Years Initiative is a \$50 million grant program focused on enhancing the learning and development of infants and toddlers in Indiana communities. FCS is one of 86 organizations chosen for this grant. The generous support for this initiative comes from Lilly Endowment Inc.

"While the funds are restricted in their use, we will develop new programming to satisfy unmet needs in the community with the goal of sustaining and grow-

ing those services even after the three years of this grant have ended," said FCS Chief Executive Officer Paige Hamilton. "We appreciate Early Learning Indiana for giving us this opportunity to reach more families in the communities we serve."

The Early Years Initiative places special emphasis on serving families in low-income households. FCS is committed to reaching out and making a meaningful impact in the lives of families.

"We at FCS feel that children and families in rural Indiana are some of the most underserved in the state, making do the best they can, often without access to effective services," Hamilton said. "With this support from the Early Years Initiative from Early Learning Indiana, FCS aims to provide more comprehensive services to children and families of rural Indiana in need."

For more information about FCS, visit [fcs-inc.net](http://fcs-inc.net).

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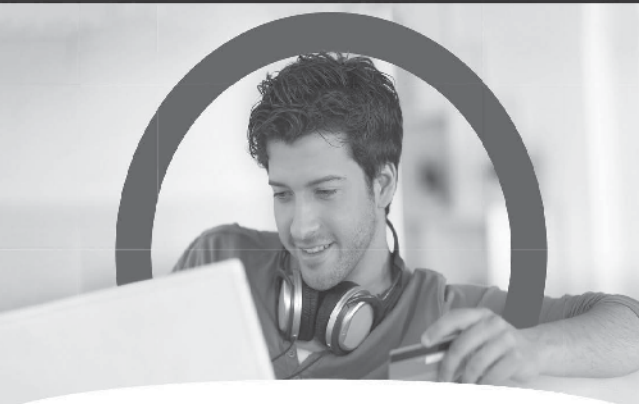
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OBITUARIES

Scott A. Hartman, 63

Scott A. Hartman, 63, passed away Saturday evening, Sept. 23, 2023, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.

Scott was born in Bluffton on Jan. 25, 1960, to William "Bill" and Virginia (Payne) Hartman. Both his parents preceded him in death.

A 1978 graduate of Bluffton High School, Scott continued his education at the University of Indiana where he acquired a degree in accounting in 1982. He worked for K-Mart corporation for 29 years, and later worked for Futaba Indiana of America Corporation in Vincennes. He was involved with the Jaycees in Princeton, Ind., where he also served as president for a year. He enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and camping. He also enjoyed coin collecting, war history, reading, and his family reunions.

Survivors include a sister, Gail (Steve) Gronau of Fort Wayne; a nephew, Kyle Beers; a great-niece, Zada Ford; and a special friend, Cindy Higgins of Jonesboro, Ind.

In addition to his parents, Scott was preceded in death by a nephew, Gavin Beers.

Visitation will be held Friday, Sept. 29, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton, immediately followed by a funeral service at 2:00 p.m., at the funeral home. Tony Garton will officiate. Burial will follow at Six Mile Cemetery in Bluffton.

Memorial in Scott's memory can be made to the American Diabetes Association.



Pictured in the photo from left, Kevin Sills of Farm Bureau Insurance, Kody Kumfer of Forgotten Children Worldwide, Piercen Harnish of Shelton Financial, Alyssa Brown of Archbold & Lewis, Trent Bucher of Honegger of Ringger & Co, Jeff Byanski of Dicky's Express Car Wash, Keith Muhlenkamp of First Merchants Bank, Janessa Kipp of Dicky's Express Car Wash, Doug Fear of Edward Jones, John Simmons of Dicky's Express Car Wash, Gina Hon of First Merchants Bank, Heather Morgan of National Oil & Gas, Wells County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Erin Prible, and Kevin Pritchard of Ruoff Mortgage. (Photo submitted)

Dicky's Express Car Wash celebrates ribbon cutting

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce recently came together to extend a warm welcome to Dicky's Express Car Wash. The ribbon cutting ceremony took place at Dicky's Express Car Wash, located at 1930 North Main Street in Bluffton, Indiana.

Dicky's Express Car Wash is thrilled to make its debut in the Indiana market, and Bluffton serves as the Indiana flagship location. Janessa Kipp, director of marketing for Dicky's Express Car Wash, expressed the company's excitement about their growth plans. "Bluffton is our first location, and we're targeting the opening of our second location in Decatur in the next couple of days," Kipp said. "Huntington is also on-track to open later this year, with Columbia City following suit. We are genuinely excited to become part of these vibrant local communities."

Kipp emphasized Dicky's commitment to community support, stating, "Our primary goal when entering a community is to support that community. We engage in various community outreach activities and promotions to give back and create meaningful connections with our neighbors. We are thrilled about the opportunity to make a positive impact."

To celebrate its grand opening, Dicky's Express Car Wash is offering an exclusive promotion: \$10 a month for the first three months, providing unlimited washes on all plans for new customers who sign up. The process is seamless: customers only need to provide their vehicle's license plate details, and the license plate recognition system at the pay station will grant them access to unlimited washes each month (during operating hours, weather permitting). Plans can be upgraded, downgraded or canceled at any time, and complimentary vacuums are always available.

Dicky's Express Car Wash will operate with summer hours from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., and Sunday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Winter hours, effective later in the year, will be Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sunday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

John Simmons, Bluffton manager of Dicky's Express Car Wash, brings his background in the service industry to the forefront as he takes charge of the local operation. He shared his enthusiasm for delivering

exceptional service to the residents of Wells County, adding, "Your experience at Dicky's will be top-notch, and our friendly attendants will always be available to assist with any questions or needs."

Simmons also highlighted Dicky's commitment to staying local and actively engaging with smaller towns, local events, and the Chamber of Commerce. "Indiana is a fantastic place to start a business and raise a family," he said. "Our mission is not just about cars; it's about being active community members and ensuring that everyone has a great time. We want people to smile when they see Dicky's Express

Car Wash, knowing they'll receive an excellent wash, exceptional service, and a fantastic overall experience."

For more information about Dicky's Express Car Wash and their services, please visit dickyscarwash.com.

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For more information about Dicky's Express Car Wash and their services, please visit dickyscarwash.com.

**Robert E. "Bob" Powell**  
 Calling: 5-8 p.m.  
 Wednesday, September 27 at the funeral home.  
**Funeral:** Private Family Burial.  
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Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

**City:**  
 Friday, 2:07 p.m., Bluffton Street Fair Office. Purse found.

Friday, 2:12 p.m., Police Department. Report of a possible missing purse.

Friday, 2:40 p.m., 211E Market St. Vehicle parked in a tow away zone. Owner agreed to move it.

Friday, 3:59 p.m., Pak A Sak North. Vehicle parked blocking traffic.

Friday, 4:36 p.m., North Scott Street and East Wabash Street. Property damage accident.

Friday, 7:05 p.m., Dollar General. Found bag.

Friday, 7:41 p.m., North Main Street and East Market Street. Juvenile called to report she had been hit by another juvenile.

Friday, 4:58 p.m., residence on South Morgan Street. Caller reported she had been receiving spam calls which have become threatening.

Friday, 8:39 p.m., Hardees. Parking problem. Vehicle towed.

Friday, 10:02 p.m., News-Banner Publications. Report of someone laying on the ground covered in a blanket. Subject advised they were fine and were trying to get to their father's house. Officer provided directions.

Friday, 11:11 p.m., North Main Street and East Ind. 124. Trailer unhooked from pick-up truck. Assisted in moving the trailer from oncoming traffic.

Friday, 11:12 p.m., West Market Street and North Johnson Street. Found wallet.

Friday, 11:24 p.m., South Main Street and East Washington Street. Found debit card.

Saturday, 12:42 a.m., West Jefferson Street and Beth Avenue. Traffic stop. Drug smell reported in vehicle. Citation issued for driving without a valid license.

Saturday, 1:01 a.m., North Johnson Street and West Perry Street. Report of three women and one male fighting and threatening each other.

Saturday, 4:57 a.m., South Scott Street and East Washington Street. Citation issued for driving the wrong way on a one way street.

Saturday, 1:04 p.m., residence on South Johnson Street. Vehicle vandalized during the night.

Saturday, 1:21 p.m., North Marion Street and West Wabash Street. Woman reported a vehicle was parked in the spot she paid for. The subject came and moved the vehicle.

Saturday, 1:47 p.m., North Williams Street and West Perry Street. Parking problem. Vehicle towed.

Saturday, 2:59 p.m., Pak A Sak North. Multiple cars left in the lot. Vehicles towed.

Saturday, 4:03 p.m., Parlor City Plaza. Report of a child missing from the fair. Child found and returned to father.

Saturday, 4:47 p.m., Pak A Sak North. Parking problem. Owner moved the vehicle.

Saturday, 4:50 p.m., North Main Street and East Market Street. Report of a man approaching children with a backpack. Man escorted from the fair.

Saturday, 7:32 p.m., North Main Street and East Market Street. Report of a missing juvenile. Juvenile located.

Saturday, 9:55 p.m., residence on South Johnson Street. Woman reported that a man has been yelling out of his car window as he drove past.

Sunday, 11:01 a.m., South Scott Street and East Walnut Street. Vehicle hit the barricade.

Sunday, 1:39 p.m., West Water Street and North Oak Street. Parking problem. Vehicle towed.

Sunday, 1:21 p.m., residence on West Miller Street. Report of two suspects suspicious in a parked vehicle. Subjects advised they had just broken up and were waiting on a family member to arrive.

Sunday, 2:01 p.m., Dollar General. Found purse.

Sunday, 7:06 p.m., North Main Street and Capri Court. Traffic stop. Driver arrested for driving while suspended with a prior.

Sunday, 7:26 p.m., South Morgan Street and West Walnut Street. Report of a verbal domestic dispute between a man and a woman. The woman advised everything was alright and they would keep the volume down.

Sunday, 8:10 p.m., North Main Street and Premier Avenue. Intoxicated male. Arrested for criminal trespassing, resisting law enforcement, battery to a law enforcement officer and disorderly conduct.

Monday, 4:33 a.m., South Main Street and East Spring Street. Citation issued for speeding.

Monday, 4:59 a.m., Honeysuckle Lane and Stogdill Road. Water in the roadway. Confirmed line break.

Monday, 6:54 a.m., Community Thrift. Individual sleeping in a recliner behind the store.

Monday, 10:14 a.m., Police Department. Found wallet.

**County:**  
 Friday, 2:03 p.m., North 100 West and Ind. 116, Uniondale. Officer went to Bluffton to get a tire for a driver with a blown trailer tire.

Friday, 6:25 p.m., South 700 West and West 700 South, Warren. Report of a hole in the roadway. County highway notified and closed for. The subject came and made.

Friday, 7:41 p.m., 4384 South 300 West, Poneto. Report of a vehicle striking a pole, power company on scene to fix pole.

Friday, 9:59 p.m., West 900 North and North 400 West, Markle. Report of a vehicle in ditch unattended. Owner contacted.

Friday, 10:56 p.m., 4200 Ind. 116, Bluffton. Caller reported hearing someone yelling "help me" from a distance. Officers were unable to locate any yelling.

Teen working for tree-trimming service killed when log hit him

MONTPELIER, Ind. (AP) — A teenager working for a tree-trimming service died in northeastern Indiana when a log rolled out of a trailer and struck him, authorities said.

Braeden Depew, 18, of Kokomo was pronounced dead at the scene Saturday morning on Montpelier's west side, said Blackford County Coroner Zach Crouch. He said Depew was fatally injured when a log shifted, rolled out of a dump trailer and struck him.

Crouch said Depew died as a result of blunt force trauma to the upper body, The Star Press reported.

Montpelier police are investigating Depew's death with the coroner's office.

The town of Montpelier is located about 35 miles south of Fort Wayne.

Bison yoga at Ouabache park

Among the weekend activities at Ouabache State Park will be Bison Yoga on Saturday, Sept. 30, beside the Bison Enclosure at 9 a.m.

Other events at the park this week will include:

**Wednesday, 9 a.m.-noon:** Wednesday Warriors, Volunteers meet at the park office to receive their assignment for the day.

**Friday:** Evening roving interpretive naturalists Rose Nevil and Bret Dausch will be near the campground with park information.

**Saturday:** Bison Yoga, 9 a.m.: bring your own mat for a beginner's yoga session.

Bison feeding, 10 a.m., at the feeding shed. Fall Fungi Hike, 1 p.m.: meeting at the Trails End shelter to learn about mushrooms and then join the naturalist for a 1.5 mile hike to look for fungi.

Fire Tower Climb, 4 p.m.: meeting at the fire tower's brick pathway.

**Sunday:** Scavenger Hunt, 9-10 p.m.: pick up scavenger hunt information

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 Service: 7:00 p.m.  
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 In the 1882 Building at Main & Market with the mural on the outside wall • 260-824-1618

## Kevin McCarthy and likely government shutdown

A shutdown of the federal government, even if only temporary, would needlessly disrupt the lives of public employees and citizens who depend on government services. But, despite a flurry of activity on Capitol Hill, such a calamity remains all too possible next month.

The explanation is tiresomely familiar: the obstructionism of a small band of hard-line House Republicans. On Thursday these dissenters embarrassed Speaker Kevin McCarthy by blocking consideration of a Pentagon funding bill, the second such vote in a week. Opposition from extreme right-wing members is also complicating McCarthy's attempt to advance a continuing resolution, a stopgap measure to keep the government operating after Sept. 30.

Ideally McCarthy would be able to attract Democratic votes to protect the national interest, as he did in May when the House approved legislation to suspend the debt ceiling and forestall a default. That vote was a model of the sort of bipartisan compromise that should be the norm in a divided Congress.

But proposals by House Republicans for a continuing resolution — needed because of a lack of progress on specific appropriations bills — offer Democrats little incentive to come to McCarthy's rescue.

The latest proposal, discussed at a House Republican conference meeting on Wednesday, reportedly is for a 31-day stopgap funding bill that would impose limits on spending more restrictive than what Democrats want and include measures to curb immigration. McCarthy has sought to link the stopgap measure to some of the provisions of a bill passed by the House, which includes a resumption of construction of a border wall and restrictions on asylum.

Even if Democrats were willing to support a continuing resolution, a decision by McCarthy to rely on Democratic votes probably would increase the possibility of an attempt by extreme Republicans to unseat him from the leadership role he narrowly achieved on the 15th ballot.

An additional complication is the decision by former President Trump, who is a favorite of many House Republicans, to inject himself into the shutdown debate. On Wednesday Trump posted this call to arms on Truth Social: "A very important deadline is approaching at the end of the month. Republicans in Congress can and must defund all aspects of Crooked Joe Biden's weaponized Government that refuses to close the Border and treats half the Country as Enemies of the State. This is also the last chance to defund these political prosecutions against me and other Patriots."

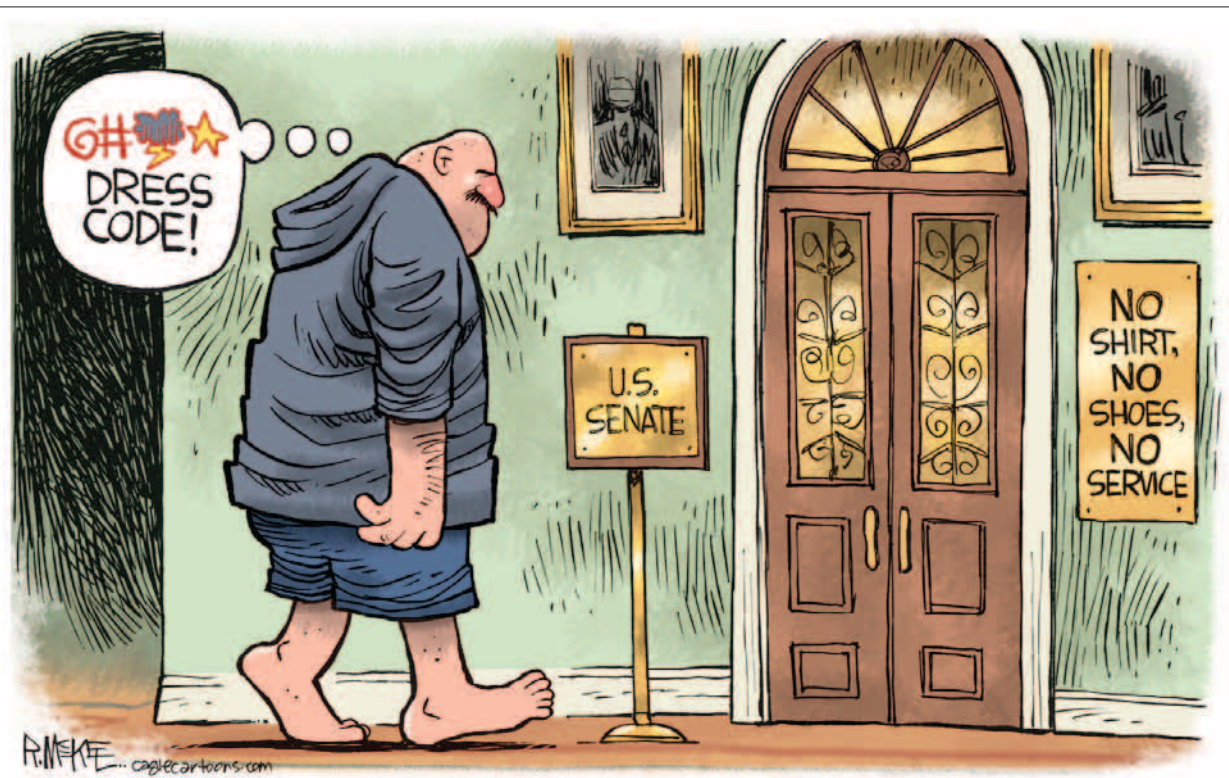
(In fact, it's unlikely that a shutdown would interfere with the federal prosecutions of Trump. Just add that to the ever-growing pile of the former president's lies and distortions.)

McCarthy might still cobble together enough votes to win the support of a majority of Republicans for a continuing resolution, which would then have to be reconciled with or replaced by what is likely to be a less extreme Senate version.

Yet if dissenters continue to stymie his efforts, the speaker should stop accommodating them and reach out to Democrats as he did when he secured an agreement with the White House on suspending the debt ceiling. By now McCarthy should have realized that placating the extremists in his ranks — including by announcing a meritless impeachment inquiry into Biden — only emboldens them.

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES  
Distributed by The Associated Press

## Other Opinions



## Dressing down for the Senate is just bad manners

Let's stipulate that many serious issues demand our nation's attention. A looming government shutdown is surely one. Whether to continue funding for Ukraine is another. Lower in importance is the Senate's unwritten dress code, which, effective immediately, no longer exists.

All may come as they are or, in John Fetterman's case, worse. Fetterman, who proudly outfits himself as the biggest schlump ever to enter the Russell Senate Building, reported to his job dressed in sweats, top and bottom. Frankenstein would be offended.

As little as I have loved Republicans the past few years, coinciding with the rise of our own little autocrat, at least Donald Trump knows how to dress. I can't imagine that even he would demean his office or his country by dressing down, as is now the "code" for senators. Clothes might not make the man or woman, but they do tell us a great deal about them. You don't have to be rich to dress well. You just have to own a mirror and observe a few rules.

When I walk through airports or malls (if you put a gun to my head), I can't help wondering what people are thinking when they leave the house. "Americans are a bunch of slob," my father used to say. He hadn't seen anything. As a member of the Greatest Generation, he wore the Army Air Corps uniform with pride and later went to his office wearing a suit or at least a blazer, trousers and always a tie, depending on his calendar. He was a lawyer and dressed accordingly, as standards of the day demanded.

I suppose I learned my Ps and Qs from him. He was a bachelor during several of our years together — at first a young widower and, subsequently, a serial divorcee — and he was freakishly tidy. I come by my OCD honestly. His Mirado No. 1 pencils were always sharp and at the ready for his daily crossword puzzle. His clothes hung neatly in his closet, organized by color. He was a stickler for two things: truth and grammar. To hear Americans speak today, you'd think no one had ever read a book. And honesty seems to be out of vogue.

But I digress. I'm not nearly as judgmental as my father was. Thanks to the near universality of tattoos and piercings, neither of which I'll ever understand, I've learned not to judge anyone by appearance alone. Where I draw the line is when I'm paying someone to do a job, whereupon I expect them to dress appro-



Kathleen Parker

riately. Except for the Supreme Court, whose justices are liberated from sartorial concerns, there is no more august body in the United States than the Senate. Senators should no more come to the chamber wearing a jogging suit than they should wear a tuxedo to play tennis — though that could be cute.

We citizens, after all, employ the often-ridiculous members of the House and Senate. In some cases, dressing down suits their behavior perfectly. The low-cut tops of Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) come to mind. Try to imagine the always well-dressed former House speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) similarly attired. I doubt we'll see Boebert climb to the leadership position. Though who knows? Pennsylvania elected Fetterman.

I know, I know, much ado. But when conducting the nation's business, shouldn't people be expected to display adult dress? I vote yes.

It's a matter of manners. When guests are asked to dress up for cocktails and dinner, the assumption is that people will put on their best behavior along with their good clothes. Most people try to dress up for their worship services. (Though a young woman I recently saw line up for Communion at Westminster Abbey in London looked as though she was taking a quick break from the trade. I have a photo.)

I once had the pleasure of chatting with Letitia Baldrige, Jackie Kennedy's social secretary, who said, "Manners are nothing but consideration and kindness." This includes how one presents oneself to the world. I see Fetterman and conclude that he cares nothing about others.

Not long ago while walking through the Charlotte airport observing wardrobes that seemed designed for napping, I spotted a woman in a pretty dress. Her hair was "fixed," as we say, and she wore a tasteful touch of makeup. I couldn't help myself and sprinted over to tell her how nice she looked and how lovely it was to see someone who had taken the time to dress. She was radiant with appreciation. (So, of course, I asked where she had gotten her dress.)

Call me old-fashioned, but please join me in urging our senators to wear clothes appropriate for work. This tiny concession to decorum would demonstrate respect for the offices they hold and the nation they represent and their consideration of others — especially us.

kathleenparker@washpost.com

## Trump isn't as strong as he looks — his GOP rivals are letting him win

To understand why Donald Trump is once again skipping a Republican presidential debate, realize that the conventional way of looking at the GOP's nomination contest has things largely backward. Trump's standing in the polls is less about his strength than about the weakness of the rest of the field — and the traditional Republican Party.

Trump wants his foes to stay weak. By not showing up, he reduces them to squabbling bit players trying to bring each other down while the major contenders offer pale imitations of his own message and values.

Republican voters once open to someone other than the former president are concluding that if they're going to get Trumpism, they might as well go with the guy who invented it. And they're getting little useful advice from party leaders who — as Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) told his biographer McKay Coppins — see Trump as a disaster but are too timid to say so publicly.

It didn't have to be like this, because the strength of Trump's lock on the party is vastly exaggerated.

Sure, Trump has an unshakable base, those who would stick with him if he were indicted a dozen more times. But that hard core accounts for no more than about 35 percent of the Republican primary electorate. There really is (or was) room for someone else to break through.

But not one of them has inspired real excitement, and the politician who once seemed best placed to take on Trump, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, has had a miserable year.

As a result, Trump has been able to combine his base with a fair share of the largest group of Republicans: those with a more or less positive



E.J. Dionne

view of the former president but willing to support someone else.

Not so long ago, such Republicans were flocking to others, particularly DeSantis. Trump seemed anything but inevitable at the beginning of 2023. Many in the party blamed him (and the candidates he backed) for its disappointing showing in the 2022 midterms.

A mid-January poll for the Bulwark by North Star Opinion Research and GOP pollster Whit Ayres found that when Republicans were offered a choice among DeSantis, Trump and "another candidate," 44 percent picked DeSantis to 28 percent for Trump and 10 percent for the unnamed alternative. When the other potential GOP candidates were listed by name, DeSantis led Trump by 39 percent to 28 percent.

Other polling early in the year generally showed Trump ahead, but mostly not by his currently prohibitive margin. On Sunday, the RealClearPolitics polling average put Trump at 57.5 percent, DeSantis at 13.3 percent, Vivek Ramaswamy at 7 percent, Nikki Haley at 5.2 percent and everyone else below 5 percent.

The sad news for the country is that Republicans let a real chance to end Trump's career slip away. The opportunity might not come around again. Critics of the GOP enjoy observing that the more Trump is indicted, the more Republican voters flock to him. The timelines of his growing lead and his expanding list of felony counts do overlap, but there are better explanations for his comeback.

The most obvious is that his primary foes have plainly failed to impress voters. At least as important, they and Trump's (often secret) party critics were unwilling to risk enrag-

ing him and his supporters. So they held back from throwing knockout punches when Trump was on the ropes. That's no way to beat a brawler who'll do anything to win.

Congressional leaders also seem to have calculated that their hopes of keeping their narrow House majority and winning back the Senate depend on voters whom Trump can draw to the polls — and traditional conservatives cannot. Trump is rubbing that in by forgoing the Wednesday debate in favor of a trip to Michigan, where he'll pretend to be a friend of the state's autoworkers. He was, in fact, a very antilabor president, but he sure knows how to play roles on TV.

The party's paralyzing Trump dependency has only grown with its ongoing loss of middle-of-the-road suburban voters, small-c conservatives temperamentally who are skeptical of a contemporary Big-C Conservatism increasingly shaped by the Far Right.

The journey of suburban Montgomery County outside of Philadelphia is a microcosm of the GOP's troubles. In 1988, George H.W. Bush, the paragon of old-style moderate conservatism, won 60 percent of the county's vote, carrying Pennsylvania and the presidential election. In 2020, Trump got just over 36 percent, losing the state and the presidency.

In the short term, Republican strategists see no path to rebuilding a more moderate coalition. The party's primary electorate is concluding that in a closely divided country, Trump is about as electable as any of his less-than-stellar rivals. The candidates who gather on Wednesday at the Reagan Library in California need to grasp that they're on the verge of allowing the most dangerous man in American politics one more shot at power.

Follow E.J. Dionne @EJDionne on X

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit your Letter) • E-Mail: email@news-banner.com • Fax: (260) 824-0700 • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. **Letters must be no more than 500 words.** Please mark your correspondence as a "Letter to the Editor," or if you wish to express an opinion to us but do not want it published, please mark as "Not for Publication."

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 26, the 269th day of 2022. There are 96 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 26, 1960, the first-ever debate between presidential nominees took place as Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon faced off before a national TV audience from Chicago.

On this date:

In 1777, British troops occupied Philadelphia during the American Revolution.

In 1888, poet T.S. Eliot was born in St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1954, the Japanese commercial ferry Toya Maru sank during a typhoon

in the Tsugaru Strait, claiming more than 1,150 lives.

In 1986, William H. Rehnquist was sworn in as the 16th chief justice of the United States, while Antonin Scalia joined the Supreme Court as its 103rd member.

In 1990, the Motion Picture Association of America announced it had created a new rating, NC-17, to replace the X rating.

In 1991, four men and four women began a two-year stay inside a sealed-off structure in Oracle, Arizona, called Biosphere 2. They emerged from Biosphere on this date in 1993.

In 1996, President Clinton signed a bill ensuring two-day hospital stays for new mothers and their babies.

## The News-Banner

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Christmas decorations for Ouabache State Park's 10th Wonderland of Lights received new coats of paint at a Saturday workday at the park in preparation for new LED lights to be added. Painters left to right were Kraig Schwartz and Dan Buchinger. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

## Sponsorship opportunities for 'Wonderland of Lights'

Friends of Ouabache State Park are offering a chance for folks to be a "Spirit Sponsor" for their 10th Wonderland of Lights 2023 season.

This year the event will be open for viewing every evening during December. Santa has promised to stop by each Saturday evening and many nights additional entertainment will be offered.

Spirit Sponsorships are available for \$20, which will go toward the purchase of a new strand of LED commercial lighting. (All lighting displays will now have this newer lighting system.)

Checks may be made out to Friends of Ouabache State Park and sent to Attn: Spirit Sponsor, Friends of Ouabache State Park, 4930 E St Rd. 201, Bluffton, IN

46714. Information should include how many strands of lights to be sponsored and the exact spelling of the sponsor (to be listed in the Discover magazine event program).

Deadline for sponsorship is Nov. 1st.

In addition sponsorships for the actual lighting exhibit also are available. Sponsors will receive ads in the "Wonderland of Lights" section of the December Discover Ouabache online magazine.

Levels of sponsorship are: Platinum: \$500 (8 1/2 x 11 ad); Gold: \$250 (8 1/2 x 5 1/2 ad); Silver: \$100 (2 inch banner ad) and Bronze: \$50 (2 inch seasonal greeting). For more information or to arrange to be a sponsor call Kathy Schwartz at 260-341-1971.

# Refining PSA tests to diagnose cancer

## Also: Dance to protect memory

**Question:** My father and my older brother were diagnosed with prostate cancer. I am worried I will develop it, too. With all the debate about how reliable PSA tests are, what other diagnostic tests are available? — Eugene K., Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Answer:** You are smart to pay attention to your prostate health. Having a father or a brother with prostate cancer more than doubles your chances of developing it. And if multiple relatives have had it, that boosts your risk even more.

A PSA (prostate-specific antigen) blood test may indicate that you have prostate cancer — but if your PSA level is elevated, that can also indicate an enlarged or inflamed prostate. That's why it is so exciting that there are five new tests that you can ask your doctor about having.

- If you have an elevated PSA test result, you can follow up with a 4K score test. It can let you know how great your risk of aggressive prostate cancer is — and if you can skip a prostate biopsy.
- The Prostate Health Index is a combination of three blood tests. It can confirm if a biopsy is needed following a PSA test showing elevated levels.
- There's a urine test for a gene called PCA3 — which is in over 90 percent of prostate cancer tissue but not normal tissue. If you have a negative prostate biopsy, it can indicate that you should have another one.
- A ConfirmMDx test is done on biopsy samples that registered clear to determine if another biopsy is needed.
- And once you have a biopsy that indicates the presence of

cancer, genetic tests of the tissue can determine how aggressive the cancer is. Prolaris and Oncotype DX Genomic Prostate Score are two such tests.

The bottom line: If you are high risk for prostate cancer, have your PSA level checked annually and talk to your doctor about follow-up using these advanced molecular tests that refine diagnosis and treatment options.

\*\*\*

**Question:** Is there some concise way to understand what it takes to avoid memory problems and dementia? I feel so overwhelmed by all the advice I read. — Suzanne R., Los Angeles

**Answer:** Great question with a simple answer: YES! At LongevityPlaybook.com, we show you how to use lifestyle choices to protect your brain power. And D.A.N.C.E.R.S. is an easy way to remember what you need to do to protect your cognition.

But first — dancing has been shown to improve mood, visual recognition and decision-making, as well as reduce stress and stimulate growth of new neural connections in your brain.

However, today we're talking about D.A.N.C.E.R.S.:

- **Disease management:** controlling your blood sugar, blood pressure, lousy LDL cholesterol levels and your weight. And it's not that hard to do when you embrace the next step.
- **Activity:** being consistently physically active, using aerobic and strength-building exercise along with a lot of everyday motions like walking, gardening, housecleaning, stair climbing, etc.



Mehmet Oz, M.D. and Mike Roizen, M.D.

- **Nutrition:** a nutritionally smart, plant-based diet nurtures your brain. That includes 100 percent whole grains, fatty fish like salmon and fresh fruits and vegetables. Be sure to ditch red and processed meats and highly processed, sugar-added foods.
- **Cognitive stimulation:** That means reading, learning, and playing speed of processing games.
- **Engagement with others:** You want to make sure you're not lonely or isolated and develop a posse — a group of folks you can interact with regularly.
- **Relaxation:** Chronic stress is a brain-duller, affecting mood, perception, and engagement with others. Yoga, meditation and reading can help you stay calm and open.
- **Sleep:** Enough quality sleep helps your brain clear out toxins, reduce stress, and promotes intellectual flexibility, acuity, and function.

For more details on how to enact these DANCER steps, go to LongevityPlaybook.com — we offer 40 ways to help you keep your brain young.

# Area Things to See and Do

**ALL FOR ONE PRODUCTIONS, FORT WAYNE**  
www.allforonefw.org

**ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM**  
Johnny Appleseed Festival, Sept. 16-17; Fort Wayne Rubber Stamp and Scrapbook Getaway, Oct. 6-7; Fall Bridal Spectacular, Oct. 8; Gun and Knife Show, Oct. 14-15; Brickworld Fort Wayne, Oct. 14-15; Cole Swindell, Oct. 19. www.memorialcoliseum.com

**ARENA DINNER THEATER, FORT WAYNE**  
"Murder on the Orient Express," Oct. 27-Nov. 11; "One Christmas Eve at Evergreen Mall," Dec. 1-17; "LMNOP," Jan. 19-28; "Funny Money," March 1-16; "A Delightful Quarantine," April 19-May 4; "The Drowsy Chaperone," June 14-29. www.arenadinnertheatre.org

**CLYDE THEATRE, FORT WAYNE**  
Bruce Hornsby & the Noise-makers: Sept. 17; Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Sept. 22; Brian Culbertson, Sept. 20; Righteous Brothers, Oct. 7; Pat Metheny, Oct. 8; Static X and Sevendust, Oct. 18; Larry Fleet, Oct. 20; Kings Kaleidoscope, Oct. 22; Mania — the ABBA tribute, Oct. 24; Rod Tuffcurls and the Bench Press, Oct. 27; Marshall Tucker Band, Nov. 11; Brit Floyd, Nov. 12; Brian Regan (comedy), Dec. 7; Foy Vance, Jan. 28. clydeTheatre.com or at 1-800-514-3849.

**EMBASSY THEATER, FORT WAYNE**  
Michael Glibicki and Dirk Miller, Sept. 21; Kevin James: "The Irregardless Tour," Sept. 29; Encanto: The Sing-Along Film Concert," Sept. 30; An Evening With Ashanti, Oct. 13; Music Lovers Lounge, Oct. 13; "Harry Chapin at 80," Oct. 18; "The Price Is Right Live — On Stage," Oct. 19; KIDZ BOP: Nov. 10; Joe Bonamassa, Nov. 17; "The Hip Hop Nutcracker (Touring)," Dec. 5; Straight No Chaser: "Sleighin It Tour," Dec. 20; "Napoleon Dynamite Live!," Jan. 18. http://fwembassytheatre.org/events

**FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS**  
"And Then There Were None," Nov. 9-11, PPG Arts Lab, 300 E. Main St., Fort Wayne; "Elf Jr.," Dec. 14-16, Arts United Center,

303 E. Main St., Fort Wayne; "The Sound of Music," Jan. 18-20, Arts United Center, 303 E. Main St., Fort Wayne; "Finding Nemo Jr., April 11-13, Arts United enter, 303 E. Main St., Fort Wayne. Tickets at fireandlightproductions.com.

**1ST PRESBYTERIAN THEATRE, FORT WAYNE**  
Head Over Heels: Oct. 13-21; firstpresfortwayne.org/theater/

**BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY, FORT WAYNE**  
"An Herban Garden Exhibit," through Nov. 12. www.botanical-conservatory.org

**FOELLINGER OUTDOOR THEATER, FORT WAYNE**  
Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back with Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Sept. 16. Info: (260) 427-6715 or FortWayneParks.org

**CIVIC THEATER, FORT WAYNE**  
"Shrek: The Musical," Nov. 4-19; "The Color Purple," Feb. 9-18, 2024; "Six Degrees of Separation," March 15-24; "Jersey Boys," May 4-19. Arts United Center box office 260-424-5220; info at www.fwcivic.org.

**FORT WAYNE MUSEUM OF ART**  
Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (until 8 p.m. on Thursdays, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. www.fwmoa.org

**FURTH CENTER, ANGOLA**  
Get the Lead Out: Oct. 14; Mickey Dolenz: Oct. 27; trine.edu/furth

**HONEYWELL CENTER & EAGLES THEATRE, WABASH**  
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Oct. 5; Judy Garland impersonator, Oct. 10; Joanne Shaw Taylor: Oct. 12; Martin Barre, Oct. 19; Nelson: Jan. 18; Sons of Mystro, Feb. 8; Michael Palascak: Feb. 14; https://www.boxofficeticketsales.com/honeywell-center

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**ABCINEMA, DECATUR**  
130 W. Monroe St., Decatur. Information: www.abcinemainc.com or 260-724-SHOW

**BAKER STREET CENTER, FORT WAYNE**  
"Brass Metropolis," a tribute to Chicago, Sept. 16; Levon: Sept. 27; Addison Agan with Max Lockwood, Sept. 29; The Arcadian Wild, Oct. 21. www.bakerstreetcentre.com www.bakerstreetcentre.com

**PIERE'S ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE, FORT WAYNE**  
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## Sports Roundup

### Boys' tennis sectional pairings released

The IHSAA hosted its sectional pairings for the 2023 boys' tennis tournament Monday night.

All games will be played at Norwell High School starting at 4:30 p.m.

In the five-team field, Adams Central and Belmont drew the only game on Tuesday. The winner will advance to face Bluffton in the semi-final on Wednesday.

On the other side of the bracket, Norwell drew South Adams in the semi-final on Wednesday.

The championship will be on Thursday.

### Knights defeat Vikings in boys' soccer

Norwell defeated Huntington North in boys' soccer on the road 3-1 Monday night.

With the win, the Knights improved to 5-9-1 (4-3 NE8) on the season.

Kyle Morris had a three-goal effort for a hat trick. Lane Lewis and Phillip Gaier picked up one assist each.

The Vikings won the junior varsity match 5-2. Kale Fuess and Brayden Huffman scored the two goals for Norwell.

Norwell will be at Blackford for a varsity-only match starting at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28.

### Vikings top Knights in girls' soccer

Norwell lost to Huntington North 1-0 in the final home match of the girls' soccer regular season Monday night.

With the loss, the Knights fell to 10-4-1 (4-3 NE8) on the season.

Gracie Rinkenberger made seven saves in net for Norwell.

Norwell and Huntington North tied 0-0 in the junior varsity match. Abby Wagner and Emma Garner combined for the shutout in net.

Norwell will be at Woodlan for the season finale at 7 p.m. Thursday, September 28.

### Tigers fall to Bulldogs in five sets

The Bluffton volleyball team fell on the road against New Haven in a five-set match Monday night.

The Tigers lost the first set 26-24, won the second 25-21, won the third 25-12, lost the fourth 25-18, and lost the fifth 15-10. With the loss, the team's record is now 9-14.

Stat leaders for the night were Maryn Schreiber with 22 kills, Haley Gibson with 35 assists, Isabella Stout with five aces, Marly Drayer with five aces and 24 digs, and Konley Ault with three stuff blocks.

The junior varsity team lost in two sets (25-21, 25-8).

Stat leaders were Sophie Eisenhut with one kill and one stuff block, Isla Gibson with three assists, Rylynn Penick and Ella Borrer with two aces each and Madelyn Funk with six digs.

Bluffton will be at Heritage at approximately 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26.

## High School Calendar

### TUESDAY, SEPT 26

VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton at Heritage, 6 p.m.; Jay County at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT 27

BOYS TENNIS: (Sectional at Norwell) Bluffton vs. Belmont/Adams Central, 4:30 p.m.; Norwell vs. South Adams, 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER: Norwell at Woodlan, 5:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, SEPT 28

BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at Blackford, 6:30 p.m.

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 p.m.

### SATURDAY, SEPT 30

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

### MONDAY, OCT 2

VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Lakeland Christian, 7:30 p.m.

## Lions scramble to prepare for Packers for division lead on short game week

By DAVE HOGG  
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Dan Campbell isn't the type of coach to hype up one game on his team's schedule.

The Detroit Lions' coach is a firm believer that the most important game is the next one, not the sexier matchup a few weeks down the road.

This week, though, the next game up and the notable opponent are one and the same — Detroit will face the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field on Thursday night. Both teams are 2-1 after wins on Sunday.

"We had a few things we had to clean up, so we just hit that quickly, but we know we can't spend time on Atlanta," Campbell said. "Our coaches watched as quickly as they could, and now everything gets focused on Green Bay."

The rivals will be playing for the early lead in the NFC North. Add in the memories of the Lions knocking the Packers out of the playoffs on Sunday night of Week 18 last season, and this game is going to have an edge.

"There's always something special about going to Lambeau — I told our rookies they are going to enjoy this," Campbell said. "It doesn't get any better than this when it comes to atmosphere."

### WHAT'S WORKING

The Lions held Atlanta to 183 yards of offense on Sunday, the lowest total of Campbell's three seasons as coach and only the second time his team has held an opponent under 200. Detroit had seven sacks for a total loss of 62 yards.

"We were around the quarterback all day," he said.

The rush defense also stepped up. The Falcons finished with 44 yards on the ground, and Detroit has yet to allow an opponent to top 100, a big improvement over recent seasons.

### INJURIES

The Lions were already short on the offensive line with Taylor Decker (ankle) and Halapoulivaati Vaitai (knee) missing Sunday's game and unlikely to be able to return for a Thursday game. Key reserve Matt Nelson (ankle) needs surgery on the injury he sustained against Atlanta, so Campbell and his staff will be patching holes as quickly as they can.

### NEXT STEPS

Get ready as quickly as possible for Green Bay — Detroit's third prime-time game in its last five regular-season contests. They beat the Packers to finish last season and the Chiefs to start this one, so maybe they enjoy the extra exposure.



Norwell's Emma Vachon (right) spikes the ball against Adams Central's defenders Hillary Tobias (left) and Laurn Tester (middle) during a nonconference match at The Hangar Monday night. The Jets defeated the Knights in three sets. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

## No. 9 Jets sweep Knights at home in nonconference volleyball matchup

By RYAN WALKER

MONROE — Adams Central got the best of cross-county rival Norwell in three sets in a mostly competitive match Monday night.

The No. 9 in 2A Jets (16-9), who won the ACAC tournament two days prior, were up for the task against a growing Knights (14-8) program in 3A. The first two sets were neck-and-neck, featuring two Norwell comebacks. But when the chips were down, Adams Central prevailed during crunch time.

In the first set, the Knights were down 19-13 before a 6-0 run made it a game before falling 25-23.

In the second set, the Jets had a small advantage throughout, but the Knights hung around and went up 23-22 to take their first late lead.

When it mattered most, Adams Central crawled back to steal the lead and eventually scored twice in a row to win 27-25.

"I think (Adams Central) was a little bit better putting the ball down sooner than we did," Norwell head coach Kayla Hunter said when asked what the Jets did to steal the first two

sets. "In some of the long rallies, it was usually them that were kind of ending it on a block. We just kind of gave them easier balls, and they were a little bit more aggressive."

Considering the competitiveness of the game at that point, the third set was a surprise for Norwell.

Hunter needed a quick timeout after her team looked up at a 7-0 thumping by Adams Central. The lead would grow to 12-0 before scoring the first point. The final score ended up at 25-11 with a much different feel than the first two sets.

"Overall, they played some pretty good volleyball," Hunter said. "The first two sets were fun, and that just kind of makes the third set all the more exciting. I told them we could have found ourselves down 12-0, and we very much could have been winning a fifth set — it's just a very, very weird spot to be in."

Norwell caught a red-hot Adams Central team that won four games in a row on Saturday to win its conference championship, including a two-game sweep over South Adams (22-3) in the title match.

Facing a ranked opponent at their house, competing for two sets, and dropping the third the way the Knights did provided a no-harm experience out of conference.

Hunter said she thought her team might have played a little nervous but learned how they can play with anybody.

"I think, in general, they're pretty good fighters, but I think we still kind of saw that there's some more to grow there," Hunter said. "I don't know if they got intimidated at all, maybe, but just to know that they have a dog in the fight every single game and to have some confidence there."

Norwell will turn around for its next big test on the road Tuesday against No. 1 in 3A Belmont. The Braves are 21-2 on the season.

The match will start at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Stat leaders for the Knights were Vanessa Rosswurm and Rebecca Settle with six kills, Macie Saalfank with two aces, Settle with 19 digs, Marlee Wenger with 15 assists, and Rosswurm with two blocks.

sports@news-banner.com



### Back-to-back ACAC champs

The Bluffton Tigers finally received the trophy for winning the Allen County Athletic Conference in boys' tennis. Posing with the team from left to right: bottom row, Lance Moser, Lincoln Rodgers, Alex Maggard, Nolan Lambert, Graham Linderwell, Evan Klopfenstein, and manager Avery Hunt. Second row, Braden Lemler, Kade Abbett, Jacob Ribich, Logan Johnson, Jed Logan, and Coy Lantz. Back row, assistant coach Jared Grandlienard, head coach Robert Vanderkolk, Jackson Meyer, Anthony Hartman, Ben Maggard, Dane Schlagenhauf, Chase Houser, assistant coach Spencer Schwartz, and assistant coach Hunter Cunningham, (not pictured: Grant Reifsteck and manager Gretchen Crist). (Photo provided)

## Zack Moss' strong performances lead Colts to 2 straight wins and into AFC South lead

By MICHAEL MAROT  
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indianapolis Colts running back Zack Moss just wanted a chance to prove himself in the NFL.

Now he's taking full advantage of it. After missing most of the preseason and Indy's season opener with a broken forearm, Moss returned last week and took all but one Colts offensive snap at Houston. His encore performance at Baltimore was even more impressive — 30 carries for 122 yards in Indy's 22-19 overtime win.

Suddenly, the Colts have another solid workhorse back.

"Probably college," Moss said when asked about his last 30-carry day. "I knew I was going to have to run the ball (because of the wet conditions) and that was going to be big for us to have a chance to win the game. But I couldn't do anything without the guys up in front of me."

The Colts (2-1) have won two straight largely because of Moss, who was acquired last year in a midseason deal that sent speedy back Nyheim

Hines to Buffalo.

At the time, it looked like a minor move.

But with 2021 NFL rushing champ Jonathan Taylor on the physically unable to perform list following off-season ankle surgery — and in the midst of a contract dispute — Moss has emerged as the top alternative.

Indy used three running backs in a Week 1 loss to defending AFC South champion Jacksonville, getting a combined 16 carries for 25 yards.

Moss took over the next week, running 18 times for 88 yards and a touchdown in the win at Houston. On Sunday, he helped keep Indy close by posting career highs in carries and yards while also catching two passes for 23 yards, including the third TD reception of his career.

Without Moss, the Colts wouldn't be leading the division.

"It was incredible," coach Shane Steichen said. "Obviously, he popped the big one there at the end where he cut it back to get us in (field goal) range. Then he had one on our sideline where there were about two or three

guys around him where it looked like a minus-yardage play, and then he slipped through those guys."

Taylor could be activated in two weeks, and when he rejoins the team, Steichen will face one big question: How to use the two fourth-year backs together?

### WHAT'S WORKING

Gardner Minshew. Indy's backup quarterback has been the consummate pro since replacing injured rookie Anthony Richardson in the second quarter at Houston. Aside from stepping out of the end zone for a safety at Baltimore, he's avoided the kinds of mistakes that usually make teams sputter. And he's helped the Colts win twice.

### NEXT STEPS

While Indy's offense has found capable replacements for Richardson and Taylor, the defense has been better than advertised. The Colts finished Sunday among the top five in sacks (12) and takeaways (four). If the defense continues playing this way and the offense takes care of the ball, Indy could have a quicker turnaround than anybody anticipated.



# Free soil sampling program coming to life for Indiana farmers

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and partners throughout the state have worked with the Gulf Hypoxia Program (GHP) to develop a no-cost program with a focus on increasing the knowledge and use of soil sampling as a nutrient management practice to benefit farm operations. The program, titled Indiana's Mississippi River Basin Soil Sampling Program, is open now for applicants.

"Hoosier farmers care deeply about the land and work hard each year to keep their soil healthy," said Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "This free program is a great way for farmers to test their soil and ensure the proper nutrients are being utilized on their fields."

ISDA promotes the importance of nutrient management and the principle of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship framework. The 4R framework incorporates using the "Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time, and Right Place" to achieve cropping

system goals. The new program focuses on soil sampling and testing because it is a key component, and first step, of developing a plan for nutrient management.

Map of the state of Indiana, area of soil sampling program shaded green.

The map of the eligible area for the soil sampling program. Image provided by ISDA.

Soil sampling provides an assessment of the soil's fertility which can be used for making fertilizer application recommendations, assessing available nutrients over time, increase farmer profitability and enhance environmental protection by reducing the risk of nutrient loss. This project was developed to help further Indiana's State Nutrient Reduction Strategy efforts.

"This free program for farmers will help them assess their land so they can continue to produce as much food as possible with fewer fertilizer inputs. As a farmer



The map of the eligible area for the soil sampling program. Image provided by ISDA.

myself, I know how critical that is," said Don Lamb, ISDA director. "This program would not be possible without a few incredible partners whose top priority is assisting Hoosier farmers and keeping Hoosier land in great shape."

This program includes row crop fields, pastures and specialty crops located within Indiana's portion of

the Mississippi River Basin. Participating landowners will be prioritized by fields that have never been soil sampled and fields that haven't been sampled regularly (i.e., within the last 3-4 years). Further prioritization may be implemented based on interest in the program. This program excludes hobby gardens and private lawns. Interested farmers can sign-up online at ISDA's website or by reaching out to soilsampling@isda.in.gov.

Sign-ups are now open and ISDA is accepting sign-ups until April 17, 2024.

Paul Hodgen, president of the Indiana Corn Marketing Council, is excited to bring this program to fruition. Hodgen is well versed in soil fertility with a bachelor's degree in agronomy, a master's degree in soil science and a doctorate degree in agronomy and soil fertility.

"Regular soil sampling and testing is a critical

part of a nutrient management plan to economically produce a crop," Hodgen said. "We look forward to working with ISDA and other partners to help Hoosier farmers continue to make informed decisions on nutrient management. Soil testing is a keystone to sustainably producing a crop. This effort will further our goals for nutrient management stewardship across Indiana. This will help us make smarter decisions about where to apply nutrients and to spread that data across more acres.

This program will be a great way to increase the number of farmers who better understand their soils, and it will allow them to make improve management decisions based on good data."

This program was made possible thanks to ISDA, Indiana Soybean Alliance, Indiana Corn Marketing Council, Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance, Indiana Conservation Partnership members, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, farmers and Certified Crop Advisors.

## State shares harvest season safety tips

INDIANAPOLIS (Sept. 19, 2023) — Harvest season is officially underway for Indiana's 94,000 farmers, which means more slow-moving farm equipment will be on Indiana's rural roads and highways. To keep Hoosiers safe this year, state agencies are asking motorists to be alert and patient, as they share the road with farm equipment this fall.

"At least once each fall as I am traveling through rural Indiana, I find myself behind or crossing paths with large agricultural equipment," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "It is important to remain alert this fall and keep an eye out for these slow-moving farm vehicles, and if the opportunity allows,

to safely navigate around them."

In 2020 three vehicles were involved in crashes with farm equipment in Indiana which resulted in two deaths, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"The fall harvest season is certainly an exciting and busy time for farmers and motorists," said Don Lamb, director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture. "By working together to practice alert driving, we can all make it home safely to our families each night."

Farm equipment during harvest season could include tractors, combines, grain carts, grain wagons and large trucks hauling agricultural products. These vehicles are wide, sometimes

taking up most of the road, and often travel at speeds no greater than 25 mph.

The following list includes several safety tips for motorists approaching large farm equipment:

- Farmers will pull over when they are able to let motorists pass, but it may take time for them to get to a safe place to do so.
- Be alert. Farm equipment is wide, sometimes taking up most of the road.
- Be careful when passing. Do not pass in a designated "No Passing Zone" or within 100 feet of any intersection, railroad grade crossing, bridge, elevation structure or tunnel.
- Do not try to pass a slow-moving vehicle on the left without ensuring that the vehicle is not planning a left turn. It may appear that

the driver is pulling over for you to pass when it is actually preparing to turn. You will drive right into its path, endangering yourself and the farmer.

• Avoid tailgating, as some farm equipment might have to make sudden stops along the road.

• Allow plenty of time to get to a destination, be aware of alternate routes and avoid distractions.

"When you see farmers out working and moving from field to field, please be patient as they work to harvest their crops which are needed to help feed our communities and the world," said Doug Carter, Indiana State Police Superintendent. "Let's all work together to help ensure everyone's safety on our roadways."

## Purdue gets \$3.2M grant to renew veterinary program

By PURDUE UNIVERSITY

The Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine has received a new round of federal funding to continue a program addressing a national shortage of veterinarians in public health and rural/food animal practice in Indiana and beyond, and a significant lack of underrepresented individuals entering the veterinary profession.

The Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has renewed a five year, \$3.2 million grant to further the success and impact of Vet Up! The National Health Careers Opportunity Program Academy for Veterinary Medicine.

Established with an initial HRSA grant in 2018, Vet Up! is designed to meet the goal of filling veterinary shortage areas with equity-minded individuals from underrepresented populations and rural areas. The program is based at Purdue, which has the only veterinary college in Indiana.

With the renewed grant funding, the Vet Up! National HCOP Academy for Veterinary Medicine will expand by taking a comprehensive approach to pro-

vide academic, experiential, financial, and social support to disadvantaged students. In clear alignment with the purpose of the HCOP, Vet Up! will pursue multiple objectives:

Identifying and recruiting students from disadvantaged backgrounds to competitively enter and complete college and university programs in veterinary medicine and other STEM fields;

Preparing students from disadvantaged backgrounds to complete preliminary education requirements and provide academic and social support to prepare them for competitively entering and completing a veterinary professional degree program;

Providing comprehensive bridge programming to disadvantaged students who are enrolled as DVM degree candidates to enable a successful experience in rigorous professional veterinary education programs;

Providing academic, financial, social, and wellness support to veterinary students from disadvantaged backgrounds to facilitate timely completion of their veterinary education and graduation with their DVM degree; and,

Implementing an integrated, comprehensive evaluation process that monitors and informs progress and

outcomes of program participants, Vet Up! components, and the overall project, through a longstanding partnership with Purdue University's Evaluation and Learning Research Center.

The Vet Up! program includes the following components.

Vet Up! Champions combines face-to-face and interactive online learning to provide a 12-month structured curriculum to an annual cohort of 26 participants consisting of high-school juniors/seniors, adult/non-traditional learners (including veterans), and undergraduate students.

Vet Up! DVM annually provides five disadvantaged DVM students with social, academic, and financial support through structured activities that span the four-year-long curriculum to guide and mentor them to timely graduation with a DVM degree.

Vet Up! College – the HCOP summer program – is a six-week-long immersive, structured program at the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine for 26 undergraduate students annually that prepares students to be competitive in the DVM applicant pool.

Vet Up! Prep – the HCOP pre-matriculation program – is an annual four-

week residential program for 10 students prior to the start of the fall semester of the Purdue Veterinary Medicine program that bridges gaps involving challenging PVM courses, study skills, and an understanding of the concept of One Health.

Completion of Vet Up! College is required to be eligible for the DVM Scholars program.

Collectively developing and implementing Vet Up! student projects that impact an underserved community;

Enabling Vet Up! students to conduct research projects that focus on One Health and health equity initiatives that are led by PVM faculty and campus partners; and,

Providing an experiential learning opportunity in an underserved community for Vet Up! College and Vet Up! Prep participants by collaborating with community and state partners.

## Bill upping security on foreign agriculture buys heads to House

By AGDAILY

Last week, the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services took a significant step forward by advancing a bill aimed at bolstering the oversight of foreign agricultural acquisitions, a move that enjoys support from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

The legislation, known as the Agricultural Security Risk Review Act and introduced by Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK), seeks to expand

the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States by including the Secretary of Agriculture as one of its members. CFIUS is an interagency committee tasked with assessing the potential national security implications of foreign investments in the United States.

"Cattle producers have been extremely watchful of foreign purchases of farmland, agricultural technology, and other important inputs.

Adding the Secretary of Agriculture to CFIUS would provide a critical voice for American farmers and ranchers and ensure that the federal government does not overlook agriculture's role in national security," said NCBA Executive Director of Government Affairs Kent Bacus to Drivers. "NCBA thanks Rep. Lucas for leading this effort and we appreciate the House Financial Services Committee's bipartisan support for this bill."

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## Biden administration announces \$1.4B to improve rail safety

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration announced Monday that it has awarded more than \$1.4 billion to projects that improve railway safety and boost capacity, with roughly \$1 billion of the money coming from the 2021 infrastructure law.

"These projects will make American rail safer, more reliable, and more resilient, delivering tangible benefits to dozens of communities where railroads are located, and strengthening supply chains for the entire country," Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said in a statement.

The money is funding 70 projects in 35 states and Washington, D.C. Railroad safety has become a key concern nationwide ever since a train carrying hazardous chemicals derailed

and caught fire in East Palestine, Ohio, in February. President Joe Biden has ordered federal agencies to hold the train's operator Norfolk Southern accountable for the crash, but a package of proposed rail safety reforms has stalled in the Senate where the bill is still awaiting a vote. The White House is also saying that a possible government shutdown because of House Republicans would undermine railway safety.

The projects include track upgrades and bridge repairs, in addition to improving the connectivity among railways and making routes less vulnerable to extreme weather.

Among the projects is \$178.4 million to restore passenger service in parts of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi along the

Gulf of Mexico for the first time since Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005.

"This is a significant milestone, representing years of dedicated efforts to reconnect our communities after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina," Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., said in a statement. "Restoring passenger rail service will create jobs, improve quality of life, and offer a convenient travel option for tourists, contributing to our region's economic growth and vitality."

The grant should make it possible to restore passenger service to the Gulf Coast after Amtrak reached an agreement with CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads last year to clear the way for passenger trains to resume operating on the tracks the freight railroads own.

"We've been fighting to return passenger trains to the Gulf Coast since it was knocked offline by Hurricane Katrina. That 17-year journey has been filled with obstacles and frustration — but also moments of joy, where local champions and national advocates were able to come together around the vision of a more connected Gulf Coast region," Rail Passengers Association President & CEO Jim Mathews said.

The single biggest grant — nearly \$202 million — will help eliminate seven rail crossings in California as part of the larger project to build a high-speed rail line in that state. That will reduce traffic delays and help ensure that first responders can get where they need to go.

In one of the biggest other

grants, the Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad in Washington state will get \$72.8 million to upgrade the track and related infrastructure to allow that rail line to handle modern 286,000-pound railcars.

U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, who championed the additional funding in the infrastructure law as chair of the Commerce Committee, said the grant will let grain trains safely travel twice as fast along the 297-mile route.

A project in Kentucky will receive \$29.5 million to make improvements to 280 miles of track and other infrastructure along the Paducah and Louisville Railway.

And in Tennessee, \$23.7 million will go to helping upgrade about 42 bridges on 10 different short-line railroads.

## Race to find Great Lakes shipwrecks before mussels destroy the sites

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The Great Lakes' frigid fresh water used to keep shipwrecks so well preserved that divers could see dishes in the cupboards. Downed planes that spent decades underwater were left so pristine they could practically fly again when archaeologists finally discovered them.

Now, an invasive mussel is destroying shipwrecks deep in the depths of the lakes, forcing archeologists and amateur historians into a race against time to find as many sites as they can before the region touching eight U.S. states and the Canadian province of Ontario loses any physical trace of its centuries-long maritime history.

"What you need to understand is every shipwreck is covered with quagga mussels in the lower

Great Lakes," Wisconsin state maritime archaeologist Tamara Thomsen said. "Everything. If you drain the lakes, you'll get a bowl of quagga mussels."

Quagga mussels, finger-sized mollusks with voracious appetites, have become the dominant invasive species in the lower Great Lakes over the past 30 years, according to biologists.

The creatures have covered virtually every shipwreck and downed plane in all of the lakes except Lake Superior, archaeologists say. The mussels burrow into wooden vessels, building upon themselves in layers so thick they will eventually crush walls and decks. They also produce acid that can corrode steel and iron ships. No one has found a viable way to stop them.

Wayne Lusardi, Michi-

gan's state maritime archaeologist, is pushing to raise more pieces of a World War II plane flown by a Tuskegee airman that crashed in Lake Huron in 1944.

"Divers started discovering (planes) in the 1960s and 1970s," he said. "Some were so preserved they could fly again. (Now) when they're removed the planes look like Swiss cheese. (Quaggas are) literally burning holes in them."

Quagga mussels, native to Russia and Ukraine, were discovered in the Great Lakes in 1989, around the same time as their infamous cousin species, zebra mussels. Scientists believe the creatures arrived via ballast dumps from transoceanic freighters making their way to Great Lakes ports.

Unlike zebra mussels, quaggas are hungrier, harder and more tolerant of

colder temperatures. They devour plankton and other suspended nutrients, eliminating the base level of food chains. They consume so many nutrients at such high rates they can render portions of the murky Great Lakes as clear as tropical seas. And while zebra mussels prefer hard surfaces, quaggas can attach to soft surfaces at greater depths, enabling them to colonize even the lakes' sandy bottoms.

After 30 years of colonization, quaggas have displaced zebra mussels as the dominant mussel in the Great Lakes. Zebras made up more than 98 percent of mussels in Lake Michigan in 2000, according to the University of California, Riverside's Center for Invasive Species Research. Five years later, quaggas represented 97.7 percent.

For wooden and metal ships, the quaggas' success has translated into overwhelming destruction.

The mussels can burrow into sunken wooden ships, stacking upon themselves until details such as name plates and carvings are completely obscured. Divers who try to brush them off inevitably peel away some wood. Quaggas also can create clouds of carbon dioxide, as well as feces that corrode iron and steel, accelerating metal shipwrecks' decay.

Quaggas have yet to establish a foothold in Lake Superior. Biologists believe the water there contains less calcium, which quaggas need to make their shells, said Dr. Harvey Bootsma, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Freshwater Sciences.

That means the remains of the Edmund Fitzgerald, a freighter that went down in that lake during a storm in 1975 and was immortalized in the Gordon Lightfoot song, "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald," are safe, at least for now.

Quagga management options could include treating them with toxic chemicals; covering them with tarps that restrict water flow and starve them of oxygen and food; introducing predator species; or suffocating them by adding carbon dioxide to the water.

So far nothing looks promising on a large scale, UW-Milwaukee's Bootsma said.

"The only way they will disappear from a lake as large as Lake Michigan is through some disease, or possibly an introduced predator," he said.

## Texas Walmart shooter agrees to pay more than \$5M to families

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A white Texas gunman who killed 23 people at a Walmart in 2019 after ranting about Hispanics taking over the government and economy has agreed to pay more than \$5 million to victims of the racist attack, according to an order signed by a judge Monday.

Patrick Crusius was sentenced to 90 consecutive life sentences in July after pleading guilty to federal hate crime charges following one of the nation's worst mass

killings. Court records show his attorneys and the Justice Department reached an agreement over the restitution amount, which was then approved by U.S. District Judge David Guaderrama.

There is no indication Crusius, 25, has significant assets. He was 21 years old and had dropped out of community college when police say he drove more than 700 miles from his home near Dallas to target Hispanics with an AK-style rifle inside and outside the

store. Moments before the attack began, Crusius posted a racist screed online that warned of a Hispanic "invasion" of Texas.

He once worked at a movie theater, a job that his attorneys have said Crusius was forced to leave because he was having violent thoughts.

Crusius pleaded guilty in February after federal prosecutors took the death penalty off the table. But Texas prosecutors have said they will try to put Crusius on

death row when he stands trial in state court. That trial date has not yet been set.

Under the agreement between the gunman and the government, Crusius will pay \$5,557,005.55, accord-

ing to court filings.

Dean Reckard, whose mother Margie Reckard was killed in the shooting, said he chose not to be included in the restitution and expressed doubt that some-

one sentenced to prison for life could actually pay millions of dollars.

"Nobody can ever bring back the people who were lost, including my mother," Reckard said.

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Preparing questions for long visits

Dear Annie: Finding topics of conversation can often be difficult during long visits. Since "Grinding My Teeth" feels that this may be the last time she and her husband will visit with these in-laws, why not take this opportunity to encourage these people to talk about their lives?

When they arrive, ask the in-laws if they would be willing to talk about memories from their younger years. The internet is full of suggestions of questions that will stimulate memories, so do a bit of research and type up a sheet of questions, maybe 30 or so, enough to have a question for each day. Everyone who has lived on this planet for a number of years has many stories to tell.

Too often we never get around to asking the meaningful questions before it is too late. Writing this letter has inspired me to write up a sheet of questions I now wish I had readily available when my difficult mother-in-law would visit my family for 6 months at a time. — Curious About Peoples' Past

Dear Curious About Peoples' Past: I love the suggestion of turning something that could seem like a chore into a learning experience. We are never too old to learn new things and in listening to peoples' stories we can learn a great deal about them in the present. What a beautiful suggestion.

Dear Annie: I am 65 and a retired attorney, and I read your column every day in our local paper. I like history, ancient primary source history, financial philosophers, martial arts, healing through natural medicine, and studying anything and everything that piques my metaphysical curiosity.

Your column regarding the man whose wife asked everyone for advice on everything was extremely prescient and had profound personal resonance. I, too, have a wife who asks everyone everything. She asks the sales clerk in the store: "Should I buy it? Does it look

good on me?" And I, too, have a wife who was an abused child of an alcoholic parent and has low self-esteem. After 40 years of marriage, I am learning to give my wife the love and understanding she deserves. And in your column about the mom with multiple sclerosis, your advice was spot on. And, even though I have read more books than were contained in the long-dead Library of Alexandria, my social skills are not always on par with my intellect. I enjoy your column and most often concur with it because you reveal good judgment and wisdom. Nowadays, people are quick to criticize from the anonymity of the internet. They destroy good people and businesses for minor faux pas and fail to live by the Golden Rule. I figured you could use some admiration and commendation. You are wise beyond your years. Keep on being the counselor you are, like a wise uncle or aunt. — A Big Fan

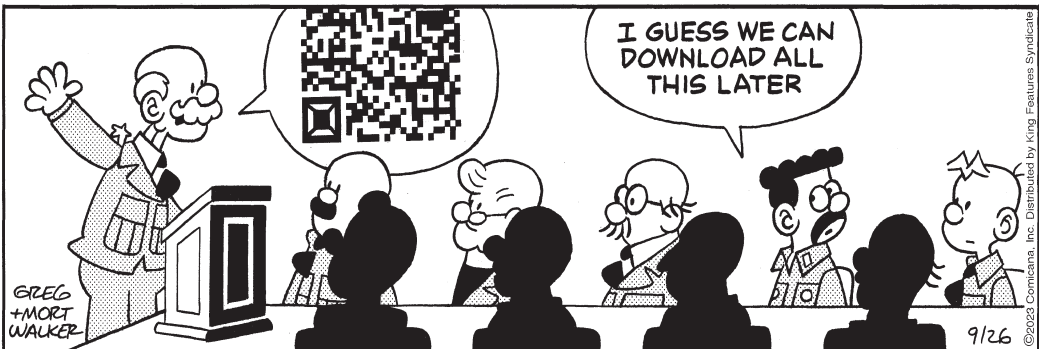
Dear Big Fan: Your letter makes me feel so good! A million thanks for taking the time to write. "How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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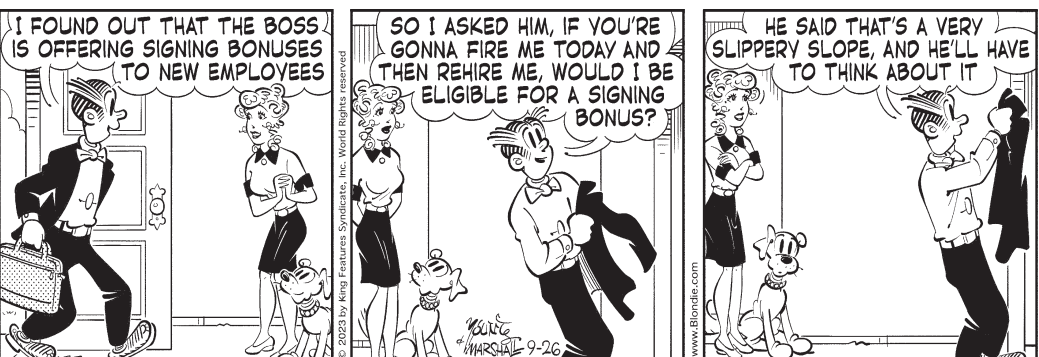
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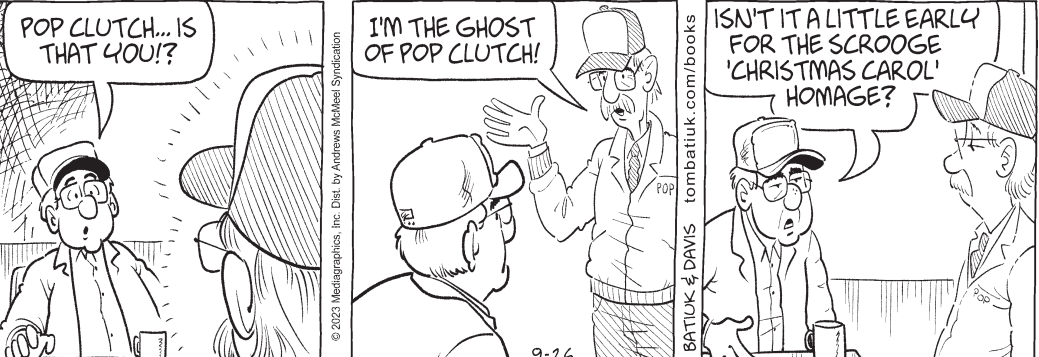
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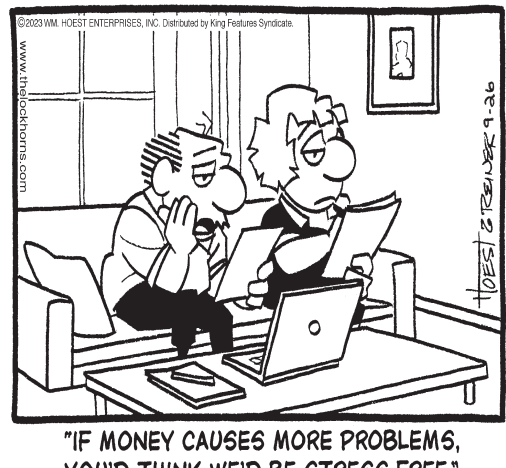
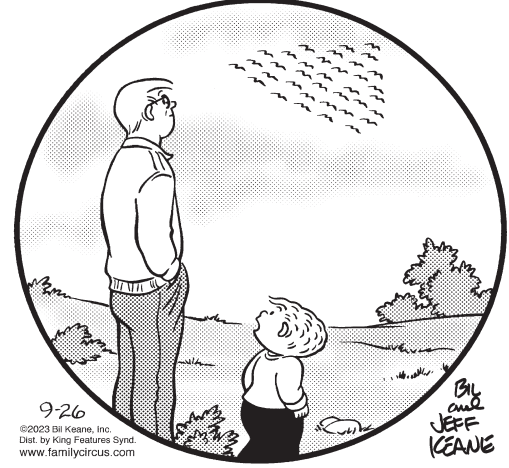
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer by Dr. Billy Graham

Resurrection bodies will know nothing of physical weakness

Q: The Arizona Daily Star carried a poll stating that only 36 percent believe in resurrection and that most Americans don't believe they will experience a resurrection of their bodies when they die. Sadly, people believe in polls more than the Word of God. What kind of a body will a resurrected believer have, and what hope is there for those who have suffered physical infirmities throughout life? — R.B.

Paul provides a description of what those bodies will be like. The resurrection body is compared to a seed planted in the ground that produces a plant. Gardeners know how miraculous it is to see a towering tomato plant, with yellow blossoms that become huge tomatoes, grow from a tiny seed — the continuous life of a single entity, just as our physical body, planted in death, will have the same individuality as our resurrection body. We will be recognized as ourselves, not some genetic version without a distinctive label. "It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power" (1 Corinthians 15:43).

The body that lies in the grave has been neglected. It may be worn out with age, abused by disease, or broken by an accident. But for believers in Christ, our bodies will be raised in glory — free of all infirmities. Those who were burned or maimed in wars will be whole. Old people will be young and vigorous. Resurrection bodies will know nothing of physical weakness. Human bodies are weak and dying, but resurrection bodies will be full of strength.

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

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TV schedule table with columns for time slots (5 PM to 12:30 AM) and various channels (WJLA, FOX, etc.) listing programs like News, Jeopardy!, and The Voice.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words, including 'Lively', 'Missing', 'Mountain pass', etc.

Grid-in crossword puzzle answer area with numbers 1-51 and corresponding letters.



**Pedal pull participants**

The Optimist Club hosted a pedal pull competition Saturday morning, with 32 children competing. Pictured are the participants, which were separated by weight class. In the 31-40 lb. division, show above right, Burke Pfister placed first, Saige Fiechter second, and Boone Fiechter third; 41-50 lbs., pictured right, Kaehria Fiechter placed first, Oaklyn Fiechter second, and Lincoln Gamble third; 51-60 lbs., shown below, Jace Fiechter placed first, Milo Fiechter second, and Madden Pfister third. No placements were awarded in the under 30 lb. division, shown above left, were all participants were too small to pedal the tractors. Participants were Hallie Yo, Ramsey Pfister, Fritz Angermeier and Reeve



**First of Lahaina residents return to destroyed homes**

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER  
Associated Press

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP) — The first of thousands of residents who lost their homes in the wildfire that destroyed the Hawaii town of Lahaina returned to their devastated properties Monday, with some stopping for a moment of reflection and others searching for mementos among the ruins. “They’re very appreciative to get in here, something they’ve all been waiting anxiously for,” Darryl Oliveira, interim administrator of the Maui Emergency Management Agency, told reporters gathered outside the burn zone. “People who haven’t been here since the fire are taken aback by the amount of and extent of the destruction.”

Jes Claydon has been able to see the ruins of the rental home where she lived for 13 years and raised three children. Little remains recognizable beyond the jars of sea glass that stood outside the front door.

Claydon hoped to collect those jars and any other mementos she might find. “I want the freedom to just be there and absorb what happened,” Claydon said. “Whatever I might find, even if it’s just those jars of sea glass, I’m looking forward to taking it. ... It’s a piece of home.”

Claydon’s home was a single-story cinderblock house painted a reddish-tan, similar to the red dirt in Lahaina. A few of the walls are still standing, and some green lawn remains, she said.

Those returning were given water, shade, washing stations, portable toilets, medical and mental health care, and transportation assistance if needed. Non-profit groups also offered personal protective equipment, including masks and coveralls. Officials say ash could contain asbestos, lead, arsenic or other toxins. Most journalists were confined to an area where they could not see people visiting their properties. Oliveira said officials wanted to ensure residents had space and privacy to reflect or grieve.

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The prospect of returning has stirred strong emotions in residents who fled in vehicles or on foot as wind-whipped flames raced across Lahaina, the historic capital of the former Hawaiian kingdom, and overcame people stuck in traffic trying to escape.

Most journalists were confined to an area where they could not see people visiting their properties. Oliveira said officials wanted to ensure residents had space and privacy to reflect or grieve.

The wildfire killed at least 97 people and destroyed more than 2,000 buildings, most of them homes. Some survivors jumped over a sea wall and sheltered in the waves as hot black smoke blotted out the sun.

A team of more than two dozen people from Samaritan’s Purse, a nondenominational Christian ministry, was on hand to help residents sort through what was left of their homes, said Todd Taylor, who works with the organization.

Officials urged returning residents not to sift through the ashes for fear of raising toxic dust. The first area to be cleared for reentry was a zone of about two dozen parcels in the northern part of Lahaina.

“It’s like losing a loved one. That’s exactly what these folks are going through,” Taylor said. “Those homeowners can talk to us about their house — ‘This is where my bedroom was, and I had a nightstand here with my wedding ring,’ or, ‘My grandfather’s urn was on the sink’ — those type of indicators that can help our volunteers sift through the ash and look for very specific items.”

From a National Guard blockade near the burn zone,

**Here’s when your favorite show may return as writers strike is on the verge of ending**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A tentative agreement between striking screenwriters and Hollywood studios offers some hope that the industry’s dual walkouts may soon be over. But when will your favorite shows return? Well, it’s complicated. First, the agreement needs to pass two key votes — one involving the boards of the screenwriters union, followed by a vote by the 11,500 members themselves.

to make a speedy return is “Real Time with Bill Maher.” The host plotted a return without writers but ended up postponing once last week’s negotiations were set.

“Dead” show focused on fan favorite Daryl Dixon and a “John Wick” prequel series that are airing now. Still to premiere are a new Jesse L. Martin NBC series, “Irrational,” and a “Frasier” sequel.

and a drama show about the lives of people fighting World War II airing. The network also has nonfiction shows that examine Elon Musk’s Twitter takeover, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the Houston Astros cheating scandal, as well as how animals are adapting to human-caused habitat changes.

**What about ‘Stranger Things’ and ‘Superman’**  
Writers rooms for scripted shows that shut down at the strike’s onset, including Netflix’s “Stranger Things,” “Severance” on Apple TV+ and “Abbott Elementary” on ABC are also likely to reactivate quickly. But with no performers to act out the scripts, long delays between page and screen will be inevitable.

The PBS lineup is largely unaffected. It includes a Ken Burns documentary series, “The American Buffalo,”

Film writers will also get back to work on their slower timeline, though those working on scripts or late revisions for already scheduled movies — including “Deadpool 3” and “Superman: Legacy” — will certainly be hustling to avoid further release-date delays.

Then there’s the fact that 65,000 film and television actors remain on strike. That work stoppage will prevent many projects from returning to normal. Certain paused productions such as “Deadpool 3,” “Yellowjackets” and the next film from Quentin Tarantino will still have to wait on actors to reach a deal with studios.

Director Quentin Tarantino’s 10th film, “The Movie Critic,” is among the scripts that are written whose makers are awaiting actors’ return to sets.

**When is ‘Jimmy Kimmel Live’ coming back?**

**When are Drew Barrymore and other daytime shows coming back?**

Once the contract is approved, work will resume more quickly for some writers than others. Late-night talk shows were the first to be affected when the strike began, and they may be among the first to return to air now. NBC’s “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon,” ABC’s “Jimmy Kimmel Live” and “The Late Show With Stephen Colbert” on CBS could come back within days.

Barrymore’s planned return to her daytime television show became a rallying point for picketers earlier this month, prompting her to cancel her plans. “The Talk” and “The Jennifer Hudson Show,” which also employ some screenwriters, also called off plans to return.

They will return with a guest shortage, however. The actors strike limits promotional appearances that are the lifeblood of late-night shows.

Barrymore and the other shows have not announced their plans for returning. However, the Writers Guild of America has made it clear: Guild members cannot start working again on projects until the tentative contract is ratified.

“Saturday Night Live” might be able to return for its 49th season. Its writers could be at work soon on sketches, and its actors could perform because they work under a different contract not covered by the actors strike, though as union members they may be reluctant to do so.

**Is there anything new coming out this fall?**

Shows that return while actors are still picketing could prove controversial, as happened with the planned resumptions of daytime shows including “The Drew Barrymore Show” and “The Talk.” Those plans were later abandoned. One show that’s likely

Absolutely. Networks had to get creative with fall programming by tapping into international shows, game shows and more sports. But there are still several new series and movies coming out this year. Some standout newcomers include a “Walking

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