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Knights top Tigers in volleyball match

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Poneto Town Council candidates discuss community, revitalization

By SYDNEY KENTPoneto Town Council candidates have a common interest: community.

There are three positions available on the council, with two of the candidates currently serving on the board. Becky Smith (R), the current president, and Linda Ogle (I). Also in the running are Kelly Potter (D), Ashley O'Reilly (D), Isaiah Geels (R), and Paul Miller (R). Election day is Nov. 7.

During the forum Monday evening, candidates were asked four questions regarding their priorities for the town, their outlook on growth, maintaining fiscal responsibility, and the most critical needs. Rick Johnloz and Erin Prible served as moderators for the forum.

All candidates echoed a call for more community events and overall involvement.

Miller said he envisions a more social town where residents bring their needs to the council. Ogle, a current board member of four years, said she wanted to bring back chili suppers, the park board, and an annual

O'Reilly expressed a plan for the council to work as a cohesive unit in partnership with other government entities. Potter echoed this desire.

"The three people serving need to come together to see what it is they want to achieve at the end of their four years," Potter, who previously wrote grants for a nonprofit, added. "There is grants and funding available."

Isaiah Geels, a four-year Poneto resident, said that while community is important, his priority is helping the community be safer.

"We need to look at how the town spends

money," Geels said. "The roads aren't taken care of and are worse after plow." A chuckle came from the audience of approximately 30 Poneto residents.

Geels also suggested an assessment for the sewer system and investing in the fire department in order to lower homeowner costs and ensure safety.

The majority of the candidates voiced a stance on improving the current state of the town and quality of life for the residents versus population growth.

"I don't see us getting new houses or businesses," Ogle said. "I don't see that happening, but I think we should take the residents into consideration. What can we do with what we have?' 'Growth is important," O'Reilly coun-

tered. "I have a seven-year-old and I don't plan on leaving anytime soon. Younger families are coming back. I think it's important to prioritize growth so we have a community for families to come back to.'

O'Reilly said she wants to serve on the council to help move the community for-

Smith said she would like to grow, but there are a limited number of lots for housing. She also noted town involvement as an area of critical need. Geels said safety is his main priority, and the rest can come later. Miller said he would like to see growth in the future after the town cleans up what is

"We need a town clean-up day if we expect people to clean up," Potter said. "Toys in the yard, which has been expressed as a critical issue, is not an issue. The kids (Continued on Page 2)





Pictured at top are the Town Council candidates before the forum. From left to right, Isaiah Geels, Paul Miller, Linda Ogle, Ashley O'Reily, Kelly Potter, and Becky Smith. Above, LouAnn Reinhard (right) and Brad Shoeff before the forum for Poneto Clerk/Treasurer Monday evening. (Photos provided by Erin Prible)

Commissioners take action on cemetery issues

By HOLLY GASKILL

Perhaps in perfect timing for October, the easement of a cemetery and its driveway. local cemeteries were the prominent topic of conversation for Wells County Commissioners Monday night.

Multiple members of the commissionerappointed cemetery board brought discussion regarding the Old County Farm Cemetery. The adjacent property, board member Bill Dowdy said, has significantly overstepped the property line into the cemetery.

The board members said the property owner recently purchased and built on the land. Since building, increasing items have crossed over into the cemetery property, board member Jerri Lehman explained. Lehman provided photos of these issues, including large dog houses, two propane tanks, and various junk and furniture on cemetery property.

Commissioner Mike Vanover asked how far these items cross into the county property. Dowdy estimated the kennels were 60-80 ft. into the property. "So it's pretty flagrant,"

Vanover concluded. The commissioners instructed County Attorney Ted Storer to draft a letter to the property owner regarding the issue.

Similarly, Thomas Jester told the com-

missioners a farm had planted crops within

County Engineer Nate Rumschlag said the cemetery was documented as the "Old Uniontown Cemetery," and he hasn't been able to determine information on the driveway to the cemetery. However, he stated there is stone underneath the crops.

Rumschlag advised the county needs to determine ownership and whether to maintain the driveway. According to Surveyor Jarrod Hahn, the cemetery was deeded to "the citizens of Uniontown."

Cemetery board member Connie Brubaker advised she had recorded the cemetery in 1999, and there was a road leading to the cemetery at the time. Additionally, she asked the commissioners to take over the abandoned cemetery so it could be maintained.

The commissioners voted 3-0 to re-gravel the road after crops are harvested.

Larry Heckber, Jefferson Township trustee, then addressed the commissioners regarding his concern about the trustee's maintenance of the county cemeteries. Heckber advised he had repaired two cemeteries under his jurisdiction but thinks

(Continued on Page 2)

Gaetz files resolution to oust Kevin McCarthy as speaker

By FARNOUSH AMIRI and KEVIN FREKING **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Speaker Kevin McCarthy is facing an extraordinary referendum on his leadership of the House of Representatives after a conservative member of his own conference, a longtime critic, moved to trigger a vote on whether he should remain at the helm.

"I have enough Republicans where at this point next week, one of two things will happen: Kevin McCarthy won't be the speaker of the House or he'll be the speaker of the House working at the pleasure of the Democrats," GOP Rep. Matt Gaetz told reporters after he filed the motion. "I'm at peace with either result because the American people deserve to know who governs them."

McCarthy responded minutes later on social media, "Bring it on."

Gaetz, a far-right Republican from Florida, has for months threatened to use the procedural tool — called a motion to vacate — to try to strip McCarthy of his office. Those threats escalated over the weekend after McCarthy relied on Democrats to provide the necessary votes to fund the government.

That decision has set McCarthy up for what will likely be the ultimate test of his leadership and may force him to look across the aisle to Democrats for support. But how the vote will ultimately unfold remains unclear, as possible parliamentary maneuvering could sway the outcome. And allies of McCarthy have said for weeks they were ready for a motion to come.

The vote could result in humiliation — the first speaker ever ousted from the job through such a motion — or newfound strength as he overcomes yet another obstacle while trying to lead a narrow, unwieldy majority. Conservative critics have been hounding him from the start, denying him votes and thwarting his plans. But (Continued on Page 2)

Pentagon warns it's low on money to replace arms sent to Ukraine

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and TARA COPP **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon is warning Congress that it is running low on money to replace weapons the U.S. has sent to Ukraine and has already been forced to slow down resupplying some troops, according to a letter sent to congressional leaders.

The letter, obtained by The

Associated Press, urges Congress to replenish funding for Ukraine. Congress averted a government shutdown by passing a short-term funding bill over the weekend, but the measure dropped all assistance for Ukraine in the battle against

Pentagon Comptroller Michael McCord told House and Senate leaders there is \$1.6 billion left of the \$25.9 billion Congress provided to replenish U.S. military stocks that have been flowing to Ukraine. The weapons include millions of rounds of artillery, rockets and missiles critical to Ukraine's counteroffensive aimed at taking back territory gained by Russia in the

In addition, the U.S. has about \$5.4 billion left to provide weapons and equipment from its stockpiles. The U.S. would have already run out of that funding if the Pentagon hadn't realized earlier this year that it had overvalued the equipment it had already sent, freeing up about \$6.2 billion. Some of that has been sent in recent months. McCord said the U.S. has com-

pletely run out of long-term funding for Kyiv through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which providesmoney to contract

for future weapons.

'We have already been forced to slow down the replenishment of our own forces to hedge against an uncertain funding future," McCord said in the letter. "Failure to replenish our military services on a timely basis could harm our military's readiness."

He added that without additional funding now, the U.S. will have (Continued on Page 2)

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Sunny and hot today,

showers likely tomorrow

Low 60 | Low 62 | Low 57

More Weather on Page 2

Today

High 87

Wed. Thursday

High 85 | High 71

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Poneto Town Council

will grow up and the toys will leave the yard. No one wants to live next to junk and weeds. We need a town clean-up day."

Potter said she was motivated to run to continue her family legacy of helping the community. She encouraged the audience to consider how well the three board members would work together when casting their

An additional forum for the Clerk/

Treasurer position was held. The candidates, LouAnn Reinhard, the current clerk, and Brad Shoeff, were asked three questions in regards to their understanding of the role and their thoughts on improving finances.

Shoeff expressed that he wanted to help serve his community. He said he understood the position to not be a decision making role, but to keep the finances in order. Reinhard said the job is to take care of the money that belongs to the town.

When asked his plan for improving the finances, Shoeff said that decision was likely up to the board but he would do well at keeping the data straight.

Reinhard explained that when she came into the role four years ago, the state of the finances were in bad shape and required help from the State Board of Accounts. She expressed a desire to continue to create a system that would work well with what she has learned so

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servative support for oust-

ing the speaker, one lead-

ing hardliner, Rep. Thomas

Massie, R-Ky., said, "It's a

history-making moment

has been the House work-

ing through its regular job

of trying to pass spending

bills, and he worries this

effort will quash all that. "If

you're asking how I feel, I

am sad that this might be

the end of that experiment,"

Massie said the real

really bad idea.'

he said.

Wells County forecast

Weather

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

(24-hour observations at 8:37 p.m. Monday)

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.34

High: 84; **Low:** 52; **Precipitation:** None

feet at 7:45 p.m. Monday

Today: Patchy fog before 9 a.m. Otherwise, sunny, with a high near 87. South wind around 5 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 60. South wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 85. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. South wind 5 to 10 mph. **Thursday:** Showers likely, with thunderstorms also possible after 5 p.m. Cloudy, with a high near 71. Chance of

precipitation is 70 percent. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible Thursday Night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 8 p.m., then a chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. Chance of precipitation is 60

Friday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 67.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43.

Saturday: A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 55. Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly

cloudy, with a low around 39. Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 56.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. **Columbus Day:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 59.

Cemeteries

(Continued from Page 1)

unaware of the responsibil-

ity. Subsequently, many of

these cemeteries have fallen

into disrepair from vandal-

ism, plant overgrowth, or

taking care of the old cem-

missioners to contact the

trustees about this responsi-

eteries," Heckber said.

"I just have a passion for

Heckber asked the com-

general wear.

Gaetz files resolution

(Continued from Page 1)

McCarthy has recently welcomed the effort to oust him and suggested it's an opportunity to silence his critics once and for all.

Gaetz acknowledged the effort is likely to fail. He responded to questions about what he hoped to accomplish with the remark that Americans need to know who's in charge.

In a speech on the House floor earlier in the day, Gaetz accused McCarthy of making a deal with the White House during funding negotiations to bring forward legislation to help fund Ukraine in its war against Russia.

Brushing off the threat, McCarthy told reporters earlier at the Capitol, "I'm focused on doing the work that has to be done." He added that there was "no side deal" on Ukraine, noting he has not spoken to Biden.

A motion to vacate is a rare and strong procedural

tool that has only been used twice in the past century against Republican speakers. But in recent years, conservatives have wielded the motion as a weapon against their leaders.

In January, McCarthy, hoping to appease some on the hard right like Gaetz as he fought to gain their vote for speaker, agreed to give as few as five Republican members the ability to initiate a vote to remove him. But when that wasn't good enough for his critics, he agreed to reduce that threshold to one — the system that historically has been the

The motion Gaetz introduced is a privileged resolution, a designation that gives it priority over other measures. The next step is for House leaders to schedule a vote on the resolution within two legislative days.

However, there are several procedural motions that members of either party could introduce to slow down or stop the process altogether. If those tactics were to fail, and his resolution came to the floor for a vote, it would take a simple majority of the House — 218 votes, when no seats are vacant — to remove McCarthy from his post.

Only a few have signaled so far that they would support the motion. Rep. Bob Good, R-Va., who has long wanted McCarthy gone, said the speaker's weekend deal with Democrats to keep the government running without any of the conservative priorities is just another reason he will be voting for the ouster. "We got nothing," he said Monday.

Other far-right members and allies of Gaetz were less sure. Rep. Andy Ogles, R-Tenn., said his position on the motion was "to be deter-

'We're going to get together with some of our colleagues and walk it through to figure out next steps," Ogles said.

Still, showing the tough road ahead to win over con-

Democrats were largely treating the moment as another episode in a Republican-led House that has been full of chaotic twists since the start of the year, and declining to say whether they would work to help

"Do we side with a sociopath or an incompetent?" said Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., a progressive leader. "I don't know?"

vote to oust him.

McCarthy keep his job or

Rep. Gregory Meeks, D-New York, said it was "another day at the show."

Arms sent to Ukraine

(Continued from Page 1)

to delay or curtail air defense weapons,

President Joe Biden said Sunday that while the aid will keep flowing for

"We cannot under any circumstances allow America's support for Ukraine to be interrupted," Biden said. "We have time, not much time, and there's an overwhelming sense of urgency."

Mark Cancian, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said if the aid doesn't keep flowing, Ukrainian resistance will begin to weaken.

"If there's no new money, they're going to start feeling it by Thanksgiv-

ing," he said. The short-term funding bill passed by Congress lasts only until midNovember. And McCord said it would be too risky for the Defense Department to divert money from that temporary funding bill to pay for more aid to Ukraine.

Many lawmakers acknowledge that winning approval for Ukraine assistance in Congress is growing more difficult as the war grinds on and resistance to the aid from the Republican hard-right flank gains momentum.

ammunition, drones and demolition and breaching equipment that are "critical and urgent now as Russia prepares to conduct a winter offensive.

now, time is running out.

U.S., World News Roundup

vanished from New York found safe, police say

9-year-old girl who

MOREAU, N.Y. (AP) - A 9-yearold girl who vanished during a family camping trip in upstate New York was "safe and in good health" Monday after a massive two-day search ended with her rescue and an arrest of a person suspected in her abduction, police

Charlotte Sena disappeared while riding her bike early Saturday evening at Moreau Lake State Park, a heavily wooded park some 35 miles north of Albany. Police on Monday searched multiple residences linked to a suspect, who investigators believed had been in the area around the time the girl went

Gov. Kathy Hochul told Spectrum News that investigators were able to identify fingerprints from a ransom

Charlotte was found at about 6:30 p.m., according to state police. The suspect, who was taken into custody,

has not been identified by authorities. "We are overjoyed at the news that Charlotte Sena has been located safely this evening after an intense days-long search," Hochul said in a prepared statement. "Our hearts are with her family as they welcome her home."

Jacksonville sheriff: video shows officers justified in beating suspect

A Florida sheriff released body camera video Monday that he says shows his officers were justified when they repeatedly punched, elbowed and kneed a drug suspect who appeared to resist arrest even after being zapped with a stun gun and pinned to the ground.

The suspect's attorney, meanwhile, is calling for a federal investigation of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and up. Friday's arrest of Le'Keian Woods drew national attention after the release of a passerby's cellphone video showing officers beating him and appearing to slam him face first onto the ground after he was handcuffed.

Waters and Mike Shell, his assistant chief for public accountability, told a news conference that the officers knew Woods had once been accused of murder, was on probation for armed robbery and had been connected to firearms and drug trafficking when they gave chase to him Friday after a traffic

Mug shots taken after Woods' arrest shows him with both eyes swollen shut

and bruises and cuts on his face. There was force used by arresting officers and yes, that force is ugly. But the reality is that all force, all violence is ugly," Waters said. "But just because force is ugly does not mean it is unlawful or contrary to (agency) policy." He said all the officers remain on the street "where they belong."

UN Security Council approves sending **Kenya-led force to Haiti**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) The U.N. Security Council voted Monday to send a multinational armed force led by Kenya to Haiti to help combat violent gangs, marking the first time in almost 20 years that a force would be deployed to the troubled Caribbean nation.

The resolution drafted by the United States and Ecuador was approved with 13 votes in favor and two abstentions from China and the Russian Federation.

The resolution authorizes the force to deploy for one year, with a review after nine months. The non-U.N. mission would be funded by voluntary contributions, with the U.S. pledging up to \$200 million.

The vote was held nearly a year

accused Sheriff T.K. Waters of a coverafter Haiti's prime minister requested the immediate deployment of an armed force, which is expected to quell a surge in gang violence and restore security so Haiti can hold long-delayed elections. Haiti's National Police has struggled in its fight against gangs with only about 10,000 active officers in a country of more than 11 million peo-

> "More than just a simple vote, this is in fact an expression of solidarity with a population in distress," said Jean Victor Généus, Haiti's foreign affairs minister. "It's a glimmer of hope for the people who have been suffering for too long."

Late-night shows return after writers strike as actors resume talks

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Latenight talk shows began their return to the air after a five-month absence brought on by the Hollywood writers strike, while actors completed the first day of talks that could end their own long work walk-off.

CBS's "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert," ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live! " and NBC's " The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon "were the first shows to leave the air when the writers strike began on May 2, and now are among the first to return with airings Monday night.

Colbert blew a leaping kiss to his audience, which chanted his name as he took the stage at the Ed Sullivan Theater in New York for the early evening taping of his show that airs at

11:35 p.m. Eastern. "It feels good to be back," the host said. "Now the writers strike is over with a new contract that includes protections against AI, cost of living increases, better pay for streaming, plus, thanks to the picket lines, my writers got fresh air and sunshine, and they do not care for that. Now they're back safely in their joke holes."

bility, and they obliged. many township trustees are "There would be no

reason why the commissioners couldn't have a friendly letter to the independently elected trustees to remind them of their obligation to maintain a cemetery," Storer advised. Storer also suggested Heckber contact the state government for assistance with the matter.

holly@news-banner.com

Five died of exposure to caustic chemical in central Illinois crash

By JOHN O'CONNOR **Associated Press**

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) Five people died from exposure to a chemical that spilled after a semitruck overturned in central Illinois, according to autopsies

conducted Monday. Effingham County Coroner Kim Rhodes said official results from the autopsies won't be available for several weeks. The victims of the multi-vehicle crash in Teutopolis, about 110 miles northeast of St. Louis, were Teutopolis resident Kenneth Bryan, 34, and his children, Walker Bryan, 10 and Rosie Bryan, 7; Danny J. Smith, 67 of New Haven, Missouri; and Vasile Cricovan, 31, of Twinsburg, Ohio, were

killed. The tanker traveling on U.S. 40 Friday night veered to the right to avoid a collision when another vehicle tried to pass it. It jackknifed, toppled and hit the trailer hitch of a vehicle parked just off the road, leaving it with a 6-inch hole in the chemical container, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

The crash spilled more than half of the tanker's 7,500-gallon load of anhydrous ammonia — a chemical that can burn or corrode organic tissue. Farmers use it to add nitrogen fertilizer to the soil, and it acts as a refrigerant in the cooling systems of large buildings such as warehouses and factories.

Tom Chapman, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, said Sunday that the remainder of the cargo had been removed and taken to a secure location as part of the board's investigation.

The toxic plume released

forced the temporary evacuation of about 500 Teutopolis residents within a 1-mile of the crash site.

Gina Willenborg, 36, and her husband, Jeff, were returning from an out-oftown wedding when a relative called about the evacuation. Willenborg said they were anxious to get home, where a babysitter was watching their three children, ages 7, 5 and 2.

Their car was deep in the highway blockade in Effingham, 4 miles west of Teutopolis, where police were turning away most drivers. Jeff Willenborg rushed to the front and told authorities they had to get by to retrieve their children.

We got that call that there are people passing out. You don't know what's true, what's not, but we could start to smell something,' Gina Willenborg said. "We start freaking out and so I called the sitter and said, 'Just go ahead, wake the kids up and just get out."

They were able to meet the babysitter at the children's daycare back in Effingham.

"Everyone's hearts are just broken," Gina Willenborg said. People's lives "have been taken and other people are going to be having long, lingering effects," she said.

Rhodes reported that five people, ranging in ages 18 to 61, were airlifted to hos-

Officials at GoFundMe said campaigns to defray expenses have been established for the Bryan family and Cricovan.

Ping's Tavern, on the edge of the evacuation zone, on Sunday raised \$7,000 for the Bryan family, according to a Facebook post.



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OBITUARIES

Everett L. Clark, 71

Everett L. Clark, 71, of rural Montpelier, died at 6:50 a.m. Friday, Sept. 29, 2023 at his home in Montpelier. He was born Friday, Feb. 29, 1952, in Hartford City. He married Ann E. (Spaulding) Clark Saturday, Sept. 20, 1975 in Hartford City.

He is survived by his wife, Ann E. (Spaulding) Clark, Montpelier; son, Chad (Shannon) Clark, Montpelier; daughter, Lindsey (Zachary) Stevens, Kokomo; five grandchildren; and a sister, Nancy (Bob) Hedden, For-

He was preceded in death by his father, James L. Clark; mother, Wilma I (Coons) Clark; and sister, Gloria

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home 109 W Windsor St Montpelier, Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to

A service to celebrate his life will be at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home at 10:00 a.m. Friday, Oct. 6, 2023 with Chaplain Brian Daehn officiating. Interment will follow in the Gardens of Memory in Muncie.

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

Online condolences may be made at www.glancyfuneralhomes.com

Spartz threatens to resign from Congress if no debt commission is formed

By CASEY SMITH Indiana Capital Chronicle

U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz of Indiana threatened on Monday to resign from Congress if no debt commission is passed this year.

Her departure would reduce the Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives and create the possibility that Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb would have to call a special election before May.

Spartz announced in February that she will not run for re-election in 2024 to focus more on her family.

"I've done many very difficult things being one woman standing many times with many very long hours and personal sacrifices, but there is a limitation to human capacity,' Spartz said in a statement. "If Congress does not pass a debt commission this year to move the needle on the crushing national debt and inflation, at least at the next debt ceiling increase at the end of 2024, I will not continue sacrificing my children for this circus with a complete absence of leadership, vision, and spine. I cannot save this Republic

With just hours to spare - and after days of fierce debate among lawmakers -Congress avoided a government shutdown on Saturday with a temporary spending plan. The deal will keep the government open for 45 days while policymakers hash out a more long-term budget.

"If Congress does not pass a debt commission this year to move the needle on the crushing national debt and inflation, at least at the next debt ceiling increase at the end of 2024, I will not continue sacrificing my children for this circus with a complete absence of leadership, vision, and spine," Spartz said.

Indiana's Congressional delegation was mostly split on the plan. GOP Reps. Jim Baird, Larry Buschon and Erin Houchin, along with Democrat Reps. Andre Carson and Frank Mrvan, voted in favor of the measure in the House.

Indiana GOP Sen. Todd Young voted for the plan, but Sen. Mike Braun did

Spartz and fellow Republican Reps. Jim Banks, Greg Pence and Rudy Yakym voted against it.

Spartz and other Republicans in the House continue to push for the formation of a bipartisan debt commission to focus on the long-term effort to curb government spending and bring down the national

An earlier spending bill voted on in the House last week would have created the bipartisan commission but ultimately failed to pass. The latest version approved over the weekend did not include language on the commission.

Spartz criticized the deal on WISH-TV on Sunday, and said, too, that she's "open-minded" about Florida Congressman Matt Gaetz's threat to force a vote to remove Kevin McCarthy as House Speaker.

"This deal has more money, actually more money than Nancy Pelosi gave to Biden, but doesn't have a plan to deal with the country's crushing debt," Spartz said. "(The debt) is a very important national security issue, but unfortunately Republicans didn't have the backbone to put it forward."

The conservative Ukrainian-born politician represents north-central Indiana in the Fifth District.

2 Indy officers plead not guilty after indictment for shooting sleeping Black man

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Two Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department officers indicted for shooting a Black man who was sleeping in a car outside his grandmother's house entered not guilty pleas Monday.

Officers Carl Chandler and Alexander Gregory entered the pleas to charges of battery and criminal recklessness charges.

Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears announced Friday that a grand jury had indicted Gregory and Chandler in connection with the Dec. 31 predawn shooting of Anthony Maclin on the city's north side.

The officers' attorneys issued a statement Friday saying the officers acted in accordance with their training to defend their lives when a subject grabbed a gun and raised it toward

'Video, testimonial, and other evidence will establish the legality of their actions," attorneys John Kautzman and Edward Merchant said in the statement.

Maclin's attorney, Stephen Wagner, has said the officers fired at least 30 shots, hitting his client three times and leaving him hospitalized for 17 days for six surgeries.



Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Friday, 3:31 p.m., North Main Street and Capri Court. Report of two subjects fighting. Couple advised to keep it down.

Friday, 4:17 p.m., East Washington and South Bennett streets. Subject warned for disorderly conduct.

Friday, 5:23 p.m., Praxis. Report of vehicle off the roadway, waiting for assis-

Friday, 5:43 p.m., 700 block of South Williams Street. Report of verbal dispute between male and

Saturday, 1:51 a.m., 1000 block of West Wabash Street. Report of two males banging on door. Juveniles took off running prior to police arrival.

Saturday, 3:33 a.m., 900 block of West Wabash Street. Report of juveniles in backyard of residence, took

Saturday, 7:15 a.m., Hardees. Report of man in store yelling and screaming.

Saturday, 9:57 p.m., Washington Street Inn. Report of physical altercation between couple.

Saturday, 10:58 p.m., 50 block of Hi Lo Drive. Report of noise complaint.

Saturday, 11:19 p.m., 800 block of Sycamore Lane. Report of juveniles TPing callers house. Sunday, 7:43 p.m., 600

block of Westfield Drive. Report of possible scam. Monday, 2:30 a.m., 70

block of Capri Court. Noise complaint reported.

Monday, 9:17 a.m., 1200 block of Virginia Court. Report of neighbor hitting fence over dispute regarding property line.

Monday, 11:44 a.m., Walmart. Report of property

County:

Friday, 12:08 p.m., 100 block of West Walnut Street, Poneto. Report of male subject taking random photos. Subject was an artist out of Fort Wayne photographing buildings. No issues.

Friday, 2:27 p.m., Ind 124 and South 400 West, Liberty Center. Driver cited for speeding 89 MPH in a 55 MPH zone.

Friday, 2:55 p.m., Wells County Jail. Subject at Community Corrections served warrant.

Friday, 4:44 p.m., 300 block of West Central Avenue, Bluffton. Registry check completed.

Friday, 5:37 p.m., Wells County Jail. Subject brought in iPad found along the side of the road. Friday, 9:36 p.m., 7800

Southeast Ind. 116, Bluffton. Report of a horse in the Saturday, 2:51 p.m., Bluffton Regional Medical

Center. Officer transported woman to facility. Saturday, 3:19 p.m., 2800 South Ind. 1, Bluffton. Moved vehicle with flat tire

off of roadway. Saturday, 3:38 p.m., near 60 West Washington Street, Poneto. Report of black dog

Saturday, 7:28 p.m., 300 block of Davis Road, Ossian. Caller reported subject stole package with medication off of her porch, caught on ring doorbell.

running loose.

Saturday, 7:49 p.m., South 450 East and Ind. 116, Bluffton. Report of two individuals shooting under the bridge.

Sunday, 12:10 a.m., East 300 North and North Main Street, Bluffton. Officer assisted with traffic stop, Daniel J Burke was arrested for operating while intoxicated, a Class A Misdemeanor, and cited for driving 70 MPH in a 55 MPH

Sunday, 6:24 p.m., North Washington Street and East 350 North, Bluffton. Caller reported white SUV crossing both lines and missing stop signs. Deputies made aware.

Sunday, 6:40 p.m., Melching Park. Report of medication found in the bathroom.

Sunday, 9:51 p.m., East Ind. 201 and East 100 South, Bluffton. Report of a deer hit in roadway.

Monday, 7:05 a.m., Ind. 301 and East 100 South, Bluffton. Report of a school bus that struck a deer.

Monday, 10:13 a.m., East Wabash and North Main streets, Bluffton. Officer assisted subject with blown

Ossian:

Saturday, 1:57 p.m., 700 West 1000 North, Ossian. Report of subject who violated protection order via phone calls. Subject advised no protection order was in place.

Saturday, 3:58 p.m., 400 block of Sandalwood Drive, Ossian. Caller reported altercation with neighbor.

Saturday, 4:07 p.m., 3700 East 1200 North, Ossian.

Caller requested officer to stand by while they dropped

Saturday, 4:18 p.m., 170 block of East 1050 North, Ossian. Caller reported pitbull mix outside. Animal

shelter collected the dog. Monday, 6:03 a.m., Ind. 224 and North Ind. 1, Ossian. Report of a semi truck striking a crossing arm

on railroad. Monday, 7:14 a.m., Ind. 1 and East 800 North. Ossian. Report of an abandoned vehicle. Vehicle was towed by Freeman's

ACCIDENTS

City:

Saturday, 5:00 p.m., Kroger. Dejuan K Bradley was parking his Nissan Leaf when he rear ended a parked Honda Accord. Damages not exceeding \$5,000.

ARRESTS

Dennis Allen Starry, 54, Oakwood, Ohio, child solicitation, a Level 4 felony and possession of marijuana, providing obscene material to minors, a Level 6 felony, and a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$16,500.

Thomas Keith Johnson, 32, Fort Wayne, operating a vehicle without obtaining license, a Class C misdemeanor.

Jonathon Charles Okeley, 44, Bluffton, contempt of court. Bond set at \$1,500.

Kenneth Edward Boyer, 41, Bluffton, confinement, a Level 5 Felony, possession of methamphetamine and domestic battery - simple assault, both Level 6 felonies, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misde-

Managed care transition set to go live July 2024

Indiana has "recommended" four companies but hasn't awarded the \$15B in contracts

By WHITNEY DOWN-**ARD**

Indiana Capital Chronicle

As Hoosiers are getting older and Indiana's longterm care system evolves to embrace the needs of a more complicated population, state officials are finalizing a potential \$15 billion worth of contracts pivoting to managed care.

Managed care is a model for delivering health care services, ranging from inhome offerings to institutionalized care like nursing homes. Under such a system, one key entity manages each aspect of care for a consumer for a flat, upfront sum per person, rather than providers individually charging the state piecemeal for each service, also known as fee-for-service.

The vast majority of the state's current Medicaid enrollees already operate under managed care, with the exception of one key program: elderly and disabled Hoosiers dependent upon long-term care.

In March, the agency tasked with managing the state's Medicaid program quietly recommended four different Managed Care Entities for the state's program: Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Humana Healthy Horizons in Indiana, Molina Healthcare of Indiana and United Healthcare Community Plan.

"Through a person-centered approach, these MCEs will be integral to achieving our goals to make it easier for individuals to get home services, to create seamless coordination between Medicaid and Medicaid, to align quality with payment and to bend the cost curve related to caring for a growing aging population," the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) webpage about managed care said.

The program will go live on July 1, 2024, according to the department, and qualifying Hoosiers will choose their programs early next

The stakes

By the year 2035, the number of adults over the age of 65 is expected to outnumber the number of children under 18 — in Indiana, a state with a disproportionately older population, that date is likely even sooner.

But Indiana, a state with a high number of nursing homes per capita, historically didn't invest in home- and community-based services (HCBS). According to a Thursday presentation from FSSA, dollars dedicated to institutional care jumped in the last decade — the population covered under a feefor-service model — while HCBS and managed care spending remained relatively flat.

"Institutionalized care has increased at a rate outpacing some of our other types of benefit categories ... (from) 2016 to 2023," said Cora Steinmetz, the state's Medicaid director. "The per member, per month costs for managed care populations increased by 18 percent whereas the institutionalized population per member, per month over that same time period ... increased by 42 percent."

By transitioning to managed care, FSSA said Hoosiers will have better choices and quality of care while keeping cost increases more sustainable for government payers.

The MCEs

Contracts will not be executed until all four MCEs undergo a "robust readiness review.'

"Multiple MCEs have been recommended for award, in line with programs such as HIP, Hoosier Healthwise and Hoosier Care Connect, to allow members choice of which health plan would best serve their needs," said FSSA in a statement to the Indiana Capital Chronicle. "Each MCE will have to provide services statewide, and having multiple plans allows members to switch plans to fit their needs and allows us to integrate with Medicare services for those who are

eligible.' Dually eligible Hoosiers, or those who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid, often struggle to navigate the incompatible systems, as FSSA acknowledges on this webpage dedicated to the process.

'These programs are currently disconnected and siloed," the FSSA website said. "Our managed LTSS system will feature seamless coordination of benefits regardless of program or setting and significantly reduce the confusion created by navigating multiple plans. Increased coordination between these programs will make accessing and navigating the entirety of the care/support continuum

Large portions of MCE proposals and supplemental materials are redacted, including sections on how each company would incentivize and build up Indiana's workforce — a key concern for Indiana's stakeholders. While the documents are public, their page numbers total in the tens of thousands and include highly technical information.

But the pages also include information about how MCEs will coordinate housing and transportation assistance as well as Memory Cafes, a program designed to be a safe and welcoming space for indi-

viduals with memory loss. Some MCEs also indicated how they would handle future plans for Indiana's long-term care system, such as self-directed care — a big concern for AARP's Long-Term Services and Supports Scorecard, where Indiana fell in the middle of the pack.

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A South African hike that literally takes your breath away

We knew it was going to be a great day as soon as we walked out of our cottage and saw the sun shining — a welcome sight after a powerful overnight storm and a few days of overcast skies and rain.

One of the many benefits to traveling to South Africa during our summer in the northern hemisphere is that it is winter there.

Temperatures hover in the mid-60s during the day and not as many tourists are around since it is the off season. The downside, however is the

season. The downside, however, is that it rains more frequently and makes it a bit more challenging to plan a day of hiking ahead of time.

Justin

Peeper

We had been in Cape Town, South Africa, for four days after having arrived there following our seven-day sojourn in Kigali, Rwanda. We were staying in a suburb of Cape Town called Constantia, which is near where my wife lived when she was a teacher at the American International School of Cape Town a decade ago.

It was during the year Jen taught and lived in Cape Town that she fell in love with this idyllic city and gorgeous surrounding area that I, too, cannot stop talking about these days.

Cape Town is a port city located on a peninsula and is also surrounded by mountains — two of my absolute favorite features: the ocean and the mountains. And in the winter, it's sweatshirt weather with a pair of shorts. That's my kind of winter.

One of the big items on our bucket list was to spend a few days hiking, but it's hard to plan ahead of time due to the frequent wet weather winter brings in this part of the southern hemisphere.

The sunny day finally came June 18 as we drove from our cottage in Constantia over the mountain on Ou Kaapse Weg, a route that provides stunning views as you traverse the Steenberg Mountains. It took us an hour to reach Cape Point National Park.

There is a hike inside the national park that takes you to the Cape of Good Hope — the point that marks the southwestern most tip of Africa.

The first European to visit the Cape was a Portuguese navigator in the late 1400s. The area has long been famous for its rough seas and stormy weather, as it is located where the warm current from the Indian Ocean meets the cool current from the Antarctic waters.

It was named Cape of Good Hope for the promise its discovery held for creating a maritime trade route between Europe and the East.

We chose a trail that took us from the parking lot near the visitor's center up and over another mountain to the Cape of Good Hope. It took us about 45 minutes to hike what I would consider an easy trail that was well marked.

The challenge, however, was the frequent strong gusts of wind.

We had to stop several times to wait for the wind speed to decrease as we made our way toward the Cape of Good Hope.

The views along the way, however, took my breath away more so than the occasional 50 mph gusts of wind. Below us we saw tall cliffs that the waves were constantly crashing into — a perfect place for the surfers and boogie boarders we watched hiking down to the beach alcoves to enter the freezing water to practice their sports.

When you reach the Cape of Good Hope, three signs that make for a great picture background let you know you have arrived.

The hike back to the parking lot is equally as impressive. You follow the same trail back as you are treated to more breathtaking views — and occasional strong gusts of what seems like Category 1 hurricane winds.

I was wearing some red 20-year-old gloves during our hike that said The News-Banner on the outside. Jen took a picture of me wearing them that I sent to Mark Miller. Mark knew exactly where we were in the picture since he had been at the same place several years earlier.

Two News-Banner columnists who have visited the southwestern most tip of Africa a couple of decades apart.

It really is a small world.

jdpeeper2@hotmail.com

Today in History

By The Associated Press Today is Tuesday, Oct. 3, the 276th day of 2023. There are 89 days left in the

Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 3, 1995, the jury in the O.J. Simpson murder trial in Los Angeles found the former football star not guilty of the 1994 slayings of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman.

On this date:

In 1941, Adolf Hitler declared in a speech in Berlin that Russia had been "broken" and would "never rise again."

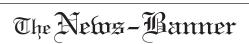
In 1944, during World War II, U.S. Army troops cracked the Siegfried Line

north of Aachen, Germany.
In 1951, the New York Giants captured the National League pennant by a score of 5-4 as Bobby Thomson hit a three-run homer off Ralph Branca of the Brooklyn Dodgers in the "shot heard 'round the

In 1961, "The Dick Van Dyke Show," also starring Mary Tyler Moore, made its debut on CBS.

In 1970, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was established under the Department of Commerce.

In 2001, the Senate approved an agreement normalizing trade between the United States and Vietnam.



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Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor



Joe Biden's intentional crisis

The continuing incursion of illegal border crossers into the United States is the most astonishing story in American politics. There have been days recently in which 10,000 people crossed illegally into the country — and remember, in a long-ago era, when Barack Obama was president, a tenth of that was considered a crisis.

The current emergency can be attributed entirely to President Joe Biden. In word and deed, from the 2020 campaign on, Biden sent a message to would-be illegal border crossers around the world: If you come to the United States, you will be allowed to stay. And millions have.

Lately, though, Biden's welcome-to-illegal-crossers policy has become a burden on some important Democrats. New York City Mayor Eric Adams is screaming about the arrival of an estimated 110,000 new asylum seekers in his city. The cost of caring for the new residents will "destroy New York City," Adams said. And even though Adams tried to blame Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott for sending illegal border crossers to New York, the fact is that Abbott has sent just 13,000. In any event, the presence of all 110,000 in New York is the result of Biden policies.

Now that some Democrats are complaining, news reports say Biden is beginning to feel some pressure. Can he do something to lower the heat? In response, Biden has come up with a way to address the problem: Rush more inadmissible migrants into the United States.

It seems crazy, and it is. But it is more than that. It is also perhaps the best indicator we have of Biden's intentions in the border crisis. Look at the 10,000-a-day flow of illegal crossers over the border. The president of the United States has the authority and means to protect the U.S. border. The only way a president would allow this to go on for years is if the president wanted this to happen. And it appears that Biden does, in fact, want this to happen.

Early in the border crisis, I wrote, "The president is not trying to stop the flow of illegal crossers. Instead, he is trying to accommodate the flow, scrambling to find housing and living arrangements for those coming in. The message has gotten out to the world, and the world is coming."

And now Biden is going one step further. With the flow at historic levels, he will use U.S. government resources to speed it up, not to slow it down. This is an entirely intentional crisis.

The New York Times reports that nearly half a million migrants from Venezuela will "be allowed to immediately apply for work authorization." The purpose of the move, the Times said, is this: "By allowing them to legally earn income, the change could alleviate the costly burden of housing the refu-

gees in major cities across the country. The migrants also will be protected from deportation for at least the next 18 months."

Maybe that will mollify Mayor Adams for a while. It will certainly increase the incentive for Venezuelans to come to the U.S. as soon as possible. But how, one might ask, did the migrants arrive in the United States from Venezuela in the first place? The answer lies with a Biden administration program known as CBP One. It is what is called a "parole" program, that is, it is designed to release migrants into the United States quickly and without public scrutiny. This is from the Center for Immigration Studies: "A little-known part of the Biden administration's CBP One parole program permits inadmissible aliens to make an appointment to fly directly to airports in the interior of the United States, bypassing the border altogether."

C2023 JANBLE KING FORDED SQUELLOSE,

Byron

York

The Biden program "allows migrants to take commercial passenger flights from foreign countries straight to their American cities of choice." The program applies to migrants from Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua and Haiti. The migrants, according to the Center, "request 'advance travel authorizations' through the CBP One mobile app and take commercial flights ('at their own expense') directly into U.S. airports, where U.S. Customs officers parole them into the nation, sight unseen, and in numbers publicly unknown."

The numbers are big. Through the Freedom of Information Act, the Center for Immigration Studies, which supports stricter immigration laws, got information on the flights so far in 2023. The administration has allowed in 221,456 migrants through the program this year. There were 29,120 in May, 29,506 in June, 28,669 in August, and so on. The flow continues.

Where are they going? The administration would not disclose which airports have received the migrants. If any local leaders want to know how thousands of new people are arriving in their towns virtually overnight, courtesy of the U.S. government — well, if they want to know that, they can't find out.

Now the White House is offering immediate work authorization, not just to migrants who crossed the land border illegally but to those who took part in the administration's secretive flight program. That will surely lure more to come, whether by foot over the border or to an undisclosed airport. If you ever hear an administration official say that President Biden is trying to get the border situation under control — don't believe it.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washing-

Honest talk on immigration that pations which cangrants, Ms. Braverman sa that pations which cangrants, Ms. Braverman sa

The phrase "Climate change denier" has wormed its way into the modern lexicon to shame those who have a different view of the science supporting, or not, the idea that the world is in danger of burning up in weeks, months, or years (they can't seem to decide on the timing).

There is another form of denial that one can clearly see. It is a denial that the southern border is "secure." With pictures showing — and border patrol agents confirming — that tens of thousands of migrants are crossing into the U.S. every day without authorization, it is a lie to say the border is secure.

Sometimes it takes a person from outside the country to wake us up to threats we face. Russian writer Alexandr Solzhenitsyn

did that in a 1978 Harvard commencement speech, in which he warned that the West suffered from "a decline

fered from "a decline in courage." The left hated the speech, but he was right in his indictment.

Last week, UK Home Secretary
Suella Braverman delivered remarks
at the American Enterprise Institute
in Washington. She warned of the
dangers of uncontrolled immigration without assimilation that now
threatens America, Britain and other
prosperous nations. She called it "an
existential challenge for the political
and cultural institutions of the West,"
adding, "it's a basic rule of history



Cal Thomas

"...an existential challenge

for the political and cultural

institutions of the West"

that nations which cannot defend their borders will not long survive."

Ms. Braverman noted the majority of migrants are motivated by economic incentives, not persecution in their home countries. That, she said, does not fit the international definition of "refugee."

"A nation state," she said, "is one of humanity's great civilizing

forces. It creates a shared identity and a shared purpose. And that does not need to have a racial component. Typically it binds people of different racial backgrounds together." She also said that a spirit of togetherness and unity produces patriotism, heroism and kindness: "It is the belief

that we have specific obligations to others, precisely because they are our fellow countrymen."

Then came a statement that should be obvious to all but the deniers: "Uncontrolled immigration, inadequate integration and a misguided dogma of multiculturalism have proven a toxic combination for Europe over the past few decades." She referenced a 2010 speech by then German Chancellor Angela Merkel in which Merkel admitted German multiculturalism had utterly failed.

Failure is never a reason for some to change their ideologies.

Noting she is a child of immi-

grants, Ms. Braverman said: "...there has been more migration to the UK and Europe in the last 25 years than in all the time that went before. It has been too much too quick, with too little thought given to integration and

the impact on social cohesion."

The costs are staggering in the UK and U.S. and cannot be sustained as even more come. "Seeking asylum and seeking better economic prospects are not the same thing," Ms. Braverman said. "Seeking refuge in the first country you reach, or shopping around for your preferred destination, are not the same thing. Most are simply economic migrants, gaming the asylum system to their advantage."

As with uncontrolled crime, an uncontrolled border is an invitation for more of the same. The solution is not difficult: finish the border wall and deport all but legitimate asylum seekers who fled their nations under political or religious persecution. The latest stop-gap government funding bill passed late Saturday night contains no money for border security. What does that tell you?

Our constitutional republic is fragile and must be renewed by each generation. We are unlikely to get a second chance.

Those who deny there is a problem and are fine with an open border likely have motives beyond compassion. These might include a visceral hatred of the U.S. and a desire to see our nation, in the words of Presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden, "fundamentally transformed."

tcaeditors@tribpub.com



Telling about the lives of some of the folks buried in Oakland Cemetary by Craigville are pictured in front of the Wells County Historical Museum. Left to right are David Reed, Eliza Jane Reed, Connie Brubaker, Dave Schultz and Mike Downey while behind them are Alan Daugherty, Ryan Crismore and Ben Jones. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)

Craigville and Oakland Cemeteries featured in historical program

By BARBARA BARBIERI

On Sunday afternoon the Wells County Historical Society hosted the annual My Town and Cemetery Walk at the Historical Museum's Annex as Craigville and the Oakland Cemetery

Connie Brubaker gave a brief history of the Oakland Cemetery, which was established on Jan. 17, 1877 and Lynn Elliott introduced the enactors representing folks buried there. David and Eliza Jane Reed were portrayed by Larry and Elaine McAfee; Hiram and Charity Drum by Jim and Jen Sturgeon; Peter Hetrick by Alan Daugherty and Rev. Daniel Abbott by

Next the program turned attention to the town of Craigville with Brubaker telling of its founding on Aug. 21, 1879, at the time of the completion of the Cloverleaf Railroad. The town was named after William J. Craig, who with his brother Robert were the first white settlers in the township in 1837. Also noted by Brubaker was that Craigville was the first small town in the county to have street lights.

Folks making history in Craigville included William Hartman (Dave Schultz) and Fred Fuhrman (Ben Jones). Craigville Schools were talked about by Amanda Brubaker assisted by "students" Claire Alfred and Josalyn Alford. Ryan Crismore told about the



Other program presenters included left to right in the front row Lynn Elliott, John Gerber. Arvilla Rodenbeck, Josalyn Alford, Amanda Brubaker, Connie Brubaker and Claire Alford while behind them are Christine Hunt and Tammy Schaffer.

importance of the Chicago and Atlantic Railroad.

Next Craigville businesses were featured with the businesses and speakers being: Craigville Post Office (Christine Hunt with a poem), Craigville Garage (Josh Hunt), Farmers & Merchants Bank (John Gerber), Craigville Telephone (Arvilla Rodenbeck and Carla Von Gunten) and Craigville Locker (Tammy Schaffer for the Willis Pritchard family)

Additional speakers adding com-

ments included Tom Moser, Arlene Stoller and Larry Heckber.

Heckber explained that county trustees are in charge of keeping cemeteries in good repair and that the next cemetery to be looked into will be the cemetery beside the former county Poor Farm just south of Bluffton.

Attendees were given a small brochure with photos of some of the Oakland Cemetery's tombstones and the Craigville businesses.

6th annual downtown Chili Walk Saturday

Bluffton NOW! is hosting the 6th annual 'Bring on the heat' Chili Walk in downtown Bluffton. The event is Saturday, Oct. 7 from 5-7 p.m.

Participating downtown businesses will supply homemade chili to taste and vote on.

Wristbands purchased for \$5 are required to participate. Beverage truck drinks are available to pur-

For more information, contact Jeremy Penrod at 260-824-2354 or jeremy.penrod@edwardjones.com.

Help to cope with death of a spouse

"Loss of a Spouse" is a free one-night GriefShare video event designed to provide practical coping strategies when you are grieving a spouse's death. It will be offered on Wednesday, Oct. 4 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Pleasant Dale Church located at 4504 W 300 N, Decatur.

The seminar features video interviews with counselors, grief experts, and widowed men and women who offer helpful insights on many issues including how to deal with loneliness, what to do with your spouse's belongings, what to expect in the days to come, and why it won't always hurt this much.

Everyone who attends will receive a booklet with over 30 short readings on how to live with grief and eventually rebuild your life.

For more information, visit the church's website at www.discoverpd.org/griefshare or contact Pam Schafer at prschafer@gmail.com.

Car and Craft Fest fundraiser at this weekend at Stauffer Farms

On the weekend of Oct. 6 & 7, Stauffer Farms will host a Car & Craft Fest, as a fundraiser for Forgotten Children Worldwide.

The **Craft Fest** will be open both days from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and vendors will be selling pumpkins and mums, handmade crafts, woodworking, floral decor, honey, baked good and more. In addition there will be hay rides, a bouncy house, face painting and Kettle corn for eating.

The **Car Fest** will be held on Saturday only from 9 a.m. until noon with awards to be presented at 3:30 p.m. Cars will depart at 4 p.m. and there is a \$15 entry fee at the gate. For more information contact Jeff Patterson at 260-266-

Stauffer Farms is located at 3584 NW St. Rd. 116 near

Auditions told for 'White Christmas'

Creative Arts Theater will hold auditions for its coming production of Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" on Friday, Oct. 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Auditions are open to everyone ages 12 and up, regardless of experience. Actors should plan to attend on the hour and be prepared to read and sing. Auditions will take place at the Creative Arts Council, 428 South Oak St. in Bluffton. barb@news-banner.com Enter the building through (260)824-5222/

Door 10. Audition pre-registration is highly recommended with a pre-registration form available on the Creative Arts website of www.wellscocreativearts. com/holiday-production.

Performance dates are Dec, 7, 8 and 9 in the Auditorium at 418 South Oaks St. in Bluffton.

For more information about the auditions and performances, please visit www.wellscocreative arts. com/holiday-production or call the CAC office at



Discussing the Craigville Telephone Company were Arvilla Rodenbeck and Carla VonGunten.



Amanda Brubaker with "students" Alford and Claire Alford, at left, told stories about the schools in Craigville.



Workday for the homemakers

Several times a year the Wells County Extension Homemakers declare a work day for sewing items that in turn will be donated to other organizations. The project on a recent Thursday morning at the 4-H community building was knotting the edges of small blankets headed to Indianapolis to Riley's Children's Hospital. The work crew included left to right Charolett Gehring, Lois Biberstein, Karen Fear and Mary Ann Ripperger. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

Activities and exhibits at the FW Museum of Art

Current exhibits at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art include the following:

Landfall Press: Five Decades of Print making, through Nov. 12, a celebration of 50 years. Curator's Tour on Oct. 5, at 12 noon (free with museum admission).

Indiana Artists Club 2023 Annual Members Exhibition, through Nov. 26. Featuring over 50 diverse works by Indiana artists. Nick Antonakis was juror for this exhibit. This club was founded in 1917 by 46 art-

Dia Delos Muertos, through Nov. 6, celebrating the Day of the Dead. Featuring memorial altars and symbolic objects. A Family Celebration on Sunday, Nov. 5, from 2 to 6 p.m., a free event. Mexican food truck on hand.





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CERTIFIED MASTER LOCKSMITH

Tigers push for fifth set, but falls short to Knights in county rival match

By RYAN WALKER

You could throw the records out the window Monday night because Bluffton gave Norwell a run for its money in a five-set

Despite a losing effort, the Tigers outplayed their 9-18 record coming into The Castle against a tough and growing Knights (16-9) program.

"There was a lot of emotion," head coach Stacy Morrison said after the game. "We never quit, and we never gave in, so I'm proud of the way we played.'

Bluffton took the first set 25-21 to set the tone for the match. Morrison said that the effort could have been attributed to Saturday's game against Wabash. The Tigers lost in five sets, but all were within five points in

For the Knights, it was an unexpected blow right off the bat, especially with the emotions of Senior Night for their six

"I didn't really know much about (Bluffton) this year," Norwell head coach Kayla Hunter said. "I knew No. 6 (Maryn Schreiber) was really solid in their middle, but other than that, I didn't know a whole lot. They were a lot scrappier than I kind of anticipated so yeah, I thought their defense was pretty solid, and it was a great match."

In the next set, Norwell perhaps made the first one look like a fluke with a dominant 25-11 victory, then winning the third 25-21. But the Tigers wouldn't go down without

In the fourth set, Bluffton held a steady lead throughout, ending with a 25-21 win to

force a fifth and final set. A key contributor for Bluffton was Schreiber. The tall middle hitter had 16 kills Monday night, leading her team all over the

court with three blocks. Her 248 kills on the season leads the team by over 100, while also having the most total blocks with 85. The two stats were the most of any player between the

two teams.

On top of Hunter's compliments for her, Morrison had high praise for her junior and said she's peaking at the right time.

"She's actually been playing pretty well for a while now," Morrison said. "She's been a dominant player putting the ball down. She never shies away from a block, she just goes after it."

In the fifth set, Norwell got the crowd rockin' as they took an early lead and pushed for a 13-8 advantage. A three-point swing was Bluffton's final effort, but Norwell picked up the victory 15-12.

Norwell got the last laugh, but it took an all-out effort to win an emotional game, and it took everyone to do it.

"So proud of them and I told them just how it was a complete team win," Hunter said. "We got contributions from every single player which is really important too. To really have to battle back and forth on that, especially on Senior Night, was emotional for them to be able to kind of lock-in and fight at the end is great."

Stat leaders for Norwell were Vanessa Rosswurm with 17 kills, Jordyn Xayyachack with 22 digs, Autumn Lee with four aces, Marlee Wenger with 28 assists, and Mekynzi Beck, Mallory Falls, and Rosswurm with one block each.

Stat leaders for Bluffton were Haley Gibson with 36 assists, Isabella Stout with five aces, Maryn Schreiber with 16 kills and three blocks, and Marly Drayer with 26

Norwell will be at East Noble at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 3.

Bluffton will host North Side at 7 p.m. for its final regular season match of the season on Wednesday, Oct. 4.

Norwell won the junior varsity game (25-7, 25-6). Bluffton's leaders on the night were Rori Drayer four assists, Aleyda Cruz and Rori Drayer one kill each, Ella Borror and Isla Gibson with one assist each.

sports@news-banner.com



Norwell's volleyball team celebrates after getting the final point of the game Monday night in a five-set vicotry over Bluffton. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Bluffton middle hitter Maryn Schreiber spikes the ball down against Norwell's Mekynzi Beck (No. 8) and Haley Green (right) during the match. Schreiber had 16 kills for the Tigers.

High School Calendar

TUESDAY, OCT 3

BOYS SOCCER: (sectional at Woodlan) Norwell vs. Heritage, 5 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER: (sectional) Woodlan at Norwell, 5 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at East Noble, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Anderson Prep, 7:30

WEDNESDAY, OCT 4 VOLLEYBALL: North Side at Bluffton, 7

THURSDAY, OCT 5

VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at Huntington North, 7:30 p.m.; Adams Central at Southern

FOOTBALL: Huntington North at Norwell, 7 p.m.; Adams Central at Bluffton, 7 p.m.; Heritage at Southern Wells, 7 p.m. SATURDAY, OCT 7

CROSS COUNTRY (CO-ED): Norwell at Delta Eagle Invitational at Taylor University, 8:30 a.m.; Bluffton, Southern Wells at ACAC race at South Adams 11 a.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at Maconaquah Invite, 9 a.m. MONDAY, OCT 9 No events scheduled **TUESDAY, OCT 10** No events scheduled

Taylor's looming return provides plenty for Colts to ponder

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — All-Pro running back Jonathan Taylor is expected to return to the India-

napolis Colts practice field Wednesday. How soon he'll start suiting up on Sundays and how motivated he'll be - remains

unclear. Less than 24 hours after losing to the Rams in overtime, coach Shane Steichen told reporters the 2021 NFL rushing champ was about to be activated from the physically

unable to perform list this week while painting a far different picture about Taylor and his relationship with the Colts than the one that emerged last summer.

"He'll be out there with us

Jonathan Taylor

Wednesday, had a great conversation with him," Steichen said. "He's super excited to be back with his teammates and we look forward to having him.'

Taylor missed all of the Colts offseason workouts, all of training camp and the first four regular-season games following ankle surgery. This week is the earliest he could be activated from the physically unable to perform list.

If he's healthy, and happy, the Colts offense could look completely different. Zack Moss has

played well in his three starts and offers a solid change-up option to the speedy 2021 NFL rushing champ. Indy (2-2) also has dualthreat rookie quarterback Anthony Richardson, who now holds the distinction of being the first Super Bowl

era quarterback with four TD runs in his first three games.

But does Taylor want to play for the Colts?

Throughout his extended absence, the former Wisconsin Badgers star went public about his desire for a contract extension and his disdain for the undervaluing of NFL running backs. There were spats on social media with Colts owner Jim Irsay and the hourlong meeting on Irsav's bus while a capacity crowd watched a training camp practice. Within hours of Taylor leaving the bus, word leaked about his trade request and in August, the Colts granted Taylor permission to find a trade partner.

When that didn't work out, Steichen welcomed back the New Jersey prep star with the full knowledge of what Taylor provides — a breakaway threat any time he touches the ball.

It's still possible the Colts could

deal Taylor before the Oct. 31 trade deadline.

But, at least from Steichen's perspective, the only real question now is how soon Taylor returns to game day action, possibly even Sunday against division rival Tennessee and two-time league rushing champ Derrick Henry.

"I know it's been a long time since he's played football, so we'll see how practice goes this week, where he's at physically from putting the pads on," Steichen said.

'He's in a good spot. I had a conversation with him the other day, I talked with him today and he's excited to get back.

WHAT'S WORKING

Second-half adjustments. Whatever Steichen is doing at halftime seems to be working. The Colts have rallied twice in two weeks to force overtime, winning at Baltimore before losing Sunday. Richardson also has looked more

comfortable in the final two quarters in Weeks 1 and 4.

WHAT NEEDS HELP Third down defense. Los Ange-

les was six of 15 on third downs and converted its only fourth down attempt Sunday. But it felt much more lopsided because the Rams didn't punt until early in the fourth quarter. They also would have scored on seven of their first eight drives if Brett Maher had not missed two field goals. The Colts defense needs to do a better job getting off the field.

NEXT STEPS

Richardson and the Colts seem to be ahead of schedule. But to stay there, they'll have to figure out how to best use the Taylor-Moss combination coupled with Richardson's running ability to help open up throws down the field. When that happens, the Colts will be able to take another significant step.

MLB game time drops 24 minutes to 2:40 with pitch clock

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The average time of a nine-inning major league game dropped to 2 hours, 40 minutes in the first year of the pitch clock, a 24-minute decrease in a season of change that resulted in a spike in batting average and the most stolen bases in nearly 40 years.

Left-handed hitters benefitted from the new restrictions on defensive shifts, runners took advantage of the slightly decreased distance between bases, and average fastball velocity set another record.

The average game time dropped to its 1985 level after passing 3 hours for the first time in 2016. It reached a record 3:10 in 2021 before the introduction of the PitchCom electronic pitch-calling device helped bring it down to 3:04 last year. Over the objections of the players' association, MLB instituted a pitch clock set at 15 seconds with the bases empty and 20 seconds with runners on base.

"It took some getting used to, but once you get used to it the game's a lot faster," Minne-

sota shortstop Carlos Correa said. "There's not wasted time. The pace was great, so I think it's here

There were nine 3 1/2-hour games, down from a record 390 in

"I think it's gone smoothly," Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Will Smith said. "It's nice for you to get home a bit earlier. You don't have the 4-hour games anymore."

Miami had the fastest average at just under 2:35, while Baltimore and San Diego topped the majors

MLB's clock will remain the same for the postseason, which averaged 3:23 for nine-inning games last year.

"There are bigger moments, bigger times where we do need to step back and think about something we just did or think about something that we're going to be doing pitch-wise or swing-wise," said Zack Wheeler, who starts Philadelphia's playoffs opener against Miami on Tuesday. "I'm not a big fan of the pitch clock, but

it is what it is.' Phillies catcher J.T. Realmuto thought about how to cope with the clock in October.

"We are going to have to be a little more cognizant of taking the time and maybe using our extra mound visits or finding ways to slow the game down for our pitchers," he said.

As part of the clock, MLB instituted penalties for violations that included balls against pitchers and strikes against batters. The New York Mets led with 57 violations, followed by Tampa Bay (52), Pittsburgh (51), San Diego (48) and Miami (47). Seattle had the fewest with 15.

The Pirates topped pitcher violations with 41, followed by the Yankees with 37 and the Mets and Rays with 36 each. The Mariners had the fewest with six. Washington led batter violations with 17, one more than the Mets and Miami. St. Louis had just two, one fewer than Baltimore and the Chicago White Sox.

Philadelphia reliever Craig Kimbrel had the most individual violations with 13, followed by Toronto starter Chris Bassitt with 12 and the Pirates' Johan Oviedo

with 11.

Washington's Ildemaro Vargas led batters with five.

There were just four violations of the shift rule requiring two infielders to be on the infield dirt on each side of second base when a pitch is thrown: one each by the Dodgers, Mets, Padres and White

The major league batting average rose to .248 from .243 last year, which had been its lowest since 1968. The average for lefthanded batters, who benefited most from the shift restrictions, increased 11 percentage points to .247, its highest in four years. The average for right-handed hitters rose by two percentage points to

Runs increased to an average of 9.2 per game from 8.6 and stolen bases to 1.4 from 1.0 following the introduction of 18-inch square bases, up from 15 inches. That reduced the distance between first and second, and second and third, by 4 1/2 inches. The 3,503 steals were up from 2,486 last year and the most since 1987. The 80.2 percent success rate was the highest in big league history, topping the 75.7% in 2021, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Home runs increased to 5,868 from 5,215 but remained well below the record 6,776 of 2019. Batters struck out 41,844 times,

up from 40,812, but down from the peak of 42,823 in 2019 when they set a record for the 12th straight season.

Four-seam fastballs averaged 94.2 mph, up from 93.9 mph last year and 93.1 mph in 2015, the first year Statcast started tracking.

There were 3,880 pitches of 100 mph or more, an increase from 3,368 last year and 1,829 in 2021. Pitchers threw four-seam fastballs 32.2% of the time, down from 33.2% in 2022 and a Statcast-era peak of 36% in 2016.

Visiting teams went 105-96 in extra-inning games in the first year the rule starting extra innings with a runner on second was made permanent. Visitors have a 368-358 edge in extra innings since the rule was first adopted as a pandemic alteration in 2020; from 2017-19, home teams had a 312-294 advan-

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL AMERICAN CONFERENCE

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	Buffalo	3	1	0	.750	139	55						
	Miami	3	1	0	.750	150	119						
	N.Y. Jets	1	3	0	.333	65	84						
	New Engla	nd1	3	0	.250	55	97						
South													
		w	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA						
	Houston	2	2	0	.500	96	79						
	Indianapoli				.500	97	99						
	Jacksonville				.500	80	82						
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s Vegas 1 3 0 .250 62 101 NATIONAL CONFERENCE East W L T Pct PF PA Philadelphia 4 0 0 1.000 118 90 .750 124 41 .500 89 120 Dallas 3 1 0 Washington 2 2 0 Washington 2 2 0 N.Y. Giants 1 3 0 .333 46 122 South W L T
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ns2 2 0 0 4 0 .500 62 76 .000 67 102 Carolina North
W L T
Detroit 3 1 0
Green Bay 2 2 0 Pct PF PA .750 106 83 .500 100 96 1 3 0 0 4 0 .250 90 95 .000 75 137 Minnesotá Chicago West

W L T Pct PF PA

San Francisco4 0 0 1.000 125 58

Seattle 3 1 0 .667 111 91

L.A. Rams 2 2 0 .500 98 85

Arizona 1 3 0 .250 88 102

Thursday's Games Detroit 34, Green Bay 20 Sunday's Games

Baltimore 28, Cleveland 3 Buffalo 48, Miami 20 Denver 31, Chicago 28 Houston 30, Pittsburgh 6 L.A. Rams 29, Indianapolis 23, OT East W I T Pct PF PA Minnesota 21, Carolina 13 Philadelphia 34, Washington 31, OT Tampa Bay 26, New Orleans 9 Tennessee 27, Cincinnati 3 L.A. Chargers 24, Las Vegas 17 Dallas 38, New England 3 San Francisco 35, Arizona 16 Kansas City 23, N.Y. Jets 20 Monday's Games Seattle 24, N.Y. Giants 3 Chicago at Washington, 8:15 p.m

Sunday, Oct. 8

Jacksonville vs Buffalo at London, GBR, 9:30 a.m.
Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m. Carolina at Detroit, 1 p.m. Houston at Atlanta, 1 p.m. N.Y. Giants at Miami, 1 p.m New Orleans at New England, 1 Tennessee at Indianapolis, 1 p.m. Cincinnati at Arizona, 4:05 p.m. Philadelphia at L.A. Rams, 4:05

Thursday, Oct. 5

Kansas City at Minnesota, 4:25 p.m. N.Y. Jets at Denver, 4:25 p.m. Dallas at San Francisco, 8:20 p.m. Open: Cleveland, L.A. Chargers, Seattle, Tampa Bay

Monday, Oct. 9 Green Bay at Las Vegas, 8:15 p.m.

BASEBALL

Postseason Baseball Glance x-if necessary
WILD CARD SERIES

(Best-of-3) American League Minnesota vs. Toronto Tuesday, Oct. 3: Toronto (Gausman

12-9) at Minnesota (López 11-8), 4:38 p.m. (ESPN) Wednesday, Oct. 4: Toronto (Berríos 11-12) at Minnesota (Gray 8-8), 4:38 p.m. (ESPN) x-Thursday, Oct. 5: Toronto at Min-

nesota, 4:38 p.m. (ESPN) Tampa Bay vs. Texas Tuesday, Oct. 3: Texas (Montgom-

ery 10-11) at Tampa Bay (Glasnow

10-7), 3:08 p.m. (ABC) Wednesday, Oct. 4: Texas (Eovaldi 12-5) at Tampa Bay (Eflin 16-8), 3:08

12-5) at Tampa Bay (Eflin 16-8), 3:08 p.m. (ABC) x.-Thursday, Oct. 5: Texas at Tampa Bay, 3:08 p.m. (ABC) National League Milwaukee vs. Arizona Tuesday, Oct. 3: Arizona (Pfaadt 3-9) at Milwaukee (Burnes 10-8), 7:08 p.m. (ESPN2) Wednesday Oct. 4: Arizona (Gallen Wednesday Oct. 4: Arizona (Gallen

Wednesday, Oct. 4: Arizona (Gallen 17-9) at Milwaukee (Peralta 12-10),

17-9) at Milwaukee (Peraita 12-10), 7:08 p.m. (ESPN2) x-Thursday, Oct. 5: Arizona at Mil-waukee, 7:08 p.m. (ESPN2) Philadelphia vs. Miami Tuesday, Oct. 3: Miami (Luzardo 10-9) at Philadelphia (Wheeler 13-6), 8:08 p.m. (ESPN) Wednesday, Oct. 4: Miami (Garrett 9-7) at Philadelphia (Nola 12-9), 8:08 p.m. (ESPN)

x--Thursday, Oct. 5: Miami at Philadelphia, 8:08 p.m. (ESPN)

BASKETBALL

WNBA

WNBA Playoff Glance Finals

(Best-of-5) No.1 Las Vegas vs. No. 2 New York Sunday, Oct. 8: Las Vegas at New York, TBD Wednesday, Oct. 11: Las Vegas at New York, TBD

Sunday, Oct. 15: New York at Las Vegas, TBD x-Wednesday, Oct. 18: New York at Las Vegas, TBD x-Friday, Oct. 20: Las Vegas at New York, TBD

TRANSACTIONS

Monday's Transactions
BASEBALL

Major League Baseball
American League
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Reinstated
RHPs Jesse Scholtens, Michael Kopech and Gregory Santos from the 15-day IL. Reinstated OF Luis Robert Jr. from the 10-day IL. Recalled OF Oscar Colas, 3B Bryan Ramos, OF Adam Haseley, RHPs

Nicholas Padilla and Edgar Navarro, OF Clint Frazier and SS Jose Rodriguez from Charlotte (IL).

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Rein-

stated C David Fry from the paternity list. Reinstated SS Gabriel Arias from the 10-day IL. Reinstated LHP Logan Allen from the 15-day IL. Recalled SS Angel Martinez, RHPs Hunter Gaddis, Michael Kelly and Cody Morris, LHP Tim Herrin and Joey Cantillo, SS Juan Brito, OF George Valera and 3B Jhonkensy Noel from Columbus (IL). DETROIT TIGERS — Reinstated

RHPs Mason Englert and Matt Man-ning from the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP Spencer Turnbull, C Donny Sands, SSs Ryan Kreidler and Eddys Leonard and RHP Brendan White from Toledo (IL). Recalled RHP Sawyer Gipson-Long and SS Wenceel Perez from FCL Tigers.

National League
CHICAGO CUBS — Reinstated RHP Brad Boxberger from the 15-day IL. Reinstated 2B Nico Hoerner from the 10-day IL. Recalled RHPs Ben Brown, Michael Rucker, Keegan Thompson, Caleb Kilian and Jeremiah Estrada, 1B Matt Mervis, OF Kevin Alcantara and Brennen Davis, and LHP Jordan Wicks from Iowa (IL). Recalled RHPs Keegan Thompson and

Hayden Wesneski from ACL Cubs. CINCINNATI REDS — Reinstated C Curt Casali, OF Harrison Bader and SS Matt McLain from the 10-day IL. Reinstated RHPs Tejay Antone and Daniel Durante from the 15-day IL. ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Rein-

stated LHPs JoJo Romero and Steven Matz and RHP Giovanny Gallegos from the 15-day IL. Reinstated C Willson Contreras, OFs Tyler O'Neill and Alec Burleson and 3Bs Nolan Gorman and Nolan Arenado from the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Kyle Leahy, LHP Connor Thomas and OF Moises Gomez from Memphis (IL). Recalled RHP Jake Woodford from FCL Cardinals.

FOOTBALL

National Football League CHICAGO BEARS — Reinstated OL Teven Jenkins from injured reserve.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Released QB Reid Sinnett from the practice squad DETROIT LIONS — Designated DE Julian Okwara to return from injuredreserve. Signed WR Trey Quinn to the

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WR Claypool remains in exile, the latest turmoil surrounding the winless Bears

By GENE CHAMBERLAIN **Associated Press**

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — Chase Claypool's exile from the Chicago Bears will continue — the latest issue for a team that's been mired in turmoil all season.

Coach Matt Eberflus said Monday that Claypool won't practice with the team this week. The wide receiver was inactive for Sunday's 31-28 loss to the Denver Broncos.

The Bears have lost 14 straight games dating to last season. But 2022 was a rebuilding year, the first under Eberflus and Justin Fields' first full season as Chicago's starting quarterback.

After a 3-14 record netted the Bears the top overall pick in the draft, Chicago traded it to Carolina for DJ Moore and a haul of picks, committing to Fields with the hope that improvement on the field would follow.

But this year, the Bears haven't just been losing games — they've had offthe-field distractions. Defensive coordinator Alan Williams resigned for what he said were health and family reasons, and Fields suggested he was being overcoached, comments he later said were taken out of context.

Now, there's the Claypool situation. Eberflus said Claypool was told to stay away from the team on Sunday, although he did not characterize it as a suspension.

Eberflus said he has spoken to general manager Ryan Poles about Claypool.

It's possible the Bears are looking into cutting or trading the fourth-year receiver, although Eberflus wouldn't be specific. The Bears used a secondround pick to acquire Claypool in the middle of last season. It turned out to be the first pick of the second round.

"Yeah, right now, we're just having him stay ... not be in the building this week and then again, Ryan does all the trades and transactions and we'll decide that as we go forward," Eberflus said.

Nor would Eberflus be specific about what Claypool did to get into the doghouse. "Day 1, I talked about being on

time, being respectful and working hard," Eberflus said. "That, to me, is important for every individual — if it's a staff member, a player or a coach. That's where we are. We feel right now this is the best decision for us.

There is no plan for Claypool returning beyond this week, according to Eberflus.

Claypool has four catches for 51 yards on the year and his poor first game as a blocker against Green Bay was a point of public discussion by the coaching staff.

Equanimeous St. Brown replaced Claypool in Sunday's game and had a 21-yard reception. St. Brown had been inactive the first three games and is regarded by coaches as possibly their best blocking receiver.

WHAT'S WORKING

Finally, Fields and his receivers appeared in sync. Offensive coordinator Luke Getsy moved Fields around in the pocket and outside of it, and that clearly made him more comfortable throwing the ball.

Fields had career highs of 335 yards passing and four touchdowns. He found DJ Moore eight times for 131 vards and threw two TD passes to tight end Cole Kmet. Fields was also intercepted once and lost a fumble on a strip-sack.

"I think we were in a rhythm, Luke was dialing it up," Fields said. "Guys were protecting up front. Receivers were getting open. We were definitely in a rhythm.

"At the end of the day we lost the game so it really doesn't matter.'

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The Bears' pass defense was nearly as ineffective as their passing attack was effective. They played without injured safety Eddie Jackson and cornerbacks Kyler Gordon and Jaylon Johnson. Gordon's backup, Josh Blackwell, was also out.

Rookie cornerback Terell Smith gave up a 48-yard pass from Russell Wilson to Marvin Mims that got Denver into position for the winning field goal. The Bears kept Wilson under control in the first half while building a 28-7 lead, but he finished 21 of 28 for 223 yards and three TDs.

STOCK UP

Running back Khalil Herbert gained more yards Sunday than in the first three games combined. Herbert, who came into the game with 93 yards rushing, finished with 103 yards on 18 carries. He also caught a season-high four passes, including a touchdown.

STOCK DOWN

Rookie tackle Darnell Wright, the team's first-round draft pick, gave up a sack and committed two critical penalties after playing solidly in his first three games.

The Bears reported no new injuries and are hopeful that some of their banged-up defensive backs can return soon. Gordon is still at least a game away from returning from injured reserve, as is guard Teven Jenkins.

NEXT STEPS

The Bears visit Washington on Thursday night. The Commanders are coming off an overtime loss at Philadelphia.

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Browns hobble into the bye week after being stung by a rash of injuries in the first 4 weeks

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Myles Garrett left the stadium wearing a protective boot, a fitting accessory for a Browns team limping into its bye week.

Cleveland's first four games left a mark.

The Browns lost star running back Nick Chubb and two-time All-Pro tackle Jack Conklin to season-ending knee injuries in the first two weeks. On Sunday, they played Baltimore without quarterback Deshaun Watson, who has an injured right shoulder, and had all their momentum stripped in a demoralizing 28-3 loss.

Between Watson's ailment — and there remain questions about what's exactly wrong — and Garrett dealing with a left foot issue, on top of starting center Ethan Pocic nursing knee and chest injuries, it's ideal for the Browns to take a break.

"It's an early bye, but I think it comes at the right time," said linebacker Anthony Walker Jr. "It comes at a time where we really needed to just reset, refocus."

The Browns (2-2) insist Watson's shoulder is structurally sound and he's only dealing with a bruise. And if coach Kevin Stefanski is to be believed, the QB will be back for the Oct. 15 matchup against San Francis-

However, Watson and the Browns

had been adamant last week he'd play against the Ravens — until he didn't.

Cleveland didn't have a chance against Baltimore as rookie backup Dorian Thompson-Robinson's performance reaffirmed that the exhibition season is nothing more than practice games to break up the monotony of

training camp. He wasn't ready.

The lopsided loss capped a rough week for the Browns.

Chubb finally had surgery, which revealed he'll need another to repair a torn ACL. Tight end David Njoku burned himself lighting a fire at home, and Watson, who was limited in practice during the week, told the Browns he couldn't play after a handful of warmup tosses before the game.

While Watson's injury may not to be serious, it could alter how the Browns use him going forward. His running ability is part of what makes Watson such a threat, and now Stefanski and coordinator Alex Van Pelt may have to do some hard editing to the playbook.

Watson must be protected, but there's only so much the Browns can do when he tucks the ball, takes off and exposes himself to big hits like the one he took on a designed run last week against Tennessee.

Chubb's injury has already gutted the running game, and if Wat-

son's game is minimized, Cleveland's

offense goes from wide-open to more

predictable, and thus easier to stop.

Stefanski made it clear that the decision for Watson not to play was made by the QB, who was coming off his best game since signing a \$230 million contract with Cleveland.

"He knows his body. He's played through serious pain before, very serious injuries," Stefanski said Monday. "It wasn't a matter of pain tolerance. He just did not feel like he had his full

faculties.' He's got the bye week to get them

WHAT'S WORKING

Garrett remains a stunning, singular force. Although Cleveland's top-rated defense failed to contain Ravens QB Lamar Jackson, who had two TD runs and two scoring passes, Garrett did his part by providing pressure despite the usual extra attention. He recorded another sack and was credited with three quarterback hurries.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The running game has shifted into neutral. Cleveland's inability to run the ball effectively in the first half Sunday put even more pressure on Thompson-Robinson. The fifth-round draft pick was overwhelmed by the moment, but didn't get nearly enough help from his teammates or the coaching staff.

WHAT'S NEXT

Rest, relaxation and then reality as the powerful 49ers (4-0) will come to Cleveland after they host Dallas in a Sunday night game on Oct. 8.

Trump begins trial in New York lawsuit accusing him of lying about wealth

JAKE OFFENHARTZ and JENNIFER PELTZ **Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) Aggrieved and defiant, former President Donald Trump spent a day in court Monday for the sometimes testy start of a trial in a fraud lawsuit that could cost him control of Trump Tower and other prized properties.

Disgraceful trial," he declared during a lunch break, after listening to lawyers for New York Attorney General Letitia James excoriate him as a habitual liar. The state's lawsuit accuses the business mogul-turned-politician and his company of deceiving banks, insurers and others by misstating his wealth for years in financial statements.

"They were lying year after year after year," Kevin Wallace, a lawyer in James' office, said as Trump sat at the defense table. He looked straight ahead, arms crossed, facing away from a screen that showed details of Wallace's presentation.

Trump denies wrongdoing and voluntarily attended a trial that he called a "sham," a "scam," a waste of the state's time and "a continuation of the single greatest witch hunt of all time." Currently the Republican front-runner in the 2024 presidential race, he reiterated claims that James, a Democrat, is trying to thwart his bid to return to the White House.

What we have here is an attempt to hurt me in an election," he said outside court, adding, "I

don't think the people of this country are going to stand for it."

Trump sneered at James as he passed her on his way out at lunchtime; she left smiling. Meanwhile, his campaign immediately began fundraising off the appearance.

But Trump left for the day claiming he'd scored a victory, pointing to comments that he viewed as Judge Arthur Engoron coming around to the defense view that most of the suit's allegations are too old.

The judge suggested that testimony about Trump's 2011 financial statement was beyond the legal time limit. Wallace promised to link it to a more recent loan agreement, but Trump took the judge's remarks as an "outstanding" development for him.

Engoron ruled last week that Trump committed fraud in his business dealings. If upheld on appeal, the ruling could force Trump to give up New York properties including Trump Tower, a Wall Street office building, golf courses and a suburban estate. Trump has called it a "a corporate death penalty" and insisted the judge, a Democrat, is unfair and out to get him.

remaining claims in the lawsuit, including allegations of conspiracy, insurance fraud and falsifying business records. Engoron said that neither side sought a jury and that state law doesn't allow for juries when suits seek not only money but a court order setting out something a defendant must do or

The non-jury trial concerns six

James is seeking \$250 million in penalties and a ban on Trump doing business in New York.

"No matter how powerful you are, and no matter how much money you think you have, no one is above the law," she said on her way into the courthouse.

Trump says that James and the judge are undervaluing such assets as his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida. He and his lawyers also maintain that disclaimers on his financial statements made clear that they were estimates and that banks would have to perform their own analysis.

The former president, his two eldest sons, Trump Organization executives and fixer-turned-foe Michael Cohen are all listed among dozens of potential witnesses.

Trump isn't expected to testify for several weeks. His trip to court Monday marked a remarkable departure from his past practice.

Trump didn't go to court as either a witness or a spectator when his company and one of its top executives was convicted of tax fraud last year. He didn't show, either, for a civil trial earlier this year in which a jury found him liable for sexually assaulting the writer E. Jean Carroll in a department store dressing room.

This time, "I wanted to watch this witch hunt myself," he said outside court.

In a recent court filing, James' office alleged Trump exaggerated his wealth by as much as \$3.6 bil-

He claimed his three-story Trump Tower penthouse, replete with gold-plated fixtures, was nearly three times its actual size and worth \$327 million, far more than any New York City apartment ever has fetched, James said. He valued Mar-a-Lago as high as \$739 million — more than 10 times a more reasonable estimate of its worth, James maintained.

"Every estimate was determined by Mr. Trump," Wallace said in his opening statement. He pointed to pretrial testimony by Trump Organization figures and ex-insiders including Cohen, who said the company estimated assets to get to a predetermined number "that Mr. Trump wanted."

Wallace said the alleged scheme got the company better loan rates, saving it \$100 million in interest.

"They hid their weaknesses and convinced these banks to take on hundreds of millions of dollars in risk," he said, adding, "While the defendants can exaggerate to Forbes magazine or on television, they cannot do it while conducting business in the state of New York.

Defense lawyers said the financial statements were legitimate representations of prime properties that can command top dollar.

'That is not fraud. That is real estate," attorney Alina Habba said in an opening statement. She accused the attorney general's office of "setting a very dangerous precedent for all business owners in the state of New York.'

Defense experts will testify that valuing properties is subjective, Trump attorneys said. He and his lawyers have also argued that no one was harmed by anything in the financial statements, which were given to banks to secure loans and to financial magazines to justify his place among the world's bil-

Banks that made loans to him were fully repaid. Business partners made money. And Trump's own company flourished.

Defense lawyer Christopher Kise blasted last week's fraud ruling, telling the judge he shouldn't have made a decision before hearing expert trial testimony on property valuations. Engoron, tiring of the defense's criticism, shot back: "Respectfully, what's that expression? You're stalking the dead horse here."

Testimony began Monday afternoon with Donald Bender, a longtime partner at accounting firm Mazars LLP, describing how he spent 50 to 60 hours a year preparing Trump's financial statements. Mazars cut ties with Trump last year after James' office raised questions about the documents' reliability.

James' lawsuit is one of several legal headaches for Trump as he campaigns to return to the White House. He has been indicted four times since March, accused of plotting to overturn his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden, hoarding classified documents and falsifying business records related to hush money paid on his behalf. He has pleaded not guilty to all the

The New York fraud trial is expected to last into December, Engoron said.

U.S. government sues Union Pacific over using flawed test

They are accused of using the test to disqualify color blind railroad workers

> By JOSH FUNK **AP Business Writer**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The federal government has joined more than a dozen former workers in suing Union Pacific over the way it used a vision test to disqualify workers the railroad believed were color blind and might have trouble reading signals telling them to stop a train.

The lawsuit announced Monday by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on behalf of 21 former workers is the first the government filed in what could eventually be hundreds — if not thousands — of lawsuits over the way Union Pacific disqualified people with a variety of

These cases were once going to be part of a class-action lawsuit that the railroad estimated might include as many as 7,700 people who had to undergo what is called a "fitnessfor-duty" review between 2014 and 2018.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs estimate nearly 2,000 of those onle faced restrictions that kept them off the job for at least two years if not indefinitely. But the railroad hasn't significantly changed its policies since making that estimate in an earlier legal filing, meaning the number has likely grown in the past five years. More than three dozen lawsuits have been filed so far with many more cases still being reviewed by the EEOC.

Union Pacific has vigorously defended itself in court and refused to enter into settlement talks with the EEOC. The railroad has said it believes it was necessary to disqualify workers to ensure safety because it believed they had trouble seeing colors or developed health conditions such as seizures, heart problems or diabetes that could lead to them becoming incapacitated. They also noted federal rules require color vision testing.

"It is critical for the safety of our employees and communities where we operate that conductors and locomotive engineers correctly see and interpret the various signals that direct train movement," railroad spokeswoman Kristen South said.

Often the railroad made its decisions after reviewing medical records and disqualified many even if their own doctors recommended they be allowed to return to work.

Railroad safety has been a key concern nationwide this year ever since a Norfolk Southern train derailed in eastern Ohio near the Pennsylvania line in February and spilled hazardous chemicals that caught fire, prompting evacuations in East Palestine. That wreck inspired a number of proposed reforms from Congress and regulators that have yet to be

"Everyone wants railroads to be safe," said Gregory Gochanour, regional attorney for the EEOC's Chicago District. "However, firing qualified, experienced employees for failing an invalid test of color vision does nothing to promote safety, and violates the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).'

This lawsuit focuses on a vision test that Union Pacific developed called the "light cannon" test that involves asking workers to identify the color of a light on a device placed a quarter of a mile away from the test taker. The EEOC said in its lawsuit that the test doesn't replicate real world conditions or show whether workers can accurately identify railroad signals.

Some of the workers who sued had failed Union Pacific's "light cannon" test but passed another vision test that has the approval of the Federal Railroad Administration. The other workers who sued had failed both tests but presented medical evidence to the railroad that they didn't have a color vision problem that would keep them from identifying sig-

The workers involved in the lawsuit were doing their jobs successfully for Union Pacific for between two and 30 years without any safety problems. The workers represented in the EEOC lawsuit worked for the company in Minnesota, Illinois, Arizona, Idaho, California, Kansas, Nebraska, Oregon, Washington, and Texas.

Attorney Anthony Petru, who represents a number of the former UP workers, said the "light cannon" test is so unreliable that the railroad's own experts have testified that it would disqualify a quarter of the workers with perfect vision.

"The last thing we would do is take any steps to try to put anybody in charge of a freight train who is unsafe because of their physical characteristics," Petru said.



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Labor leader, Democratic insider chosen to fill Feinstein's Senate seat

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD and ADAM BEAM **Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) - When California Gov. Gavin Newsom needed to fill the U.S. Senate seat of his late mentor Dianne Feinstein, he could have turned to a big-city mayor, a member of Congress or a powerful legislator.

Instead, he chose Laphonza Butler, a former union leader and Democratic insider who heads a national organization that raises money for women candidates who support abortion rights. She offered a familiar face who shares his vision for a progressive California. In choosing Butler, he also elevated someone who could become an important ally for a potential national campaign that many see in his future.

Once she is sworn in, Butler will be the only Black woman in the Senate and the first openly LGBTO+ California senator. That, alongside her background in the labor and women's rights movements, helps harden Newsom's ties to important national Democratic constituencies.

Speaking to reporters Monday in San Francisco, Newsom praised Butler's "deep knowledge" of the legislative process and said she was the kind of candidate he would build "if I had to literally design from my imagination."

'She's the only choice," he added.

Few voters outside workaday Democratic politics would recognize her name, but Butler is well known inside the party apparatus. Her credentials include working for nearly two years with a consulting firm tied closely to the governor and founded by his top political lieutenants. She also served as a senior adviser to Kamala Harris's 2020 presidential campaign and headed Emily's List, the abortion rights group.

While Newsom could have sought a marquee name to fill the seat, "a comfort level is important. Any governor might be a little hesitant about somebody with too many degrees of separation," said Claremont McKenna College political scientist Jack Pitney.

But Newsom's choice will not be universally welcome. A competitive race for Feinstein's seat is already underway among three prominent House Democrats, Reps. Katie Porter, Adam Schiff and Barbara Lee, who is Black. The governor has said he didn't want to tip the scales in the 2024 race by choosing among those candidates.

Butler has not said if she

intends to run for a full term, a decision she must make by Dec. 8.

Newsom said he told Butler to "do what you think is best for you and the state of California, and you make that judgment completely independent of any expectations from me."

Her selection drew swift criticism from Republicans, who have long struggled in a liberal-leaning state where Democrats haven't lost a statewide election since

"The last thing we need are more union activists in government," tweeted GOP Assemblyman Bill Essayli.

Butler has yet to appear in public since the appointment was announced by Newsom's office Sunday. She is expected to be sworn in Tuesday in Washington by Harris, the last Black woman to serve in the Senate.

'For women and girls, for workers and unions, for struggling parents waiting for our leaders to bring opportunity back to their homes, for all of California, I'm ready to serve," she said in a statement.

Newsom faced intense pressure from Black political leaders and advocacy groups to appoint Lee to the seat after he pledged to name a Black woman should Feinstein be unable to finish her term. Though most of those groups praised Butler, their displeasure at Newsom for snubbing Lee is likely to simmer.

State Sen. Steven Bradford, vice chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus, said he was disappointed Newsom bypassed Lee, "who is simply unmatched in her values, vision and lived experiences.'

Aimee Allison, who founded She the People, a political advocacy network for women of color that also supported Lee, said in a statement she would be "delighted by the prospect of multiple talented Black women running for the Senate" in California and else-

Ballots for the March 5 primary will be mailed to voters in early February, leaving just a narrow window for Butler to raise money in a state where a statewide campaign can easily cost \$20 million or more.

Butler, 44, comes from a working-class family. Her father, a small-business owner, died from a terminal illness when she was 16. Her mother worked as a classroom aide, a home care provider, a security guard and a bookkeeper while caring for Butler and her two siblings, the governor's office said.

She has never held public

170. Many of the remaining

centers are operating at less

than full capacity because of

director of The Manufac-

turer's Association, who

took part in the roundtable,

said later that higher inter-

est rates have led many local

companies to pull back on acquisitions and invest-

Companies want to invest," he said, "but they've

ments in new technology.

hit the pause button."

Tom Palisin, executive

staffing shortages.

Butler was elected president of the state's largest labor union in the early 2010s, back when the nation was reeling from the Great Recession.

"Laphonza had this ability to get to what was in people's hearts," said Arnuflo De La Cruz, the union's current president who at the time was elected with Butler as the union's executive vice president. "She could connect with members from completely different backgrounds in all places across the state.'

That work culminated in 2016 when former Gov. Jerry Brown signed a law to raise the statewide minimum wage to \$15 per hour. De La Cruz said Butler was the union's chief negotiator.

"The ability to be effective in politics is maybe a little bit about perception but certainly a lot about strength and your ability to elect people or unseat them," De La Cruz said.

Democratic state Sen. Maria Elena Durazo, a former officer in the Los Angeles Federation of Labor, said Butler was committed to lifting women out of poverty.

"She was very forceful

in a way that was strategic. She didn't waste a lot of words just talking when she spoke," Durazo said. "She was considered very powerful. She didn't abuse that

Butler left the labor movement for campaign consulting, joining a firm alongside top advisers to Newsom and Harris. She was a senior adviser on Harris's campaign for president, which started to much fanfare but fizzled as she struggled to raise money and hone her message.

Butler has also worked for corporate clients, including Airbnb and Uber.

Newsom, who was elected governor in 2018, has now chosen both of the state's U.S. senators. The selection of Butler bears resemblance to the last time, when he tapped his close friend and confidant for the job, now-Sen. Alex Padilla.

At the time, Newsom was under pressure to select a Black woman to fill the seat of Harris, who is Black. His choice of Padilla, the state's first Latino senator. rankled Black leadership in the state who saw the seat as their own.

Fed's Powell gets an earful about inflation and interest rates from small businesses

By CHRISTOPHER **RUGABER**

AP Economics Writer YORK, Pa. (AP) - Federal Reserve officials typically gather many of their insights and observations about the economy from some of the top Ph.D. economists in Washington.

On a visit Monday to York, Pennsylvania, Chair Jerome Powell got an earful from a group with a decidedly different perspective: Small-business people who are grappling personally with inflation, high interest rates, labor shortages and other challenges of the postpandemic economy.

Powell, along with Patrick Harker, head of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, traveled to York to learn about the efforts of the long-time manufacturing hub, where York Peppermint Patties were once made, to

diversify its economy. The businesspeople they spoke with were generally optimistic but expressed a range of concerns: They are still having trouble finding all the workers they need. Higher interest rates have discouraged some of them from expanding. And higher costs and a chronic difficulty in acquiring enough sup-

plies have persisted. 'We were a little blindsided by inflation," said Julie Flinchbaugh Keene, co-owner of Flinchbaugh's Orchard & Farm Market, who spoke to Powell and Harker at the Gather 256 coffee shop while the two Fed officials conducted

a walking tour. Since the pandemic struck more than three years ago, she said, "predictability is just gone. It's very hard to operate a business without predict-

Keene noted that her parents had experienced high inflation when they ran the business back in the 1980s. But the company was much smaller then and had no employees. As a result, her father said, "I don't have any wisdom to give you."

"We'll get inflation down," Powell said after listening to her concerns.

During his tour of downtown York, Powell also met Jennifer Heasley, owner of Sweet Mama's Mambo Sauce, who makes a barbecue-style sauce and owns a food stall in the York Central Market.

When asked before his visit what she would most want to tell Powell, Heasley said, "Lower interest rates."

Heasley said she is paying a much higher rate now on her credit cards, which she sometimes uses to fund her business.

Powell's visit occurred as the Fed is monitoring the economy for signs that its streak of rate increases are having their desired effect and that inflation is continuing to cool. At their most recent meeting two weeks ago, Fed officials signaled confidence about a so-called "soft landing," in which inflation would fall back to their 2 percent target without a deep recession. The policymakers predicted that

inflation would fall to about 2.6 percent by the end of 2024, with only a small rise in the unemployment rate.

But given its confidence in the economy's resilience, the Fed also signaled that it expects to keep its benchmark rate higher for longer, potentially raising it once more this year and keeping it above 5 percent well into

Inflation has dwindled from a four-decade high of 9.1 percent in June 2022 to 3.7 percent in August. In the meantime, the unemployment rate has defied predictions by remaining low while the economy has continued to expand.

Before the walking tour, Powell and Harker conducted a roundtable discussion with several business owners and executives, nonprofit leaders and educators.

Kevin Schreiber, CEO of the York County Economic Alliance, a business development group, told reporters that the local economy is growing at a healthy pace. At the same time, Schreiber said, many business people are worried about the next 12 to 18 months and the prospect that interest rates will stay high and inflation won't be fully conquered.

A lack of child care is another top problem for many businesses in the area, Schreiber said, because it keeps many parents out of the workforce.

Schreiber said there were 219 child care centers in the area before the pandemic. Now, there are only





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North Dakota state senator, his wife and 2 kids killed in Utah plane crash BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) "Senator Doug Larsen, on X, the social media web-

A state senator from North Dakota, his wife and their two young children died when the small plane they were traveling in crashed soon after a refueling stop in Utah, a Senate leader said Monday.

Doug Larsen's death was confirmed Monday in an email that Republican Senate Majority Leader David Hogue sent to his fellow senators and was obtained by The Associated

The plane crashed Sunday evening shortly after taking off from Canyonlands Airfield about 15 miles (24 kilometers) north of the desert recreation town of Moab, according to a Grand County Sheriff's Department statement posted on Facebook. The sheriff's office said the senator was the pilot and all four people on board the plane were killed.

his wife Amy, and their two young children died in a plane crash last evening in Utah," Hogue wrote in his email. "They were visiting family in Scottsdale and returning home. They stopped to refuel in Utah.'

"I'm not sure where the bereavement starts with such a tragedy, but I think it starts with prayers for the grandparents, surviving stepchild of Senator Larsen, and extended family of Doug and Amy," Hogue wrote. "Hold your family close today."

A bouquet of roses was draped over Larsen's desk in the Senate chamber, just above the nameplate that reads: "D. Larsen - District

The crash of the singleengine Piper plane was being investigated, the National Transportation Safety Board said in a post site formerly called Twitter. An NTSB spokesman

said a board investigator was expected to arrive at the scene Monday "to begin to document the scene, examine the aircraft, request any air traffic communications, radar data, weather reports and try to contact any witnesses. Also, the investigator will request maintenance records of the aircraft, and medical records and flight history of the pilot."

Officials didn't release the plane's origin or final destination. After landing at the airport, the travelers took a car into Moab before taking off in the refueled plane, NTSB spokesman Fabian Salazar said at a news conference at the airport.

The agency will have a preliminary report on the crash within a couple weeks, followed by a final report in a year to year and a half, Salazar said.

Spartz defends anti-checkoff amendment before it fails in the House

By SABRINA HALVORSON

Hoosier Ag Today Representative Victoria Spartz's (R-IN-5th) controversial anti-checkoff amendment to the Ag Appropriations Bill failed before the full House late Wednesday. Before the vote, defended her amendment proposal on the House Floor late Tuesday night.

'So, if you want to force farmers to pay some money, I think part of what farmers need to know where the money goes. You know? Do they promote commodities or promote very wealthy jobs for ... people in fancy

suits? Farmers work hard for this money," she said. "So, my amendment has two parts. To have more transparency with trying to do the Farm Bill, but also, vou know, no taxpaver's money should be used unless we know what's happening with this checkoff dollars.

The amendment would have prevented taxpayer money from being used for checkoff programs. However, opponents point out that checkoffs are paid for by producer dues and no taxpayer money is going to the programs, therefore the amendment was unneces-

Rep. Glenn G.T. Thompson (R-PA-15th), who also serves as House Agriculture Committee Chairman, gave a voice to the opposition on

the House Floor.

"Research and Promotion programs, commonly referred to as checkoffs are time-tested programs that expand markets, increase consumer demand, develop new uses for those covered commodities, and quite frankly ... helps to fund the resources needed to be able to deal with issues related to those crops or those commodities. These programs are voluntarily

created by producers for producers, and they receive no taxpayer dollars for any other activities or for USDA oversight of their activities," he said.

Thompson said the debate about checkoffs should be considered during Farm Bill deliberations not the current ag appropriations bill because no funds from the ag appropriations bill goes to the programs.

After a voice vote late Tuesday on the sparsely populated House Floor was deemed in favor, Thompson requested a recorded vote, which was held the next

The final tally Wednesday evening was 49 in favor,

377 against. Among the 377 who voted down Spartz's amendment, 190 were Democrats, while 187 were Republicans—among her own party.

Following the defeat of her amendment, Spartz made the following statement on her Twitter, or "X" social media account:

"That's how we measure the depth of the swamp almost 400 people deep. Thank you to the 49 of my colleagues who are willing to stand with Main Street not K Street or Wall Street!" said Spartz.

Among Spartz's colleagues in the House who voted with her in favor of her amendment were Republican Representatives Matt Gaetz (R-FL-1st), Lauren Boebert (R-CO-3rd), and Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA-14th)—while House Democrats who voted for the Spartz amendment included Representatives Alexandria Ócasio-Cortez (D-NY-14th), Ilhan Omar (D-MN-5th), and Rashida Tlaib (D-MI-12th).

McDonald's says 'thank you' to Indiana farmers

By CJ MILLER **Hoosier Ag Today**

The next time you and your family walk into a McDonald's or go through their drive thru, it's likely that the pork in your Sausage Egg McMuffin® and the milk in your milkshake came from Indiana's farms. That's because the McDonald's system buys a lot of these

products from farms and suppliers

across the state. "We absolutely love the agriculture industry in Indiana. It's a neat partnership that we get to have with them," says Paul Jedele, who owns nine McDonald's franchise restaurants around Greencastle, Crawfordsville, and west-central Indiana with his

He is taking the time during National 4-H Week to thank Indiana's farm-

"We spend about \$30 million a year in the McDonald's supply system purchasing from Indiana farmers," according to Jedele. "That yields 44 million pounds of product that are coming from our fields and our communities. It's just a pretty staggering number when you think about it—and it's a great story to tell."

The McDonald's system also buys 13 million pounds of pork, 12.5 million pounds of sugar, and millions of gallons of milk—all from Indiana

In addition, the McDonald's system also buys millions of eggs, as well as millions of pounds of flour from Indiana suppliers.

Jedele says the support that McDonald's gives to Indiana farmers goes beyond National 4-H Week.

"We find ways to get involve with 4-H," says Jedele. "I do local presentations at some schools in my counties that are celebrating 4-H. My brother and I sponsor 4-H activities as well. We're next-generation owner-operators, so we purchased our restaurants off of our father. We realize that supporting the youth helps us for our future and the agriculture needs of Indiana, so I think it's so critical to be able to focus on the youth."

He also thanks Indiana farmers for their hard work and dedication to providing quality products to the McDonald's system.

"Great food starts with great farmers and suppliers. That's a tough job," says Jedele. "I watch the farmers, especially at harvest time. They're out late at night. I'll be leaving a restaurant at 9:00 or 10:00 at night and I still see the farmers out harvesting in the middle of night with their lights. It just shows the dedication to keeping food on the shelves for all of us to survive. We greatly appreciate the effort of the farmers and the legacy they're creating for future generations as well."



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USDA will issue \$1.75B of emergency relief to farmers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that they will begin issuing more than \$1.75 billion in emergency relief payments to eligible farmers and livestock producers. These muchneeded payments are helping farming and ranching operations recover following natural disasters in 2020, 2021, and 2022.

"USDA provides substantial economic support for America's farmers and ranchers through its critical farm program payments. These payments are reflective of the incredible and cumulative financial hits brought on by devastating natural disasters that agricultural producers nationwide have endured while fulfilling their commitment to produce our food, fiber and fuel," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This additional assistance helps offset the tremendous losses that these producers faced and is a valuable investment, not only for farmers and ranchers but in the economic successes of our communities - rural and urban — and in our

nation's food security for generations to come."

Emergency Livestock Relief Program

This week, FSA will issue more than \$581 million in 2021 and 2022 drought and wildfire emergency relief to eligible ranchers.

FSA is closing out the Emergency Livestock Relief Program for losses suffered in 2021. ELRP Phase Two payments are estimated at \$115.7 million. Ranchers who lost grazing acres due to drought and wildfire and received assistance through ELRP Phase One will soon receive an additional payment through ELRP Phase Two. This second payment will be equal to 20 percent of the 2021 gross ELRP Phase One payment. ELRP Phase Two payments to producers will be automatic with no application required. In April 2022, FSA staff processed more than 100,000 payments through ELRP Phase One and paid eligible ranchers more than \$600 million for 2021 grazing losses. In 2022, ranchers con-

tinued to experience sig-

nificant loss of grazing acres due to drought and wildfire. To help mitigate these losses, eligible ranchers will receive ELRP disaster assistance payments for increases in supplemental feed costs. To expedite payments, determine producer eligibility and calculate the ELRP 2022 payment, FSA is using livestock inventories and drought-affected forage acreage or restricted animal units and grazing days due to wildfire already reported to FSA by ranchers when they submitted their Livestock Forage Disaster Program applications. ELRP payments for 2022 losses are estimated at \$465.4 million and will be automatic with no application required.

Emergency Relief Program Phase Two

FSA is closing out Phase Two of the Emergency Relief Program this week through the delivery of more than \$1.17 billion in crop disaster assistance payments to producers of eligible crops who suffered losses, measured through decreases in revenue, due to qualifying natural disaster events that occurred in calendar years 2020 and 2021. ERP Phase Two was intended primarily for producers of crops that were not covered by federal crop insurance or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Previously, through ERP Phase one, FSA staff processed more than 300,000 applications and paid an estimated 217,000 eligible producers more than \$7.4

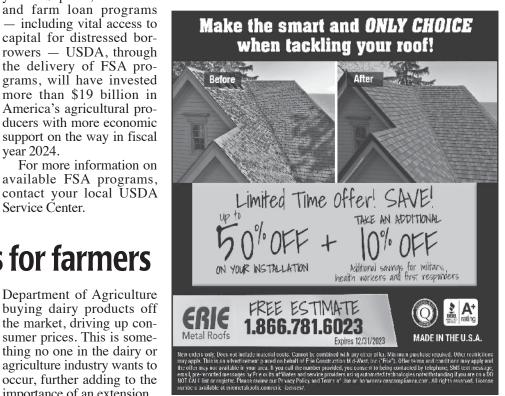
More information

These programs represent a few of FSA's extensive commodity, conservation, credit, disaster recovery and safety-net programs. By the close of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, for all farm and farm loan programs including vital access to capital for distressed borrowers — USDA, through the delivery of FSA programs, will have invested more than \$19 billion in America's agricultural producers with more economic

For more information on available FSA programs, contact your local USDA Service Center.

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WFBF: What an expiring Farm Bill means for farmers

By AGDAILY

The farm bill is an allencompassing, multiyear law that governs an array of agricultural and food programs. Expiring every five years, it provides an opportunity for policymakers to address a broad range of agricultural and food programs.

In the past, farm bills have primarily focused on commodity programs that support a handful of staple commodities - corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, rice, dairy and sugar. This year's farm bill will address similar commodities, and the process won't be all that different from years past.

Each farm bill is different, but recent farm bills have faced legislative hurdles for enactment, from insufficient passage votes to presidential vetoes. Extensions are sometimes needed to make it to the finish line. The 2002 farm bill was the last farm bill to be enacted before its fiscal year expiration. The 2008 and 2014 farm bills were each enacted during extensions of the previous farm bill.

The last farm bill to expire was in 2012 and had some unique circumstances. The 2008 farm bill was authorized until the end of 2012 but was extended for a short period under appropriations acts. The 112th Congress was about to end legislatively, so a one-year extension of all provisions was enacted to cover fiscal year 2013 and the 2013 crop year. Programs that required mandatory funding did not continue in fiscal year 2013 because no additional mandatory funding was provided during the extension.

Depending on the program, the timing and consequences of farm bill expiration vary. There are two principal expiration dates for the farm bill: the end of the fiscal year (Sep. 30) and the end of the crop year (Dec. 31). For programs with mandatory spending - nutrition and conservation — the fiscal deadline has far more consequences. Farm commodity support programs, on the other hand, are authorized on the basis of crop years. For those programs, December

31 is far more important. The first commodity harvested in the 2024 crop year (and thus not covered by the 2018 farm bill) is dairy on January 1, 2024, since cows are milked every day of the year. Without reauthorization of commodity support programs, like the Dairy Margin Coverage program, dairy is the first commodity to face the realities of a farm bill

expiration. New plantings of

other commodities harvested in 2024 — such as wheat, corn, or soybeans — would not be affected until harvest in the summer or fall of 2024, when their respective marketing years would begin.

The type of funding the program receives also affects the consequences of the expiration and extension. Programs that rely on mandatory funding are the most at risk of interruption if a farm bill expires. Without reauthorization or an extension, these programs generally cease to operate following a farm bill expiration.

Federal crop insurance programs are permanently authorized and funded by the Federal Crop Insurance Act. The program does not expire with the 2018 farm bill. In addition, there are several agricultural disaster programs for livestock that were previously authorized by farm bills and are not subject to the farm bill expiration. Those programs include Livestock Indemnity Program, Livestock Forage Disaster Program, Emergency Assistance for Livestock, honey bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program.

If Congress fails to pass a new bill by January 1, 2024, some programs would revert back to the 1940s-era policy that would see the U.S.

Department of Agriculture buying dairy products off the market, driving up consumer prices. This is something no one in the dairy or agriculture industry wants to occur, further adding to the importance of an extension.



Is it too late for an honest marriage?

Dear Annie: I'm not sure if you to be touched print household tips, but the following and romanced, was really helpful to us this summer:

After reading my small air conditioner unit's owner's manual, I always I will ever find thought that I just needed to clean the that in my life. I filter monthly with a vacuum. After removing the front panel, however, I realized that more extensive cleaning needed to be done. There was quite a bit of dust and grime in there. A sixminute YouTube video helped me to give it a safe, deeper cleaning using household materials.

By unplugging the unit, cleaning the filter with dishwashing liquid in the sink, cleaning the fins gently with a toothbrush and compressed air, and spritzing the outer panel with hydrogen peroxide, the unit was as good as new. After allowing everything to dry and replacing the parts, I then plugged it in. I'm not sure if it's a coincidence, but colds and upper respiratory issues, which my husband and I had been up within a few days! — Helpful Household Tips

Dear Household Tips: Thank you for these tips on keeping your air quality clean. I don't think it's a coincidence that you are having fewer cold and flu issues. Clean air equals clean lungs and body.

Dear Annie: I've been married for 47 years and realized early on that my husband was an in-the-closet gay man. He admits he used me to keep people and family from knowing. I've tried to leave him, but I always go back because he promises to not cheat anymore with other men. But it stays the same. Now our children are grown, and it's just the two of us. He has a lot of health issues and claims he needs me to be there for him.

Also, we don't have marital relations anymore. Actually, it has been over 20 years. I'm so lonely and long

Annie but I'm 74 now, and I don't think by Annie Lane



due to finances. I Think I'm Stuck

care about him

so much, but I

feel used, and I

am very resent-

ful toward him.

I'm so depressed.

I just don't know

what to do. I

can't leave now

Dear Stuck: It sounds like he thought the two of you had an arrangement in your marriage but that arrangement is simply not working for you. What your husband did was selfish and cruel. And it is no wonder you are depressed. You deserve to be romanced and told the truth from the plagued with over the summer, cleared beginning. The good news is that it is not too late. It is time to leave your husband with the understanding that the two of you can still be friends. You are just leaving him as a wife.

Once you get away from the toxic situation you are in, then you should seek the help of a professional therapist who can help you sort out the understandable anger you have toward him and the grief you will feel mourning all the years spent in a relationship that was built on false pretenses.

"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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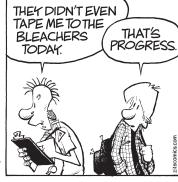




ZITS







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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Q: Often people speak of having a worldview. What does it mean to have a worldview and what determines a right world*view — religion, political* agendas, personal perspective? - W.V.

A: There are certain special privileges that only the true Christian can enjoy. There is, for example, the privilege of having divine wisdom and guidance continually. The Bible says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).

The Christian also has a worldview. This worldview sets forth God's purpose and the end toward

Those who keep Heaven in view remain serene in the darkest of days

which all are proceeding. It assures us that in spite of men's war upon each other and in spite of the destructive forces of nature that seem to hold us in their grip, God is still on the throne and in command of everything. Satan himself is held back by God's power and given an opportunity to exercise his evil influence only as God sees fit and only as long as God has a definite plan for each period of history, for every nation, and for every individual. The Scripture discloses God's plan for the return of Christ when His kingdom shall be established. So you see, for the Christian, life has a plan and an assurance that God will ultimately triumph over all unrighteousness.

All false religions cut away parts of God's revelation, add ideas of their own, and come out with various viewpoints that differ from God's revelation in the Bible.

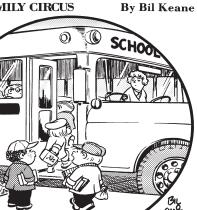
To sum up the superiority of the Christian life over all other ways of living, we cannot overlook the advantage that the Christian will have for all eternity. Those who keep Heaven in view remain serene in the darkest of days, knowing that Christ will someday rule.

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Gra-

ham.) ©2023 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

7 PM | 7:30 | 8 PM | 8:30 | 9 PM | 9:30 | 10 PM

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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The LOCKHORNS



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TNT 44 131 138 245 (3:00) *** ** Batman Begins Christian Bale. *** * The Dark Knight (2008, Action) Heath Ledger, Aaron Eckhart, Christian Bale. *** * The Dark Knight Rises (20	012, Action) Anne H	Hathaway, Tom Hardy, C	hristian Bale.	
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This Week's Garage



MOVING SALE FRIDAY, October 6, to Saturday, October 7, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 830 Parkway Dr., Bluffton.

THREE FAMILY GARAGE sale, 316 W. Wiley (in the back) Oct. 5, 6, 7 starting at noon Thursday ending Saturday 5 p.m.

112 N. BOND, rain or shine, October 5 and 6 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Oct. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Downsizing, priced to go. Fishing tackle, camping gear, iron pots, patio umbrella, Atari and games, household, CDs, DVDs, books, toys, jewelry. collectibles, drapes, men's and women's clothing, more!

FORGOTTEN CHILDREN WORLDWIDE, 650 N. Main St., Bluffton, Gigantic Garage Sale, Oct. 5 & 6, 9-5, Oct. 7 (sack sale) 9-2. Lightweight 8 winter coats. Hallowen 8 fall winter coats, Halloween & fall decor, Halloween costumes Christmas decor, patio furniture set, dishwasher, tools, plus all our regular items.

1016 JERSEY ST., Bluffton, now through next week, Mon.-Fri. noon-dark, Sat. 8 a.m.dark, Sun. 1 p.m.-dark. Comforter sets, Christmas, antiques, baby bed, portable crib, baby clothes, old ties, curtain decor, furniture, kitchen stuff, lamps, king sheet sets, round clock table, throw pillows, wheelchairs, walke transfer boards, books, walkers white chenille bedspread. Too much to list! Everything must go! Prices negotiable!

HELOISE HINT: If you are thinking about having your first garage sale. You could host a "one day only" sale so you can see what customers are looking for and how they move around your sale. This can help you with bigger sales in the future. Fax Heloise @ 210-HE-_OISE (435-6473).

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Cash4Life — 06-28-49-

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00-09-04-05, SB: 07

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14'x22' detached garage, .29

acre lot, Fort Wayne Commu-

nity School, Wayne Township,

Allen County. Personal property 6:30 p.m.: 2006 Chevy Monte Carlo SS, 105k miles, household, tools, riding lawn

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p.m., 930 Irene Ave., Fort Wayne. Pick up: Oct. 18, 3-6 p.m. *Krueckeberg Auction* &

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27 - (Online Only Auction)
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p.m., Oct. 26 from 4-6 p.m., 1791 E 1100 S, Warren. Pat

Carter & Nick Huffman, sale

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p.m. and Oct. 26 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 300 Standard Oil Blvd.,

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yard & hand tools, Yamaha OCTOBER 22- OCTOBER gas powered golf cart, like new Cub Cadet riding lawn 29 - (Online Only Auction) -Harvey E. & Wilma D. King, mower, household, furniture, seller. H&D Repair Center & Body Shop retirement auc-Fenton glass, Roseville & Hull pottery, more! Preview: Oct. 5, 4-6 p.m., 909 Woodridge Ct., Decatur. Krueckeberg Auction tion. Automotive & body shop equipment, pickup truck, trac-& Realty LLC, Kjauction.com, tor, Rotary Lift 9,000-lb. capac-260-724-7402. ity 2-post hydraulic lift, mower. Preview: Oct. 19 from 3 p.m.-6

OCTOBER 15-OCTOBER 22 - (Online Only Auction) - Michael & Jane Michaud, seller. Gravely zero turn riding mower, 2018 Family Farm Home single axle utility trailer, Craftsman portable air compressor, Craftsman & DeWalt

power tools, late model appliances, antique furniture, assorted household, Christmas decorations, Berkley fishing boat w/14' trailer, assorted fishing. Preview: Oct. 12 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and Oct. 19 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 1791 E 1100 S, Warren. Sale managers, Pat-rick Carter & Nick Huffman. The Steffen Group Inc., www. steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006. BIDDING STARTS CLOS-ING OCTOBER 17 START-ING AT 6 P.M. EST - Ronald

L Franke estate, owner.

Real estate 6 p.m.: 812 sf, full

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BIDDING ENDS OCTOBER

of Robert Isch, seller. 1978

White 2-50 diesel tractor, 2015

Ex-Mark Laser-Z zero turn riding lawn mower, 2002 Simplici-

ty lawn mower, 2006 Simplicity

Legacy riding lawn mower, sin-

gle axle utility trailer, tandem

axle trailer, 14' hay wagon, 3 bottom plow, Winco gen-

erator, lawn and garden, tools, antique & modern furniture,

antiques, primitives, glass-

ware, household. Preview:

Oct. 5, from 3-6 p.m., 601 E

St. Rd. 124, Monroe. Sale

manager, Patrick Carter, The

Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com. BIDDING NOW OPEN AND

STARTS CLOSING OCTO-

BER 8 STARTING AT 4 PM

EST - Larry Beer, owner.

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cards (some cards Graded),

die cast toys, stamp collection,

- (Online Only) - Estate

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35-39-41-50-53-54-58-59-64-66-75-80, BE: 03

08-09-08, SB: 05 Daily Three-Evening — 09-01-02, SB: 07

Daily Four-Evening —

37-38-41-42-51-53-57-62-64-68-71-74-79, BE: 51

day): \$35.7 million

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