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Pictured is the progress on the highway garage Tuesday evening. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

County highway building is estimated to finish in February

By HOLLY GASKILL

Significant progress has been made on the construction of the new Highway Department building, says project manager Conor Jackson. Construction experienced setbacks earlier this year when they encountered issues with the foundation. Jackson told the County Council on Tuesday that the matter was since resolved without issue. Work is currently projected to finish by Feb. 5. "Is that when you turn it over to the county or I'll assume you'll still have punch list items after that?" asked council member Steve Huggins. "We strive for zero punch list (items)," Jackson replied. "I imagine that a lot of punch list items are going shake out before then, and it will be turned over to the county at that time."

Jackson also noted that some savings in fencing and landscaping have allowed the Highway Department to begin considering adding some of their "wants" to the project. "Through the whole exercise of creating this budget and checking it along the way, the mandate was to cut anything that was fat out of the project," Jackson said. "We did that, but now that we're running slightly under budget, we should be able to deliver a little bit more utility to the highway garage." These "wants" included some concrete paving instead of stone in the south lot of the property. "As you cycle through the seasons, (the stone) going to be a constant maintenance issue for them," Jackson stated.

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Wells County 2024 budget finds a late-stage hiccup

By HOLLY GASKILL

Wells County Council member Brandon Harnish brought a last-minute item to the 2024 budget on Tuesday — the salary of a full-time courthouse security supervisor. The council had approved the budget 7-0 in September and was slated to adopt the salary ordinance Tuesday night. While causing a brief delay, the council ultimately decided not to take action on the matter. Instead, they advised the position, housed under the Wells County Jail budget, should be kept as a separate line item. Regarding the salary, Harnish wanted to have the full-time courthouse security role make less than someone at the jail. Harnish then motioned to change the approximately \$43K starting salary position to \$41,600, equivalent to \$20 per hour. This change, he said, was

"motivated by a sense of frugality." "You're wanting to change something we've already decided?" asked Council member Scott Elzey. "I don't think I've got the appetite to change it. I mean, we're talking \$2,000?" added Council member Seth Whicker. Harnish then stated he had discussed the matter with Sheriff Scott Holliday. Holliday, who was present at the meeting, told the council he disagreed with the change. "It's (already) the lowest paid position I have outside of part-time people in my department," Holliday stated. Holliday noted that Harnish had discussed the wage being less than \$20 hourly because of full-time benefits but that taking advantage of any benefits takes (Continued on Page 2)

Common council approves city budget

By DAVE SCHULTZ

Without much fanfare, the Bluffton Common Council has approved the city's 2024 budget Tuesday night on the first reading. Council members hashed out the budget particulars in several work sessions and approved its final form last month. Approval on first reading means it will be subject to a second and final reading at the council's next meeting Oct. 17. Up for discussion Tuesday night were ordinances on the overall budget and the salary ordinances for the fire department, police department, and city employees.

Council members also approved on first reading a change in the council's meeting start times. It was a unique year, because the salaries for the fire department now come from the newly-established and revamped fire territory that includes all of Harrison and Lancaster townships, and the police department's salaries have been calculated by using a pay matrix. The pay matrix will be standard operating procedure throughout the city's payroll, but Scott Mentzer, the council's president, is still working on that. (Continued on Page 2)

Ohio man pleads not guilty to child solicitation, other charges

By SYDNEY KENT

A 54-year-old married man from Ohio was the most recent subject of a sting operation facilitated by the nonprofit group Predator Catchers Indianapolis. Dennis Allen Starry of Oakwood, Ohio, pled not guilty to the charges in the Wells Circuit Court Tuesday morning. Starry was charged with child solicitation, a Level 4 felony, providing obscene material to minors, a Level 6 felony, and possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. According to a probable cause affidavit, Starry

first met the decoy on the "Kik" app. He allegedly sent multiple nude photographs after learning the person he was speaking to was 14 years old. Starry reportedly drove over an hour to attempt to meet with the child on multiple occasions and sent proof that he was a real person. A photograph of a receipt from Dollar General in Bluffton was submitted as (Continued on Page 2)



Dennis Allen Starry

Board OKs two safety hires and promotion

By DAVE SCHULTZ

Two public safety hires and the promotion of a veteran firefighter were the highlights of Tuesday afternoon's meeting of the Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety. Mike Miller, director of the city's 911 Dispatch Center, asked the board to approve the hiring of Madison Newton as a dispatcher. Newton was the choice of the 911 hiring committee. Her term of service will begin after she has made proper notice to her current employer. Also, Fire Chief Don Craig asked for permission to hire Chelsea Dick as a new part-time firefighter. Dick comes well qualified

for the position, Craig said, and told the board that she has several firefighting certifications. Both employment requests were unanimously approved by the board members — Mayor John Whicker, Scott Mentzer, and Josh Hunt. Craig also asked the board for permission to promote firefighter Kyle Morphew to be a lieutenant on the firefighting roster. Craig said Morphew, who is an officer in the city's animal control program, already assumes leadership at fire scenes and the promotion "will allow him to continue to do so in a recognized role." Morphew's promotion fills a vacancy created (Continued on Page 2)

Growth-focused task force reckons with development patterns, barriers

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana's communities face population declines, farm sales, child care shortages, hospital closures and more but lawmakers hope to turn the tide and enable growth. In a wide-ranging, day-long meeting Monday, an interim Land Use Task Force examined problematic development patterns and

barriers to growth, but found that suggested fixes come with their own consequences. Legislation creating the task force gave it five issues to examine: growth trends, growth barriers, developer siting, local self-investment and food insecurity. Despite the task force's "land use" moniker, "it's all relevant," co-chair Rep. Kendell Culp, R-Rensselaer, told the Capital

Chronicle. **Losing people, farmland** Rural Indiana is struggling, multiple witnesses told the task force. Indiana's metropolitan areas grew more than 6 percent between 2010 and 2020, but the population outside those places shrank slightly — 0.09 percent over the same time period — according to (Continued on Page 2)

McCarthy becomes first speaker to be ousted in a House vote

By LISA MASCARO
and FARNOUSH AMIRI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Speaker Kevin McCarthy was voted out of the job Tuesday in an extraordinary showdown — a first in U.S. history, forced by a contingent of hard-right conservatives

and throwing the House and its Republican leadership into chaos. It's the end of the political line for McCarthy, who has said repeatedly that he never gives up, but found himself with almost no options remaining. Neither the right-flank Republicans who engineered his ouster nor the Demo-

crats who piled on seem open to negotiating. McCarthy told lawmakers in the evening he would not run again for speaker, putting the gavel up for grabs. Next steps are highly uncertain as there is no obvious successor to lead the House Republican majority. Action is


halted in the House until next week, when Republicans try to elect a new speaker. "I may have lost this vote today, but as I walk out of this chamber I feel fortunate to have served," McCarthy said at a press conference at the Capitol. "I wouldn't change a thing."

McCarthy's chief rival, Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida, orchestrated the rare vote on the obscure "motion to vacate," and pushed ahead swiftly into a dramatic afternoon roll call. While McCarthy enjoyed support from most Republicans in his (Continued on Page 2)

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Outside

Sunny and hot today,
showers likely tomorrow

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 86	High 70	High 65
Low 63	Low 56	Low 43

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Wells County budget

(Continued from Page 1)

money out of an employee's pay-check.

Harnish later withdrew his motion. The 2024 salary ordinance was adopted 7-0.

Also during the meeting, the council approved a series of financial matters. This included addition-

al appropriations of \$4,000 for the Highway Department for increased property liability and \$2,000 for the County Commissioners toward opioid education. The Highway Department also transferred \$8,000 from ice to road striping and \$22,500 from road repairs to road striping.

Preceding the council's vote, Harnish asked about the use of the opioid education funding, which supported the "Cody and John Speak" events at Wells County high schools and the 4-H park. The financial matters were approved 6-0, with Harnish abstaining.

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Safety hires

(Continued from Page 1)

by the promotion of Justin Gerdom from lieutenant to captain.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the transfer of \$16,000 within the Parks and Recreation

Department's budget. The money will be moved from the salaries line item to the medical insurance line item.

- Approved an expenditure by the Bluffton NOW! downtown revitalization organization to

pay for part of the demolition of the building at 125 S. Marion, which was severely damaged in a fire July 7.

- Approved a payment of \$778,525 to the James S. Jackson Co. for work on the city's wastewater

treatment plant. The State Revolving Fund has provided the money to pay for the work, and after the Board of Works' approval the request for the payment will be sent to the SRF.

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Growth-focused task force

(Continued from Page 1)

Indiana University's Kelley School of Business.

Pandemic-induced migration led to declines in some urban counties, and growth of 0.1 percent in their rural counterparts, said Matthew Kinghorn, senior demographic analyst at IU's Indiana Business Research Center. But those trends could be temporary.

Those areas are also losing farmland, testified the D.C.-based American Farmland Trust. Between 2001 and 2016, Indiana converted 265,500 acres of cropland, pastureland and woodland to other uses — mostly low-density residential housing.

With top quality farmland going for \$13,500 acre, the trust's Cris Coffin said, new farmers may struggle to break into the industry. Farms, she said, should exist in a variety of places and scales to ensure a resilient food supply.

Without intervention, the group projected the state would lose another 450,000 to 600,000 acres of farmland by 2040. But, it said, a lower conversion rate could contain that loss to 260,000 acres.

That doesn't account for the wide swaths of farmland used in utility-scale solar panel set-ups.

The group pushed lawmakers to avoid incentivizing development of productive agricultural land, or to incentivize more compact developments elsewhere. Coffin also proposed agricultural districts — which bundle benefits for farmers — and farmland preservation via paid easements.

But when the city of Elkhart tried to rein in its sprawl, task force co-chair Blake Doriot, R-Goshen, recounted, Amish residents — who typically live on several acres apiece — threatened to leave.

And longtime farmers may also struggle to commit to keeping their land agricultural, with farmland at a premium for solar uses or other development.

"Take someone that's over 65 ... If they don't have a kiddo that wants to farm, jeez. How can you get them on board to save this (land) for a neighboring farmer to farm?" asked Sen. Jean Leising, R-Oldenburg. "Because they're thinking about how they could have retirement for them, for their grandkids, for everybody."

"There's a lot of hard choices that farmers are going to have to make," said the trust's Dylan Cook. "Affording them options through policy choices ... allows some opportunity for stabilization in the chaos that's going to come."

Bad momentum

There are stumbling blocks on the path to growth.

New employees need housing, child care, health care and more. And that's expensive.

Lawmakers tackled the first last session, with a revolving loan fund for infrastructure. The Residential Housing Infrastructure Assistance Program will give local governments low-interest loans for public infrastructure, cutting key housing development costs.

The Indiana Finance Authority expects to open applications for the \$75 million program in January, author Rep. Doug Miller, R-Elkhart, told the task force.

But there's room for action elsewhere, witnesses said.

"There are currently zero funding streams at the state level to either build child care capacity, or financially support operations of child care centers in Indiana," said Adam Alson, a farmer and leader of a child care nonprofit.

His organization, Appleseed Childhood Education, is responsible for all 73 licensed child care seats in Rensselaer.

It hasn't opened all those seats, however, because it can't find the employees. Before Appleseed, Alson said, the area went five years without a provider. Still, it has more than 70 chil-

dren on its waitlist.

Despite the demand, the nonprofit operates at a loss of \$300,000 annually.

Providing care costs \$14,000 per child on average, according to Alson, and that's out of reach for many families. Appleseed subsidizes its families based on income, and fills the gap by fundraising.

Families also need health care. But many rural hospitals are providing less care or nearing insolvency.

Brenda Reetz, CEO of Greene County General Hospital, asked lawmakers to raise decade-old reimbursement rates for Medicaid and Medicare.

She detailed how the double-five-star facility had provided emergency room and birthing care costing thousands of dollars to patients on government insurance — 75 percent of the hospital's patient mix. But Indiana Medicaid and Medicare paid the hospital only a tiny percentages of those bills.

And hospitals pay millions annually in Hospital Assessment Fees to see those Medicaid and Medicare patients, Reetz added.

"When you want to know the biggest barriers in our rural communities, it is that you are not going to have health care if we do not see some sort of changes to the reimbursement model in Indiana, because this is not sustainable," she said.

And those changes need to come "in the next budget."

But lawmakers fear such increases. Half the state's budget goes education, and an increasing slice is going to Medicaid and Medicare.

"We cannot afford Medicaid going higher than schools because we still have to do prisons, we have to do natural resources — we have to do everything. And there's just not enough money!" exclaimed Doriot. "And if you say 'tax increase,' you're gonna have a new legislature in here real quick."

McCarthy ousted

(Continued from Page 1)

slim majority, eight Republican detractors — many of the same hard-right holdouts who tried to stop him from becoming speaker in January — essentially forced him out.

Stillness fell as the presiding officer gavelled the vote closed, 216-210, saying the office of the speaker "is hereby declared vacant."

Moments later, a top McCarthy ally, Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., took the gavel and, according to House rules, was named speaker pro tempore, to serve in the office until a new speaker is chosen.

The House then briskly recessed as lawmakers prepared to meet privately and discuss the path forward.

It was a stunning moment for McCarthy, a punishment fueled by growing grievances but sparked by his weekend decision to work with Democrats to keep the federal government open rather than risk a shutdown.

But in many ways, McCarthy's ouster was set in motion when, in deal-making with hard-right holdouts at the start of the year, he agreed to a series of demands — including a rules change that allowed any single lawmaker to file the motion to vacate.

As the House fell silent, Gaetz, a top ally of Donald Trump, rose to offer his motion.

Leaders tried to turn it back, but the vote was 218-208, with 11 Republicans against tabling the motion, a sign of trouble to come.

The House then opened a floor debate, unseen in modern times, and Republicans argued publicly among themselves for more than an

hour. "It's a sad day," Republican Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma said as debate got underway, urging his colleagues not to plunge the House Republican majority "into chaos."

But Gaetz shot back during the debate, "Chaos is Speaker McCarthy."

As the fiery debate dragged on, many of the complaints against the speaker revolved around his truthfulness and his ability to keep the promises he has made.

Almost alone, Gaetz led his side of the floor debate, criticizing the debt deal McCarthy made with President Joe Biden and the vote to prevent a government shutdown, which conservatives opposed as they demanded steeper spending cuts.

But a long line of McCarthy supporters stood up for him, including Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, a leader of the conservative Freedom Caucus, who said, "He has kept his word." Rep. Garrett Graves, R-La., waved his cellphone, saying it was "disgusting" that hard-right colleagues were fundraising off the move in text messages seeking donations.

McCarthy, of California, insisted he would not cut a deal with Democrats to remain in power — not that he could have relied on their help even if he had asked.

Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said in a letter to colleagues that he wants to work with Republicans, but he was unwilling to provide the votes needed to save McCarthy.

"It is now the responsibility of the GOP members to end the House Repub-

lican Civil War," Jeffries said, announcing the Democratic leadership would vote for the motion to oust the speaker.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden "hopes the House will quickly elect a Speaker." Once that happens, she said, "he looks forward to working together with them."

At the Capitol, both Republicans and Democrats met privately ahead of the historic afternoon vote.

Behind closed doors, McCarthy told fellow Republicans: Let's get on with it.

McCarthy invoked Republican Speaker Joseph Cannon, who more than 100 years ago confronted his critics head-on by calling their bluff and setting the vote himself on his ouster. Cannon survived that takedown attempt, which was the first time the House had actually voted to consider removing its speaker. A more recent threat, in 2015, didn't make it to a vote.

Gaetz was in attendance, but he did not address the room.

Across the way in the Capitol, Democrats lined up for a long discussion and unified around one common point: McCarthy cannot be trusted, several lawmakers in the room said.

"I think it's safe to say there's not a lot of good will in that room for Kevin McCarthy," said Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass.

"At the end of the day, the country needs a speaker that can be relied upon," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif. "We don't trust him. Their members don't trust him. And you need a

certain degree of trust to be the speaker."

Removing the speaker launches the House Republicans into chaos. Typically, top leaders would be next in line for the job, but Majority Leader Steve Scalise is battling cancer and Majority Whip Tom Emmer, like any potential candidate, may have trouble securing the vote. Another leading Republican, Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York, is also a Trump ally.

"No matter who is going to be the speaker, the challenges still remain," Scalise said. "But I think the opportunity is there to continue moving forward."

Weather

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

(24-hour observations at 7:38 p.m. Tuesday)

High: 86; Low: 55; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.24 feet at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 86. South wind 5 to 15 mph.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. South wind around 10 mph.

Thursday: A chance of showers, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. High near 70. South wind 5 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Thursday Night: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm before 11 p.m., then showers likely. Low around 56. South-west wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. New precipitation amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.

Friday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 65.

Friday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43.

Saturday: A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 53.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 39.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 52.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39.

Columbus Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 57.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 39.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61.

Common council

(Continued from Page 1)

All matters that were put up for a vote were approved 5-0 with Mentzer, Janella Stronczek, Josh Hunt, Chandler Gerber, and Rick Elwell all voting in favor.

The council delayed matters involving the setting of official paid holidays, but took no action

on it. That change will also require an ordinance, and it was decided to wait until the pay matrix was approved before changing holidays.

The goal, Mentzer said, was to bring the city's holiday schedule more in line with the county's.

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Ohio man

(Continued from Page 1)

evidence of Starry's first attempt to solicit sex from a child.

The second attempt, which occurred Saturday at Kroger, resulted in Starry's arrest.

Before his vehicle was towed during his arrest, he reportedly told officers he had marijuana in his vehicle — with legal permission.

The officer located the

marijuana and informed Starry that a medical marijuana card for Ohio is not legal in Indiana. A livestream of the interaction is available on the group's Facebook page.

Starry is currently incarcerated at the Wells County Jail with a \$16,500 bond. A pretrial conference is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Nov. 29 in the Wells Circuit Court.

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OBITUARIES

Rick A. White, 66

Rick A. White, 66, passed away Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, at Auburn Village, in Auburn, Ind. following an extended illness.

Rick was born in Fort Wayne, on Feb. 9, 1957, to James "Jim" White and Barbara (Booker) DeLong; both parents preceded him in death. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Bluffton.

Rick worked for many years in the food service industry, retiring in 2019. He enjoyed fishing, music from Johnny Cash, baby sitting his nieces and nephews, following NASCAR racing, and he enjoyed taking long walks.

Survivors include three sisters, Marcy Shie of Ft. Wayne, Susan Hourigan of Bluffton and Donna DeLong of Ossian; two brothers, James White of Little Falls, N.Y. and Bill (JoEllen) White of Ft. Wayne; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Rick was preceded in death by a brother, Michael White in Aug. 2023.

Visitation will be held Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton. A funeral service will be held Friday, Oct. 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Pastor Les Cantrell will officiate. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton.

Memorial in Rick's memory can be made to Bi-County Services, Bluffton, Ind.

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



Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Monday, 5:07 p.m., Save On Liquor North. Caller reported man outside scaring customers. Man did not appear to be intoxicated but confused, officer gave the man a ride home.

Monday, 5:41 p.m., East River Road and Orchard Ridge Drive. Report of a man driving a lawn mower on the Rivergreenway walking path. Officer advised the man and he knew he had been warned not to do that and followed him home.

Monday, 7:26 p.m., 800 block of Park Drive. Report of a lost long hair tiger cat with orange harness. No chip detected.

Monday, 9:30 p.m., Shell. Report of a possible theft, male fighting with employee before leaving with possible rifle. Howard Michael arrested for theft, possession of meth, possession of paraphernalia, and intimidation with a deadly weapon.

Tuesday, 9:39 a.m., Wells County Courthouse. Report of a juvenile that left against probation's permission.

Tuesday, 11:57 a.m., 100 block of East Market Street. Caller requested an officer regarding a scam call he received.

County:
Monday, 1:44 p.m., 1700 North 600 East, Bluffton. Caller reported residence with unsecured doors. Homeowner advised all is fine.

Monday, 2:35 p.m., 2000 North 300 West. Caller reported ongoing issues with harassment after subject threw nails in her driveway.

Monday, 3:47 p.m., Ind. 1 and East 450 South, Bluffton. Protective order served on Aerika Campbell.

Tuesday, 2:12 a.m., 6200 North 100 West, Uniondale. Warrants served to Teresa G Bigler and David Dolan for theft.

Tuesday, 5:50 a.m., Ind. 224 and North 300 West, Uniondale. Officer assisted with blocking the road in property damage accident.

Ossian:
Tuesday, 7:09 a.m., White Rock Barn and Terrace, Ossian. Report of car accident.

ACCIDENTS

City:
Monday, 2:56 p.m., Ind. 1 and East 850 North. Austin Renninger advised he failed to slow his vehicle due to transmission issues and his Ford Ranger struck the rear end of Walker Stanley's Toyota Tundra. Damages not exceeding \$5,000.

Monday, 4:50 p.m., North Oak and West Miller streets. John Blocher was driving southbound on North Oak Street and went left of center while Christopher Anderson was making a right turn onto Oak Street. Anderson's Jeep Wrangler collided with the front drivers side wheel well of Blocher's Dodge Caravan. Damages not exceeding \$5,000.

ARRESTS

Howard Michael Bryant, 35, Bluffton, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony, intimidation with a deadly weapon, a Level 5 felony, criminal conversion, a Class A misdemeanor, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. No bond set.

Jessie C Click, 33, Bluffton, operating a vehicle while intoxicated - endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

David Dolan, 56, Uniondale, theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Teresa Gail Bigler, 62, Uniondale, theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Christen Michael Alan Ford, 24, Bluffton, possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,000.

Gini Lyn Monohollen, 42, Fort Wayne, driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor.

Harold Demond Waller, 46, Fort Wayne, driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Jorge Alberto Dominguez, 19, Garrett, minor consume an alcoholic beverage, a Class C misdemeanor.

Jamison Michael Rump, 20, Decatur, minor consume an alcoholic beverage, a Class C misdemeanor.

State Rep. Jerry Torr won't seek reelection, will retire after 28 years

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Longtime state Rep. Jerry Torr will not seek reelection next year to his central Indiana seat and will retire at the end of his current term after 28 years in the Indiana House, he announced Tuesday.

The Carmel Republican represents House District 39, which includes Carmel and southern Westfield in Hamilton County. He has served in the Indiana House since 1996 and is currently chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

Torr said in a news release that he plans to concentrate on his career in title insurance after his term ends next year and that he believes Indiana's future remains bright.

"During my time as a state representative, we've made Indiana one of the most attractive places in the country to start and grow a

business, and our local communities continue to reap the rewards through record growth in population, development and opportunity," he said.

Torr's district, once a safe Republican seat, has been increasingly competitive in recent years, The Indianapolis Star reported. In November 2022, Torr defeated Democratic challenger Matt McNally by nearly 5 percentage points. McNally has announced plans to run again.

Torr authored legislation in 2012 that made Indiana a so-called right-to-work state by banning unions from collecting mandatory fees from workers. In 2005, he sponsored legislation that moved all of Indiana's 92 counties to daylight saving time for the first time since most of the state opted out under state and federal legislation passed in the early 1970s.



Pictured in the photo cutting the ribbon is Mindy Yergler surrounded by family, friends and Chamber of Commerce supporters. (Photo submitted)

The Broken Vessel Sign Co. opens in Bluffton

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassadors joined together in a warm welcome to celebrate a new business, The Broken Vessel Sign Co., a captivating new addition to downtown Bluffton. The event was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the business's location, 127 West Market Street.

The Broken Vessel Sign Co. has breathed new life into its space through a series of meticulous renovations. The transformation included the removal of the ceiling to create a more inviting atmosphere, removal of outdated carpet to reveal stunning wood flooring, fresh paint on the walls to set the tone, removal of shelving to maximize space, and installation of brighter lighting to showcase the store's offerings.

Owner Mindy Yergler expressed her delight in the renovation journey, saying, "This has been a family affair involving our kids. It has been a very cool experience for them because we started this business back in 2011 as a hobby, and it was fun. I stayed home

with the kids, and it was something I could do as a creative outlet. I knew someday I wanted to have my own store. It has been amazing for people to walk in and see their reactions. All of the hard work has made it worth it."

The Broken Vessel Sign Co. specializes in custom signs and home decor. Each sign is meticulously crafted using select pine for framing and high-quality cabinet-grade wood. The lettering is all hand-painted, ensuring each piece is a unique work of art. Customers have the flexibility to choose their own wording or select from a range of ready-made options. The store also features a customizable bar where customers can personalize framing, color, font, size, and more. Additionally, a variety of different-sized clocks are available.

Beyond its exceptional signs, The Broken Vessel Sign Co. aspires to be more than a retail store—it aims to be a meaningful gift shop. Many of the items available carry special meaning or support charitable organizations. For instance, Gobena

Coffee sales benefit Life-song for Orphans, bags are sourced from a Christian company with a mission, necklaces carry meaningful messages, and there are inspirational cards, candles, scripture-themed T-shirts and sweatshirts, geometric towels, and plans for items designed for men. The store's commitment is to stand out as a unique shopping destination.

Mindy Yergler envisions the store as "a fun and cozy place where you are welcome to come in and find items for your house or a thoughtful gift for someone, or even yourself. We are all about creating an unforgettable shopping experience."

Customers can explore The Broken Vessel Sign Co.'s offerings in-store or online at etsy.com/shop/thebrokenvessel. The store is open Monday through Saturday, with weekday hours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday hours from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Happenings at Ouabache

Events at Ouabache State Park over the weekend will include:

Friday, Oct. 6: Look for the Interpretive Naturalists Bret Dausch and Rose Nevil and ask them about weekend events.

Saturday, Oct. 7: 10 a.m.: Bison Feeding at the Feeding Shed; 1 p.m.: Halloween Hound Hike, leaving from the Lakeside Shelter with your four-legged furry friend (dressed for the Costume Contest) for a hike around Kunkel Lake; 4 p.m.: Ouabache Bingo at the Campview Shelter.

Sunday, Oct. 8: 10 a.m.: Fire Tower Climb, meeting the naturalists by the brick pathway.

Reminders: Kids under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult for events. Adventure Backpacks may be secured from the park office with opportunities to win prizes (9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily). Information about any event at (260) 824-0926.

Obituary Policy

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

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

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

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The first cut is the hardest and not just in quilting

The year Mom died I decided to make a quilt, with no earthly idea of how. I had bought some fabric that I thought would look beautiful in a patchwork quilt — they sat on top of my dresser for longer than I'd like to admit. But when Mom died, I don't know, something clicked.

I went to the only person I could think of who could help, Mams — Mom's mom. She was 91 at the time and taught me everything I know about sewing, embroidery, and tie blankets. I used to sew pieces of paper together before moving on to handkerchiefs. I could only make eye-glass cases, but hey, I could sew.

Mom used to make blankets. My nephews still have the ones she made them — Whit often still carts his around five years later. Mom was talented like that though. She made blankets, wedding veils, hemmed my prom dresses and my friends', and made wedding bouquets.

I started my quilt in July and finished in August. When I told Mams I wanted to make a quilt, she laughed at me and told me I was supposed to make them in the winter — that way I could keep myself warm while making it. Instead, I picked one of the hottest months of the year. She went with me to pick out the rest of the fabric: blue, purple, pink, orange, yellow, and green. I asked her every question I could think of. But when it came time to make the first cut, I hesitated. What if I screwed it up? (This is called foreshadowing.) I asked her to do it for me and she laughed and said no. My own Mams telling her last granddaughter (she wouldn't get another for 15 years when her first great-granddaughter was born), no.

"My own mother wouldn't even make my first cut for me. The first cut is always the hardest, but you have to make it." It was wisdom. Wisdom I didn't want to hear, but wisdom.

So, I made the first cut with shaky hands. The hardest part of making a quilt? The cutting. I can sew a quilt together in a day, but the cutting? That part took me the better part of two weeks and the squares still came out crooked. Much like my dazzling personality and charm.

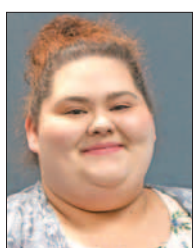
Mams, my younger cousin Bailey, and a friend of 21 years helped me arrange the triangle pieces to make squares. All four of us sat crowded around Mams' chair and pinned until our fingers hurt.

After I got them all sewn together, the backing put on and the corners sewed (the second hardest part, which Mams did for me), I had her embroider "May the circle be unbroken" at the bottom. I wouldn't call myself religious, — spiritual sure, but that phrase means a lot to our family. It comes from a song the Carter Family wrote: "Will the circle be unbroken." The song, which never fails to make Mams and me cry, is about the death of a mother, hope, and persevering through grief. It seemed fitting.

Two weeks ago I made a baby blanket for a friend. Mams watched me and my oldest nephew, George, sit on the floor and pin the edges together. I was explaining to him why we pin the two sides facing each other, instead of back to back. I couldn't help but think of Mams telling me the same thing when I was around his age. I know one day I will likely have to tell George, or his brother Whit, or my niece Rozlynn — or the dozen other kids that are my surrogate nieces and nephews — the same wisdom Mams has imparted on me.

The first cut is always the hardest, but you have to make it.

newsroom@news-banner.com

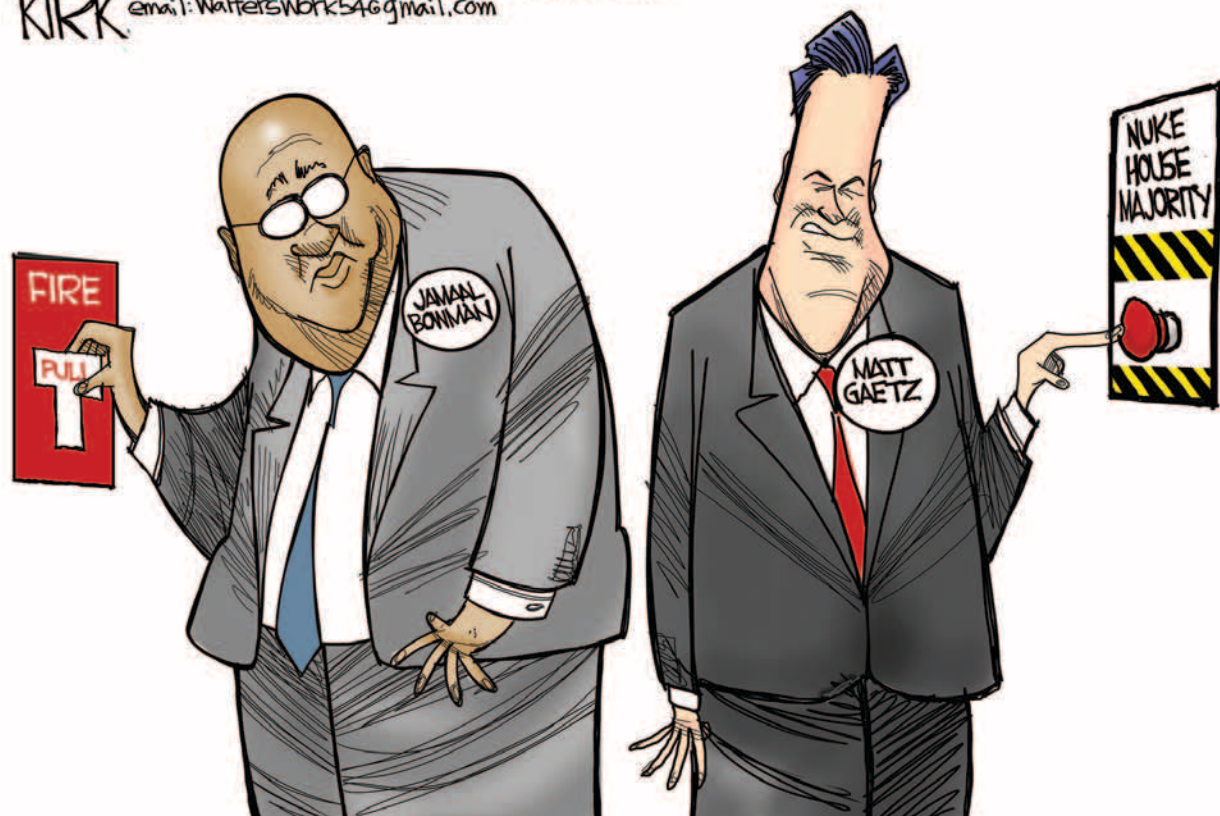


Carrie Penrod



Mams working on what I call "my beautiful disaster quilt."

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A bomb thrower targets his own

The Matt Gaetz moment is upon us, and unless you enjoy politics as absurdist theater, you might want to skip it.

The bomb-throwing Republican congressman from Florida, who has hitherto distinguished himself with sundry attention-getting antics, is making his biggest play yet by trying to remove Kevin McCarthy from the speakership by offering a so-called motion to vacate.

McCarthy's alleged offense is relying on Democratic votes to pass a last-minute spending measure over the weekend to avert a government shutdown that would have been blamed on Republicans.

Would it have been better if McCarthy hadn't had to do this, or hadn't done it without first putting on the table a Republican version of a stop-gap bill? Sure. But Gaetz and some of his GOP confederates refused to get behind any remotely plausible Republican alternative.

So, Gaetz is the arsonist and the fireman, forcing McCarthy into the expedient for which he maintains McCarthy should be fired.

Joseph Heller would understand. Since Gaetz's motion to vacate requires a majority to succeed and presumably has the support of only a small fraction of Republicans, Gaetz himself has to look to Democrats to help him take the speaker's gavel from McCarthy. Who's the apostate now?

Giving Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries ultimate say over the composition of the Republican leadership of the House is a funny way to show ideological or partisan purity. Indeed, Gaetz reportedly made his initial outreach on behalf of his motion to the Congressional Progressive Caucus — because, of course, the most left-wing members of the House are very discerning judges of the quality of Republican speakers.

In other words, Gaetz wants to use a majority of House Democrats to counteract the will of a majority of House Republicans on the question of McCarthy's fate.

If this works, it should long be studied as one of the most witless acts of partisan self-sabotage in congressional history. Gaetz makes Marjorie Taylor Greene look like Joseph Cannon by comparison.



Rich Lowry

The escapade, with its echo of past House Republican internal contentions, requires an addition to the famous Karl Marx quote — history repeats itself first as tragedy, second as farce, finally as a ginned-up event for some extra notoriety.

The likes of Matt Gaetz believe that Republicans have a problem with the quality of their leadership when the quality of the followership is more the issue.

Republican backbenchers used to be people such as Jack Kemp and Paul Ryan, who became something by promoting ideas that they carefully developed, sincerely believed, and persuaded their colleagues to embrace.

Now, the emphasis is on becoming a micro-celebrity via constant outrage.

There's a reason that Gaetz conducts himself with the thoughtfulness of an anonymous Twitter account — because attention, especially on social media, is his ultimate metric of success.

Congress is merely a platform for the development and enhancement of a personal brand, not an institution to be honored and served. In this sense, Gaetz is a better dressed and much more right-wing version of John Fetterman.

None of this is to say that Speaker McCarthy is above reproach. Another flaw with the motion-to-vacate gambit, though, is that there's no good alternative. Even Gaetz, the ringmaster of his own circus, isn't touting anyone else — and for a reason. There's no one who would obviously do a better job. There's no one who represents a different philosophical disposition.

With a slender majority and Democrats in control of the Senate and the White House, House Republicans inevitably have limited leverage, and Speaker of the House is inherently a thankless job in these circumstances. It requires corraling a fractious caucus, some members of which will never be satisfied, at a time when there's a premium on being bombastic and recalcitrant.

And then, there's the fact that whoever is Speaker has to deal with Matt Gaetz. And who would want to do that?

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

How the Supreme Court can limit Congress's taste for self-diminishment

Rarely has Congress devised anything as aggressively unconstitutional as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Created by the 848-page 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulation legislation, the CFPB is a crystalline illustration of progressivism's aspirations for an administrative state largely free from political accountability.

Tuesday, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments about the CFPB. Properly decided, this case will limit Congress's capacity to diminish itself. There is a split between two circuit courts about this: Does the statute that stipulates the CFPB's funding constitute an unconstitutional surrender of power by Congress? The Supreme Court can strengthen Congress by limiting its power to abandon its foundational power of the purse.

Congress empowered the CFPB to "regulate the offering and provision of consumer financial products or services." Allowed to define "financial products" spacioously, it can regulate almost everything touching finance — mortgages, financial advisers, retirement plans, car loans, etc. It can "declare," by criteria it concocts, business practices to be "abusive," "unfair," "deceptive" or involving "discrimination." For these offenses, which businesses often cannot know in advance are offenses, the CFPB can impose whatever penalties it deems suitable.

The CFPB, without accusing a tiny law firm of any wrongdoing, drove it out of business with time-consuming and money-devouring demands for documents. Such bullying, critics of the CFPB argue, is enabled by the bureau's unconstitutional funding process, which insulates it from accountability.

To protect the CFPB from even presidential control, Congress stipulated that the bureau's direc-



George Will

tor could be removed only "for cause" ("inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance"), not for policy differences with the president. In 2020, the Supreme Court ruled that this uniquely unlimited sovereignty violated the president's constitutional powers.

The court now will consider the CFPB's most garish constitutional flaw.

To insulate the bureau even from oversight by future Congresses, the 2010 Congress made the bureau's funding independent of Congress. It placed the bureau in the Federal Reserve System, which itself is funded outside the appropriations process by bank assessments and by interest on its own holdings. The CFPB simply decides how much money it wants — up to 12 percent of the Fed's "total operating expenses." Last fiscal year, the bureau wanted almost \$650 million.

The CFPB's legislative history lavishes — effectively uncapped — funding to ensure what the bureau calls its "full independence." And because the president now controls the bureau's director, the president will predictably veto any attempt by Congress to regain power over the bureau. It is gone forever, unless the court acts.

The Supreme Court has said that the bureau "acts as a mini legislature, prosecutor, and court, responsible for creating substantive rules for a wide swath of industries, prosecuting violations, and levying knee-buckling penalties against private citizens."

The Constitution's appropriations clause says "no money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law." Congress has in no sense appropriated the CFPB's money. Hitherto, the bureau

has flaunted its "full independence" from Congress, pointing to Congress's insistence that its funds "shall not be construed to be government funds or appropriated monies." And indeed, the 2010 Congress was eager to surrender to the executive branch the power of the purse regarding the CFPB in perpetuity.

Now, however, the CFPB, facing a constitutional challenge, says Congress effectively appropriated the money the bureau requisitions because its power to do so ultimately derives from Congress's 2010 statute. But as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit has said in ruling against the CFPB, by the bureau's logic, "no federal statute could ever violate the Appropriations Clause" because Congress enacts all statutes.

The CFPB embodies progressivism as Woodrow Wilson envisioned it. Wilson, the first president to roundly criticize the nation's Founding, was a thorough foe of the Constitution's separation of powers. He provided the template for today's progressivism: Ever more power should be concentrated in Washington, and ever more of it should be concentrated in executive agencies staffed by supposedly disinterested experts insulated from supervision by a marginalized Congress. But the New Civil Liberties Alliance says in its amicus brief, "The improper concentration of power within the Executive Branch is no less a separation-of-powers violation simply because Congress itself has acquiesced in the violation."

If properly decided against the CFPB, this case will demonstrate that when the court energetically uses its power to enforce the separation of powers, it often enlarges not its power but that of Congress. By invalidating the CFPB's funding, the court can say: Congress lacks the power to surrender its power of the purse.

georgewill@washpost.com

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Wednesday, Oct. 4, the 277th day of 2023. There are 88 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 4, 1957, the Space Age began as the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite, into orbit.

On this date:
In 1777, Gen. George Washington's troops launched an assault on the British at Germantown, Pennsylvania, resulting in heavy American casualties.

In 1887, the International Herald Tribune had its beginnings as the Paris Herald, a European edition of the New York Herald.

In 1940, Germany's

Adolf Hitler and Italy's Benito Mussolini conferred at Brenner Pass in the Alps.

In 1965, Pope Paul VI became the first pope to visit the Western Hemisphere as he addressed the U.N. General Assembly.

In 1970, rock singer Janis Joplin was found dead in her Hollywood hotel room at age 27.

In 1990, for the first time in nearly six decades, German lawmakers met in the Reichstag for the first meeting of the nation's reunified parliament.

In 1991, 26 nations, including the United States, signed the Madrid Protocol, which imposed a 50-year ban on oil exploration and mining in Antarctica.

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Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

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

Fall, holidays, and spiders: Guess which one I hate

I am a fan of fall—nature's changing colors, cooler temperatures, football, and certain holidays. A list of 2023 fall holidays includes Columbus Day (10/09), Boss's Day (10/16), Sweetest Day (10/21), Halloween (10/31), Veterans' Day (11/11), Thanksgiving (11/23), and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (12/07).



Anna Spalding

Columbus Day is riddled with controversy, so I'll avoid discussing it today. And I will discount Boss's Day and Sweetest Day. They are merely dates on a calendar selected by WHO KNOWS to sell flowers, candy, and greeting cards. I will leave Veterans' Day and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day to someone who will give them the proper patriotic focus. Because I am a gratitude junkie, I am grateful we have a holiday to commemorate it. I'll postpone that topic. We have a holiday at the end of the month that is just plain fun. Halloween!

Jim (my husband), Java (our chocolate lab), and I will be celebrating it twice this year. We

will enjoy Halloween festivities at Poor Farmer's Campground in Fletcher, Ohio, the third weekend in October. Attired as pirates, we will greet trick-or-treaters at our campsite. We will don our costumes a second time for Warsaw's official trick-or-treat night.

It's not so much Halloween I want to explore. Rather, it's a prop associated with Halloween decorations—THE SPIDER—and my fear of it. I can express my fear best through a story of growing up in our very old farmhouse on 1000 N, west of Ossian.

"Anna, go to the basement. Get a jar of beets for supper."

"Sure, Mom," ten-year-old me obediently but reluctantly replies. I slink to the breezeway, pull on a pair of black vinyl, knee-high boots after having shaken them upside down (worrying that a spider might be waiting deep in the boot to sample a succulent toe), and trudge to the basement door. My heart quickens. I stand before the door, staring at the hook latch and wondering why we keep it locked. What are we locking in? Are there creatures with deadly venoms waiting for the day someone forgets to lock the door so the



intruder can escape the basement to wreak havoc on the unsuspecting family, murdering systematically? Or what are we keeping out? Do we fear someone will enter our home and dash for the basement to steal all the meats and vegetables Mom so painstakingly canned and stored there? I lift the hook latch lock (which probably wouldn't keep anything or anybody in or out), open the door gingerly, and peer into the inky blackness.

Click! The light switch sends a current of electricity to a bare bulb suspended from the ceiling in the middle of the basement. It poorly illuminates the 20' x 20' windowless cavern of river rock walls with homemade shelves bowing under the weight of canned goods ... and spiders, no doubt. Straining to see the bottom steps, I am assaulted by the stale odor of wet lumber, damp clay, and years of ventilation deprivation. I should have brought a flashlight.

I begin my descent slowly. Halfway there, I stumble and nearly fall to a certain death when on the fourth step from the bottom, a strand of spider webbing drags across my face. Frantically, I wipe the web away, grab the wall,

and regain my footing. Pausing momentarily to catch my breath, I hear my heart pounding... I feel it straining to leap out of my chest. I proceed and stand briefly on the second step, surveying the situation. The bottom step is totally submerged thanks to generous spring rains and that river rock foundation. The planks that are supposed to serve as walkways across the dirt floor are floating. My boots are my only protection from the chilly, murky water.

Think, Anna, think! I don't want to have to search. Time in that cavernous pit must be kept to a minimum.

Northwest corner. Bottom two shelves. That's right. That's where I'll find beets. I leave the security of the second step and plunge my boot-protected foot into the water, making waves as I stride to the shelves where the beets rest. The glass Mason jars provide anchor for the intricate webs of spiders living there.

Facing the shelves and fearing its inhabitants, I find an old rag on another shelf. It's stiff and rough from weeks of banishment in this dungeon. Holding just a corner, I shake it, praying no eight-legged creature has made the fabric its home. Certain it's not infested, I wrap it around my hand and reach for a jar of beets.

Grab and go. Race to the steps,

slogging through water. Climb the stairs to safety. Switch off the light. Slam the door. Secure the hook latch. Breathe.

"Here's the beets you wanted, Mom," I proclaim as I present the "prize" I awarded myself for bravery in the basement.

"Thanks, Sweetie. Would your mind going back down and get a jar of canned beef for tomorrow night's beef and noodles?"

"Mind? Sure." I lie as my heart began to race all over again.

Here's the thing: Halloween is a whole lot of fun—the parties, the decorations, corn mazes, cider, caramel apples, and candy corn. (I know...some of you hate those orange, white, and yellow nuggets. I don't, especially when they're mixed with peanuts.) The costumes, the make-up—so creative. Let's just leave the fake spiders of all sizes and their wispy webs out of it!

Let's talk.

annaspalding1956@gmail.com

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

Children at risk for heart disease

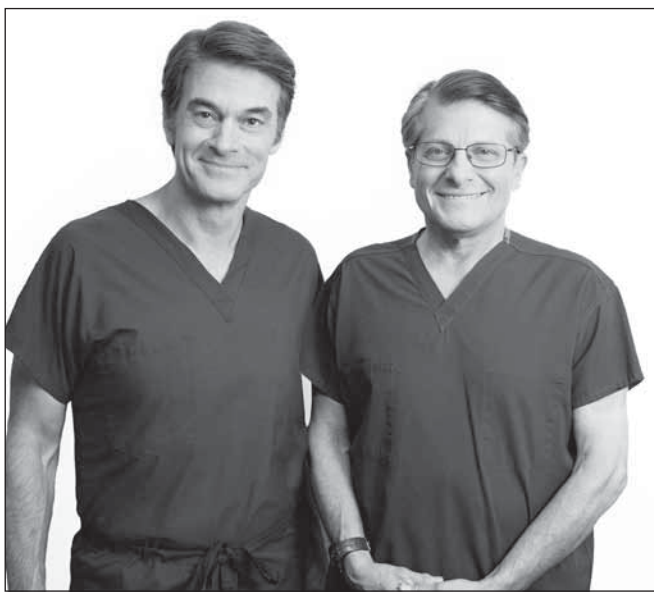
Also: Fighting off the triple-demic

Question: My son's pediatrician says that he's at risk for heart disease. That seems ridiculous, he's only 12. Should I get a second opinion? — Gloria T., Moline, Illinois

Answer: Second opinions are always a good idea — especially if you're unsure of the advice or diagnosis you or your child has received. But ... and listen carefully ... if your child is one of the 39 percent of kids between age 12 and 19 who are overweight or obese, there are serious health repercussions, including premature heart attack and stroke. In addition, around 53 percent of kids have elevated lousy LDL cholesterol and triglycerides; 18 percent have prediabetes; and 15 percent have elevated blood pressure.

And as dangerous as all that is -- it's even more dangerous that most kids aren't lucky enough to have a tuned-in doctor who checks for those risks and wants to help you restore your child's health. A new study in *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*, shows that across the country, kids who have these risk factors for heart disease often have to wait a year to see a pediatric cardiologist a year that can make a major difference in their immediate and long-term health.

If your doctor can't find a cardiologist who can see your child quickly, there is still a lot you can do. A change in diet to encourage weight loss and a family commitment to daily exercise can help your child reduce the profound health risks he is facing. Eliminate highly processed foods from



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

your pantry; serve vegetables and fruits in every meal. Make sure your child gets an hour of sweaty, fun activity daily. In addition, you can have your child's heart health monitored regularly by the pediatrician. If you and the doctor conclude your new lifestyle changes aren't enough to improve your child's heart, work with the pediatrician to identify local programs to manage your child's cardiovascular risk factors or contact the American Heart Association for information on local resources.

Question: I know you say that everyone should get a flu shot as soon as they are available, but what about another COVID-19 vaccine and this RSV one? — Steph Y., Orlando, Florida

Answer: To head off a triple-demic this winter, experts recommend that everyone 6 months and older should get the new flu shot. Vaccinations for COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial

virus (RSV) are also being recommended for some or all folks.

COVID-19: Pharmaceutical companies are working on this year's version of the COVID-19 shot — modified to work against newer strains of the virus. Exactly when it will be available is not known (probably end of September). When it is, it's recommended for everyone 6 months and older, including pregnant women. This is particularly important if you have not been vaccinated or been vaccinated only once. As for other folks, despite the recommendation, we are waiting on new data for those already vaccinated and boosted two or three times. The Cleveland Clinic research indicates that a fourth mRNA COVID-19 shot (booster) hindered rather than strengthened immunity for those under age 50 who were already vaccinated. And it may be best to wait for more data, even for older folks or those

at high risk, who have had been vaccinated and boosted at least twice. So talk to your doc, discuss your added risk factors, and stay tuned for more information.

RSV: There is now a first-time vaccine for RSV. It's approved for newborns and infants born during or entering their first RSV season, and in children up to 24 months of age who remain vulnerable to severe RSV disease through their second RSV season. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also recommends the vaccine for adults age 60+. Between 60,000-160,000 older U.S. adults are hospitalized and 6,000 to 10,000 die due to RSV infection annually. RSV can be particularly harmful to folks with asthma, COPD or congestive heart failure. There is not enough data on how the RSV shot interacts with the other vaccines, so get it on its own.

Fort Wayne's Arts United 50th year celebration

Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Louis I. Kahn-designed Arts United Center with an open house-style event on Sunday, Oct. 8 from 1 to 5 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public and feature the his story of the

community theater with pop-up exhibits of performances, events and experiences since its opening in 1973. Also showcased will be the expansion plans for the building.

Behind the scenes tours will be given of the stage, backstage and rehearsal spaces. Live entertainment

will be offered and a presentation by Arts United will be held at 2 p.m. The Fort Wayne Philharmonic will play at 2:30 p.m.

Food trucks also will be on hand and include Brooks BBQ, Tocho Snack Bar, Savannah Soul and Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck.

Events at Fort Wayne's Riverfront

Some free events at Fort Wayne Promenade Park will include the following:

Hula Hoop Dancing at the Park Foundation Pavilion on Oct. 8, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A hula hoop workshop for beginners and first timers of all ages. More information at riverfrontfw.org/events.

Yoga at the Riverfront on the second Sundays of the month including Oct. 8, Nov. 12, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Park Foundation Pavilion.

Sunday Heritage Concerts on the second Sundays

of the month including : Oct. 8, 2:30 p.m.: American Legion Bad of Fort Wayne (polka fest)

Nov. 12, 2:30 p.m.: American Legion Band of Fort Wayne (Veteran's Tribute)

Open Mic Nights with Kyla J, Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Park Foundation Pavilion on Oct. 18 and Nov. 2. Sign up to guarantee a spot with Jesus Rosario at Jesus.Rosario@cityofFortWayne.org.

For information on all events check out Riverfrontfw.org/events.

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Saturday, October 7th 3pm, 5:30pm & 8:15pm
Sunday, October 8th 2pm & 4:30pm

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Thursday, October 5th 6:20pm
Friday, October 6th 6:20pm & 8:30pm
Saturday, October 7th 3:30pm, 5:45pm & 8pm
Sunday, October 8th 2:20pm & 4:45pm

www.abcinemainc.com

Twin Bridge Conservation Club All-you-can-eat Fish, Chicken & Tenderloin supper

The Twin Bridge Conservation Club is hosting an all-you-can-eat fish, chicken & tenderloin supper on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 4:30-7 p.m.

Food will be supplied by Dan's Fish Fry. The cost for adults is \$12, for children 6-12 the cost is \$6.

The Twin Bridge Conservation Club is located at 6348 S 600 West-90 in Warren.

The Church at McNatt to host pork chop supper on Oct. 14

The 'McMen' of the Church of McNatt will host a pork chop supper on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 4:30-7 p.m.

The menu includes pork chop, cheesy potatoes, green beans and a variety of desserts and a drink.

A free-will offering will be taken. The Church of McNatt is located at 9183 W 800 S-90, in Montpelier.

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The News-Banner

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Offense pushes Knights through to sectional semis with win over Warriors

By RYAN WALKER

Norwell had no issues winning the girls' soccer sectional quarterfinal 7-1 over Woodlan Tuesday night.

Grace Mann netted four of the seven goals to continue her spectacular sophomore season. She leads the team and Northeast 8 Conference with 21 goals, also good for 10th in all of 2A.

"Having Grace in there is just amazing," head coach Dan Batdorff said after the match. "The girl can do so much. She's a phenomenal player."

The offensive explosion extended to Aubrey Meyer, Oliva Daniel, and Karrigan Melcher, holding the rest of the goals.

Batdorff said that one of the objectives on Tuesday was to push the ball to the outside rather than going up the middle on through balls. The change in style can produce different ways to score and involves good passing.

Six of the seven goals were by assists: Makenzie Fuess (3), Morgan Batdorff (2), and Melcher (1) were credited with them.

The entire Knights unit was getting action on the stat sheet, which is exactly what Batdorff likes to see.

"The whole team was getting involved," Batdorff said. "We made it to the outside a little bit more tonight, which we've been practicing up the middle. It's one of the things

that we've been practicing, and I thought they did a good job with that."

With the win, Norwell advances to the semi-final on Thursday at 5 p.m. The Knights are the hosts throughout the tournament.

Norwell will be faced with a big challenge, though. The No. 4 in 2A Belmont (13-2-2) Braves, who took care of Marion Tuesday night 11-0, will be coming to town.

The past two meetings have gone Belmont's way, but Norwell, who is unranked, has made it a match both times.

Last year, the Braves eliminated the Knights in the sectional 2-1 in what was a thriller. Norwell went up 1-0 on Mann's goal, but the Braves scored the final two in the second half to advance and eventually fall in the regional championship.

This season, Belmont won a close one, 1-0.

The Braves have been a thorn in the side of the Knights, but perhaps this could be the matchup that finally changes it all.

"I talked to the girls tonight and equated this as a three-day mountain to climb," Batdorff said. "We just cleared the first hurdle. We've got the first bridge done, and now we've got the steepest, most tactical one. We've got to climb Belmont."

sports@news-banner.com



Norwell's Karrigan Melcher (left) dribbles the ball down the field past Woodlan's Ava Werling during the first round of the girls' soccer sectional Tuesday night. Melcher scored a goal to help the Knights win handily 7-1 over the Warriors, advancing to play Belmont in the semi-final. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

Sports Roundup

Raiders earn first volleyball victory over Jets

Southern Wells got its first volleyball win of the season in a five-set victory over Anderson Prep on the road Tuesday night.

The Raiders lost the first two sets by a score of 25-23, 25-23, but came back in the final three to secure the win. The Raiders won the third set 25-19, the fourth 25-14, and the fifth 15-8.

Southern Wells will finish out the regular season with a home match against ACAC foe Adams Central at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5.

Three Tigers named to ACAC all-conference tennis

Three Bluffton boys' tennis players were named to the all-ACAC conference team.

Anthony Hartman and Nolan Lambert were on the second team for singles, while Coy Lantz and Dane Schlagenhauf made it in doubles.

The Tigers won the ACAC with a record of 2-1 in a tiebreaker over Jay County.

No. 8 Spartans top Knights in boys' tennis regional

No. 8 Homestead swept Norwell in boys' tennis, ending the Knights season in the regional semi-final Tuesday afternoon at Peru High School.

The Knights lost the match 5-0.

Results were not sent in to the team at the time of print.

Norwell sweeps East Noble in NE8 volleyball match

Norwell's volleyball team swept East Noble in volleyball Tuesday night on the road.

The Knights won the first set 25-22, the second 25-11, and the third 25-23.

Stat leaders for the night were Vanessa Rosswurm and Macie Saalfrank with seven kills each, Jordyn Xayyachack with 20 digs and four aces, Saalfrank with 18 assists, and Mallory Falls with two blocks.

Norwell also won the junior varsity match in two sets (25-18, 25-22). The freshmen defeated Wabash 2-1 (25-15, 9-25, 15-9).

Norwell will be at Huntington North at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5.

VanMeter released by Nashville

Norwell graduate Josh VanMeter was released by the Nashville Sounds, the triple-A affiliate for the Milwaukee Brewers, on Sept. 24. The 24th was the final game of the regular season for the team.

The 10-year professional baseball veteran hit .209 for the Sounds, hitting six home runs while driving in 22 RBIs in 210 plate appearances.

VanMeter last saw the majors in 2022 with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

He is now a free agent and hasn't missed a professional season in his career.

Knights fall to Patriots in boys' soccer sectional

The Norwell boys' soccer team fell to Heritage at Woodlan High School 2-1 in Round 1 of the boys' soccer sectional Tuesday night.

Zane Borne scored the lone goal for the Knights.

Tigers remain unbeaten in both 8th & 7th grade football

Bluffton's middle school football teams picked up wins on the road against Heritage and St. Charles Borromeo.

The eighth grade team won 20-14 over Heritage, improving its record to 6-0.

Gavin Grieser tossed two touchdown passes to Parker Barnes. Barnes also scored one on the ground.

The seventh grade team won 20-8 over St. Charles Borromeo, improving its record to 5-0.

Ethan Ribich threw two touchdowns to Maddox White. White also scored one on the ground.

The last middle school game of the season for both teams will be at home against Adams Central on Tuesday.

Knights lose to Barons in JV football

Norwell's junior varsity football team lost 35-14 Monday night.

Cayden Cassel threw a 15-yard touchdown pass, and Adam Mahnensmith scored on a 62-yard rush.

Luke Drieband picked up a sack in the endzone for a safety.



Norwell senior forward Dekota Hubble signs with Huntington University Tuesday morning. Pictured from left to right are Norwell head coach Eric Thornton, mother Michelle Hubble, Huntington head coach Darby Maggard, Dekota Hubble, Huntington assistant coach Paige Wright, and father Darin Hubble (Photo by Ryan Walker)

Hubble signs with Huntington University to play basketball

By RYAN WALKER

Norwell forward Dekota Hubble signed her letter of intent to join Huntington University's women's basketball program on Tuesday.

With friends, family, and two of the Foresters basketball coaches in attendance, Hubble marks the first of three Knights to sign with a college program.

Kennedy Fuelling (Marian) and Makenzie Fuess (St. Francis) will sign at a later date.

The senior went to visit the campus during an open gym and immediately connected with the girls on the current team. She felt comfortable with them and with the coaching staff.

"When I first went there in the summer for an open gym, it kind of instantly clicked," Hubble said after inking with the Foresters. "I really felt comfortable with the girls I met, and then Darby (Maggard) and Paige (Wright) are really good coaches."

Maggard is in her sec-

ond year with Huntington. She played at NCAA Division I Belmont, where she was quite the shooter on the floor. She broke the school's record for three-point percentage (43.1) and free throw percentage (92.4).

The second-year coach said she's trying to build a culture that has great chemistry and grit with the Foresters to win championships. Those two tangibles are exactly what Hubble has.

"First and foremost, she's an excellent teammate," Maggard said. "She just makes the floor better by just being out there. She encourages her teammates, incredibly athletic, and just disrupts the floor defensively. And honestly, she comes from a great program. Norwell is an incredible program and has been for a really long time, and so it's a big deal recruiting her from here."

Last year, Hubble averaged five points per game for the Knights but was a force on the defensive side

of the ball.

She led the team in rebounds (5.3 per contest) and blocks (29) while shooting 47 percent from the field.

"I think she could be one of the best defenders we'll have on our team," Maggard said. "I also think she could eventually be a top rebounder in the Crossroads League just because of her motor and her length and ability to crash the boards."

Norwell has high expectations this season with three college-level players on its roster and didn't graduate anyone from last year.

The Knights fell in the regional final against Hamilton Heights but posted a 21-4 record. This will be the season with the potential to go the furthest.

"I think if we work hard enough and want it bad enough, we can make it to state, at least past regionals," Hubble said. "I think we're going to be really good this year."

sports@news-banner.com

High School Calendar

WEDNESDAY, OCT 4

VOLLEYBALL: North Side at Bluffton, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCT 5

GIRLS SOCCER: (sectional semi-final) Belmont at Norwell, 5 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, OCT 6

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

WEDNESDAY, OCT 11

No events scheduled

THURSDAY, OCT 12

VOLLEYBALL: (sectional) Peru at Norwell, 6 p.m.; Southern Wells vs. Lakeland Christian at Southwood, 7 p.m.; Whitko at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT 13

FOOTBALL: Norwell at Columbia City, 7 p.m.; Bluffton at Lakeland, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at South Adams, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT 14

CROSS COUNTRY (CO-ED): (sectional) Norwell, Bluffton, Southern Wells at Taylor University, 10:30 a.m. boys race, 11:15 a.m. girls race.



Norwell's Noah Schamerloh, (middle) gets up high as he gets his head on the ball as teammate Kyle Morris (30) comes in to assist during Tuesday's Sectional game against Heritage. The Knights ended their season with a 2-1 loss to the Patriots. (Photo by Chad Kline)

McLaren seeking at least \$23 million in damages from the IndyCar champ Palou in court

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer
McLaren Racing is suing IndyCar champion Alex Palou for at least \$23 million to recoup costs the team says it lost when the driver reneged on the contract he signed to join the team.

Palou, a 26-year-old Spaniard, guaranteed that he had "no outstanding obligation under any contract or agreement" that would keep him from joining McLaren after the IndyCar season ended, according to the Sept. 29 filing in the High Court of Justice Business and Property Courts of England and Wales Commercial Court. The Associated Press viewed the 17-page filing Tuesday.

The lawsuit is the latest twist in an ugly spat involving the talented young driver and two teams: McLaren, which in July 2022 said it had signed Palou and had him earmarked for an IndyCar seat and a reserve driver role with its Formula One team, and Chip Ganassi Racing, which said it had the contractual rights for Palou for the 2023 season.

Palou and Ganassi entered mediation and a resolution was reached a year ago in which Palou would drive for Ganassi in 2023 but could do F1 work for McLaren when it did not interfere with IndyCar. He was able to participate in a practice session last season for McLaren, tested for the F1 team both on track and in a simulator, and was the reserve driver for McLaren at F1's Miami Grand Prix in May.

However, McLaren Racing CEO Zak Brown was contacted Aug. 8 and told Palou would not be joining McLaren. The filing says attorneys told Brown that Palou had signed a three-year extension with Ganassi, where he won the 2021 and 2023 championships, through 2026.

Palou did not respond to a message left seeking comment Tuesday. He previously confirmed to The Associated Press last month that he's not had any conversation with Brown or McLaren representatives since before the team was informed he was not honoring the McLaren contract. Palou also severed ties with the management group that brokered the deal with McLaren.

The nearly \$23 million in damages McLaren is seeking is broken down in future sponsorship tied to Palou joining McLaren, the costs of using him as a reserve F1 driver, how much McLaren spent developing Palou for F1 and a \$400,000 advance on his 2024 salary. McLaren is not seeking repayment of legal fees it says it covered for Palou in last year's fight with Ganassi.

The filing states that after McLaren

had already been informed Palou was not honoring his contract with the team, a second letter from attorneys representing Palou incorrectly claimed he had been promised a full-time seat in F1 and that because he was only going to be a reserve driver "a complete severing of the relationship (was) in order."

McLaren held a hotel room in Singapore two weeks ago for Palou in anticipation of him being the team's reserve driver that F1 weekend. Palou did not attend the race for McLaren.

Citing pending litigation, Palou has repeatedly declined to comment on the situation this year but attempted to explain his silence last month at a media event ahead of the IndyCar season finale.

He indicated he'd never expressed interest in F1 until after he'd won his 2021 IndyCar title and an opportunity to at least try to make it to the top racing series in the world presented itself. But with only a reserve driver role available, he said, he would prefer to stay in IndyCar. McLaren has both Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri signed through at least 2025.

"If you look at my interviews until 2021, I would say I was not focused on F1 at all, and that was totally true. But things changed when I won the championship," Palou said last month. "I was 24. I had just won my first big championship and what if I try something and it goes sideways, then I can come back when I'm 27 and still super young and can still do it for 10 or 15 years."

"The door opened a little bit with McLaren. It was amazing. The opportunity was great, but there was nothing else there of, 'You will have a car.' Maybe if I was 20, I would have waited, but I'm not 20. I'm 26. I don't know of anyone who waited until 30 that got into Formula One."

McLaren contends Palou signed two contracts: the first with McLaren Racing as the F1 reserve driver and a separate deal with Arrow McLaren to compete in IndyCar for the team while also serving as the F1 backup.

Among the damages McLaren is seeking is nearly \$15.5 million in lost revenue under official partner agreements with sponsors that anticipated Palou would be the driver. The team said it also lost some \$3.5 million expected from third parties surrounding Palou's participation in its testing program.

McLaren also wants to recoup all money spent on Palou when he was the test driver, both on track and in the simulator, and money it is spending seeking a replacement for Palou.

Terry Francona steps away as Guardians manager, will assume future role with club

By TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — For one of the few times in his life, Terry Francona won't have to follow a strict daily schedule. He's got freedom and flexibility.

He'll no longer have to rush to Progressive Field early in the morning to review scouting reports. There's no required pregame media interviews anymore, and Francona doesn't have to get out to the field for batting practice.

Those hectic days are done. "I'm going to be OK not having that," Francona said. "It's been 40-something years of that. I'm ready to rest a little bit and let somebody else be in charge."

No one, though, will replace him. One of baseball's most beloved figures, Francona stepped away from the game — at least temporarily — on Tuesday, ending a 23-year managerial career that began in Philadelphia, peaked with two World Series titles in Boston and concluded with an 11-season stay in Cleveland.

Although his decision to leave the Guardians has been known for weeks, Francona and the Guardians didn't make it official until two days after their season ended with a third-place finish in the AL Central.

And while he won't return to Cleveland's dugout, the 64-year-old Francona will have a future unspecified role with the team.

He's not sure what or when. And that's just fine.

"I know I need to go home and get healthy and see what I miss about our game and then maybe after some time see the best way to maybe quench that appetite — whatever it is," he said. "I don't foresee managing again. If I was going to manage, I like doing it here. But I also don't want to just turn away from the game."

Francona, who only had two losing seasons with Cleveland, became the fourth major league manager to depart in five days following the firings of San Francisco's Gabe Kapler, the New York Mets' Buck Showalter and the Los Angeles Angels' Phil Nevin.

Slowed by serious medical issues in recent years, Francona intends to spend more time playing with his grandkids, getting healthy (shoulder replacement and double hernia surgery is scheduled for next week) and enjoying an extended offseason after a four-decade grind.

At some point, he'll consult with Chris Antonetti, the team's president of baseball operations, and general manager Mike Chernoff on how he can further assist an organization he's helped make one of MLB's strongest.

While he was saluted over the season's final weeks, Francona stayed clear of saying this was a retirement.

Maybe more of a pause than anything permanent.

Team president Jed Hoyer sees bigger things in store for the Cubs after missing the playoffs

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Cubs took a big step toward contending for a championship and changed the outlook for a franchise coming off back-to-back losing seasons.

It didn't end the way President of Baseball Operations Jed Hoyer would have liked. But he sees something bigger taking shape.

"The shell of a really good team is there," he said Tuesday. "Obviously, we have to make additions and we have to find ways to improve. But I feel really good, given where we were a year ago. The number of pieces we have that are contributing players on a really good team is there, and we just need to supplement that."

The Cubs finished second in the NL Central at 83-79 and missed the playoffs by a game after faltering down the stretch in a season full of big swings. They went from being 10 games below .500 in June to 12 above in early September, only to go 7-15 the rest of the way.

Despite the team's late slump, Hoyer was "very pleased" with David Ross in the manager's fourth season. He said some criticism of Ross was over the top. But he also acknowledged next year will be an important one for Ross and the organization.

"We have real organizational momentum," Hoyer said. "I think it's really important to continue to build on that. Obviously, Rossy's a big part of that. He's not a new manager anymore. He's going into his fifth season. I think he's really matured on the job."

The Cubs have some big items on their to-do list as they try to close a nine-game gap with division champion Milwaukee, let alone rise to the level of the Atlanta Braves

and Los Angeles Dodgers.

Topping the list? Re-signing Cody Bellinger. There are also potential holes in the rotation, with Kyle Hendricks' contract expiring and Marcus Stroman holding a \$21 million option for next season.

The 2019 National League MVP, Bellinger is in line for a huge payday if he becomes a free agent after the World Series. He hit .307 with 26 homers and 97 RBIs in a bounce-back season.

It was quite a turnaround for a player who was cut by the Dodgers in November after being limited by injuries and experiencing a drastic decline on offense. The Cubs signed him to a \$17.5 million, one-year contract, and he was a big reason why they finished third in the NL in runs behind Atlanta and Los Angeles.

"He loves Wrigley Field and he loves the fans," Hoyer said. "I think his experience was fantastic. Obviously, our experience with him was fantastic. We'd love to bring him back."

Whether they can reach an agreement remains to be seen. Hoyer said the Cubs "will be in communication" with Bellinger and agent Scott Boras in the coming weeks.

"I think you're always trying to sell free agents on what it's like to play in Chicago," Hoyer said. "There's nothing better than having a guy experience it for a year and openly say he loves it. Certainly, it gives us a shot. We won't have to recruit him very hard. I think he knows what this place is all about."

The same goes for Hendricks, the lone player left from the Cubs' 2016 World Series championship team. Hoyer said the 33-year-old right-hander had an "exceptional" season once he returned in late May from a capsule tear in his pitching shoulder, posting a 3.74 ERA in 24 starts.

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

High School

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Rcd, TP, Pvs. Lists high school football results for grades 6A and 5A.

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Rcd, TP, Pvs. Lists high school football results for grades 4A and 3A.

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Rcd, TP, Pvs. Lists high school football results for grades 2A and 1A.

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Rcd, TP, Pvs. Lists high school football results for grades 1A and 2A.

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Rcd, TP, Pvs. Lists high school football results for grades 1A and 2A.

BASEBALL

Postseason Baseball Glance

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Rcd, TP, Pvs. Lists baseball results for Wild Card Series and American League.

BASKETBALL

WNBA

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Rcd, TP, Pvs. Lists WNBA playoff results.

TRANSACTIONS

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Rcd, TP, Pvs. Lists baseball transactions for Tuesday.

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Rcd, TP, Pvs. Lists basketball transactions for Tuesday.

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Rcd, TP, Pvs. Lists football transactions for Tuesday.

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Rcd, TP, Pvs. Lists football transactions for Wednesday.

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Rcd, TP, Pvs. Lists football transactions for Thursday.

Waived LB Buddy Johnson from injured reserve.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Signed WR Kendrick Pryor to the practice squad.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed LB Mikel Jones to the practice squad.

DENVER BRONCOS — Signed WR Tre'Quan Smith to the practice squad.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Designated CB Eric Stokes to return to practice from the physically unable to perform (PUP) list.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed CB Mark Milton and WR Freddie Swain to the practice squad.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed OL Justin Pugh to the practice squad.

NEW YORK JETS — Signed CBs Craig James, Tae Hayes and Kalon Barnes to the practice squad.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed WR Denzel Mims and OT Obinna Eze to the practice squad.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Released LB Kyron Johnson from the practice squad.

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The impact of bullying lasts a lifetime

Dear Annie: You have run several letters about bullying, and I have to add something to this topic. Bullying by teachers in school had a profound negative effect on me.

I was sent to a private religious elementary school until eighth grade. It was a horrible experience. The teachers — nuns, for the most part — ruled by fear with physical punishment for infractions and sarcasm. I remember that after witnessing this, the rest of the students were pretty afraid and compliant.

The parents supported the teachers and did not have our backs. Needless to say, this experience ruined my love of learning and made me feel helpless. I frequently thought about running away.

I finally stood up for myself and refused to continue the religious education and went to the public high school. This led to my leaving home after high school and getting married young. I struggled with feelings of low self-esteem and poor life choices until my late 20s, when I finally divorced my abusive husband and finished my education.

Although I am now happily married and have wonderful kids, my life would have been easier if I had had supportive parents and was not bullied as a child. I always resented my parents for allowing this, but they were bullies as well and believed in physical punishment.

Needless to say, my kids were not raised like I was. I would not allow any teacher to mistreat them, and I always had their backs. — Bullying Victim

Dear Bullying Victim: You obviously had terrible experiences, both at home and in school. Your children are lucky that you were so determined to look out for them. I have received thousands of letters over the years praising religious schools for a variety of reasons. But since you were victimized, it is good to shine a light on what we all should work to avoid. Thank you for writing, and I hope your story helps others know they are not alone.

Dear Annie: I am an identical twin, and the bond that I share with my sister is unlike any other relationship in the world. (Imagine having a literal clone of yourself and your DNA who has lived all of the same memories and childhood as you, who you have been connected to genetically since a few months after conception.)

My sister is my best and closest friend in the whole universe. That being said, my sister has some mental health issues that are taxing on me.

I love my sister more than anything in the world (including my spouse), but I have made it very clear to her that my life is my life and her life is her life and that I am NOT responsible for her.

The letter writer "Not Feeling Like His Wife" should suggest counseling to her husband, who prioritizes his twin over her, to figure out that he is not just his brother's twin; he is, in fact, his own person.

Once he lets the "but we're the same person" mentality go, he will be able to see his brother for the (less than stellar) individual that he is and not just see him as his "other half." — Not the Other Half

Dear Not the Other Half: Thank you for sharing your experience. You have clearly given a lot of thought to the relationship you have with your twin and your spouse.

"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. © 2023 CREATORS.COM

Dear Annie

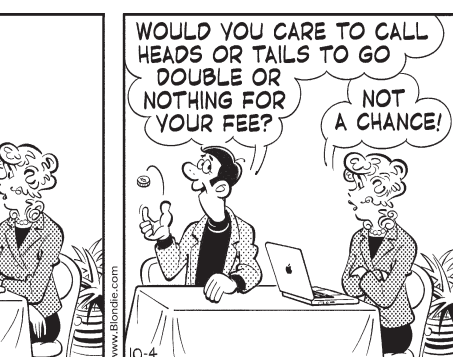
by Annie Lane



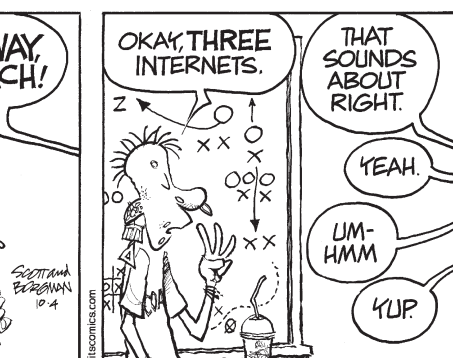
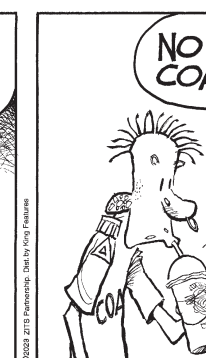
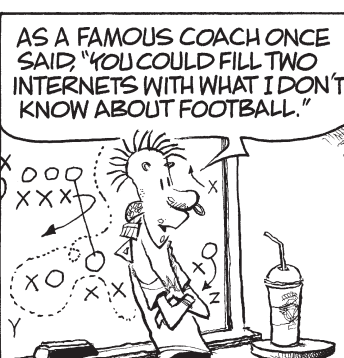
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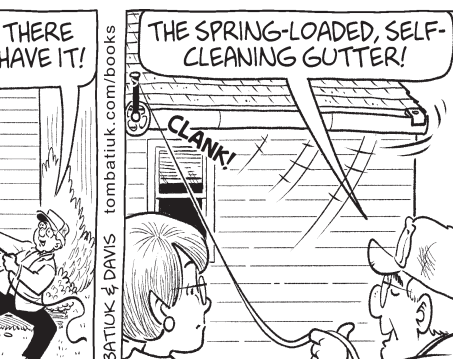
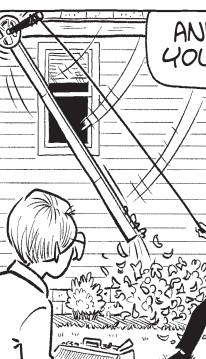
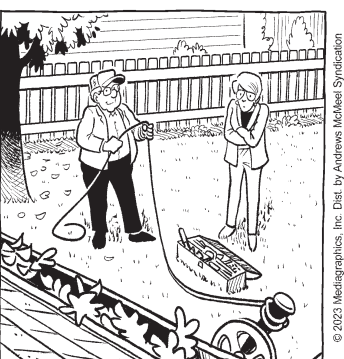
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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Reality of a Christian profession is shown in many ways

Q: I grew up hearing the phrase "a profession of faith." I don't hear that anymore. Is there a Bible verse that addresses this and if so, what does it really mean? — P.F.

A: The Bible says, "Lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession [profession in the KJV] in the presence of many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:12).

The reality of a Christian profession is shown in many ways: the things we say, as well as the things we do not say; the things we do, as well as the things we do not do. For while Christianity is not primarily a matter of

externals, nevertheless it does find expression in conversation, habits, recreation, emphasis, and ambitions to be noted in our daily life. Does our conversation honor Christ? Are our habits those of which He approves? Are our resources of recreation those in which His presence can be a part? Do we bow our hearts in a word of thanks when eating in a public place? Can people tell from the emphasis we attach to material things whether we have set our affection on things above, or whether we are primarily attached to this world? Do people see in us an ambition for place and position out of accord

with that of a Christian? The Bible declares that "by their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:20).

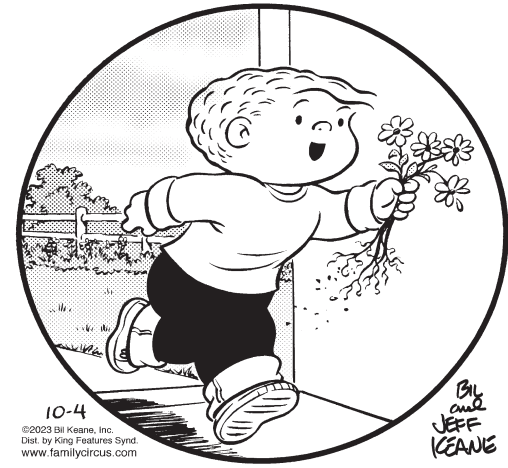
The world doesn't have much respect for those who claim Christianity but instead are frauds whose profession is not sincere. The Bible teaches that faith will manifest itself in three ways: in doctrine (what we believe), in worship (our communion with God), and in morality (the way we live and behave).

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

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Look, Mommy! Homemade flowers!"

The LOCKHORNS



"HE NEVER PHOTOGRAPHS MY MEALS AND POSTS THEM TO INSTAGRAM."

Table with columns for date (10/04), time slots (5 PM, 5:30, 6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30, 12 AM, 12:30), and various TV channels and programs.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across (1-21) and Down (1-15). Includes 'Solution time: 23 mins.' and 'Yesterday's answer 10-4'.

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SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

		7						
	3		8			7	5	
				6	3	4		
	5	2	9			6	7	
6	8		5		2			
9	7		2	8		5		
4		6	7				2	
		8			5	3		
2			8	4				

Difficulty: ★★★

10/4

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Lottery Numbers

Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 03-19-23-35-41
Cash4Life — 07-10-14-24-55, Cash Ball: 03
Quick Draw Midday — 02-04-08-12-17-19-24-27-29-38-43-45-49-54-59-63-64-67-71-78, BE: 27
Daily Three-Midday — 03-05-09, SB: 02
Daily Three-Evening — 09-00-02, SB: 04
Daily Four-Midday — 00-07-06-03, SB: 02
Daily Four-Evening — 01-08-04-08, SB: 04
Quick Draw Evening — 04-06-11-12-15-19-21-30-37-38-43-50-54-59-63-66-72-74-78-79, BE: 21
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$35.7 million

MEGA MILLIONS

03-19-32-39-59; Mega Ball: 24; Megaplier: 3X.

POWERBALL

Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$1.2 billion

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This Week's Garage Sales
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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 & winter coats, Halloween & fall decor, Halloween costumes, Christmas decor, patio furniture set, dishwasher, tools, plus all our regular items.

308 WHITE BRIDGE COURT GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE
Pokemon cards, transformers NIB, DVDs, Amish and Guidepost books, name brand clothes, 300 pc puzzles, fabric, knick knacks, newborn to 3T boys clothes, toys, baby swing, yummy baked goods, arrowheads, desk, bakers racks, tons of bath and body, 31 bags Oct. 04 9AM-6PM, Oct. 05 8AM-4PM, Oct. 06 8AM-4PM Rain or Shine

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 rods, decor, furniture, kitchen stuff, lamps, king sheet sets, round clock table, throw pillows, wheelchairs, walkers, transfer boards, books, 69 white chenille bedspread. Too much to list! Everything must go! Prices negotiable!

HUGE GARAGE/BAKE SALE, rain or shine, Thursday -Friday, 8 a.m.-?, 1533 Bell Brook (off Dustman). Brand new Evenflo infant carseat stroller combo, dual ride, namebrand adult and kids clothes NB to 4T, Matilda Jane, Gap, Maurices, Pink, Adidas, Nike, North Face, Michael Kors, Kate Spade, namebrand athletic shoes, 3D prints, Star Wars busts, fidget toys, toys, Legos and more. Fresh pies, cookies, cinnamon rolls.

HELOISE HINT: If you are going to put high-end items in your garage sale. You will still have to discount them, but they can be priced a bit higher than the rest of the items. Write to Heloise, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001.

Public Sale Calendar

BIDDING ENDS OCTOBER 8 - (Online Only) - Estate of Robert Isch, seller. 1978 White 2-50 diesel tractor, 2015 Ex-Mark Laser-Z zero turn riding lawn mower, 2002 Simplicity Legacy riding lawn mower, single axle utility trailer, tandem axle trailer, 14' hay wagon, 3 bottom plow, Winco generator, lawn and garden, tools, antique & modern furniture, antiques, primitives, glassware, household. Preview: Oct. 5, from 3-6 p.m., 601 E St. Rd. 124, Monroe. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING OCTOBER 8 STARTING AT 4 PM EST - Larry Beer, owner. Sports collector's dream! 950+ lots featuring lots of sports memorabilia, signed jerseys, bats & balls, MLB, NFL, MLB cards (some cards Graded), die cast toys, stamp collection, yard & hand tools, Yamaha gas powered golf cart, like new Cub Cadet riding lawn mower, household, furniture, Fenton glass, Roseville & Hull pottery, more! Preview: Oct. 5, 4-6 p.m., 909 Woodridge Ct., Decatur. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

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, Patrick Carter & Nick Huffman.

The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.
BIDDING STARTS CLOSING OCTOBER 17 STARTING AT 6 P.M. EST - Ronald L Franke estate, owner. Real estate 6 p.m.: 812 sf, full basement, 2 bed, 2 full bath, 14'x22' detached garage, .29 acre lot, Fort Wayne Community School, Wayne Township, Allen County. Personal property 6:30 p.m.: 2006 Chevy Monte Carlo SS, 105k miles, household, tools, riding lawn mower, furniture, collectibles, more! Preview: Oct. 9, 5-6 p.m., 930 Irene Ave., Fort Wayne. Pick up: Oct. 18, 3-6 p.m. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

OCTOBER 22-OCTOBER 29 - (Online Only Auction) - Michael & Jane Michaud, seller. Single story home situated on 4.55 Acres w/outbuildings. 3 bedroom and 2 full bathrooms with 1,880 square foot and an attached 2 car garage. Open houses: Oct. 12 from 3-6 p.m., Oct. 19 from 3-6 p.m., Oct. 26 from 4-6 p.m., 1791 E 1100 S, Warren. Pat Carter & Nick Huffman, sale managers. The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

OCTOBER 22- OCTOBER 29 - (Online Only Auction) - Harvey E. & Wilma D. King, seller. H&D Repair Center & Body Shop retirement auction. Automotive & body shop equipment, pickup truck, tractor, Rotary Lift 9,000-lb. capacity 2-post hydraulic lift, mower. Preview: Oct. 19 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and Oct. 26 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 300 Standard Oil Blvd., Montpelier. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

Public Notice

NOTICE
The Wells County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA) will hold a meeting on Monday October 16, 2023. It will be in the Commissioner's room in the Courthouse Annex at 223 W Washington St. Bluffton, Indiana beginning at 9am. The Board will consider appeals that have been filed and scheduled for this date.

Upon completion of the business at hand, the Board will recess sine die until the next scheduled meeting.

This is an open meeting unless private financial information of the appellant is being presented.
nb 10/2, 10/4, oj 10/5 hspalxp

SUDOKU ANSWER

9	6	7	1	4	8	5	2	3
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9	7	6	7	8	7	8	9	1
2	8	9	8	1	7	6	7	9

Butler sworn in as third Black female senator in U.S. history

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former union leader and Democratic insider Laphonza Butler was sworn in as the newest member of the Senate on Tuesday, replacing California Sen. Dianne Feinstein after her death and becoming only the third Black female senator in history.

Butler was appointed by California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Sunday, just two days after Feinstein died at her home in Washington. Butler is a longtime fundraiser and strategist in the state's Democratic circles and was the head of Emily's List, a national organization that raises money for women candidates who support abortion rights.

The new senator was sworn in by Vice President Kamala Harris, who served as the second Black female senator until she resigned in 2021 to join President Joe Biden in the White House. The first was Democratic Sen. Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois, who served one

term in the 1990s.

With dozens of supporters and family members looking down from the gallery, Butler smiled broadly as she walked down the center aisle of the Senate alongside Democratic Sen. Alex Padilla of California and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. After Harris administered the oath of office, members of the Senate from both parties crowded around her to shake her hand.

Schumer, D-N.Y., said that "today, the Senate takes another step towards fully reflecting our vibrant democracy."

He said Butler has "dedicated her entire career to fighting for others - fighting for women, fighting for working families and fighting for the cause of justice."

After she was sworn in, Biden called her to congratulate her, the White House said.

The Congressional Black Caucus also held a ceremonial swearing-in for Butler. "Her back-

ground and years of experience will bring a much-needed perspective to the Senate, which currently does not have any Black women," CBC Chairman Steven Horsford, D-Nev., said in a statement after she was appointed.

Butler is also the first openly LGBTQ+ senator from California.

Though she has never held elective office, Newsom praised her "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," Newsom added.

Butler is well known inside California's Democratic party apparatus. Her credentials include working for nearly two years with a consulting firm tied closely to Newsom and founded by his top political lieutenants. She also served as a senior adviser to Harris' 2020 presidential campaign.

It is unclear if Butler will run

to hold the seat when Feinstein's term ends next year. 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.

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."

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 was elected president of the state's largest labor union in the early 2010s, back when the nation

was reeling from the Great Recession.

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

In a statement released by Emily's List after her appointment, Butler said she was honored and ready to get to work.

"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."

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 Padilla for Harris' seat when she resigned in 2021.

After Butler was sworn in, Schumer said that Feinstein "is looking down at this moment with pride now that her seat is in good hands."

Judge issues limited gag order after Trump posts about court clerk

NEW YORK (AP) — Rebuking Donald Trump, a state court judge imposed a limited gag order Tuesday in the former president's civil business fraud trial and ordered him to delete a social media post that publicly maligned a key court staffer.

Judge Arthur Engoron told all participants in the case not to smear court personnel, warning of "serious sanctions" if they do.

"Personal attacks on members of my court staff are unacceptable, not appropriate, and I will not tolerate them," Engoron said after complaining — without naming names — about a defendant's "disparaging, untrue and personally identifying post about a member of my staff."

A few hours earlier, Trump had posted a photo

of Engoron's principal law clerk, Allison Greenfield, posing with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., at a public event. Trump, the Republican front-runner for president in 2024, has repeatedly cast the trial as a political attack by New York's Democratic attorney general, Letitia James.

Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform that it was "disgraceful" that Greenfield was working with the judge in the courtroom, adding to complaints he'd made outside court Monday.

The post apparently sparked a series of closed-door courtroom discussions, involving Trump and lawyers for both sides, during what's usually a lunch break. By the time the gag order was issued, Trump had deleted the post — as

Engoron ordered, according to the judge.

As for Schumer, a spokesperson called the post "pathetic" and said the senator doesn't know Greenfield and is in photos with thousands of constituents.

Aside from that side-show, James' attorney questioned an accountant Tuesday in an effort to build the state's case that Trump and others at his company had full control over the preparation of misleading and false financial statements at the heart of their case.

The state's lawsuit alleges that Trump and his business chronically lied about his wealth on financial statements given to banks, insurers and others.

Also Tuesday, Engoron set the record straight about a comment that the ex-presi-

dent had touted as an important victory.

The judge had suggested on Monday that testimony about Trump's 2011 financial statement might be beyond a 2014 time limit for claims in this case. Trump's legal team has argued that the time limit cuts off most of the claims.

But Engoron ruled last week that all the claims were allowable under the statute of limitations, and he made clear Tuesday that the trial isn't "an opportunity to relitigate what I have already decided." He said that at the trial's early stage, he's inclined to give both sides considerable leeway to connect older evidence to claims in the lawsuit.

He and lawyers have said his financial statements were legitimate representations of the worth of

unique luxury properties, made even more valuable because of their association with him. The defense also emphasizes that the financial statements bore disclaimers saying that they weren't audited and that others "might reach different conclusions" about his financial position if they had more information.

Accountant Donald Bender continued testifying Tuesday about his years preparing those statements from figures that Trump's company supplied.

In some years, he said, the Trump Organization failed to provide all documents necessary for producing the statements, despite attesting in letters to the accounting firm that it had provided all financial records and hadn't "knowingly withheld" relevant

data.

"They were not giving all of the documents that we needed," Bender testified, explaining that "there were certain appraisals out there for a number of years that we had never seen."

During cross-examination, Bender acknowledged he missed a change in information about the size of the former president's penthouse at Trump Tower.

Defense lawyer Jesus M. Suarez seized on that, telling Bender that Trump was sitting through the trial and his company and employees were "going through hell" because "you missed it."

Bender said he couldn't be faulted.

"We didn't screw it up. The Trump Organization made a mistake, and we didn't catch it," he said.

Hunter Biden pleads not guilty to three federal firearm charges

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Hunter Biden pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to three federal firearms charges filed after his earlier deal imploded, setting the case on a track toward a possible trial in 2024 while his father is campaigning for reelection.

President Joe Biden's son has been charged with lying about his drug use in October 2018 on a form to buy a gun that he kept for about 11 days. He could face up to 25 years in prison if convicted. When asked by Magistrate Judge Christopher Burke if he understood the charges against him, he said, "Yes, Your Honor."

His lawyer Abbe Lowell said in court he plans to

file a motion to dismiss the charges, challenging their constitutionality.

"Mr. Biden pleads not guilty to the three counts that have been brought against him," Lowell said to the judge.

Hunter Biden has acknowledged struggling with an addiction to crack cocaine during that period in 2018, but his lawyers have said he didn't break the law. Cases like this, against drug users accused of having guns, are rare, and an appeals court has found the underlying statute violates the Second Amendment under new Supreme Court standards.

On Tuesday, the judge noted Hunter Biden had

been repeatedly tested for drugs and is negative.

Hunter Biden's attorneys are suggesting that prosecutors bowed to pressure by Republicans, who have insisted the Democratic president's son got a sweetheart deal, and that the charges were the result of political pressure.

"President Trump and his MAGA allies" have forced "the Justice Department to ignore the law and deviate from its policies in cases like this one," Lowell said in a statement after the brief hearing, referring to Donald Trump's Make America Great Again slogan.

Hunter Biden left the courthouse shortly after the

hearing, getting into a black SUV and pulling away. The deadline for pretrial motions in the case is Nov 3. The pretrial release conditions include no alcohol or drugs; drug testing or substance abuse counseling if needed; and continuing or seeking employment.

Earlier this summer, Hunter Biden agreed to plead guilty to misdemeanor tax charges and would have also avoided prosecution on the gun charges had he stayed out of trouble for two years. It was the culmination of a yearslong investigation by federal prosecutors into the business dealings of the president's son, and the agreement would

have dispensed with criminal proceedings and spared the Bidens weeks of headlines as the election loomed.

The deal broke down after the judge who was supposed to sign off on the agreement instead raised a series of questions about the deal.

Now, a special counsel has been appointed to handle the case, and there appears no easy end in sight. Hunter Biden was indicted on the three gun charges, and no new tax charges have yet been filed — but the special counsel has indicated those charges could come in Washington or in California, where Hunter Biden lives.

Defense attorneys have argued that he remains

protected by an immunity provision that was part of the scuttled agreement, but prosecutors overseen by special counsel David Weiss disagree. Weiss also serves as U.S. attorney for Delaware and was originally appointed by Trump.

Lowell on Tuesday said he planned to file "a number of motions," including a push to dismiss the case based on an immunity agreement in the now-scuttled plea deal and the constitutionality of the law against drug users having guns.

Lowell also said the defense plans to ask for an evidentiary hearing.

In Congress, House Republicans are seeking to

How are some ancient Roman and Mayan buildings still standing?

NEW YORK (AP) — In the quest to build better for the future, some are looking for answers in the long-ago past.

Ancient builders across the world created structures that are still standing today, thousands of years later — from Roman engineers who poured thick concrete sea barriers, to Maya masons who crafted plaster sculptures to their gods, to Chinese builders who raised walls against invaders.

Yet scores of more recent structures are already staring down their expiration dates: The concrete that makes up much of our modern world has a lifespan of around 50 to 100 years.

A growing number of scientists have been studying materials from long-ago eras — chipping off chunks of buildings, poring over historical texts, mixing up copycat recipes — hoping to uncover how they've held up for millennia.

This reverse engineering has turned up a surprising

list of ingredients that were mixed into old buildings — materials such as tree bark, volcanic ash, rice, beer and even urine. These unexpected add-ins could be key to some pretty impressive properties, like the ability to get stronger over time and "heal" cracks when they form.

Figuring out how to copy those features could have real impacts today: While our modern concrete has the strength to hold up massive skyscrapers and heavy infrastructure, it can't compete with the endurance of these ancient materials.

And with the rising threats of climate change, there's a growing call to make construction more sustainable. A recent UN report estimates that the built environment is responsible for more than a third of global CO2 emissions — and cement production alone makes up more than 7% of those emissions.

"If you improve the properties of the material by using ... traditional recipes

from Maya people or the ancient Chinese, you can produce material that can be used in modern construction in a much more sustainable way," said Carlos Rodriguez-Navarro, a cultural heritage researcher at Spain's University of Granada.

Is ancient Roman concrete better than today's?

Many researchers have turned to the Romans for inspiration. Starting around 200 BCE, the architects of the Roman Empire were building impressive concrete structures that have stood the test of time — from the soaring dome of the Pantheon to the sturdy aqueducts that still carry water today.

Even in harbors, where seawater has been battering structures for ages, you'll find concrete "basically the way it was when it was poured 2,000 years ago," said John Oleson, an archaeologist at the University of Victoria in Canada.

Most modern concrete starts with Portland cement, a powder made by heating

limestone and clay to super-high temperatures and grinding them up. That cement is mixed with water to create a chemically reactive paste. Then, chunks of material like rock and gravel are added, and the cement paste binds them into a concrete mass.

According to records from ancient architects like Vitruvius, the Roman process was similar. The ancient builders mixed materials like burnt limestone and volcanic sand with water and gravel, creating chemical reactions to bind everything together.

Now, scientists think they've found a key reason why some Roman concrete has held up structures for thousands of years: The ancient material has an unusual power to repair itself. Exactly how is not yet clear, but scientists are starting to find clues.

In a study published earlier this year, Admir Masic, a civil and environmental engineer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology,

proposed that this power comes from chunks of lime that are studded throughout the Roman material instead of being mixed in evenly. Researchers used to think these chunks were a sign that the Romans weren't mixing up their materials well enough.

Instead, after analyzing concrete samples from Privernum — an ancient city outside of Rome — the scientists found that the chunks could fuel the material's "self-healing" abilities. When cracks form, water is able to seep into the concrete, Masic explained. That water acti-

vates the leftover pockets of lime, sparking up new chemical reactions that can fill in the damaged sections.

Marie Jackson, a geologist at the University of Utah, has a different take. Her research has found that the key could be in the specific volcanic materials used by the Romans.

The builders would gather volcanic rocks left behind after eruptions to mix into their concrete. This naturally reactive material changes over time as it interacts with the elements, Jackson said, allowing it to seal cracks that develop.

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