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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023

BLUFFTON, INDIANA · Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1 00



Christine Walker, current director for Community Care, speaks with guests during the Hannah's House open house Tuesday. She is pictured in the home's living room, which offers ample seating, welcoming decor, and comfortable amenities. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

# Open house held for Hannah's House in downtown Bluffton

By HOLLY GASKILL

Anticipated to open Oct. 23, Hannah's House hosted an open house Tuesday to share its mission with the public.

The home falls under the umbrella of Community Care of Northeast Indiana but holds a unique role in rehabilitation. Whereas Grace and Mercy Transitional Housing focuses on providing support for women to be able to support themselves, Hannah's House will be solely focused on healing.

Residents of the home, located at 319 S. Marion St. in Bluffton, will spend three to six months at a time dedicated to recovering their individual circumstances, guided by the schedule and direction of Hannah's House staff. This includes regular attendance of support groups, physical improve-

ment at the YMCA, and other opportunities. During this time, the women will not hold jobs or have their cell phones or vehicles to limit distractions. Although there will be regular visiting hours, the home is not meant for children.

Ultimately, the ministry intends to graduate its residents into the Grace and Mercy home, where they'll then work on building a resume and other skills needed to live successfully and independently.

Hannah's House is equipped to serve seven women at a time but currently has six beds in the home. Grace and Mercy Program Director Bethanie Burns advised the organization plans to open Hannah's House with three residents and work up to full capacity by

(Continued on Page 2)

# NWCS discusses strategic planning meetings and public communication

By HOLLY GASKILL

The board for Norwell Community Schools is wrestling with a balance of public participation regarding their monthly strategic planning committee meetings.

These meetings were recently added to the end of the regular school board agenda. During the board's regular meeting on Tuesday, several board members contended that this change, as well as the streaming of the meeting, changed the dynamic.

Board member Corey Krug noted that the meetings manifested differently over the years. However, in recent years, the meetings contained group discussions between administrators, teachers, students, parents, and other community members. Krug believes the format has shifted toward more presentation-based, similar to regular board meetings. He also feels that participation has decreased and people communicate less effectively because the meetings are online.

"I feel like if we continue down what we're doing, it will just become people presenting to us and not really getting into the nitty gritty of it," Krug said. He later continued, "If the public isn't coming, then that's on them, frankly. I think responsibility needs to be there."

Board member Angie Topp added that, in her experience on the board, attendance tends to correlate with the level of participation allowed.

"When people are listening and when the media is present, people tend to be a little more cautious of what they tell us," board member Chad Kline said.

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Three members of the Ossian Psi Otes presented a donation for different needs within Norwell High School's fine arts to Superintendent Mike Springer Tuesday evening. The donation totaled \$1,100. Pictured are Joan Furey, Jeanie Klaus, Cathy Clark, and Springer. (Photo by Holly Gastrill)

## RSD tackles questions on the Craigville project

By DAVE SCHULTZ

Some customers of the Wells County Regional Sewer District had a question for the board Monday night: What's taking so long?

"What's been the holdup?" asked Jerry Sheets. "It (the Craigville project) was supposed to be done in June." Things such as materials, an electrical problem, and pressure problems were mentioned but Sheets had a rejoinder: "Somebody's not doing the job and it's costing us \$95 a month."

"Is there an updated timeline as to when we will be able to hook up?"

asked Nathan Huss.

There were others who asked similar questions, but Sheets wanted to know about fining the company, VTF Excavating. Andy Stoller, a member of the board, said the delays, while aggravating, were not as bad as the alternative: "If we get caught up in a legal battle, we will all wind up paying more."

Levi Morrison of Wessler Engineering, noted several items that he listed as "progress, concerns, and what's to come" in his report on the Craigville work. Morrison's report was brought to

(Continued on Page 2)

## SWCS considers potential partnership to help teachers

Elementary school teachers recognized for IREAD scores

By SYDNEY KENT

Southern Wells Community School teachers may receive the opportunity to create classroom "wish lists" with the help of a global solar energy developer, Lightsource RP

Darrin Jacobs, the development manager at Lightsource BP, spoke to the board about potential methods to assist the district with funding for teachers on Tuesday evening.

"We're developing a solar project in Wells County," Jacobs began. "Anytime we go into a community, we look for ways to partner with the people. Long term, we want to have a good conversation with this board about larger opportunities to help in the future."

In the short term, Jacobs explained that Lightsource BP is seeking to partner with the district to help teachers succeed. Jacobs said this works with the help of a website called Donors Choose, an online crowdfunding platform for classrooms.

"Teachers make a wish list of items they want," Jacobs explained. "This could be books, calculators, maybe a course they wouldn't usually do like robotics. We have several thousand dollars set aside we would like to use to help the community. We're asking specifically to help Southern Wells, if your teachers are interested in this."

Jacobs also emphasized if this was not the preferred method to partner with the (Continued on Page 2)

## House GOP appear no closer to choosing new speaker

By LISA MASCARO and KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Republican majority is stuck, one week after the ouster of Speaker Kevin McCarthy, with lawmakers unable to coalesce around a new leader in a stalemate

that threatens to keep Congress partly shuttered indefinitely.

On Tuesday evening, two leading contenders for the gavel, Majority Leader Steve Scalise and Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan, were addressing colleagues behind closed doors at a candidate forum. But they appeared to be splitting

the vote.

McCarthy, meanwhile, was openly ready to reclaim the gavel he just lost, but was seen by many as a longshot option unlikely to win back the handful of hardliners who just ousted him.

"We're going to get the House back to work," Scalise said Tues-

day ahead of the meeting.

House Republicans took the

majority aspiring to operate as a team, and run government more like a business, but have drifted far from that goal. Just 10 months in power, the historic ouster of their House speaker — a first in the U.S. — and the prolonged infight-

ing it has unleashed are undercutting the Republicans' ability to govern at a time of crisis at home and abroad.

Now, as House Republicans push ahead toward snap elections Wednesday aimed at finding a new nominee for speaker, the hard-right (Continued on Page 2)

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#### Outside



A perfect opportunity to sing in the rain

TodayThursdayFridayHigh 64High 72High 73Low 48Low 51Low 51

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#### OCAL/NATION

#### Hannah's House

the end of the year. The home will serve northeast Indiana but has a prominent focus on serving women in Wells and Huntington counties.

The house itself is equipped with several bedrooms and bathrooms, inhouse laundry, a kitchen, a dining room, a living room, and a patio area. A full-time employee will live in the home with the women, and at least one other employee will manage day-to-day schedules, activities, and transportation.

While Hannah's House will begin its operations in the coming weeks, Rachel Reinhard, Grace and Mercy operations manager, noted the home still has multiple physical needs and is supported by ongoing grants and donations. An Amazon wishlist is available on the Community Care Facebook page. Community members can also contact Andrea Dimond at 260-224-0977 for other donation questions. holly@news-banner.com



Hannah's House, located at 319 S Marion St. in Bluffton, was open to the public on Tuesday. The home will operate as a place for healing and recovery before women are ready for Grace and Mercy Transitional Housing. Above, Kelley Householder, former executive director for Community Care, and a volunteer welcome guests into the home. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

## **Norwell Community Schools**

(Continued from Page 1)

"But that's what got us in trouble with the branding discussion," Topp then noted.

The administration previously stated strategic planning meetings would be online to increase transparency following criticism that district branding changes - which were discussed in strategic planning meetings — were not adequately communicated before they were considered by the board in a regular board meeting.

In response to Topp, Kline continued to state that it's been beneficial to have increased communication about the planning meetings but that he'd prefer the format to stay more conver-

Superintendent Mike Springer said he wants to ensure there are opportunities for feedback and discussion but that it's also valuable to have time to

learn about where the district is at and what it's doing from the people enacting changes.

Kline later noted there were previously more efforts to encourage attendance of strategic planning meetings. Part of this was because individual focus groups were asked to attend and would break out into smaller discus-

Both board members Gene Donaghy and Traci Neuenschwander said they were uncertain if live streaming the strategic planning had either a negative or positive value. However, they'd like to see continued efforts to communicate the meeting topics and outcomes and room for conversations with the public.

To this, Springer noted it's often a tricky balance to find the best, most effective ways to communicate with stakeholders. The board took no formal action at the time, and Springer said he would consider the feedback in preparing the next planning ses-

Other items included:

• The board accepted the retirement notice of Jody Paschal, OES music teacher. Her retirement will be effective Jan. 1.

 Employment recommendations were made for the following personnel: Steve Clark, bus driver; Christian Bohata, NHS varsity baseball head coach; and Quinn Biberstine, NHS assistant swim coach.

• The board received donations of \$200 for the OES library fund from Psi Iota Xi; and \$800 for NHS band equipment, \$100 for NHS drama/theatre, \$100 for NHS choir, and \$100 for the NHS Art Department, all from the Ossian Psi Otes.

holly@news-banner.com

## **Craigville project questions**

(Continued from Page 1) the board by Lewis Brown, the RSD's superintendent. Morrison's report mentioned the startup of the Craigville lift station and grinder setups but noted that "punch list line items are being established and brought to light day by day.'

Brown also noted that several customers, including Huss, would be connected on Thursday.

The Craigville items

were somewhat counterbalanced, however, as Ryan Lefeld of Choice One Engineering, said the deadline for completion of the Kingsland sewer project is May of 2024.

Tuesday night's meeting, which was delayed a day due to the Columbus Day federal holiday, also touched on the following topics:

• Leon Berning, an RSD board member who serves as the district's treasurer, concerning the delays, a

presented 17 checks to his fellow board members totaling \$64,941.53 for approval.

 Brown expressed concerns about property owners installing grinder pumps on their own instead of hiring a professional that had been certified by the RSD. There was a question of whether the district would be responsible for any equipment if it's not properly installed.

• Despite the irritation

pay application for work on the Craigville project for \$1,134,873 will be sent to the State Revolving Loan Fund.

• There are still "a couple" of customers in the Liberty Center and Murray areas that have still not connected, Brown said.

• Brown said he had met with area real estate agents and gave a 10-minute talk about the RSD's progress.

daves@news-banner.com

## **SWCS** potential partnership

district, the company is open to ongoing conversations surrounding support. The board thanked him for his presentation.

Later, Kristen Wall, Southern Wells Elementary School Principal, recognized her third grade team, as well as fourth grade teacher Susan Oswalt, for achieving outstanding IREAD scores this year.

"It is truly impressive they continually achieve the highest scores in the area," Wall told the board. "I

am extremely proud to acknowledge them."

Todd Thieme, who was present at the meeting, was approved as the new Jr./Sr. High School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director in an unanimous vote. Brooke Zigler was approved as the Instructional Assistant position in the Elementary school.

The board also:

- Approved the budget for 2024.
- co-ed golf as a sport to the SW Junior-High school for the Spring of 2024.

Sprunger as a mentor teacher, with Tricia Tucker approved as a mentor

the position.

 Gave kudos to the classes and teachers for excellent work.

The next regular meeting of the board will be at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21 at the high school.

sydney@news-banner.com

• Approved a request to formally add

## • Accepted a resignation from Jeff

teacher. • Accepted a resignation from Mark Gates as Junior High Basketball Coach, with Caleb Sleppy approved in

## House speaker

(Continued from Page 1) coalition of lawmakers that ousted McCarthy has shown what an oversized role a few lawmakers can have in choosing the successor.

'This is a hard conference to lead," said Rep. Steve Womack, R-Ark. "A lot of free agents.'

Both Scalise and Jordan are working furiously to shore up support. Both are easily winning over dozens of supporters and could win the majority of Republicans, about 110 votes.

But it's unclear if either Scalise or Jordan can amass the 217 votes eventually needed in a floor vote to overcome opposition from Democrats. A vote could

425 S. Winchester St., Decatur, IN

come as soon as Wednesday. Many Republicans want

to prevent the spectacle of a messy House floor fight like the grueling January brawl when McCarthy became speaker. "We're in a similar situ-

ation that we were back in January," said Doug Heye, a former Republican leadership aide, adding the political optics of the feud look "terrible" to American voters.

Some have proposed a rules change that Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., the interim speaker pro tempore, is considering ahead of a party meeting early Wednesday to ensure a majority vote behind closed doors before the nominee is presented for a full

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floor vote in the House.

McCarthy himself appeared to agree with a consensus approach. "They shouldn't come out of there until they decide that they have enough votes for whoever they bring to the floor," McCarthy said.

or sandwich

Now thru November 1st

But short of a rules change, Republican lawmakers would be expected to agree to a majority-wins process — whichever candidate wins in the internal private vote would be given the full backing of the Republicans on the House.



12 pc chicken

6 Biscuits

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Family Fries

12 Tenders

Family Fries

6 Biscuits

## Weather

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 (24-hour observations at 9:27 p.m. Tuesday) High: 60, Low: 27, Precipitation: None Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.19

feet at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday

#### Wells County forecast

**Today:** A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly after 3 p.m. Areas of frost before 8 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 64. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Showers likely before 2 a.m., then showers

likely and possibly a thunderstorm between 2 a.m. and 5

a.m., then showers likely after 5 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48. South wind around 5 mph becoming east in the evening. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch pos-Thursday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms

before 11 a.m., then a chance of showers between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 72. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51. East wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Friday:** A 40 percent chance of showers after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 73.

Friday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 8 p.m. Low around 51. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent.

**Saturday:** Showers likely, mainly after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 57. Chance of precipitation is 60

Saturday Night: Showers likely, mainly before 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 45. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

**Sunday:** A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 54. Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly

cloudy, with a low around 42. Monday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly

cloudy, with a high near 53.

Monday Night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42.

## **Financial literacy** is being taught by more states

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inside a high school classroom, Bryan Martinez jots down several purchases that would require a short-term savings plan: shoes, phone, headphones, clothes, and food.

His medium-term financial goals take a little more thought, but he settles on a car — he doesn't have one yet and vacations. Peering way into his future, the 18-year-old also imagines saving money to buy a house, start his own business, retire, and perhaps provide any children with a college fund. Martinez's friend next to him writes a different long-term

goal: Buy a private jet. "You have to be a millionaire to save up for that," Martinez says with a chuckle.

Call it a reality check or an introduction to a critical life skill, this exercise occurred in a course called Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications. The elective math class has been a mainstay in Capital City Public Charter School's offerings for more than a decade, giving students a foundation in money management while they hone math skills. Conversations about credit, investments, and loans, for instance, intersect with lessons on compound interest, matrices, and exponential equations.

The surge comes as educators are scrambling to bolster students' math skills, which plummeted during the pandemic and haven't fully recovered. At the same time, a general dislike for math remains an obstacle among young people.

But do topics like high interest rates translate to higher interest among students? Tonica Tatum-Gormes, who teaches the course, says yes. She attributes better student engagement to them seeing the connection between math and their future financial well-being.

Students begin to understand that "yes, I need to learn decimals, and I need to learn fractions, and I need to learn percentages because I have to manage my money and I have to take out a loan," Tatum-Gormes says. Advocates say personal finance courses could pay divi-

and avoid financial hazards. In the process, they may also develop an interest in math because of its practical applica-The K-12 standards for personal finance education, as recommended by the Council for Economic Education, include topics such as earning income, budgeting, saving,

dends if students learn how to make wiser money decisions

investing, and managing credit and financial risk. Experts say it's a course that doesn't necessarily have to be taught by a traditional math teacher.

'The more math you add to financial literacy, frankly, the better it is," says Annamaria Lusardi, founder and academic director of the Global Financial Literacy Excellence Center. "In many cases, to make a decision, you have to do calculations, so I think math is a very powerful tool. ... Having said that, financial literacy is more than math."



#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Joseph Ray, 64

Joseph "Joe" R. Ray, 64 of Zanesville and formerly of Colo., passed away Friday afternoon Sept. 29, 2023, at his residence.

Joe graduated high school in 1977 from Lakewood High school. He then attended and graduated from the Air Traffic Control Academy in Oklahoma City, Okla. He began his career in California at the EMT tower. He then worked in Long Beach, Calif. at the LBG tower. He moved



to Seattle, Wash., and worked at the BFI tower there and lastly landed in Aurora, Colo, working at the Stapleton tower, which became DIA where he was in the DEN tower for the rest of his career. He worked as an air traffic controller for 32 years and 4 months from Aug. 24, 1982 to Jan. 21, 2014. Joe became a pilot for Express Jet at the age of 55 in 2014, then worked at SkyWest as a pilot and trainer until 2023. His hobbies were all thing aviation and he loved using his ham radio. Joe loved to travel and has been all over the U.S. in his R.V. in the last 14 years with his wife Melissa and three dogs Tango, Finnegan and his beloved beagle Wilbur. He was adventurous and spontaneous, as he didn't like to plan ahead. "Just go and find a place to

Joe was born on March 14, 1959, in Long Beach, Calif., a son of the late William C. and Dorothy I. (Norris)

He was united in marriage to Mary Melissa Jackson on June 4, 2009. Melissa survives.

Additional survivors include three sons: Cody Ray and Andy Ray of Denver, Colo., and Jeffery Ray currently in Guam; a daughter: Katie Ray of Denver; two grandchildren, Cecelia Marie Ray and Ren Betty Ray of Denver; and a brother, Dick Ray of Angola.

He was preceded in death by his Parents and two brothers: David Ray and Bill Ray.

A celebration of life will take place at a later time in Colorado.

Preferred Memorials are to the donor's choice, sent in care to Myers Funeral Home, P.O. Box 403, Markle, IN 46770.

To sign Joe's online guest registry log onto www.myersfuneralhomes.com and scroll down to obituaries.

#### Burr N. Ryan, 77

Burr N. Ryan, 77, of Marion, died at 10:33 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023 at Twin City Nursing Home in Gas City. He was born Tuesday, Feb. 19, 1946, in Marion. He married Gloria "Jeane" (Borror) Ryan, Saturday, July 14, 1973 in Montpelier.

Burr is survived by his wife, Gloria "Jeane" (Borror) Ryan, Marion; sons, Richard (Debbie Gribben) Hicks, Kokomo, Ronald Hicks, Hartford City; daughter, Cindie Mounsey, Liberty Center; brother, Charles Ryan, Jr., San Antonio, Texas; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; his great friend and one of the last dinosaurs -George Hall; and extended family, Randy Mounsey and

He was preceded in death by his father, Charles F. Ryan; mother, Dorothy (Coppock) Ryan; son, William Ryan; and grandson, Jerod Hicks.

The family will have a Celebration of Life at a later

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

Online condolences may be made at www.glancyfuneralhomes.com

#### Janet E. Grimm, 91

Janet E. Grimm, 91, of Bluffton died Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 10, 2023, at Ossian Health Care.

Funeral arrangements are pending at this time with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

#### Renaissance in Roanoke Oct. 14

On Saturday, Oct. 14, downtown Roanoke will celebrate with art in the marketplace offered by area

There will be events for kids, demonstrations, entertainment, artists painting "plein air", and food for purchase.

More information at renaissanceroankoke.org

#### **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.

## **Board OKs pay increases for three people**

By DAVE SCHULTZ

Three individuals had merit pay increases approved during Tuesday afternoon's brief meeting of the Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety.

The increases were Tony Fey, supervisor of the city's wastewater treatment plant, who received a \$1-an-hour raise above his current \$31.75 pay rate; Kim Okey of the Bluffton Utilities office, who received a \$1-an-hour raise above her current \$24.72 pay rate; and Mike Gillespie of the sewer collections department, who also received a \$1-an-hour raise above his current \$22.48 pay rate.

The board also approved and sent on a \$121,385.25 pay application from Inliner Solutions of Orleans,

Ind., for the company's work on the city's wastewater network. The pay application will be sent on to the State Revolving Loan Fund.

All three Board of Works members - Mayor John Whicker, Scott Mentzer, and Josh Hunt — were present for Tuesday's meeting.

daves@news-banner.com

### Police Notebook

#### **INCIDENTS**

City:

Monday, 2:49 p.m., Wells County Public Library. Caller reported issue with juve-

Monday, 4:59 p.m., Bluffton Regional Medical Center. Officer requested for detention papers.

Monday, 6:08 p.m., 1000 block of West Wabash Street. Attempt to locate subject, one detained. Monday, 8:48 p.m., Wells

and Third streets. Caller reported a male laying fade down on the ground. Man was later alert, used some form of marijuana recently. Tuesday, 10:02 a.m., 200 block of South Jersey

Street. Caller reported a friend's boyfriend was acting strange and had a Uhaul trailer he attempted to cut the lock off of. Trailer was confirmed stolen from Allen

Tuesday, 11:47 a.m., North Main Street and Ind. 124. Subject had broke down vehicle. Officer gave courtesy transport to subject's place of employment.

Tuesday, 1:08 p.m., Dollar General. Welfare check requested for two men, one seemed unresponsive and one was drinking vodka on the sidewalk. Men were

County:

Friday, 2:50 p.m., 400 block of Countryside Drive, Markle. Caller reported a dog belonging to a neighbor bit her dog.

Friday, 3:28 p.m., 3000 Ind. 116, Markle. Report of a driver that sneezed over his shoulder while driving 70 mph in a 55 mph zone, causing the car to roll off of the roadway. Mild injuries.

Friday, 4:14 p.m., Wells County Jail. Michael O'Rourke appeared to turn himself in for an arrest war-

Friday, 4:34 p.m., Ind. 116 and North 500 West, Markle. Officer checked on vehicle pulled over with door open. Driver advised her toddler was doing toddler stuff and throwing a tantrum.

Friday, 6:26 p.m., Wells County Jail. One subject who is currently incarcerated for domestic battery was threatened by another subject who is currently incarcerated for battery. The subject who reported the threats of rape and death stated he was Jewish and believed the threats were due to his religion.

Friday, 6:31 p.m., 5300 South 300 West, Bluffton. Caller wanted to buy a car but believed it was a scam. Still wanted to buy it. Officer suggested they should beware.

Friday, 10:46 p.m., 2300 North East Street, Craigville. Multiple witnesses reported that they

saw a man named Daniel Hunt intoxicated in their driveway before driving away. The witnesses stated Hunt was in a passenger van that had a Hunt's Appliance logo on the side.

Saturday, 1:03 a.m., Archbold Wilson Park. Caller reported hearing gunshot noises and screaming that sounded like someone saying, "never put your hands on a woman again". Officer located a hat and cell phone and eggs along the trail and spoke with a man identified as the victim of an assault. The victim had egg yolk on his shirt and blood on his ear and face, and reported being attacked by multiple people. Officer noted the incident appeared to be juveniles out committing delinquent acts.

Saturday, 5:34 a.m., Ouabache State Park. Caller reported intoxicated subjects in verbal altercation near children at campground. One subject charged with possession of marijuana and disorderly conduct, both misdemeanors, one subject charged with possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor.

Saturday, 2:15 p.m., North 700 East and 500 North, Craigville. Driver cited for speeding.

Saturday, 9:02 p.m., Wells County Jail. Protective order served to Sabastian Hubble.

Saturday, 11:50 p.m., Ind. 124 and 700 East, Bluffton. Report of two vehicles stopped, driver ran out of gas and friend was helping.

Sunday, 8:56 a.m., East Morse and North Tracy streets, Markle. Report of a fallen tree in the roadway. Dispatch contacted State Highway.

Sunday, 5:50 p.m., Ind. 218 and 275 West, Bluffton. Driver cited for speeding 70 mph in a 55 mph zone.

Monday, 11:24 a.m., 300 block of North Williams Street, Bluffton. Officers executed search warrant. Two subjects charge with multiple drug charges.

Monday, 3:00 p.m., 8900 South 450 West, Poneto. Caller reported being charged an extra \$2,000 from a lawyer in Indianapolis, Advised it is a civil matter and to speak to, presumably, a different lawyer.

Monday, 8:28 p.m., 5200 West 100 North, Markle. Caller reported seeing a subject pushing a cart and later hearing a knock at the door. The caller was concerned it was the same subject.

Monday, 11:54 p.m., North 300 West and West 1000 North, Markle. Multiple callers reported subject walking in the middle of the road. Woman advised she was "walking up out this county." Officer advised she would be hit by a car in this

county. Would not accept a ride due to pushing a cart.

Tuesday, 10:57 a.m., 2000 East 100 North, Bluffton. Caller reported property damage from semi truck turning around the night

Ossian:

Sunday, 12:49 a.m., Ind. 1 and East 1200 North, Ossian. Driver cited for speeding 75 mph in a 55 mph zone.

Sunday, 8:11 p.m., 5700 North 450 East, Ossian. Caller reported subject shook his door handle. Monday, 8:26 a.m., 500 block of East Spring Street, Bluffton. Served protection order to Robert Conley and gave courtesy transport.

Tuesday, 2:22 a.m., 7100 North Ind. 1, Ossian. Driver was cited for driving 65 mph in a 55 mph zone and driving with a suspended

Tuesday, 2:41 a.m., Ind. 1 and Industrial Parkway. Ossian. Officer checked on man staggering along roadway. Subject did not want any interaction with police and said he was walking to the Ossian BP. Denied offer

Tuesday, 2:52 a.m., Ossian Elementary School. Officer pulled over vehicle driving around school and Melching and LaFever streets. Subjects advised they were looking for the dog park with no dogs.

Tuesday, 3:46 a.m., Ossian Deli. Report of a possibly intoxicated male asking customers for a ride, loitering, and refusing to leave. Officer found the same male he spoke with previously that did not want any police interaction. Subject immediately left.

Tuesday, 4:08 a.m., Ind. 1 and Ind. 224, Ossian. Caller reported same subject walking in middle of road with shopping cart. Officer warned her not to cross the white line again or she would be arrested.

Tuesday, 7:21 a.m., Ind. 224 and Ind. 1, Ossian. Caller reported subject pushing shopping cart in roadway. Subject finally accepted ride to Jay County. Jay Co. advised.

Tuesday, 8:40 a.m., 1100 West 1200 North, Ossian. Welfare check requested for subject after caller reported the subjects boyfriend and kids were pretending to be the subject and saying she was in jail. Dispatch advised subject was in the Wabash County Jail.

#### ACCIDENTS

City:

Monday, 3:40 p.m., Ind. and East Monroe Street. Katelyn Lothridge was driving straight on Ind. 1 and when her Nissan Versa rear ended the back of Cassandra Casio's Hyundai Sonata,

which was slowing due to traffic. No injuries reported, slight damage to both vehicles. Damages not exceeding \$5,000.

#### **FIRES**

City:

Friday, 2:45 p.m., South 400 East and 650 South, Bluffton. Report of a combine fire.

#### **ARRESTS**

Jeffrey D Hall, 33, Bluffton, domestic battery presence of a child less than 16, and strangulation, both Level 6 felonies. Bond set at \$30,000.

Steven Carl Thomas, 61, Holgate, Ohio, burglary, a Level 6 felony, battery bodily injury, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$6,500.

Jared Isaac Williams, 33, Bluffton, possession of cocaine and possession of methamphetamine, both Level 6 felonies, resisting law enforcement and possession of paraphernalia, both Class A misdemeanors. Bond set at \$13,000.

Casy Lee Hundley, 42, Bluffton, possession of hypodermic syringe and possession of methamphetamine, both Level 6 felonies, and possession of paraphernalia and possession of marijuana, both Class A misdemeanors. No bond set.

Paula Elaine Thieman, 48, Bluffton, possession of cocaine and possession of methamphetamine, both Level 6 felonies, and possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. No bond set.

Kenneth Ray Humphrey II, 34, Bluffton, controlled substance - possession of methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony. No bond set. Also charged with contempt of court — civil, with a \$500 cash bond.

Trisha Renea Humphrey, 41, Bluffton, controlled substance – possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony. Bond set at \$5,000. Also charged with contempt of court - civil, with a \$500 cash bond.

Robert Lee Wilson, 48, Bluffton, theft — auto parts, a Level 6 Felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

Javeon Montrel Stephens, 25, Fort Wayne, driving while suspended prior suspension, a Class A misdemeanor.



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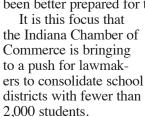


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#### Talk of school consolidations return at the state level

It's hard to separate the sentimentality tied to your high school years from a fact-based discussion about school consolidation. But it needs to

I get it. I loved my Ohio high school and I have amazing memories of being a Wildcat. But I came from a small district and as an adult I know that, had we consolidated with the nearby town, all students would have been better prepared for the future.





Hoosier **Opinions** 

It's not a new idea — it goes back to at least 2017. That's when a Ball State University study found students in smaller districts fared worse on standardized tests and in Advanced Placement classes. The chamber is updating that study now, and will likely push the idea in the 2024 budget session.

And the problem is getting worse.

Kevin Brinegar, the outgoing chamber president and CEO, said he's still awaiting final results, but new data shows the number of school districts with fewer than 2,000 students has increased by six: to 56% of all dis-

#### **Behind the numbers**

So why is the number 2,000 important?

"Students attending small school corporations (enrollment of less than 2,000 students) face resource constraints that impede secondary school performance, as measured by standardized test scores and pass rates. These constraints are likely to restrict post-secondary educational opportunities and outcomes," the 2017 report said.

In other words, smaller school corporations simply offer less to their students, whether that's in the number of foreign languages, advanced placement or STEM classes. It simply isn't feasible to hire teachers for these more tailored courses with so few students taking them. Consolidation can work.

To begin the 2018-19 school year, Rockville and Turkey Run High Schools combined to form a new 9-12 grade high school called Parke Heritage High School located at the former Rockville Junior-Senior High School location. The new 6-8 grade middle school formed is called Parke Heritage Middle School, and is located at the former Turkey Run Junior-Senior High

"This consolidation brings many new opportunities to our students, both in the classroom and on the athletic field," the district website says. "The NCP staff has strived to maintain the heritage of the former schools while moving forward in the best interest of our students. We are striving to celebrate the past while shaping the future."

#### **Moving forward**

That 2017 study found that if small school corporations increased their size to around 2,000 students, they'd see an increase in the average student's performance on the SAT of 20.5 points, a 14.9 percentagepoint increase in share of students passing AP exams, an additional 4 percentage-point increase on end-of-course assessment pass rates in algebra and biology, and a 5 percentage point-increase in the 8th grade then-ISTEP pass rate.

I understand the attachment people have to a school and a mascot and how much it becomes a part of the community. But I hope more counties will examine whether one robust, thriving district is better for the community as a whole than two smaller, struggling districts that aren't adequately preparing its students for the

We need students ready to fulfill jobs if the state is to grow — and that includes in the struggling rural parts of

While some might fear a consolidation will lead to further decay or rural cities and towns, I believe it could lead to a renaissance.

> Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a non-profit newsroom. nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com

## Today in History

**By The Associated Press** 

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 11, the 284th day of 2023. There are 81 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 11, 1991, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Anita Hill accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexually harassing her; Thomas re-appeared before the panel to denounce the proceedings as a "high-tech lynching.

On this date:

In 1614, the New Netherland Co. was formed by a group of merchants from Amsterdam and Hoorn to set up fur trading in North

In 1809, just over three years after the famous Lewis and Clark expedition ended, Meriwether Lewis was found dead in a Tennessee inn, an apparent suicide; he was 35.

In 1884, future first lady Eleanor Roosevelt was born in New York City.

In 1906, the San Francisco Board of Education ordered the city's Asian students segregated into their own school. (The order was later rescinded at the behest of President Theodore Roosevelt, who promised to curb future Japanese immigration to the United States.)

## The News-Banner

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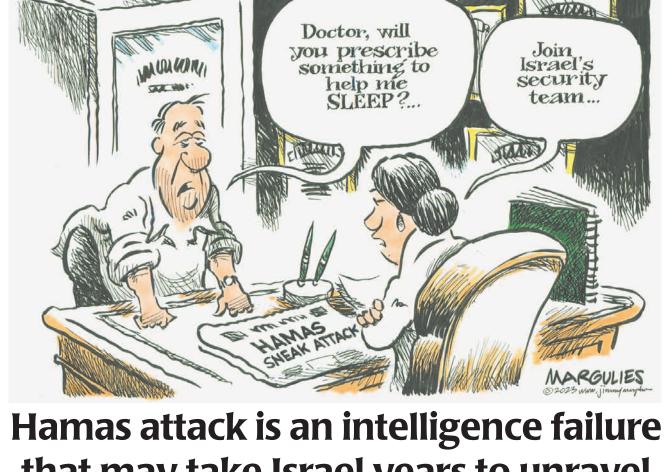
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## that may take Israel years to unravel

The vicious Hamas assault of terrorism on Saturday truly was Israel's 9/11 — not simply in the anguished demand for revenge that has followed the attack but also in the strange blindness that preceded

True intelligence failures result not simply from a lack of information but also an inability to understand it. Israelis knew the malevolent hatred that animated Hamas and its backers in Iran. What they didn't appreciate was the creativity and competence of their adversaries. This was a level of organized malice that was, literally, unthinkable

Just as Americans never imagined that the Muslim fundamentalists of al-Qaeda would have the perverse genius to fly airplanes into buildings, Israeli analysts don't seem to have appreciated that Hamas fighters could escape the barricaded compound of Gaza with paragliders. Israelis evidently didn't credit their foe's ability to operate simultaneously across air, sea and land. And they certainly didn't appreciate Hamas's and its allies' ability to keep secrets.

Will we learn, as we did after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, in the United States, that the information necessary to prevent the attacks was in the system? Somewhere, the lights might have been "blinking red." But in the haunting phrase that came to explain the 9/11 failure, Israelis evidently couldn't "connect the dots." They couldn't see what, in retrospect, was staring them in the face.

In the United States in 2001, one big problem was that the CIA and the FBI were intense rivals and didn't trust each other. They wouldn't share (or when they did, couldn't comprehend) the intelligence that was in their separate silos. I don't know enough about Israeli intelligence to draw any firm parallels. But the intelligence world always has professional rivalries and jealousies. What's more, this was a moment when top political leadership was so disorganized that it couldn't have imposed order.

The Israel of 2023 — in the months that preceded the Gaza disaster — has been a domestic political nightmare. The country was more divided than I have seen it in more than 40 years of reporting there. The security establishment — meaning Mossad, military intelligence and the domestic security service known as Shin Bet — was bitterly opposed to the fragile government headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. And it showed.

The intelligence elite believed that Netanyahu was wrecking Israel by assaulting its Supreme Court. I say that because several senior Mossad officers, including a former director, conveyed that message to me directly in recent months. The security elite is secular; it lives in Tel Aviv and Haifa; it listens to Mozart. It deeply resented Bibi's alliance with ultra-Orthodox parties who generally don't serve in the military and espouse a very different, much more religious Israel than the one created in courageous

service by the security barons and their pre-

Israel seemed to be coming apart in the months before Hamas fighters broke through the Gaza cage. Thousands of Israelis were marching in the streets of Tel Aviv to protest Netanyahu's attempt to alter what they saw as the fundamental character of the state. Did that political chaos contribute to the Gaza attacks? I don't know. But, surely, the domestic feuds of the past few months might have led Hamas and its backers in Tehran to believe that Israel was internally weak and, perhaps, vulnerable.



Ignatius

America before 9/11 knew something of that fragility. President George W. Bush came to office after a contested election that could only be resolved by the Supreme Court. Our divisions then seem like nothing compared with now. But the 9/11 Commission documented how the Bush team didn't pay adequate attention to warnings from CIA Director George Tenet and his analysts of a possible al-Qaeda

Intelligence failures involve a strange hubris. The tough guys get sucker punched. As journalists sometimes say, people start "reading their own clips" and believing their vaunted reputations. Mossad and its fellow agencies have lived off their mythic aura for generations; they're celebrated as lions in novels and TV shows even as their American brethren are ridiculed as "clowns in action." But sometimes tough guys don't see the dangers that more cautious people might.

The Iranians and their Hamas allies play a more complicated game than some Israelis, in their justified hatred of the mullahs, might realize. Iran was genuinely threatened by Israel's plan to normalize relations with Saudi Arabia and, in the process, neuter the Palestinian issue as Tehran's trump card. In its consternation, Iran was considering an opening to the United States, even as its allies were planning a vicious attack, Arab sources tell me.

Intelligence failures begin with overconfidence. People who are running scared sometimes look more closely in the shadows.

A final thought: When we say that the Gaza outrage was an Israeli version of 9/11, we should remember the other big lesson of that catastrophe, other than our failure to see it coming. The United States overreacted. It didn't simply take revenge and destroy its enemies. It sought to remake the Middle East, with long, mostly fruitless wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Israeli power at its best is calculated and ruthlessly efficient. I hope that Israel, in avenging this assault, doesn't create future problems that are even

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are playing for keeps.

## Trump's courtroom campaign

Donald Trump is getting indicted and tried all the way into a third Republican presidential nomination, and perhaps a second term in office.

Trump's court dates and legal entanglements aren't a distraction from his campaign, as some observers predicted; in large part, they are the campaign.

We're all familiar with the so-called front-porch campaigns of the late-19th century, most famously the Republican William McKinley who would have delegations of supporters visit him at his home in Canton, Ohio. Joe Biden built on the concept with his lockdown-compliant basement campaign during the 2020 campaign (at least McKinley interacted with

Now, Trump has come up with another variant of this concept — the courtroom campaign.

It involves massive media attention before, during and after court appearances; images and statements of bold, unadorned defiance; and inflamed Republican emotions from the sense that he is being treated unfairly.

This is the potent political cocktail that Trump has used to build what appears to be a nearly unassailable lead in the Republican primaries. Perhaps GOP voters were going to swing toward Trump no matter what, or maybe the struggles of the Ron DeSantis campaign have played a big role. But everything suggests that, so far, Trump's legal travails have been



political gold.

Certainly, Trump's opponents within the party have been thinking, "Please, make it stop," since the initial Alvin Bragg indictment. But it hasn't stopped, and it's not going to stop.

Every key juncture of Trump's legal drama has allowed him to dominate the fight for media cover-**Lowry** age, which, as we learned in the 2016 nomination battle, is key terrain in a primary.

Trump's various indictments, arraignments and court appearances have given him an entirely new way to blot It used to be that candidate debates

were, besides some traditional occasions (a state fair, a party dinner), the most important events on the political calendar. No more. So there was a nice initial Repub-

lican debate in August? Well, the next day there was an instantly iconic Trump mugshot everywhere on TV and social media. There was another, not-so-great

Republican debate in September. Who cares? Trump showed up at his civil fraud trial in New York City the following Monday.

When much of the Republican Party is in a state of high alarm about the instruments of the establishment being used against the right, Donald Trump is starring in a real-life drama about partisan prosecutors and the Biden Justice Department trying to annihilate his business and jail him ahead of the 2024 election.

What else is going to generate more interest and sympathy among perhaps a decisive proportion of Republicans than that? Promises to end the deep state, which we hear from almost all the Republican candidates, are nothing compared to Trump spitting fury at legal adversaries who

It only helps Trump that, despite his sundry deceptions and disgraceful conduct, the myriad legal actions against him are generally ridiculous at worst and ambiguous and legally adventurous at best, while almost all represent blatant selective prosecu-

Perhaps the political reaction in his favor wouldn't have been as strong if he'd only been prosecuted for obstruction related to his handling of classified documents, a case where Special Counsel Jack Smith seems to have him nailed. But not for the first time, Trump and his enemies have a symbiotic relationship — they want to destroy him by any means necessary, and he uses their enmity as his chief political calling card.

This time, the stakes are higher than ever, and we could be heading to a true "Gotterdammerung" next year, with a major-party presidential candidate at risk of going to jail months before a national election. Republican voters would be wise to avoid finding out where this ends by nominating any of the plausible alternatives to Trump. But none of them are being charged or arraigned like the frontrunner, whose courtroom campaign is overwhelming them all.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

## A Travelogue: Bali, Indonesia – Part One

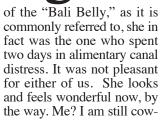
say, "Well, even though we

In anticipation of an upcoming trip to Australia, I am sharing an excerpted, serialized version of a travelogue written in 2016 while visiting family in Melbourne. Australia to Bali, Indonesia. The entire travelogue may be found

at kenballinger.com (with pictures.)

Bali, Indonesia, Feb. 15 - 29, 2016I would not try it without Imodium. Since arriving in this bedeviling world of contradictions called Bali, I have lived on the edge of an impending intestinal thunderstorm.

I can see the clouds in the distance moving obliquely to my given path. I can hear the distant rumble of thunder. I fear getting caught in the storm and it restrains my movements. And, although I have been wet from the rain, I have not vet felt the full force of the storm. I wish I could say the same for my wife Donna. For even though in the pre-trip she dismissed my "silly" fears



ering out of concern for the pounding rain I can see in the distance.

Let me tell you how we ended up in Bali for two weeks amid a two-month adventure to Australia. I realize most of you see me as an alpha male, but as often happens, I lost this battle

of wits with my significant other. After staying a few weeks near beautiful Melbourne, lounging lazily in an Airbnb on the beach of Port Phillip Bay at the top of the Mornington Peninsula, she hit me with a question for which she already had an answer: "What else would you like to do during our time in Australia, dear?" she asked in leading fashion. As I was shaping my lips to

Ballinger

have seen many wonderful sights here in Victoria, and we have visited Sydney and New South Wales on other occasions, as well as Adelaide and Perth, and found them delightful, I have never seen Tasmania, and I have never been to Queensland to see the Gold Coast, or to Cairns, where we could hire a boat to see the Great Barrier Reef, and I have always dreamed of making the trip across country from Sydney to Perth on the Indian Pacific Railway just like Bill Bryson did in his travel book on Australia, 'In a Sunburned Country,' you know, that we read before we came here to visit Adam (our son) on our first trip 12 years ago? There is so much here that we have left to see... and of course, being here with you makes it all doubly special, because you know how I adore you, and quite honestly dear as long as I am with you...'

"I want to go to Bali!" she spouted before the first sound waves of my intended. never to be heard, response crossed my lips. "Bali?" I repeated with a sense of



impending dread. They say that some animals can sense an upcoming earthquake and become instinctively agitated the nearer the natural disaster comes. So, it is with me. I seek shelter with weak arguments. "Do you even know where Bali is on the map? Isn't Bali in Malaysia or Indonesia or some other place where we know neither the language nor the culture? Why would we go to Bali when we are already in such a great place with so much to see? I mean for god's sake; we have not even seen a kangaroo yet on this visit. Can we at least see a kangaroo before we go off on some half-baked, poorly planned, god-forsaken adventure? What are you going to say to your grandchildren when they ask about the kangaroos?" "Bali is where Australians go to play." She replied. "I am not Australian." I whimpered. "Bali has great temples, great art, wonderful food, and the Balinese are the kindest and most accommodating people in the world." She read as she stared at her phone. "Darn Trip-Advisor."

Straight away, as the

Aussies say, knowing how these disagreements have tended to work out over the last 40 years, I was soon on the internet scheduling the flight and hotel package. I booked a relatively new hotel in Seminyak because we have heard that this is the most central and safest area of Bali for tourists. I say to Donna, "You know, honey, when they say this is the safest part of Bali, does that raise any warning flags for you?" Of course, she answered with questions. "Did you book the hotel? What does it say about the weather? Will I need something long-sleeved for the evenings? How close are we

to the beach?" As chance would have it, we booked our Bali trip while our Aussie Airbnb host Sally was spending a week in Bali with her daughter. Sally is our age and given to eccentricities of personality. When she returned, I immediately inquired as to her trip and impressions. She said, "Bali was great, except I was sick with the Bali Belly for four days and had to be hospitalized overnight. I replied with a, "Hmm." Continuing, she began an unsolicited description of her experience in her rugged Australian brogue. "I was vomiting. Not just regular vomiting, mind you, but projectile vomiting!" She seemed oddly proud and emphasized projectile as though as a naïve American I might never have heard the descriptor used with vomit before.

"Not only that..." I was afraid she would go here, "...I had the poo." As she said "poo," she directed the index finger of her right hand toward her ample nether regions and then pointed directly behind her while fully extending her arm in an aggressive fashion. She looked anxiously at me for confirmation of my understanding. I staggered backward half a step and nodded my comprehension hoping to settle my runaway imagination. I held up my right hand and said softly, "I got it." Not being one to readily interpret slight nuances of conversation, she began a fuller description of her illness, but I quickly interrupted to tell her that we just booked an upcoming two-week trip to Bali when our lease was up with her. She brightened. She said to me, "You guys going to Bali? You will love it!" She grabbed the dog's leash and left for the daily walk.

Here's The Thing: ...to be continued.

ken.ballinger@yahoo.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

## 3 ways to reduce taxes on social security

**Bv LIZ WESTON** of NerdWallet

Most people drawing Social Security pay taxes on at least some of that money, but there are ways to reduce the bite

if you

plan

ahead. Delay-

ing the



start of y o u r Social Security Liz Weston benefits age 70 not only means getting a larger benefits check, it could also save hundreds or thousands of dollars a year in taxes. Contributing to a

Roth IRA or Roth 401(k) can also help your tax situation, and you could also explore doing a Roth conversion of money already in a pre-tax account. Managing the required minimum distributions you must take from retirement savings can also

Social Security benefits were once tax-free. That changed in 1983, when Congress decided to tax a portion of benefits for the highest-income recipients. Back then, fewer than

10% of beneficiaries were affected. Lawmakers failed to update the law to account for inflation, however, so today most Social Security beneficiaries have to pay federal income tax on at least some of their benefits, says Ted Sarenski, author of American Institute of CPA's "Guide to Social Security Planning.'

There are a few ways to reduce that tax bite, however, especially if you can plan ahead.

#### HOW SOCIAL SECU-RITY TAXES WORK

Social Security taxes are based on your annual "combined income." Combined income comprises:

• Your adjusted gross income, which includes your earnings, investment income, retirement plan withdrawals and other taxable income.

•Any nontaxable interest you receive, such as interest on municipal bonds.

 One half of your Social Security benefits.

For couples filing a joint return, a combined income between \$32,000 and \$44,000 means up to 50% of benefits may be taxable. For higher combined incomes, up to 85% of benefits may be taxable. Single filers may pay tax on up to 50% of benefits when combined income is between \$25,000 and \$34,000, and up to 85% of



benefits beyond that.

People who live solely on Social Security don't have to pay income taxes on their benefits, Sarenski notes. But even a relatively small amount of other income can cause benefits to become taxable.

#### **DEFUSE THE TAX** TORPEDO

The unique way Social Security benefits are taxed leads to something known as the "tax torpedo" - a sharp rise in marginal tax rates followed by a decline, says William Reichenstein, professor emeritus at Baylor University and co-author of "Social Security Strategies: How to Optimize Retirement Benefits." Marginal tax rates are what you pay on each additional dollar of taxable income you receive.

Many middle-income households can face marginal tax rates that are 50% to 85% higher than their regular tax bracket because of this tax torpedo, Reichenstein says.

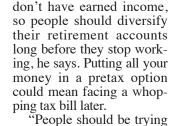
"You take another dollar out of your tax deferred account and it causes another 85 cents of Social Security to be taxed, so your taxable income goes up by \$1.85," he says.

Moderate-income households may be able to defuse the effects by delaying the start of Social Security benefits as long as possible, Reichenstein says. Someone who waits until age 70 to start benefits, withdrawing money from retirement funds in the meantime, not only gets a larger Social Security check but could save hundreds or even thousands of dollars a year in taxes, Reichenstein says. If you're in the 10% to 22% federal tax brackets, consider talking to a tax pro or financial planner about how to mitigate the potential tax burden.

#### **CONTRIBUTE TO A**

**ROTH** Having at least some money in a Roth IRA or Roth 401(k) can help reduce taxes on Social Security benefits. Withdrawals from these accounts are tax-free in retirement and aren't included in your combined income, Sarenski says.

You can't contribute to



a retirement account if you

to balance what they have in pre-tax income and after-tax income so they can balance their taxation in the future when they retire," Sarenski

#### **GET CHARITABLE** WITH YOUR IRA

Once you're 70 1/2, you can make qualified charitable distributions, which are donations from your IRA to a charity. The withdrawal isn't taxable and won't count in your combined income as long as the money is transferred directly from the IRA custodian to the charity. You can transfer up to \$100,000

If you've reached the age at which required minimum distributions from retirement accounts must begin - currently, that age is 73 – qualified charitable distributions can count as your RMD, Sarenski says.

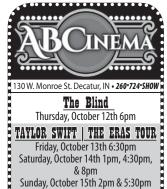
#### CONSIDER OTHER WAYS TO REDUCE **DISTRIBUTIONS**

If you've been a good saver, RMDs can push you into a higher tax bracket as well as trigger higher Social Security taxes, Sarenski

Tapping your retirement funds before you're forced to do so could make sense, as could a Roth conversion, Sarenski says. With a conversion, money is transferred to a Roth IRA from a pretax retirement account such as an IRA or 401(k). Conversions typically incur taxes but withdrawals in retire-

ment are tax-free. Again, consider talking to a tax pro or financial planner first. Taking too much from retirement accounts can trigger unnecessary taxes, increase your Medicare or Affordable Care Act premiums and have other financial repercussions, such as running out of money prematurely. Avoiding those pitfalls takes careful planning, Sarenski says.

"The idea to me is to smooth out your tax rates," Sarenski says. "You don't want years where you're paying at 40% and years where you're paying zero."



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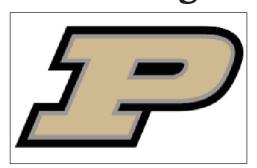


Here is the first family of Sleepy Hollow and they will be ready to meet you as the Creative Arts Theater presents "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" on Oct. 27-28, on the Life Community stage. Left to right are Dame Marta Van Tassel (Taylor Fields), Katrina Van Tassel (Kinlee Taylor) and Baltus Van Tassel (Nathan Fields). Admission is \$15 for adults and \$10 for those 12 and under. (Photo provided)





## Purdue is favored to win the Big Ten again. Can the Boilermakers end the league's March trouble?



#### By PATRICK DONNELLY **Associated Press**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Big Ten got an unexpected boost in the offseason when Zach Edey decided to return to Purdue for a fourth year.

But the question remains whether Edey's towering presence will make a difference next March. Or will Purdue's well-publicized struggles in the NCAA Tournament emblematic of the entire conference's recent postseason failures — persist?

The 7-foot-4, 300-pound Edey was the runaway winner of the AP National Player of the Year award last season, when he averaged 22.3 points, 12.9 rebounds and 2.1 blocks per game. He helped lead the Boilermakers to the Big Ten regular-season and tournament titles and a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Then Purdue became just the second top seed in history to lose in the first round when it was stunned 63-58 by No. 16 seed Fairleigh Dickinson. That was the most painful of a long list of March disappointments for the Boilermakers, who were knocked out by No. 15 seed Saint Peter's in 2022 and No. 13 seed North Texas in 2021.

Purdue coach Matt Painter, speaking at Big Ten men's basketball media day on Tuesday, said those losses have led to some long offseasons.

'I think that's part of coaching. Like, you don't sit around and shine your trophies. You sit around and wonder why in the hell you couldn't beat somebody 17 years ago on a cold Wednesday night," Painter said. "The thing that I've always tried to do, and it's probably the hardest route but the best route, is you've got to face it. Don't run from something. Face it, take it on, and that's how you're going to hopefully reverse that scenario where you're going to be better

Painter's team is the consensus favorite to repeat as Big Ten champion, and it's easy to see why. The Boilermakers return all five starters, including Edey, who could become just the second player - Virginia's Ralph Sampson won three in a row from 198183 — to win consecutive Player of the Year

"If the opportunity presented itself, I would be glad to take that podium and accept that award," Edey said. "But that's not my goal for the next season."

Edey listed a number of team-oriented goals, including reaching the Final Four and winning a national title. But the Big Ten hasn't sent a team to the Final Four since 2019, when Michigan State made it. And Tom Izzo's Spartans were the conference's most recent national champions, all the way

The Big Ten led the country with eight teams in the 2023 tournament. Michigan State was the only squad to advance past the second round and lost in the Sweet 16.

Izzo, who's rarely at a loss for words, struggled to come up with an explanation for the Big Ten's postseason shortcomings.

"I'm supposed to have an educated answer since I've been part of the problem,' Izzo said. "It isn't for lack of trying. I think I've been in three or four Final Fours where there's been another Big Ten team in it. If we keep knocking on the door, that thing's going to open again."

Iowa coach Fran McCaffrey chalked the problem up to the one-and-done nature of

"Any time you play in a tournament situation where if you lose you're out, anything can happen. That's why the pros play best of seven. The best teams advance, McCaffrey said. "Our league has the most teams in. That's indicative of how good the league is and how many good players

Major changes are looming that could have a significant effect on the conference's postseason fortunes. Next year, the league will expand to 18 teams, adding Southern California, UCLA, Oregon and Washington. The influx of new talent — and new ways of playing the game — could better prepare Big Ten teams for national competition in

"We're going to see athleticism and different styles of basketball that maybe we don't see in this conference," Maryland coach Kevin Willard said. "I think it's going to help Michigan State see how a West Coast team plays so that when you get a West Coast team in the NCAA Tournament, maybe your players have seen a different style. Because this league, we're all pretty much similar in the way we play. Seeing a UCLA, seeing an Oregon who plays matchup zones and presses a little bit is going to help these guys in March be a little bit more

## Astros pound 4 homers to rout Twins and take 2-1 ALDS lead

**By DAVE CAMPBELL AP Sports Writer** MINNEAPOLIS

(AP) — Late-afternoon shadows made the ball difficult to pick up, and Minnesota's Sonny Gray presented a tough opponent on the mound.

The Houston Astros just powered their way through and produced yet another October masterpiece.

José Abreu hit a three-run homer for Houston in a four-run first inning against Gray and piled on with a two-run shot in the ninth, carrying the Astros past the Twins 9-1 on Tuesday for a 2-1 AL Division Series

Yordan Alvarez hit his fourth home run in three games and Alex Bregman had a homer and an RBI single for the defending World Series champions, who took charge from their first at-bat and moved within one win of a seventh consecutive AL Championship Series appearance. Astros starter Cristian Javier took it from there with nine strikeouts in five scoreless innings.

"It was kind of just pass the torch to the next guy," said Bregman, who has 16 postseason homers. "Put together a good at-bat and grind it out."

Game 4 is at Target Field on Wednesday. If the Twins force Game 5, it would be in Houston on Friday.

"This was one of the reasons why I signed with this organization, to be in the best situation and compete," said Abreu, who set his low with a .237 average this season, nearly 50 points below his career mark.

Splitting the first two games in Houston gave the Twins home-field advantage, and they sold out both games three days in advance. Johan Santana threw out the ceremonial first pitch to Joe Mauer, and the crowd the Twins credited for carrying them to a two-game sweep of Toronto in the AL Wild Card Series was roaring from the start.

The Astros were hardly going to be fazed by the environment. They went 51-30 on the road, the third-best record in the major leagues, and have made October games quite a habit since their run started in 2017.

"It's a very confident club, not a cocky club. We don't showboat too much. We just play," manager Dusty Baker said. "The guys have a knack of picking each other up.

Javier had a 4.56 ERA that was by far his worst in four big league seasons and failed to finish five innings in five of his prior 11 starts, but the Astros weren't concerned.

"He has a slow heartbeat. He wants the



baseball," Bregman petitor and we have all the confidence in the world in him every single time he takes the mound."

The right-hander, who threw six hitless innings in World Series Game 4 last year to beat Philadelphia, lowered his career postseason ERA to 1.91 over 37 2/3 innings.

"Their guy did what I didn't do. He executed pitches in spots with runners on," Gray said.

With 13 misses in 16 swings at Javier's slider, the Twins flailed through the shadows in a feeble response to the early Astros explosion. Javier allowed one hit, a one-out double by Max Kepler in the first, but he stranded two runners in scoring position with consecutive strikeouts of Royce Lewis and Carlos

With five walks and one hit batter, the Twins had plenty of opportunities to catch up. They loaded the bases on walks in the fifth inning, but Kepler and Lewis ended the inning with strikeouts.

The Twins left nine men on base and went 1 for 9 with runners in scoring position. Correa, who has a hit in all five postseason games and is 9 for 19 with four RBIs, scored on Willi Castro's one-out single in the sixth. But Jeremy Peña made a diving stop at shortstop of a grounder rocketed by Ryan Jeffers and leaped to his feet to start a double play.

"It was a difficult day to hit, so them jumping out early was very, very important," Twins manager Rocco Baldelli said. "Whichever team did that was going to definitely be in the driver's seat.'

#### **FAST START**

Jose Altuve greeted Gray with a single, and a one-out bouncer down the first-base line eluded Alex Kirilloff's glove for a twobase error. Kyle Tucker put the Astros on the board with a single. Then Abreu hit a 2-1 sweeper into the second deck for a 4-0 lead that took some buzz out of the ballpark.

We were fighting an uphill battle as a team. I was fighting an uphill battle every inning," Gray said.

#### **UP NEXT**

Astros RHP José Urquidy will start Game 4. He beat the Twins in Game 2 of the AL Wild Card Series in 2020. Twins RHP Joe Ryan will make his first career postseason start on Wednesday. He has allowed 13 earned runs, nine walks and three homers in 14 innings over three career starts against

## **NCAA** President Baker will testify to Senate on college sports issues next week

By RALPH D. RUSSO **AP College Sports Writer** 

NCAA President Charlie Baker is expected to testify in front of a Senate committee next week during the 10th hearing on Capitol Hill over the last three years on college sports.

The Senate Judiciary Committee announced it has scheduled a hearing on Name, Image and Likeness, and the Future of College Sports for next Tues-

Baker, the former governor of Massachusetts, took over as NCAA president in March and has been spending a lot of time in Washington lobbying lawmakers to help college sports with a federal law to regulate how athletes can be compensated for their fame.

Several bills have been introduced by federal lawmakers lately, including two bipartisan efforts from the senate, but still there has been little movement toward serious action on a issue that has been a topic of conversation since the summer of 2020.

"I do get worried about Congress micromanaging the rules of endorsement deals or transfer portals or compensation," Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., told members of the athletic directors' association LEAD1 last month at a gathering in Washington.

Baker is expected to be joined next week by Big Ten Commissioner Tony

While college sports leaders have repeatedly said federal intervention that prevents college athletes from being deemed employees is the best solution for NIL, the NCAA is working on finally passing its own detailed rules.

The NCAA Division I Council last week introduced several proposals to bring transparency to NIL transactions and oversight of those who want to work with students. They could be voted on as soon as January and a working group is still discussing more ways to regulate NIL payments to athletes.

## **High School Calendar**

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.

VOLLEYBALL: (sectional semi-final & final)

MONDAY, OCT 16 No events scheduled **TUESDAY, OCT 17** No events scheduled **WEDNESDAY, OCT 18** No events scheduled

## Barry Melrose retiring as ESPN's longtime hockey analyst after Parkinson's disease diagnosis

By JOHN WAWROW AP Hockey Writer

Former NHL player and coach Barry Melrose is stepping away from his career as one of hockey's most recognized analysts after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, ESPN announced on Tuesday.

The news of Melrose's illness and retirement was made on ESPN's SportsCenter on the same day the NHL 2023-24 season opened with a threegame slate.

"I've had over extraordinary years playing, coaching and analyzing the world's greatest game, hockey. It's now time to hang up my skates and focus on my health, my family, including my supportive wife Cindy, and whatever comes next," Melrose said in a statement released by the network.

"I'm beyond grateful for my hockey career, and to have called ESPN home for almost 30 years," he added. "Thanks for the incredible memories, and I'll now be cheering for you from the

The 67-year-old Melrose's journeyman playing career as a hard-nosed defenseman led to a brief coaching career — which included a Stanley Cup Final appearance — before he became one of the

game's top broadcasters. Melrose had a relatable everyman's broadcasting style, bringing a sense of humor to his insights, and was easily recognized by his goatee and slickedbacked hair. "Barry is a unique, one-

of-a-kind person. And hockey on ESPN won't be the same without him," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said. "Barry's gigantic personality and trademark style have made our game bigger, more exciting and more entertaining.

ESPN chairman Jimmy Pitaro congratulated Melrose for his "exceptional contributions to hockey on ESPN," and wished him and his family the best.

"Barry has had a connection to the sport for an astonishing 50 years as a player, coach and analyst, and he has left an indelible mark both on and off the ice," Pitaro said.

From rural Kelvington, Saskatchewan, the cousin of former Toronto star Wendel Clark, broke into pro hockey with the Cincinnati Stingers of the now-defunct World Hockey Association in 1976. He played three seasons in Cincinnati and, following the WHA's demise, made the transition to the NHL with Winnipeg in 1979. He went on to play for Toronto and Detroit, where he closed his career following the 1985-86 sea-

Overall, he finished with 10 goals and 33 points and 728 penalty minutes in 300 NHL career games. His WHA totals were five goals and 32 points and 343 penalty minutes in 178 games with Cincinnati.

Melrose turned to coaching and led the Adirondack Red Wings to win the American Hockey League Calder Cup in 1992.

The following year, Melrose was hired by the Kings, where he brought a sense of colorful flare and instant success to Los Angeles. In his rookie season, he coached a Kings team that featured Wayne Gretzky to make a memorable playoff run. They reached the Final before losing to Montreal in five games.

Melrose finished with a record of 79-101 and 29 ties over two-plus seasons in L.A. before being fired midway through the 1994-95 season.

He was hired by ESPN in 1996 and left broadcasting for what became a brief stint coaching the Tampa Bay Lightning in Steven Stamkos' rookie season in 2008-09. Melrose was fired 16 games into the season following a 5-7-4 start and returned to

## Vikings place Justin Jefferson on IR for a hamstring injury

**By DAVE CAMPBELL AP Pro Football Writer** MINNEAPOLIS (AP)

The Minnesota Vikings will place wide receiver Justin Jefferson on injured reserve, according to a person with knowledge of the decision, forcing the 2022 NFL Offensive Player of the Year to miss at least the next four games because of a hamstring injury.

The person confirmed the decision to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the Vikings had not finalized the move.

Jefferson slipped on the U.S. Bank Stadium turf while trying to make a cut on his route during a thirddown pass deep in Kansas City territory and limped slowly to the sideline after grabbing the back of his right leg in the fourth quarter of the 27-20 loss to the Vikings coach Kevin

O'Connell, speaking to reporters on Monday, made it clear the team would be extra cautious with their most important and extremely competitive play-

"We're going to have to, medically, make a good decision and help almost protect him from himself a little bit in a way, where we have to take care of him and get him back to 100%," O'Connell said.

Without Jefferson, Kirk Cousins and the Vikings will have to lean hard on rookie Jordan Addison, their firstround draft pick who is off to a promising start. Fellow wide receivers K.J. Osborn and Brandon Powell will have their roles elevated, and tight end T.J. Hockenson will be even more vital on third downs.

Addison has 19 catches for 249 yards and three touchdowns in his first five games.

"I'm very confident in that group," O'Connell

The Vikings could hardly have had a worse setback after losing four of their first five games, all by eight points or fewer. Their entire offense is built around Jefferson, who has set all kinds of all-time records just five games into his fourth NFL season. He has 36 catches for 571 yards and three touchdowns and never has missed a game in his career until now.

Minnesota (1-4) plays at Chicago (1-4) on Sunday.

## News-Banner Scoreboard

#### **FOOTBALL**

**High School** 

	Rcd	TP	P٧٩
<ol> <li>Brownsburg</li> </ol>	8-0	286	- 1
2. Center Grove	7-1	262	2
<ol><li>Indpls Ben Davis</li></ol>	7-1	258	3
<ol> <li>Hamilton South.</li> </ol>	7-1	182	3
<ol><li>Crown Point</li></ol>	8-0	176	4
<ol><li>Westfield</li></ol>	7-1	156	6
<ol><li>Indpls Cathedral</li></ol>	6-2	124	8
8. Penn	7-1	98	ç
9. Carroll (Fort Wayn	e)6-2	46	10
10. Fishers	5-3	34	7
Others receiving vote	s: Ca	rmel	18
Warsaw 10.			

Rcd TPPvs 1. Bloomington North 8-0 296 Ft. Wayne Snider 3. Bloomington South 7-1 236 4. Valparaiso 6-2 204 6-2 204 7-1 172 5. Lafavette Harrison 7. Decatur Central 6-2 118 7-1 88 6-2 74 T8 8. Floyd Central 9. Mishawaka 10. Plainfield 6-2 42 Others receiving votes: Castle 10.

Whiteland 6. McCutcheon 4. **Rcd TPPvs** 8-0 298 1 1. E. Central 2. Ev. Reitz 3. Northridge 8-0 268 2 4 5 6 7 9 4. New Palestine 196 Kokomo 162 6. Greenfield 158 8-0 94 9 6-2 92 NR 8. E. Noble 9. New Haven 6-2 48 NR 10. Leo Others receiving votes: North-Wood 24. Ev. Memorial 18. Pendle-

ton Hts. 12. New Prairie 8. Rcd TPPvs 1. Indpls Chatard 8-0 300 Hanover Central
 Guerin Catholic 8-0 222 6-2 198 4. Tippecanoe Valley
5. Hamilton Hts. 8-0 194 8-0 188 6. Gibson Southern 7. Heritage Hills 6-2 134 7-1 110 8. Tri-West 90 9. Peru 10. Knox 8-0 60 10 Others receiving votes: W. Noble 30. W. Lafayette 18. Batesville 14. Lawrenceburg 8. Centerville 6. Vincennes 2.

Rcd TPPvs 7-1 284 7-1 260 1. Triton Central 2. Linton 7-1 228 7-1 190 7-1 182 3 4 5 3. Brownstown N. Posey

134 128 . Alexandria 46 T10 44 T10 8. Eastbrook 9. S. Vermillion 10. Bluffton 6-2 38 6 Others receiving votes: Lafayette Catholic 28. Paoli 24. Rochester 18. Greencastle 14. Northeastern 12. Indpls Scecina 10. Eastern (Green-

town) 6. Heritage Christian 4 Rcd TPPvs 1. Indpls Lutheran 8-0 300 8-0 268 2. Adams Central 3. Carroll (Flora) 8-0 236 . Providence . Indpls Park Tudor 8-0 202 S. Putnam N. White 7-1 154 8-0 106 8. Springs Valley 9. Sheridan 7-1 90 NR 6-2 56 6-2 30 10. Madison-Grant Others receiving votes: W. Central 14. Triton 8. Milan 2. S. Adams 2.

#### **BASEBALL**

DIVISION SERIES (Best-of-5) American League Texas 3, Baltimore 0 Saturday, Oct. 7 — Texas 3, Balti-

Sunday, Oct. 8 — Texas 11, Balti-

Tuesday, Oct. 10 Texas 7, Baltimore 1 x-Wednesday, Oct. 11 — Baltimore

x-Friday, Oct. 13 — Texas at Baltimore, 8:03 (FS1)
Houston 2, Minnesota 1 Saturday, Oct. 7 — Houston 6, Min-

Sunday, Oct. 8 — Minnesota 6, Tuesday, Oct. 10 — Houston 9, Minnesota 1

Wednesday, Oct. 11 — Houston at Minnesota (Ryan 11-10), 2:07 p.m. (FS1) x-Friday, Oct. 13 — Minnesota at

Houston, 4:07 p.m. (FS1) National League
(All Games on TBS)
Philadelphia 1, Atlanta 1
Saturday, Oct. 7 — Philadelphia 3,

Atlanta 0 Monday, Oct. 9 — Atlanta 5, Phila-Wednesday, Oct. 11 — Atlanta at Philadelphia (Nola 12-9), 5:07 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 12 — Atlanta at Philadelphia, 6:07 p.m. (TBS) x-Saturday, Oct. 14 — Philadelphia at Atlanta, 6:07 p.m. (TBS)

Arizona 2, Los Angeles 0 Saturday, Oct. 7 — Arizona 11, at Los Angeles 2

Monday, Oct. 9 — Arizona 4, Los Angeles 2 Wednesday, Oct. 11 — Los Angeles (Lynn 13-11) at Arizona (Pfaadt 3-9),

y:07 p.m. (TBS)
x-Thursday, Oct. 12 — Los Angeles
at Arizona, 9:07 p.m. (TBS)
x-Saturday, Oct. 14 — Arizona at

Los Angeles, 9:20 p.m. (TBS)

#### <u>BASKETBALL</u> **WNBA**

WNBA Playoff Glance

(Best-of-5) No. 1 Las Vegas 1, No. 2 New York 0 Sunday, Oct. 8: Las Vegas 99, New

Wednesday, Oct. 11: Las Vegas at New York, 9 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 15: New York at Las x-Wednesday, Oct. 18: New York at

x-Friday, Oct. 20: Las Vegas at New York, TBD **HOCKEY** 

Las Vegas, TBD

NHL

**EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division** 

tlantic Division

GP W L OTPts GF GA

ay 1 1 0 0 2 5 3

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

0 0 0 0 0 0 0

0 0 0 0 0 0 0

0 0 0 0 0 0 0

0 0 0 0 0 0 0

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 Ottawa Buffalo Montreal Boston

Metropolitan Division
GP W L OTPts GF GA
Washington 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 New Jersey 0 0 N.Y. Islanders0 0 0 0 0 N.Y. Rangers0 0 0 Carolina 0 0 0 0 Carolina 0 0 0 Philadelphia 0 0 0 0 0 Columbus 0 0 0 Pittsburgh 1 0 1 0 WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division GP W L OTPts GF GA 1 0 0 0 0 0 Chicago 2 4 0 Dallas 0 0 0 0 0 Colorado Winnipeg Arizona 0 0 0 0 0 St. Louis 0 0 0 0 0

Pacific Division

GP W L OTPts GF GA

Calgary 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Anaheim 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Los Angeles 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Nashville

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 San Jose Edmonton 0 Vancouver Vegas 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to

Monday's Games No games scheduled
Tuesday's Games

Tuesday's Games
Tampa Bay 5, Nashville 3
Chicago 4, Pittsburgh 2
Seattle at Vegas, 10:30 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Montreal at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 10 Chicago at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.
Edmonton at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Winnipeg at Calgary, 10 p.m.
Thursday's Games
N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Detroit at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Elorida et Minnesett, 8 p.m.

Florida at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Seattle at Nashville, 8 p.m. St. Louis at Dallas, 8 p.m. Vegas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

**Friday's Games**Arizona at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Washington, 7:30 p.m.

#### **TRANSACTIONS**

Tuesday's Transactions BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association ATLANTA HAWKS — Signed G Brandon Randolph.

BOSTON CELTICS — Re-signed G Payton Pritchard to a rookie scale

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS -Waived G Brodric Thomas.
PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS — Waived G Antoine Davis

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Placed
RB James Conner on injured reserve. Signed DB Quavian White to the practice squad. Released LB Davion Taylor from the practice squad.

ATLANTA FALCONS — Acquired WR Van Jefferson and a 2025 seventh-round draft pick from the Los Angeles Rams in exchange for a 2025 sixth-round draft pick. Released LB Andre Smith. Released WR Xavier Malone from the practice squad. BUFFALO BILLS — Signed DB Josh

Norman to the practice squad. CHICAGO BEARS — Signed WR Collin Johnson to the practice squad Released K John Parker Romo from the

practice squad.
DENVER BRONCOS — Designated

TE Greg Dulcich to return from injured reserve to practice. Released WR Michael Bandy from the practice squad. DETROIT LIONS — Signed CB

Anthony Averett and TE Anthony Firkser to the practice squad. Released CB Darius Phillips and WR Trey Quinn from

the practice squad.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — OLB Justin Hollins. Waived RB Patrick

Taylor. HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed DE Kerry Hyder to the practice squad. Released OT Geron Christian and WR Lance McCutcheon from the practice

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Released WR Juwann Winfree from the practice

squad. LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Signed DB Cornell Armstrong to the practice squad. Released WR Marquez Callaway and DB Rezjohn Wright from the practice

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Designated RB Jeff Wilson to return from injured reserve to practice. Signed RB Jake Funk to the practice squad.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Placed

WR Justin Jefferson on injured reserve. Released QB Tanner Morgan from the practice squad

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Designated WR Tyquan Thornton to return

from injured reserve to practice.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Released DB Amani Oruwariye and WR Cam Sims from the practice squad. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Desig-

nated LB Nakobe Dean to return from injured reserve to practice.
WASHINGTON COMMANDERS -Placed Ss Darrick Forrest and Jeremy Reaves on injured reserve. Promoted S Terrell Burgess and LB De'Jon Harris

from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed Ss Sean Chandler and Joshua Kalu and DE Joshua Pryor to the practice squad. Released S Keidror Smith from the practice squad.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ANAHEIM DUCKS — Claimed LW
Ross Johnston off waivers from the New York Islanders.

BOSTON BRUINS — Recalled C Patrick Brown from Providence (AHL). COLORADO AVALANCHE

Acquired D Caleb Jones from Carolina in exchange for F Callahan Burke. Recalled LW Riley Tufte and G Justus Annunen from Colorado (AHL). EDMONTON OILERS — Signed D

Beau Akey to a three-year, entry-level MINNESOTA WILD — Reassigned G

Hunter Jones from Iowa (AHL) to Iowa PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Assigned

Ds Will Zmolek and Mason Millman to Reading (ECHL).

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS Assigned D Owen Pickering to Swift (Current (WHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Placed C

Alex Barre-Boulet on waivers.
TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS — Signed C Noah Gregor to a one-year contract. Placed C Bobby Rittich on waivers. Loaned C Braeden Kressler to the OHL

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS —
Released LW Max Comtois from a professional try-out contract (PTO). WASHINGTON CAPITALS – Recalled G Garin Bjorkland from South

Carolina (ECHL to Hershey (AHL).

Minor League Hockey

American Hockey League

ABBOTSFORD CANUCKS— Assigned Fs Josh Passolt and Cooper Walker and D Michael Joyaux and G Jonathan Lemieux to Kalamazoo

CALGARY WRANGLERS

CALGARY WRANGLERS —
Assigned D Will Riedell and F Mark
Duarte to Rapid City (ECHL).
COACHELLA VALLEY FIREBIRDS
—Assigned Ds Ryan Jones and Jake
McLaughlin, Fs Patrick Curry, Maxim
Andreev, Jacob Hayhurst, Kyle Jackson and Justin Nachbaum and G Jack LaFontaine to Kansas City (ECHL). HENDERSON SILVER KNIGHTS –

Assigned Ds Peter Tischke and Noah Campbell, G, Jordan Papirny and Fs Matt Boudens and Simon Pinard to Savannah (ECHL).

LAVAL ROCKET — Assigned F John Park-Jones and D Miguel Tourigny to

Trois-Rivieres (ECHL). LEHIGH VALLEY PHANTOMS — Assigned G Nolan Maier to Reading (ECHL).

SAN DIEGO GULLS — Signed G Tomas Suchanek to a one-year contract. SPRINGFIELD THUNDERBIRDS -Assigned F Brayden Guy to Orlando

ONTARIO REIGN — Assigned D Tyler Inamoto to Greenville (ECHL).
ROCKFORD ICEHOGS — Assigned

D Ross MacDougall and F Seamus
Malone to Indy (ECHL).
UTICA COMETS — Recalled F Filip
Engaras from Adirondack. ECHL

GREENVILLE SWAMP RABBITS — Released G Matt Caldwell.

KALAMAZOO WINGS — Released F Rex Moe and D Stephen Alvo. SOCCER Major League Soccer MLS — Issued an official warning to Sporting Kansas City for violating the mass confrontation policy during an October 8 match against Real Salt Lake

Fined Sporting Kansas City Ms Johnny Russell and Felipe Gutierrez and F Alan Pulido an undisclosed amount for inciting and/or escalating a mass confrontation during an October 8 match against Real

## LIV Golf loses its bid to earn ranking points over closed shop questions

By DOUG FERGUSON **AP Golf Writer** 

LIV Golf is playing only for cash, not world ranking points, after the Official World

G o 1 f Ranki n g board determined

it could not fairly measure the 48-man league with the other 24 tours around the

world. The OWGR rejected the application from Saudibacked LIV Golf, first submitted in July 2022 after the league already had played two of its 54-hole, no-cut events.

"We are not at war with them, Peter Dawson, chairman of the OWGR board, said when contacted by The Associated Press. "This decision not to make them eligible is not political. It is entirely technical. LIV players are self-evidently good enough to be ranked. They're just not playing in a format where they can be ranked equitably with the other 24 tours and thousands of players trying to compete on them."

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan, European tour CEO Keith Pelley and Keith Waters of the International Federation of PGA

> Tours previo u s l y recused themselves from

the LIV Golf decision to avoid any conflict of inter-The committee that reject-

ed LIV's application comprised leaders from Augusta National, the PGA of America, the U.S. Golf Association and The R&A, which run the four majors. The majors use the OWGR as part of their qualifying criteria.

It notified LIV Golf of its decision with a letter the OWGR later posted on its

"OWGR's sole objective is to rank the best players across the globe. Today's communication makes clear that it can no longer deliver on that objective," LIV Golf said in a statement.

LIV said a ranking that doesn't fairly represent all players regardless of where

they play would deprive fans and players. Noting that majors rely on the world ranking, "It also robs some traditional tournaments of the best fields possible."

"Professional golf is now without a true or global scoring and ranking system," the LIV statement said. "There is no benefit for fans or players from the lack of trust or clarity as long as the best player performances are not recognized."

LIV Golf, which has two events left in its second season, has 48 players competing over 54 holes with no cut and a \$20 million purse, with an additional \$5 million awarded in a simultaneous team competition.

Dawson, a non-voting member of the committee, said the OWGR could work around some of the requirements, such as a 36-hole cut and having an average field size of 75 players over the course of a season.

But the committee could not get past what amounts to

a closed shop. LIV Golf has the same 48 players for the entire season (with alternates in case of injury) and not enough turnover. While the top 24 players are assured a spot the following season, LIV Golf signed several players to lucrative contracts that assure them a spot on the roster regardless of their performance.

Among those currently outside the top 24 are Phil Mickelson, Lee Westwood, Bubba Watson, Paul Casey and Ian Poulter. Three players are to be

added for the 2024 season through a promotions tournament, with a fourth player — Andy Ogletree advancing through the International Series on the Asian Tour. LIV Golf can choose to add others by recruiting, such as signing up Mito Pereira and Thomas Pieters ahead of the 2023 season.

Most tours around the world typically have a turnover rate of 20% to 25%.

LIV Golf made its debut in June 2022, and the lack of world ranking points has taken an enormous toll. Players who joined the rival league were suspended by the PGA Tour and European tour, and their only access to points came during the majors and Asian Tour

When LIV Golf complete its inaugural season, it had 12 players from the top 50 in the world (led by British Open champion Cameron Smith) and 24 of the top 100. In this week's ranking, Smith (No. 15) and PGA champion Brooks Koepka (No. 18) are the only players from the top 50, and LIV has only six players among the top 100.

Among those no longer in the top 100 are Dustin Johnson, Bryson DeChambeau and Talor Gooch, who has three LIV Golf victories this year. LIV players have mocked the OWGR for not being credible without offering them ranking points.

'Dustin Johnson, Sergio Garcia, of course they should be in the ranking," Dawson said. "We need to find a way to get that done. I hope that LIV can find a solution not so much their format; that can be dealt with through a mathematical formula — but the qualification and relegation."

The OWGR committee also raised concerns over the team aspect of LIV, particularly a moment involv-

ing Sebastian Munoz at a LIV Golf event in Florida a week before the Masters.

Koepka had a one-shot lead on the final hole, with he and Munoz both about 40 feet away for birdie. Koepka went first and left the putt just over 4 feet away. Munoz needed to make birdie to force a playoff. However, his Torque team had a one-shot lead. Munoz lagged his putt to just inside 4 feet and made par.

"I knew we were one stroke ahead on the team, so I couldn't go extra. I knew I couldn't be too aggressive," Munoz said when it was

LIV Golf can reapply to be part of the OWGR system, though the board made it clear that turnover, objective access to LIV Golf and relegating players who don't perform remain key points

in getting ranking points. There's also the matter of the PGA Tour, the European tour and the Saudi backers of LIV Golf (the Public Investment Fund) working out a commercial partnership announced in June. One of the provisions is evaluating the future of team golf.

## OSU's Marvin Harrison Jr. among AP's midseason Big Ten honorees

By ERIC OLSON **AP College Football** 

Writer Ohio State receiver Marvin Harrison Jr. and Mary-

land coach Mike Locksley are among the honorees in The Associated Press' midseason report for the Big Ten Conference.

was picked as the conference's top

Harrison

offensive player in voting by AP sports writers who cover league teams. Locksley was the choice for top coach after the Terrapins got off to their best start since 2001.

Harrison is averaging 99.8 receiving yards per game to easily lead the Big Ten and is averaging just under 20 yards per catch.

He turned in his best performance of the season last week against Maryland after injuring his ankle in the first half against Notre Dame on Sept. 23. He caught eight passes for 163 yards and a touchdown in the 37-17 win over the Terrapins. Seven of his eight receptions resulted in first downs.

"If there's a one-on-one opportunity with Marvin, I don't care who's guarding; I'll pick Marvin 10 times out of 10," quarterback Kyle McCord said.

Locksley has steadily improved his program's recruiting over his five seasons, and his

team is on track for a third straight winning season. That hasn't happened at Maryland since 2001-03.

The Terps

opened 5-0,

beating each opponent by at least 18 points, and they were ahead 17-10 in the third quarter at No. 3 Ohio State last week before giving up 27 straight points. A win over Illinois at home Saturday would make the Terps bowl eligible at the earliest point in

a season since 2001. **TOP DEFENSIVE PLAYER** 

Iowa CB Cooper DeJean

has elevated his game recently and is showing why he was an AP preseason All-American. Two weeks ago against Michigan State, he stopped a drive with an endzone interception and ran back a punt 70 yards for the tie-breaking touchdown. Last week against Purdue, he returned an interception 41 yards to set up a field goal.

#### **TOP FIRST-YEAR FRESHMAN**

Minnesota RB Darius Taylor averaged 133 yards over the first four games and was named Big Ten freshman of the week three times before an injury sidelined him the last two weeks. He's been a workhorse, averaging 28.7 carries over his last

#### three games. **TOP FIRST-YEAR** TRANSFER

Michigan State RB Nathan Carter, coming off an injury-plagued season at Connecticut, is the best thing going for the Spartans. He accounts for a Big Tenhigh 39.5% of their scrimmage touches, according to Sportradar, and is running

#### for 95.4 yards per game. MOST SURPRISING

**TEAM** Rutgers (4-2, 1-2 Big Ten) already has matched its 2022 win total and proved to be more competitive in the games it has lost. There's no shame in losing on the road to No. 2 Michigan and Wisconsin. The Scarlet Knights scored the first touchdown before losing 31-7 at the Big House. They didn't give in after trailing 17-0 at half in a

#### 24-13 loss in Madison. MOST SURPRISING **PLAYER**

Michigan WR Roman Wilson already has matched his 2022 production and made one of the catches of the year when he snagged an end-zone pass and pinned the ball to the back of the Nebraska defender's helmet before securing it for the touchdown. Wilson's eight receiving TDs are tied for third nationally.

#### **MOST**

**DISAPPOINTING TEAM** Illinois (2-4, 0-3) tied for second in the Big Ten West last year and was a trendy pick to challenge for the title in a wide-open division this season. The Illini have surrendered a Big Ten-worst 24 sacks, Mississippi transfer Luke Altmyer has thrown the second-most interceptions in the FBS (8) and their defense is worst in the

#### league. **HOTTEST SEAT**

Tom Allen has Indiana headed toward a third straight losing season, but the bigger concern is that the Hoosiers (2-3, 0-2)have dropped 18 of their last 20 Big Ten games and

haven't been competitive in most of them. Indiana has already fired offensive coordinator Walt Bell but Allen could be a harder decision: His buyout is \$20.4 million.

**BIGGEST INJURY** 

Iowa QB Cade McNamara wasn't the miracle worker fans hoped he would be, but his season-ending ACL tear against Michigan State on Sept. 30 has increased the pressure on an already limited offense.

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## Carrying the weight of everyone else's problems

Dear Annie: I am the kind of person everyone goes to if they have a problem or if they're going through a tough time. I want to be clear: I don't take that lightly, and I'm honored that my friends feel safe enough to share their feelings, frustrations and tears with me.

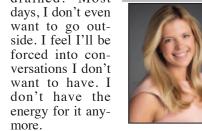
With that said, this seems to happen wherever I go. I can be in a gas station or grocery shopping, and for some reason, a total stranger will ask me for help ("Can you reach that thing for me?" or, "Do you have a dollar?") and then suddenly start sharing their deep traumas. I seem to give off some kind of comforting and safe vibe, which is ironic, since I myself have gone through a lot of trauma. I just don't share to the degree that other people do with me.

What I'm currently having a struggle with is this: I have a couple of friends, two in particular, who are going through some serious issues. One friend has been watching her husband die for two years and just found out he's been unfaithful, and the other has just had her heart truly broken for the first time in her life. I have made myself as emotionally available as I can, but I am getting severely drained, to the point where I'm becoming angry and distant from them. I'm not a trained therapist, and I can't hear the same issue over and over and over again. I also have my own stressors to tend to and deal with. I can't carry my own troubles along with those of everyone else.

I'm trying my best to be compassionate and remember that we all get stuck in our pain and trauma, and some people can never move on. I'm also trying to remember that people have a hard time listening to other people's pain when they are in so much of it themselves, and to let things go if I'm not being heard in

At the same time, I feel I'm about ready to snap. It's harder for me to handle even the most minor of conversations with people. I'm becoming so

drained. Most days, I don't even want to go outside. I feel I'll be forced into conversations I don't want to have. I



Dear

Annie

by Annie Lane

more.

funny thing is, I can mention this to the people around me and the friends I'm currently struggling with. They all agree I should set boundaries, but then they continue to drone on about their own problems, completely missing how they're contributing to the issue.

What advice would you give for someone in my position? — A Very Tired Listener

Dear Tired Listener: My advice to you is to take time to recharge and rest. It is your turn to do whatever you need to do to take care of yourself. You don't owe your friends a listening ear right now; instead, you owe yourself a listening ear as to what will truly bring you joy, happiness and peace. If your cup is empty, there is no nourishment to give to others, so find things that nourish and fill your own cup.

You are a kind and empathetic person who people want to share with, but that doesn't mean that you have to. Someone might be beautiful and everyone wants to be around them, but that doesn't mean they have to date everyone.

Deal with your own trauma with a trained therapist before you snap. And even if you snap at your friends, remember that you are only human. Next time you feel forced into a conversation, pay attention to how you feel in the moment, and if it feels painful or burdensome, simply excuse yourself and go somewhere that you want to be.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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#### **BEETLE BAILEY**





#### **BLONDIE**

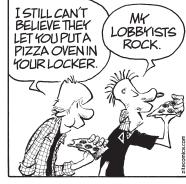




#### **ZITS**







#### **CRANKSHAFT**



#### My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Q: Some churches say that the Bible "contains" the Word of God; others say the entire Bible "is" the Word of God. I've never thought about it until now but the answer makes a big difference in what the truth really is. Can this be sufficiently answered? -

R.T

A: Where there is truth and error there is always compromise. Within some churches, there is a movement to reshape the Christian message to make it more acceptable to man. If our minds and hearts are not filled with God's truth, something else will take its place: cynicism, false religions, philosophies, etc. The list is endless. Jesus

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#### The Bible reveals Christ, who is the Bread of life for our hungry souls

ing claim: "I am ... the truth" (John 14:6). He is the embodiment of all truth.

Those who doubt that the Bible is the Word of God doubt it because they are unwilling to ascribe to God anything they cannot themselves achieve. We are not to pick and choose the parts we want to believe or obey. God has given it all with the instruction to be obedient to all of it. The Spirit of God will never lead us contrary to the Word of

The Bible reveals Christ, who is the Bread of life for our hungry souls and the Water of life for our thirsty hearts. We can trust the Bible because it points us to the most

On Balance (N)

Guy's Grocery Games Guy's Grocery Games

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Drama) Jeff Daniels, Brad Davis, Eric Bogosian.

| SpongeBob | SpongeBob | Dylan (N) | Slimetime

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Vargas Report (N)

375 859 327 553 (3:40) ★★★ (3:5) ★★★ Bridge of Spies (2015, History) Mark Rylance, Alan Alda, Tom Hanks.

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(:15) ♥★ Regression (2015, Thriller) Emma Watson, ♥★★ The Saint (1997, Action) Elisabeth Shue,

history: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Behind every book in the Bible is the Author: the Spirit of God; every word is inspired (see 2 Timothy  $3:\overline{16}-17$ ). It is the textbook of His revelation. The Bible is the highest law of God that sets forth His spiritual laws and gives His enduring promises. The Bible reveals the plan of redemption for the human race. It is the "living" book that works its way into hearts, minds, and souls. The Bible is God's gift to us.

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

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#### THE FAMILY CIRCUS





**ACROSS** 

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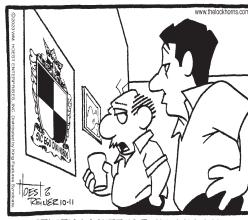
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Army dining

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"I KNOW who did it, but I'll ask anyway."

#### The LOCKHORNS



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Simpsons

\\ \dots\ \dots\ Beverly Hills Cop ('84) Judge (:45) \\ \dots\ \dots\ Beverly Hills Cop II (1987, Comedy)

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(:05) Ladybug Ladybug

Simpsons Simpsons

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(:55) **Barely Lethal** ('15) Jessica Alba, Hailee Steinfeld.

\*\*\*\* Rescue Dawn (2006, War) Steve Zahn, Jeremy Davies, Christian Bale.

NCIS "Playing With Fire" NCIS "Up in Smoke

\*\*\* Brave ('12) Kelly Macdonald. (:40) Ladybug

₩★★★ The Bourne Ultimatum (2007, Action) Julia Stiles, Joan Allen, Matt Damon.

\*\*\* Machete Kills (2013, Action) Michelle Rodríguez, Sofía Vergara, Danny Trejo.

Guy's Grocery Games Grocery (N)

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\*★★★ Ready or Not

\*\*★★ The Last Stand

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(:35) \*\*\* Hit & Run ('12) Kristen

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King Classic Sudoku

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## This Week's Garage

308 WHITE BRIDGE COURT GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE Due to weather we are having Pokemon another sale. cards, transformers NIB, \$1.00 DVDs, Amish and Guidepost books, name brand clothes 300 pc puzzles, fabric, knick knacks, toys, arrowheads, bakers racks, tons of bath and body, 31 bags Oct. 12 9:00 AM-5:00 PM Rain or Shine

MOVING SALE, 830 Parkway Drive, Bluffton, Friday, October 13. Saturdav. October 14, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Antique glassware, records in original album covers, push lawn album covers, mower, snow blower, some tools, empty tubs, free CD's and DVD's

**HELOISE HINT:** If you want a garage sale. Ask if you can take many items along with the expensive item and see what price the seller offers. Usually the more you buy, the better prices you get. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

Place a three day, garage sale, line classified ad and receive a free garage sale kit!

#### Help Wanted

**EMSHWILLER** & EMSH-WILLER is looking for an office assistant to join our team. Seasonal help - January thru May of each year. Responsible for performing a range of clerical and administrative tasks to support daily operations in an office setting. Ideal candidate would be good at organizing, multi-tasking & taking direction. To apply for this position, please send resume to sharedadmin@emshwiller.net (EAP2)

**HELOISE HINT:** If you need help finding a job. Contact headhunters to help you out. Executive recruiters can help, but they only find a small percentage of available jobs. Email HELOISE@Heloise.com.

#### **NOTICE**

#### **Notices**

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PORK CHOP SUPPER at Mc-Natt Church, 9183 W 800 S. Wells County, Sat., Oct. 14 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

STATE OF INDIANA SS:

COUNTY OF WELLS ) IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT CAUSE NUMBER: 90C01-2309-JT-000008 IN THE MATTER OF THE ) TERMINATION OF THE ) PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP: AC - DOB 4/6/2023

AND NICHOLE M COLWELL (BIOLOGICAL MOTHER) CASEY HUNDLEY (BIOLOGICAL FATHER)

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

**HEARING** 

TO: Casey Hundley
Whereabouts unknown
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

to the above noted parent whose whereabouts are unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Sered a Petition for Invol untary Termination of your Parental Rights, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with

the Court.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the
Judge of the Wells Circuit Court, 102 Market Street, Bluffton, IN 46714 - 260-824-6485 for a(n) Pretrial Conference on 11/27/2023 at 8:30 AM and to answer the Petition for Termination of your Parental Rights of said child.

You are further notified that if the allegations in said petition are true, and/or if you fail to appear at the hearing, the Juvenile Court may terminate your parent-child relationship; and if the Court ter-minates your parent-child relationship you will lose all parental rights, powers, privileges, immunities, duties and obligations including any rights to custody, control, visitation, or support in said child; and if the Court terminates your parent-child relationship, it will be permanently terminated, and thereafter you may not contest an adoption or other placement of said child.

You are entitled to representation by an attorney, provided by the State if applicable, throughout these proceedings to terminate the parent-child relationship. If you have been appointed an attorney in the Child in Need of Services action involving the above-named child(ren), that attorney may not be automatically appointed to represent you in these proceedings. You must appear at the hearing currently scheduled in this matter and request that the Court appoint an attorney to represent you in these proceedings to terminate the parent-child relationship

YOU MUST RESPOND by appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, adjudication on said petition and termination of your parental rights may be entered against you, in your absence, without further notice. Beth Davis

Clerk Bruce Antrim, 32454-90 Attorney, Indiana Department of 1314 North Meridian Street Suite

Portland, IN 47371 Office: 260-251-8445 nb 10/11, 10/18, 10/25 hspaxlp

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The City of Bluffton is accepting sealed bids for the Interurban The City of Bluffton is accepting sealed bids for the installation of 3 Trail - Phase 2, NLT 3-12. Bidding instructions and specificapickleball courts at Lancaster Park. Bidding instructions and specifications may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's Office, 128 East tions may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's Office, 128 East Clerk Treasurer's Office, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, IN, Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Bids must be returned to the Clerk Treasurer's Office by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 7, 2023, to be opened and read aloud at the public meeting of the Board of Public Works Market Street, Bluffton, IN, during the hours of Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Bids must be returned to the Clerk Treasurer's Office by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov 7, 2023, to be opened and read aloud at the public meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety on Nov 7, 2023 and Safety on November 7, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

nb 10/11, 10/18

at 4:30 p.m.

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### **Lottery Numbers**

#### **Tuesday's Drawings** HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 - 02-06-15-24-39

**Cash4Life** — 08-12-24-39-60, Cash Ball: 04 **Quick Draw Midday** — 08-11-24-25-31-35-39-41-44-46-54-55-59-6162-65-66-68-71-75, BE: 25

Daily Three-Midday — 09-05-06, SB: 07 Daily Three-Evening — 09-03-01, SB: 07 Daily Four-Midday — 03-08-05-05, SB: 07 Daily Four-Evening — 08-02-01-02, SB: 07

**Quick Draw Evening** — 02-03-11-14-15-17-18-20-22-23-26-29-32-38-46-51-53-62-66-73, BE: 26

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$38.8 million

**MEGA MILLIONS** 03-08-17-46-63; Mega Ball: 07; Megaplier: 4X.

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## nb 10/11, 10/18

## Rep. Santos faces new charges he stole donor identities

Rep. George Santos stole the identities of donors to his campaign and then used their credit cards to ring up tens of thousands of dollars in unauthorized charges, according to a new indictment filed Tuesday.

He then wired some of the money to his own personal bank account, prosecutors said, while using the rest to inflate his campaign coffers.

The 23-count indictment replaces one filed in May against the New York Republican charging him with embezzling money from his campaign and lying to Congress about his wealth, among other offenses.

In the updated indictment, prosecutors accuse Santos of charging more than \$44,000 to his campaign over a period of months using cards belonging to contributors without their knowledge. In one case, he charged \$12,000 to a contributor's credit card and transferred the "vast majority" of that money into his personal bank account, prosecutors said.

Santos is also accused of falsely reporting to the Federal Elections Commission that he had loaned his campaign \$500,000 when he actually hadn't given anything and had less than \$8,000 in the bank.

NEW YORK (AP) - U.S. The fake loan was an attempt to convince Republican Party officials that he was a serious candidate, worth their financial support, the indictment said.

"As alleged, Santos is charged with stealing people's identities and making charges on his own donors' credit cards without their authorization, lying to the FEC and, by extension, the public about the financial state of his campaign," U.S. Attorney Breon Peace said in a statement.

Santos came out of a two-hour Republican conference at the U.S Capitol and told reporters he had no comment on the superseding indictment. "I was in conference like everyone else, without my phone, so I have nothing to say, he said. He has previously maintained his innocence, claiming he is the victim of a "witch hunt."

The new charges deepen the legal peril for Santos, who likely faces a lengthy prison term if convicted. So far, he has resisted all calls to resign, insisting he intends to run for reelection next year.

Santos' personal and professional biography as a wealthy businessman began to unravel soon after winning election to represent parts of Long Island and Queens last year, revealing a tangled web of deception.

In addition to lying to voters about his distinguished Wall Street background, Jewish heritage, academic and athletic achievements, animal rescue work, real estate holdings and more — Santos is accused of carrying out numerous schemes meant to enrich himself and mislead his donors.

He was initially arrested in May on a 13-count federal indictment, which charged him with using funds earmarked for campaign expenses on designer clothes and other personal expenses and improperly obtaining unemployment benefits meant for Americans who lost work because of the pandemic.

Free on bail while awaiting trial, Santos has described his litany of lies as victimless embellishments, while blaming some of his financial irregularities on his former campaign treasurer, Nancy Marks, who he claims "went

Last week, Marks, a longtime Long Island political bookkeeper, pleaded guilty to a fraud conspiracy charge, telling a judge she helped her former boss hoodwink prospective donors and Republican party officials by submitting bogus campaign finance reports.

Tuesday's indictment said Marks and Santos were involved in the same scheme to fake a \$500,000 campaign loan in order to meet a benchmark that would unlock additional support from a Republican Party committee. Santos has now also been charged with recording fake donations from at least 10 people, all his or Marks' relatives, as part of the same effort to make the campaign look like it hit those fundraising

Santos was not initially charged in the criminal complaint against Marks, but was identified in court papers as a "co-conspirator.'

The new indictment alleges a multi-part fraud by Santos, who allegedly duped both his donors and his family members.

In one instance, Santos allegedly swiped the credit card information of one of his contributors, who had already donated \$5,800 to the campaign, to give himself an additional \$15,800 in payments, the indictment said. Because the unauthorized charges exceeded contribution limits under federal law, Santos listed the additional payments as coming from his own unwitting relatives, prosecutors

The credit card fraud scheme

began in December 2021, prosecutors said, shortly after Santos failed to qualify for a Republican Party program that would have provided financial and logistical support to his second congressional campaign.

In text messages to Marks at the time, he described himself as "lost and desperate," prosecutors said.

Financial questions have continued to swirl around Santos, who claimed to be rich but spent much of his adulthood bouncing between low-paying jobs and unemployment, while fending off eviction cases and two separatecriminal charges relating to his use of bad checks.

A separate fundraiser for Santos, Sam Miele, was also previously indicted on federal charges that he impersonated a high-ranking congressional aide while soliciting contributions for the Republican's

Prosecutors said Miele, 27, impersonated the former chief of staff to GOP Rep. Kevin McCarthy, who at the time was the House minority leader, by setting up dummy email addresses that resembled the staffer's name.

Miele's attorney, Kevin Marino, previously predicted his client would be exonerated at trial.

## Aid groups scramble to help as Israel-Hamas war intensifies

Gaza blockade complicates efforts

NEW YORK (AP) -Humanitarian groups are scrambling to assist civilians caught in the war between Israel and Hamas and determine what aid operations are still safe to continue efforts that are being complicated by an intensified blockade of Gaza and ongoing fighting.

Two days after Hamas militants went on a rampage that took the world by surprise, Israel increased airstrikes on Gaza and blocked off food, fuel and other supplies from going into the territory, a move that raised concerns at the United Nations and among aid groups operating in the area home to 2.3 million people. Hamas, in turn, pledged to kill Israelis it abducted if the country's military bombs civilian targets in Gaza without warning.

Hundreds of people have been killed and thousands wounded on both sides, and aid groups operating in the region say there are needs both in Gaza and Israel.

More than 2 tons of medical supplies from the Egyptian Red Crescent have been sent to Gaza and efforts are underway to organize food and other deliveries, according to an Egyptian military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press. But the United

Nations and other aid groups are pleading for more access to help Palestinians who find themselves in the middle of

intense fighting. The UN and other aid agencies were talking with Egypt to send humanitarian aid to the besieged Gaza through a crossing point between the strip and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, an Egyptian official and aid worker said Tuesday. Meanwhile, the World Health Organization said Tuesday medical supplies it has in seven hospitals in Gaza had already been used up and it was reprogramming funds to purchase more from local markets.

Doctors Without Borders, which is still operating in Gaza, has to rely on supplies it already has inside the territory because it can't bring any more in, said Emmanuel Massart, a deputy desk coordinator with the organization in Brussels.

The group — which says it only runs programs in Palestinian areas since Israel has strong emergency and health services — reported Monday that it provided treatments to more than 50 people following airstrikes at the Jabalia refugee camp located north of Gaza City. In addition to helping patients in Gaza, it said it was donating medical supplies to other clinics and hospitals, which have become overcrowded with patients and are experiencing shortages of drugs and fuel that can be used for genera-

If Doctors Without Borders is not able to resupply fairly quickly, Massart said, it will run out of supplies it can use to operate on patients who might be wounded. He also said since the facilities the organization uses are running on generators due to the low supply of electricity, cutting off fuel will present a "huge problem."

"If there is no fuel anymore, there is no medical facilities anymore because we cannot run our medical facility without the energy," Massart said.

The war has also been deeply disruptive to work Mercy Corps has been doing to provide people in Gaza with necessities like food and water, said Arnaud Quemin, the Middle East regional director for the organization. Right now, he said the team on the ground is trying to find a scenario that would enable them to get back to work. The blockade of food and other supplies into Gaza is a major worry.

"We are very concerned with the way things are going at this point because it looks like it's going to get worse – very soon," Quemin said. The sealing of Gaza, he said, will create "humanitarian needs very quickly."

Governments have also been weighing how to respond.

As the fighting intensified, the European Union on late Monday reversed an earlier announcement by an EU commissioner that the bloc was "immediately" suspending aid for Palestinian authorities. Instead, the 27-nation group said it would urgently review the assistance it provides in the wake of Hamas' attacks on Israel. Two European countries - Germany and Austria — said they were suspending development aid for Palestinian areas.

Meanwhile, some organizations are stepping up aid efforts in Israel, which has seen displacement because of the violence.

Naomi Adler, CEO of Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, said a trauma center in Jerusalem that's owned by the organization is treating wounded Israeli soldiers and civilians. About 90% of the patients in the center right now are soldiers, who are typically the first to be brought in for traumatic injuries, Adler said. But the center also accepts anyone who's wounded or injured in the country.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, a Jewish humanitarian organization, said on Sunday that it was activating its emergency response team in Israel, where it runs programs to support people with disabilities, the elderly and children and families who've been impacted by the war and prior conflicts. The organization said it was working with its partners, including in the Israeli government, to address what it called an unprecedented emergency.

JDC's CEO Ariel Zwang said among other things the nonprofit is helping teachers, social workers and other caregivers provide support to those who've suffered trauma and tragedies from the events of the past few days. She said it will help nursey teachers, for example, explain to children why some of their classmates are suddenly missing.

"If you're a teacher now, if you know the children are traumatized, you need special skills and special training in order to manage what you're experiencing and provide for the emotional needs,

which are extraordinary at this time, of your youngest charges," Zwang said.

One organization that helps Palestinian children is shifting its focus, too. Steve Sosebee, the president of Palestine Children's Relief Fund, a U.S.-based charity that helps children in need travel to the U.S. for medical treatment, said given the war, the fund is now looking away from long-term programs and toward more urgent needs for food, medication, clothing and other types of basic humanitarian aid. But like others, he noted the blockade and security risks to its Gaza staff makes it more challenging to do that.

"There are no areas of security, there are no safe havens," Sosebee said. "And therefore, it's very difficult for us to be out in the field providing humanitarian aid when there are no safe places from the constant bombing and attacks that are taking place over the last 72 hours.'

## Biden's second try at student loan cancellation moves forward with debate over plan's details

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden's second attempt at student loan cancellation moved forward Tuesday with a first round of negotiations to help guide the administration to a new plan.

The Biden administration vowed to try again after the Supreme Court rejected an earlier plan in June. In opening remarks at Tuesday's hearing, Under Secretary of Education James Kvaal said the debt crisis threatens to undercut the promise of higher education.

Student loan debt in this country has grown so large that it siphons off the benefits of college for many students," Kvaal said in prepared remarks. "Some loans made to young adults stretch into retirement with no hope of being repaid. These debt burdens are shared by families and communities."

Biden directed the Education Department to find another path to loan relief after conservatives on the high court ruled that he couldn't cancel loans using a 2003 law called the HEROES Act.

The latest attempt will rest on a sweeping law known as the Higher Education Act, which gives the education secretary authority to waive

student loans, although how far that power extends is the subject of legal debate.

The Education Department hopes to settle the dispute by adding federal rules that clarify when the secretary can waive student loans. To change those rules, however, the department is required to assemble a committee of outside negotiators to help hash out

The first day of negotiations, held virtually, lasted more than five hours but appeared to bring the department no closer to clarity. Much of the discussion centered on the shortcomings of existing student loan cancellation programs or problems caused by student loan interest.

Department officials repeatedly intervened to say those problems don't fall under the scope of the current pro-

The negotiators all come from outside the federal government and represent a range of viewpoints on student loans. The panel includes students and officials from a range of colleges, along with loan servicers, state officials and advocates including the

It's unclear who will be eligible for forgiveness under the new plan and how much relief they would get. Those details will be decided after the administration takes input from the negotiators, who meet in a series of sessions scheduled to continue into December.

Responding to suggestions from the panel, administration officials said they aren't considering blanket cancellation.

"We are not looking at a broadbased debt cancellation where we are going to wipe off debt in its entirety. We are looking at individual ways that the secretary can exercise the authority to grant waivers," said Tamy Abernathy, who leads a policy group in the department.

She later clarified that the department's next proposal "could cancel some borrowers' debt completely, but it could not cancel all borrowers debt

At the end of the process, negotiators will vote on a proposed rule drafted with input from their discussions. If they reach consensus on a proposal, the department will move forward with it. If they don't, the agency will propose its own plan, which can be finalized after a public comment period.





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-

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

OCTOBER 22-OCTOBER 27 - (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., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

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-

OCTOBER 27 - 8 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. 815 Adams St., Decatur. Truck & equipment auction. Live and online bidding. 700+ lots! 100+/- municipal units! 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, dump trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickups, 100+ various skid steer attachments & more! Cargo & passenger vans, large group of Chevy Impalas, Tahoes, Dodge Chargers, more! Selling absolute! Accepting consignments! Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC,

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