Page 6

Brighter Future Fund

awards over \$1M

PTABOA completes first round of 2023 appeals

By MARK MILLER
Homeowners in the Wood-

lands addition on Bluffton's north side will likely see some changes in their assessments next year. Some will be happy, others will

A decision to reduce the number of "neighborhoods" — a technical term used for assessing residential property for tax purposes — in the growing addition was the main news to emerge from the first of two hearings of the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals held Monday morning.

Andrew Smethers, an employee of the Nexus Group that works closely with the explained that the inconsistencies of property assessments the past few years in this area was due to the groupings of the homes into too many small neighborhoods. The term is meant to describe a group of homes that share significant ing purposes in determining the one case, he admitted that he homes' values.

The Woodlands area currently consists of "three or four neighborhoods," Smethers said. Wells County Assessor Laura Roberts believes there will be two for the 2024 assessment year.

The other news to come out the hearing was the presence of Smethers, who Roberts described as an "arbiter or an intermediary,"

His participation was in response to some criticisms the board received in the past year regarding how the hearings were conducted and the role of the assessor with the appeals

Smethers reviewed each Wells County Assessor's office, appeal prior to the hearing, some of which resulted in settlements. In each case Monday, the appealing taxpayer was given five minutes to present their arguments, after which Smethers gave the threemember board his opinion. He would either defend the current characteristics, including geo- assessment or suggest a lower graphic, to be utilized for trend- number based on his review. In



Jonathan Goetz of rural Markle distributes data to support his appeals of both a commercial and residential property assessment at Monday's meeting of the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals. The board, shown in the background, consists of Judy Affolder, Blake Fiechter and Nathan Schrock. At right is Andrew Smethers of the Nexus Group. "I greatly appreciate what you're doing," Goetz told the board at one point, "whether it makes me happy or sad. I wouldn't want to be in your seat." Goetz was eventually granted a reduction in his assessment. (Photo by

Commissioners address concerns over petition to vacate county road

By HOLLY GASKILL

Conversations regarding vacating County Road 500 West brought multiple concerned residents to Monday's Wells County Commissioner meeting.

According to County Attorney Ted Storer, Rock Creek Stone Quarry submitted a revised petition to vacate a portion of the county's right-of-way on CR 500W between Ind. 124 and 100N. If the county granted this request, the portion of the road would no longer be available for public travel.

Commissioner Blake Gerber advised the audience he had consulted state

officials about the matter, who said the request was quite uncommon. No decision was discussed, but Gerber affirmed that the commissioners were taking the matter under advisement.

"That's why we're not going to make a decision overnight," Gerber said. "It's going to take time."

Several residents provided their objections during public comment.

Laura Roberts, county assessor and resident of 1275N 500W, told the commissioners the road was one of the only ways to access the area in a flood sever-

(Continued on Page 2)

Indiana DNR celebrates 300 nature preserves and humble beginnings

By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

The Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve was smoldering.

It was late October, 1978: Indiana's first prescribed burn. The ancient prairie ecosystem requires periodic fire to regenerate, according to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

And John Bacone — one of just three employees within DNR's Nature Preserves Division — was nervous. He'd joined, early career, that same year.

After dark, with the fire out, he and a colleague returned to check on the nature preserve's black oak trees.

"I can always see this in my mind," Bacone told the Capital Chronicle 45 years later. "We walked through the blackened landscape, through the savannahs.'

He described unscathed deer trails crisscrossing the burned-out prairie in stark white lines. And the trees, he said, "were hollow like chimneys" with sparks "flying out of the top of them."

"I could feel like, 'Wow, this is like it would have been in 1832," Bacone said. "... We've just seen a fire sweep through this area. And then we also know that next spring and summer it's going to be super green and full of flowers."

Since Bacone joined DNR in 1978, the number of nature preserves in Indiana has grown sixfold: from 46 to 300. More than 50,000 acres of Hoosier land lie within

(Continued on Page 2)

Driver killed when train derailment collapses Colorado bridge

By JESSE BEDAYN. **COLLEEN SLEVIN** and MATTHEW BROWN **Associated Press**

DENVER (AP) — A truck driver was killed when a train derailed near Pueblo, Colorado, and caused a railroad bridge to collapse onto a major highway crushing the semitruck, spilling coal and mangled rail cars across the roadway and shutting down traffic indefinitely, authorities said Monday.

The 60-year-old driver was initially said to be trapped in the Sunday afternoon accident on Interstate 25, but authorities said Monday that he had died.

The partially collapsed bridge could be seen Monday afternoon with the semitruck caught beneath it in the northbound right lane. Derailed train cars were piled up on the bridge and along the tracks to the northeast and large amounts of coal covered a portion of the highway.

A nine-mile stretch of I-25 the main north-south road corridor in Colorado, used by 39,000 to 44,000 vehicles daily — was shut down in what the Colorado Department of Transportation said Monday would be an extended

The bridge partially collapsed when the train hauling 124 cars of coal derailed at about 3:30 p.m. Sunday just as the semitrailer truck passed beneath it, the National Transportation Safety Board said.

Thirty cars derailed, the agency

Investigators from the NTSB arrived Monday at the site, just north of Pueblo and about 114 miles south of Denver. They will determine the cause after looking at the adequacy of prior track inspections, the condition and maintenance history of the bridge and any issues with the train or rail cars, the agency said in a statement. A preliminary report will be released in 30 days.

It was not immediately known whether any other vehicles were involved, Pueblo County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Gayle Perez

It could take as long as 48 hours to clear the coal and other debris and make the highway passable, Gov. Jared Polis said. That work won't begin until federal investigators give the state clearance to proceed, Polis said. He added that

Colorado had been waiting months (Continued on Page 2)

Aid blocked at Egyptian border, Gaza draws closer to collapse

By NAJIB JOBAIN, SAMYA KULLAB and JOSEPH KRAUSS **Associated Press**

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Truckloads of aid idled at Egypt's border with Gaza as residents and humanitarian groups pleaded Monday for water, food and fuel for dying generators, saying the tiny Palestinian territory sealed off by Israel after last week's rampage by Hamas was near total collapse.

U.S. President Joe Biden planned to travel to Israel on Wednesday to signal White House support for the country and to Jordan to meet with Arab leaders. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the trip early Tuesday in Tel Aviv during his second visit to Israel in less than a week amid fears that the fighting could expand into a broader regional conflict.

In Gaza, hospitals were on the

verge of losing electricity, threatening the lives of thousands of patients, and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced from their homes searched for bread. Israel maintained punishing airstrikes across Gaza as a ground invasion loomed, while Hamas militants kept up a barrage of rocket attacks, and tensions mounted near the Israel-Lebanon border.

More than a week after Israel

cut off entry of any supplies, all eyes were on the Rafah crossing, Gaza's only connection to Egypt. Mediators were trying to reach a cease-fire that would let in aid and let out trapped foreigners. Israeli airstrikes forced the crossing to shut down last week, but it remained unclear Monday which of the regional actors was keeping the crossing closed.

Blinken, who returned to Israel after a six-country tour through

Arab nations, said the U.S. and Israel had agreed to develop a plan to enable humanitarian aid to reach civilians in Gaza. There were few details, but the plan would include "the possibility of creating areas to help keep civilians out of harm's

"We share Israel's concern that Hamas may seize or destroy aid entering Gaza or otherwise prevent it from reaching the people (Continued on Page 2)

Local/Area

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The sun will come out tomorrow, mostly

Wed. Thursday Today High 58 High 65 | High 64 Low 41 | Low 51 | Low 46

More Weather on Page 2

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PTABOA first round

(Continued from Page 1

had planned to recommend a "no change" but after hearing from the taxpayer of extenuating circumstances, told the board he would "not object" if they chose to make the requested change.

In all, 13 appeals were heard with six essentially "winning" by either

having Smethers agreeing with them or not objecting to a decision by the board to allow. Four appeals were denied by the board. Three of the appeals resulted in a lowered assessment although not to the degree the taxpayer had request-

Roberts reported that approximately 20 appeals remain unresolved

and will be scheduled for a hearing in November, although the exact date was not set at Monday's meeting. Several of these taxpayers have ceased responding to her communications, she added. She also suspects a few more will be resolved prior to the next hearing.

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County road petition

(Continued from Page 1) al years ago. She added that the road was frequently used for area access to Ind. 124. Roberts asked the commissioners to consult with local emergency services about their travel routes before making any decisions.

Similarly, Shaun Donaghy, resident of 476N 500W, said his family's home could be positioned at a dead end of CR 500W. He claimed the bus would have to turn around in the home's driveway to pick up his child for school. Additionally, Donaghy expressed frustration about how it could affect the property value.

Consequently, Donaghy said he had discussed the

matter with a lawyer and believed he would need to approve any changes with the road. Storer advised that a homeowner would not have the power to "veto" a road change but that the matter would be part of ongoing discussions and hearings before anything happened.

Roberts then raised an

issue with this, noting that Donaghy's was the only adjacent property that required notification about a hearing but that many more properties in the area would be affected. The commissioners said the item would be posted in upcoming agendas if they planned to discuss it or take action.

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Indiana DNR

(Continued from Page 1)

dedicated nature preserves, in the most widely distributed system of protected lands in the state.

'Irreplaceable' places

Nature preserves protect Indiana's highest-quality natural lands, whether that's landscapes seldom touched since the state was settled or species that face extinction.

Indiana established its first two state parks in 1916, according to DNR, and now has 24.

But conservationists saw other Hoosier land at risk of degradation and destruction.

The Indiana General Assembly approved the Nature Preserves Act in 1967.

"It is necessary and desirable that areas of unusual natural significance be set aside and preserved for the benefit of present and future generations before the areas have been destroyed," reads the act. "Once the areas have been destroyed, the areas cannot be wholly restored."

Attorney Jim Barrett wrote in the law that the areas are "irreplaceable" as laboratories for scientific research, reservoirs of potentially useful natural materials and habitats for species "whose diversity enriches the meaning and enjoyment of human life."

Barrett, a founder of Indiana's ACRES Land Trust, called the areas "living museums," where people can ponder the "interdependence of all forms of life" and be reminded of human health's "vital dependence ... upon the health of the natural communities."

Pine Hills Nature Preserve in Montgomery County became the state's first, in 1969.

Its most recent — as of last week — is Toothwort Woods Nature Preserve in Jennings County. It's the only place in Indiana where all four native Hoosier toothwort plant species are found growing together, according to DNR.

And Barrett's words, straight from Indiana Code, were read aloud at its dedication as the state's 300th nature

The program's successes, however, belie its humble beginnings.

Scrounging for resources

Bacone joined DNR fresh off a three-year gig surveying Illinois for unprotected land worth preserving.

"That was done kind of in one fell swoop," Bacone said of the Illinois project. "When I started working here (at DNR), ... we tried to duplicate it. But we never did get, like 'Here's a ton of money, go inventory the state.' So we did what we could when we could."

The Division of Nature Preserves was small at the time: Director Bill Barnes, Assistant Director Bacone, a secretary and a federally funded field assistant. Though the team was crammed into "a couple of teeny rooms" at the back of DNR's State Parks offices, Bacone recalled only "great respect and cooperation."

Barnes maintained detailed files for potential nature preserves — the initial sites were based off an influential conservationist book — and updated them as he visited the land and owners. And he'd call on the rest of the agency for borrowed equipment, or even time — like to fence the new properties.

"(Barnes) would do (fencing) with volunteer workdays. There was just so many people that always were showing up to help get the job done because he didn't have any staff," Bacone said. "... It was just wonderful cooperation ... and it kind of grew from there."

It grew, according to Bacone, with "fortuitous bumps" in resources. He became director of the division in 1980.

In the 1970s, as the state considered creating a coastal management program, the division got a grant to inventory that area.

Later, when Indiana wanted to take over administration of a coal mining and land restoration program from the federal government, it needed a database of natural areas. It used DNR's, and Bacone's division gained two coal region-focused employees. The state gained primacy in 1983, according to an annual oversight report.

The division was also asked to inventory urban U.S. Department of Defense properties, like Fort Benjamin Harrison in Marion County — right as

the federal government began decommissioning those properties.

"They were going to get rid of these military installations (and) we had already done this report. I think it helped Evan Bayh decide, when he was governor, that this is kind of a neat place," Bacone said.

The former fort — opened as a state park in 1996 — contains four different nature preserves. Bacone noted that the park is the largest contiguous forested block in central Indiana. Hoosiers have converted most of the region's forests into farmland or developed upon it.

And DNR gained a new funding source in 1992, when the Indiana General Assembly established a land acquisition trust. It's funded by "environmental" license plate design purchases, donations and any additional lawmaker appropriations.

The trust has enabled the state and others to acquire 440 sites totaling 61,793 acres — nature preserves, state parks and more — for about \$50 million, according to DNR. Indiana has also used the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a federal-state 50-50 matching program, to acquire land, Bacone said.

Preserved in perpetuity

Today, Indiana and other landowners maintain 300 nature preserves, with more to come.

Bacone retired from DNR in 2019, but said his former division is still "out there looking" for new possibilities.

"They're ... still finding things, and going back out and rechecking things," he added.

The state of Indiana owns much of

the land, but so do other entities: local units of government, nonprofits and more.

The land is permanently protected:

The land is permanently protected; when the preserves are dedicated, the documents are recorded with the location's county and stay with the deed.

At Toothwort Woods' dedication, DNR Director Dan Bortner presented Bacone with a Sagamore of the Wabash award for his decades of work on nature preserves. The award is one of the state's highest honors, conferred by the governor for distinguished service to the state.

Weather

Tuesday, October 17, 2023
(24-hour observations at 8:52 p.m. Monday)
High: 55; Low: 45; Precipitation: 0.04 inches of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.46
feet at 9:45 p.m. Monday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 58. West wind around 5 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. South wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 65. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51. South wind 10 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday: Showers likely, mainly after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 64. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

Thursday Night: Showers likely, mainly before 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Friday: Showers likely, mainly after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 58. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. **Friday Night:** Showers likely, mainly before 8 p.m.

Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Saturday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny,

with a high near 57.

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

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 57. Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 37.

Gaza collapse

(Continued from Page 1) who need it," Blinken said.

Israel evacuated towns near its northern border with Lebanon, where the military has exchanged fire repeatedly with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group.

Speaking to the Israeli Knesset, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Iran and Hezbollah, "Don't test us in the north. Don't make the mistake of the past. Today, the price you will pay will be far heavier," referring to Israel's 2006 war with Hezbollah, which operates out of Lebanon.

Soon after he spoke, the Knesset floor was evacuated as rockets headed toward Jerusalem. Sirens in Tel Aviv prompted U.S. and Israeli officials to take shelter in a bunker, officials said.

Iran's foreign minister, meanwhile, warned that "preemptive action is possible" if Israel moves closer to a ground offensive. Hossein Amirabdollahian's threat followed a pattern of escalating rhetoric from Iran, which supports Hamas and Hezbollah.

This has become the deadliest of the five Gaza wars for both sides. At least 2,778 people have been killed and 9,700 wounded in Gaza, according to the Health Ministry there. More than 1,400 Israelis have been killed, the vast majority civilians massacred in Hamas' Oct. 7 assault.

The Israeli military said Monday that at least 199 hostages were taken into Gaza, more than previously estimated. Hamas said it was holding 200 to 250 hostages, including foreigners whom it said it would free when it was feasible.

Also Monday, Hamas' military wing released a hostage video showing a dazed woman having her arm wrapped with bandages. The woman, who identified herself in the video as Mia Schem, 21, rocked slightly as she spoke, the sound of explosions reverberating in the background. In her statement, Schem said she was taken from Sderot, a small Israeli city near the

Gaza border where she had attended a party. Hamas said she had undergone a three-hour operation.

The Israeli military said Schem's family was told of her abduction last week, and officials dismissed the video as propaganda. The plight of the hostage

s has dominated the Israeli media since the attack, with interviews of their relatives playing almost constantly. Israeli officials have vowed to maintain the siege of Gaza until the hostages are released.

The head of Israel's Shin Bet security service, in charge of monitoring militant groups, took responsibility for failing to avert Hamas' surprise attack. As agency head, "the responsibility for that is on me," Ronen Bar said.

"There will be time for investigation — now is a time for war," he wrote in a letter to Shin Bet workers and their families.

The combination of air-strikes, dwindling supplies and Israel's mass evacuation order for the north of the Gaza Strip has thrown the tiny territory's 2.3 million people into upheaval and increasing desperation. More than 1 million have fled their homes, and 60 percent are now in the approximately 8 mile area south of the evacuation zone, according to the U.N.

The Israeli military says it is trying to clear civilians for their safety ahead of a major campaign against Hamas in Gaza's north, where it says the militants have extensive networks of tunnels and rocket launchers. Much of Hamas' military infrastructure is in residential areas.

Those fleeing northern Gaza still faced airstrikes in the south. Before dawn Monday, a strike in the town of Rafah collapsed a building sheltering three families who had evacuated from Gaza City. At least 12 people were killed and nine others remained buried under rubble, survivors said. The strike reduced the house to a vast crater blanketed with wreckage.

Train derailment

(Continued from Page 1) to receive federal money already dedicated for safety and rail projects.

"Those improvements come too late to prevent this incident," the Democratic governor said in a statement. "I am saddened that a life was lost in this train derailment and send my condolences to his family and loved ones."

The bridge was built in 1958, Colorado Transportation Department spokesperson Bob Wilson said.

Former NTSB accident investigator Russell Quimby said the most likely scenario was that the derailed cars slammed into the side of the bridge, causing the girders that support it to be displaced and causing the bridge to fall. Potential sabotage or vandalism also will be looked at by investigators, he said.

"Usually that's pretty obvious," Quimby said. "If they find something that looks like some kind of vandalism or foul play, they would call in

the FBI and it would become

a crime scene."

There was some confusion over who owned the bridge. A BNSF spokesperson said it was owned by the

Wilson said early Monday that it was BNSF's bridge and the railroad was responsible for inspecting it. But Wilson later said the ownership was unclear.

Officials didn't provide details about the truck driver's death, citing the ongoing investigation.

Investigation.

There were no reported injuries to BNSF crew, according to Kendall Kirkham Sloan, a spokesperson for the Fort Worth, Texas-based freight railroad. BNSF personnel were working with responding agencies to clear the incident as safely as possible, Kirkham Sloan said.

Transportation Secretary
Pete Buttigieg said on social
media that he had been in
touch with Polis and had
been briefed by the Federal
Railroad and Federal High-

way administrations, which were ready to help support a swift return to normal use for the highway and rail routes.

Unlike highway bridges, government agencies don't catalog rail bridges and it's largely up to the railroads to inspect and maintain the ones that they own. Federal officials monitor the inspection programs through audits but there is no inventory on the condition of the bridges.

There are somewhere between 61,000 and more than 100,000 railroad bridges across the U.S., according to figures provided by the Federal Railway Administration. The agency defines bridges as having a span of 20 feet or more, whereas some railroads count even short crossings over culverts as bridges.

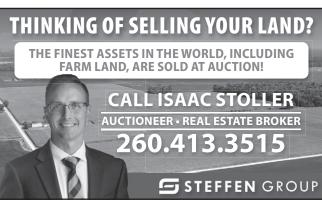
Congress established the parameters of the government's oversight of bridges and railway administration officials have previously said they were not able to alter that approach unilaterally.

Sunday's accident follows a railroad bridge collapse in June along a Montana Rail Link route in southern Montana that sent railcars with oil products plunging into the Yellowstone River, spilling molten sulfur and up to 250 tons of hot asphalt. The collapse, which remains under investigation, involved a steel truss bridge.

That's different than the

That's different than the type of bridge that Colorado officials said collapsed on Sunday. The bridge near Pueblo was a 188-feet long steel girder bridge, said Wilson. It was 14 feet wide with a clearance of 16.3 feet, he said.

Despite the two recent accidents, Quimby said it's "extremely" unusual for rail bridges to collapse. Quimby said bridges are key pieces of railroad networks and companies have a vested interest in properly maintaining them. Some railroad bridges are more than a century old but still in good repair, he said.





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OBITUARIES

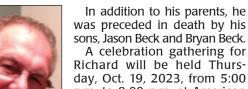
Richard L. Beck, 75

Richard L. Beck, 75, of Bluffton, passed away Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023 at Ossian Health and Rehabilitation Center. Richard was born March 17, 1948 in Wells County.

Richard was employed and retired from the U. S. Postal Service as a letter carrier in the Bluffton area.

He is survived by his wife, Paula J. (Schneider) Beck; stepson, Heath A. (Maraiah) Hurst;

grandchildren, Faith Beck, Lilly Hurst, and Luke Hurst; siblings, John (Mary) Beck, Ernie (Patty) Beck, Les (Stephanie) Beck, and Pamela (Mike) Grabner; and daughter-in-law, Renaé Beck.



p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at American Legion 111, 111 West Washington Street, Bluffton, Indiana 46714, with military honors at 6:00 p.m.

Contributions in Richard's memory may be made to Rock Steady Boxing c/o Bluffton Parks Department or American Legion 111.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.elzeypatterson-rodak.com for the Beck family.

Lawrence E. Connett, 77

Lawrence E. "Larry" Connett, 77, of Ossian, passed away Saturday evening, Oct. 14, 2023, at his residence, surrounded by his loving family.

Larry was born June 11, 1946 in Fort Wayne to William Stewart and Dena Pauline (Hammons) Connett. He graduated from Ossian High School in 1966.

He was a part of his family's business, Bill's Roofing & Siding,

Inc. for 61 years. A business owned and operated by his father, Bill Sr. and carried on by Larry and his brothers until just recently.

Larry proudly served his country in the United State Marine Corps. He was a member of Wells County Gideon Camp and American Legion Post 111 in Bluffton. He served on the Wells County 4-H Board for over 10 years. Larry was a member of Grace Baptist Church of Bluffton and the Ossian Church of the Nazarene. He served on both of the Church Boards, and also taught Sunday School for 20 years. He enjoyed collecting coins and Beanie Babies and enjoyed putting puzzles

On Aug. 12, 1972, Larry and Constance "Connie" Brown were married at Grace Baptist Church in Bluffton.

Survivors include his wife, Connie of Ossian; children, Paula Ann (Michael) Carothers of Lawrenceburg, Ky., Edward Joe (Amy) Connett and Victoria Grace (Shane) Mason, all of Ossian. He is also



survived by 17 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren; along with his siblings, William (Suzy) Connett of Ossian, Donald (Cheryl) Connett of Fort Wayne, Donna Cleland of Ridgeland, S.C., Tamara Connett of Bluffton, and Richard Connett of Bluffton.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and two sisters, Barbara Davidson and Patricia Brown.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 20, 2023, at Ossian Church of the Nazarene with Pastor Travis Tackett officiating. The church is located at 302 North Metts Street, Ossian, Indiana. Burial will follow at the Oaklawn Cemetery in Ossian with Military honors by the United States Marine Corps. Honor Guard and American Legion Post 111 Honor Guard.

Visitation will take place from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, at the Ossian Church of the Nazarene and for one hour prior to the service Friday at the church.

Memorials may be made to Wells County Gideon Camp or to the Ossian Church of the Nazarene and can be directed to the funeral home.

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

Laura M. Ratliff, 92

Laura M. Ratliff, 92, of Ossian, passed away on Friday, Sept. 29, 2023.

She was born on Aug. 17, 1931, in Bluffton to the late Forrest and May (Woods) Coverdale. Laura's love of family, music and church enriched her life. She worked at the original Heyerly's bakery and was a member of Ossian United Methodist Church.

Laura is survived by her children, Steven Ratliff, Timothy Ratliff, Merilynn Sills and Susan McAfee; seven grand-

children; and eight great-grandchildren.



She was also preceded in passing by her husband, Ulysses; and her six siblings.

A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, at Ossian United Methodist Church 201 West Mill St. in Ossian, with visitation one hour prior. Burial to follow the service at Oak Lawn Cemetery.

Contributions in Laura's memory may be made to Epworth Forest Church Camp or the Berne

Messiah. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www. elzey-patterson-rodak.com.

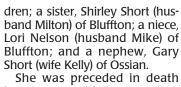
Carolyn Smith, 85

Carolyn Sue Smith, 85, of Portland passed away on Friday Oct. 13, 2023, in Willows of New Castle.

She was born in Wells County on April 13, 1938, the daughter of Lloyd and Dorothy (Wilson) Settle. She was married on Jan. 5, 1979, to Robert O. Smith and he passed away on Jan. 22, 1998. Sue was a graduate of Petroleum High School and was a member of

American Legion Aux. She retired from Americare after serving for many years as an office manager.

She is survived by three grandchildren, Cassie Cavanaugh (husband Joe Kirby), Katelyn Jackson (husband Kevin) and Aaron Cavanaugh; seven great-grandchil-



by a son, David Cavanaugh, a daughter, Mary Elizabeth Cavanaugh, a brother in-law, Milton Short, and three brothers, Fredrick Settle, Robert Settle, and Larry Settle.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Friday Oct. 20 in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home in Portland, with Pastor Wayne Ward presiding. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday Oct. 19 from 4-7 p.m. Memorials can be made to the choice of the donor.

Kent Speheger, 91

Kent Leroy Speheger, 91, of Noblesville, passed away peacefully July 29, 2023.

Born 1932 in Bluffton, and graduated from Bluffton High School. He spent 4 years in the Army and graduated with a civil engineering degree from Purdue University. He was a diehard Republican and proud of it. He loved fly fishing, and anything to do with Purdue and all sports. Our father was a patient and gentle man with all of his children and anyone he met. He has lived in the Chicago, Seattle, St. Louis

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Janice Speheger; children, Kent and Nanci Speheger, Lori Darden, Kris Kellum, Gary Weintraut and Kathy Jarrett; 15 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. He is preceded by his daughter, Mimi Lenhardt. He donated his body to science and when we receive his ashes, his wishes are to be scattered in Bluffton among the Speheger

family. We will see you again, Dad - stay

(Ray) Sack of St. Louis, Mo.; and a brother,

In accordance with Karen's wishes,

there will be no public services. Burial will

take place at the Marion National Ceme-

in Karen's memory to Friends Who Care

Memorial contributions can be made

Online condolences can be made at

Goodwin – Cale & Harnish Memorial

Chapel in Bluffton have been entrusted

Jessie Wiggins Jr. of St. Louis, Mo.

tery, Marion, IN.

Cancer Relief Foundation.

with funeral arrangements.

www.goodwincaleharnish.com.

gold, boiler up and go fordhook limas!

areas – but Indiana was always his home.

Karen L. Holman, 68

Karen L. Holman, 68, died Sunday morning, Oct. 15, 2023, at her residence in Huntington, following an extended illness.

Karen was born in St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 21, 1955, to Jesse and Eathel (Allison) Wiggins, both parents preceded her in death. She married Steven J. Holman Sept. 3, 1982, in Clarksville, Tenn., he survives in

Karen is survived by her husband Steve; a daughter, Yazmine (Jeff) Ripple of Huntington; two sons, Antinino (Lindsey) Gentile and Steven Holman Jr., both of Ft. Wayne; five grandchildren; a sister; Kay

Hershel A. Baker, 90

Hershel A. Baker, 90, of Montpelier, died Monday morning, Oct. 16, 2023 at Stillwater Hospice in Ft.Wayne.

Walter L. McMillen, 80

Walter L. McMillen, 80, of Bluffton, died Monday afternoon, Oct. 16, 2023, at Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne.

Arrangements are pending with Goodwin – Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel Bluffton, IN.

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

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City: Friday, 2:54 p.m., Main Motel. Officer requested to stand by for potential baby mama drama during custody

exchange.

Friday, 3:11 p.m., Stogdill Road and East Spring Street. Caller reported motorcycle ran stop arm on a bus.

Friday, 3:59 p.m., 300 block of North Marion Street. Officer assisted shelter with putting sick raccoon down.

Friday, 4:33 p.m., East Monroe and North Main streets. Driver cited for expired plates.

Friday, 5:53 p.m., North Main Street and Ind. 124. Report of 2 male juveniles climbing across walking bridge. Warned not to do it again, parents contacted about shenanigans.

Saturday, 3:20 a.m., Pak A Sak South. Caller requested someone to talk to.

Saturday, 4:06 a.m., Valley Park Apartments. Caller reported he believed someone attempted to get into apartment, screen was torn. Officer did not see anyone but advised they would provide extra patrol.

Saturday, 2:34 p.m., 800 block of South Oak Street. Caller reported someone smashed his back window out over night.

Saturday, 4:29 p.m., 500 block of West Market Street.

Sunday, 5:50 a.m., South Marion and East Walnut streets. Driver issued a citation for speeding 64 mph in a 40 mph zone.

Sunday, 11:33 a.m., Forgiven Church. Caller reported man in pickup truck with an egg shell camper and a Florida tag on the camper was taking photos of the church.

Sunday, 2:32 p.m., Lions Park. Report of a teeter totter being vandalized by two boys. Officer did not locate anyone around or notice fresh damage. Sunday, 7:04 p.m., Cap-

tains Muffler Center. Caller reported man in blue flannel shirt broke window of a vehicle and climbed inside. Man was detained in an entirely different vehicle.

Sunday, 7:31 p.m., Premier Flats. Report of theft.

Sunday, 8:05 p.m., Walmart Supercenter. Caller reported issue with semi trucks in parking lot.

Sunday, 9:44 p.m., 200 block of East Ohio Street. Caller reported man attacked callers brother. Estan Knox arrested for domestic battery.

Sunday, 11:46 p.m., Valley Park Apartments. Caller requested law enforcement. Donovan Clark, who was the caller, was arrested for battery with bodily injury. A pair of pants were seized as evidence.

Sunday, 3:17 a.m., Pak A Sak. Report of a possibly intoxicated man out in parking lot.

County:

Friday, 4:48 p.m., Silo Farms. Caller reported believing someone was inside of her home.

Friday, 11:17 North 100E and East 800N, Uniondale. Report of a vehicle doing donuts in the field on residence. Three subjects located at Norwell High School parking lot. Two subjects admitted to the violation and apologized. One subject vehemently denied any involvement despite witness statements. All subjects warned for trespassing.

Saturday, 9:34 a.m., near 3100W 100N, Bluffton. Caller requested assistance with missing dog.

Obituary Policy The News-Banner and Ossian

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

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

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

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Saturday, 1:32 p.m., 600 block of West Washington Street, Poneto. Caller reported issue with dog running loose, asked officers to speak with possible owner. Subject refused to identify himself and asked to file a complaint about a cat chasing his dog.

Sunday, 10:09 p.m., Wells County YMCA. Report of three vehicles driving through yards. Ossian:

Friday, 12:44 p.m., Ossian Town Hall. Report of ongoing identity theft.

Saturday, 3:11 p.m., 300 block of Davis Road, Ossian. Report of messages from a possible cyber Saturday, 11:41 p.m.,

South Jefferson and East LaFever streets, Ossian. Driver issued citation for running a light that was more clearly red than Rudolph's nose.

Sunday, 1:20 p.m., 1100 Ind. 1, Ossian. Caller requested officers advice for domestic situation in another county.

Sunday, 6:09 p.m., 2400 East Water Street, Ossian. Caller reported they heard two explosions in last several minutes. Neighbors were shooting pumpkins. Nothing illegal happening. **ĀRREŠTS**

Estan Duran Knox, 44, Bluffton, domestic battery knowingly in the presence of a child less than 16 years old, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$25,000.

Katharine Anne Rao, 39, Yoder, driving while suspended - prior charge, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle without financial responsibility, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,000.

Donovan Earl Clark, 68, Bluffton, battery with bodily injury, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

VISITATION & SERVICES Patricia Ann Pfeifer **Calling:** 3 - 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 18 at the funeral home and one hour prior to the service at the Church. **Service:** 11 a.m.

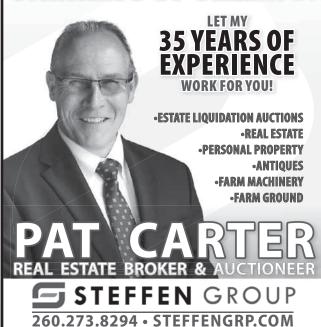
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Two projects require Hoosiers to trust their government

Whether it's putting carbon dioxide into the ground or taking water out, these two examples of residents bucking government action have the same thing in common: trust.

Or, actually, a lack of trust. Hoosiers simply don't believe their government anymore. And this isn't exclusive to Indiana — it's part of a nationwide decline in trust.

A Pew Research Center finding shows public faith in the federal government has returned

to near-record lows following a modest uptick in 2020 and 2021. Now, fewer than two in 10 Americans say they trust the federal government



Kelly

Hoosier **Opinions**

to do what is right "just about always" (1%) or "most of the time" (15%).

This is among the lowest trust measures in nearly seven decades of polling — last year, 20% said they trusted the government just about always or most of the

I couldn't find a solid poll for trust in local government. It is likely better, though not great.

So, when controversial economic development projects come up and governments give them the green light — with tax incentives or statements of grandeur — citizens question them.

But let's be clear. I get tired of residents opposing every little thing: the not-in-my-backyard phenomenon is strong in Indiana.

Residents fight against transitional housing, convenience stores, big box stores, jails and more. And it's usually all about property values, though sometimes it is discriminatory, as well.

But that doesn't mean we should ignore residents who have legitimates questions and concerns about larger, transformational endeavors that threaten health, environment and resources.

There are two such ongoing Indiana projects that deserve a second look.

- The first is the LEAP Lebanon Innovation District. It's a massive high-tech park planned in Boone County, for which the state is using taxpayer dollars to buy up thousands of acres of land. I live in Lebanon — though not anywhere close to the district — and that part was controversial enough. Then word leaked that state officials hope to pipe 100 million gallons of water daily 35 miles from a Lafayette area aquifer to the innovation district. Wabash-reliant residents fear the proposal could jeopardize their water supply. The Indiana Economic Development Corporation hasn't been the most transparent on the project, though they are improving. But a recent study it commissioned on the plan isn't allaying
- The second is a carbon sequestration project in Vigo County. Wabash Valley Resources intends to liquify, pipe and inject 1.67 million tons of carbon dioxide annually a mile below the area's surface as part of its plan to produce "green" anhydrous ammonia fertilizer at a former coal gasification plant. But Vigo and Vermillion County residents near the injection sites fear potential consequences like pipe ruptures and water contamination. They're skeptical of the company's intentions — and its use of public incentives.

In these two cases, I absolutely get the fear and con-

I think the concerns about depleting water resources are fair and shouldn't be cast aside. And can you imagine knowing carbon dioxide would be sloshing through high-pressure pipes by your home or farmland, or stored directly underneath it? That doesn't happen every day,

In the former, the state's study is criticized because it's state-paid by hand-picked consultants. My hope is local officials can fund a second analysis, or maybe experts at Indiana's many higher education institutions can assess the data and results and give their own unbiased opinions. And even if there is enough water, what about Tippecanoe County's ability to use that abundant resource to attract its own growth?

The carbon project is likely beyond mitigation. State and national officials are on board with tens of millions in tax incentives. And honestly, they have accepted the company line pretty easily over the years. The company line might be right, by the way, but it doesn't look good when officials are taking political donations from the company as well.

In the future, I hope lawmakers and economic development leaders can learn some lessons from these projects: be transparent and upfront immediately; listen to the concerns and imagine how you would feel in their place; work with residents to find ways to garner their

That's how you gain trust.

Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a nonprofit newsroom. nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com

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

The News-Banner

Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929

News-Banner Publications, Inc.

George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board Doug Brown, President, Publisher Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714. Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St. Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

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

Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor



Trump drew a red line with Iran on killing Americans. Biden must enforce it.

Not once in his 10-minute statement last Tuesday condemning Hamas's horrific attack on Israel did President Biden mention Iran — the regime ultimately responsible for last weekend's brutal murder of some 1,200 people in Israel, including at least 22 Americans. Worse, he delivered no warning to Iran that the regime would pay a severe price if its terrorist proxy, Hamas, harmed a single American among those it has taken hostage. This was a dereliction of duty.

Let's be clear: Hamas would not be able to operate without the support of the Iranian regime. Iran funds its terrorist operatives, arms them, trains them. Without that Iranian support, Hamas would never have been able to carry out an attack of this scope and sophistication. Iran works through proxies such as Hamas precisely so it can blur responsibility for attacks such as this. And the Biden administration appears more than willing to cooperate with that ruse to avoid having to acknowledge the catastrophic failure of its Iran policy and impose consequences on Tehran for the American blood on its hands.

When Donald Trump was president, he did not let Iran get away with hiding behind proxies. His administration drew a clear red line with Iran's leaders, warning that if they or their stand-ins killed a single American, the United States would draw no distinction between Iran and the terrorists it sponsors; we would respond militarily against Iran.

For a time, Iran danced around Trump's red line, careful not to cross it by taking American lives. It was blamed for attacks on Japanese and Norwegian oil tankers but did not attack American ones. It shot down an unmanned U.S. drone, while avoiding a manned American P-8 aircraft that was reportedly flying in the area (which Trump called "a very wise decision"). In each case, Trump showed restraint, tightening sanctions, approving a cyberstrike against Iran's military computer systems and designating the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a foreign terrorist organization — all while warning Tehran that his restraint had

Then Iran apparently miscalculated. Its proxy militia in Iraq, Kataib Hezbollah, was blamed for rocket attack on a military base in Iraq that killed a U.S. military contractor and injured four U.S. service members. Believing his red line had been crossed, Trump struck back: He hit Kataib Hezbollah targets in Iraq and Syria. And after supporters of the militia set fire to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, he launched a strike that took out both the militia leader and Iran's terrorist mastermind, Qasem Soleimani, the commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps' elite Quds Force. And Trump warned Tehran that if it retaliated against Americans, "Iran itself WILL BE HIT VERY FAST AND VERY HARD."

Iran backed down. Trump's actions not only deterred Iranian aggression; they opened the door for peace in the region. In the wake of the Soleimani strike, Trump brokered peace accords between Israel and not one, not two, not three, but four Arab nations — the first such agreements in more than a quarter-century.

Now an Iranian proxy has crossed that red line again — and Iran knows that, unlike Trump, Biden is more afraid of "escalation" than Iran is. Biden inherited a strong deterrence posture in the Middle East and squandered it — begging Iran to

rejoin the Obama nuclear deal, easing enforcement of oil sanctions resulting in tens of billions of dollars in Iran's coffers, and releasing five Iranian prisoners plus effectively paying Tehran a \$6 billion ransom for five American hostages. In the wake of this weekend's Iranian-sponsored violence, it is time for Biden to recognize the folly of this approach and restore deterrence with Iran.

Thiessen

The first step would be to publicly declare that the red line Trump drew remains in force and that we will hold the Iranians responsible for any harm that comes to American hostages now held by Hamas. If a single American hostage is killed, Soleimani's successor, Quds Force commander Ismail Qaani, should meet the same fate as Soleimani. According to the Wall Street Journal, Qaani is the official "leading the effort to wrangle Iran's foreign proxies under a unified command," including Hamas. The message to Iran should be: Every time you or your proxies kill an American, a Quds Force commander will meet his maker.

Biden should also reverse his policy of appeasement and fully enforce the crippling sanctions Trump imposed on Tehran. The president should further isolate the regime by banning all airlines (such as Air France and Lufthansa) that serve Tehran from landing in the United States. And if it is true, as the administration insists, that the \$6 billion ransom Biden approved for Iran's American hostages has not yet been distributed, then those assets should be restricted

Sometimes it falls to presidents to enforce red lines set by their predecessors. After Trump took office, he twice enforced President Barack Obama's red line against Syria's use of chemical weapons, striking the Assad regime when it used a toxic nerve agent on innocent men, women and children.

Now it's Biden's turn to enforce a red line set by his predecessor. Iran has already gotten away with the murder of 22 Americans. We cannot allow even one more to be killed with impunity.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen @marcthiessen on X

The superpower that can't arm itself

No matter how much we'd like to believe in the inevitably of human progress and the spread of enlightened norms, we've learned the past couple of years that we still need artillery shells — lots of artillery shells.

The Hamas terror attack, together with the ongoing Ukraine war and the looming Chinese threat to Taiwan, is putting a spotlight on the pitiful state of our capacity to manufacture the weapons necessary to the defense of our allies and

According to a CNN report, an Israel ground invasion of Gaza would "create a new and entirely unexpected demand for 155 mm artillery ammunition and other weapons at a time when the U.S. and its allies and partners have been stretched thin from more than 18 months of fighting in Ukraine.'

We are learning to our regret that we are using an attenuated post-Cold War, "end of history" defense-industrial base to try to meet the security needs of a newly threatening international environment with the real risk of Great Power conflict.

As it turns out, the peace dividend

was very expensive. It now should be a matter of the highest national priority to use every lever of government and the private sector to bolster the defense-industrial base in all its aspects.

The Biden administration should



care about this at least as much as incentivizing the production of electric vehicles most people don't want to buy.

We aren't being asked,

by the way, to fight a three-front war in Europe, the Middle East and Asia ourselves. No, the call is simply to provide arms to allies under attack or **LOWIV** threat. If we can't do that, what does it say about our status as the world's pre-

eminent power?

In Ukraine, the hopes of Moscow for a lightning victory and of the West for a sweepingly successful Ukraine counteroffensive both appear to have come a cropper. Now, it's a grinding artillery war.

Ukraine is estimated to need 1.5 million shells a year, and has been firing as many as 6,000 a day. Russia was firing even more at the peak of its offensive.

The U.S. had supplied 2 million artillery shells to Ukraine as of July, and has been scrounging around along with other Western powers to feed whatever supplies it can find into the maw of the war.

It's not that we have been completely asleep. The U.S. was making 14,500 shells a month at the beginning of 2023, and has roughly doubled that. We hope to get to 100,000 a month in 2025. Still, highly sanctioned Russia is more proficient at producing shells.

If we can't supply Ukraine, what if we become embroiled in a major war

with China? War games conducted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies have the U.S. firing 5,000 long-range missiles in the first weeks of war, instantly depleting our stocks. According to CSIS, the U.S. would expend all its Long-Range Anti-Ship Missiles within the first week of a conflict — when it requires almost two years to manufacture one of the missiles.

We are also in the bizarre position of being dependent on our potential enemy for the materials we'd need in a war with that enemy. China has a dominant position in the market for rare earth metals — so important to the production of high-end weapons — and is the world leader in cast products.

There is no easy way out of the hole we've dug ourselves. It will require more spending on defense; more reliable, long-term contracts for the production of key weapons; a focus on securing the supply chain necessary to the production of hightech munitions; and assistance to manufacturers in training workers, among other things.

The history of empires and nations that don't mind the need for up-todate weapons at the scale necessary to defeat or deter adversaries isn't a happy one. It's in our power to avoid this fate — if we have the will and don't waste more time.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry



Seniors attending the "snippets" class at the Wells County Historical Museum on a recent Wednesday morning were able to learn all about the United States Postal system from Bluffton's Postmaster Brian Smith, at left. He was introduced by Connie Brubaker, at right, vice president of the historical society. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri.)

Bluffton's Postmaster 'delivered' historical info of local Post Office

By BARBARA **BARBIERI**

At a recent Wednesday morning gathering of the Senior Snippets class at the Wells County Historical Society Bluffton's Postmaster Brian L. Smith offered a history lesson on the United State Postal system as well as about service in Bluffton. He was introduced by Connie Brubaker, vice president of the Wells County Historical Society.

Smith opened his remarks by explaining that the United States has had postal service since 1639 when a bar in Boston served as a post office. However it wasn't until 1775 that there was a national postal service and Benjamin Franklin served as the first Postmas-

It soon became apparent that better roads were needed to offer better delivery and in 1792 a Postal Act provided the money to improve them. Newspapers also were delivered this way, as a faster way to get information out.

Other historical facts shared were that:

Up until 1847 folks paid to receive their mail.

There was no postal service out west until the railroads were built.

Beginning in 1863 delivery began to houses and letters still had to be hand delivered to the addressed

Mailboxes came into use in 1923.

From 1914 to 1920 the post office could deliver food from local farmers.

Postal vehicles will be going electric.

Stamps currently cost 67 cents.

Currently the post office handles more packages than

Local Information

Bluffton's first post office was located in a general store at the corner of Main and Wabash Sts.

The first post office building was opened in 1924 at the current location. It was expanded to the south

Bluffton's post office is

considered one of medium

There have been 34 Postmasters with the first being Almon Case who served from 1838 to 1848. Through the years some appointments were political ones.

During that past 100 years the Postmaster have been: Charles Van Horn (1921-1025), Ralph C. Thomas (1926-1934), Roy Biberstine (1942-1063), James A. Zoll (1965-1967), Kenneth L. Higgins (1968-1975), Earl L. Watters (1975-1980), Norma J. Mertz (1980-1981), Jerry A. Reynolds (1982-1992), Charles D. Millen Jr. (1993-2005) and Brian L. Smith (2005-?).

Assisting Smith with the program were former postal employee Keith Frauhiger and current Postal Inspector Steven Bates.

Final Senior Snippets program at the Historical Museum will feature one on oil wells to be presented by Jim Sturgeon.

Medications to overcome addiction Also: Mushrooming interest

Question: My cousin is battling opioid addiction that started after he had a knee replacement four years ago. He just isn't getting the care he needs to overcome it. Why is it so hard to find help and get off these drugs? - Carl O., Fresno, California

Answer: I am sorry your cousin and your family are contending with this all-too-common health challenge. A recent survey by KFF (formerly called Kaiser Family Foundation) found that 66 percent of Americans say that either they or a member of their family has been addicted to alcohol or drugs, been homeless because of addiction or died from it. And almost 20 percent say they themselves have been addicted to drugs or alcohol, experienced a drug overdose or become homeless because of addiction. That's a staggering number of folks dealing with addiction, but as a country, we too often still approach care and treatment as if addiction isn't a mainstream problem.

KFF reports that 43 percent of doctors fail to talk to their patients about the risks of addiction when taking opioids and 40 percent fail to mention alternative medications to control pain. The survey also says that only 46 percent of those with addiction in their families say that person got treatment.

So it's not surprising that a new study in JAMA reveals that among folks who were addicted in the past year, only about 37 percent received any kind of treatment during that year and only 20 percent of folks received medication to assist with treatment.

You can talk with your cousin about the very effective medications that may boost success in getting off opioids. They are buprenorphine, methadone, and naltrexone. All three help normalize brain chemistry, easing cravings and blunt feeling "high." The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration says they can be safely taken for months, years, or even a lifetime. Other effective resources include 12-step programs, cognitive behavioral therapy and working with a pain management specialist to slowly and safely decrease the dose taken.

Question: I keep hearing about the amazing powers of mushrooms, both because of the nutrition they deliver and all that psychedelic stuff that people claim is life-changing. Can you tell me what's real and what's — well — maybe a bit hallucinogenic? — Dale P., Sarasota, Florida

Answer: Yes, there's been a lot of news lately about how "magic"



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

that contain psychoactive chemical psilocybin help relieve chronic depression, obsessivecompulsive disorder and other mental health challenges. Some of the most reliable research is conducted at the Johns Hopkins Medicine Center for Psychedelic and Consciousness Research where they have found that therapeutic doses of psilocybin along with psychotherapy can provide relief for treatment-resistant depression for up to a year. Other research, including using psilocybin to help people quit smoking, deal with cancer-related anxiety and ease alcohol dependency, shows positive results. But all of this is in a medical setting — not something you do on a Saturday evening and a whim.

As for claims that taking mushroom supplements can fight cancer, protect your heart, or boost brain power, there are no definitive trials showing that. What we do know is that as a part of a healthy diet, various types of mushrooms contain important nutrients that help maintain a healthy gut, brain and body, and when farmed mushrooms are exposed to ultraviolet or sunlight, they even contain vitamin D. Half a cup of shiitake mushrooms contains 72 percent of the DRI for copper and 33 percent of selenium. They also contain anti-inflammatory chemicals. Just four Cremini mushrooms provide 30 percent of your daily value for riboflavin (B2), 44 percent of copper, 28 percent of pantothenic acid (B5) and 19 percent of niacin. Lion's mane mushrooms contain beta-glucans that are soluble fibers that can block absorption of cholesterol in the intestines.

For recipes to make mushrooms a part of your weekly diet plan check, out the Mushroom MLT and Linguine with Mushroom "Bacon," Onion & Tomato (When Way Amatriciana) in my "What to Eat When Cookbook."

Area Things to See and Do

ALL FOR ONE PRODUCTIONS, FORT WAYNE

www.allforonefw.org

ALLEN COUNTY

WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM Cole Swindell, Oct. 19. www.memorialcoliseum.com

ARENA DINNER THEATER, FORT WAYNE

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

CLYDE THEATRE, FORT WAYNE

Static X and Sevendust, Oct. 18; Larry Fleet, Oct. 20; Kings Kaleidoscope, Oct. 22; Mania — the ABBA tribute, Oct. 24; Rod Tuffcurls and the Bench Press, Oct. 27; Marshall Tucker Band, Nov. 11; Brit Floyd, Nov. 12; Brian Regan (comedy), Dec. 7; Foy Vance, Jan 28. ClydeTheatre.com or at 1-800-514-3849.

EMBASSY THEATER, FORT WAYNE

"Harry Chapin at 80," Oct. 18; "The Price Is Right Live — On Stage," Oct. 19; KIDZ BOP: Nov. 10; Joe Bonamassa, Nov. 17; "The Hip Hop Nutcracker (Touring)," Dec. 5; Straight No Chaser: "Sleighin It Tour," Dec. 20; "Napoleon Dynamite Live!," Jan. 18. http://fwembassytheatre. org/events

FIRE AND LIGHT **PRODUCTIONS**

"And Then There Were None," Nov. 9-11, PPG Arts Lab, 300 E. Main St., Fort Wayne; "Elf Jr.," Dec. 14-16, Arts United Center, 303 E. Main St., Fort Wayne; "The Sound of Music," Jan. 18-20, Arts United Center, 303 E. Main St.. Fort Wayne; "Finding Nemo Jr., April 11-13, Arts United enter, 303 E. Main St., Fort Wayne. Tickets at fireand light productions.com.

1ST PRESBYTERIAN THEATRE FORT WAYNE

Head Over Heels: Oct. 13-21; firstpresfortwayne.org/theater/

BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY "An Herban Garden Exhibit," through

Nov. 12. www.botanicalconservatory.org

FOELLINGER OUTDOOR THEATER, FORT WAYNE

Info: (260) 427-6715 or Fort-WayneParks.org

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

FORT WAYNE MUSEUM OF ART

Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (until 8 p.m. on Thursdays, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. www.fwmoa.org

FURTH CENTER, ANGOLA Mickey Dolenz: Oct. 27; trine.edu/furth

HONEYWELL CENTER & EAGLES THEATRE, WABASH

Honeywell Center: Lyle Lovette: Oct. 26; Clint Black: Oct. 28; Haunted Illusions, Oct. 29; Bored Teachers Comedy Tour, Nov. 17; Prairie Home Holiday, Nov. 29; Cirque Dreams Holidaze: Dec. 5; Four Horsemen: Dec. 7; American Girl Live Concert, Dec. 15; Thunderstruck, Jan. 20; Dinosaur World Live: Jan. 26; Little River Band, Feb. 2; 360 Allstars, Feb. 3; Princess Bride/Cary Elwes; 1954 The Tribute: March. 2; Tommy Jones/ The Shondells: March 30; Eagles Theatre: Martin Barre, Oct. 19; Nelson: Jan, 18; Sons of Mystro, Feb. 8; Michael Palascak: Feb. 14; https://www.boxofficeticketsales.com/ honeywell-center

PURDUE-FORT WAYNE THEATER Productions at Williams Theatre on the Purdue-FW campus. www.pfw.edu/visual-

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FW'S PARKVIEW FIELD ticketmaster.com

LERNER THEATRE, ELKHART Kimball Organ concert/Celia Weiss: Oct. 18, Dec. 20; Hocus Pocus Haunted Tour movie at 7:30 p.m., paranormal tour at 9:30 p.m.: Oct. 27; Chris Isaak: Nov. 22; Carpenter Tribute/Debbie Tayulor: Dec. 7; TheLerner.com

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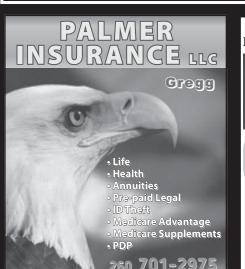
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Kansas is No. 1 in the preseason men's AP Top 25; Duke, Purdue Michigan State following behind

By DAVE SKRETTA AP Basketball Writer

Bill Self likes to remind his team that the faces may change at Kansas but the expectations within his program

never do. Expectations outside the program? Turns out they are as high as possible this year.

The Jayhawks were the

clear No. 1 pick in the AP Top 25 preseason men's basketball poll released Monday, earning 46 of 63 first-place votes to easily outdistance No. 2 Duke and No. 3 Purdue. It's the fourth time since Self's arrival in Lawrence that his team will start the season on top but the first time since the 2018-19

"You know you'll have a target on your back playing at Kansas," said Kevin McCullar Jr., who decided to return for a second season with the Javhawks and fifth in college hoops. "We'll have that chip on our shoulder, you know, prove everybody wrong, and state why you should be the No. 1 team in the nation. You go out there and use that. You use that as fuel every day.'

The Jayhawks had a disappointing follow-up to their 2022 national title last season, losing to Texas in the Big 12 championship and falling to Arkansas in the opening weekend of the NCAA Tournament. Self missed both of those events after having a valve in his heart replaced, but the 60-year-old coach is back on the sideline and chasing a third national title in the 75th anniversary season of the AP poll.

He has three returning starters in McCullar, DaJuan Harris Jr. and KJ Adams, along with top-50 recruit Elmarko Jackson and Michigan transfer Hunter Dickinson, perhaps the biggest votes after losing stand-

portal moves.

'With our returning starters and the players we've added, I can see the writers putting us high in the rankings," Self said. "We

> welcome being preseasonNo. 1, but the goal is to be playing to that rank when it counts the most, at the end of the season."

Duke picked up

11 first-place votes to land at No. 2 in Jon Scheyer's second season, and Purdue got three first-place nods as they try to avenge a stunning end to last season. AP player of the year Zach Edey and the Boilermakers became the second men's No. 1 seed to lose to a No. 16 seed when they lost to Fairleigh Dickinson in the NCAA Tournament.

Edey's deadline-day decision to return to the Boilermakers, rather than turn pro, kept them a national title contender.

'We had a tough finish to the season losing in the first round. Hopefully that sits with us as a coaching staff and really as a program to make us better, so we can have more success in March," Purdue coach Matt Painter said. "But as you guys all know, it doesn't start there. The process starts all over, and you can't miss any steps."

Michigan State was fourth with one first-place vote, its highest ranking since December 2020, and Marquette rounded out the top five with AP coach of the year Shaka Smart returning a loaded squad led by third-team All-American Tyler Kolek.

That's the highest ranking for the Golden Eagles since they were No. 3 in March 1978, when they were known as the War-

Defending national champion UConn was sixth with two first-place prize of this past summer's outs Adam Sanogo and Kentucky.

Jordan Hawkins. The Huskies were followed by Big 12 newcomer Houston, Creighton, Tennessee and Florida Atlantic, which returns just about everyone from the team that went 35-4 and made a surprising Final Four run last season.

"We have some guys that are ready to play, have been ready to play but under circumstances have had to take a back seat." said Owls coach Dusty May, whose team has jumped from Conference USA to the American Athletic Conference.

'We'll be a little different," May said, "but we'll still be versatile and we'll play a lot of guys.'

Gonzaga was No. 11 followed by Arizona, Miami, Arkansas and Texas A&M. Kentucky came in at No. 16 with national runner-up San Diego State next, while Texas, North Carolina and Baylor rounded out the top

The final five were Southern California, Villanova, Saint Mary's, Alabama and Illinois.

CONFERENCE WATCH

The SEC led the way with five teams in the preseason poll, with Tennessee in the top 10. The Big 12 and Big East had four apiece with the latter landing three among the top eight in Marquette, UConn and Creighton. The ACC and Big Ten had three

OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

Wisconsin, Colorado and UCLA are the first three outside the Top 25; the Bruins were No. 7 in the final poll last season. Also on the outside were Xavier and Kansas State, both of whom were in the top 15 entering last year's NCAA Tournament.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The season begins for most teams Nov. 6 with some big-time matchups in the first couple of weeks. That includes the annual Champions Classic doubleheader, this time in Chicago, where No. 2 Duke will play fourth-ranked Michigan State and top-ranked

Three Knights earn all NE8 all-conference in volleyball

The Northeast 8 Conference announced its award winners for the volleyball season.

Three of Norwell's players made the list: Macie Saalfrank and Jordyn Xayyachack made second-team, and Vanessa

Rosswurm made honorable mention. The Knights finished tied for fifth

in the conference with a 3-4 record. Bellmont was in first with a perfect 7-0 record, piling five players on the first-

High School Calendar

TUESDAY, OCT 17 No events scheduled **WEDNESDAY, OCT 18** No events scheduled **THURSDAY, OCT 19** No events scheduled FRIDAY, OCT 20

FOOTBALL: (sectional quarterfinal) Delta at Norwell, 7 p.m.; Bluffton at Alexandria Monroe, 7 p.m.; North Miami at Southern Wells, 7 p.m. SATURDAY, OCT 21

CROSS COUNTRY (CO-ED): (regional) Bluffton, Norwell, Southern Wells at The PLEX Fort Wayne, 10:30 a.m.

Colts QB Richardson ponders getting season-ending surgery

By MICHAEL MAROT **AP Sports Writer**

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Anthony Richardson and the Indianapolis Colts are still mulling their options to help the rookie quarterback recover from a right shoulder injury, including potentially season-ending

Coach Shane Steichen said Monday a final decision has neither been made nor was imminent.

"Obviously, we want to do what's best for him and this organization moving forward," he said when asked whether the team is prioritizing Richardson's long-term health over a quick return. "Like I said, we'll make that decision when the time is right. We're still evaluating that process.'

Richardson missed his second game of the season Sunday at Jacksonville, but he traveled with the team and wore a sling to protect his throwing shoulder while watching Indy's loss from the sideline

He was injured on the end of a short first-half run against Tennessee the previous week. After going to the ground awkwardly, he stayed down for several minutes before walking slowly to the team's medical tent, his right shoulder drooping. Richardson did not return to that 23-16 victory and went on injured reserve last week, a move that will keep him out at least three more weeks.

And how Richardson and the Colts (3-3) opt to treat the sprained AC joint, Richardson's absence could be significantly longer. "We're still gathering as much information as we can," Steichen said. "This is a decision that we want to make that's right for him, for his longevity. So we're still working through that process.'

The 6-foot-4, 244-pound former Florida Gators star has been injury prone in his first NFL season.

He missed the final minute of Indy's season opener with a bruised knee and sore ankle, left with a concussion in the first half of a Week 2 victory over Houston, missed the following week while still in the concussion protocol. Then one week after returning to the field and finishing his first NFL game, he hurt his shoulder.

Indy drafted Richardson with the No. 4 overall pick in April after he impressed scouts at the league's annual scouting com-

Though some considered the 13-game college starter a project, the Colts selected him as their starter after just one preseason

He was off to a promising start, throwing for 577 yards, three TDs and one interception while completing 59.7% of his throws in four games. He also has 25 carries for 136 yards and four TDs, becoming the first quarterback of the Super Bowl era with TD runs in each of his first three NFL

If Richardson does return this season, he also will be chasing franchise single-season marks for most games with a TD pass and a TD run as well as the Colts rushing record for a rookie quarterback.

Fields' dislocated thumb adds to the uncertainty for the Bears

By ANDREW SELIGMAN AP Sports Writer

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — Justin Fields dropped back out of the shotgun and rolled to his left to avoid the pressure even though he had DJ Moore open in the middle.

Instead of a third-down completion early in the third quarter, the Chicago Bears quarterback got sacked by Minnesota's Danielle Hunter. Worse, he landed awkwardly on his right hand as he tried to flip the ball away.

Moments later, he headed to the locker room with a dislocated thumb.

The Bears went on to lose 19-13 to the Vikings after stopping a 14-game slide the previous week. And now, the question is where they go from here.

Fields will likely miss at least one game, with coach Matt Eberflus saying it's "doubtful" he plays this week when the Bears (1-5) host the Las Vegas Raiders (3-3). Rookie Tyson Bagent figures to start in his place.

An X-ray showed no fractures. Fields

underwent an MRI on Monday, and Eberflus had no timetable for his return. "It's really going to come down to grip

strength," Eberflus said. "There's natural swelling that occurs with this injury. We week." He gave similar answers when asked if

the MRI showed any structural damage and if Fields would need surgery. The injury adds another wrinkle to the Bears' long-term decision when it comes to the quarterback Fields is 6-25 as a starter over three

years. The Bears have to decide after the season whether to exercise the fifth-year option for 2025.

Fields struggled through the first three games, then delivered two of his best performances as a passer before a rough outing against the Vikings. He was 6 of 10 passing for 58 yards with an interception and was sacked four times.

Kim Ng, MLB's 1st female GM, is leaving Miami after making the playoffs in her 3rd season

Ng is leaving the Miami Marlins after three seasons as general man-

ager, Marlins chairman and principal owner Bruce Sherman announced Mon-Ng 54,

became the majors' highestranking woman in baseball operations and the first female GM in the four major North

American professional sports leagues in a groundbreaking hire in November

The Marlins exercised their team option for her to return for the 2024 season, Sherman said in a statement, but Ng declined her mutual option.

"Last week, Bruce and I discussed his plan to reshape the Baseball Operations department. In our discussions, it became apparent that we were not completely aligned on what that should look like," Ng told the Athletic on Monday. "I felt it best to step away. I wish to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Marlins family and its fans for my time in South Florida. This year was a great step forward for the organization."

When the Marlins first hired her, Ng said at the time that it was the product of years of determination and an honor.

"When I got into this business, it seemed unlikely a woman would lead

> a major league team," she said then, "but I am dogged in the pursuit of my goals. My goal is now to bring championship baseball to Miami.' The Marlins

were a dormant

franchise before

they made the postseason during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season, which was Year 3 in the rebuilding effort of former CEO Derek Jeter, who brought

Miami reached the playoffs that year for the first time since 2003 and swept the Chicago Cubs in their Wild Card Series. Atlanta then swept the Marlins in the National League Division Series, but Miami showed flashes of promise and brought in Ng at the end of that season to help surge the club forward.

Ng won three World Series rings while spending 21 years in the front offices of the Chicago White Sox (1990-96), New York Yankees (1998-2001) and Los Angeles Dodgers (2002-11). Before joining the Marlins, she was an MLB senior vice

president for nine years. "Kim's appointment makes history in all of professional sports and sets a significant example for the millions of women and girls who love baseball and softball," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said at the time of Ng's hiring. "The hard work, leadership, and record of achievement throughout her long career in the national pastime led to this outcome.'

Miami went 220-266 during Ng's tenure, including an 84-78 record this past

She oversaw the rebuilding of the Marlins' roster into one that wants to contend in the future. Last October, she hired former Cardinals bench coach Skip Schumaker, and he helped lead the Marlins to a postseason berth in his first year as manager.

Miami lost to the Philadelphia Phillies in the Wild Card Series earlier this

Ng's departure comes after Jeter, baseball's first Black CEO, stepped down as both CEO and shareholder last offseason after being with the team since

Jeter said at the time that "the vision for the future of the franchise is different than the one I signed up to

Ng was the fifth GM in the Marlins' history. Sherman said the club will immediately begin its search for new leadership.

We thank Kim for her contributions during her time with our organization and wish her and her family well," Sherman said.

Rangers build big early lead off Valdez, hold on in win over Astros

By KRISTIE RIEKEN **AP Sports Writer**

HOUSTON (AP) - Jonah Heim homered, Nathan Eovaldi pitched six effective innings and the Texas Rangers beat Framber Valdez and Houston Astros 5-4 on Monday for a 2-0 lead in the AL Championship Series.

Adolis García, Mitch Garver and Nathaniel Lowe each hit an RBI single during Texas' four-run first inning against Valdez, and José Leclerc closed it out for the Rangers after Yordan Alvarez powered an Astros rally.

The Rangers improved to 7-0 in the playoffs, including six wins on the road. They swept the Rays in the Wild Card Series and the Orioles in the Division Series, and then posted a 2-0 win at Houston in the ALCS opener.

Game 3 of the best-of-seven series is Wednesday night in Arlington.

Alvarez hit two solo home runs to become the sixth player in MLB history to have two multihomer games in one postseason. The second one was off Aroldis Chapman, trimming Houston's deficit to 5-4 with two out in the eighth.

Leclerc then came in and walked José Abreu and Michael Brantley, but Chas McCormick grounded out to end the threat.

Jeremy Peña flied out to deep right field for the first out in the Houston ninth. Yainer Diaz then grounded out and Jose Altuve flied to center, giving Leclerc his second save of the series.

The Rangers jumped all over Valdez. Semien smacking the first pitch to center field for a single. Corey Seager sent his next pitch to left field for another single before Valdez made two errors on the same play on a ball hit by Robbie Grossman.

Valdez bobbled a chopper hit by Grossman for an error that allowed him to reach first and Semien to score. His second error occurred when he badly overthrew first to move Grossman to second and Seager to third.

Valdez put his hands on his knees and shook his head at the end of the play.

García then hit a liner to right field to score Seager. Garver singled home another run before Valdez finally got his first out when he struck out Heim.

The Rangers weren't done yet.

Lowe singled on a ground ball to left to make it 4-0. Valdez retired the next two batters to end the inning.

Alex Bregman also connected for the Astros, who went 0 for 6 with runners in scoring position. Alvarez, who is dealing with an illness, looked much better than he did in Game 1 when he went 0 for 4 with three strikeouts.

Valdez (0-2) allowed seven hits and five runs — four earned — in 2 2/3 innings in his second loss this postseason. He also took the loss in Game 2 of the Division Series against Minnesota.

The Astros missed a huge opportunity in the fifth. Brantley and McCormick hit backto-back singles to open the inning before Peña reached on an error by third baseman Josh Jung. But Eovaldi escaped the jam by striking out pinch-hitter Diaz and Altuve before Bregman grounded out.

Alvarez walked with one out in the sixth before scoring on a two-out double by Brantley. Alvarez also hit a leadoff homer in the second into the second deck in right field.

Heim homered high off the wall in left field to push the lead to $5-\overline{1}$ with no outs in the third.

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL NFL AMERICAN CONFERENCE East Pct PF PA .833 223 156 .667 173 89 .167 72 152 South Jacksonville 4 2 0 Houston 3 3 0 Indianapolis 3 3 0 .667 142 122 .500 135 113 500 140 152 Tennessee 2 .333 104 117 North w Pct PF PA Baltimore

W L T 4 2 0 3 2 0 3 2 0 .667 133 91 .600 95 77 .600 79 110 Cleveland Pittsburgh 3 .500 100 127 Cincinnati West W L Kansas City 5 1 Pct PF PA .833 147 88 L.A. Chargers 2 3 Las Vegas 3 3 Denver 1 5 .500 127 124 .500 100 131 0 .167 129 200 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East W L T Philadelphia 5 1 0 .833 155 124 Dallas .600 154 97 Washington 3 3 0 N.Y. Giants 1 5 0 .500 133 176 .167 71 167 South W L T
Tampa Bay 3 2 0 Pct PF PA .600 90 88 Atlanta 3 3 0 New Orleans3 3 0 Carolina 0 6 0 .500 99 120 .500 109 .000 112 186 North W L T 5 1 0 2 3 0 2 4 0 1 5 0 Pct PF PA .833 168 113 .400 113 113 Detroit Green Bay 2

.167 128 176 Chicago West
W L T
San Francisco5 1 0
Seattle 3 2 0
L.A. Rams 3 3 0
Arizona 1 5 0
Thursday's G Pct PF PA .833 184 87 .600 124 108 .500 138 117 .167 117 162 Thursday's Games Kansas City 19, Denver 8

.333 129 135

Sunday's Games Baltimore 24, Tennessee 16, London. GBR Cincinnati 17, Seattle 13 Cleveland 19, San Francisco 17

Minnesota

Houston 20, New Orleans 13 Jacksonville 37, Indianapolis 20 Miami 42, Carolina 21 Minnesota 19, Chicago 13 Washington 24, Atlanta 16 Las Vegas 21, New England 17 Detroit 20, Tampa Bay 6 L.A. Rams 26, Arizona 9 N.Y. Jets 20, Philadelphia 14 Buffalo 14, N.Y. Giants 9 Open: Pittsburgh, Green Bay Monday's Games
Dallas 20, L.A. Chargers 17 Thursday, Oct. 19 Jacksonville at New Orleans, 8:15

Sunday, Oct. 22 Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m. Buffalo at New England, 1 p.m Cleveland at Indianapolis, 1 p.m. Detroit at Baltimore, 1 p.m. Las Vegas at Chicago, 1 p.m. Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m. Arizona at Seattle, 4:05 p.m. Pittsburgh at L.A. Rams, 4:05 p.m. Green Bay at Denver, 4:25 p.m. L.A. Chargers at Kansas City, 4:25

p.m. Miami at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m. Open: Cincinnati, Houston, N.Y. Jets, Tennessee, Carolina, Dallas Monday, Oct. 23
San Francisco at Minnesota, 8:15

College Big Ten Standings

1. Michigan 7-0 (4-0) T2. Ohio State 6-0 (3-0) T2 Penn State 6-0 (3-0) T4. Maryland 5-2 (2-2) T4. Rutgers 5-2 (2-2) T6. Indiana 2-4 (0-3) T6. Michigan State 2-4 (3-0) West

East

1. lowa 6-1 (3-1) 2. Wisconsin 4-2 (2-1) T3. Northwestern 3-3 (1-2) T3. Minnesota 3-3 (1-2) T3. Nebraska 3-3 (1-2) T6. Purdue 2-5 (1-3) T6. Illinois 3-4 (1-3)

BASKETBALL

WNBA

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

Wednesday, Oct. 11: Las Vegas 104, New York 76 Sunday, Oct. 15: New York 87, Las Vegas 73 Wednesday, Oct. 18: New York at Las

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

HOCKEY

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division
GP W L OTPts GF GA

2 2 0 3 2 1 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 1 0 4 6 4 13 4 13 0 0 0 stroit st

GPW L-Pittsburgh 3 2 1
N.Y. Rangers 3 2 1
Carolina 3 2 1
New Jersey 3 1 1
N.Y. Islanders 1 1
N.Y. Islanders 1 1
Washington 2 1 1
Columbus 3 1 2
WESTERN CONE 4 14 3 10 2 3 2 6 2 3 2 7 0 WESTERN CONFERENCE Central Division

GPW LOTPts GF GA 2 2 0 4 2 2 0 4 7 4 11 Colorado Chicago 0 St. Louis Dallas Winnipeg Minnesota 0 9 6 2 0 Pacific Division | Calgary | Calg

12 9 7 Anaheim 2 1 Los Angeles 2 0 0 San Jose 2 0 1 1 1 2 6 Seattle 3 0 2 1 1 2 9 Edmonton 2 0 2 0 0 4 12 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

Sunday's Games Ottawa 5, Tampa Bay 2 Anaheim 6, Carolina 3 Monday's Games Detroit 4, Columbus 0 Florida 4, New Jersey 3 N.Y. Rangers 2, Arizona 1 Chicago 4, Toronto 1

Washington 3, Calgary 2, SO
Tuesday's Games
Vancouver at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Minnesota at Montreal, 7 p.m. Arizona at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30

Tampa Bay at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m. Edmonton at Nashville, 8 p.m. Los Angeles at Winnipeg, 8 p.m. Colorado at Seattle, 10 p.m. Carolina at San Jose, 10:30 p.m. Dallas at Vegas, 10:30 p.m. Wednesday's Games

Washington at Ottawa, 7 p.m. Pittsburgh at Detroit, 7:30 p.m. Thursday's Games
Calgary at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Nashville at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Florida, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Philadelphia, 7:30

Arizona at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Vegas at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Carolina at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Dallas at Anaheim, 10 p.m. Boston at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Chicago at Colorado, 10:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

Postseason Baseball Glance LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES American League

Texas 2, Houston 0 Sunday, Oct. 15: Texas 2, Houston 0 Monday, Oct. 16: Texas 5. Houston 4 Wednesday, Oct. 18: Houston (Javier 10-5) at Texas (Scherzer 13-6), 8:03

Thursday, Oct. 19: Houston at Texas, 8:03 p.m. (FS1) x-Friday, Oct. 20: Houston at Texas,

5:07 p.m. (FS1) x-Sunday, Oct. 22: Texas at Houston, 8:03 p.m. (FS1) x-Monday, Oct. 23: Texas at Houston, 8:03 p.m. (Fox, FS1)

National League (All Games on TBS) Philadelphia 1, Arizona 0 Monday, Oct. 16: Philadelphia 5,

Tuesday, Oct. 17: Arizona (Kelly 12-8) at Philadelphia (Nola 12-9), 8:07 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19: Philadelphia (Suárez 4-6) at Arizona (Pfaadt 3-9),

5:07 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20: Philadelphia at Arizona, 8:07 p.m. x-Saturday, Oct. 21: Philadelphia at

Arizona, 8:07 p.m.

x-Monday, Oct. 23: Arizona at Philadelphia, 5:07 p.m.

x-Tuesday, Oct. 24: Arizona at Philadelphia, 8:07 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Monday's Transactions BASEBALL Major League Baseball
American League
LOS AN GELES ANGELS — Sent

RHPs Carson Fulmer and Jaime Barria. LHP Jhonathan Diaz. 1B Jared Walsh, C Chad Wallach and OF Brett Phillips outright to Salt Lake (PCL). National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS -

vated RHP Slade Cecconi. Changed 2B Jace Peterson roster status. MIAMI MARLINS — Announced General Manager Kim Ng will not return for the 2024 season.

BASKETBALL **National Basketball Association** CHICAGO BULLS — Waived G Quenton Jackson.

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS Waived Gs Kendric Davis and Donovan Williams and F Javan Johnson. Signed G Yuri Collins and G/F Javonte Green. LOS ANGELES LAKERS — Waived Gs Damion Baugh, Scotty Pippen Jr. and Vincent Valerio-Bodon.

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Waived G

National Football League
DALLAS COWBOYS — Elevated RB Malik Davis and LB Malik Jefferson from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed DE/LB Tyrus Wheat. Reinstated CB Nahshon Wright from injured reserve. Placed LB Leighton Vander Esch and CB C.J. Goodwin on

injured reserve JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS Signed CB Amani Oruwariye to the practice squad. Released OLB Derek Parish from the practice squad.

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Signed WR D,J. Turner and CB Sam Webb to

the practice squad. Placed T Sebastian Gutierrez and TE Noah Togiai on the practice squad injured reserve. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS -

Elevated WR Keelan Doss from the practice squad to the active roster.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Waived QB Jake Luton. Reinstated QB Jake

Haener from suspension. NEW YORK GIANTS — Waived OL Jalen Mayfield.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Signed RB Lew Nichols to the practice squad. Released RB Bryant Koback from the

practice squad.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Designated WR Diontae Johnson and RB Anthony McFarland to return from injured reserve to practice.

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS – Signed DT Abdullah Anderson to the practice squad. Released DE William Bradley-King from the practice squad. HOCKEY

National Hockey League COLORADO AVALANCHE — Loaned G Justus Annunen and LW Riley Tufte to Colorado (AHL).
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS Recalled G Jet Greaves from Cleve-

land (AHL).
FLORIDA PANTHERS — Signed F Jonah Gadjovich to a one-year

Reassigned F Jonas Rondbjerg to Henderson (AHL). WASHINGTON CAPITALS —

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS —

Recalled G Clay Stevenson from Hershev (AHL). Minor League Hockey

American Hockey League BAKERSFIELD CONDORS — Assigned D Xavier Bernard and G Tyler Parks to Fort Wayne (ECHL).

CHICAGO WOLVES — Acquired LW

Max Comtois. HARTFORD WOLFPACK – Assigned D Zach Berzolla to Cincinnati

(ECHL).
TORONTO MARLIES — Assigned
Fs Brock Caufield. Tate Singleton,
Grant Cruikshank, Tyler Weiss, Jackson Berezowski and Neil Shea, Ds Jonny Tychonick and Nolan Dillingham and Gs Dryden McKay and Vyacheslav to Newfoundland (ECHL).

ECHL

ADIRONDACK THUNDER —
Released F Jake Fletcher. ALLEN AMERICANS — Released G Anthony D'Alosio and Fs Ilnur Madiarov, Zachary Currie and Chad Lopez from professional try-out con-

ATLANTA GLADIATORS -Released Fs Tommy Munichiello and Alex Cohen from professional try-out contracts (PTO).Traded D Adam Samuelsson to Indy.

CINCINNATI CYCLONE —

Released Gs Stephen Mundinger and Julian Sime, D Mark Gordon and Fs Jake Goldowski and Colton Kalezic from professional try-out contracts (PTO). Released D Malcolm Hayes.

Signed D Landon Cat. FORT WAYNE KOMETS Released F Cole Young from a professional try-out contract (PTO). Released D Neithan Salame and F Tristan Ashbrook. Traded F Joseph Nardi to

Reading.
IDAHO STEELHEADS — Released F Daniel Hardie. IOWA HEARTLANDERS —

Released F Austin Eastman. KALAMAZOO WINGS — Released G Mariah Fujimagari from a professional try-out contract (PTO). Released F Aidan Spellacy.
NEWFOUNDLAND GROWLERS —

Claimed D Jake Hamilton off waivers from Savannah. READING ROYALS — Released F

Houston Wilson from a professional try-out contract (PTO). TULSA OILERS — Released Ds Lincoln Erne and Sacha Roy and F Kaden

Elder. Suspended D Justin Bean and removed him from the roster. WHEELING NAILERS — Released Gs Oskar Autio and Jacob Zab, D Jeff Solow and F Dominiks Marcinkevics

from professional try-out contracts
(PTO). Suspended D Philip Beaulieu
and removed him from the roster.
WORCESTER RAILERS — Released G Conor O'Brien, D Jayson Dobay and F Nick Pennucci from professional try-out contracts (PTO). Released Fs Chris Ordoobadi. Max Johnson, Myles Abbate and Todd Goehring and D Michael Higgins.

AUTO RACING
NASCAR — Rescinded the No. 12
car (Penske Racing, Ryan Blaney)
disqualification penalty from Sunday,

SOCCER Major League Soccer HOUSTON DYNAMO FC — Signed

D Ethan Bartlow to a contract extension through 2025.
INTER MIAMI CF — Signed M Gregore to a contract extension through 2025.





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Tiger Woods announces loaded field for Bahamas with one spot left open

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Tiger Woods has another world-class field for his Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas. Still to be determined is whether he is part of it.

Woods on Monday announced 19 players in the 20-man field for Albany Golf Club the first weekend of December, which includes every eligible member of the U.S. Ryder Cup team, along with two players who were left off the team.

Missing is Brooks Koepka. The

by the PGA Tour, and Koepka is suspended from that for being part of the rival Saudi-funded LIV Golf League. The PGA champion was a captain's pick for the Ryder Cup.

Woods has not played competitively since withdrawing from the Masters after making the cut. He had ankle surgery a short time later for injuries related to his February 2021 car accident, though he was seen hitting wedges during a foundation event at Pebble Beach last week.

defending champion in the Bahamas, is among three players from Europe's winning Ryder Cup team in Rome.

Sponsor exemptions were awarded to Rickie Fowler and Justin Thomas. Both are among the top 25 in the world ranking, which illustrates the strength of the field. Players must be among the top 50 to get an exemption, part of the provision for the unofficial event getting world ranking points.

The criteria allows for an exemption to be used on the tournament host

Hero World Challenge is sanctioned Viktor Hovland, the two-time — Woods — if he needs one. No. 7 Penn State looking for first win in Columbus since 2011 with No. 3 Ohio State

By TRAVIS JOHNSON

Associated Press STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) The first half of the season went about as well as it could for Penn State. It's

about to get much tougher. If the seventh-ranked Nittany Lions (6-0) want to maximize their chances of playing for a Big Ten championship, they will need to do something they haven't done in more than a decade -

beat Ohio State in Columbus. They'll have their shot against the No. 3 Buckeyes (6-0) on Saturday in the Horseshoe, a place where Penn

State hasn't won since 2011. "It is another top-10 opponent," defensive end Adisa Isaac said. "Obviously we've been battling these guys for years and years, so this is a great test for us."

There weren't many of those in the first half of the season, when the Nittany Lions found different ways to blow out every opponent they faced.

Sophomore quarterback Drew Allar carved up West Virginia in the opener and still hasn't turned the ball over. Running backs Nick Singleton and Kaytron Allen helped the offense run over Illinois, Iowa and Northwestern. Special teams lifted the Nittany Lions to their latest win with a pair of punt return touchdowns in the rain that jump-started them against UMass.

Meanwhile, coordinator Manny Diaz's defense has been nearly perfect as the Nittany Lions sit atop the country's total defense rankings and at No. 2 in scoring defense through six

Except for its 17-14 victory over then-No. 9 Notre Dame, Ohio State has had an equally easy time with its

"I feel really good about the team," Allar said. "I think we've done a great job of improving our process each week and just focusing on ourselves and correcting the mistakes we've made so far. We've just got to keep building on that."

The process started Sunday when Penn State players gathered to selfscout their previous performance and begin preparing for the Buckeyes.

We always talk about enjoying the moment, enjoying the win, then taking some time to flip the switch," tight end Theo Johnson said. "We had a lot of focus and attention this week coming in to this game, and we're definitely going to have to make sure we have all of our ducks in a row for this next week.'

Historically, that's usually been the case when these two teams meet.

While Penn State hasn't won in the series since 2016, each of the last six games has been decided by an average of eight points. The Nittany Lions let a handful of those games slip away after they had controlled the pace.

The Buckeyes overcame fourthquarter deficits in 2017, 2018 and 2022 to hand Penn State hard-to-swallow losses. Ohio State won the Big Ten in 2017 and 2018.

Penn State's win at Beaver Stadium in 2016 helped propel the Nittany Lions to their only Big Ten championship under coach James Franklin.

Defensive end Chop Robinson has all but blacked out the memory of last season's game, when Ohio State's J.T. Tuimoloau intercepted two passes and returned one for a touchdown to cap the Buckeyes' comeback.

"I remember the atmosphere before the game," Robinson said. "That's about it.'

Penn State has won 11 in a row since then.

Allar, who grew up in Ohio, said he believes Penn State has what it needs to ready a winning game plan for the Buckeyes.

"I feel like we've definitely been battle-tested, we've played some really good opponents," Allar said. "I feel like offensively, we've gotten better each week, gotten more consistent each week and we just need to keep building on that. We can't change our routine based on the opponent.'





Husband rebrands cruelty as 'honesty'

Dear Annie: I have been married for because one friend almost 20 years and have five beautiful babies with my husband. The problem is that he tends to say things without thinking. He can hurt people's feelings, about Jody's lack and he says he doesn't care because he is just telling the truth.

He has said some hurtful things to me about my weight. I am not a skinny girl and never have been, but try as I might to lose weight, it just won't stay off. When I tell him he has hurt my feelings, it's like it goes in one ear and out the other. It's like he doesn't even care that he hurts me. He says I am just being crazy and too sensitive.

make him see how he is hurting me. — Sad Wife

Dear Sad Wife: You are not crazy, and you are not too sensitive. Your husband is mean and insensitive and he tries to hide his cruelty through some sort of a mask, saying that he's just being blunt and it's your problem. That is so unfair to you. Next time he says something cruel or hurtful, walk away from him. If he continues to insult you, you might have to contact a marriage counselor. If he refuses to go, then attend counseling yourself and decide if you want to stay in the marriage or not.

Dear Annie: My daughter, "Jody," is back in college for her sophomore year. She enjoyed her first year and was looking forward to going back. But she just called me to say that her best friend, "Sally," who she met at the school, decided to leave college immediately after returning for her second year.

Jody, who is 19, is sad about this and suddenly questioning whether she should stay at the university or leave. Going to this school has been her dream since she was little. She was thrilled on the day when the acceptance letter arrived. Her father and I took her out for a celebration dinner. Remember, at that time, she had never met Sally and didn't even know she existed.

Yet she would give up her dreams

dropped out?

am beside myself with worry of judgment. She never was like this. Do you have any tips for what my husband and I should say to her to persuade her to stay in school?



Dear

Annie

Worried Mom Dear Mom: Relax. Jody is 19, an age where impulsive decisions are I don't know what I should do to common. If you overreact, you might create an unnecessary drama in all of your lives. Remind Jody about how this school has been her dream, and she will continue to fit in and enjoy her college years, undoubtedly with a new best friend. Communicate with her often daily is fine, for a while — to offer support, encouragement and reinforcement. Let's hope this is just a phase.

Dear Annie: I am writing this letter from Greece, where multigenerational family life is still idealized.

When I met my future husband (we've now been married 47 years), I asked him why he was living with his parents. His answer was, "I love my mother and father!"

Annie, don't be so down on children living with their parents and families. Greek

Dear Greek: Thank you for your letter. Seems like there is plenty to learn from Greek culture.

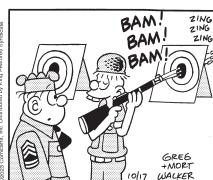
"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie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

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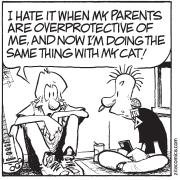
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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Q: It is staggering to hear jokes that people tell about Hell and how many people say they won't mind going there. Some even say they have no desire to go to Heaven because it will be boring. Aren't they in some way admitting their belief in both places while joking and saying none of it really matters? – H.H.

A: Singer/songwriter John Lennon is famous for his ballad "Imagine," which invites people to visualize an existence where there is no Heaven, no Hell, no religion, and everybody is "living for today." But saying there is no Hell doesn't make it so. This is precisely what the

The only One who can save the human soul is the One who died on the cross

Bible is talking about when it describes people who "became

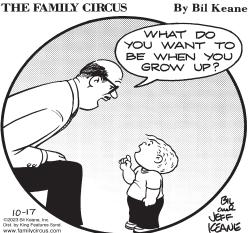
vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened" (Romans 1:21 KJV).

French biologist and philosopher Jean Rostand said, "I should have no use for a paradise in which I should be deprived of the right to prefer Hell." This, indeed, is a breathtaking admission, but the truth is that people's confession of preferring Hell is simply a cover-up for their unwillingness to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and humble themselves before Him.

It was reported once that the rock star Jewel was traveling through Mexico and observed that everyone seemed to be looking "for someone to save them." Her evaluation was true. She later wrote lyrics to what would become a major hit, "Who Will Save Your Soul?", in which she reveals people's worry about who will save their souls. The only One who can save the human soul is the One who died on the cross and shed His blood to cover our sin and bring us to eternal salvation in His Name, the Lord Jesus Christ. No one cares for us as God does, and no one but God loves us with an everlasting love.

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

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"Tall enough to reach things without standing on a stool."

The LOCKHORNS



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Notices

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Daily Three-Evening — 08-06-08, SB: 03

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06-00-06-00, SB: 03 **Quick Draw Evening** 02-09-25-27-28-32-38-

40-41-43-52-53-56-61-63-69-70-71-73-80, BE: 09 **Hoosier Lotto** — Esti-

mated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$39.2 million **MEGA MILLIONS**

Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$69 million

POWERBALL 02-27-31-44-64; Power-

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This Week's

Garage Sales



418 GOLDEN ROD Ct., Bluffton, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Oct. 18, 19, 21. Christmas decorations, household goods, furniture, tools and more.

4449 W 300 N, Bluffton, Friday, October 20, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, October 21, 9 a.m. to noon. Scrubs galore L XL, women's tops L-XL, 2 bed-side tables, and miscellaneous

SEMI-ANNUAL GARAGE SALE, Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 19 & SALE, Inuis. & Fil., Oct. 19 & 20, 8a-6p, Sat., Oct. 21, \$6 bag day, 8a-2p. Ossian United Methodist Church, 201 W. Mill St., Proceeds to United Methodist Women projects.

4 FAMILY GARAGE & estate sale, Oct. 19, 20, 21, 8-6, 2570 W 100 S, Monroe. Baby items, furniture, drop leaf table, vintage, noodles, jam, Christmas, Halloween, old drill press, cookware, crock, air fryers. Everything imaginable. You don't want to miss this one.

HUGE FLEA MARKET and church bake sale, Chester Center Church, 9009 S 300 W, Poneto (across from Southern Wells HS), Thursday, Oct. 19, Friday, Oct. 20, Saturday, Oct. 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Craft items, honey, antiques, sad-dles, toilets, barrels, col-lectibles, wide variety of items, misc. Pies, cookies, breads, pretzels, noodles.

HELOISE HINT: Having a joint sale with several of your neighbors? To make collecting money easier, assign each family a different colored tag that you can take off at checkout to keep track of each sale item. Email HELOISE@Heloise.com.

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10/17

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Public

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.

BIDDING ENDS 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. 19 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 1791 W 1000 S, Warren. Sale managers, Patrick Carter & Nick Huffman. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

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. 19 from 3-6 p.m., Oct. 26 from 4-6 p.m., 1791 W 1000 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, picked tracks for Potany Lift 9,000 lb. capacity 2-nost hydraulic truck, tractor, car, Rotary Lift 9,000-lb. capacity 2-post hydraulic lift, mower. Preview: Oct. 19 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and Oct. 26 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 300 Standard Oil Blvd., Montpelier. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006

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,

STARTING AT 4 PM EST - Randy Rossman, owner and mul**tiple consignors.** Online only consignment auction. 1,000+ lots! Featuring furniture, household items, collectibles, antiques, tools, guns, & much more! Auction preview: Nov. 2, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm St., Decatur. Pick up times: Nov. 6, 1-6 p.m. & Nov. 7, 9 a.m.noon, 3 pick up locations in Decatur. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

312 W. St. Rd. 218 **BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING NOVEMBER 5**

American Farmland Trust's Brighter Future Fund awards over \$1M

In yet another record-breaking year, American Farmland Trust has awarded over \$1 million to 110 farmers across the country through the Brighter Future Fund, adding to the \$4.5 million awarded since 2020. The grant award announcement comes on National Farmer's Day. This year, 85 Brighter Future Fund grants were made possible through Tractor Supply's \$850,000 donation in honor of the company's 85th anni-

AFT received 1,522 applicants from 48 states during the application period, an all-time high and nearly double the prior year's applications. Priority was given to applicants starting their agricultural pursuits, veterans, socially disadvantaged women, or limited

Funding was allocated for both professional services and equipment or infrastructure costs, with focus areas including improving farm viability, accessing farmland, and adopting regenerative agricultural practices.

"Tractor Supply's 85th-anniversary donation to AFT is a demonstration of our ongoing commitment to agriculture across the nation," said Mary Winn Pilkington, president of the Tractor Supply Company Foundation. "Farmers and farm families are the backbone of our country and the communities we serve. These 85 grant recipients fill us with tremendous optimism about the future of Life Out Here, and we are excited to see how these grants move their farms forward.'

This year's cohort again includes a wide variety of projects from producers nationwide.

Here's what awardees say:

"These improvements help me manage my farm in a sustainable way for my health, the health of my flock, and the health of our soil and environment. It's a win-winwin. Good for the farmer, good for the animals, and good for the planet." Rachel Catlett, Brown Dog Farm, Wisconsin.

"With the funds from AFT, I will be able to install a greenhouse which will help the farm's production increase by extending my growing season and having seedlings available to plant at all times." Daphne Bicaise, Daphodill Farm, Texas.

"We are going to be able to fulfill a dream that seemed unattainable. Ensure that in the future, all of my family's income comes from the family farm. Grow and generate sources of employment." said David Rios, La Buena Tierra,

What does the Brighter Future Fund look like moving forward?

"As the Brighter Future Fund continues to develop and evolve year to year, it fills me with great pride to see the level of support and recognition this work receives," said Ashley Brucker, Deputy Director of Agriculture Conservation Innovations. "This year's record-breaking numbers were made possible by not only the generous donor contributions and staff support but most importantly, by the farmers and landowners who take valuable time away from their work to share stories of their land, their background, and their vision for the future. We aim to grow our outreach as long as needed for farmers to continue



The farm used its Brighter Future Fund grant to install a solar-powered well. (Photo provided)

developing through innovation and commitment to agriculture."

America's farmers and ranchers work hard and face daily obstacles related to weather, changing economic forces, and the rising costs of land and inputs. AFT awards grants to farmers and ranchers to advance our mission to protect farmland, promote sound farming practices, and keep farmers on the land. AFT takes extra care to make our application processes straightforward and accessible so that the grants can have a significant impact on a farm's business and future.

The Brighter Future Fund was launched in 2020 to help farmers across the country start, grow, and sustain farms in the face of myriad challenges, including COVID-19, severe weather, and shifting markets. Launched with initial underwriting from Tillamook County Creamery Association, the program seeks to uplift, support, and amplify the work of a wide range of farmers and is sustained by the support of AFT's generous corporate donors like Tractor Supply and thousands of individual members of American Farmland Trust. Tractor Supply also contributed to the Brighter Future Fund in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

"As a farmer-owned co-op, we know that thriving farms are critical to all of our futures," said Paul Snyder, executive vice president of Stewardship at Tillamook County Creamery Association. "The Brighter Future Fund grant recipients continue to inspire us, and we should all be grateful for their role in keeping our food system strong. We're honored to see that the Brighter Future Fund we launched with American Farmland Trust in 2020 continues to gain momentum, recruit new partners and most importantly, support farmers.

Additional supporters of the fund include ButcherBox, Domino's, Giant Foods, iHeartMedia, and many generous individuals around the country. Learn more about AFT farm grant at https:// farmland.org/brighter-future/.

Invasive plants are causing concern for Indiana's woodlands

By C.J. MILLER **Hoosier Ag Today**

One of the biggest challenges facing Indiana's woodland owners is getting rid of invasive plants that are harmful to Hoosier for-

"There seems to be more of these plants out there and they have a major impact on the ecosystem," says John Stambaugh of Bedford. He's an Indiana forester and board member of the Indiana Forestry and Woodland Owners Association.

He says several invasive plants may already be familiar to gardeners and landscapers.

"Autumn Olive, Asian Bush Honeysuckle, Japanese Honeysuckle, perhaps Tree-of-Heaven, Privet, Barberry, and Burning Bush—those are probably the big ones that we see out there," according to Stambaugh. "Many people would probably recognize several of these horticultural species like Barberry and Privet, which people started using in their landscapes and in their lawns. Those migrate off into the forests and cause

Stambaugh says these invasive plants can take over a woodland area and choke off the resources for native plant life.

"They are so aggressive, and they can grow in so many conditions including low-light conditions," says Stambaugh. "In many cases, many of them will emerge from foliation earlier in the spring to get a jump on the native plant life and a lot of them will remain active well into the fall as opposed to our native plant life that would be going in the dormancy.

They will stretch out longer like Bush Honeysuckle. It's like Japanese Honeysuckle-it doesn't even hardly shut down.

He says that IFWOA has many resources available to help tackle these invasive plants in your woodland

"You have to have the attitude that this is going to be a long-term process," says Stambaugh. "Normally in your woodlands especially if you have a pretty extensive amount of them-you'll want to get someone that's qualified to

assess how severe the problem is. You would want to have a professional forester. IFWOA has a great source if you go to IFWOA.org, you can identify these people and get a location of where

these consulting foresters

Invasive plant species will also be a topic of discussion during the Indiana Woodland Owners Conference coming up in DuBois County on Nov. 3 and 4,

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16 House Republicans voice opposition to EATS Act

Sixteen House Republicans have written a letter to Congress voicing opposition against the Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression Act.

The letter follow previous opposition from 171 House members and 30 senators, as well as other state and local organizations. The lawmakers argue that the EATS Act does more to benefit foreignowned pork industry conglomerates at the expense of American farmers and statelevel regulations.

"The EATS Act proposes to undo legitimate statewide elections on animalhousing standards, and the influence of the Chinese given the profound level of control of pig production in the United States," reads the letter. "The biggest U.S.-based pork company is wholly owned by the Chinese, controlling 26 percent of the U.S. pork market, and produces one in six breeding sows in the United States."

Farm bill representatives led the letter including: Andrew Garbarino (R-N.Y.), David Valadao (R-Calif.), Mike Waltz (R-Fla.), and Nancy Mace (R-S.C.).

"As the components of the farm bill take form, we strongly urge you to resist any attempt to undermine

By AGDAILY government is hard to miss state laws that intersect with nally introduced to address agricultural commerce," the coalition wrote.

> Other letters have been sent by senators to the Senate Agriculture Committee leaders as well as another coalition of House members to the House Agricultural Committee leaders opposing the bill, and a letter from 16 state attorneys general to congressional leaders opposing the Act.

The National Governors Association, the National Association of Counties, and the League of Cities have also recently sent letters in opposition of the EATS Act.

The EATS Act was origi-

the Supreme Court's decision to uphold California's Proposition 12, regulating the spaces of confined animals. Supporters say that states' rights are currently at risk. The introduced bill prohibits state laws that impose additional requirements on agricultural producers in other states.

Agricultural groups, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Pork Producers Council, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, are lobbying for the bill. Another group of state attorneys general also support the legislation.

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Soybean industry has \$124B impact on economy

By ERIC PFEIFFER **Hoosier Ag Today**

If you've ever wondered what kind of impact you have on the country as a soybean grower, the United Soybean Board has the

"Some really eyeopening contributions that the soy sector adds to the national economy. \$124 billion per year. That's a big, big number," says Ed Lammers, USB Secretary and a Nebraska farmer.

Lammers is referring to a recent economic impact study to engage farmers and the agricultural community about the importance of the soybean industry to the U.S. and state economies.

"We have a lot of jobs that also fall in that economy, with 223,000 paid full-time jobs. So, those are some really big, big numbers and goes to emphasize the importance of the soybean sector."

USB partnered with the National Oilseed Processors Association to commission the study. Lammers explains why this study is so important for farmers.

"We get in our daily routines, and we don't think about that big picture. This kind of brings attention to the importance of what we do every day and how it affects other people and the national economy. The value chain is wide and big. You know, you've got fertilizers, you've got transportation, you've got the crush, you've got oil, we've got meal, and we've got animal foods. It's a miracle bean is what it is.

Lammers says the economic impact stretches well beyond the farm, with new innovations for soybeans that are used in over 1,000 products.

"New innovations that

are coming out and most people probably are not aware of is this year's soy foam that fire departments are using for retardants on special chemicals. You know, any food processors where chemicals would not be friendly to the processor, soy is degradable. So that soy foam really has a unique priority to it. Other things are seed lubricants. As soybean producers, we always put some kind of a treatment on our seed to make it flow better so it doesn't plug up on our rows or whatever.'

And soybeans help keep you grounded- literally. They're also used in the soles of Skecher's shoes and

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