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<u> UFFTON, INDIANA · Wells</u> County's Hometown Connection

Commissioners updated on highway projects, commend two highway employees

By HOLLY GASKILL

The Wells County Highway Department took a moment to recognize two employees who placed in the "Snowlympics" during Monday's commissioner meeting.

The event, Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar explained, was hosted by the Indiana Local Technical Assistance Program at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds. Twentyseven teams were tasked with plowing a course that included severe curves, obstacles, barrels to weave through, and more.

Chris Duncan and Kevin Gillum, representing Wells County, placed second. Bartholomew County placed first, and Delaware County placed third.

The commissioners commended the men for their service to the county, especially in upcoming winter weather.

"Thanks for the nights when you guys are cleaning the roads and nobody's out," Commissioner Jeff Stringer said.

Bonar updated the commissioners that his crews are finishing their final mowing and will wrap up multiple projects, including reshaping the County Road 450 East ditch and conversions on CR 500W, 700N,

County Engineer Nate Rumchlag also advised the work on Bridge 85 over the Rock Creek on Hoosier Highway began last week and should be finished by mid-November. Regarding another project on CR 200S, the county will host a public information meeting at 6 p.m. Nov. 2 at the Wells County Public Library.

Other items were:

(Continued on Page 2)



Pictured are the Wells County Commissioners with the two Highway Department employees who placed at the Indiana Local Technical Assistance Program "Snowlympics." From left, commissioners Jeff Stringer, Mike Vanover, and Blake Gerber, and 2nd place winners, Chris Duncan and Kevin Gillum. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)



Indiana National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. R. Dale Lyles speaks during the announcement of a partnership between the Indiana National Guard and PRUV Mobility on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023, at Camp Atterbury. (Photo provided by the Indiana National Guard)

Indiana National Guard strikes 10-year deal for Camp Atterbury testing ground

By CASEY SMITH **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

A portion of Camp Atterbury will soon be home to a proving and testing ground for new technologies that could be useful to both civilians and the military — largely

those involving autonomous vehicles. Officials announced the new deal during a ceremony on Friday. The 10-year, \$940,000 lease of state-owned land and roadways within Camp Atterbury's north post will allow PRŪV "an independent and secure location" to test "next-generation advanced mobility developments.

Indiana National Guard Maj. Gen. Dale Lyles said the advancement of autonomous military vehicles and weapons could help save the lives of soldiers in future conflicts. He noted, for example, that the dangers of first contact with an enemy could

be absorbed by robots and Artificial Intelli-

As part of those autonomous vehicle developments, Lyles predicted that PRŪV will eventually use Camp Atterbury's restricted airspace to test how unmanned aerial systems, like drones, could be used to "defeat systems or enhance their systems in the warfight."

"It is imperative that we keep this place busy and we keep it open to ensure the safety of all Americans, and that we prevail against all of our adversaries," said Lyles, Indiana's adjutant general. He further applauded the project as a ground-breaking cooperation between the military and private sector.

"Our relationship with PRŪV strengthens our national security strategy, it strengthens (Continued on Page 2)

Board of Works OKs police hire; Council passes new small business ordinance

By SYDNEY KENT

The Bluffton Police Department received permission to hire their 21st police officer at the Board of Works meeting Tuesday after-

Chief of Police, Kyle Randall, told the board Trevor Wurst was selected by a committee and has passed the initial hiring process. Wurst graduated from Norwell High School and obtained a degree in criminal justice from the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne.

Randall said the next step for Wurst will be to complete police academy. The board unanimously approved.

Additionally, an ordinance that will benefit small business owners who partner with the city was passed at the City Council meeting following Board of Works.

helps smaller vendors that are required to

receive a certain percentage of funds to begin a project.

The way it stands now we're not allowed to do prepayment" Tammy Schaffer explained. "This has made it hard for things like purchasing a firetruck. We would have gotten a \$500,000 discount if we paid a certain percentage up front, but by state statute,

The ordinance requires a surety bond if the amount is over \$50,000. The council unanimously approved the motion.

we were not allowed to do that.

The council also adopted a resolution to transfer funds to the Fire Territory Board. Bluffton Common Council president Scott Mentzer outlined the terms of the agreement, as well as the purpose of the loan.

"The fire territory won't receive any income until they get their first property tax Mayor John Whicker said the ordinance payment in middle of 2024," Mentzer said. (Continued on Page 2)

Biden heads to Israel, summit with Arab leaders called off

By COLLEEN LONG, **AAMER MADHANI** and CHRIS MEGERIAN **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden's efforts to tamp down tensions in the escalating war between Israel and Hamas faced massive setbacks even before he departed for the Middle East on Tuesday, as Jordan called off the president's planned summit with Arab leaders after a deadly explosion at a Gaza hospital killed hun-

Biden now will visit only Israel and will postpone his travel to Jordan, a White House official said as Biden departed.

The postponement of the Amman summit comes after Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas withdrew from the scheduled meetings in protest of the attacks, which the Hamas-run Health Ministry in Gaza blamed on an Israeli airstrike. The Israeli military said it had no involvement and pinned the

blame on a misfired Palestinian rocket. "This war and this aggression are pushing the region to the brink," Ayman Safadi, Jordan's foreign minister, told al-Mamlaka TV, a state-run network. He said Jordan would only host the summit when all participants

(Continued on Page 2)

Republicans reject Jordan for House speaker on first ballot

By LISA MASCARO, **FARNOUSH AMIRI** and STEPHEN GROVES **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Signaling more turmoil ahead, Republicans rejected Rep. Jim Jordan for House speaker on a first ballot Tuesday, as a surprising 20 holdouts denied the hard-charging ally of Donald Trump the GOP majority needed to seize the gavel.

Additional voting was postponed as the House hit a standstill, stuck while Jordan works to shore up support from Republican colleagues to replace the ousted Kevin McCarthy for the job. Reluctant Republicans are refusing to give Jordan their votes, viewing the Ohio congressman as too extreme for the powerful position of House speaker, second in line to the presidency. Next votes were expected Wednesday.

"We're going to keep working," Jordan said at the Capitol as evening fell.

It's been two weeks of angry Republican infighting since McCarthy's sudden removal by hard-liners, who are now within reach of a central seat of U.S. power. The vote for House speaker, once a formality in Congress, has devolved into another bitter showdown for the gavel.

Jordan said after the first vote that he was not surprised and expected to do better in the next round. But the afternoon dragged on with no further votes Tuesday. "We feel confident," he said, ducking into a leadership office.

The tally, with 200 Republicans voting for Jordan and 212 for the Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, left no candidate with a clear majority, as 20

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Republicans voted for someone else. With Republicans in majority control, Jordan must pick up most of his GOP foes to win.

The holdouts are a mix of pragmatists, ranging from seasoned legislators and committee chairs worried about governing, to newer lawmakers from districts where voters back home prefer President Joe Biden to Trump.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Sunny today but rain tonight and tomorrow

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 65	High 63	High 58
Low 51	Low 49	Low 42

More Weather on Page 2

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October 18, 2023



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Commissioners

• The commissioners will consider a proposal from VS Engineering to develop a rehabilitation and rightof-way plan to fix Meridian Road between Hoosier

Highway and CR 250S.

- A draft inspection contract with Engineering Resources was approved for \$149,000.
- The Solid Waste Management District approved

a resolution to sell a Paladin grapple bucket to the town of Albion for \$1,250.

· As of Monday, Sheriff Scott Holliday reported there were 62 inmates in the Wells County Jail. This total

included 23 pre-trial holds for the Wells County Circuit Court, 12 holds for the Superior Court, 19 from the Department of Correction, and five Level 6 felons.

holly@news-banner.com

Board of Works

"In order to provide some operating money to the territory, we're looking at creating a city loan from the insurance

The terms of the loan include a 5.5 percent interest rate, which Mentzer said is consistent with rates from Trust Indiana. The territory will plan to repay the loan in June of 2024 with the property tax payment.

The council and Board of Works

• Approved the 2024 budget • Approved 2024 fire, police, and

city salaries

- · Approved an abatement request in the amount of \$136,500 for a total investment of \$279,265 to Star Engineering for the purchase of two additional pieces of equipment.
- Accepted a resignation from Mike Harris, a paid on-call firefighter with the Bluffton Fire Department.
- Approved a motion to transfer a \$10,000 budget classifications from paving and construction to the street and alley department.
- A merit raise in the amount of \$1 per year for a 10-year employee
 - A raise for a 9-year employee
- A water adjustment for residence
- with water leak after fitting came loose. • Discussed potential insurance policy options for employees.

sydney@news-banner.com

Camp Atterburry

(Continued from Page 1)

our defense sector, it makes America safer. And this partnership is something that will endure for years, and it is something that will preserve the safety of our kids and our grandkids.'

Camp Atterbury, located near Edinburgh in southcentral Indiana, serves as a major training site for the Indiana National Guard.

Lyles noted that because much of the National Guard's training happens on weekends, "we have this available capacity through the week."

New testing on the way

PRŪV's initial lease includes 55 acres on the north side of the base on land owned by the state.

The new proving ground will be located on the northern portion of the base and include 10.2 miles of road behind a secure fence line. Military and company officials said it's an ideal spot for secure and confidential research, as well as development and testing of advanced vehicle technolo-

PRŪV CEO John Fairbanks said the company

started looking across Indiana for a new proving ground site in 2015. The Indiana Defense Network and Indiana Economic Development Corporation helped foster the partnership between PRŪV and the National Guard, he continued.

The startup company designs, builds, and operates advanced mobility proving grounds and research campuses to support development and testing of intelligent and efficient vehicle technologies. The company said its test beds provide "realistic and configurable environments" to evaluate vehicle performance, safety and reliability.

Former Indiana adjutant general Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, who retired in 2015, now serves on PRŪV's board as the senior military advisor.

"We are excited to open this testing site with a vision for an advanced proving ground campus in Indiana that provides companies in the advanced mobility sector a premier location to safely test and validate new technologies," Fairbanks said. "As a tremendous asset for automo-

tive and associated technology groups, mobility companies and the Department of Defense in developing, testing and deploying advancements in vehicle technologies, this flagship facility will create economic opportunity, support workforce development, and cement Indiana's position as a leader in transportation innovation.'

Fairbanks said PRŪV studies "the entire advanced mobility ecosystem," which includes everything from the vehicle itself, to manufacturing materials, communication channels and cyberse-

"It's kind of a combination of all those things," he said. "We're going to be very agnostic. We say we are building the sandbox for testing of advanced mobility technologies.'

The proving ground is expected to see testing of technology from other companies like Cummins, Allison Transmission and ClearFlame Engine Technologies, among others, he said. Room to grow

The as-is site already offers configurable routes and scenarios to support testing of various levels of vehicle performance in a range of weather conditions and environments, according to the Indiana National Guard.

Once completed, the proving ground campus is envisioned to include a vehicle dynamics area, urban street grid, rural roads, offroad terrain and support facilities for various types of testing scenarios. The Indiana National Guard said the campus will be available 24/7 for use by vehicle developers, suppliers, technology companies, researchers and government entities.

The project will also make use of the network of streets in the area that used to be the Wakefield military hospital during World War II.

Fairbanks said PRŪV plans to make upgrades and infrastructure improvements at the site, including the construction of new buildings and facilities as the project expands. Eventually, the company has the option to use the whole 1,000 acres north of Atterbury, Lyles said.

Indiana National Guard officials said those investments will support current and future base operations.

Weather

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 (24-hour observations at 9:11 p.m. Tuesday) High: 57; Low: 45; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.40 feet at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. South wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: A 50 percent chance of showers after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Thursday: Showers likely, mainly after 2 p.m. Mostly

cloudy, with a high near 63. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent. **Thursday Night:** Showers likely, mainly before 8 p.m.

Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49. West wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. Friday: A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy,

with a high near 58. Friday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly

after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. **Saturday:** A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly

before 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 57. Saturday Night: A 10 percent chance of showers before p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 37.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 54. **Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 35.

House speaker

(Continued from Page 1) But with public pressure bearing down on lawmakers from Trump's allies, including Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity, it's unclear how long the holdouts can last. Jordan swiftly flipped dozens of detractors in a matter of days, shoring up Republicans who have few options left, but it was not enough.

"Jim Jordan will be a great speaker," the former president said outside a courthouse in Manhattan, where he is facing business fraud charges. "I think he's going to have the votes soon, if not today, over the next day or two."

The political climb has been steep for Jordan, the combative Judiciary Committee chairman and a founding member of the right-flank Freedom Caucus. He is known more as a chaos agent than a skilled legislator, raising questions about how he would lead. Congress faces daunting challenges, risking a federal shutdown at home if it fails to fund the government and fielding Biden's requests for aid to help Ukraine and Israel in the wars abroad.

With the House Republican majority narrowly held at 221-212, Jordan can afford to lose few votes to reach the 217 majority threshold, if there are no further absences.

Jeffries swiftly intervened, declaring was time for Republicans to partner

with Democrats to reopen the House.

Bipartisan groups of lawmakers have been floating ways to operate the House by giving greater power to the interim speaker, Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., or another temporary speaker.

"The Republicans are unable to function right now," said Jeffries. He said talks "would accelerate" between Democrats and Republicans into the evening.

As the somber roll call was underway, each lawmaker announcing their choice, the holdouts quickly surfaced.

Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., a leader of the centrists, voted for McCarthy, the ousted former speaker. Murmurs rippled through the chamber. Others voted for Majority Leader Steve Scalise, who was the party's first nominee to replace McCarthy before he, too, was rejected by hardliners last week.

Making the official nominating speech was another top Trump ally, GOP conference chairwoman Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York, who declared Jordan will be "we the people's speaker."

On the other side of the aisle, Democratic caucus chairman Rep. Pete Aguilar of California nominated Jeffries and warned that handing the speaker's gavel to a "vocal election denier" would send "a terrible message" at home and abroad.

Biden heads to Israel

(Continued from Page 1) agreed on its purpose, which would be to "stop the war, respect the humanity of the Palestinians, and deliver the aid they deserve."

While in the air, Biden released a statement saying he was "outraged and deeply saddened by the explosion at the Al Ahli Arab hospital in Gaza, and the terrible loss of life that resulted." He said he spoke "immediately"

after hearing the news with King Abdullah II of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and said he has "directed my national security team to continue gathering information about what exactly happened."

"The United States stands unequivocally for the protection of civilian life during conflict and we mourn the patients, medical staff and other innocents killed or wounded in this tragedy," Biden added.

Still, the cancellation of the Jordan leg of the trip reflects an increasingly volatile situation that will test the limits of American influence in the region as Biden visits Wednesday.

Biden's decision to put himself in a conflict zone — the same year he made a surprise visit to Ukraine — demonstrates his willingness to take personal and political risks as he becomes heavily invested in another intractable foreign conflict with no clear end game and plenty of opportunity for things to spiral out of control.

The high-stakes presidential trip is emblematic of Biden's belief that the United States should not turn back from its central role on the global stage and his faith that personal diplomacy can play a decisive role.

'This is how Joe Biden believes politics works and history is made," said Jon Alterman, a senior vice president at the Center for Strategic and International Studies who worked on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee while Biden was a member.

There's been no water, fuel or food delivered to Gaza since the brutal Oct. 7 attack by Hamas that killed more than 1,400 Israelis and triggered the unfolding war. Mediators have been struggling to break a deadlock over providing supplies to desperate civilians, aid groups and hospitals.

As the humanitarian crisis grows, too does the concern of a spiraling conflict that stretches beyond the borders of Gaza. There have already been skirmishes on Israel's northern border with Hezbollah, an Iran-backed group that's based in Southern Lebanon.

"There's a lot that can go wrong on this trip," Alterman said.

Biden's travels will be rife with security concerns, and visits by other U.S. officials have been disrupted by rocket launches into Israel. Additional Israeli airstrikes in Gaza could also prompt more condemnation at a time when Biden is intending to demonstrate solidarity with the United States'

closest ally in the region. The U.S. has subtly shifted its message over the past week, maintaining full-throated support for Israel while slowly turning up the diplomatic volume on the need for humanitarian assistance in Gaza, as Biden and aides have heard increasingly dire predictions about the potential for images of suffering Palestinians to ignite protests and broader unrest throughout the Middle East.

U.S. officials said it has become clear that already limited Arab tolerance of Israel's military operations would evaporate entirely if conditions in Gaza worsened.

Their analysis projected that outright condemnation of Israel by Arab leaders would not only be a boon to Hamas but would likely encourage Iran to step up its anti-Israel activity, adding to fears that a regional conflagration might erupt, according to four officials who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss internal administration thinking.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, bouncing back and forth between Arab and Israeli leadership ahead of Biden's visit, spent seven and a half hours meeting Monday in Tel Aviv in an effort to broker some kind of aid agreement and emerged with a green light to create a plan on how aid can enter Gaza and be distributed to civilians.

It was on the surface a modest accomplishment, but U.S. officials stressed that it represented a significant change in Israel's position going in that Gaza would remain cut off from fuel, electricity, water and other essential supplies.

Biden has a long track record of showing public support for Israel while expressing concerns privately to the Israelis about their behavior.

"He believes the only way to get inside the Israelis' heads is to demonstrate profound empathy, but also to be there," Alterman said.

In the U.S., Biden has won rare praise from Republicans over his leadership on Israel, but prospects for providing additional aid are uncertain. The administration has said it would ask for more than \$2 billion in aid for both Israel and Ukraine, though House Republicans remain in disarray.

Still, Biden is committed to both Ukraine and Israel.

"We're the United States of America, for God's sake, the most powerful nation in the history of the world," he said this week on CBS' "60 Minutes" when asked whether the wars in Israel and Ukraine were more than the U.S. can take on at once. "We have the capacity to do this and we have an obligation to. ... And if we don't, who does?"

In Israel, Biden was expected to meet with Netanyahu and other Israeli officials. His plans to then meet in Jordan with King Abdullah II, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas were scrapped.

The Israel-Palestinian conflict has been ongoing for decades, and to a large extent, it's involved the same cadre of men. Netanyahu is the longestserving prime minister in Israeli history. Abbas has been Palestinian president for nearly 20 years. Abdullah II has been king since 1999 — Biden has called the Jordanian king a loyal ally in a "tough neighborhood." El-Sissi is the newest leader, president since 2014.







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OBITUARIES

Hershel A. Baker, 90

Hershel A. Baker, 90, of Montpelier, passed away at 11:00 a.m. Monday, Oct. 16, 2023, at Stillwater Hospice in Fort Wayne.

He was born January 28, 1933, in Greensburg, Ind., to Albert A. and Iva Lee (Hammons) Baker, both parents preceded him in death. He married Delores C. (Marshall) Aug.17, 2001, in Bryant, Ind., she preceded him in death April 19, 2016.



He spent 20 plus years in the United States Air Force, retiring in 1973. Following retirement, he worked for several years on a ranch in Washington State. Hershel attended First Church of Nazarene in Montpelier. In his spare time, he enjoyed woodworking, making quilt racks, pie safe's, and sno-men lawn ornamentations, and working on word search puzzles.

He is survived by his children, Dale (Tina) Baker of Henderson, Ky., Virginia (Mark) Johnston of Henderson, Ky., Carolyn (David Mooney) Swihart of Providence, Ky.; step-children, Paula Brown of Bluffton, Barbara Huffman of Bluffton, and Sherrie Hillard of Portland, Ind.; six grandchildren, Allison Baker Shealy, Crystal Crow, Justin Baker, Christopher Sweat, Edward Hickerson, and DeMarco Sutton; and six great-grandchildren.

Hershel was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Delores; daughter, Lucy Baker; step-children, Russel Brown and Sheila Brown; siblings, Thurman Baker, Robert Baker, William Baker, Lula Burrus, Flora Gabbard, Francis Greer, Virginia Rowe, Laura Hutson, Jean Chaney, and Joan Seley.

A service will be held at 1:00 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, 2023, at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton, with Pastor James Burris officiating. Visitation will be from 11:00 until 1:00 p.m. Friday at the chapel.

Burial will be in Claycomb Cemetery in Jay County, Ind. The United State Air Force Honor Guard will conduct military graveside rites.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Donor's

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

Walter Lamar McMillen, 80

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

Walt was born July 28, 1943, in Rochester, Pa. to James and Louise (Dunlap) McMillen. He attended Ivy Tech and Fort Wayne Community College in Fort Wayne.

He worked at Eazor Express before working for Silberline Manufacturing, in Decatur, as an electrician for 26 years. Walt was long

time member of Liberty Center Community Church. He enjoyed being outdoors, hunting, and gardening. He could easily be found with this special sidekick, Murphy, his beloved dog. He will be remembered by his family and friends for his quick and witty comebacks.

On Oct. 4, 1974, Walt and Virginia (Stroud) Booher were married. They recently celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia of Bluffton; their four daughters, LaiLani (Kirk) McCully of Coalport, Pa., Kandice (Ray) Reber and Debby (Don) Rogers all of Liberty Center, and Terri (Mike) Parsons of Bluffton; along with grandchildren, Heather (Justin) Anderson of Coalport, Pa., Dustin (Brittany) Dotts, of Flinton, Pa., Jessica (Nate) Behning, Drew (Nikki) Parsons and Erika (Colin Alberson) Parsons, all of Bluffton, Angie (Jason) Duncan of Bluffton, Amanda (Brett) Clark of Liberty Center, Caleb (Paige) Sleppy of Warren, Brittani (Ben) Langhammer of Indianapolis, Christi Reber and Cami (Pat) Williams all of Bluffton, Cory (Shelly) Reber of Indianapolis. He is also survived by 26 great-grandchildren; a sister Rita (Bill) Yingling of Flinton, Pa.; two brothers, Wilbert (Karen) McMillen of Irvona, Pa. and Preston (Sandy) McMillen of Chambersburg, Pa.

He is preceded in death by his parents; a son-in-law, Gary Sleppy; a grandson, Ben Sleppy; and a brother,

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 23, 2023, at Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, with Pastor Diane Samuels officiating. Burial will follow at Mossburg Cemetery in Liberty Center.

Visitation will take place on Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. and for one hour prior to the service.

Memorials can be made to Liberty Center Community

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

Patricia Dyson, 87

Patricia Dyson, 87, a longtime resident of rural Poneto, died Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 17, 2023, at her son's residence in Columbia City.

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

Wells County Historical Society to host History of 4-H Park Log Cabin

Members of the Wells County Historical Society will be hosting a program on the history of the 4-H Log Cabin, at the Historical Museum at 420 West Market St. in Bluffton on Sunday, Oct. 22, at 2 p.m.

Pat Wall and Roger Sherer, members of the Friends of the Cabin Committee, will share a Power Point presentation about the history from its original location in southwest Harrison Township in 1855 to its present located and restoration at the Wells County 4-H Park.

Many of the photos will illustrate the steps taken to restore the structure using modern construction techniques. The program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

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Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Monday, 2:12 p.m., Bluffton Police Department. Subject appeared at the station to report fraud.

Monday, 3:47 p.m., 1000 block of South Oak Street. Report of a domestic issue. Man warned for behavior.

Monday, 4:15 p.m., 1100 block of South Jersey Street. Report of a shopping cart in the alley with items in it, possibly put there by child at the address.

Monday, 6:48 p.m., Welches. Caller reported subjects possibly going through vehicles on property, nothing appeared suspicious.

Monday, 8:28 p.m., Forgotten Children. Report of broken glass in the roadway. Officer didn't locate any glass.

Monday, 9:03 p.m., WEG. Report of woman under the influence of some form of drugs, woman claimed it was a medical issue. Caller requested assistance due to woman's insistence on driving. Woman was transported to Bluffton Regional Medical Center by WEG staff.

Monday, 10:46 p.m., 200 block of East Ohio Street. Report of a man messing with Halloween decorations. Subject warned for trespass-

Monday, 6:09 a.m., Taco

Bell. Driver reported subject on phone and weaving and speeding while driving and believed the subject would land at Inteva. Officer spoke to both drivers and informed them he would keep an eye out for further issues as both drivers had issues of cell phone usage and speeding from Allen County to Bluff-

Tuesday, 6:11 a.m., Sortpro Overhead. Report of attempted breaking and entering.

Tuesday, 10:43 a.m., Rough Park. Report of a patient attacking caller and running away. One juvenile detained.

County:

Monday, 12:11 p.m., Silo Farms. Caller reported resident inflicted minor damage in the grassy field area near burn pile with a vehicle. Requested a report and for officer to speak with the tenant. Tenant was apologetic and did not intend to cause damage.

Monday, 2:13 p.m., 5900 block of North Miller Street, Uniondale. Juvenile caller reported another juvenile threatened to shoot them and their dogs and showed a gun in a video. Ambiguous Snapchat video evidence was shown to the officer. Juveniles advised to stop immediately and that law enforcement was involved.

Monday, 3:27 p.m., 7500 South 200 East, Bluffton. Caller reported someone hit her mailbox with a vehicle overnight. No leads on the mailbox murderer but wanted to make officers aware.

Monday, 5:23 p.m., Ind. 1 and East 200 South, Bluffton. Report of two horses on the side of the road just minding their own business. Horses contained prior to officer arrival.

Monday, 8:33 p.m., 6800 South 1000 West, Warren. Report of man in middle of road. Officers assisted subject and family.

Monday, 9:14 p.m., Ind. 116 and 600 East, Bluffton. Car versus deer.

Tuesday, 9:04 a.m., West 1000 south and 500 West, Montpelier. Equinox versus

Tuesday, 9:04 a.m., Ind. 116 and 300 West, Markle. Car versus deer. Deer not quite dead.

Ossian:

Monday, 5:43 p.m., 400 block of Millside Court, Ossian. Caller reported subject who used to live at residence broke into house and took belongings.

Monday, 7:54 p.m., 5900 East North Street, Ossian. Report of man in white car taking pictures of residence, second occasion. Subject stated he had a badge and

ACCIDENTS

County:

Tuesday, 4:10 a.m., Ind. 224 and 300 West. Preston Hamilton was driving Eastbound on Ind. 224 when he failed to negotiate a right hand curve. Hamilton's Dodge Dart crossed the center line, continuing straight, and hit a raised driveway and culvert. This caused Hamilton's vehicle to become airborne and collide with an REMC utility pole, causing wires to hang across the roadway. Hamilton was able to climb out of the passenger side window and sustained heavy bleeding from his mouth and face. Alcohol is believed to be a factor in the crash. Hamilton was transported to Lutheran Hospital for injuries. Jonathon Mygrant was driving Westbound on Ind. 224 when his Volvo Semi Tractor collided with the wires hanging from the broken pole. Semi sustained minor damages fixed by A Plus on the side of the road.

ARRESTS

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

Israel Gonzalez-Granados, 32, Fort Wayne, battery, a Class A misdemeanor, and disorderly conduct, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at

Pictured in the photo from

left, Wells County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Erin Prible, Chandler Gerber of the City of Bluffton, Jayde Ketring of First Bank of Berne, Jacob Duncan of Farm Bureau Insurance, Alyssa Brown of Archbold & Lewis, Kevin Sills of Farm Bureau Insurance, Lorna West, Bob West, Lisa West and Ashley Bultemeier of Just Threads and More, Kevin Pritchard of Ruoff Mortgage, Cyndee Fiechter of North Eastern Group Realty, Piercen Harnish of Shelton Financial, and Mayor John Whicker. (Photo submitted)



Just Threads and More celebrates opening

Wells County Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassadors joined hands in welcoming Lisa West, the owner of Just Threads and More, as they celebrated their ribbon-cutting event. Just Threads and More, a unique closeout store, is now open for business at 1220 South Main Street in Bluffton, Indiana.

Lisa West's journey to entrepreneurship is a remarkable one. After relocating to Indiana from the south five years ago, Lisa worked for a company in New Haven for 35 years as a regional director, managing territories in Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas. Following an agreement with her previous employer to consolidate regional roles into one location, Lisa made the transition to work part-time and pursue her dream of opening her own store locally.

Just Threads and More, initially located in Decatur, has now moved to Bluffton in response to their expansion plans and goals for a larger building next spring. West shared, "We could easily bring out 20 more racks of inventory to the floor; however, we can't do that right now because we've run out of floor space." West emphasizes that Just

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Threads and More is not a thrift store but a closeout store that offers a wide selection of new seasonal clothing.

The store sources its inventory from closeout companies that purchase surplus items from various sources, including department stores. "Our buyers constantly seek out new and different companies to expand our inventory," said West. Just Threads and More also features consignment items, provided they are brand new products or handmade from new materials, such as soaps, mugs, and journals. The store carefully curates its product offerings to meet the needs and preferences of its customers.

To further enhance the shopping experience, Just Threads and More maintains a preferred customer list, offering exclusive text message alerts for special sales, including discounts of up to 60 percent off regular prices. Customers celebrating their birthdays during the week receive a special

50 percent discount on any item. First Responders are also acknowledged with additional discounts.

Beyond retail, Just Threads and More operates the Ephesians Project, a small ministry that holds regular Bible shares, providing an opportunity for the community to engage with scripture and connect over a shared meal. The ministry also extends support to the homeless by providing clothing and food resources, and donations of gentlyused clothing are accepted.

Lisa West is not alone in this venture; her family members, including her son and sister, are actively involved in helping run the business. Since moving into the new space at 1220 South Main Street, the team has undertaken significant renovations, including painting, rearranging, and adding dressing rooms. They have plans to further expand and update the flooring to accommodate their growing inventory.

Just Threads and More offers a diverse selection of clothing for men, women, children, and babies including formal and pageant dresses, toys, shoes, jewelry, and hair accessories. While space is currently a challenge, the team is committed to making the most of the available area and providing a delightful shopping experience.

Just Threads and More is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with Wednesdays being their designated day of closure.



hour prior to the service all at Ossian Church of the Nazarene. **Service:** 10:30 a.m. Friday, October 20 at

Ossian Church of the Nazarene. Thoma/Rich, Lemler

Funeral Home 308 W. Washington St. 824-3850

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What's keeping Hoosier kids out of college?

Last week, a few officials from our state's colleges and universities gathered together to discuss our state's growing lack of college students. Their thoughts? They need to do a better job at convincing students the cost — excuse me, "value" of four-year degrees.

I have some thoughts. A lot of

First, they decide that cost is the main issue keeping Hoosier students out of college. They aren't entirely wrong on that point. In the past five years,

the rate of high school students joining higher-education

ranks decreased from 65 to 53 percent.

Christopher Ruhl, who's the chief financial officer and treasurer for Purdue University, said that institutions need to make sure the degree is worth the value. Which is interesting since Hoosier public colleges and universities are planning on increasing tuition and fees by 4.9 percent a year for the next two years. Right now, IU boasts a nearly \$30,000 price tag. After the proposed 4.9 percent increase it will land around \$31,740. That's for one year. For four years, the total cost to get a degree from IU would be \$126,960 out of pocket.

Anand Marri, Ball State's interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, pointed out that research reveals those with a bachelor's degree earn \$1.7 million more during their careers than those with just a high school education. And she is right, research does show that. But as always with research, there's more. Georgetown University says it's more like \$1.2 million and that's all dependent on several dozen other factors: age, race, gender, occupation, what was studied, ethnicity, and a person's location just to name a few. Women make less than men, Black women make less than white women, and Hispanic women make less than Black women.

The issue that all of these colleges and universities seem to be ignoring is the economy — the overall state of our financial affairs. As a millennial, I was told my entire life that college was the only way I could get a well paying job. It was preached to me from the time I was in kindergarten when they first started asking me what I wanted to be when I grew up. And then I did what all millennials did (or a very large majority of us), I went to college, I took out loans because my mother couldn't afford to pay my way. I even worked during college. For the first few years it was full time and I was barely scraping by.

Now, here's the thing: jobs don't always want to pay for a degree. Ask anyone in the job market right now and they'll tell you. Most job descriptions will list that they want a bachelors, or even a masters, and the pay is barely above minimum wage. This means that the degree we were told to get feels completely useless. Research shows that in the state of Indiana, a person has to make \$19 an hour to afford the cost of living. So what now? You're saddled with student loans and a job that doesn't pay enough to live.

Take look at teachers. The average teacher salary in Indiana is \$57,000. Let's say that a student borrows IU's full \$126,960 tuition amount with no scholarships or grants. Student Debt Smarter offers an affordability calculator that factors in your degree, the college, and the city you plan to live in after you graduate. They estimate the monthly salary around \$3,127 before taxes. Monthly expenses, for Fort Wayne, they estimate to be around \$2,026. Student loan payments they estimate around \$1,928. That leaves our prospective teacher \$1,401 in the hole every month. The most a prospective IU education student can take out and expect to pay back is \$31,515. That's with a repayment of \$377 a month and \$150 left-

"Boohoo," you say, "Carrie. If they don't like it they can find a better paying job." Well, they are. And politicians are calling it a "hiring crisis". They're saying it's because "no one wants to work anymore", when the reality is no one can afford to work anymore. People are leaving jobs that aren't paying them enough to live, and are refusing to work for companies that will not take care of them. I don't think I need to remind everyone that minimum wage was created for a family of four to live off of (that includes owning a home).

Dominick Chase, the senior vice president for Ivy Tech, said that "Students want to do more, faster." That's a fair assumption and it might be true on some level. The issue most are having is the requirement of classes that do not pertain to a person's degree choice.

"We need to get kids in college," they say. I find it hard to think anything other than what they must mean is "We need to find a way to get money." The reason high school kids aren't going to college right now is so much more than just cost alone. Until cost of living is addressed, until corporations are no longer concerned about getting rich, until companies decide to pay their workers a livable wage, there is no incentive for students to go to college and wrack up thousands and thousands of dollars in debt.

The issue is not convincing students of the cost, the "value." Or, maybe it is. But these officials also need to consider the mountain of other costs and challenges high school students are facing. The hesitancy is there in the question: why go to college and wrack up thousands in debt when a job won't or can't pay me enough to cover cost of living on top of my loan repayments?

So I suppose yes, the main issue keeping Hoosier kids out of college is cost. But there is so much more that needs addressing by people higher up than higher-education officials. Right now, it is incredibly difficult to find value in a four-year degree.

newsroom@news-banner.com

Today in History

By The Associated Press Today is Wednesday, Oct. 18, the 291st day of 2023. There are 74 days left

in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 18, 1867, the United States took formal possession of Alaska from

Russia. On this date:

In 1648, Boston shoemakers were authorized to form a guild to protect their

interests, becoming the first

American labor organization on record.

In 1892, the first longdistance telephone line between New York and Chicago was officially opened.

In 1898, the American flag was raised in Puerto Rico shortly before Spain formally relinquished control of the island to the U.S.

In 1954, Texas Instruments unveiled the Regency TR-1, the first commercially produced transistor radio.



Carrie

Penrod



Raw antisemitism exposed

"Come," they say, "let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel's name is remembered no more." (Psalm 83:4)

The murderous attack on Israel has ripped away what remained of a thin veneer that has covered up growing antisemitism in America and some of the rest of the world. Until now it has only periodically raised its ugly head. The reaction by pro-Palestinian groups to Israel's necessary and defensible response to the terrorist attacks from Gaza reveals how this disease has spread.

For years prior to the invasion, there were occasional demonstrations against Jewish and pro-Israel speakers on some college campuses. Now, students and even some college presidents have blamed the killings on Israel for its 'occupation" of land that is rightfully and historically theirs. This is like blaming Jews for their own deaths

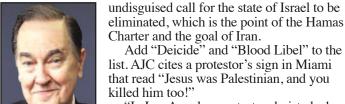
After the attacks by Hamas, swastikas emerged in several U.S. cities. The BBC reported antisemitic incidents "quadrupled in the UK."

We are constantly warned that words matter and so they do. Words can be used to heal, or to incite. The American Jewish Committee (AJC) has compiled a partial list of words used against Jews that have fueled hatred and violence, dating back to medieval times, and now reborn and spread by antisemitic websites.

Two of these include "Dirty, filthy Jews" and " dual loyalty," the latter even used by ex-President Trump to suggest that Jews born in America a re more loyal to Israel than the U.S.

"From the river to the sea" is another. AJC notes " At a London rally organized by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign on October 9, demonstrators in front of the Israeli embassy chanted 'From the River to the Sea' - a call for Palestinian control over the entirety of Israel's borders, from the Jordan River to the Mediter-

While it is free expression to advocate for Palestinians to have their own state, this chant is an



Netanyahu wearing a Hitler mustache and devouring a Palestinian child. Both tropes voiced in 2021 echo centuries-old methods **Thomas** of maligning Jews.'

Then there are the Holocaust deniers. These include people who say The Diary of Anne Frank is fake. Some also claim the Holocaust (if it happened) was a rationale for illegally establishing the modern Jewish state in 1948. Jews have had a presence in the land for nearly 4,000 years. There are also those who say the number of Jews killed during World War II was far less than 6 million.

"In Los Angeles, protesters hoisted a ban-

ner with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

No wonder Gen. Dwight Eisenhower ordered photographers to capture images at some of the Nazi death camps. He foresaw there would be people who would deny it happened.

Lyricist Oscar Hammerstein wrote a powerful song for the Broadway musical "South Pacific." Producers wanted to keep it out of the film adaptation, but Hammerstein argued for its inclusion and prevailed. It's called"You've Got to Be Carefully Taught." Babies aren't born haters. Antisemitic books like "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" and other literature have been amplified today because of social media and various groups with which troubled minds associate, teaching them to hate Jews (and others).

There is no "cure" for antisemitism, but universal denunciation by all people of good will might help push it back in the closet, or under the Earth where it belongs. It also might help if some pro-Palestinian students were forced to listen to a Holocaust survivor and the true history of Judaism and Israel.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com

U.S. leaders' embarrassing response to the Middle East crisis

As the Middle East reels from the savage attack on Israel by Hamas terrorists and the Israeli military's response, which together have killed more than 1,300 Israelis and more than 1,500 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip as of late Thursday, I've been trying to figure out what Americans are feeling at this moment.

Not what we're thinking. When it comes to the Middle East, we think all sorts of things, and a lot of those things are either uninformed — most Americans couldn't find Gaza on a map — or poisoned by politics, hatred and the

blame game. With the Israeli military poised to launch a ground war in Gaza to avenge the attack and attempt to rescue at least 150 hostages, there will be a lot of blame — and much blood

in the days ahead. Given that the death toll includes at least 27 Americans (with an additional 14 missing), according to the National Security Council, what interests me is what Americans are (BEG ITAL)feeling(END ITAL). And I think I've got it. Regardless of what political party they identify with, I believe most Americans are feeling what I feel: ashamed.

I don't ever apologize for the United States. But our political system is a different story. With our government, elected officials and presidential candidates, there is a lot to be embarrassed about. Put simply: These are serious times in the Middle East and around the world, and meanwhile here at home, too many of those who serve us, or aspire to the White House, are not serious people.

So as an American — at this



moment of international crisis and immense human suffering among both Israelis and Palestinians — I feel like I owe the world an apology. Actually, a series of them. I'm sorry for the com-

ments of former president Donald Trump, who this week went after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Navarette Netanyahu and praised Hezbollah terrorists as "very smart" for peppering Israel

with rockets from the north after the Hamas attack. Speaking to more than 3,500 supporters in Palm Beach, Fla., Trump said the world was full of "chaos, bloodshed, war, terror, death," and he warned that World War III could be on the way.

Then he criticized Netanyahu, who he claimed was not sufficiently helpful to the United States in the 2020 drone attack that killed Qasem Soleimani, an Iranian military leader who headed up covert operations in the Revolutionary Guard Corps. "I'll never forget that Bibi Netanyahu let us down," Trump told the crowd. "That was a very terrible thing."

And to think, Trump likes to call himself the "best friend Israel has ever had in the White House." Real friends choose their words carefully when you're in pain, and they're not so insensitive as to make your suffering all about them.

On the other side of the political aisle, I'm sorry about Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who bungled the Biden administration's response to accusations by Republicans and others that Hamas's attack on Israel might have been financed in part by the \$6 billion in oil reserve funds and other

Iranian assets that the administration unfroze as a part of a deal involving a prisoner swap for five U.S. citizens in September. Blinken has defended the decision to return the assets, which he said are supposed to be used only for humanitarian purposes. He also insisted that the funds haven't been released yet and claimed repeatedly that there is no "direct evidence" that Iran was involved in the attack.

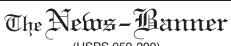
Reporting by various publications about Hamas leaders and Iranian officials meeting in Beirut to plan the attack — together with what even Blinken acknowledges is a long-standing "complicity" between Hamas and Iran — is evidence enough for Israel. Now, the U.S. and Qatari governments have agreed to block Iran from accessing any of the \$6 billion. So the Biden administration didn't believe its own spin. What a mess.

I've got more apologies to make. I'm sorry about the eight renegade House Republicans and 208 House Democrats who ousted Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) as House speaker without a plan to replace him, thereby leaving the speaker's chair empty and the House paralyzed at a critical moment in history.

I'm also sorry for the isolationist virus in American politics that infects Democrats when there is a Republican in the White House (see: George W. Bush, and the Iraq War) and Republicans when a Democrat sits in the Oval Office (see: President Joe Biden, and support for Ukraine).

In a crisis, national or international, Americans deserve to have leaders who rise to the occasion. Instead, too many of ours act like fools or fall apart.

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

If you are looking for a worthwhile organization

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If you are lucky, you belong to an organization that strives and accomplishes its mission.

After retirement, I looked for an organization that represented my interests. I was always aware of the importance of the environment. I enjoyed simply walking in



Kathy Schwartz

the woods and basking in the peace that it provided. I had visited Ouabache State Park with my children and realized that it offered so many opportunities for me to teach my

children about stewardship to our earth. I joined Friends of Ouabache State Park in 2016, and I am extremely proud to call myself a member of this orga-

Friends of Ouabache State Park's mission statement is as follows: The Friends of Ouabache State Park are stewards of our natural and cultural resources, serving our community to provide interpretation and volunteer opportunities in an effort to remember past contributions and to promote and preserve our park for future gen-

I have been in organizations that write lofty mission statements and never seem to keep focused on them. I soon lost interest because it was those goals

that drew me to them. FOOSP (Friends of Ouabache State Park) has directed their activities and projects towards their mission. I soon found myself involved in areas that became my passion, and I always seem to be amazed with the enthusiasm and dedication of my fellow members.

Sometimes when you join a group you have to change your personal interests or skills to fit their agenda. FOOSP strives to find the niche that can use the interests and skills that you bring to the table. If you like to hike, there are trail maintenance and restoration groups. If you like birding, you can join the Bluebird Brigade and Martin House maintenance. If you want to be involved but not lead, there's always something that needs help getting done. If you are mobility challenged, there are things that can be done from the comfort of your home. Clerical work your thing?

They have a job for you. Photography? Writing? Sales? FOOSP is waiting for you. You choose how much and when to be involved. I'm a logistical type of person. I have

found a place to use my organizational skills to plan events and my writing skills to produce grants and be part of Discover Ouabache online magazine.

Some organizations are age specific, only catering to certain age groups. FOOSP opens its arms to individuals of all ages. You can find members as young as four and as old as 90 enjoying giving back to the community. I love the events where the older generation passes on skills and passions to youngsters. In turn, the youngsters bring their endless energy and abundance of curiosity to the older members. A good example of this is the Jr/Teen Indiana Master Naturalist Camp in June. Older members instruct and guide the young campers but also glean the joy seen on the faces of the campers. I remember the day that one of our hike leaders was instructing the group to be sure not to step too close to the muddy lake bottom. In usual form one child strayed towards the mud so the volunteer dashed to grab her from impending doom. In the process he found himself knee deep in mud and soon sitting in the mire. From that day on he was fondly called Muddy Dave. It truly was a learning experience for all.

FOOSP not only supports the park but also gives back to the community. The annual Wonderland of Lights has become a holiday tradition for many families. Last year attendance was over 2500 vehicles. At \$5 a vehicle, that's \$10,000 that was collected and later invested in making the park a great place for community members to enjoy. Participation is free and many local families, groups, and businesses decorate a site in the campground for the show. Others become Spirit Sponsors with a monetary donation to help replace fading lights and event sponsors to help put on the

That brings me to the final thing about FOOSP. All money raised and donated to the organization is spent on Ouabache State Park. Your membership and donations are spent on a local entity and you can see your money in

FOOSP is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a pancake and sausage breakfast at the Trails End Shelter from 7 – 10 a.m. Founding members of the organization will be honored, and the various projects and events that FOOSP has funded over the years will be highlighted. Nearly \$20,000 has been invested by FOOSP in the past ten years. FOOSP is inviting all to come and enjoy. There will be a goodwill offering to help fray

Here's the thing: If you have time on your hands or have children you want to show by example of giving back to your community, Friends of Ouabache is a great organization to be involved with. Come and check them out at the next membership meeting on October 26 at 6:30 at the lodge. I did that very thing seven years ago and have gained far more than I have given.

Editor's Note: This is one of a series of articles written by a group of retired and current teachers — LaNae Abnet. Ken Ballinger, Billy Kreigh, Kathy Schwartz, and Anna Spalding. Their intent is to spur discussions at the dinner table and elsewhere. You may also voice your thoughts and reactions via This Saturday, October 21, The News-Banner's letters to editor.



Jan McGowan, Interpretive Naturalist at St. Joseph Parks, speaks to a Lunch & Learn crowd at Ouabache State Park (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)

Ouabache lunchers learn about winter preparations by trees and animals

By BARBARA BARBIERI

At the last Lunch & Learn gathering of the year, a sponsored event by the Friends of Ouabache State Park, Interpretive Naturalist Jan McGowan from the St. Joseph Park told all about "How Animals Prepare For Winter.

McGowan explained that trees also are preparing for winter by coloring their leaves and shedding them. In addition all animals are preparing for winter by eating more and in many cases storing more food for future eating.

There are three ways animals can prepare and include migrating, hibernating and tolerating and McGowan explained how each group prepares with the aid of slides.

She also shared a Fall Scavenger Hunt list that could be shared with family members on a hike at the park. All items on the list will require a keen eye!

Scavenger Hunt Look for:

Receding chlorophyll: yellow,

orange and reds (on leaves). New buds awaiting next year's

growth (on branches). Nuts: chewed or being cached and

Which plants still have berries and which ones do not?

Feeder birds caching sunflower

Burrow holes: chipmunk and ground-

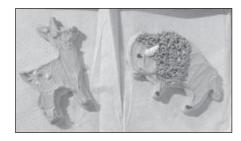
Any reptiles or amphibians?

Any butterflies? Golden gall (bird)

Migrating/arriving birds: especially

juncoes, sparrows and kinglets. The Lunch & Learn sessions will

resume in March, sponsored by the Friends of Ouabache State Park.



Dessert for the Quahache State Park's "Lunch & Learners" on a recent Thursday were a choice of decorated cookies-a deer or a bison, courtesy of Corner Depot

Event Roundup

Theater Thursdays at the library

Every third Thursday of the month the Wells County Public Library hosts free Theater Thursday for adults at the Bluffton library.

Scheduled for 2023 are these PG-13 films:

Oct. 19: "Uncharted" Nov. 16: "Fatherhood"

Sponsors are the Friends of the Library and the Bluffton Parks & Recreation. Registration appreciated to (260) 824-1612 or online at wellscolibrary.org.

'Rocky horror Picture Show' at Botanical Conservatory

Doors will open at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Fort Wayne Botanical Conservatory's Terrace Garden for the showing of the "Rocky Horror Picture Show.'

The movie will begin at 9:15 p.m. Lawn chairs are welcome and food and beverages for purchase will be offered by the Mad Anthony

ees 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Regular admission

Fright Night at Historic FW

Saturday, Oct. 21, 4 to 10 p.m., admission \$3. Tour the fort at night with a historic interpretive guide, as the fort was in the 1800's. Ages 9 and under are admitted free when accompanied by an adult. Ticket sales begin at 5:30 p.m. with no tickets sold after 9 p.m. All proceeds go to Support of the Fort.

Parking for events at Historic Fort Wayne is available across from the fort on Spy Run Avenue.

October Events at Promenade Park

Among the events at Fort Wayne's Promenade Park in October will be the follow-

West Coast Swing Dance Lessons will be offered on Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m., Oct. 18 through Nov. 8 with a Dance party Brewing Company. Attend- to be held on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Park Foundation Pavilion at Promenade Park. \$10 in advance \$12 for drop-ins. Register at 260-427-6000. For all ages and limited to 100 people.

Open Mic Nights with Kyla J on Thursdays, Oct. 19 and Nov. 2, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Pavilion at Promenade Park. Share poetry, spoke word or music. To sign up for a slot contact jesus.rosario@cityoffortwayne.org.



A Haunting in Venice This Weekend Only Friday, October 20th 8:15pm urday, October 21st 6:40pm & 9pr Sunday, October 22nd 4:10pm

www.abcinemainc.com



Halloween fun at Ouabache State Park

Events this week at Ouabache State Park will include the following:

Wednesday, Oct. 18: Wednesday Warriors, 9 a.m. to noon. Meet park volunteers at the park office for the day's assignment.

Friday, Oct. 20: Check with the Interpretive Naturalists Bret Dausch and Rose Nevil for events.

Saturday, Oct. 21: 7-10 a.m., Pancake Breakfast by the Friends of Ouabache State Park at the Trail's End Shelter (freewill donations accepted); 10 a.m., Bison Feeding at the Bison Pen; 1 p.m., Cider Press demonstration at the Trail's End shelter and fresh cider tasting; 3-4 p.m., Cornhole Tourney at the Trail's End shelter, sponsored by the Friends; 5-7 p.m., Trick or Treat at the campground in cos-

Sunday, Oct. 22: 10 a.m., Fire Tower Climb.

Note: This weekend is the Campsite Decorating Contest. Three awards will be presented at the East Campview Shelter at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21.

A Photo Booth will be set up at the Lakeview Shelter for the taking of fall photos of the family.

Tag Ouabache State Park on Facebook.

Camp visitors are reminded that kids under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult to participate in events.

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Fall Frenzy Craft & Vendor Event

Saturday, October 21st • 2 - 7 p.m. Featuring Texas Tenderloin and 25+Local Small Businesses! Live: Blues B.T. Boogie Band at 4 p.m.

Rylie Lynn Band Saturday Oct. 28 Free Concert 5 p.m.

Blast kills hundreds at Gaza hospital, Hamas, Israel trade blame

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — A massive blast rocked a Gaza City hospital packed with wounded and other Palestinians seeking shelter Tuesday, killing hundreds of people, the Hamasrun Health Ministry said. Hamas blamed an Israeli airstrike, while the Israeli military blamed a rocket misfired by other Palestinian militants.

At least 500 people were killed, the ministry said.

As rage spread through the region because of the hospital carnage, and with President Joe Biden heading to the Mideast in hopes of stopping the war from spreading, Jordan's foreign minister said his country canceled a regional summit scheduled for Wednesday in Amman, where Biden was to meet with Jordan's King Abdullah II, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi.

The war between Israel and Hamas was "pushing the region to the brink," Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi told state-run television. He said Jordan would host the summit only when everyone had agreed its purpose would be to "stop the war, respect the humanity of the Palestinians and deliver the aid they deserve."

Biden will now visit only Israel, a White House official said.

The explosion at the al-Ahli Hospital left gruesome scenes. Video that The Associated Press confirmed was from the hospital showed fire engulfing the building and the hospital grounds strewn with torn bodies, many of them young children. The grass around them was strewn with blankets, school backpacks and other belongings.

The bloodshed unfolded as the U.S. tried to convince Israel to allow the delivery of supplies to desperate civilians, aid groups and hospitals in the tiny Gaza Strip, which has been under a complete

siege since Hamas' deadly rampage in southern Israel last week. Hundreds of thousands of increasingly desperate people were searching for bread and water.

Hamas called Tuesday's hospital blast "a horrific massacre," saying it was caused by an Israeli strike.

The Israeli military blamed Islamic Jihad, a smaller, more radical Palestinian militant group that often works with Hamas. The military said Islamic Jihad militants had fired a barrage of rockets near the hospital and that "intelligence from multiple sources" indicated the group was responsible.

In a briefing with reporters, the chief army spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said the army determined there were no air force, ground or naval attacks in the area at the time of the blast. He said radar detected outgoing rocket fire at the same moment, and intercepted communications between militant groups indicated that Islamic Jihad fired the rockets.

Hagari also shared aerial footage collected by a military drone that showed a blast that he said was inconsistent with Israeli weaponry. He said the explosion occurred in the building's parking lot.

Since the war began, the military said in a statement that roughly 450 rockets fired at Israel by militant groups had landed in Gaza, "endangering and harming the lives of Gazan residents."

Islamic Jihad dismissed those claims, accusing Israel of "trying hard to evade responsibility for the brutal massacre it committed."

The group pointed to Israel's order that Al-Ahli be evacuated and its previous bombing of the hospital complex as proof that the hospital was an Israeli target. It also said the scale of the explosion, the angle of the bomb's fall and the extent of the destruction all pointed to Israel.

Hundreds of Palestinians had

War between Israel and Hamas raises fears about rising U.S. hostility

By HOLLY RAMER Associated Press

A fatal stabbing in Illinois, a gun pointed at protesters in Pennsylvania, vandalism at synagogues and harassment of staff at a Palestinian restaurant all are raising fears that the war between Israel and Hamas is sparking violence in the United States.

The tensions follow a familiar pattern of crimes against Jewish and Muslim communities rising when conflict erupts in the Middle East and Americans have been killed or taken hostage.

"We have a two pronged threat to American faith communities," said Brian Levin, founding director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino.

While it's too soon to say with certainty whether anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish crimes have increased during the war, hate crimes overall increased in the U.S. last year. In its annual report released Monday, the FBI estimated that hate crimes increased by 7 percent to 11,634 cases in 2022 compared to the previous year. With 1,124 incidents, anti-Jewish attacks were the second most reported hate crime, after anti-Black cases. There were 158 reported incidents of anti-Muslim attacks, and 92 reports of anti-Arab cases, according to the report.

Civil rights organizations, however, believe that even before the Hamas attacks in Israel, crime data didn't reflect reality due to a lack of participation by local police departments and internalized fear among the Muslim population, said Robert McCaw, director of governmental affairs for the

Council on American-Islamic Relations. In 2021, the Othering & Belonging Institute at the University of California, Berkeley, released a study in which 85 percent of those who were subjected to Islamophobia said they did not report it to authorities.

"The true number remains to be seen," McCaw said.

In one of the most troubling recent incidents, a landlord in Plainfield, Illinois, is accused of attacking a Palestinian American tenant and her son with a knife on Saturday, purportedly because of their Muslim faith, stabbing the 6-year-old boy to death and injuring the mother. The sheriff, prosecutors and family all said the boy and his mother were targeted for being Muslim. More specifically, prosecutors said the landlord was "angry ... for what was going on in Jerusalem" and his wife told police her husband feared they would be attacked by people of Middle Eastern descent.

In Pennsylvania, a man was charged with felony ethnic intimidation after police said he pointed a gun and yelled slurs at attendees of a pro-Palestinian rally near the state Capitol on Friday. In Boston, the word "Nazis" was spray-painted across the sign for the Palestinian Cultural Center for Peace.

"There's a lot of fear. There's a lot of anxiety and uncertainty in everything that's happening," said Abed Ayoub, national executive director for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. He said the group has received more than 100 reports including verbal harassment, threats, intimidation and physical attacks.

taken refuge in al-Ahli and other hospitals in Gaza City in past days, hoping they would be spared bombardment after Israel ordered all residents of the city and surrounding areas to evacuate to the southern Gaza Strip.

Ambulances and private cars rushed some 350 casualties from the al-Ahli blast to Gaza City's main hospital, al-Shifa, which

was already overwhelmed with wounded from other strikes, said its director, Mohammed Abu Selmia. The wounded were laid onto bloody floors, screaming in pain.

"We need equipment, we need medicine, we need beds, we need anesthesia, we need everything," Abu Selmia said. He warned that fuel for the hospital's generators would run out within hours.

Before the al-Alhi Hospital deaths, Israeli strikes on Gaza killed at least 2,778 people and wounded 9,700, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Nearly two-thirds of those killed were children, a ministry official said. Another 1,200 people across Gaza are believed to be buried under the rubble, alive or dead, health authorities said.

Math disabilities hold students back; schools often don't screen for them

By JACKIE MADER of The Hechinger Report Associated Press

Nationwide, hundreds of thousands of students face challenges learning math due to disabilities like dyscalculia, a neurodevelopmental learning disorder caused by differences in parts of the brain that are involved with numbers and calculations. There are often obstacles to getting help.

America's schools have long struggled to identify and support students with learning disabilities of all kinds. Kids often languish while waiting to receive a diagnosis; families frequently have to turn to private providers to get one; and even with a diagnosis, some schools are unable to provide children the help they need.

That's slowly changing — for some disabilities. Most states have passed laws that mandate screening early elementary students for the most common reading disability, dyslexia, and countless districts train teachers to recognize struggling readers. Meanwhile, parents and experts say schools neglect students with math disabilities like dvscalculia, which affects up to 7% of the population and often coexists with dys-

lexia.

"There's not as much research on math disorders or dyscalculia," as there is on reading disabilities, said Karen Wilson, a clinical neuropsychologist who spe-

cializes in the assessment of children with learning differences. "That also trickles down into schools."

Math scores in the U.S. have remained dismal for years and only worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Learning struggles for some may be due to dyscalculia or other math learning disabilities, yet few teachers report their students have been screened for dyscalculia.

Experts say learning the most effective methods for teaching students with math disabilities could strengthen math instruction for all students.

"If it works for the students with the most severe disconnections and slower processing speeds, it's still going to work for the kids that are in the 'middle' with math difficulties," said Sandra Elliott, a former special education teacher and current chief academic officer at TouchMath, a multisensory math program.

Some signs of dyscalculia are obvious at an early

age, if parents and educators know what to look for. Young children might have difficulty recognizing numbers or patterns. In elementary school, students may have trouble with math functions like addition and subtraction, word problems, counting money or remembering directions.

Even after Jackson learned about dyscalculia on her own, her daughter's Seattle-area public school was doubtful the third grader had a learning disability because she was performing well in other areas. Teachers suggested Jackson spend extra time on math at home.

"For so many parents, they assume the school would let them know there's an issue, but that's just not how it works," said Jackson, who ultimately wrote a book, "Discovering Dyscalculia," about her family's journey.

Students with dyscalculia often need a more structured approach to learning math that involves "systematic and explicit" instruction,

said Lynn Fuchs, a research professor in special education and human development at Vanderbilt University

Part of the problem is that teachers don't receive the training needed to work with children with math disabilities. At least one state, Virginia, requires dyslexia awareness training for teacher licensure renewal. but has no similar requirement for math disability training.

"It's pretty rare for undergraduate degrees or even master's degrees to focus on math learning disabilities with any level of breadth, depth, quality or rigor," said Amelia Malone, director of research and innovation at the National Center for Learning Disabilities. Without more widespread knowledge of and support for dyscalculia, many parents have had to look for specialists and tutors on their own, which they say can be particularly challenging for math, and costly. In 2019, Jackson started pulling her daughter out of school for part of each day to teach her math at home.





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., www.steffengrp.com, 260-

824-3006.

OCTOBER 22- OCTOBER 29 - (Online Only Auction) - Harvey E. & Wilma D. King, seller. H&D Repair Center & Body Shop retirement auction. Automotive & body shop equipment, pickup truck, tractor, 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*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOS-ING NOVEMBER 5 STARTING AT 4 PM EST - Randy Rossman, owner and multiple 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.



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Phillies crush 3 HR's, score 10 runs to go up 2-0 in NLCS win over the Diamondbacks

By DAN GELSTON **AP Sports Writer**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) Kyle Schwarber hit two of Philadelphia's three solo homers off Merrill Kelly, and the

sweet-swinging Phillies pounded the Arizona Diamondbacks 10-0 on Tuesday night for a 2-0 lead in the NL Championship Series.

Trea Turner also connected and J.T. Realmuto had two hits and three RBIs as Philadelphia improved to 7-1 in the playoffs, moving closer to a second straight World Series appearance. Aaron Nola tossed three-hit ball and struck out seven in six innings.

Game 3 is Thursday at Chase Field. The Texas Rangers also hold a 2-0 lead over the Houston Astros in the ALCS headed into Wednesday's game.

It was another loud night in Philly as Kelly was roasted after saying fans at Citizens Bank Park could not possibly be any louder than the ones he heard cheering for Team USA in the World Baseball Classic.

Not just any Classic game. The one in May when Turner hit a grand slam for the United States that lifted them into the tournament's semifinals.

"I haven't obviously heard this place on the field," Kelly said ahead of Game 1, "but I would be very surprised if it trumped that (WBC) game down in Miami."

As the kids say, challenge accepted.

Kelly, a 12-game winner this season, was voraciously booed from pregame introductions to his walk to the mound, a sort of we'll-showyou vibe from 45,412 Phillies diehards determined to shake the ballpark again in October.

How loud? "AC/DC concert level," loud, Turner said

before Game 2.

Phillies manager Rob Thomson said a rival coach told him last season that a playoff game in Philly was "four hours of hell," and Turner sent a charge through the crowd when he clocked a four-seam fastball to leftcenter field for a 1-0 lead in the first.

Phillies fans this postseason have been reg-

istered as high as 112 decibels, per The Philadelphia Inquirer the equivalent of standing next to a jackhammer -- and Turner's shot powered toward

Boisterous fans are great. So is the long ball. Schwarber's homers in the third and sixth were Philadelphia's 14th and 15th homers in the last four games as the Phillies continue to mash their way through October. Pitching,

though, remains the ultimate decider.

Nola, eligible for free agency after the World Series, has only fattened the numbers for his impending contract. The longest-tenured Phillie, Nola has won all three postseason starts and struck out 19. His ERA, 0.96.

Nola tossed seven shutout innings in the Wild Card Series against Miami and struck out nine against the Braves in the NLDS. Against Corbin Carroll, Christian Walker and the Diamondbacks, Nola again was spotless.

The Phillies flashed their leather to keep Arizona in check. Bryce Harper made a diving stab at first to get Carroll in the third. Alec Bohm made a diving snag at third and one-hopped the throw to get Gabriel Moreno in the second.

Kelly was booed off the mound when he was lifted for Joe Mantiply in the sixth and left a runner on base. Bryson Stott singled and Realmuto followed with a two-run double. After a two-out walk, Brandon Marsh added an RBI double for a 6-0 lead.

At that point, there was no use stretching Nola, not when the Phillies could save him for a start later in the series — or possibly, his next one against a team from Texas.

Colts owner Jim Irsay says Richardson 'probably going to be gone for the year,'

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay believes rookie quarterback Anthony Richardson may need seasonending surgery on his injured throwing shoul-

Irsay told ESPN that Richardson and the team's medical staff were still mulling treatment options for Rich-

ardson's sprained AC joint but a final decision had not been made - reiterating comments made earlier Monday by coach Shane Steichen.

The most likelihood is he's probably going to be gone for the year," Irsay said. "I mean, it's not definite but (he) probably misses this year and we're going to have to contend with that factor.'

Steichen did not speculate on which route Richardson and the Colts (3-3) would go.

Instead, Steichen said discussions were ongoing as team officials continued to gather information about the injury and all potential treatments, including surgery. Steichen, like Irsay, also acknowledged Richardson's long-term health and the franchise's future would be key factors in the decision-making process.

'Obviously, we want to do what's best for him and this organization moving forward," Steichen said. "Like I said, we'll make that decision when the time

Richardson missed his second game Sunday at Jacksonville, though 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 hitting 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.

The 6-foot-4, 244-pound former Florida 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, and missed the following week while in the concussion protocol. Then, one week after returning to the field and finishing his first NFL game, he hurt his

Indy drafted Richardson with the No. 4 overall pick in April and he was off to a promising start. He had thrown 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 games.

Now, his rookie season could be over. 'There's debate going, but it's probably going to lead toward surgery in the next week or so," Irsay said. "We're just trying to figure out exactly how and when and what we want to do and what Anthony wants to do.'

High School Calendar

WEDNESDAY, OCT 18 No events scheduled THURSDAY, OCT 19 No events scheduled FRIDAY, OCT 20

FOOTBALL: (sectional guarterfinal) 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.

Defending champion LSU is No. 1 in women's preseason AP Top 25 for first time; UConn, Iowa next

By DOUG FEINBERG **AP Basketball Writer**

Defending champion LSU is ranked No. 1 in the women's preseason AP Top

25 college basketball poll for the first time in school history.

LSU, which its first NCAAtitle last April behind



star player Angel Reese and Co., received 35 firstplace votes from a 36-member national media panel in the poll released Tuesday. UConn received the other top vote. The secondranked Huskies have now been ranked in the AP poll for 565 consecutive weeks, tying Tennessee's record.

Caitlin Clark and national runner-up Iowa were third. UCLA and Utah round out the top five.

The Tigers were ranked second in 1977 and third twice in 2004 and 2005 in the preseason poll, but never No. 1 until this year. There is a lot of optimism around LSU as it returns a stellar group, including Reese, along with two talented transfers in Hailey Van Lith and Aneesah Morrow.

"We appreciate the recognition of being the No. 1 ranked team going into the season and it is something we will embrace," LSU coach Kim Mulkey said. "A ranking doesn't win championships, but it brings great awareness to our program and our school. We want to be ranked No. 1 at the end of the season."

The Tigers were last ranked No. 1 in the poll in 2005 when they held the top spot for a five-week stretch.

UConn's run started in the pre-

> seasonpoll of the 1993-94 season and now gone has straight years. No. 14 Maryland has the second-longest active streak,

appearing in the poll now for 250 consecutive weeks.

UCLA and Utah are spending their final year in the Pac-12. The Bruins haven't been in the top five in the preseason since 1999 when they were fifth. The Utes, who haven't been in the preseason poll since 2005, bring back a team led by Pac-12 player of the year Alissa Pili.

South Carolina was sixth, ending a run of 38 straight weeks that the Gamecocks were No. 1 in the poll. That's the second longest run behind UConn's 51-week streak (2008-10). Dawn Staley's team has been in the preseason top 10 every year since 2014, trailing only UConn's 30-season run that began in 1994.

Ohio State, Virginia Tech, Indiana and Notre Dame round out the top 10. It's the first time the Hokies, who reached the Final Four last season, are in the preseason top 10.

STAR POWER

There are a lot of talented players in the rankings alongside Clark, the AP player of the year, Reese and Paige Bueckers of UConn. Texas guard Rori Harmon is lightning quick and Tennessee's Rickea Jackson is a great scorer. Notre Dame guard Olivia Miles is returning from an ACL injury she suffered in March.

WELCOME BACK

No. 12 Ole Miss is in the preseason poll for the first time since 1995. It's the school's best ranking since the Rebels were ninth on Dec. 8, 1992. No. 23 Illinois is making its first appearance in the preseason rankings since 1999. No. 21 USC is back in the preseason poll for the first time since 2011 and Colorado is getting early recognition for the first time since 2013.

UNFAMILIAR SPOT

Stanford is ranked 15th in the preseason poll, the school's lowest mark since 2015 when the Cardinal were 16th. Tara VanDerveer's squad had been in the top 10 in the six previous initial polls.

CONFERENCE SUPREMACY

The Pac-12 has the most ranked teams (six). No. 24 Washington State joins UCLA, Utah, Stanford, Colorado and USC. It's the first time the Cougars have been ranked in the preseason poll.

The Southeastern Conference, Big Ten and Atlantic Coast Conference each have five schools ranked. The Big East and Big 12 each have two teams in the poll.

MARK YOUR **CALENDAR**

The season begins for most teams Nov. 6 with some huge matchups in the first couple of weeks, including LSU playing Colorado and Ohio State facing USC on opening night in Las Vegas. Notre Dame and South Carolina also play each other that day in Paris.

Colts' Stewart suspended six games for violating PED policy

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - The NFLsuspended Indianapolis Colts starting defensive tackle Grover Stewart six games without pay Tuesday for violating the league's policy on performance-

While league officials didn't disclose details about the violation, they did say Stewart could return to Indy's active ros-

Stewart responded to the announcement on Instagram.

"I want to apologize to the National Football League, the Colts organization, my teammates, our fans, and my family,'

"I was surprised and disappointed to learn I had violated the policy. I respect the integrity of the game would never purposefully put myself or the team in this kind of situation. I am responsible for what I put in my body, and I should have taken the proper steps to educate myself. I will learn from this moving forward, and I will take the appropriate measures to ensure this never happens again."

Stewart has been a key part of Indy's run defense since reshaping his body after being a 2017 fourth-round draft pick out of Albany State in Georgia. He has steadily increased his weight from 295 pounds to 314, taking on a much leaner look as he teamed with two-time Pro Bowler DeForest Buckner to give Indy (3-3) one of the NFL's top interior defensive tandems.

This season, Stewart ranks eighth on the team with 20 tackles, two for loss, but Colts coaches have repeatedly said he has been playing at a Pro Bowl level for several seasons.

Without Stewart, the Colts will likely move Taven Bryan into the starting lineup Sunday against Cleveland (3-2). Bryan was Jacksonville's first-round draft pick in 2018, No. 29 overall, but he signed with Indy as a free agent in March.

NFL considering no more hip-drop tackles, will review the 'tush push' again after the season ends

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL is looking to eliminate the hip-drop tackle and will again discuss the "tush push" in the offsea-

League executive Jeff Miller said Tuesday the hip-drop tackle increases risk of injury by 25 times the rate of a standard

Seahawks quarterback Geno Smith briefly left a game against the Giants in Week 4 after getting hurt by a hip-drop tackle.

"It is an unforgiving behavior and one that we need to try to define and get out of the game," Miller said at the league meetings. "To quantify it for you, we see an injury more or less every week in the regular season on the hip-drop.

The league made the horse-collar tackle illegal several years ago because a defender's body weight ends up on the legs of the ball carrier, enhancing risk of injury. Rich McKay, the chairman of the NFL's competition committee, called the hip-drop tackle a 'cousin" of the horse collar.

'What's happening on the hip-drop is the defender is encircling tackling the runner and then swinging their weight and falling on the side of their leg, which is their ankle or their knee," McKay said.

"When they use that tactic, you can see why they do, because it can be a smaller man against a bigger man and they're trying to get that person down because that's the object of the game. But when they do it, the runner becomes defenseless. They can't kick their way out from under. And that's the problem. That's where the injury occurs. You see the ankle get trapped underneath the weight of the defender.

The league is gathering data and conducting a study on the hip-drop to make a determination. McKay understands defensive players won't be happy if another way to tackle is banned.

"Whether it's a tactic that's being used or a technique, it's creating an unreasonable risk of injury to a player," McKay said. "It's our job to try to find a way to regulate that."

As for the "tush push" — the quarterback sneak the Philadelphia Eagles have used so successfully — the play has been legal in the NFL since 2005 when the league removed the language in the rule book that prohibited pushing offensive players.

No team has taken advantage of it quite like the Eagles under coach Nick Sirianni and QB Jalen Hurts. In short-yardage situations, Hurts gets an assist when two or three players line up in the backfield and push him across the first-down marker.

There was a discussion about potentially banning the play after last season, but the NFL's competition committee didn't come up with a rule to be put to a vote that would

"There'll be more data, whether there's injuries or not, there will be success rates, there will be teams that will have an opinion," McKay said, noting it takes 24 votes to push a new rule.

"Last year, we did talk about it a lot.

(Continued on Page A2)

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

WNBA Finals (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, Sunday, Oct. 15: New York 87, Las

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

FOOTBALL High School

6A			
	Rcd	TP	Pvs
 Brownsburg 	9-0	274	1
Center Grove	8-1	254	2
Indpls Ben Davis	8-1	224	3
4. Crown Point	9-0	188	5
Westfield -	8-1	160	6
Hamilton South.	7-2	124	4
7. Indpls Cathedral	6-3	106	7
8. Penn	8-1	100	8
9. Carroll (Fort Wayn	e)7-2	60	9
10. Fishers		34	10
Others receiving vote	s: Wa	arsav	V
2. Lawrence North 4.			
F A			

	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Bloomington North	9-0	274	1
Ft. Wayne Snider		248	2
Bloomington South	8-1	222	3
4. Valparaiso		196	4
Lafayette Harrison		156	5
Merrillville	7-2	138	6
Decatur Central	7-2	102	7
Floyd Central		96	8
Mishawaka	7-2	72	9
10. Castle	6-3	22	NR
Others receiving vote			ch-
eon 6. Plainfield 4. Ev. I	North	2.	
Whiteland 2.			

Vhiteland 2.			
4A			
	Rcd	TP	ovs
 E. Central 	9-0	280	1
Ev. Reitz	9-0	252	2
New Palestine	7-2	208	4
 Greenfield 	8-1	184	6
Mississinewa	9-0		7
6. E. Noble	7-2	130	8
New Haven		98	9 3 5
Northridge	7-2		3
9. Kokomo		56	
10. Leo	. –	54	10
Others receiving vo			
Vood 24. Pendleton I			
rairie 14. Jasper 6. N	/lartins	ville 2	2.
v. Memorial 2.			
3A			

3A			
	Rcd	TP	Pvs
 Indpls Chatard 	9-0	280	1
Hanover Central	9-0	222	2
Guerin Catholic	7-2	180	3
3. Tippecanoe Valley	9-0	180	4 5
5. Hamilton Hts.	9-0	170	
Gibson Southern	7-2	156	6 7
Heritage Hills	8-1	104	
8. Tri-West	8-1	60	8
9. Peru		50	9
(tie) Knox	9-0	50	10
Others receiving vote			
 Batesville 26. Cente 	rville	12.	Vin-
cennes 12. Lawrencebu	ırg 4.		
2A			
	Rcd	TP	Pvs

2A			
	Rcd	TP	Pvs
 Triton Central 	8-1	272	1
2. Linton	8-1	240	2
Brownstown	8-1	216	3
4. N. Posey	8-1	192	4 5
5. LaVille	8-1	158	
Alexandria	8-1	144	7
7. Ft. Wayne Luers	6-3	96	6
8. Bluffton	8-1	60	10
S. Vermillion	8-1	58	9
Lafayette Catholi	c 6-3	42	NR
Others receiving vote			
Rochester 16. Greenca	stle 1	2. E	ast-
brook 4.			

Rcd TPPvs 1. Indpls Lutheran

Adams Central Carroll (Flora)	9-0	250 224	3
4. Providence		192	4
5. Indpls Park Tudor		146	5
6. S. Putnam		136	-
7. N. White		114	
8. Springs Valley		94	8
9. Triton		34	
10. S. Adams		18	
(tie) Milan	6-3	18	NR

Others receiving votes: Sheridan 16. Madison-Grant 8. W. Central 6. N. Decatur 4.

HOCKEY NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atla	ant	ic [Divi	sion			
0	βP	W	L	OTP	ts	GF	GA
Boston	2	2	0	0	4	6	3
Detroit	3	2	1	0	4	13	8
Ottawa	3	2	1	0	4	13	9
Toronto	3	2	1	0	4	14	13
Montreal	3	1	1	1	3	10	13
Tampa Bay	4	1	2	1	3	13	17
Florida	3	1	2	0	2	8	11
Buffalo	3	1	2	0	2	6	10
Metro	ро	lita	n D	ivisi	on		
G	èΡ	W	L	OTP	ts	GF	GA

G.	D	M	L (TE	te	CE	G٨
-	-		_	JIF	เอ	GF	
N.Y. Islander	s2	2	0	0	4	4	2
Pittsburgh	3	2	1	0	4	11	6
N.Y. Rangers	s3	2	1	0	4	10	7
Philadelphia	3	2	1	0	4	8	7
Carolina	3	2	1	0	4	14	14
New Jersey	3	1	1	1	3		11
Washington	2	1	1	0	2	3	6
Columbus	3	1	2	0	2	7	11
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Cen	tra	al C	Divis	sion			

al [Divi	sior	1		
W	L	OTI	Pts	GF	GA
2	0	0	4	7	3
2	1	0	4	11	9
2	2	0	4	11	9
1	0	1	3	3	3
1	0	0	2	2	1
1	2	0	2	10	18
1	2	0	2	5	6
1	3	0	2	10	20
c E)ivi	sion			
W	L	OTI	Pts	GF	GA
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3 16 12 3 9 11 2 7 7 2 16 14 Los Angeles 3 Calgary 2 1 1 3 1 2 0 Edmonton San Jose Seattle 2 0 3 0 NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

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 Philadelphia 2, Vancouver 0 Minnesota 5, Montreal 2

N.Y. Islanders 1, Arizona 0 Buffalo 3, Tampa Bay 2, OT Los Angeles 5, Winnipeg 1 Edmonton 6, Nashville 1 Colorado at Seattle, late Carolina at San Jose, late Dallas at Vegas, late

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. Toronto at Florida, 7 p.m. Vancouver at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m Edmonton at Philadelphia, 7:30

p.m. 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. Friday's Games Calgary at Columbus, 7 p.m. New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30

BASEBALL MLB

Postseason Baseball Glance x-if necessary Mational League
(All Games on TBS)
Philadelphia 2, Atlanta 1
Saturday, Oct. 7 — Philadelphia 3, Atlanta 0

Monday, Oct. 9 — Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 4 Wednesday, Oct. 11 — Philadelphia

10, Atlanta 2 Thursday, Oct. 12 — Philadelphia 3.

Arizona 3, Los Angeles 0 Saturday, Oct. 7 — Arizona 11, Los Angeles 2

Monday, Oct. 9 — Arizona 4, Los Wednesday, Oct. 11 — Arizona 4, Los

Angeles 2 LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (Best-of-7)

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

Arizona 3 Tuesday, Oct. 17: Arizona (Kelly 12-8) at Philadelphia (Nola 12-9), 8:07 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19: Philadelphia 10,

Arizoria U.
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.

delphia, 5:07 p.m. x-Tuesday, Oct. 24: Arizona at Phila-delphia, 8:07 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Tuesday's Transactions BASEBALL

Major League Baseball
American League
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Reinstated RHPs Zach Jackson, Drew Rucinski ed KHP'S Zach Jackson, Drew Kucinsk and Freddy Tarnok from the 60-day IL. SEATTLE MARINERS — Sent C Brian O'Keefe outright to Tacoma. BASKETBALL National Basketball Association HOUSTON ROCKETS — Acquired F Jeremiah Robinson-Earl and G Vic-

tor Oladipo from Oklahoma City in exchange for G Kevin Porter Jr. and draft considerations

FOOTBALL
National Football League NFL — Suspended Indianapolis DT Grover Stewart for six games for violating the performance-enhancing substance policy.

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Waived

LB Myjai Sanders.
ATLANTA FALCONS — Waived DB Jaylinn Hawkins,
BALTIMORE RAVENS — Signed S

Andrew Adams to the practice squad. Released RB Kenyan Drake from the practice squad.
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed
S Alex Cook from the New York Giants

practice squad. CHICAGO BEARS — Signed QB

Trace McSorley to the practice squad CLEVELAND BROWNS — Placed G Michael Dunn on injured reserve. DETROIT LIONS — Re-signed

PENAS MECHANICAL CONTRACTOR

645 E 950 N

SSIAN, IN 4677

PERMA-COLUMN, LLC

00 CAROL ANN LANE

LUFFTON, IN 46714

RETHCEIF ENTERPRISES, LLC

0 INDUSTRIAL PARKWAY

ROEMBKE MFG. & DESIGN, INC

STAR ENGINEERING & MACHINE CO., INC

RUSTED SUPPLY CHAIN PARTNER,

717 W LANCSTER ST

UFFTON, IN 46714

SIAN. IN 46777

85 DECKER DR

UFFTON, IN 46714

580 BAKER DE

SSIAN, IN 46777

PRETZELS, INC

RB Mohamed Ibrahim to the practice

squad. GREEN BAY PACKERS -RB James Robinson and CB Anthony Johnson to the practice squad.
Released CB Kiondre Thomas from the

practice squad.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed WR Juwann Winfree. Reinstated OL Jack Anderson from the practice squad injured reserve. Signed WRs Tyrie Cleveland and Zavier Scott to the practice squad. Released WRs Anthony Miller and Racey McMath and G Dakoda Shepley from the practice squad. KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed

LB Isaiah Moore to the practice squad LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Signed T Jalen McKenzie to the practice squad. Released WR Malik Flowers from the practice squad. Released LB Blake Martinez from the retired

list.
LOS ANGELES RAMS — Signed RB Darrell Henderson to the practice squad. Promoted RB Royce Freeman from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed RB Myles Gaskin from the Minnesota practice

squad. MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed LB

Quinton Bell to the practice squad

Released DE Chase Winovich from the practice squad.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Waived

WR Trishton Jackson. NEW YORK GIANTS T Joshua Ezeudu on injured reserve. Signed OL Tyre Phillips and T Josh Miles. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Signed

WR Julio Jones to the practice squad. Signed CB Josiah Scott. Waived DB Mario Goodrich.
HOCKEY National Hockey League COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Reassigned G Jet Greaves to Cleve-

\$4,681

\$77,23

\$77,237

\$532,45

\$927,331

\$163,83

\$491,47

\$1,18

\$44,76

\$108,89

\$161,74

\$1,571,192

\$7,48

\$28,33

\$492,522

\$3,7

\$344,182

\$1,851,1

\$1,087,52

\$1,193,0

\$17,590,80

\$17,46

\$434,456

OTAL ABATEMENT

2019

Total Abatemen

2016

2018

Total Deduction

2022

2013

2014

2015

2017

2019

2021

Total Abater

2015

2021 2022

2018 2020

2019

2020

10

\$4,680

\$77,240

\$491,470

\$1,571,190

\$492,520

\$344,180

\$17,590,810

\$434,460

\$2,298,430

\$44,859,750

Abatement Newspaper Advertisement 202	3pay202	4		
Lisa McCormick: Wells County Auditor Personal Property				
Property Location	Eligible Number of Years	Start Year	Calculated Abatement Allowed	Total Calculated Abatement
ALMCO	10	2013	\$4,818	
0059 N OAK ST EXT	10	2015	\$40,369	
BLUFFTON, IN 46714	10	2018	\$468,379	
		Total Abatement	\$513,566	\$513,570
ARCHER-DANIELS-MIDLAND COMPANY BA1	10	2016	\$51.672	
1800 WESTERN AVE	10	2010	\$51,673	
BLUFFTON, IN 46714		Total Abatement	\$51,673	\$51,670
				1 2 /2 2
AT FERREL COMPANY, INC	10	2014	\$11,418	
1440 S ADAMS	10	2015	\$16,873	
BLUFFTON, IN 46714	10	2018	\$41,731	
		Total Abatement	\$70,022	\$70,020
CAMERON ASHLEY BUILDING PRODUCT, INC AKA J & R WOOD PRODUCTS, INC	10	2018	\$79,732	
1955 LANCASTER ST, SUITE 6	10	2019	\$88,589	
BLUFFTON, IN 46714		Total Abatement	\$168,321	\$168,320
EDGE MANUFACTURING, INC	10	2018	\$157,334	
1274 S ADAMS	4	2021	\$109,573	
BLUFFTON, IN 46714	5	Total Abatement	\$315,720 \$582,627	\$582,630
		Total Abatement	\$302,027	9382,030
HAVEN MANUFACTURING INDIANA, INC	10	2014	\$19,509	
6935 N SR 1	10	2019	\$96,123	
	10	2019	\$51,398	
	4	2021	\$271,076	
OSSIAN, IN 46777	4	2022	\$211,621	
		Total Abatement	\$649,727	\$649,730
INVENTURE GROUP INC fka POORE BROTHERS	10	2013	\$117,928	
705 W DUSTMAN RD	10	2014	\$204,489	
BLUFFTON, IN 46714	10	2016 Total Abatement	\$814,968 \$1,137,385	
		Tool & Die	\$1,137,363	
		Total Deduction	\$334	\$1,137,420
				. , , , ,
K-K TOOL AND DESIGN, INC	10	2014	\$7,856	
50 Countryside Dr			•	
MARKLE, IN 46770		Total Abatement	\$7,856	\$7,860
MELCHING MACHINE, INC	10	2014	\$11,892	
1630 BAKER DR				Ć44.000
OSSIAN IN 46777		Total Abatement	\$11,892	\$11,890
METALDYNE M&A BLUFFTON, LLC	10	2012	£107.500	
METALDYNE M&A BLUFFTON, LLC 131 W HARVEST RD	10	2013 2014	\$107,690 \$93,675	
BLUFFTON, IN 46714	10	2015	\$179,389	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	10	2017	\$417,392	
	10	2018	\$2,961,895	
		2019	\$10,766,037	
	10			
	10	2020	\$689,737	
		2021	\$939,848	
		2021 2022	\$939,848 \$304,189	
		2021 2022 Total Abatement	\$939,848 \$304,189 \$16,459,852	
		2021 2022 Total Abatement Tool & Die	\$939,848 \$304,189 \$16,459,852 \$236,667	\$46.000 F00
		2021 2022 Total Abatement	\$939,848 \$304,189 \$16,459,852	\$16,696,520
MUITLEIRER LIC	10	2021 2022 Total Abatement Tool & Die Total Deduction	\$939,848 \$304,189 \$16,459,852 \$236,667 \$16,696,519	\$16,696,520
MULTI-FIBER,LLC 1000 W WILEY AVE		2021 2022 Total Abatement Tool & Die	\$939,848 \$304,189 \$16,459,852 \$236,667	\$16,696,520

NFL reviewing its rules

(Continued from Page A1)

There were enough teams it and leave it alone. So we did, and I'm sure it'll be back again. But I just don't want to get in the business of predicting because I really don't know what the outcome will be. I do know it will be talked about.'

COACHING INTERVIEWS DELAYED

Owners voted to push in-person head coaching interviews back one more week until after all divisional playoff games have been completed. The goal is to slow down the hiring process and increase diverse hiring.

The timeline for virtual interviews remains the same and interviews may take place earlier for internal candidates or those not working for a club or within the NFL.

"The data shows when you have a more intentional process, you end up with more diverse results," NFL executive Dasha Smith said. "So that is really the goal here is to ultimately have a more inclusive and diverse, head coach, GM, senior leadership across the entire NFL but in particular we've been focusing on the head coach position.'

INTERNATIONAL GAMES

NFL executive Peter O'Reilly said the league continues to evaluate the possibility of playing an international game in Spain or Brazil next season instead of Mexico, where the stadium is undergoing renovations and won't be available for the second straight year.

"The reason we're looking at Brazil and Spain is based on the size of the fan base and their market," O'Reilly said.

There's no timeline for a decision on a fourth international game for 2024 two games will be played in London and one in Germany — but O'Reilly said he expects an announcement in

December or January.

Regarding a Super Bowl to say it's one year, let's see in London, O'Reilly said: "That is not a near focus of ours."

CONCUSSIONS REDUCED

The NFL says it experienced a seven-year low in training camp concussions because of the use of the Guardian caps. Among players at the positions — offensive line, defensive line, tight ends, running backs, linebackers — who wore the protective head gear over their helmet, concussions were reduced by 46% over their three-year average. For positions who didn't wear them, concussions increased by 50%.

"There really is a substantial benefit," Miller said. "There certainly will be an active discussion about next

steps with that as we move forward."

Dr. Allen Sills, the NFL's nief medical officer said the next step would be to expand usage of Guardian cap to players at other posi-

"Where we think this is going is not about the Guardian cap, per se, but about the better design of helmet," Sills said. "What can we learn from what the Guardian cap has taught us and incorporate that into the design of the helmet. We're already seeing that innovation take place. We're seeing those conversations take place. We're also seeing some additional types of helmet add-ons that are being developed. So I think you're going to see this be an area for innovation over the next couple of seasons based on what we're learning so far."

Public Notices

Wells County Real Property Abatements 2023 pay 2024

Owner of Record	Eligible Nbr of Years	Start Pay Year	Exemption Amount
Almco Steel Products Corp 0059 N Oak St Ext	10	2019	118,520
Bluffton, IN 46714			
Brick and Mortar Properties LLC c/o Randy Harnish	10	2017	102,280
225 Harrison Rd			
Bluffton, IN 46714	1		
Gerber Development LLC	10	2021	238,705
c/o Eric Gerber	10	2021	230,703
6460 W 300 S-1			
Bluffton, IN 46714			
Gerber Development LLC	10	2017	121,640
c/o Eric Gerber	10	2017	121,040
6460 W 300 S-1			
Bluffton, IN 46714		2022	222.000
Jackson Studebaker Investment	5	2023	230,000
P.O. Box 455 (Sr 1)			
Bluffton, IN 46714		2010	200 470
Knot Just a Snack LLC	10	2018	286,170
123 Harvest Rd			
Bluffton, IN 46714			
Metaldyne M & A Bluffton Inc	10	2019	614,960
c/o Dale Welper			
One Dauch Dr			
Detroit, MI 48211			
MidLand LLC	10	2021	354,120
110 E Monroe St			
Bluffton, IN 46714			
MidLand LLC	10	2017	857,360
110 E Monroe St		1	
Bluffton, IN 46714			
MidLand LLC	10	2017	94,760
110 E Monroe St			
Bluffton, IN 46713			
Pena's Property LLC	5	2024	447,984
1645 E 950 N			
Ossian, IN 46777			
Rethceif Properties LLC	5	2024	975,358
420 Industrial Park Way			
Ossian, IN 46777			
Rethceif Properties LLC	10	2018	374,468
420 Industrial Parkway			
Ossian, IN 46777			
Roembke Mfg. & Design Inc	10	2019	250,000
1580 Baker Dr			
Ossian, IN 46777 14			
		1	

Wells County Auditor

2021 2022 00 EAST LOGAN S ARKLE, IN 46770 2015 10 2016 2017 2021 2022 Total Abateme 2015 uffton, IN 46714 2019 2021 2022 Total Abateme UTILITY Property Location 2021

\$473,54 \$1,022,19 2023 \$2,658,700

nb 10/18

20-Year friendship ends with new marriage

Dear Annie: I am asking for advice to let our friendabout my 20-year friendship that has ship end and ended. My former best friend and I have been through ups and downs, life as the way including her two former marriages and health problems.

However, not long ago, I noticed time accepting that her texts had become fewer the ending of and fewer. When she met her current husband, she was spending most of her free time with him. After a few months, they moved in together and purchased a large vacation spot together. I asked if she thought she was moving too fast, but she ignored my question.

Months later, they get engaged and then married. I had only met him one time before they were married. He said very little to me at their small wedding.

Communication between my friend and me continued to be less and less frequent. I sent her a birthday flower arrangement and only heard back from her over a week later — after I had sent her a text. She explained that she was hurt and angry that the card arrived blank, in her former name, and that I didn't spend time with her at her wedding.

I didn't realize that the florist stuff. neglected to put my message or name on the arrangement. I apologized for

She hasn't answered any of my texts or phone calls.

I can't understand how she wouldn't accept my apology, only had me meet her husband once before they got married and, most importantly, how she would throw away a friendship of over 20 years since she has gotten married again.

Could her husband be encouraging our breakup? Or had she decided

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



how she refused to even talk about it. She was my best friend. I keep hoping that she will contact me and be willing to talk about everything. -Missing My Best Friend

she saw her new

to do it? I have

had a difficult

the friendship and

Dear Missing: You are missing the way your friendship used to be before your best friend's husband came along. But the truth is that change is really the only constant in life. It does sound like her husband is controlling her and maybe trying to shut you out. If that is the case, that is really sad for your friend and can lead to lots of isolation. The fact that she can't be understanding that the florist forgot to write your name on the flower arrangement seems like a huge overreaction and that your friend is being unreasonable — which leads me to believe that she might not be very happy if she is sweating the small

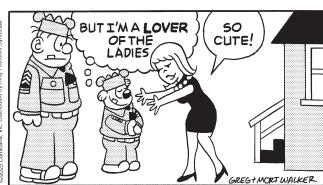
Just continue to try to keep the dialogue open with her and don't give up on 20 years of friendship.

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

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BLONDIE







ZITS







CRANKSHAFT







My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Q: What's the point of the story of the rich young ruler? He acknowledged Jesus and was simply asking a question that Jesus didn't really answer. It bothers me to hear that in order for him to have eternal life Jesus demanded he give up his wealth. Isn't salvation a free gift from

God? - R.R.A: Giving up something to follow Christ is not earning salvation; it's giving up what keeps us from salvation. When we hold on to something that is dearer to us than receiving the greater gift of salvation in Christ, we lose. This is the point of the story Jesus told.

The story of the rich young ruler cuts to the

To be a Christian means to surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ

heart of what it means to belong to the world or to the world people try to personally design. Belonging to the world means to do whatever it takes to be part of it, to relate to it at every level - to be joined to its philosophy and purpose. To be a Christian means to surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ, to give up whatever prevents us from receiving Christ as Savior. This cannot be done in our own power. But we must desire to be changed.

This would-be believer walked away from Jesus because he didn't want his desires changed. He had convinced himself that he was good, but his encounter with Jesus showed him otherwise.

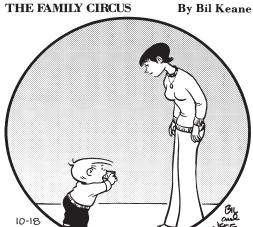
His designer world crumbled when he could not obtain salvation because of his refusal to give up his hold on the world. The very thing he already had - great wealth was what kept him from accepting the very thing he requested — the treasure of Heaven, eternal life. When Christ comes into a life, He gives the power to turn from sinful ways and walk a different path — His path of right living — because He changes our desires.

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

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

Agency, LLC.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS





The LOCKHORNS



"THESE SPRING ROLLS ... ARE THEY FROM LAST SPRING?

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25 Ruckus

26 Podcaster

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anew 31 Turkish

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Race (N)		Nightcast	(:35) The Late	Show	(:35) Comics

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

King Classic Sudoku

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Difficulty: ★★★ 10									

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE is currently seeking applicants for the position of Full Time Court Security Supervisor. This position over-sees the coordination of the day-to-day operations for the protection and security of the County Courthouse. Must have college level courses or work experience in supervision or management, and at least five (5) years of experience in law enforcement or corrections, including experience with security measures and devices. Must have at least two (2) years of direct supervisory experience. Must pass background investigation which may include but is not limited to employment history and criminal history check. 20year matrix salary range for a Court Security Supervisor is \$43,682 - \$52,774. Years of service and experience will be honored for a starting salary up to five years in the pay matrix. Deadline for Pre-application submission is no later than November 10, 2023. Apply at www.wellscountysheriff.com under "Job Opportunities". full job description will also be listed on the website for re-

This Week's Garage

view.



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH, 1532 N. Main St., Bluffton, Fri., Oct. 20, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat., Oct. 21, sack day, 9 a.m.-noon.

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 bedside tables, and miscellaneous

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. Ev-erything 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, sadtoilets. barrels, lectibles, wide variety of items, misc. Pies, cookies, breads, pretzels, noodles.

HELOISE HINT: Right before your garage sale opens, give it a quick check. Make sure that it's organized and easy to navigate and buy items. Make certain that you maintain clear walkways. Fax Heloise @ walkwavs. 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

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

SUDOKU ANSWER

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SERVICES

Services

MILLER'S U-STOR We have secure storage units clean. available. Various sizes 260-824-4141. Miller U-Stor, 1118 W. Silver, Bluffton, IN.

CONSTRUCTION MARV'S Room additions, fix old saggy floors, all types remodeling Redo bathrooms, old foundation repairs. Marv Schwartz: 260-525-8877.

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Lottery Numbers

Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 - 07-13-22-23-

Cash4Life — 05-12-17-18-29, Cash Ball: 03

Quick Draw Midday — 05-11-16-23-26-29-33-34-35-43-44-48-54-59-65-68-70-71-75-80, BE: 75

Daily Three-Midday — 00-06-08, SB: 01 Daily Three-Evening —

Daily Four-Midday — 09-02-08-00, SB: 01

08-02-03, SB: 00

Daily Four-Evening — 04-00-09-02, SB: 00 **Quick Draw Evening**

41-43-46-50-51-53-58-63-64-70-74-75-77, BE: 33 Hoosier Lotto Estimated jackpot (for

07-14-15-19-33-34-36-

Wednesday): \$39.2 mil-**MEGA MILLIONS** 05-06-29-32-61; Mega Ball: 20; Megaplier: 4X.

POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$49 million

) SS:

STATE OF INDIANA)

COUNTY OF WELLS) IN THE WELLS

TERMINATION OF THE)

- DOB 4/6/2023

NICHOLE M COLWELL

TO: Casey Hundley

(BIOLOGICAL MOTHER) CASEY HUNDLEY

AND

CIRCUIT COURT

CAUSE NUMBER:

90C01-2309-JT-000008 IN THE MATTER OF THE)

PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP:

(BIOLOGICAL FATHER)

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE

Whereabouts unknown

to the above noted parent whose whereabouts are unknown, that the

Indiana Department of Child Ser-

vices has filed a Petition for Invol-

untary Termination of your Parental Rights, and that an adjudication

hearing has been scheduled with

YOU ARE HEREBY COM-MANDED to appear before the Judge of the Wells Circuit Court, 102 Market Street, Bluffton, IN

46714 - 260-824-6485 for a(n) Pre-

trial Conference on 11/27/2023 at

8:30 AM and to answer the Petition

for Termination of your Parental Rights of said child.

the allegations in said petition are

true, and/or if you fail to appear at the hearing, the Juvenile Court

may terminate your parent-child relationship; and if the Court ter-

minates your parent-child relation-ship you will lose all parental rights,

powers, privileges, immunities, duties and obligations including any rights to custody, control, visi-

tation, or support in said child; and

if the Court terminates your parent-

child relationship, it will be permanently terminated, and thereafter

you may not contest an adoption or

You are entitled to representation by an attorney, provided by the State if applicable, throughout these proceedings to terminate the parent-child relationship. If you have been appointed an attorney in the Child in Need of Souries.

in the Child in Need of Services

action involving the above-named child(ren), that attorney may not

be automatically appointed to represent you in these proceedings.

You must appear at the hearing currently scheduled in this matter

and request that the Court appoint an attorney to represent you in

these proceedings to terminate the parent-child relationship.

Clerk

Child Services

Portland, IN 47371

YOU MUST RESPOND by

other placement of said child.

You are further notified that if

BY PUBLICATION &
NOTICE OF TERMINATION

OF PARENTAL RIGHTS HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

Read & recycle

Help Wanted

WILLER is looking for an of-

fice assistant to join our team.

Seasonal help - January thru

May of each year. Responsible

for performing a range of cleri-

cal and administrative tasks to

support daily operations in an

office setting. Ideal candidate

would be good at organizing,

multi-tasking & taking direc-

tion. To apply for this position,

sharedadmin@emshwiller.net

HELOISE HINT: If you don't

want to work full-time in your office. You might be able to

work remotely one or two days

a week. Employers are offering

flexibility for workers after the

pandemic. Email HELOISE@

NOTICE

Notices

ONE STOP SHELL! New

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1st. We look forward to seeing

you soon! 1303 South Main-Bluffton. (EAP2)

Krunchy

send resume

&

EMSH-

EMSHWILLER

please

(EAP2)

Owners!

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

> nb 10/11, 10/18 hspaxlp

NOTICE

at 4:30 p.m.

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

nb 10/11, 10/18 hspaxlp

90C01-2310-EU-000043 STATE OF INDIANA WELLS COUNTY

IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT IN THE MATTER OF THE)

CAROLYN FLAUGHER, Deceased

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED

ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that

GARY L. FLAUGHER was, on the

11th day of October, 2023, appointed personal representative of the estate of CAROLYN FLAUGHER, deceased, who died on September 12, 2023, and was authorized to administer said estate without court supervision.
All persons who have claims

against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this court with-in three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 11th day of October, 2023. Beth Davis Clerk, Wells Circuit Court

Timothy K. Babcock Attorney No. 21526-90 DALE, HUFFMAN & BABCOCK 30 Premier Avenue Bluffton, Indiana 46714 (260) 824-5566 Attorney for Estate

nb 10/18, 10/25

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5 for \$5

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EARN EXTRA CASH by selling your "unwanted" items dur-ing the month of October. A 20 -word, line classified ad for five days is only \$5! For Sale Items Only. Excludes Garage Sales. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office, 125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224, or place online at news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

REAL ESTATE

Real Estate

LOOKING TO SELL your Home? Save time & money, connect with the Top Agents in your area to get more MONEY and close FASTER! Call 317-854-9781 (I)

Real Estate

HELOISE HINT: To do a fast clean on your high-tech equipment. Grab your used dryer sheets to wipe the keyboard and remove dust from the computer screen. When you're done, just toss them out. Email HELOÍSE@Heloise.com.

Mark your Calendar for this event

FALL FLING AT National Guard Armory, 500 E. Spring St., Bluffton, Saturday, October 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission. Raffles, food, 25+ direct sales vendors and hand-made crafts. Raffle items are vendor donated. All proceeds donated to Honor Flight of Northeast Indiana.

October

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community for decades, Attorney, Gerret
J. Swearingen, has devoted his legal
practice to assisting clients in preserving
the family assets from the high cost of
Nursing Home and InHome Healthcare.

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> Nov. deadline is Tues., Oct. 24!

appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, adjudication on said petition and termination of your parental rights may be entered against you, in your absence, without further notice. **Beth Davis** Bruce Antrim, 32454-90 Attorney, Indiana Department of

1314 North Meridian Street Suite Office: 260-251-8445 nb 10/11, 10/18, 10/25

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