

The News - Banner

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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. Twenty-seven 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, and 200W. 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:
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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 PRUV "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 Intelligence. As part of those autonomous vehicle developments, Lyles predicted that PRUV 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 PRUV 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 afternoon. 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. Mayor John Whicker said the ordinance 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, we were not allowed to do that." The ordinance requires a surety bond if the amount is over \$50,000. The council unanimously approved the motion. 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 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 hundreds. 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

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.
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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 thoughts.

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 over.

"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 long-distance 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 commercial ly produced transistor radio.



Carrie Penrod

*Don Wilentz
Cartoons*



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 in the Holocaust.

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 are 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 Mediterranean Sea."

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



Cal Thomas

undisguised call for the state of Israel to be eliminated, which is the point of the Hamas Charter and the goal of Iran.

Add "Decide" and "Blood Libel" to the list. AJC cites a protestor's sign in Miami that read "Jesus was Palestinian, and you killed him too!"

"In Los Angeles, protesters hoisted a banner with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wearing a Hitler mustache and devouring a Palestinian child. Both tropes voiced in 2021 echo centuries-old methods 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.

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.

tcaditors@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



Ruben Navarette

"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 you 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.

crimscribe@icloud.com

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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

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 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 organization.

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 generations.



Kathy Schwartz

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 show.

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 action.

This Saturday, October 21,

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 pay expenses.

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 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

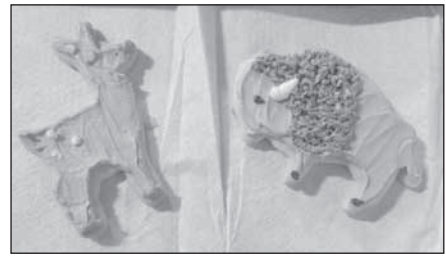
carries. Which plants still have berries and which ones do not?

Feeder birds caching sunflower seeds.

Burrow holes: chipmunk and groundhog.

Any reptiles or amphibians?
Any butterflies?
Golden gull (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 Ouabache State Park's "Lunch & Learners" on a recent Thursday were a choice of decorated cookies—a deer or a bison, courtesy of Corner Depot Catering.

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 (free-will 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 costume.

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

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 Brewing Company. Attend-

ees 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Regular admission applies.

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 following:

West Coast Swing Dance Lessons will be offered on Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m., Oct. 18 through Nov. 8 with a Dance party 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.

ABCINEMA

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TAYLOR SWIFT | THE ERAS TOUR

Thursday, October 19th 6pm
Friday, October 20th 6:30pm
Saturday, October 21st 4:30pm & 8pm
Sunday, October 22nd 3pm

Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie

Final Weekend
Thursday, October 19th 6:20pm
Friday, October 20th 6pm
Saturday, October 21st 4:30pm
Sunday, October 22nd 2pm

A Haunting in Venice

This Weekend Only
Friday, October 20th 8:15pm
Saturday, October 21st 6:40pm & 9pm
Sunday, October 22nd 4:10pm

www.abcinmain.com

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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 Hamas-run 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 Othring & 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-Ahli 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 dyscalculia, which affects up to 7% of the population and often coexists with dyslexia.

"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.

Public Sale Calendar

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, Berkeley 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 CLOSING 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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20-Year friendship ends with new marriage

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



Dear Annie: I am asking for advice about my 20-year friendship that has ended.

to let our friendship end and she saw her new life as the way to do it?

She was my best friend. I keep hoping that she will contact me and be willing to talk about everything.

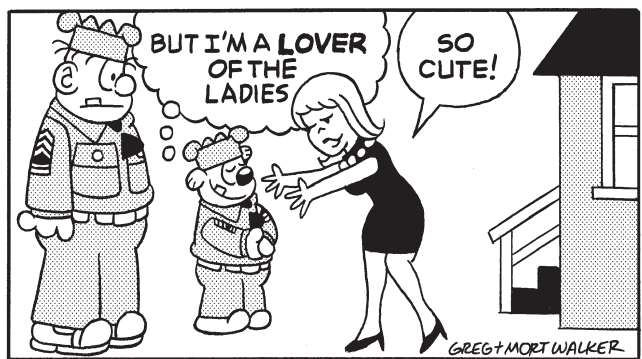
Dear Missing: You are missing the way your friendship used to be before your best friend's husband came along.

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

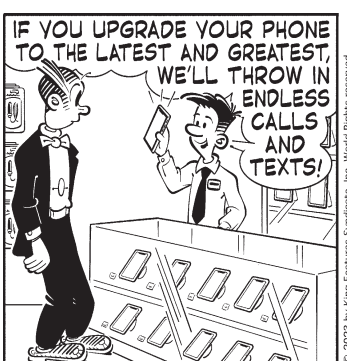
"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book.

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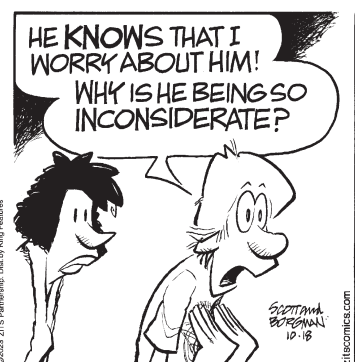
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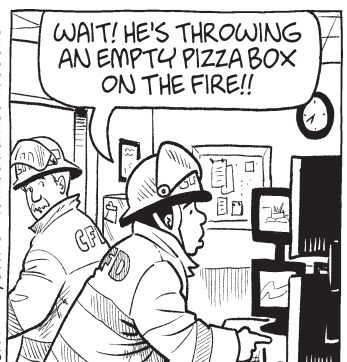
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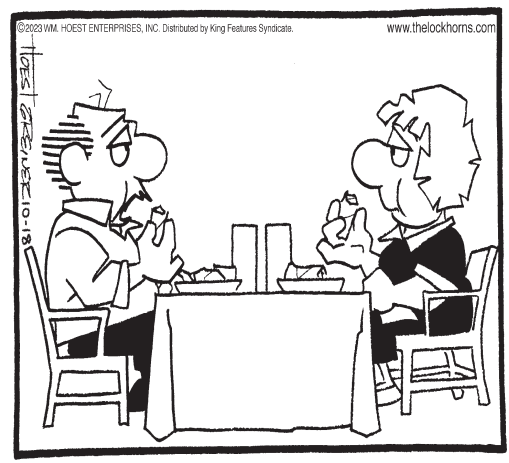
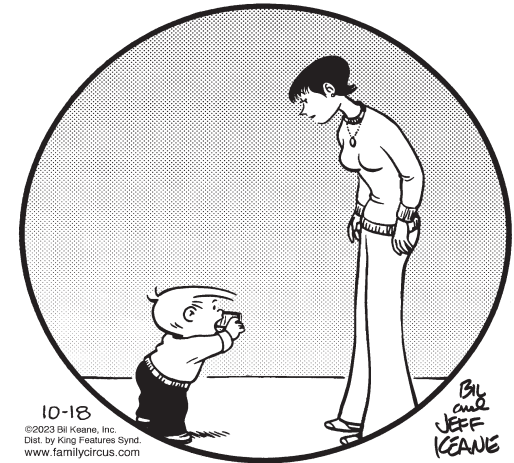
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



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

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.

A: Giving up something to follow Christ is not earning salvation; it's giving up what keeps us from salvation.

The story of the rich young ruler cuts to the heart of what it means to belong to the world — or to the world people try to personally design.

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.

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.

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

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TV schedule table with columns for time slots (10/18, 11, 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12) and rows for various channels and programs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes 'Solution time: 23 mins.' and 'Yesterday's answer 10-18'.

Grid for yesterday's crossword puzzle answer, showing numbers 1 through 59 in a crossword pattern.

