

The News - Banner

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023

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Pictured are Ross St. Clair and Jenna Meert, engineers at Stantec, who presented their findings on erosion of the Rivergreenway at Washington park Wednesday night. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

Study determines high-need areas in Rivergreenway erosion

By HOLLY GASKILL

In a recent study, several points on the Rivergreenway were outlined as needing intervention to prevent erosion of the bank.

Through a Lake and River Enhancement grant, the Bluffton Parks Department was able to work with Stantec, an engineering firm, to study the Rivergreenway. Ross St. Clair and

Jenna Meert, engineers with the firm, presented their findings at Washington Park Wednesday night.

St. Clair explained that the firm first evaluated the Rivergreenway in the spring, when they could see exposed areas of the bank. They've returned several times since then to evaluate their initial findings through different seasons.

"Conditions look pretty good from the bank, but looking from the river paints another picture," St. Clair said.

Meert then presented three areas of high-need along the Rivergreenway where the Wabash River threatens the walking path or other nearby infrastructure. Given discussions with city and county officials, St. Clair said, the

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Troops hurt after 3 drones attack U.S. bases in Iraq

By ABBY SEWELL, TARA COPP and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA

BEIRUT (AP) — Coalition forces were slightly injured in Iraq in a spate of drone attacks over the last 24 hours at U.S. bases in Iraq as regional tensions flare following the deadly bombing of a hospital in Gaza.

Two drones targeted the al Asad airbase in western Iraq used by U.S. forces and one drone targeted a base in northern Iraq, a U.S. official told the Associated Press. U.S. forces intercepted all three, destroying two but only damaging the third, which led to minor injuries among coalition forces at the western base, according to a statement Wednesday by U.S. Central Command.

The U.S. official spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the attacks.

"In this moment of heightened alert, we are vigilantly monitoring the situation in Iraq and the region. U.S. forces will defend U.S. and coalition forces against any threat," Central Command said in the release.

Iranian-backed militias in Iraq have threatened to attack U.S. facilities there because of American support for Israel.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of Iranian-backed militias, issued a statement afterward claiming responsibility for the two attacks and saying it "heralds more operations" against the "American occupation."

The salvos came at a time of increasing tension and fears of a broader regional conflict in the wake of the latest Hamas-Israel war.

Since the beginning of the war on Oct. 7, much attention has been focused on Hezbollah, the powerful Hamas ally across Israel's northern border in Lebanon, and its formidable arsenal. The group has traded so-far limited strikes with Israel on the border in recent days.

But Iranian-backed militias in Iraq have also threatened to attack U.S. facilities over American support for Israel.

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Zoos and botanical gardens find Halloween programs are a hit, and an opportunity

By KATHERINE ROTH Associated Press

Enormous warty pumpkins. Carnivorous plants. Immersive arachnid displays. Slithering snakes and fluttering bats. And illuminated displays of hundreds, or thousands, of ornately carved jack-o'-lanterns.

Zoos and botanical gardens have become increasingly popular Halloween destinations. Their haunting array of natural installations and spooky events provide a fun addition, or alternative, to traditional trick-or-treating.

They also are a teachable moment, naturalists and conservationists say.

"Fall is a celebration of the natural world, so Halloween and botanical gardens are an organic pairing," says Michaela Wright, manager of interpretive content at the New York Botanical Garden, where October is "Fall-o-Ween." The garden's Halloween offerings began with a haunted greenhouse tour about 50 years ago, she says, "and it continues to evolve and expand."

This year, there's a Halloween pumpkin

patch that includes exotic heritage varieties in blues, pinks and other surprising colors, in addition to varieties covered in warts. Master pumpkin carver Adam Berton, a sculptor from Rochester, New York, known for his life-like jack-o'-lanterns, hosts weekend pumpkin-carving events. And of course there is the annual display of giant pumpkins, some weighing in at well over 2,000 pounds each.

At the Chicago Botanic Garden, the "Night of 1,000 Jack-o'-Lanterns" features elaborately painted and carved pumpkins, along with costumed entertainers, pumpkin-carving demos, and festive food. The garden's online adult education classes include one on "Ghoulsh Plants and Folklore," and a Halloween Hub with information about seasonal plants and pumpkins.

Zoos too

Many zoos, meanwhile, are hosting Halloween programming with names like "Boo at the Zoo," or "Zoo Boo."

"We started hosting what we call "Hal-

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Tree hike at ouabache

Interpretive Naturalist Rose Nevil, at the left, was the leader of a Tree Trail Hike at Ouabache State Park on a recent Tuesday evening as the park and the Friends of the Wells County Public Library offered the opportunity to folks of all ages. Hiked was the 1.5 mile trail that now has tree markers, like the one at the lower left in the photo, that help with identifying some of the trees. Leaves have just begun to change colors at the park. (Photo provided by Emily Marshall)

GOP's Jim Jordan fails again on vote for House speaker

By LISA MASCARO, FARNOUSH AMIRI and STEPHEN GROVES

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Firebrand Republican Rep. Jim Jordan failed again Wednesday on a crucial second ballot to become House speaker, but the hard-fighting ally of Donald Trump showed no signs of dropping out despite losing support from even more of his GOP colleagues.

Next steps were highly uncertain as angry, frustrated Repub-

licans looked at other options. A bipartisan group of lawmakers floated an extraordinary plan — to give the interim speaker pro tempore, Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., more power to reopen the immobilized House and temporarily conduct routine business. But that seems doubtful, for now.

What was clear was that Jordan's path to become House speaker was almost certainly lost. He was opposed by 22 Republicans, two more than he lost in first-round voting the day before.

Many view the Ohio congressman as too extreme for a central seat of U.S. power and resented the harassing hardball tactics from Jordan's allies for their votes. One lawmaker said they had received death threats.

"We'll keep talking to members, keep working on it," Jordan, a founding member of the hard-right Freedom Caucus, said after the vote.

The House came to another abrupt standstill, stuck now 15 days since the sudden ouster of

Kevin McCarthy without a speaker — a position of power second in line to the presidency.

Once a formality in Congress, the vote for House speaker has devolved into a bitter GOP showdown for the gavel with no foreseeable end. Jordan is resisting entreaties to step aside and no other politically viable candidate is emerging to unite the ruptured Republican majority.

As Republicans upset and exhausted by the infighting retreated for private conversations, hun-

dreds of demonstrators amassed outside the Capitol over the Israel-Hamas war, a stark reminder of the concern over having the House adrift as political challenges intensify at home and abroad.

"The way out is that Jim Jordan has got to pull his name," said Rep. Don Bacon, R-Nebr., who voted twice against him. "He's going to have to call it quits."

After Wednesday's vote, McCarthy and other party leaders appeared to tentatively rally

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Outside



We've got rain on a cloudy day, no sun insight

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 61	High 59	High 57
Low 48	Low 42	Low 36

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Rivergreenway erosion

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firm will proceed with design plans for one of the points. These plans may include reshaping the bank to be more conducive to the current, supporting the area with rocks, and implementing native plant species.

At the low end for one at-risk area, Meert estimated the project would cost \$40,000. Projections for the other two bank erosion points were around \$100,000. However, St. Clair noted

these were rough estimates and contingent on many factors.

St. Clair stated the first of these projects would be best slated for next fall and winter, but the matter would be largely dependant on funding. While the erosion is not the worst he's seen, St. Clair said the pathway may be threatened in areas by the eroding bank within the next several years, especially if there were substantial flooding.

Meert outlined several additional vulnerable points on the bank which were determined to be a lower priority. Generally, Meert advised the area needed more vegetation, specifically bushes and trees, to secure the bank.

The engineers also fielded public input regarding which common fishing areas and public use areas where support or access features could be added.

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U.S. bases in Iraq

(Continued from Page 1)

"Our missiles, drones, and special forces are ready to direct qualitative strikes at the American enemy in its bases and disrupt its interests if it intervenes in this battle," Ahmad "Abu Hussein" al-Hamidawi, head of the Kataib Hezbollah militia, said in a statement last Wednesday. He also threatened to launch missiles at Israeli targets.

Following Tuesday night's blast that killed hundreds at a hospital in Gaza, the group issued another statement in which it blamed the U.S. and its support for Israel for the catastrophe and called for an end to the U.S. presence in Iraq. Hamas has said the explosion in Gaza was from an Israeli airstrike, while Israel has blamed a misfired rocket by Palestinian militants.

"These evil people must leave the country. Otherwise, they will taste the fire of hell

in this world before the after-life," the statement said.

A U.S. defense official, who wasn't authorized to comment to the media and spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed the attack on the al-Asad military base in western Iraq.

Tashkil al-Waritheen, one of the Iranian-backed militias making up the larger group, claimed responsibility in a statement for a second drone attack, which it said had targeted the al-Harir airbase in northern Iraq. U.S. officials did not immediately comment on the claim of a second attack.

The government of the semi-autonomous Kurdish region in northern Iraq said an intercepted drone crashed in an open area near the village of Batas.

Also on Wednesday, Iran-allied groups in Iraq announced that they had formed a "joint operations room" to help Hamas in its

war effort.

Two officials with Iranian-backed militias in Iraq, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the issue, confirmed the attacks on the two bases Wednesday. They said the armed groups were on alert and prepared to join the wider battle against Israel, but that Iran had not yet given approval for them to open a new front. Leaders from some of the factions are now in Lebanon and Syria in case they get orders to proceed, one of the officials said.

Officials with the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad declined to comment.

Lahib Higel, a senior analyst for Iraq at the International Crisis Group, said in the short term, the Iraqi groups allied with Iran and Hamas are not likely to open a new front in the war, but that could change if the

Hamas-Israel war escalates or becomes protracted.

"Geographically, obviously, they are several steps removed, so they're not going to be the first to react" and are likely to serve in a supporting role, she said.

Renad Mansour, a senior research fellow at the Chatham House, said the Iran-backed groups in Iraq are split between those that are also political parties and have a stake in the Iraqi political system and the "vanguard" groups that are purely militant and tend to be more tightly controlled by Iran.

The latter, he said, have been used in the past as foot soldiers in regional conflicts, including in Yemen and Syria.

"This is what they're designed to do," Mansour said. "The question is more, will Iran and some of the leaders of these groups decide it's in their interest to escalate?"

Zoos, botanical gardens

(Continued from Page 1)

GLOween" back in 2017 and it's become one of our biggest draws of the year, providing a huge audience for our conservation messages," says Lisa Martin, a wildlife care ambassador for the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

The event started as a single weekend in October, and was so popular it was expanded to two weekends, she says. It's now held every Friday, Saturday and Sunday for most of October, and Halloween has become one of the most popular times of the year at the zoo.

"There's no trick-or-treating. And we don't offer candy," she says, adding that that's a relief for many parents.

This year's "HalGLOween" features a "Skeleton Band," a "Boo Crew" of

scarecrow stilt-walkers, and an illuminated "Python Path" through the reptile house, among other events.

An immersive display of arachnids in the Cool Critters building "gives kids a chance to learn about something that seems scary but might not be so scary in real life," says Martin.

The San Diego Zoo Safari Park just north of the city also features a bat house.

And at the zoo, which is also an accredited botanical garden, a "Wildlife Explorers Basecamp" has all kinds of bugs, and bee and ant colonies. Elsewhere, horticulturists are on hand to answer questions about seemingly spooky plants like strangle-vines and vampire dragon orchids.

Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, in

Indiana, is hosting a series of "Wild Zoo Halloween" events. Each weekend in October has a different theme, like "Superhero Weekend," "Pirates and Princesses Weekend," "Witch and Wizard Day" and, for those over 21, "Rock and Roar Halloween" with live music and drinks.

The Bronx Zoo in New York offers "Boo at the Zoo" events during the day and "Pumpkin Nights" after sunset. At night, guests can follow a jack-o'-lantern trail of over 5,000 illuminated pumpkins while they learn about nocturnal animal behavior.

Says Martin, of the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance: "People learn best when they're having fun, and they just may come in for some Halloween fun, and go home with a better understanding of conservation."

Woman arrested after trying to get close to Trump at trial

NEW YORK (AP) — A spectator at Donald Trump's civil fraud trial was arrested Wednesday after standing up in the middle of testimony and walking toward the front of the courtroom where the former president sat.

The woman expressed a desire to aid Trump, and the court system said that neither he nor anyone else at the trial was ever in danger. The ex-president and 2024 GOP front-runner showed no reaction in court and later told reporters he wasn't aware of the episode that had unfolded behind him.

"Who got arrested?" Trump asked. "We didn't know anything about it."

The woman, later identified as a court system employee, retreated after a court officer told her to return to her seat. A short time later, officers escorted her out and arrested her on a contempt charge for disrupting a court proceeding, court spokesperson Lucian Chalfen said.

Chalfen said the woman had been yelling out to Trump that she wanted to help him, though reporters in the courtroom did not hear her raise her voice. She was later heard screaming in the courthouse lobby as officers removed her from the building.

Outside the courtroom, the woman was seen on an NBC camera telling court officers: "You're scaring me,

and I have a right to be here. I'm an American citizen, and I'm also a court employee. I'm also just here to support Donald Trump."

She went on to say that she had been "peacefully watching this proceeding" and had complied when a court officer told her not to cause "any more problems."

Chalfen said the woman, whose name wasn't released, has been placed on administrative leave and barred from entering state courts while authorities investigate.

The trial went on, albeit with one other unusual moment — this one after Trump threw up his hands in apparent frustration and conferred animatedly with his lawyers while real estate appraiser Doug Larson testified about his interactions with a Trump company executive.

State lawyer Kevin Wallace asked Judge Arthur Engoron to ask the defense to "stop commenting during the witness testimony," adding that the "exhortations" were audible on the witness' side of the room. The judge then asked everyone to keep their voices down, "particularly if it's meant to influence the testimony."

The case, brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James, accuses Trump and his company of duping banks and insurers by giving them heavily inflated statements of

Trump's net worth and asset values. Engoron has already ruled that Trump and his company committed fraud, but the trial involves remaining claims of conspiracy, insurance fraud and falsifying business records.

James maintains that Trump's financial statements were key to securing deals and loans, and witnesses and evidence presented at trial have indicated that the documents were a factor.

For example, a 2015 offer to refinance a Trump-owned Wall Street building came with terms that included "delivery of financial statements (including tax returns)" from Trump, according to a document shown in court Wednesday.

While the deal was in the works, the Trump Organization sent prospective lender Ladder Capital paper copies of Trump's financial statements and personal tax returns, Ladder executive Jack Weisselberg testified, adding that a Trump execu-

tive messaged him about when to expect the documents.

"I think they were concerned about confidentiality, and they wanted to make sure it was going directly into my hands," said Weisselberg, who's the son of former longtime Trump Organization finance chief Allen Weisselberg.

Trump denies all James' allegations. He says his assets were actually worth far more than claimed on his statements, which came with disclaimers that he portrays as telling people to vet the numbers themselves.

Engoron will decide the case, not a jury, because state law doesn't allow one in this type of lawsuit.

With Trump voluntarily attending the trial for a second straight day — his fifth overall — his lawyers strove to undercut the state's claims that his top corporate deputies played games to inflate the values of his properties and pad his bottom line.

Weather

Thursday, October 19, 2023

(24-hour observations at 8:43 p.m. Wednesday)

High: 63; Low: 42; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.31 feet at 8:45 p.m. Wednesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Showers likely, mainly after 7 a.m. Cloudy, with a high near 61. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Tonight: A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

Friday: A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers, mainly after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. West wind around 10 mph.

Saturday: A 40 percent chance of showers, mainly before 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 57.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 36.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 52.

Sunday Night: Widespread frost after 2 a.m. Otherwise, mostly clear, with a low around 30.

Monday: Widespread frost before 9 a.m. Otherwise, sunny, with a high near 55.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 66.

Tuesday Night: A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52.

Wednesday: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 68.

House speaker

(Continued from Page 1)

around Jordan, giving the combative Judiciary Committee chairman the time he was demanding, though it was doubtful he could shore up votes. No further action was scheduled and the House lost another day.

With Republicans in majority control of the House, 221-212, Jordan must pick up most of his GOP foes to win. Wednesday's tally, with 199 Republicans voting for Jordan and 212 for Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, left no candidate with a clear majority.

As the rollcall got underway, Jordan lost more than he gained, picking up three backers but adding more detractors.

The holdouts added to a surprisingly large and politically diverse group of 20 Republicans who had rejected Jordan's nomination the day before.

Jordan's refusal to concede only further embittered some of the Republicans, who were upset that the party's first choice, Majority Leader Steve Scalise, was essentially forced to drop his own bid 24 hours after a failed vote last week in large part because Jordan's backers team refused to give their support.

Bipartisan groups of lawmakers have been floating ways to operate the House by giving greater power to McHenry or another temporary speaker. The House had never ousted its speak-

er before McCarthy, and McHenry could tap the temporary powers that were created after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks to ensure continuity of government.

The novel concept of boosting the interim speaker's role was gaining favor with a pair of high-profile Republicans: former GOP speakers Newt Gingrich and John Boehner.

Gingrich said while he likes Jordan, he has "no faith" the nominee can get much beyond the 200 votes he won in the first vote.

Boehner reposted Gingrich's views saying, "I agree," on social media.

The two men have deep experience with the subject. Both were chased to early retirement.

"All options are on the table to end the Republican civil war," Jeffries said Wednesday.

But McHenry appeared to brush off the idea of taking further powers for himself, saying Jordan "has the support of the conference to keep going, so that's what we're gonna do."

McHenry added that he finds himself in an unprecedented position and has constructed his role "as narrowly as the rules say I should, and we can't transact business until we elect a speaker."

In nominating Jordan, veteran Republican Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma said it was time to end the upheaval that he had warned against with McCarthy's sudden ouster.



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OBITUARIES

Patricia Dyson, 87

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



She was born on Nov. 3, 1935, in Liberty Township to Elroy and Vera (Bender) Watson and was a 1953 graduate of Chester Center High School. On Jan. 31, 1954, in Wells County, Patricia and Robert L. Dyson were married.

Patricia enjoyed doing family genealogy and was very talented at sewing and quilting. She enjoyed working in her garden and was a famous cook and enjoyed fixing family meals. She was a longtime member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Survivors include her husband of 69 years, Robert L. Dyson of Albion, along with her children, David (Tammy) Dyson and Lois (Jim) Brandenburg, both of Columbia City, Lorinda (Tom) Gregory of Stendal, Ind., DeeAnn Dyson of Albion and Dawn (Tony) Platero of Glendale, Calif. She was a loving grandma to six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A private family service will take place with burial following at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Association or American Diabetes Association.

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.

Committee concludes with child care draft recommendations

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle

The third and final meeting of the interim committee on Public Health, Behavioral Health and Human Services concluded with a unanimous vote to approve a draft report of recommendations — though that report wasn't yet available for public review.

Much of the final report focused on child care testimony from an August meeting, where stakeholders urged the legislature to address child care 'deserts,' invest in a comprehensive system and increase employee wages.

Sen. Ed Charbonneau warned that the upcoming session, set to start in January, wasn't a budget session so recommendations didn't include dollar amounts.

"In order to get recommendations that we need to be able to act on ... an increase in funding couldn't happen," Charbonneau, R-Valparaiso, said in committee Wednesday.

Specifically, lawmakers spoke about the limitations on the Child Care Development Fund, which subsidizes care for families but often includes a copay that may cost more than the family can afford.

"I was approached by someone who has CCDF vouchers and ... they can't meet the copay requirements. Even if they could

meet copay requirements, there aren't enough providers that accept CCDF vouchers," said Sen. Jean Breaux, D-Indianapolis. "I think (Sen. Charbonneau, in the report) captured most of my concerns."

Potential avenues for strengthening future child care funding could mean including child care as a part of local infrastructure — like roads and bridges — and allow economic development funds to be dedicated to that sector, especially to increase staff salaries.

"My takeaway from all the conversations I've been hearing about the current crisis is ... it's not just accessibility and affordability. There just aren't people in these jobs. So many grants will pay for the program but the funds are not available to help address the issue of what people are taking home," said Sen. Shelli Yoder, D-Bloomington.

"I would love to see that (in the report) ... we've captured so much here but that isn't called out."

Charbonneau, the co-chair of the committee, said he didn't want the report to get too far into specifics.

The draft report also included a recommendation on the study of psilocybin, a Schedule 1 psychedelic, at research universities, though the committee voted to strike a sentence about its risk for addiction.

Indiana Statehouse spotlights to support Israel 'moving on'

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle

A dozen spotlights illuminating the night sky around downtown Indianapolis in the colors of the Israel flag will 'move on' from the Statehouse, a rare and possibly first-of-its-kind display that appeared Monday morning.

Gov. Eric Holcomb said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that the spotlights and the Israeli flag over the Governor's Residence in Indianapolis "symbolize our state solidarity ... with our friends and allies in Israel."

On Tuesday, he said the symbols also paid tribute to the Israeli victims of the Hamas invasion earlier this month and the spotlights "are moving on to a different location."

"We'll look for other ways to assist but that was a good couple of days (of) paying tribute," Holcomb said.

A spokesperson for Holcomb's office said the display would be dismantled Tuesday evening and said they "didn't have an anticipated cost."

The office didn't immediately respond to an email asking if the lights were donated or paid through another entity.

Holcomb said a number of people had called for the show of support, including Attorney General Todd Rokita, but his actions also included discussions with Israeli leaders and other state executives.

"I just had six governors in the State of Indiana over the last couple of days and, of course, we talked about this war," Holcomb said. "... we'll work with folks who are advocating in a number of ways to pay tribute to victims."

Other governors, from Maryland and South Carolina, have similarly lit up their state buildings or residences in blue and white.

Rokita sent a letter to the governor's office last week noting that the Israeli Embassy has asked states to illuminate their Capitol buildings in blue and white.

"Lighting the Indiana State Capitol would not only be a meaningful gesture to our Jewish community in Indiana, but it would send a powerful message of unwavering support to our friends in the Middle East," he wrote in a letter posted on X.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Tuesday, 4:41 p.m., Valley Park Apartments. Officer requested to standby for custody exchange. No issues.

Tuesday, 7:52 p.m., American Legion. Two women requested officers to escort them home due to males following them.

Wednesday, 1:53 a.m., Hardees. One juvenile cited for disregarding traffic control light. Three juveniles issued curfew tickets.

Wednesday, 11:21 a.m., 1400 block of West Central Avenue. Report of juvenile jumping in front of vehicles.

Wednesday, 12:27 p.m., Tyegers Pizza Parlour. Report of a truck hit by other vehicle in the parking lot.

County:
Wednesday, 7:04 a.m., North Washington and North Matthews streets, Bluffton. Report of vehicle that was clipped by driver who failed to stop.

Wednesday, 8:04 a.m., 5000 East 100 South, Bluffton. Car versus deer.

Wednesday, 8:13 a.m., Wells County Jail. Subject transported from Miami County Jail to Wells County Jail without incident.

Wednesday, 8:38 a.m., South 700 East and East

1000 South, Keystone. Complaint from subject who is possibly unaware of where food comes from regarding farmer taking up roadway for a brief period of time.

ACCIDENTS

City:
Friday, 11:56 a.m., Ind. 1 and Wiley Avenue. Tara Moore advised she was looking at a house and did not see Kendall Eicher in front of her. Moore's Nissan Juke collided with Eicher's Grand Caravan. Damages not exceeding \$10,000.

Saturday, 2:35 p.m., Ind. 1 and Capri Court. Elizabeth Husgins failed

to slow her Buick Lacerte in time due to wet roads and collided with the trailer attached to Christopher Lovins's GMC Yukon. Damages not exceeding \$5,000.

Sunday, 11:51 a.m., Parkway Drive and South Echo Street. Marna K Frantz was backing out of a driveway when her Ford Focus collided with a parked and unattended Buick LeSabre. Damages not exceeding \$2,500.

ARRESTS

Jimmy Richard Robert Sheets, 45, Peru, sentence — court order — probation violation for Class A misdemeanor.



Fall fun at the park

Kathy and Quinn Curry organized a Friends of Ouabache State Park Spooktacular Fall Festival Scavenger Hunt this past weekend. Several locations had to be found, although hidden in plain view throughout the park, by 28 teams of hunters. As detailed in Wednesday's News-Banner, a full day of fall activities is also scheduled for this Saturday. This weekend also includes a campsite decorating contest at the state park. (Photo by Alan Daugherty)

Police truck weight enforcement recovers from closures

By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ

Indiana Capital Chronicle

Eight weigh stations on the outskirts of Indiana's interstate system weigh increasing numbers of commercial vehicles — millions, annually — as they drive into the state. Vehicles found overweight get warnings, citations and more, but such enforcement actions remain below pre-pandemic levels.

It's part of states' deal with the federal government: weight enforcement, in exchange for road funding. That's because higher weights per vehicle axle cause exponentially greater road damage, according to industry database Pavement Interactive.

"The more damage there is to the roads, the more often roads have to be replaced — and as we all know, construction season is an almost year-round event now," said Major Jon Smithers, commander of the Indiana State Police's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division.

As Indiana lawmakers look to redesign how the state pays for its roads, industry drivers say they pay their fair share for the damage vehicles cause — but are literally on the hook for enforcement actions on semi-trailers they don't pack.

Packing light

Trucks carry 80 percent of all freight tonnages within and through Indiana, according to the state's transportation department.

But they must abide by strict weight restrictions: in total, they must weigh less than 80,000 pounds, must have less than 34,000 pounds on a set of tandem axles, and so on — in line with federal requirements. ISP also enforces federal per-tire weight regulations.

Commercial vehicles driving inbound roll over "weigh in motion" scales placed along some of Indiana's busiest stretches of highway as ISP employees look for potential violations. Officers on the road carry four portable scales in their vehicles to catch trucks

trying to go around the stations.

"That's how we decide which trucks we're going to pull in to the weigh station for the static scale," Smithers said.

Signs point vehicles under the maximum toward bypass lanes. But potential violators go to the static scales, where vehicles get their official weights, according to Smithers.

Each scale has three platforms so station attendants can measure weight in total and by axle group.

Officers have discretion in taking action when vehicles are overweight. They may ask drivers to "correct" the load, and can offer warnings, citations and even impoundment — although state law protects vehicles that are overweight by less than 1,000 pounds.

"Most of the modern tractors, trucks and trailers, you can move the axles backwards and forwards. ... If you adjust those, it will shift the way the weight's carried on the trailer," Smithers said.

"But if it's something that's significantly over and they have no way to fix it, then we could theoretically impound it and force them to fix it in a safe location," he added.

Asked what he considered merits an impound, Smithers said, "You know, you get 5,000, 6,000 pounds over, you get in the area that requires a special permit to operate it that way."

Overweight or oversized vehicles can obtain paid permits from the Indiana Department of Transportation. Lawmakers first introduced industry-specific weight exceptions about a decade ago, but swapped the list of commodities for a general-use permit in a 2021 law.

Permitted overweight or oversized vehicles are given specific routes along infrastructure that can handle them.

Virus, closures cut enforcement actions

The weigh-in-motion scales weighed more than 11.3 million commercial vehicles from 2018 through 2022, according to ISP

— averaging 2.3 million screenings a year.

That's despite a worldwide virus: the stations were closed from March 2020 to September that year, and operated "under restrictions and reduced hours" until April 2021, according to Smithers.

Officers diverted small percentages to the static scales over the five-year period, ranging from a pandemic-induced 47,000 (2 percent of screenings) to a pre-pandemic 277,000 (12 percent of screenings). They weighed more than 222,000 in 2022, still under 2018 totals and percentages.

Hershel A. Baker

Calling: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Friday, October 20.
Funeral: 1 p.m. Friday,
October 20 at the
funeral home.

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We survived a hurricane ... again

At this time last week, Larisa and I were on vacation in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico with a large group of friends.

The crew likes to discuss our vacation takeaways when we return. Until now, our most vivid memory was stumbling across baby sea turtles emerging from the sand to find their way to the sea. It was truly an emotional experience.

The takeaway from this trip is a no-brainer. We survived Hurricane Lidia.

I rarely pay attention to tropical storms unless we are traveling or if Jacksonville, Florida is in its path. My mother-in-law and sister-in-law live there. We are also grateful for the 1,000 mile buffer between us.

Larisa and I had a close call two years ago, coincidentally, in Puerto Vallarta. That hurricane missed us by 350 miles, relatively close by hurricane standards.

As the staff proactively prepared for the 2021 hurricane, we talked to a storm watcher. I asked if everything was going to be ok. He firmly responded 'No,' without taking his eyes off the ocean. I chalked that up to the language barrier and hoped for the best. We got a lot of wind and rain but little damage.

Last Tuesday was a bit different.

On Monday, we started getting conflicting reports about Lidia from the staff at our resort. Some reassured us that Puerto Vallarta, being in a bay surrounded by mountains, rarely took a direct hit. Others warned us that they wouldn't be working on Tuesday to be with their families.

On Tuesday we received instructions on how to prepare. Restaurants, bars and other services were halted by 1:30. By 4:00 we were mandated to take shelter in our rooms until morning. Presumably so we would be easier to count if things went sideways.

To entice everyone to head to their rooms in time, we were given a 4:00 deadline to call room service, from our room, to be placed on a list for a boxed lunch. No call, no food.

As a side note, I was surprised by the response to the bars being closed. With a hurricane bearing down on us and the possibility of not having food the next day, alcohol was the only thing people were upset about. Violently upset.

Our group spent the afternoon in a covered area until we had to retreat to our rooms. Lots of rain, angry waves but little wind.

Our boxed lunch arrived. A bottle of water, an anemic ham sandwich and a rock-hard cookie. Beggars can't be choosers I suppose.

By 6:00 the wind had barely picked up and we wondered aloud if Lidia would somehow miss us.

Nope. The wind would soon become violent.

Our family started sending updates via text. We lost TV and internet long ago. Lidia was on a collision course with our resort.

It was probably the scariest thing I've been through. I say probably because I missed the worst of it. By the time it actually hit, I was deep into my best night of sleep all week. Larisa said it was awful.

Thanks to those glorious mountains surrounding the bay, the damage was minimal. Our waiter told us the next morning about his scared little girl. He reassured her that everything was going to be okay. Super Dad was there to protect her. Another didn't work Wednesday, he was home dealing with a tree that fell on his house and crushed his car.

Surprisingly, Wednesday was the most beautiful of the week.

We survived Lidia.

Or slept through it.

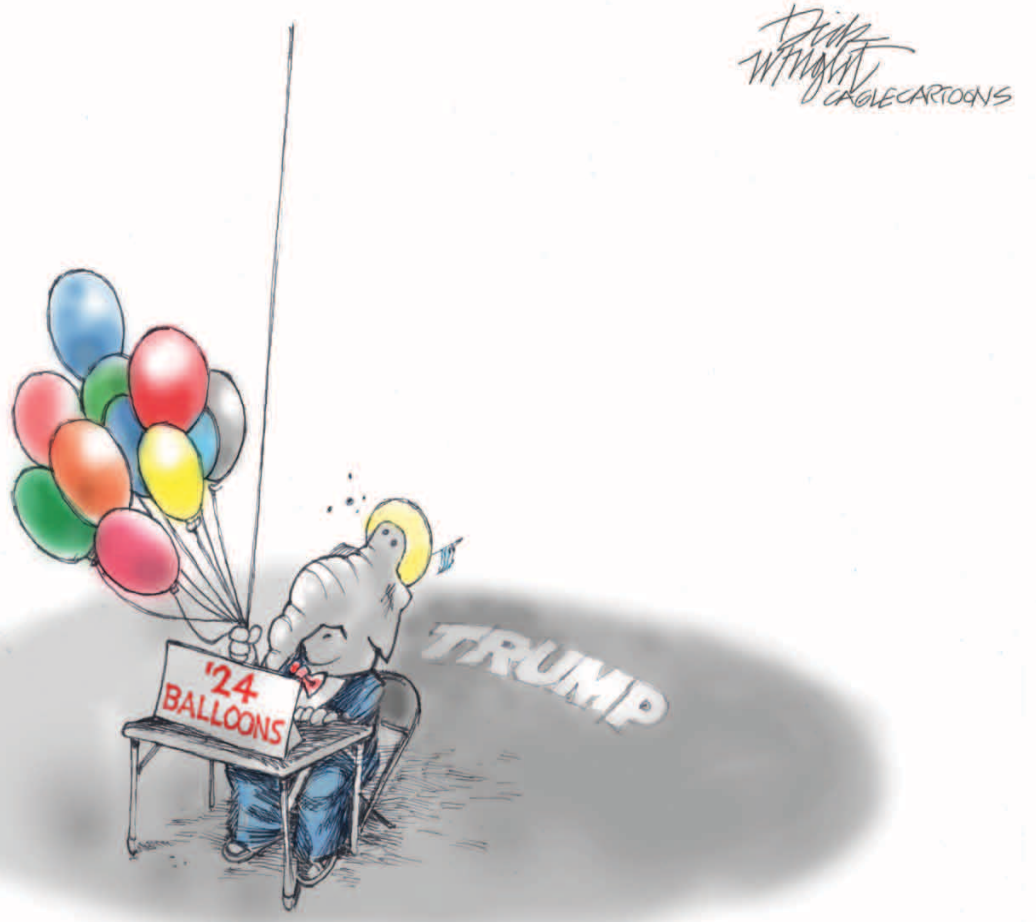
Two trips to Puerto Vallarta. Two hurricanes.

Despite our track record, we may go back someday. Seriously, what are the odds of going three for three?

dough@news-banner.com



Doug Brown



GOP candidate: The 2024 race is 'stuck'

An extraordinary document emerged from the 2024 Republican presidential race this week, and it isn't getting enough attention. It's a memo from the super PAC supporting Tim Scott, the GOP senator who was once seen as a promising contender but has recently slipped in polls both nationally and in early primary states. Scott is now in seventh place in the RealClearPolitics average of national polls. He is tied for fourth in Iowa, sixth in New Hampshire and fourth in his native South Carolina.

Written by Rob Collins, co-chief of Trust In the Mission PAC, or TIMPAC, the well-funded organization supporting Scott's campaign, the memo announced that the PAC was canceling millions of dollars in planned spending on TV ads this fall. "The Fall Republican primary is stuck," Collins writes. "Donald Trump leads a cluster of statistically tied contenders by a wide margin. Vote share of non-Trump candidates trades up and down, but no campaign has achieved break away velocity. The fundamentals of the race remain unchanged: President Donald Trump occupies a lane by himself."

The Scott campaign had planned to spend millions on ads this fall. But, so far, only Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and then former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, have emerged as challengers to Trump, and they have only "traded vote share," according to the memo. Trump remains far, far ahead. After extensive research, Collins and the Scott effort have decided that "the electorate is locked up and money spent on mass media isn't going to change minds until we get a lot closer to voting." Therefore, the memo continues, "we aren't going to waste our money when the electorate isn't focused or ready for a Trump alternative."

A move like TIMPAC's is often seen as the first tolling of the candidate death knell. In this case, it might be. So far, Scott has campaigned hard and has spent about \$20 million on TV ads, both from his campaign and the super PAC. He is well-liked everywhere, but there is a difference between being well-liked and being a presidential contender. Since a well-received beginning, Scott has endured a long, slow decline. His worst moment came at the first Republican debate, on Aug. 23, when Scott was often passive, failing to step out and make the impression his backers hoped he would.

That has led to the place no candidate wants to be, when reporters start asking when he will quit. "Scott in the past week has dismissed questions about whether he intends to drop out soon," reports Politico. The new TIMPAC memo will only increase the questioning.

On the other hand, the Collins memo makes some trenchant observations about the state of the Republi-

can campaign now, observations that reach far beyond Tim Scott. The main fact is this: Donald Trump has a huge lead, and all the other candidates can do is wait to see if something happens. What is "something"? It could be Trump's upcoming criminal trials, or it could be something else. But the bottom line is that, at this moment, Trump's lead appears insurmountable, and some event — details TBA — will have to happen to change that.

"Some will challenge our theory of the election, but we would ask these critics to produce any evidence that shows any candidate, at this time, at any spending level, breaking through," Scott writes. He points out that Win It Back, an anti-Trump super PAC created by the conservative Club for Growth, recently admitted that the \$6 million it has spent on ads opposing Trump have made no progress.

"Every traditional postproduction ad attacking President Trump either backfired or produced no impact on his ballot support and favorability," super PAC head David McIntosh wrote. Now, the Scott Super PAC has experienced its own version of ad failure. So they are getting out of the television ad business until things improve — if things improve. "Once the voters truly engage and are ready for a new conservative direction — we will be ready to engage in broadcast media to help Tim earn our party's nomination," the TIMPAC memo says.

The TIMPAC memo makes it clear that Scott will stay in the race until that time comes. Maybe he will, and maybe he won't; it is easier said than done. But that is exactly what every other candidate is trying to do. It presupposes two things: One is that something will change, and two is that the candidate can last until it does. Neither is assured.

But that is the state of the Republican race now. And one last thing: Therein lies opportunity. Yes, it is possible, even likely, that Trump's lead will go on and on and he'll win the nomination and everybody else will lose. But there has never been a race with this level of uncertainty before. Next year promises to be highly eventful, and there is no guarantee Trump, facing trials and voters, will maintain his current level of support. And if he does not, the Republican candidate who is best prepared, who has put himself or herself in the best position, will take advantage of Trump's problems. We don't know who that might be, or if it will happen at all. But that's what Tim Scott and all the other GOP candidates not named Trump are doing right now.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner



Byron York

Who's Who

A continuing series on how to contact government officials

Zanesville.

The three **Town Council members** are:

- John Schuhmacher, phone 602-2391.
- Barb O'Connor, phone 403-6184.
- Isaac Zent, 251-1353

The **Town Clerk-Treasurer** is Tera Bowersock. The Town Hall is at 17736 Wayne St., phone 638-0051.

Carl Collins is the **Zanesville Town Marshal**. The police non-emergency number is 638-4080. **Zanesville Sewage:** customer service, 427-1234; repair, 427-8311.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Oct. 19, the 292nd day of 2023. There are 73 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 19, 2010, the Pentagon directed the military to accept openly gay recruits for the first time in the nation's history.

On this date:

In 1781, British troops under Gen. Lord Cornwall-

is surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, as the American Revolution neared its end.

In 1814, the first documented public performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner" took place at the Holiday Street Theater in Baltimore.

In 1944, the U.S. Navy began accepting Black women into WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).

Green darner as gone as summer's green

E. B. Williamson put Bluffton on the world map with his world acknowledgement of Odonata expertise. Scientists from all over the world visited Bluffton in early decades of the 20th Century to confer with E. B. and see his Bug Room.

Most likely he took them to Vanemon Swamp for an afternoon of dragonfly capturing. It's all in the book. All that and more Bluffton history had finally been assembled into one local hardcover.

Angelkeep discovered green darner on Angelpond potentially a century after E. B. netted his first. Angelkeep netted with a Nikon digital camera. It proved difficult. Green darners didn't care to stop and rest very often. They grew so large they could be watched circling the entire pond. They proved a real "tease" to an Angelkeep Odonata (dragonfly) photocooholic.

Quabache State Park provided glimpses of fast-flying green darners. Angelkeep watched one fly back and forth, over the American lotus bed. It teased that it might, or not, perch for a photo op. It never did. Plenty of stalks of bloom and lotus seed pods stood available, but it did not perch. Wings and flight proved longer-lasting than the photographer's legs.

One anonymous haiku poem (columbusaudubon.org) spoke volumes.

*green and blue slivers
the dragonflies whirl and dart
high and low circles*
Green darner was the quintessence of the best of dragonflies. Unless you wanted a photo. Green darners

Angelkeep Journals

grew up to five inches. The colors of a lime green, almost fluorescent, thorax and bright blue with a yellow abdomen side stripes are hard to miss. Females might have a more brownish abdomen. Given their extreme and dynamic flight capability, it was hard to catch a difference. Among the insect world they rank among the ace aerialists. Their wings cannot be folded or tucked. They make an easy target for hungry birds. They fly or die, so to speak.

They fly to eat, careening at 3-5 feet over water at break-neck speed. Once they grab lunch, they eat on the wing, so to speak.

They stop only for sleep, mating, and egg-laying, all fast activities. This explained why all failed to stop for an Angelkeep-desired photo. Neither the Nikon nor the photographer were adequate mate material, so to speak.

Green darners, or some of them, are unusual dragonflies since they migrate. Those that choose to do so join large flocks in autumn or spring, much like monarch butterflies. The green darners that leave for the south to become "snow birds" will not be the same ones heading north in the spring. Unlike human snow birds, green darner returnees don't care if they return to the location of their



Alan Daugherty

ancestors.

Although green darners, like all dragonflies, can hover and occasionally do a reverse flight for a short distance, principal desire retained a forward flight "petal to the metal" style, so to speak.

"Flighty" males could easily be referred to as aggressive. They are territorial over a portion of a water feature, like Angelpond, and constantly fly a patrol sequence guarding it. If another male tries entering its self-claimed area, it will attack. It physically rams the intruder leaving no question as to who ruled this particular roost.

When a female green darner tried to enter a male green darner's personal space, well that's a horse of a different color indeed. The male flipped his cool. He performed for her. He looped the loop in a seductive aerial display. She's had two choices. #1 leave. If she stayed he'd grab on behind her head with claws from the end of his abdomen while they remained in flight. She completed the "wheel of love" by grabbing forward and clasping his.....so to speak. Actually the wheel completion occurred on land or a leaf.

With summer gone, autumn leaves decided which would fall and when. Summer love of Angelkeep and Ouabache green darners ended. Green darner was the dinosaur of dragonflies, though not extinct. Green darner nymph children were growing in Angelpond and Kunkel Lake, so to speak.

Mr. Daugherty is a Wells County resident who, along with his wife Gwen, enjoy their backyard and has named it "Angelkeep."

The News-Banner

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Holly Gaskill, Editor

Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

Sundays are a day of rest, rejuvenation and remembering

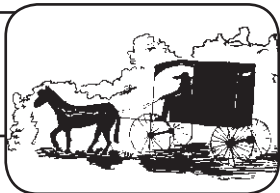
I love Sundays; they bring their own sense of relaxation. Sundays at our house are set aside for more time with God and each other as a family. In a sense it's much like a mini vacation; it gives us a breath of fresh air and rejuvenation for the week ahead. Isn't it amazing that even God rested after six days of work? His example, coupled with teachings in the Scripture, gives us a day off with no feelings of guilt about all the work waiting for us.

Our Sundays are not all exactly the same. In the forenoon, we go to church, we find it a blessing to meet with other Christians. Not that I find any hope in going to heaven because I go to church, but I want to be there and worship our Maker. Last week I was again keenly reminded of what it really takes to get us to heaven. I needed some refreshment so I listened to the first message shared at Daniel's funeral. I was encouraged by the straightforward yet simple outline of living for Jesus. A recording of this message is on the song line with the songs Daniel sang for his parents shortly before he passed. This conference is free of charge and can be called at (618) 469-3007.

The children are especially fond of Sunday school class which is every other Sunday. They have a picture to color that goes with their

The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



Bible story and a verse to memorize. Last Sunday, as I stepped in the room where the five to seven-year-olds were having class, my eyes widened. It looked so precious, a dozen children with eager faces sitting around the table, no doubt it took some efforts on Miss Wengerd's part coordinate it all. At any rate it felt good to know they were in good hands.

On the church Sundays, we stay for a noon meal provided by the family hosting services.

A song is sung by all after the meal, followed by dishwashing. All the adults, including men and boys are divided into five groups to take our turn helping. Daniel, who as a young boy, spent hours doing dishes, enjoyed washing them and in his usual production-oriented manner liked to see how swiftly he could whip them through.

Yes, I still keenly miss that aspect, then I keep telling myself that somehow God has a better plan and will give my heart all I need if I give my yes to him, even in situations as such.

Sunday afternoon and evenings were the highlight of the week for me. It gave me the luxury of being

with Daniel, though we seldom got to actually talk much as we cared for the children and played games with them. By 4:00 or so Daniel would get out the hand crank popcorn kettle and pop up a big batch for all of us. Once he had seasoned it we'd all gather around him and enjoy it together.

Sunday suppers were an adventure. We never had a big meal, it was more like a snack as we emptied the fridge of this and that.

In our early years of marriage we enjoyed making dips of all sorts, which ended up being more like a traditional Sunday evening dip. Again, the dip entirely depended on what we decided to dump in. Daniel enjoyed pizza so I'd often use some sort of meat then added pizza sauce and toppings seasonings to go with it.

Daniel came up with the idea of cutting tortillas into strips and deep frying them instead of chips or crackers. It was a hit.

Today I made a dump-it dip for the first time since Daniel went home to heaven. It brought sadness, yet joy in knowing that he



would want me to go ahead and do it, thanking God for the perfect plan for each of our lives. I'd love to make a big batch and serve it to you all, I know it won't happen, at least not for today, so try it for yourself!

GLORIA'S EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK DIP.

- 1/2 pound bacon, fried, and undrained, cut into small pieces
- 1 pound hamburger, fried and drained
- 1/2 pound cheese such as Velveeta
- 8 ounces salsa
- 1/2 cup barbecue sauce
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1/2 green pepper, diced

- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- salt and pepper to taste

Mix all together, keep dumping till the taste strikes your fancy, you won't spoil by using your imagination!

Other items I add sometimes are mushrooms, pepperoni slices, liquid smoke, sour cream, or whatever else I may have in the fridge! Even leftover pizza, cut into small dices will add a yummy twist, providing you add a splash of liquid such as pizza sauce or milk. Serve with chips, crackers, fresh veggies, or whatever.

Wells County Women in Leadership presents annual EmpowerHER Annual Conference

The Women's EmpowerHER Annual Conference will be 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 26 at 211 Water St. in Bluffton.

Throughout the day, expect insightful talks from: Stacey Dumbacher "EmpowerHER to Live Every Day with Intention"; Julie Meitzler; "Happiness: A Little Bit of Science and A Lot of Life's Wisdom"; Gabrielle Ginder; "Breaking Chains: Don't

Fear the Past, Move Forward."

A diverse panel of women will share their experiences of how they 'run hard and rest well.' The event concludes with a relaxing "Tranquil Time-out."

Cost for the event is \$50. Breakfast and lunch are included.

For more information or to register, call 260-824-0510 or email eprible@wellsoc.com.

This Weekend

Fall Fling at National Guard Armory

Fall Fling is at National Guard Armory, 500 E. Spring St. in Bluffton on Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Free admission, raffles and food. 25+ Direct sales vendors and hand made crafts. Raffle items are vendor donated.

There will be a wide variety of items to choose from: food, jewelry, candles, wooden decor, Florals, crocheted items, etc.

All proceeds donated to Honor flight of northeast Indiana. For more information contact: Deb carson 260-273-7950 or Doodlebug_63@yahoo.com.

Trunk or Treat in Ossian Saturday

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and New Hope Lutheran Church will be co-hosting a Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 4-6 p.m. (rain location in the gym).

The event will be held at New Hope Lutheran Church at 8643-8691 IN 1 in Ossian.

This is a free event. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

For more information visit <https://www.bethlehem-mossian.org/trunk-or-treat>.

Weekend events at Ouabache

Among the events this weekend at Ouabache State Park will include the following:

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 costume.

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

Note: This will be the weekend of 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.

Fall festivals

Among the October festivals in Indiana will be the following:

Pennville Pumpkin Festival: Oct. 21, Pennville Park. Giant pumpkin contest, parade, vendors, kids activities and antique fire truck show, free.

Irvington Halloween Festival: Oct. 21-28, historical neighborhood with 250 vendors, free. Info at ivringtonhalloween.com.

FW offers Fright Night on Oct. 21

On Saturday, Oct. 21, downtown Fort Wayne will be offered all sorts of activities for 2023 Fright Night.

The Allen County Public Library Plaza will be Zombie Central with a Zombie Walk kicking off at 3 p.m.

Other activities include: Mad Science Day will be held at Science Central from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Werewolf Chase Fun Run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on 1004 Cass St.

Ghost Tours at the Bell Mansion, 420 West Wayne St., noon to 6 p.m.

Not So Spooky Crafts at the Allen County Public Library from 1 to 4 p.m.

A Visit to the Old City Jail at the History Center, 3 to 7 p.m.

A Grand Evening with Drac and Friends from Hotel Transylvania at the Grand Wayne Center, 4 to 6 p.m.

Scavenger Hunt at Parkview Field, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Lantern Tours at Historic Fort Wayne, 6 to 10 p.m.

Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Botanical Conservatory, 7-11 p.m.

Hobnobben Film Festival at the FW Cinema Center, 7 to 9 p.m. and 9:15-10:45 p.m.

For more detailed information check out frightnight-downtown.com.

'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. Attendees 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult.



Presidential recognition

Jordan Arnold, left, the current president of the Bluffton Rotary Club, presented Nathan Shelton with a plaque Tuesday in honor of Shelton's recently concluded year as the club's president. (Photo provided by Jayde Ketring)

Online Directory

Check out these websites of local & area companies and businesses.

Genesis Pest Services genesispestservices.com	JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE jcsgaragedoor.com	Daniel's JEWELERS daniels-jewelers.net	ABOVE & BEYOND Vehicle Reconditioning abovebeyondrecon.com
Godwin's Cafe & Harvest thegmfamily.com	3 RIVERS 3riversfcu.org	Myers FUNERAL HOMES myersfuneralhomes.com	KELLY'S COLLISION CENTER, INC. kellysautocollision.com
FISHER'S GARAGE DOORS fishersgaragedoors.com	RiverStone DENTAL riverstonedental.net	Bluffton Tire blufftontire.com	MOSER & SON Heating & Air Conditioning Find Us On Facebook
INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS icav.us	HIDAY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP hidaymotors.com	Edward Jones EdwardJones.com	State Farm Erin Daugherty myblufftonsfagent.com
Lengerich MEATS lengerichmeats.com	Jerry Flack & Associates jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com	La Fontaine Center lafontainecenter.org	HOME COURT HOME CARE homecourthomecare.com
Still Waters FAMILY DENTISTRY stillwatersfamilydentistry.com	Bi-County Services of Adams & Wells County bi-countyservices.com	Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home thomarich.com	NBDigital nb-digital.com

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A Talk with Tego



Quinn is a nine-week-old, domestic short hair female.



Quincy is a nine-week-old, domestic short hair male.



Oreo is a four-year-old, domestic short hair, spayed female.



Tego

Tego's Tips: Chocolate and the artificial sweetener xylitol can be harmful to pets.

These are just a few pets available for adoption at the Wells County Animal Shelter, 1613 W. Cherry St., Bluffton. For more information call 824-6063.

Colts QB Anthony Richardson opts for season-ending surgery on shoulder

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indianapolis Colts rookie quarterback Anthony Richardson has taken the final snap of his rookie season, opting for season-ending surgery on his injured throwing shoulder.



Anthony Richardson

Coach Shane Steichen confirmed the decision before Wednesday's practice.

Steichen said the team consulted multiple medical officials, weighed the long-term health of Richardson and his future with the franchise before everyone agreed surgery was the best option. Steichen did not say when the surgery would take place.

"I thought when he played, he was explosive and he was electric," Steichen said. "He gives us an opportunity every time he steps on the field — just his big-play ability, throwing the ball downfield, the runs he had, the touchdown runs. There is tremendous opportunity going forward."

Those runs also made him susceptible to injuries, though.

The 6-foot-4, 244-pound Richardson suffered a sprained AC joint in his right shoulder at the end of a short run Oct. 8 against Tennessee. He hit the ground awkwardly, stayed down several minutes as medical staff treated him before he walked slowly to the team's medical tent, his shoulder drooped.

Last week, Indy put Richardson on injured reserve as the debate over treatment continued.

Richardson also sat out the final minute of the season opener with a bruised knee and sore ankle and

missed six more quarters after entering the concussion protocol during the first half of a Week 2 game at Houston. He only finished one of four starts.

Veteran Gardner Minshew replaced Richardson all three times and will now make his third start with the Colts (3-3) on Sunday against Cleveland. Minshew is coming off his worst performance of the season, throwing three interceptions and losing a fumble, in a 37-20 loss at Jacksonville.

Minshew's presence, Steichen acknowledges, will force some changes in game planning, but Steichen believes Minshew will rebound this week. The two worked together each of the past two seasons in Philadelphia.

Still, this isn't the way Minshew wanted to get the starting job.

"That's not the news that any of us want to hear, especially when he was doing so well, playing well, everybody's feeling good about it," he said of Richardson. "To be kind of shut down, we've got to kind rally around him and support him and keep him involved."

Initially, the plan was to pair Richardson in the backfield with 2021 NFL rushing champion Jonathan Taylor. But Taylor missed all of the team's offseason workouts and training camp, the entire preseason and the first four regular-season games as he recovered from offseason ankle surgery.

The result: They played together for one snap before Richardson got hurt.

"I think I saw someone who was very poised," Taylor said when asked about his observations of Richardson.

"You guys saw the Rams game, to be down 23 and see guys rally around him, that's what you want out of a leader."

The bigger question moving forward is how Richardson's absence could impact his progression?

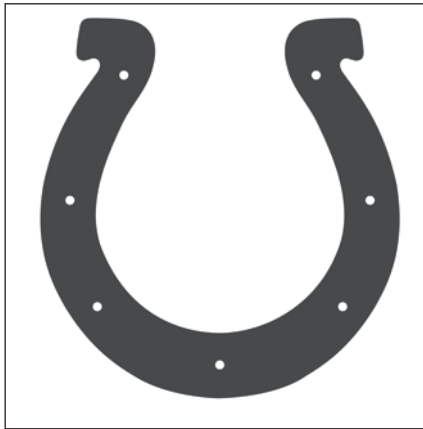
He started only 13 games with the Florida Gators and some scouts thought he was more of a project than a plug-and-play starter because of his limited college experience. And after taking Richardson with the fourth overall pick in April's NFL draft, Steichen and general manager Chris Ballard talked about the need to get Richardson as many snaps as possible this season.

Steichen announced Richardson was the starter after the Colts preseason opener, and he was off to a promising start.

Richardson threw for 577 yards, three TDs and one interception while completing 59.5% of his throws. He also rushed 25 times 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 Richardson will be relegated to watching, listening, learning and cheering on his teammates as he rehabs from surgery.

"Tremendous competitor, great player but longevity in him needs to be at a premium," Steichen said. "Moving forward, he'll be engaged, he'll be in the meetings, he'll be there at practice, and he'll learn from this year, sitting back and watching it, learning it."



Las Vegas Aces become first repeat WNBA champ in 21 years, beating Liberty in Game 4

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Las Vegas Aces became the first team in 21 years to win back-to-back WNBA championships, getting 24 points and 16 rebounds from A'ja Wilson and a defensive stop in the closing seconds to beat the New York Liberty 70-69 in Game 4 of the Finals on Wednesday night.

The Aces joined the Los Angeles Sparks (2001-02) and the Houston Comets (1997-2000) as the only teams in league history to win consecutive titles.

Las Vegas did it without starters Chelsea Gray and Kiah Stokes, who were both sidelined with foot injuries suffered in Game 3. Gray, the 2022 WNBA Finals MVP, was constantly in the ear of her teammates during timeouts and shouting encouragement from the sideline. Las Vegas was also still missing veteran Candace Parker, who had foot surgery in late July.

"We've been facing adversity all season, playing without different players. ... We have some professional fighters," said Alysha Clark, who

was pressed into the starting lineup Wednesday. "To weather the storm of everything we went through, to show up every single day. To be in this moment right now and do it together, it speaks volumes about us, our chemistry."

Wilson won Finals MVP honors this year after finishing in third in the regular-season MVP balloting.

With the game tied at 64, Las Vegas scored six straight points, including the first four by Jackie Young, to go ahead 70-64 with 1:26 left.

Courtney Vandersloot hit a 3-pointer on New York's next possession, then stole the ball from Kelsey Plum, which led to Sabrina Ionescu's foul-line jumper to get the Liberty within one with 41.7 seconds left.

On the ensuing possession, Las Vegas worked the shot clock down before coach Becky Hammon called timeout with 3 seconds left on the shot clock. The Aces got the ball to Wilson on a lob, but Breanna Stewart blocked the shot, giving New York one last chance.

After a timeout with 8.8 seconds left, the Liberty got the ball to Stew-

art, who was double-teamed. The ball swung over to Vandersloot in the corner, but her shot missed badly, setting off a wild celebration by the Aces at midcourt.

"It's a play we've ran before, get the ball to Stewie's hand," Liberty coach Sandy Brondello said. "Sometimes they work, sometimes they don't. We got it where we wanted to, but didn't make it."

Vandersloot finished with 19 points and Betnijah Laney added 15 for New York.

Hammon said before the game she would be "throwing the kitchen sink at (the Liberty), see what sticks, see what works."

The Aces rotated defenses, which stymied New York after the Liberty scored 23 points in the first quarter.

"I think they were throwing whatever defense they had at us and make sure it's ugly," Stewart said. "Sometimes we lost our flow and ball movement."

Hammon started WNBA sixth woman of the year Clark and Cayla George in place of Gray and Stokes. Clark did a stellar job on her former Seattle Storm teammate Stewart, holding her to 10 points on 3-of-17 shooting. George had 11 points.

"Just knowing what she likes to do. And just locking in and making sure that I don't give that to her," Clark said of guarding Stewart. "I'm so proud of this team."

This was the first close game of

(Continued on Page 7)



Offense sparks Astros to win over Rangers

ARLINGTON (AP) — Jose Altuve homered, Cristian Javier worked into the sixth inning of another solid postseason start and the Houston Astros beat the Texas Rangers 8-5 on Wednesday night, closing to 2-1 in the AL Championship Series.

Texas lost for the first time this postseason after a 7-0 start. Three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer was gone after four innings in his first outing in more than a month after recovering from a strained shoulder muscle.

Javier set a franchise record for the defending champion Astros by extending his postseason scoreless streak to 20 1/3 innings. His streak ended in the fifth when rookie Josh Jung hit the first of his pair of two-run homers.

A 26-year-old Dominican right-hander known as "El Reptil," Javier limited the Rangers to two runs and three hits over 5 2/3 innings

his second win this postseason. Ryan Pressly, the third reliever, worked the ninth for his third save of the playoffs, inducing Jung's game-ending, double-play grounder.

Martin Maldonado, the catcher wearing reptile-skin spikes in reference to his pitcher's nickname, and Yorlan Alvarez both had two-run singles for the Astros. Jung hit his second two-run homer in the seventh for the wild-card Rangers, who played only their second home game this postseason. They swept Tampa Bay and Baltimore — the AL's top two teams in the regular season — to get to their first ALCS since 2011 and their first postseason series against their in-state AL West rival.

Game 4 is Thursday night and Game 5 will be Friday afternoon. The Astros have won 17 of their last 20 road games, which includes their two wins at Minnesota in the AL Division Series and

a record-setting series at Globe Life Field in early September, when they homered 16 times and outscored Texas 39-10 in a three-game sweep.

Philadelphia, which got swept in three games at Globe Life Field to open this season, has a 2-0 lead in the NLCS, which resumes Thursday in Arizona.

The Rangers had trailed after only one of the previous 64 innings this postseason until a three-run second that put Houston ahead to stay. Alvarez was hit by a 89 mph cutter on his left foot to start that frame, struggling Kyle Tucker walked and Mauricio Dubón loaded the bases with a single. Alvarez came home as Scherzer bounced a wild pitch off Jonah Heim's mitt and Maldonado, the No. 9 batter, followed with his big hit

Altuve, who went deep five times in that September series, homered leading off the third. José Abreu

doubled on the first pitch in the fourth and scored a single by Dubón for a 5-0 lead.

When Scherzer got to the dugout and stopped on the steps after those consecutive Ks, there was a brief conversation with manager Bruce Bochy, who at one point motioned toward the Rangers bullpen in right-center.

The 39-year-old Scherzer, a trade-deadline acquisition from the Mets, gave up five runs and five hits. In his only postseason start for New York, he allowed seven runs and seven hits, including four homers, in 4 2/3 innings in a 7-1 loss to San Diego in the NL Wild Card Series last season.

Scherzer was dealing with forearm tightness six weeks ago when he allowed seven runs — all on three homers — over three innings in the Astros'

(Continued on Page 7)

High School Calendar

THURSDAY, OCT 19

No events scheduled

FRIDAY, OCT 20

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

SATURDAY, OCT 21

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

MONDAY, OCT 23

No events scheduled

TUESDAY, OCT 24

No events scheduled

WEDNESDAY, OCT 25

No events scheduled

THURSDAY, OCT 26

No events scheduled

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell gets a contract extension through March 2027

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell received his long-expected contract extension on Wednesday.

"The Compensation Committee updated the full ownership today that an agreement has been reached to extend Commissioner Roger Goodell's contract for three years, through March 2027," the league announced in a statement.

A person familiar with the details told The Associated Press that Goodell's deal includes clauses for extension or succession. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because details weren't released.

Goodell's current contract was set to expire in spring 2024.

"It really was quite simple," Goodell said. "It was just a matter of getting to it. It wasn't much of a discussion. I'm obviously honored to do this job."

Financial terms of Goodell's new contract weren't immediately known. He reportedly earned \$63.9 million for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons.

The 64-year-old Goodell has served as commissioner since succeeding Paul Tagliabue in 2006. He began his NFL career as an administrative intern in 1982 under then-Commissioner Pete Rozelle.

Under Goodell's leadership, the NFL's popularity and revenue have skyrocketed. The Washington Commanders were sold for a record \$6.05 billion earlier this year.

"I think it was unified, I think everyone was behind it and it just takes a while to get those things done," Colts owner Jim Irsay said of the extension. "I really think everyone is in favor, everyone is excited and everyone acknowledges the job that Roger has done. Like Paul Tagliabue, I think Roger will be in the Hall of Fame someday."

Goodell also has dealt with intense scrutiny and criticism regarding the league's handling of off-field issues involving players, including domestic violence, and the initial response to Colin Kaepernick's call for social justice by kneeling during the national anthem.

Phil Mickelson claims more players want to go to Saudi-backed LIV

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

Phil Mickelson sounded confident as ever Wednesday that more PGA Tour and European tour players would jump to Saudi-funded LIV Golf next year, even as the league was denied in its bid to get world ranking points.

"Do I think that? No. I know that's going to happen," Mickelson said at Trump Doral near Miami, site of the season-ending team championship.

"When players look at LIV, they are wanting to be a part of it," he said. "Everybody here is happy and enjoying what we are doing and enjoying the team aspect of it and enjoying each other and the camaraderie and enjoying playing golf globally and all the benefits that come with playing this tour."

Mickelson was viewed as the chief recruiter even before LIV Golf began in June 2022.

LIV picked up several premier players for its inaugural season, such as Dustin Johnson and Brooks Koepka, Bryson DeChambeau and eventually Cameron Smith a month after he won the British Open.

The rebel league this year added Brendan Steele, Danny Lee, Sebastian Munoz, Mito Pereira and Thomas Pieters.

LIV always expected to be playing in 2024 amid an agreement by its Saudi Arabian backers, the PGA Tour and the European tour for a commercial enterprise. That stunning agreement, announced on June 6, has not been finalized.

Key to the agreement was dropping all lawsuits. Below that section was a non-solicitation clause that said the Saudi Public Investment Fund and both tours would no longer recruit players to join their leagues.

The Justice Department, which is conducting an antitrust review, recommended that clause be removed. The tour agreed, saying it was unnecessary because all sides were negotiating the agreement in good faith.

There has been no indication of top players wanting to leave the PGA Tour, which next year will feature eight "signature events" with \$20 million in prize money and limited fields, most of them without a cut.

Mickelson said the number of newcomers would be tied to how many spots were available. LIV relegated four players because they finished at the bottom of the points standings. They face a "promotions" event.

"The reality is I've been fielding calls, as we all have, from players that are free agents to PGA Tour players to DP World Tour players that want to come over," Mickelson said, using the commercial name of the European tour.

One of the obstacles in reaching an agreement on the new business deal is how to integrate team golf and what penalty players would face if they want to return to the PGA Tour or European tour.

The Official World Golf Ranking board last week rejected LIV's bid to be recognized because it operates differently from the other two dozen tours in the system. At issue was LIV having a closed field for the entire season with limited chances to join, along with the team component potentially affecting the integrity of individual play.

LIV now has only two players in the top 50 — Koepka and Smith — and four others who are among the top 100. The majors rely on the world ranking as one of their criteria for granting exemptions to players. Executives from the four majors were the only ones on the OWGR board voting on the LIV application.

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

WNBA

Finals
(Best-of-5)
Las Vegas wins series 3-1
No. 1 Las Vegas 2, No. 2 New York 1
Sunday, Oct. 8: Las Vegas 99, New York 82
Wednesday, Oct. 11: Las Vegas 104, New York 76
Sunday, Oct. 15: New York 87, Las Vegas 73
Wednesday, Oct. 18: Las Vegas 70, New York 69
x-Friday, Oct. 20: Las Vegas at New York, TBD

New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday's Games
Detroit at Ottawa, 1 p.m.
Anaheim at Arizona, 4 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Florida, 7 p.m.
Washington at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Columbus at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
San Jose at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Vegas at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Carolina at Colorado, 9 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Winnipeg at Edmonton, 10 p.m.
Boston at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Waived RB Tony Gonzalez Jr. Designated QB Tyler Murray and S Budda Baker to return from the physically unable to perform (PUP) list and injured reserve to practice.
ATLANTA FALCONS — Released S Jaylin Hawkins from the practice squad. Promoted S Micah Abernathy from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed RB Jacob Saylor to the practice squad.
BALTIMORE RAVENS — Signed S Andrew Adams to the practice squad.
DENVER BRONCOS — Re-signed WR Michael Bandy to the practice squad. Signed Lil Jordan Humphrey from the practice squad to the active roster.
HOUSTON TEXANS — Placed S Eric Murray on injured reserve. Signed CB Alex Austin to the practice squad. Promoted CB D'Angelo Ross from the practice squad to the active roster. Claimed DE Mjaj Sanders off waivers from Arizona. Released LB Cory Littleton.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Promoted QB Nathan Rourke from the practice squad to the active roster.
LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Signed CB Tyler Hall. Placed S Roderic Teamer on injured reserve. Signed TE John Samuel Shenker to the practice squad.
LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Claimed S Jaylin Hawkins off waivers from Atlanta. Placed DB Raheem Layne on injured reserve.
LOS ANGELES RAMS — Placed RB Ronnie Rivers on injured reserve. Signed RB Myles Gaskin from the Minnesota practice squad.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Designated CB Jalen Ramsey to return from injured reserve to practice.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Placed OLB Marcus Davenport on injured reserve. Reinstated RB Kene Nwagwu from injured reserve. Designated WR Jalen Nailor to return from injured reserve to practice. Signed WR Trish-ton Jackson to the practice squad.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed RB Patrick Taylor and DE William Bradley-King to the practice squad. Released DE Manny Jones and WR T.J. Luther from the practice squad.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Promoted OL Justin Pugh from the practice squad to the active roster. Released TE Lawrence Cager. Placed OT Joshua Ezeudu on injured reserve. Signed G Jalen Mayfield to the practice squad.
NEW YORK JETS — Traded WR Mecole Hardman to Kansas City.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Signed WR Julio Jones to the practice squad.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released CB Desmond King. Signed CB Darius Rush from Kansas City practice squad.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Promoted WR Cody Thompson from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed WR Cody White and OT Greg Eiland to the practice squad. Released QB Holton Ahlers from the practice squad.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
MINNESOTA WILD — Recalled F Sammy Walker from Iowa (AHL).
NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Assigned G Keith Kincaid to Chicago (AHL).
SAN JOSE SHARKS — Reassigned D Henry Thrun to San Jose (AHL).
VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Returned D Akito Hirose to Abbotsford (AHL). Recalled D Mark Friedman from Abbotsford.
SOCCER
Major League Soccer
NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION — Signed F Malcolm Fry to a contract beginning in 2024 through 2026.

BASEBALL

MLB

Postseason Baseball Glimpse 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 8, Rangers 5
Thursday, Oct. 19: Houston at Texas, 8:03 p.m. (FS1)
x-Friday, Oct. 20: Houston at Texas, 5:07 p.m. (FS1)
x-Sunday, Oct. 22: Texas at Houston, 8:03 p.m. (FS1)
x-Monday, Oct. 23: Texas at Houston, 8:03 p.m. (Fox, FS1)
National League
(All Games on TBS)
Philadelphia 2, Arizona 0
Monday, Oct. 16: Philadelphia 5, Arizona 3
Tuesday, Oct. 17: Philadelphia 10, Arizona 0
Thursday, Oct. 19: Philadelphia (Suarez 4-6) at Arizona (Pfaadt 3-9), 5:07 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 20: Philadelphia at Arizona, 8:07 p.m.
x-Saturday, Oct. 21: Philadelphia at Arizona, 8:07 p.m.
x-Monday, Oct. 23: Arizona at Philadelphia, 5:07 p.m.
x-Tuesday, Oct. 24: Arizona at Philadelphia, 8:07 p.m.

HOCKEY

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	4	3	1	0	6	19	10
Detroit	4	3	1	0	6	19	11
Boston	2	2	0	0	4	6	3
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

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Carolina	4	3	1	0	6	20	17
N.Y. Islanders	2	0	0	0	4	4	2
N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	0	4	10	7
Philadelphia	3	2	1	0	4	8	7
Pittsburgh	4	2	2	0	4	14	12
New Jersey	3	1	1	1	3	10	11
Columbus	3	1	2	0	2	7	11
Washington	3	1	2	0	2	4	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	3	3	0	0	6	11	4
Minnesota	3	2	1	0	4	11	9
Chicago	4	2	2	0	4	11	9
Dallas	2	1	0	1	3	4	4
St. Louis	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Winnipeg	3	1	2	0	2	10	14
Arizona	3	1	2	0	2	5	6
Nashville	4	1	3	0	2	9	14

Pacific Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	4	4	0	0	8	15	5
Vancouver	3	2	1	0	4	12	6
Los Angeles	3	1	1	1	3	12	12
Calgary	3	1	1	1	3	9	7
Anaheim	2	1	1	0	2	7	7
Edmonton	3	1	2	0	2	10	13
San Jose	3	0	2	1	1	5	12
Seattle	4	0	3	1	1	3	13

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.

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 4, Seattle 1
Carolina 6, San Jose 3
Vegas 3, Dallas 2, SO

Wednesday's Games

Ottawa 6, Washington 1
Detroit 6, Pittsburgh 3
Thursday's Games
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Nashville at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Florida, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Philadelphia, 7:30 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.

TRANSACTIONS

Wednesday's Transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
National League
CINCINNATI REDS — Sent RHP Ben Lively outright to Louisville (IL).
COLORADO ROCKIES — Sent RHPs Matt Koch and Karl Kauffmann and LHP Ty Blach outright to Albuquerque (PCL).
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Sent 2B Michael Chavis, OF Blake Rutherford and RHP Hobie Harris outright to Rochester (IL).
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
CHICAGO BULLS — Waived F's Derrick Favors and Kahli Whitney.
DENVER NUGGETS — Waived C Amida Brimah and F Jamorko Pickett.
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS — Waived G Yun Collins.
INDIANA PACERS — Waived G's Kyle Mangas and Darius McGhee and F Reid Travis.
MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Waived F Timmy Allen and G Jason Preston.
MILWAUKEE BUCKS — Waived G's Jazzan Gortman and Omari Moore and F Drew Timme.
MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES — Waived G Vit Krejci.
NEW YORK KNICKS — Waived G Jaylen Martin and F Isaiah Roby.
ORLANDO MAGIC — Waived G Miye Oni.

Browns QB Watson still out with right shoulder injury, can't put timeline on return

By TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Deshaun Watson's return is either imminent, a day or two away or not happening for another few weeks.

Nothing is certain at the moment with Cleveland's \$230 million starting quarterback.

Dealing with a "tricky" injury he described as a strain — and not a bruise as previously reported by the team — to the rotator cuff in his right shoulder, Watson, who has already missed two games, said Wednesday he doesn't know when he'll be back.

"It can be any day," Watson said. "It can be tomorrow. It could be Sunday. It can be two weeks from now. I'm not even sure. It's day to day and I'm following the steps of the medical team and when that time is ready, then I'm going to go out there."

"I can't put a timeline on anything right now."

Watson didn't practice Wednesday — he hasn't since Sept. 29 — as the Browns (3-2) ramped up preparations for Sunday's game against the Indianapolis Colts (3-3).

Speaking to reporters for the first time in three weeks, Watson provided some details about the injury, which happened on a designed running play in Cleveland's 27-3 win over Tennessee on Sept. 24.

Watson called it a strain, and said he has a "micro tear" in his throwing shoulder, an ailment more common to baseball pitchers than QBs. Working in concert with the team's medical staff, he said he's diligently rehabbing and making progress.

"It's coming along. The arrow has been trending up," he said.

However, Watson did not answer a question about whether he's been able to

throw with any velocity.

"It's not so much of the pain. It's mostly if I can throw the football," he said. "The pain, I can deal with certain pain tolerance, but if I can't control the football, I can't throw the football with no velocity. If I can't throw the football more than a certain amount of yards, then I don't want to handicap the team."

If Watson can't play this week, the Browns will again start P.J. Walker, who was moved ahead of rookie Dorian Thompson-Robinson on the depth chart a week ago and then made enough plays to help Cleveland stun San Francisco 19-17 on Sunday.

Coach Kevin Stefanski hasn't ruled out Watson yet, but confirmed Walker will get the bulk of practice reps.

Stefanski has seen Watson throw in the past week, but wouldn't say if the 28-year-old was close to playing.

"I'm just going to say he's making progress," Stefanski said.

Watson said he didn't know the full extent of his injury until results from an MRI came back the night before the Oct. 1 game against Baltimore. He still wanted to try and play, but realized he couldn't after struggling to throw without pain in an on-field workout three hours before kickoff.

As much as he wants to play, Watson won't go back on the field if he's not fully healthy.

"I don't want to get out there and be hesitant throwing the ball or anything like that," he said. "So I'm not going to put myself first in this situation. I'm going to put the team first. And the situation right now is P.J. (Walker) going out there and performing like he did Sunday to help my team win."

The Browns are 1-1

without Watson. Thompson-Robinson started against the Ravens and threw three interceptions in a 28-3 loss. Walker was on the practice squad until a few days before the Browns shocked the 49ers.

Before getting hurt, Watson had his best game since being acquired last year from Houston. In his ninth start with the Browns, he completed 27 of 33 passes for 289 yards and two touchdowns against the Titans.

The injury is another layoff for Watson, who sat out the 2021 season after demanding that the Texans trade him. Last season, he was suspended 11 games by the NFL for violating the league's personal conduct policy after he was accused of sexual assault and harassment by more than two dozen women.

While the latest setback isn't something he can control, it's nonetheless irritating.

"It's definitely frustrating," Watson said. "I want to be on the field. ... But it's part of the game. It comes with it. I got to deal with the adversity and just take it as it comes and continue to be a leader as I am and keep helping the guys around me."

"And when that time come, I can step on the field and go out there and help the team win."

NOTES: All-Pro G Joel Bitonio practiced for the first time since undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery during the bye week. ... LB Anthony Walker Jr. (concussion) and K Dustin Hopkins (personal) were out. ... CB Greg Newsome II (hamstring), TE Harrison Bryant (hip) and RB Kareem Hunt (thigh) did side work. ... Hopkins was named AFC Special Teams Player of the Week after making four field goals against the Niners.

Aces win WNBA title

(Continued from Page 6)

the season between these teams. The four regular-season matchups were all blowouts with the closest contest being a nine-point win by New York on Aug. 28. The first three games of the WNBA Finals were also routs, with New York winning Game 3 87-73 to stave off elimination.

Game 4 was so tense that Ionescu was seen vomiting into a trash can during a timeout midway through the fourth quarter, shortly after she hit a 3-pointer to get the Liberty within 60-58. Ionescu stayed in the game after the timeout.

STAR-STUDDED CROWD
Once again, New York

drew dozens of celebrities to the game, including basketball royalty Sue Bird and Dawn Staley — the South Carolina coach who loudly cheered on her former star player, Wilson — along with Liberty Ring of Honor members Vickie Johnson and Sue Wicks. Actors Jennifer Connelly, Issa Rae and Jason Sudeikis also attended.

Astros top Rangers

(Continued from Page 6)

12-3 win that wrapped up that September series. He threw 5 1/3 scoreless innings six days later, on Sept. 12 at Toronto, before going on the injured list because of the shoulder strain.

Javier was done after rookie Evan Carter's hard two-out liner to right in the sixth, a ball that sailed over Tucker's head to the wall after being misplayed into a double by the Gold Glove finalist. Hector Neris then replaced Javier, and the inning quickly ended with a defensive gem.

Left-fielder Michael Brantley, a 36-year-old five-

time All-Star who returned in August after missing 14 months with a shoulder injury, sprinted more than 80 feet to make a diving catch in the gap and take an extra-base hit away from Adolis Garcia.

That still wasn't the best defensive play of the night.

Alvarez got robbed of what would have been his seventh homer this postseason on a 416-foot drive to straightaway center leading off the sixth, where Leody Taveras made a leaping catch with his arm extended beyond the wall.

LOT OF ZEROES
Javier's 20 1/3 innings

passed Joe Niekro's 18 innings for the longest scoreless streak in Astros history, for starters or relievers. It is the second-longest MLB scoreless streak for a starter in his first postseason starts, behind Christy Mathewson's 28 innings from 1905-11.

FIVE TEAMS

Scherzer became the second pitcher to start for five teams in the postseason following appearances for Detroit, Washington, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the New York Mets. David Wells started for Cincinnati, Baltimore, the Yankees, Boston and San Diego from 1989-2006.

Messi earns \$20.4 million under contract with MLS Inter Miami

By RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Lionel Messi's annualized compensation from his Major League Soccer contract with Inter Miami is just over \$20.4 million, the MLS Players Association said Wednesday.

Messi earns more than the entire payroll of all but three other MLS teams and twice as much as every player combined on Orlando City.

The 36-year-old star has a \$12 million base salary and total guaranteed compensation of \$20,446,667, the players association said in its 2023 salary update.

Those figures cover what Messi receives from

his MLS deal, which runs through the 2025 season, including any marketing bonus and agent's fees. They do not account for any additional agreements with the team or its affiliates, or for any performance bonuses.

He has the highest total compensation in MLS, followed by Toronto's Lorenzo Insigne at \$15.4 million, Chicago's Xherdan Shaqiri at \$8,153,000, the LA Galaxy's Javier Hernandez at \$7,443,750, Toronto's Federico Bernardeschi at \$6,295,381 and Austin's Sebastian Driussi at \$6,022,500.

Miami tops the league with a \$39.4 million payroll based on total guaranteed

compensation, followed by Toronto at \$32.3 million, the LA Galaxy at \$25 million and LAFC at \$20.8 million.

Messi earns more than twice the \$9.6 million payroll of Orlando City, which has the lowest in the league. He accounts for 4% of MLS's total compensation of \$501.9 million.

Messi has made three league starts and five appearances for Miami, totaling 283 minutes and scoring one goal. He also helped the team win the inaugural Leagues Cup, scoring 10 goals in seven games.

Josef Martinez is Miami's second-highest-compensated player at \$4,391,667.



NASCAR CUP SERIES
4EVER 400 presented by Mobil 1
Site: Homestead, Florida.
Schedule: Saturday, practice, 9:05 a.m., and qualifying, 9:50 a.m.; Sunday, race, 2:30 p.m. (NBC).
Last race: Larson became the first driver locked into NASCAR's title-deciding finale in the opening playoff race of the round of eight, winning at Las Vegas and keeping him in contention for a second Cup title in three years.
Next race: Oct. 29, Martinsville, Virginia.

NASCAR XFINITY SERIES
Contender Boats 300
Site: Homestead, Florida.
Schedule: Friday, practice, 6:05 p.m., and qualifying, 6:35 p.m.; Saturday, race, 3 p.m. (USA).
Track: Homestead-Miami Speedway.
Race distance: 200 laps, 300 miles.
Last race: Riley Herbst raced his first career NASCAR Xfinity Series victory, a dominating 14.9-second win at Las Vegas.
Next race: Oct. 28, Martinsville, Virginia.

NASCAR TRUCK SERIES
Baptist Health Cancer Care 200
Site: Homestead, Florida.
Schedule: Friday, practice, 4:05 p.m., and qualifying, 4:35 p.m.; Saturday, race, noon, (FS1).
Track: Homestead-Miami Speedway.
Next race: Nov. 3, Avondale, Arizona.

FORMULA ONE
United States Grand Prix
Site: Austin, Texas.
Schedule: Friday, practice, 1:30 p.m., and qualifying, 5 p.m.; Saturday, Sprint shootout, 1:30 p.m., and Sprint, 6 p.m.; Sunday, race, 3 p.m. (ESPN).
Next race: Oct. 29, Mexico City.

INDYCAR
Last race: Scott Dixon won at Laguna Seca, his third win of the season, all in the last four races. The six-time champion gave Chip Ganassi Racing a 1-2 finish in the standings.
Next race: 2024 season opener at St. Petersburg, Florida.

NHRA DRAG RACING
Last event: Leah Pruett won in Top Fuel and Matt Hagan won in Funny Car in Texas.
Next event: OCT. 26-29, Las Vegas.

WORLD OF OUTLAWS
Next events: Friday-Saturday, Mesquite, Texas.

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Excessive photographer making me want to snap

Dear Annie: We have a friend who takes a lot of photos. He carries his digital camera with him all the time. He loves to capture the moment — 24/7, 365. He takes pictures of everything!

We have become accustomed to all this, but it is still rather annoying and somewhat rude and invasive the way he goes about it. When my mother passed away, he was at the church service with the ever-present camera around his neck. He did keep it covered with the program, and we did not actually see him take pictures, but I'm sure he did. That was very upsetting at a very difficult time. A funeral is not the place for pictures.

Now, two years later, this still bothers me. Others who know him say that's just the way he is, he will never change. Some say just let it go; others think I should talk to him. I'm not sure how I would start a discussion with him. Your thoughts? — Too Many Photos

Dear Too Many Photos: It is completely understandable that you feel your privacy is being invaded when you are photographed without permission — especially at an event as sensitive as a funeral. This problem is becoming more common every day with the rise of smartphones, social media and home security cameras.

I would definitely recommend talking to your friend if you haven't done so already. Politely request that he leave you out of the photos he takes; it really is that simple. Explain to him that you value your privacy. You can even tell him you admire his passion for photography to soften any perceived blow.

Dear Annie: I am mom to an only child, "Justin," who is now 30. We have always been close. A few years ago, Justin met a girl: "Lily." This girl is very jealous and also anti-social. I did my best to try to get to know Lily, but she

was resistant.

She began to keep Justin away from friends and family. They soon moved a few hundred miles away to be close to her mom. Justin began to tell me not to call him because he needed time with Lily. Lily then became sick with a series of undiagnosed conditions. Then, out of the blue, Justin cut off all communication with me, his dad and all of the family.

The only "explanation" he had for this was "you know what you did." I don't know what he possibly could be referring to. It's now been three years since I've had any contact with my only son. I have come to believe that Lily told Justin that I said or did something in order to keep him isolated. I hate the thought that he believes I did something so hurtful that he doesn't want to speak to me. He's an adult, but he's also my son. I tried to just show up at his home, but he wouldn't come to the door. I am at a loss. What else can I do? — Lost Son

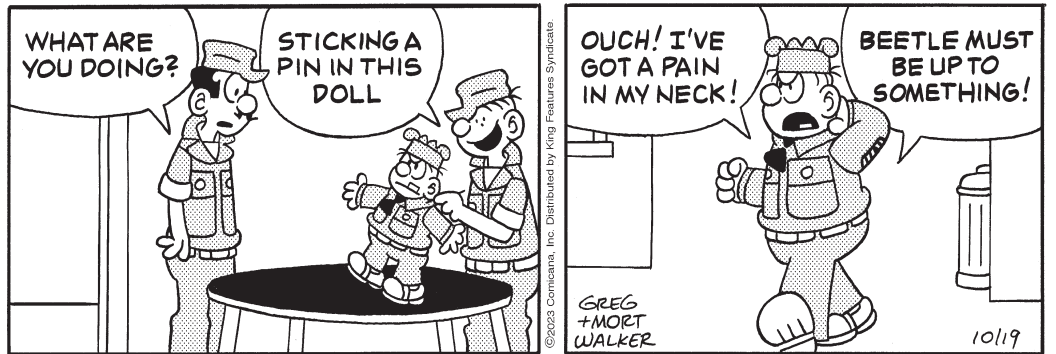
Dear Lost Son: Your son is in a toxic relationship, and it sounds like Lily might even have a personality disorder. It's very hard to get through to someone in a relationship like this; the best you can do is let Justin know that you love him and you are there for him. Offer yourself as a safe space for him. Hopefully he will come to realize that Lily is not a positive force in his life, but he will have to arrive at that conclusion on his own.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2023 CREATORS.COM

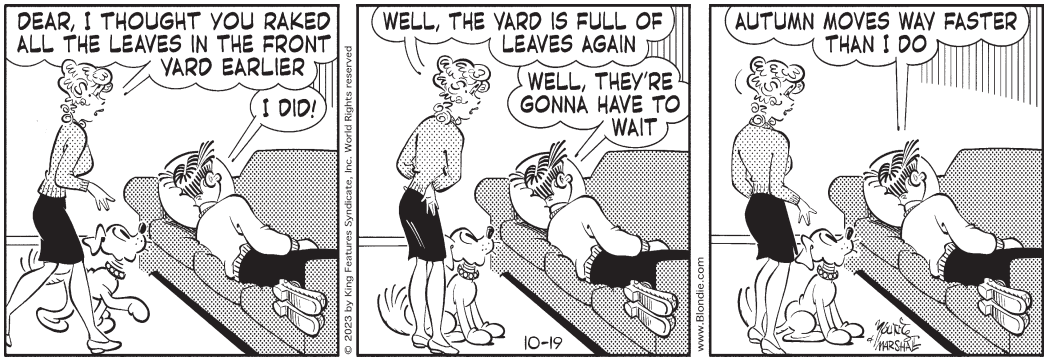
Dear Annie



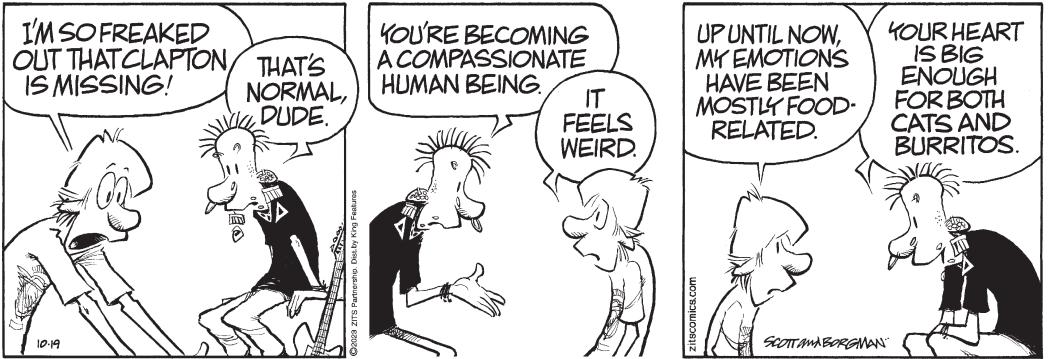
BEETLE BAILEY



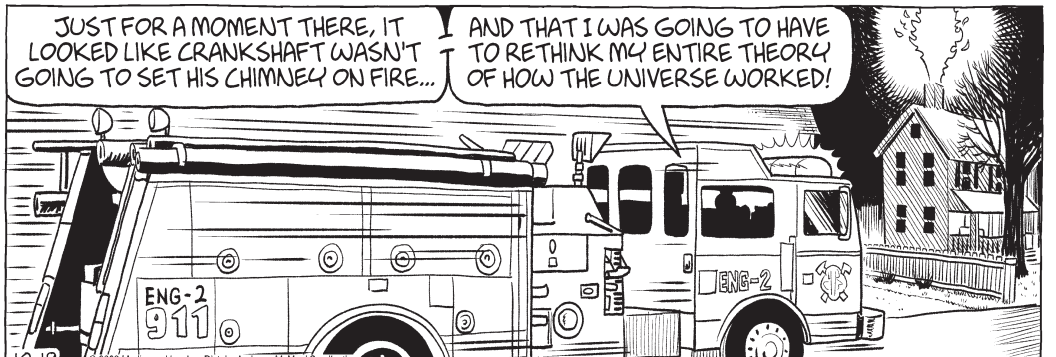
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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Natural religion contains just enough truth to make it deceptive

Q: What does the Bible say about natural religion, sometimes called false religion? — N.R.

A: From the very beginning of time, "natural" religion was introduced onto the human stage as a substitute for God's plan. The Apostle Paul describes this in his letter to the Romans, using references of images resembling birds, animals, and serpents to illustrate man-made religion. But this doesn't describe all its forms. Today there are many new and more sophisticated religious expressions — especially at some universities — but they are really from the same root: man seeking God consciously or unconsciously.

Paul describes man's corruption of God's revelation: "For since the

creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasonings, and their senseless hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools ... For they exchanged the truth of God for falsehood, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever" (Romans 1:20-25, NASB).

Paul was simply saying that all men everywhere possess at least a primitive knowledge of God. God created all of us in His image; everyone

is answerable to the light that He revealed to them. God's nature will bear witness of His divine power to whom everyone will answer. God calls out to mankind to receive Him.

Natural religion contains just enough truth to make it deceptive. It may contain elements of truth, or high ethical standards. Some of its followers at times use terms that sound like the language of the Bible. Religion of man may have a very pleasant sound, but true faith in God is knowing Him and the power of His resurrection (see Philippians 3:10).

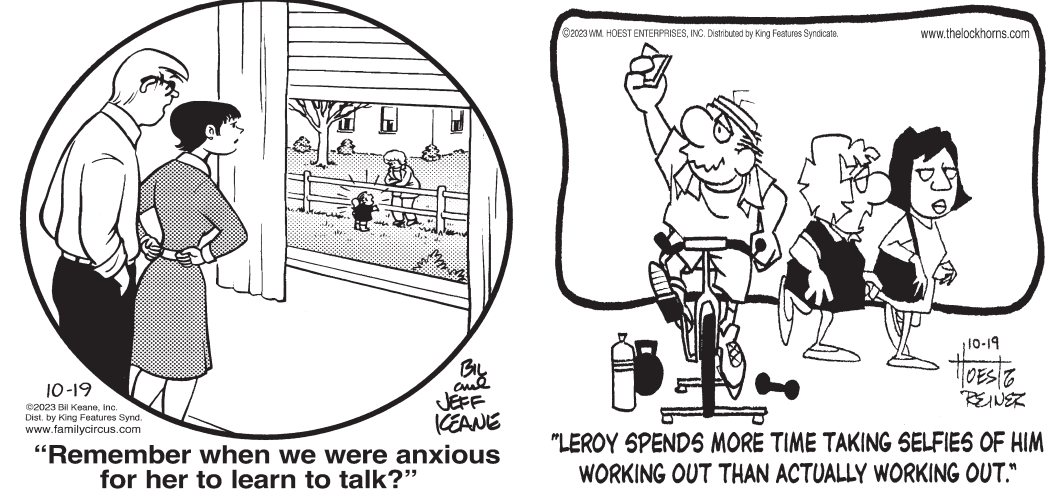
(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid and clues: ACROSS 1 Shapeless mass, 5 PC program, 8 Swedish auto, 12 Gushing review, 13 Chit river, 14 French topped with frosting, 16 Documentarian Burns, 17 Hosp. scans, 18 Red wine, 20 Eucalyptus eaters, 22 Sashimi fish, 23 Frazier foe, 24 Unwanted email, 27 Lattices, 32 "Do — say!", 33 — polloi, 34 Rock producer Brian, 35 Ava DuVernay, for one. DOWN 19 "Side-ways" actress Sandra, 21 Feedbag tidbit, 24 Melancholy, 25 Omega preceder, 26 Touch up a photo, 28 Kanga's kid, 29 Fools, 30 Bearded beast, 31 Weep, 36 Builds lettuce variety, 38 Snafu, 41 Pacino of "The Irishman", 42 Israel's Golda, 43 Author Ferber, 44 Streetcar, 46 Sneeze syllable, 47 Golf bag item, 48 Walrus tooth, 51 Genetic stuff.

Television schedule table with columns for time slots (10:19 to 12:30) and channels (WINM, CBS, etc.) listing various programs and their descriptions.

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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

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

Difficulty: ★★★

10/19

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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 handmade crafts. Raffle items are vendor donated. All proceeds donated to Honor Flight of Northeast Indiana.

NOTICE

Notices

ONE STOP SHELL! New Owners! Krispy Krunchy Chicken-freshly made, perfectly Cajun. It's delicious! All new-Hot Stuff Pizzas. Perfect for any day of the week! Get Free fountain drink with purchase of family chicken meal, breakfast pizza or breakfast sandwich-offer good through November 1st. We look forward to seeing you soon! 1303 South Main-Bluffton. (EAP2)

FOR SALE

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BULL'S-EYE!
EARN EXTRA CASH by selling your "unwanted" items during 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.

Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 16-18-19-39-41
Lotto Plus — 04-14-21-28-29-44
Cash4Life — 02-16-18-43-57, Cash Ball: 03
Quick Draw Midday — 01-02-05-10-11-13-14-18-20-22-26-28-33-36-37-51-52-57-62-73, BE: 20
Daily Three-Midday — 08-06-02, SB: 00
Daily Three-Evening — 08-08-00-00, SB: 03
Daily Four-Midday — 01-00-03-00, SB: 00
Daily Four-Evening — 08-07-04, SB: 03
Quick Draw Evening — 01-02-08-23-25-26-27-28-29-30-33-44-47-49-57-60-62-72-77-79, BE: 44
Hoosier Lotto — 06-09-14-17-21-33
MEGA MILLIONS
Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$91 million
POWERBALL
01-04-13-35-58 Powerball: 24; Power Play: 2X

EMPLOYMENT Help Wanted

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

WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE is currently seeking applicants for the position of Full Time Court Security Supervisor. This position oversees the coordination of the day-to-day operations for the protection and security of the Wells 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. 20-year 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". A full job description will also be listed on the website for review.

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NOTICE OF HEARING FOR AREA PLAN COMMISSION 10/13/23

Notice is hereby given that the AREA PLAN COMMISSION will hold a Public Hearing in Conference Room 105 in the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St., in the City of Bluffton, IN at 7:00 o'clock P.M. on the 2nd day of November, 2023, for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comment on the request of Sarah J Reed Trust, 1703 Western Ave., Bluffton, IN 46714 for the purpose of a Division of a Minor Subdivision.
Current Zoning: I-1
Proposed Division of a Minor Subdivision: 3.49 acres
Common Location: The subject property is located at 1703 Western Ave., Bluffton, Indiana. 46714
Brief Legal: The subject property is described as 21.48 acres SW/4 5-26N-12E in Harrison Township of Wells County.
Dated this 13th day of October, 2023
WELLS COUNTY AREA PLAN COMMISSION
Michael Lautzenheiser, Jr., Director
oj, nb 10/19 hspaxlp

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR AREA PLAN COMMISSION 10/13/23

Notice is hereby given that the AREA PLAN COMMISSION will hold a Public Hearing in Conference Room 105 in the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St., in the City of Bluffton, IN at 7:00 o'clock P.M. on the 2nd day of November, 2023, for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comment on the request of Sarah J Reed Trust, 1703 Western Ave., Bluffton, IN 46714 for the purpose of a Development Plan.
Current Zoning: I-1
Proposed Development Plan: Proposed Commercial Buildings 12'16" x 61'6" and 30' x 56'.
Common Location: The subject property is located at 1703 Western Ave., Bluffton, Indiana. 46714
Brief Legal: The subject property is described as 21.48 acres SW/4 5-26N-12E in Harrison Township of Wells County.
Dated this 13th day of October, 2023
WELLS COUNTY AREA PLAN COMMISSION
Michael Lautzenheiser, Jr., Director
oj, nb 10/19 hspaxlp

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Wells County, Indiana, that the County Council of said County, will meet at the Courthouse Annex in Bluffton, Indiana at 7:00 O'clock p.m. on **Wednesday, the 8th day of November 2023**, to consider the following additional appropriations more than the budget for the current year.

DRUG FREE COMMUNITY (CADA)	
Other Services (1148-30206-000-0000)	\$5,532.01
Treatment (1148-31005-000-0000)	\$5,532.02
Education/Prevention (1148-31103-000-0000)	\$5,532.02
Judicial (1148-31205-000-0000)	\$5,532.02
HIGHWAY - ADMINISTRATION	
Supervisor (1176-11103-000-0530)	\$5,000.00
Clerk/Bookkeeper (1176-11402-000-0530)	\$210.00

oj, nb 10/19 hspaxlp

This Week's Garage Sales



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

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.

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

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

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

GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE Friday/Saturday, October 20-21, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., 216 East Central Avenue, Bluffton. Boys and girls name brand clothes, coats, and shoes sizes 6 to XL, Power Wheels, girls bicycles, toys and games, elliptical trainer, sporting goods, Christmas decorations, antique furniture, glasses, sport cards and sports figures, recliner. FREE 14 foot trampoline.

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

Public Notices

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR AREA PLAN COMMISSION 10/13/23

Notice is hereby given that the AREA PLAN COMMISSION will hold a Public Hearing in Conference Room 105 in the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St., in the City of Bluffton, IN at 7:00 o'clock P.M. on the 2nd day of November, 2023, for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comment on the request of Troxel Equipment Co., 5068 E 100 N, Bluffton, IN 46714 for the purpose of a Rezoning.
Current Zoning: A-1
Proposed Rezoning: B-3
Common Location: The subject property is located at 5031 E 100 N, Bluffton, Indiana. 46781
Brief Legal: The subject property is described as 2.4 acres SW/4 25-27N-12E in Lancaster Township of Wells County.
Dated this 13th day of October, 2023
WELLS COUNTY AREA PLAN COMMISSION
Michael Lautzenheiser, Jr., Director
oj, nb 10/19 hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

61/01	***-7123	Difficulty						
1	8	6	9	9	7	8	2	1
1	7	9	8	8	2	9	1	6
8	2	9	6	1	1	7	9	8
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2	9	1	8	9	8	6	1	7
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6	1	8	2	8	9	1	7	9
8	9	2	9	7	1	1	6	8

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U.S. sanctions 10 Hamas members, financial network over Israel attack

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States on Wednesday sanctioned a group of 10 Hamas members and the Palestinian militant organization's financial network across Gaza, Sudan, Turkey, Algeria and Qatar in response to the surprise attack on Israel that left more than 1,000 people dead or kidnapped.

Targeted for sanctions by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control are members who manage a Hamas investment portfolio, a Qatar-based financial facilitator with close ties to the Iranian regime, a Hamas commander and a Gaza-based virtual currency exchange.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the U.S. "is taking swift and decisive action to target Hamas's financiers and facilitators following its brutal and unconscionable massacre of Israeli civilians, including children."

"The U.S. Treasury has a long history of effectively disrupting terror finance and we will not hesitate to use our tools against Hamas," she said in an emailed statement.

The sanctions are financial penalties meant to block access to funds held in the U.S. and to prevent the people and entities from doing business with American people and firms.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken noted that the sanctions are "directed at Hamas terrorists and their support network, not Palestinians."

"Hamas alone is responsible for the carnage its militants have inflicted on the people of Israel, and it should immediately release all hostages in its custody," Blinken said. "The United States will not relent in using all the tools at our disposal to disrupt Hamas terrorist activity."

A Hamas financier and several operatives were sanctioned, the Treasury Department said. Also, a Qatar-based Hamas operative and a Hamas military relations

commander, who is believed to have been killed in an airstrike on Tuesday, were sanctioned for having acted on behalf of Hamas, the U.S. said. Additionally, a Gaza-based company that provides money transfer and virtual currency exchange services was hit with sanctions, as was its owner.

The Treasury Department highlighted that Hamas relies on small-dollar donations, including through cryptocurrency. The cryptocurrency tracking firm Elliptic said that "to the extent that Hamas has used crypto in the past, it is a relatively small and alternative source of funding" and has proved vulnerable to detection and disruption.

The White House has said it has yet to uncover information that Iran, the principal financial and military sponsor of Hamas, was directly involved in the multipronged Hamas operation — the biggest attack on Israel in decades. U.S. officials have said their intelligence does not show a direct role by Iran and have not pointed blame at Tehran.

Treasury Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo told reporters on Wednesday that Treasury officials will be traveling to the region in the coming days to further their sanctions work.

Brian Nelson, U.S. Treasury's under secretary for terrorism and illicit finance, said at a Deloitte anti-money laundering conference on Tuesday that the U.S. is renewing its plans to pursue Hamas funding streams and made a call for American allies and the private sector to do the same or "be prepared to suffer the consequences."

"We cannot, and we will not, tolerate money flowing through the international system for Hamas' terrorist activity," Nelson said.

"We want to partner with all willing countries and financial entities to stop Hamas financing," he said, "but to the extent that any institution or jurisdiction fails to take appropriate action, they should then be prepared to suffer the consequences."

Israel will let Egypt deliver some aid to Gaza, as doctors struggle to treat hospital blast victims

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel said Wednesday that it will allow Egypt to deliver limited humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip. The first crack in a punishing 10-day siege on the territory came one day after a blast at a hospital killed hundreds and put immense strain on Gaza's struggling medical system.

The announcement to allow water, food and other supplies happened as fury over the blast at Gaza City's al-Ahli Hospital spread across the Middle East, and as U.S. President Joe Biden visited Israel in hopes of preventing a wider conflict in the region.

There were conflicting claims of who was behind the explosion on Tuesday night, but protests flared quickly in the region as many Arab leaders said Israel was responsible. Hamas officials in Gaza quickly blamed an Israeli airstrike, saying hundreds were killed. Israel denied it was involved and released a flurry of video, audio and other information that it said showed the blast was instead due to a rocket misfire by Islamic Jihad, another militant group operating in Gaza. Islamic Jihad dismissed that claim.

The Associated Press has not independently verified any of the claims or evidence.

Israel shut off all supplies to Gaza soon after Hamas militants rampaged across communities in southern Israel on Oct. 7. As supplies run out, many families in Gaza have cut down to one meal a day and have been left to drink dirty water.

The bloody devastation at al-Ahli threw the siege's impact into sharp relief. Video from the scene showed the hospital grounds strewn with torn bodies, many of them young children. Hundreds of wounded were rushed to another Gaza hospital where doctors, already facing critical sup-

ply shortages, performed surgery on the floors, often without anesthesia.

Biden said Egypt's president agreed to open the crossing and to let in an initial group of 20 trucks with humanitarian aid. If Hamas confiscates aid, "it will end," he said. The aid will start moving Friday at the earliest, White House officials said.

Egypt must still repair the road across the border that was cratered by Israeli airstrikes. More than 200 trucks and some 3,000 tons of aid are positioned at or near the Rafah crossing, Gaza's only connection to Egypt, said the head of the Red Crescent for North Sinai, Khalid Heyat.

Supplies will go in under supervision of the U.N., Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry told Al-Arabiya TV. Asked if foreigners and dual nationals seeking to leave would be let through, he said: "As long as the crossing is operating normally and the (crossing) facility has been repaired."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the decision was approved after a request from Biden. It said Israel "will not thwart" deliveries of food, water or medicine from Egypt, as long as they are limited to civilians in the south of the Gaza Strip and don't go to Hamas militants. The statement made no mention of fuel, which is badly needed for hospital generators.

Relatives of roughly 200 people who were taken hostage and forced back to Gaza during the attack reacted in fury to the aid announcement.

"Children, infants, women, soldiers, men, and elderly, some with serious illnesses, wounded and shot, are held underground like animals," said a statement from the Hostage and Missing Families Forum. But "the Israeli government pampers the murderers and kidnappers."

The shadowy leader of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, said the Oct. 7 assault on Israel was in response to the 16-year blockade of Gaza, Israeli raids inside West Bank cities over the past year, increasing attacks by settlers on Palestinians and the growth of settlements, among other reasons.

"Enough is enough," Deif, who does not appear in public, said in the recorded message. He said the attack was only the start of what he called Operation Al-Aqsa Storm,

and he called on Palestinians from east Jerusalem to northern Israel to join the fight.

President Joe Biden, who arrived in the Middle East early Wednesday to show support for Israel, has tried to tamp down tensions in the escalating war between Israel and Hamas, but those efforts have faced massive setbacks, including an explosion at a Gaza hospital that the hospital said killed hundreds.

There were conflicting claims

of who was responsible for the hospital blast. Officials in Gaza quickly blamed an Israeli airstrike. Israel denied it was involved and released a flurry of video, audio and other information that it said showed the blast was instead due to a missile misfire by Islamic Jihad, another militant group operating in Gaza. The Islamic Jihad dismissed that claim. The Associated Press has not independently verified any of the claims or evidence released by the parties.

Chief suspect admits he killed Natalee Holloway in Aruba in 2005

Pleads guilty to extorting her mother

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — The chief suspect in the disappearance of Natalee Holloway has admitted he beat the young Alabama woman to death on a beach in Aruba after she refused his advances, then dumped her body into the sea. New details in the killing emerged Wednesday as Joran van der Sloot pleaded guilty to extorting Holloway's mother, resolving a case that has captivated the public's attention for nearly 20 years.

Although he isn't charged in Holloway's death, van der Sloot's attempt to squeeze a quarter million dollars from the slain teen's mom in exchange for information about where to find Holloway's body gave investigators a crucial link to the 2005 killing. And after finally seeing him in a U.S. courtroom, the family said they're moving on from years of doubt and uncertainty.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's over," Beth Holloway, Natalee's mother, told reporters outside the federal courthouse in Alabama. "Joran van der Sloot is no longer the suspect in my daughter's murder. He is the killer."

Natalee Holloway went missing during a high school graduation trip with classmates. She was last seen May 30, 2005, leaving a bar with van der Sloot, a

Dutch citizen and student at an international school on the Caribbean island where he grew up. He was questioned in the disappearance but never prosecuted. A judge declared Holloway dead, but her body was never found.

Now 36, van der Sloot has pleaded guilty to one count each of extortion and wire fraud in exchange for a 20-year sentence. That prison term will run concurrently with a 28-year sentence he's serving in Peru for killing another woman, Stephany Flores, in 2010.

U.S. Judge Anna Manasco said the details of his confession factored into her sentencing decision.

"You have brutally murdered — in separate instances years apart — two young women who refused your sexual advances," she said.

Shackled and wearing an orange jail uniform, van der Sloot told the crowded courtroom he hopes his confession provides closure.

"I would like the chance to apologize to the Holloway family, my own family," he said, later adding, "I am no longer the person I was back then."

Mark White, an attorney for Natalee's father, Dave Holloway, believes van der Sloot cannot be prosecuted in Aruba — even with his confession — because the statute of limitations has expired.

The Aruba public prosecutor's office said it was not immediately clear whether van der Sloot could face murder charges on the island. The investigation into Holloway's disappearance is still open, and authorities "will follow up on any serious leads," said Ann Angela, a prosecutor's office spokesperson.

Manasco said the plea deal required van der Sloot to provide all the information he knew about Natalee Holloway's disappearance, allow her parents to hear in "real time" his discussion with law enforcement, and take a polygraph test.

Court documents offer a transcript of his confession.

In an interview conducted by his attorney, van der Sloot says he and Holloway were lying on the beach kissing. She started to resist, but he kept touching her, so she kneed him between the legs. He stood up and kicked her "extremely hard" in the face while she was still lying down.

At that point, he says, she was unconscious, or even dead. He says he picked up a nearby cinderblock and brought it down on her face, then dragged her body until he was knee-deep in the waves and pushed her out to sea.

Beth Holloway said in an interview with The Associated Press that it felt "victorious" to see van der Sloot in court and "finally be at the end of this nightmare." The family agreed to the plea deal because it was a way to get answers, she said.

"I'm the mother, and I wanted answers as to what happened to Natalee," Beth Holloway said. "That's what I had been searching for for 18 years."

Natalee's Holloway parents had listened and watched as van der Sloot gave the interview describing what happened. In a letter to the judge, Dave Holloway called van der Sloot "evil personified." He said that after witnessing the confession he believes van der Sloot acted alone as the killer, but he expressed doubts about van der Sloot's story of disposing of the body alone.

"Questions will forever remain about the extent to which others participated in depriving us of the opportunity to return Natalee's remains to Alabama," Dave Holloway wrote in the letter to the judge.

The Holloway family has long sought answers about the disappearance, and van der Sloot has given shifting accounts over the years. At

one point, he said Holloway was buried in gravel under the foundation of a house but later admitted that was untrue.

Five years after the killing, an FBI sting recorded the extortion attempt in which van der Sloot asked Beth Holloway to pay him \$250,000 so he would tell her where to find her daughter's body. He agreed to accept \$25,000 to disclose the location and asked for the other \$225,000 once the remains were recovered.

Before he could be arrested in the extortion case, van der Sloot slipped away by moving from Aruba to Peru. The South

American country agreed to temporarily extradite him to the U.S. to face trial on the extortion charge, and he will return to Peruvian custody after his case is concluded.

Van der Sloot's guilty plea in federal court, a few miles from where Natalee Holloway attended high school, came three days before what would have been her 37th birthday. Standing at a podium in the courtroom, Beth Holloway addressed van der Sloot.

"You are a killer," she said. "I want you to remember that every time that jail door slams."



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OCTOBER 22-OCTOBER 27 - (Online Only Auction) - Michael & Jane Michaud, seller. Single story home situated on 4.55 Acres w/outbuildings. 3 bedroom and 2 full bathrooms with 1,880 square foot and an attached 2 car garage. Open houses: Oct. 19 from 3-6 p.m., Oct. 26 from 4-6 p.m., 1791 W 1000 S, Warren. Pat Carter & Nick Huffman, sale managers. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

OCTOBER 22- OCTOBER 29 - (Online Only Auction) - Harvey E. & Wilma D. King, seller. H&D Repair Center & Body Shop retirement auction. Automotive & body shop equipment, 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.

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