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Getting back home from a war zone

Glenn Ryan part of YMCA group stranded amidst Mid-East conflict

By MARK MILLER

Glenn Ryan had a chance to tour the Holy Land a couple years ago when his wife Rhonda's church organized a trip. He didn't go because he didn't think it was safe.

Undeterred, Rhonda made the trip. She described it as "unforgettable."

Earlier this year, when the Greater Fort Wayne YMCA promoted a cultural trip to Israel for Oct. 6-15, Glenn decided to go based on his wife's experience.

It was also unforgettable, but obviously for different reasons. The group landed in the early morning hours of Saturday, Oct. 7, just as Hamas was launching their attacks along the Gaza border.

"We were watching live TV on the plane," he recalled. "We saw rockets coming in as we were landing."

The Bluffton resident was one of five people in the small group, all associated with the regional YMCA, of which Bluffton's facility and program is a part of. He had retired in 2017 as director of properties and facilities. The leader of the group was Tim Hallman, director of Christian Emphasis and a full-time minister with the YMCA.

The Tel Aviv airport "was a hot mess," Hallman said. Ryan describes it as being "a zoo. People were already trying to get out."

To make matters worse,



On Tuesday, Oct. 10, it felt safe enough to get a walking tour in part of the Old City of Jerusalem. This photo was taken on the roof of a hotel close to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. From left, YMCA staffers JuWan Turner and Tim Hallman, YMCA volunteer Debbie Hesterman, YMCA staffer Sabrina Aossi, and YMCA retiree and Bluffton resident Glenn Ryan. (Photo submitted)

the group soon realized their luggage had not arrived in Israel. They had flown on a Turkish Air flight from Chicago to Istanbul and then on to Tel Aviv.

"It took us an hour to realize that, and then another hour to fill out forms," Hallman continued. "We were told our luggage was in Istanbul and then assured it would be delivered to us (in Jerusalem) but I didn't really believe them."

Their itinerary had them going to Bethlehem after arrival, but Hallman, a Fort

Wayne resident, arranged for a driver to take them to the Jerusalem International YMCA which has hotel rooms.

He immediately reached out to the travel agency that had arranged their tour. "But it turns out they don't have a 24/7 help line," he said. It being a Saturday, his calls went unanswered.

While the travelers settled into their rooms, Hallman began to work on his cell phone. It was immediately assumed that they would not be able to com-

plete their tour and they needed to get out of the country as soon as possible. Getting advice from friends back home, he was advised to contact the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem and his Congressman's office.

Ryan knew that the director of the Columbia City YMCA (also a part of the Greater Fort Wayne group) is a personal friend of Congressman Jim Banks, a Columbia City resident. So Hallman contacted Banks, who promised to make a

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Bluffton resident Glenn Ryan, left, with his traveling companions in Jerusalem. Behind them is the Jerusalem International YMCA and hotel with its distinctive bell tower. With Ryan, from left, are JuWan Turner, a staff member in Fort Wayne; Tim Hallman, Director of Christian Emphasis in Fort Wayne; Sabrina Aossi, a YMCA staff member, and YMCA volunteer Debbie Hesterman. (Photo provided)

Maine mass shooting suspect has been found dead

A teen bowler, shipbuilder, and sign language interpreter are among shooting victims

By HOLLY RAMER, LISA RATHKE and KATHY McCORMACK

Associated Press

The 18 people killed in two mass shootings in Lewiston, Maine, included a 14-year-old bowler, a shipbuilder who loved playing the game of cornhole and a sign language interpreter.

According to Maine State Police, seven people died Wednesday night at Just-In-Time Recreation bowling alley. Six were male and one was female. Eight more people, all male, died at Schemengees Bar and Grille. Three others died after being taken to hospitals.

Bill and Aaron Young

Bill Young, 44, of Winthrop, had taken his 14-year-old son, Aaron, to play

in a youth bowling league at Just-in-Time Recreation. Both died.

"Bill was a man dedicated to his family," his cousin, Kim McConville, told The Associated Press via social media. "He was a master auto mechanic. Always trying to be a funny guy."

Aaron was an avid bowler who had received recognition from the youth league.

In a statement, the superintendent of Winthrop Public Schools confirmed that a high school freshman and his dad were among those killed. Jim Hodgkin's statement said an uncle of another high school student was also killed.

Peyton Brewer-Ross

(Continued on Page 2)

By DAVID SHARP, PATRICK WHITTLE, HOLLY RAMER and MICHELLE R. SMITH

Associated Press

LEWISTON, Maine (AP) — The Army reservist who opened fire in a bowling alley and then at a bar in Lewiston, Maine, killing 18 people, was found dead Friday from a self-inflicted gunshot, ending an intensive two-day search that had the state on edge.

Robert Card, a firearms instructor who grew up in the area, was found dead in nearby Lisbon Falls, Gov. Janet Mills said at a Friday night news conference.

"Like many people I'm breathing a sigh of relief tonight knowing that Robert Card is no longer a threat to anyone," Mills said.

Commissioner of Maine Department of Public Safety Mike Sauschuck said Card was found at 7:45 p.m. near the Androscoggin River, about 8 miles southeast of where the second shooting occurred Wednesday evening. He declined to divulge the location but an official told The Associated Press the body was at a recycling center from which Card recently was fired.

The official was not authorized to discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke to on condition of anonymity.

Leo Madden, who said he ran Maine

Recycling Corp. for decades, said Card had worked there for a couple of years but said he couldn't recall the dates and didn't know if Card was "fired or didn't show up."

"He was a good employee," Madden told the AP, adding that nothing about the man stood out to him while he was an employee.

Mills said she had called President Joe Biden to alert him that Card was dead.

"Tonight we're grateful that Lewiston and surrounding communities are safe after spending excruciating days hiding in their homes," Biden said in a statement. He added that "Americans should not have to live like this" and called on Congress to take action on gun violence.

Card, 40, of Bowdoin, Maine, was a U.S. Army reservist who underwent a mental health evaluation in mid-July after he began acting erratically during training, a U.S. official told The Associated Press.

Card had been sought since the Wednesday night shootings, and murder warrants were issued against him.

A bulletin sent to police across the country shortly after the attack said Card had been committed to a mental health facility for two weeks this past summer after "hearing voices and threats to shoot up" a military base.

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U.S. jets strike Iran-linked sites in Syria for attacks on U.S. troops

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. fighter jets launched airstrikes early Friday on two locations in eastern Syria linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Pentagon said, in retaliation for a slew of drone and missile attacks against U.S. bases and personnel in the region that began early last week.

The strikes reflect the Biden

administration's determination to maintain a delicate balance. The U.S. wants to hit Iranian-backed groups suspected of targeting the U.S. as strongly as possible to deter future aggression, possibly fueled by Israel's war against Hamas, while also working to avoid inflaming the region and provoking a wider conflict.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said Friday that the strikes near Boukamal by F-16 and F-15 fighter aircraft targeted a weapons storage facility and ammunition storage facility used by the IRGC and affiliated groups. "Both facilities were destroyed," he said. "We currently assess there were no casualties in the strikes."

A senior U.S. military official said there had been Iranian-aligned militia and IRGC personnel on the base and no civilians. The official would not say how many munitions were launched by the jets.

A senior defense official said the sites were chosen because the IRGC stores the types of munitions there that were used in the strikes

against U.S. bases and troops. The two officials briefed reporters after the strikes on condition of anonymity to provide details on the mission that had not yet been made public.

Syrian opposition activists confirmed the U.S. strikes in Syria's eastern province of Deir el-Zour.

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Outside

Small chance of showers in the morning, then sunny
Today Sunday Monday
High 56 High 50 High 60
Low 46 Low 39 Low 24
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Mass shooting

(Continued from Page 1)

A U.S. official said Card was training with the Army Reserve's 3rd Battalion, 304th Infantry Regiment in West Point, New York, when commanders became concerned about him. State police took Card to the Keller Army Community Hospital at West Point for evaluation, according to the official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the information and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity. Authorities had scoured the woods and hundreds of acres of family-owned property, sent dive teams with sonar to the bottom of a river and scrutinized a possible suicide note Friday in the second day of their intensive search. Authorities lifted their shelter in place order Friday evening, nearly 48 hours after the shootings. The names and pictures of the 16 males and 2 females who died were released at an earlier news conference Friday where Sauschuck asked for a moment of silence. Their ages ranged from 14 to 76. Law enforcement officials had said

they hadn't seen Card since his vehicle was left at a boat ramp Wednesday shortly after the shootings. The city held an online vigil Friday night with local clergy members, prayer and music. Residents expressed their shock and pain in chat postings, describing themselves as angry, grieving, tired and heartbroken. Those watching at home were urged to light candles. One poster, Victoria, wrote: "I lost 2 people that I cared truly about and a close family friend that is currently fighting for his life in ICU. My heart's shattered." Police and other law enforcement officers were spotted in several areas around the region on Friday. Divers searched the water near a boat launch in Lisbon, and a farming business in the same town. At points throughout the day, police vehicles were seen speeding through several towns, lights flashing and sirens blaring. A gun was found in Card's car, which was discovered at a boat ramp, and federal agents were testing it to determine if it was used in the shoot-

ing, two law enforcement officials told the AP. The officials were not authorized to publicly discuss details of the investigation and spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity. Authorities have said publicly that the shooter used at least one rifle. They have not released any other details, including how the suspect obtained the firearm. Authorities found a suicide note at a home associated with Card on Thursday that was addressed to his son, the law enforcement officials said. They said it didn't provide any specific motive for the shooting. Authorities also recovered Card's cellphone in the home, making a search more complicated because authorities routinely use phones to track suspects, the officials said. Federal agents conducted several searches of properties associated with Card on Thursday, collecting a number of items, including electronics, the officials said. Investigators are also analyzing Card's financial information and reviewing his social media posts, writings and his mental health history, they said.

Shooting victims

(Continued from Page 1)

Peyton Brewer-Ross was a dedicated pipefitter at Bath Iron Works who left behind a partner, young daughter and friends, members of his union said. Brewer-Ross, of Bath, was doing something he loved — playing cornhole and enjoying friends — when he was shot to death, his brother said. "He was a character. He didn't meet anyone he didn't like," Wellman Brewer said of his younger brother. Brewer-Ross loved the game of cornhole so much that he brought out the angled boards and beanbags at family gatherings, his brother said. He said his fun-loving brother, a shipbuilder at Bath Iron Works, was the life of the party. Brewer-Ross and his fiancé, Rachael, had just celebrated the second birthday of their daughter, Elle, two weeks earlier. **Joshua Seal** Joshua Seal, a sign language interpreter, was shot and killed while playing in

a cornhole tournament at Schemengees Bar with other members of the deaf community. His wife, Elizabeth Seal, said in a Facebook post that he was "a wonderful husband, my best friend, and my soulmate. He was also a wonderful boss, an incredible interpreter, a great friend, a loving son, brother, uncle, and grandson." **Robert and Luceille Violette** Retiree Bob Violette, 76, and his wife Luceille, 73, died in the shootings. Bob devoted himself to his volunteer job coaching the youth bowling league that was practicing that night, said Patrick Poulin, whose teenage son has been a member for three years. "He's taught so many people over the years how to bowl, and he wasn't getting paid," he said. "We've really been focused on trying to keep the sport alive, and Bob was really an integral part of that." Poulin described him as unfailingly approachable and caring.

Two weeks ago, Poulin was at the bowling center with his son and offered him some tips. His son resisted, but eventually took the advice and bowled a good game. **Michael Deslauriers** Michael Deslauriers' father told CBS News that his son was one of those killed at Just-In-Time Recreation. His father, who shares the same name, said his son and a friend both were killed as they charged at the shooter after making sure their wives and several children were safe. **Joe Walker** Joe Walker was the bar manager at Schemengees Bar and Grille. His father, Auburn City Councilor Leroy Walker, told NBC News on Thursday that his son was shot twice in the stomach as he went after the shooter with a butcher knife. "He died as a hero," he said. Waiting for confirmation of his worst fears Wednesday night, Walker told the network he felt like his guts and neck were being "squashed."

Tricia Asselin Tricia Asselin worked part time at the Just-in-Time Recreation bowling alley. She had Wednesday night off, but went bowling with her sister. When she realized shots were being fired inside the bowling alley, Asselin, 53, went to call 911, but was shot and killed, relatives said. Asselin "had a great passion for life," and was a loving mother, "the most caring person there was," her mother, Alicia Lachance, told NBC News. **Arthur Strout** Arthur Strout was playing pool with his father at the bar. His son wanted to stay and play a couple more games, but his father, Arthur Barnard, left shortly before the shooting. "I said, 'OK,' and he said 'I love you,' because all my kids tell me that every time we see each other," Barnard told CBS News. "Ten minutes later, I get a phone call." Strout, 42, and his wife, Kristy, had a blended family of five children.

Weather

Saturday, October 28, 2023
(24-hour observations at 7:43 p.m. Friday)
High: 77; Low: 63; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.26 feet at 7:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: A 10 percent chance of showers before 7 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 56. North wind around 10 mph.
Tonight: Showers, mainly after 11 p.m. Low around 46. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.
Sunday: Showers. High near 50. Northeast wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.
Sunday Night: Showers. Low around 39. North wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.
Monday: Showers likely, mainly before 8 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 44. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.
Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24.
Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of snow showers after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 40.

Jet strikes

(Continued from Page 1)

Omar Abu Layla, a Europe-based activist who heads the Deir Ezzor 24 media outlet, said the main target was an area known as "the farms" outside the town of Mayadeen. He said it is an important transit site where weapons from Iran are stored before being shipped to Lebanon. He said the second strike hit an area known as the "green belt" in the Boukamal area that borders Iraq. According to Abu Layla, some people were evacuated before the strikes because the retaliation was expected. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said ambulances were seen rushing to the area but it wasn't clear if there were casualties. Meanwhile Friday, an Iranian semiofficial news agency, Tasnim, said gunmen in east Syria fired 10 rockets on a base housing American troops in retaliation for the U.S. airstrikes. A

U.S. official confirmed the rocket attack and said there were no reported casualties. And the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group for several Iran-backed groups, said fighters attacked al-Assad airbase in western Iraq with a suicide drone. U.S. officials said it was shot down a few kilometers away and did not hit the base. According to the Pentagon, as of Friday there had been at least 20 attacks on U.S. bases and personnel in Iraq and Syria since Oct. 17. Ryder said 21 U.S. personnel were injured in two of those assaults when drones targeted al-Assad airbase in Iraq and al-Tanf garrison in Syria. In a statement, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the "precision self-defense strikes are a response to a series of ongoing and mostly unsuccessful attacks against U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria by Iranian-backed militia groups that began on October 17."



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OBITUARIES

Alan "Kirk" Arnold, 70

Alan "Kirk" Arnold, 70, of Angola, Ind., died on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023, at Cameron Memorial Community Hospital in Angola.

He was born on June 28, 1953, in Marshalltown, Iowa, to Clifford and Elna (Hall) Arnold. Kirk graduated from Beaman-Conrad High School in Conrad, Iowa, and received a Bachelor of Agriculture from Iowa State University.

Kirk was the owner of Alliance Production which was an agriculture business based out of Bluffton. He had also owned the Creamery in Angola and Concept Audio of Angola and Fort Wayne.

Kirk married Teresa Sumwalt on Oct. 14,

1994. He was a member of the Angola American Legion Post 31 and the VFW George Anspaugh Post 7205 of Angola.

Surviving are his wife, Teresa Arnold of Angola; children, Jeff Arnold of Greenwood, Ind., Jennifer (Justin) Caylor of Bluffton, Tony Bennett of Uniondale, and Chris Bennett of Angola. Also surviving are his four grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Bruce Arnold.

A celebration of life will be held from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at the Angola American Legion Post 31.

Ira Robert "Bob" Poulson, 92

Ira Robert "Bob" Poulson, 92 of Liberty Center, passed away on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at Markle Health and Rehabilitation in Markle, IN.

Bob was born in Huntington County, Indiana, on March 8, 1931, to Grover and Edna (Renaker) Poulson. Bob served in the United States Air Force as a Crew Chief for C-47 and C-97 aircraft during the time of the Korean War. He was recently able to go on an Honor Flight trip to Washington D.C. He retired from Hower Tool in Ossian in 1996. Bob was a member of the American Legion Post 111 in Bluffton, Indiana, and was a past Master of the Masonic Lodge in Warren, Indiana. Bob enjoyed fishing, deer hunting, wood-working, golf and then fishing some more. He especially cherished the fishing trips to Michigan with the Poulson boys and his friends.

Bob was preceded in death by his par-



ents and brothers, Everett, Ralph, Harold, Jim and Bill Poulson, and sisters, Lois Eltzroth, Margaret Knight, Freda Finley and Mildred Gilbert.

Loving survivors include his sons, Steve (Angela) Poulson of Bluffton, IN, and Andrew (Brooke Brown) Poulson of Liberty Center, IN, grandchildren, Cody Brown, Cory Weikel, Megan (Josh) Schlechty, and Ryan Weikel, as well as his siblings, Dan Poulson and Ruth Brooks, of Warren.

Friends and family may gather to share and remember at Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home located at 203 N Matilda St. Warren, IN 46792, on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 11 a.m. with one hour of visitation prior to the service. Burial will follow at the Masonic Cemetery in Warren, Indiana.

Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

I can't believe we are already at the end of October. **Boo in Bluffton** is Tuesday, Oct. 31, so bring the kids dressed in their favorite costumes to visit us in the Bluffton City Gym from 5-6 p.m. This free event will be held rain or shine.

In the City Gym, 5-6 p.m.: Scooter's, Bi-County Services, WEG, Peyton's Northern, Pharaohs Car Club, Best Day Travel, Optimist Club, SCAN Wells CO. Prevent Child Abuse Council, Hershey Salty Snacks, Nonlight Kids Ministry, 20/20 Custom Molded Plastics, Matalco Bluffton, Masonic Lodge, and Valero.

Outside along the west side of City Hall: Park Community Church, Wells County EMS, Friends of the Shelter, and American Axle. Also, First Reformed Church will be in the parking lot across from City Hall with their trunk or treat event.

Downtown Businesses 5-6 p.m.: City Hall (Mayor's Office), Body Magic Massage, The Meeting Place, Jerry Flack and Associates, Sprunger & Sprunger Law Office, Hardee's, Archbold & Lewis Insurance, Bluffton Moose, LifeWise Academy, Dollar General, American Salvage, The Broken Vessel Sign Co., Indiana Department of Child Services, Hugh's Bakery & Coffeehouse, Parlor Studios, Market Street Flooring, Balance Massage Therapy, Wells County Land Title, Wells County Democrats, Wells County Republicans, 1st Source Bank, Elks Lodge 796, Welches All Vehicle Repair, and Flagstar Bank.

Outlying Businesses 6-7 p.m.: Christian Care, Subway, The Mattress & Furniture Store, Lowe's, and Kroger

Door-to-door trick or treat for the City of Bluffton will be from 5-7:30 p.m.

Virtual Costume Contest — You have until Oct. 31 to send in a photo of your child dressed up for the Virtual Costume contest. Send a current photo of your child to events@blufftonindiana.gov along with your name, your child's name,

age, and phone number. We will post photos of your child on Facebook starting Nov. 1, and whichever picture has the most "likes" will receive a prize. Online voting will take place between Nov. 1 and Nov. 6. This contest is open to any Wells County resident, and you must be willing to pick up your prize at City Hall.

November is right around the corner, so be sure to sign up next week for the **W.O.O.F. Trail Run**.

(Wells' Outrageous Ouabache Fifteen). The race will be Saturday, Nov. 4, at 9:00 a.m. at Ouabache State Park. Participants can choose between a 5 Mile, 10 Mile, 15 Mile, or 15-mile 3-person Relay. A finisher medal, long sleeve T-shirt, and a hot meal after the race are included. Please note there is a 3.5-hour time limit for the 15-mile race. To request an early start time, email sports@blufftonindiana.gov. Special thanks to the Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission for supporting this event.

The maintenance crew has started hearing the familiar sound of gobbling in the distance, so we have a feeling that **Walter the Wandering Turkey** is on his way to Bluffton. Walter likes to travel from park to park and watch the leaves turn colors. This wandering Turkey often gets lost and will need your help finding his way back to the Bluffton Parks office. This "hide and seek" game has a paper cut out of Walter the Wandering Turkey and will be hidden in November until Thanksgiving. If you find the paper cut out, call 824-6069 before you stop by to pick up the prize. We will then re-hide Walter in a different location after he is found. Winners are limited to claiming the prize once during November. Congratulations to Remington Dick, the 8-year-old daughter of Tristan and Josh Dick, for being drawn as the winner of the fall coloring contest out of 118 participants!

Have a great week!

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Thursday, 2:10 p.m., 200 block of West South Street. Welfare check requested for multiple cats.

Thursday, 4:37 p.m., North Main and Lamar streets. Report of swerving by another driver. Driver apologized and advised he wasn't paying attention. His wife advised she already yelled at him for the matter.

Thursday, 5:18 p.m., 600 block of West Market Street. Report of a raccoon under a tree, multiple children in area. Raccoon taken to animal shelter.

Thursday, 5:57 p.m., Ind. 1 and East 150 North. Caller reported a blanket on the side of the road, possibly by a deceased animal. Blanket found without animal, disposed of. Watch

out for zombie dogs just in case.

Friday, 12:13 a.m., 24 block of Hi Lo Drive. Caller reported hearing someone on the roof. Unable to locate anyone.

Friday, 12:33 a.m., 1200 block of Echo Lane. Report of a domestic altercation.

Friday, 7:06 a.m., National Oil. Driver cited for running a red stoplight.

Friday, 7:26 a.m., South Dougherty Street and West Wiley Avenue, Bluffton. Officer checked on semi truck driving with hazard lights on. Driver was looking for Snyder Tire. So close.

Friday, 8:20 a.m., Bluffton Wastewater. Report of trash bag of belongings found.

Friday, 11:21 a.m., 80 block of Sunrise way.

Report of a man threatening woman with a knife.

County:
Thursday, 12:43 p.m., Ind. 124 and South 400 West, Poneto. Drive issued citation for speeding and warned for expired license plate.

Thursday, 5:39 p.m., 200 West Ind. 224, Uniondale. Welfare check requested for woman walking along the road. Woman was locked out of home, reentry gained.

County:
Thursday, 2:12 p.m., 7500 North 450 East, Ossian. Caller reported a white, two-door Challenger and a grey, four-door Charger attempting to drag race at 80 mph. No winners named, no innocent bystanders reported injured by the aspiring NASCAR drivers.

Local Roundup

Bluffton park board reschedules meeting

The Bluffton parks board has rescheduled their Thursday, Nov. 2, meeting for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, at in the Coun-

cil Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

The Bluffton Board of Works meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 31, has been cancelled.

Drainage task force fumbles on final report

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Over three-plus hours Wednesday, members painstakingly debated and approved 20 of the 30 recommendations submitted to an interim committee on drainage along with three preliminary drafts of legislation. Then the committee defeated the final report.

Instead, the committee will only provide an informational document to fellow legislators rather than proposals.

"I was extremely frustrated," Sen. Jean Leising told the Indiana Capital Chronicle. "I want to apologize to farmers and property owners — we tried, but we didn't accomplish anything even though we had five meetings."

She co-chaired the meeting and called concluding without a committee recommendation report "embarrassing" considering the amount of hours spent listening to expert testimony and constituent problems.

The committee's attorney Craig Mortell, part of the Legislative Services Agency, ended the meeting by saying that the committee would be finalized as an informational report with no recommendations or findings included.

The confusion of PDs

Leising, with decades of experience under her belt, said that preliminary bill drafts have been around in legislative committees for years but many others have simply reduced their findings to a summary

report. Others, still, don't produce anything. "Very few actual proposals come out of interim committees and task forces. Many of them do a ... summary or report that's put on the internet and nobody reads it," Leising said. "We didn't want this to be like that."

The three preliminary drafts of legislation approved by the committee:

3256: Requiring the Department of Agriculture to oversee and prepare an updated version of the Indiana Drainage Handbook, which was published in 1996 with a revised 1999 edition.

3257: Logs removed from a river or stream don't need to be cut if the individual doing so thinks it would create an unreasonable risk of bodily harm or if they are dried and burned so completely it eliminates the risk of reentry.

3274: Creates a general license from the Department of Natural Resources for working in floodways without first obtaining an individual permit.

It was not immediately clear how these three documents would, or would not, appear in the informational committee report.

Following the receipt of the proposed recommendations, Leising said she and a handful of other legislators drew up the preliminary drafts of legislation to ensure the task force's efforts didn't get swamped and die in the legislative session.

Bluffton hosts Triple E Day Thursday

Bluffton High School students were introduced to opportunities to Enroll, Enlist or Employ during the annual Triple E Day event on Thursday. Students rotated stations featuring guest speakers for two hours to start the school day.

For Enroll, students learned about career and technical education pathways, heard financial aid options through INvestEd, took an aptitude test by Ivy Tech and learned where to find local scholarship opportunities through the Wells County Foundation.

In Employ, students heard about career opportunities through the Adams Wells Manufacturing Alliance, employment options in the region from Bryce Isch from STAR Engineering and Machining, discovered internships and work-based learning options from BHS teachers Adam

Atkins and Steve Linderwell, and learned interview skills from a panel of professionals hosted by Wells County Economic Development.

For Enlist, military speakers included the Army National Guard, U.S. Army, U.S. Marines and the Air National Guard.

One of the speakers from the Marines

was 2023 Bluffton High School graduate Kaitlyn Tungate, who returned to her alma mater to share her experiences so far after leaving BHS. Just last fall she was in the students' seats, learning about post-high school opportunities. Now she has the opportunity to reflect on her experiences in the Marines.

"It's good to be back, seeing all the kids I went to school with, just talking about my experience, especially about the females (serving)," Tungate says.

Tungate says exposure to options through the Triple E approach at BHS "100 percent" impacted her decision to enlist in the military. Exposure while at school to military recruiters started her down the path to join the Marines.

This is the fourth year that BHS has hosted community members to speak during Triple E Day. Principal Steve Baker says the approach provides all students with a plan for post-graduation.

"The diploma's great, but we want to offer more," Mr. Baker says. "So for our students, we ask them to be intentional about what they want to do after school."

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It's time to move forward with our health department

What's going on with the Wells County Health Department?

Saturday's Sub



Mark Miller

That seems to be a question a number of people are asking. It is clear from Holly Gaskill's account of last Thursday's meeting that the board is struggling with trying to fill key open positions and pressure from some elected officials. Meanwhile, who is impacted? Who suffers? Clearly those remaining employees and the public.

Reluctant but willing interim administrator Marlene Hoag, the essential definition of "public servant," has had trouble filling open positions. There is disagreement with the elected officials as to whether the administrator and vital records clerk is one opening or two. It is unclear whether Hoag's difficulties in filling those positions is the result of insufficient pay or the department's state of turmoil. Meanwhile, the environmental specialist position also remains open.

Although short-staffed, as reported in the Oct. 20 edition, the department has continued to field public health complaints. However, the commissioners' request to be notified before the department takes any action has further delayed the department's ability to respond.

Dr. Kay Johnson, health officer, indicated that the employees are understandably a bit gun-shy after elected officials — at least one commissioner and a county council member — got involved when a local restaurant encountered possible issues. Employees recognize, Johnson said, they have to "increase communications so we don't get criticized or, you know, our heads taken off."

Lewis Brown, superintendent of the Regional Sewer District who has been attending meetings in an effort to help, compared the current situation to issues he had experienced in the past when he was in the septic tank business and had some disagreements with former commissioners. "(This) strips the health department of any enforcement," he said.

And perhaps that is exactly the elected officials' goal. One has to wonder if they would have stepped in if the inspections and possible violations had been in regard to any other restaurant in Wells County. Yergy's BBQ's run-ins with the department during the pandemic and the subsequent political issues have placed several elected officials at odds with the health department's role. And now they seem to be handcuffing them.

There is also the matter of the enhanced public health funding offered by the state but turned down by three of Indiana's 92 counties, including Wells. Gov. Holcomb describes the program as an option, not a state takeover, intended to help communities "address quality of place."

Hoag told the Indiana Chronicle back in August — as it was also reported to the News-Banner — that the commissioners declined the funding because the timing wasn't right due to the staffing issues. The Chronicle noted, referring to Wells County, that "not every county forgoing the funding did so due to political reasons." I'm not so sure.

The situation reminds me of the current mess in the U.S. House of Representatives. Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fl.) essentially succeeded in a palace coup but then walked away with no plan for moving forward. He seemed to be relishing in the subsequent chaos. At least the House has finally chosen a Speaker and have the structure to move on.

Public health is an important part of what government does. Those elected officials involved in blowing up the Wells County Health Department need to be there to help them move forward. Their absence at last week's board meeting does not indicate a desire to fix things and to allow the department to perform their duties.

The resignations that sparked the department's issues and the elected officials' interventions happened in July. Nearly four months later, where are we at?

Taxpayers can rightfully ask: "What's going on at the health department?"

miller@news-banner.com

Who's Who

A continuing series on how to contact government officials

The three **Wells County Commissioners** are:

President Michael Vanover (R), District 1, which is the southern third of the county, from Ind. 218 to the south county line. Home address: 4620E-900S, Keystone, phone 260-273-4950. michael.vanover@wellscounty.org

Vice President Blake Gerber (R), District 2, which is the central third of the county from Ind. 218 to County Road 300N and includes Rockcreek Township. Home address: 0707S-Ind. 201, Bluffton; 260-824-1964. blake.gerber@wellscounty.org

Jeff Stringer (R), District 3, which is the northern third of the county, from CR 300N to the north county line. Home address: 4906N-100W, Uniondale; 270-577-1338. jeff.stringer@wellscounty.org

The seven **Wells County Council members** include four who are elected from and by council districts and three who are elected county-wide and serve at-large.

District 1 (includes Rock Creek, Liberty, Jackson, Chester and Nottingham townships, as well as Harrison Township excluding the city of Bluffton): Brian Lambert (R), 3831N-100W, Bluffton; phone 223-3817. blamber24@gmail.com

District 2 (includes Lancaster Township and Jefferson Township east of the Ossian town limits): Steve Huggins (R), 1723E-350N; phone 437-8872. stevehuggins1723@gmail.com

District 3 (Union Township and Jefferson Township, including Ossian): Todd Mahnensmith (R), P.O. Box 342, Ossian, phone 433-3838. kmasphalt@frontier.com

District 4 (the city of Bluffton south of the Lancaster Township line): Brandon Harnish (R), 225 Harrison St., Bluffton, phone 273-1384. brandonharnish@gmail.com

At-Large: Vicki Andrews (R), vice president, 8708S-600W, Warren-90, phone 375-3131. vsandrews42@gmail.com

At-Large: Scott Elzey (R), 1824 NW Ind. 116-90, Marle, phone 750-1800.

At-Large: Seth Whicker (R), council president, 1191 W. Hancock St., Uniondale, phone 403-6928. swhicker@sym.com



Trump's lead and GOP decision-making

Former President Donald Trump's support now stands at 59% among Republican voters nationwide in the 2024 presidential nomination race. His lead over Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, still the second-place candidate in the race, is 46.3 points. Both Trump's support and the size of his lead are the biggest they have ever been.

After four indictments from federal and local prosecutors, plus an ongoing and widely reported trial in a lawsuit by the New York attorney general -- after all of that, Trump's lead is still inching higher. And that is affecting the thinking and decision-making going on in campaign offices all around the country, as well as on Capitol Hill.

The Republican majority in the House, of course, is still trying to elect a speaker. You don't have to be reminded that it is not going well. There were at least nine candidates for the job when Republicans began casting votes again Tuesday. Many critics pointed out that seven of the nine voted to decertify the results of the 2020 election from Arizona and Pennsylvania on Jan. 6, 2021. That's not likely to have a big effect on the speaker contest; on that day, 58% of House Republicans voted against certifying the Arizona results, and 66% voted against certifying the Pennsylvania tally.

What will have more influence on GOP thinking is what Trump says about the contest. For example, when Republicans returned to Washington on Monday, the candidate seen as leading the speaker's race was House Whip Tom Emmer. But there were many news reports that Trump had privately told allies he did not support Emmer. Then, when Emmer won a vote among House Republicans to advance in the speaker contest, Trump went public, calling Emmer a "RINO" and saying voting for him would be a "tragic mistake." That was it for Emmer. His speaker bid collapsed within an hour of Trump's statement.

Why did it happen, and happen so quickly? In part, it was Trump's popularity. If Trump were in fifth place in the Republican presidential race, if he were not dominating every poll, he would have almost no say in the speaker's race. But Trump is just under 60% in the race, according to the RealClearPolitics average of national polls. And those national polls are made up of voters in specific states and congressional districts. Republican lawmakers know that.

Then there is the presidential race. Trump's opponents inside the GOP desperately want some of the candidates to quit to allow non-Trump Republicans to unite behind a single challenger to Trump. They used to want that challenger to be DeSantis. Now, many want the challenger to be Nikki Haley, who now stands 51.2 points behind Trump in the national polls.

Yes, the early state polls are closer. Haley is 40.8 points behind Trump in Iowa, 30.8 points behind Trump in New Hampshire, and 32.5 points behind Trump in her home state of South Carolina. But still, those are big numbers.

Trump's unprecedented lead is having two effects on GOP thinking. The first effect is: It's over. There's no way anybody can beat him. The second effect is: It's still early. There's no way this can last. If you are a candidate, the temptation is to dismiss the first and embrace the second.

That's why we're not seeing the candidate withdrawals that some anti-Republicans have sought. If you're in the race, and you're not Trump, the second way of thinking is so much more appealing: This can't last, and what I need to do is stay in the game long enough for things to change. Then, maybe, I'll have a chance.

And that's what those candidates are doing. So far, no Republican candidate who would reasonably be described as major has quit the race. The only withdrawals we have seen have been Xavier Suarez, Will Hurd and Perry Johnson. Put them all together and you couldn't get to 1% support nationally.

Meanwhile, Doug Burgum is still in the race. Asa Hutchinson is still in. Tim Scott. Chris Christie. Mike Pence. A bunch of candidates who are more than 50 points behind the frontrunner are staying in the race.

By this time in the 2016 Republican campaign -- the last time there was a wide-open primary season -- two major candidates, Rick Perry and Scott Walker, had already quit. On the day he dropped out, Perry was about 27 points behind front-running Donald Trump, who stood at 29.8%. When Walker quit, he was about 25 points behind Trump, who was then at 28.5%.

Now, every candidate besides DeSantis is more than 50 points behind Trump -- and DeSantis isn't doing much better. But they stay in because of one belief, or hope: There's no way this can last.

One thing that shows is that Trump's ratings are influencing, if not outright controlling, many big decisions that are being made in the Republican Party today, whether by lawmakers in Washington or candidates out in the states. And the most important thing to remember is that Trump's poll ratings are not abstract things. They represent real Republican voters. In the end, it is Republican voters who are driving things. They are in control, and so far, they are still with Trump.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner

What's needed is renovation

Some popular shows on PBS and cable TV are about renovating old houses — taking dilapidated, out-of-fashion and dreary houses and turning them into modern, functioning, and attractive places in which to live.

Renovation is precisely what is needed in our country whose national debt, open borders and as we've seen in recent weeks our university and public education system are in dire need of repair, even renovation. Failing to renovate an old house puts the owner at risk of broken electrical wires and water pipes, even collapsing roofs and walls. Failing to renovate a government in need of more than a paint job to cover up its many flaws can lead to dysfunction (what we have now) and ultimate collapse, which will be our future if we don't act soon.

Democrats are incapable of renovation because they have helped contribute to the problems. Republicans, who can't function as a party as shown by their deplorable behavior in failing to name a Speaker of the House, also lack the will to make necessary repairs.

The unsustainable \$33 trillion debt continues to grow. As noted by Maya MacGuineas, president of the Com-



Cal Thomas

mittee for a Responsible Federal Budget: "We are a nation addicted to debt. The deficit totaled \$1.7 trillion in Fiscal Year 2023, but we actually borrowed \$2 trillion when you fix the accounting around President Biden's reversed student debt cancellation plan. That means borrowing doubled from last year. With the economy growing and unemployment near record lows, this was the time to instill fiscal responsibility and reduce our deficits."

We will borrow even more and pay more interest if money to Ukraine and Israel gets through Congress.

The Biden administration refuses to admit the southern border needs repair. Is there a connection between the massive number of migrants entering the country and what we've witnessed in recent weeks in the streets of major cities and on university campuses with demonstrators calling for the eradication of Israel and even some extremists who take the side of Hamas and favor killing Jews? Clearly our education — no, indoctrination — system needs a complete overhaul. How do these young people come to believe such things unless they are taught?

It would appear there is only one way to fix this and that is the movement called The Convention of States (COS), a constitutional convention established by "we the people" to put

government back inside the boundaries established by our Founders. As stated on the COS website: "Under Article V of the United States Constitution," a COS would be "restricted to proposing amendments that will impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit its power and jurisdiction, and impose term limits on its officials and members of Congress."

What once seemed like a pipe dream is getting ever closer to the possible. For such a convention to take place (and the Founders foresaw it might be necessary should the government get out of control), 34 states must approve a resolution after which a convention would be called. So far, 19 states have passed a resolution with seven others having passed it in one of their legislative chambers and 26 other states set to consider a resolution by the end of the year.

Politicians won't renovate anything. It is the people who grant power to the government, but government has misused those powers in ways that benefit the politicians, not those they are supposed to represent. It's time to renovate the government, public schools and universities. If that means starting over, so be it. We can't go on like this. If we do, disaster awaits because the history of nations that ignore the house equivalent of a cracked foundation or leaky roof are doomed to self-destruction.

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Getting back home

(Continued from Page 1)

phone call. "Very soon, I got a call-back from one of Banks' staffers," Hallman related. "She was very reassuring and helpful with advice."

The U.S. Embassy staff also advised them to try to find a way home on their own, but if they could not, the State Department would make arrangements to get them out of the country to Cyprus. "From there, we'd be on our own," Hallman says.

He was aware that the national home office of the YMCA utilized a travel agency for their executives. A friend there passed along a phone number: "Could you help us get home?" he asked. "Of course," he heard the response.

He continued, "It took them several days. We would get a flight scheduled and then it would get canceled." All U.S. airlines along with several others including Turkish Air had canceled all flights into and out of the region.

After hearing nothing about their luggage by Sunday afternoon, Hallman and Ryan hired a driver to take them to the Tel Aviv airport, about an hour's drive from Jerusalem. They were able to claim the group's luggage and return to Jerusalem without incident.

The group was initially confined to the hotel and YMCA, which they described as a fine hotel and a beautiful building. The facility's director, Fadi, assured them they were safe there but was not comfortable letting them leave.

"We were in a country that had just declared war," Ryan says. "Not so exciting to be a part of history."

The group spent their time getting to know the roughly 30 or so other travelers who had found themselves stranded in the hotel, a "remarkable building," Ryan said, which is



Traveling companions and now friends Tim Hallman, Fort Wayne, left, and Bluffton resident Glenn Ryan are happy to be back home after their ill-timed Holy Land tour. Hallman is looking forward to returning as soon as he can to further his efforts to assist the Christian-based YMCA units there. (Photo by Mark Miller)

anchored with a very tall bell tower.

"So every Sunday at noon, they ring the bells 12 times," Hallman shared. "Fadi (a friend from previous trips and the facility's CEO) was giving us a tour of the building."

Five stories up the tower is a carillon, a musical instrument that operates the bells. It is often operated by professionals, Hallman said, but their host allowed them to hit the appropriate key to ring the noon bells.

"It produces a beautiful sound that echoes across the city," Hallman said.

"No sooner had we hit the last note than air raid sirens went off," he continued. Fadi told them they had 90 seconds to race down the circular stairs to the bomb shelter in the basement. When they got there, they gathered together in a circle to pray.

"While I was praying, I felt someone join us and take my hand," Hallman said. It was an English lady who was also stranded. "She was so appreciative of us being there and for the prayer," he added.

There were a few times

they felt in danger. They recalled three air raid warnings, "but it was mostly calm" in Jerusalem, they said.

"But we could hear the bombs, especially at night," Ryan said. The Gaza border is only about 50 miles to the southwest of Jerusalem. "And we could see the bombs light up the night sky," Hallman added.

By Monday afternoon, their host felt it was safe for the group to venture out to a nearby shopping mall. However, it was "mostly empty," the two agree. The government had shut down all schools and most businesses — only a few stores were open but they were able to enjoy a supper of pizza.

On Tuesday, another of Hallman's friends he had made from previous trips to Israel visited the group. He refers to him simply as "Tewfic," a Palestinian Christian who emigrated to the U.S. and was in the midst of a successful banking career in New York City when he felt called to go back to his homeland to assist his fellow Christians.

"It is a very difficult place for (Palestinian Chris-

tians) to live," Hallman said. Tewfic and his wife operate a tour company. When he realized the group had not, and likely would not, see any of Jerusalem's sites, he took them on a walking tour of the close-by area.

"So we got to at least see the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and much of the Old City," Hallman said.

While Hallman continued to seek arrangements to get the group home, they were also becoming friends with others stranded in the hotel. And they began to feel like they had been sent there for a purpose.

Three young people from Denmark had been traveling in the area for a couple weeks and were in Bethlehem, a part of the West Bank, when hostilities erupted. They were forced to escape to Jerusalem without their luggage.

"They were totally lost as to what to do," Hallman shared. It soon became clear that while their group enjoyed the support from the U.S. Embassy and from their travel agency, these people had no resources.

"Our travel agency agreed to help them get home as well. They were so appreciative and just couldn't believe that some strangers from America would help them get home."

Another elderly couple from Canada — Egyptian natives who had emigrated but had returned for a tour — was also stranded at the hotel.

"They just had no idea what to do next," Hallman said.

JuWan Turner, a staff member at the Fort Wayne YMCA, created a Facebook page for them and took a video of them explaining their dilemma. He then posted the video, tagging the Canadian government and the Canadian media.

"It worked," Hallman

said. They were soon interviewed by a radio station and a TV station, and the government made arrangements for them to fly back home.

"We think we were meant to be there," Hallman said.

The trip had always been meant to be more than just a tourist thing, Hallman explained. He had made previous trips to the region's YMCAs and was working to build friendships and collaboration. The group was slated to visit several YMCA units in Jericho, Bethlehem and Jerusalem, adding events and activities that were "educational," "service," and "immersion" into the area's culture.

Hallman is slated to go back in December to further those efforts, but chances of a cease-fire in time for that trip to happen are, he knows, slim. But he is also concerned for his many friends, like Fadi and Tewfic. Tourism is an important part of the Israeli economy.

A flight to take the five travelers home seemed to be set for Wednesday evening, Oct. 11, on Emirates Airlines, "but we kept our fingers crossed," Ryan said. They were successful in flying from Tel Aviv to Dubai and then a "long, very long"

15-hour flight to Chicago, where a Fort Wayne staff member greeted them and drove them home Oct. 12.

But Ryan's journey had one more twist. It was during the layover in Dubai that he got word that his 96-year-old mother had passed away at her home in Toledo. It was not unexpected, "she had not been well and had suffered a couple falls," he said, but nonetheless difficult. Hence, as soon as he arrived in Bluffton, he was off to Toledo to join his siblings in comforting their 97-year-old father. The funeral was Thursday, Oct. 19.

"Exhausting," is how he described his past few weeks. "And disappointing. I had thought it would be a fun trip." But he is also appreciative.

"I certainly gained some new perspectives," he added. "We are so lucky to live where we do."

And he has been amazed this past week as he's been approached by "several people I don't even know," he shared. "Glad you're back, they tell me."

"You know, Hallman quickly added, "that's something we found out when we got home: How many people had been praying for us. That really meant a lot."

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Tigers overpower the Panthers to advance to sectional championship

By RYAN WALKER
Bluffton's unstoppable rushing attack lifted the Tigers to a 35-21 win over Eastbrook in the sectional semifinal Friday night.

The efforts marched Bluffton to its second-straight sectional championship appearance after a 34-year drought without a title.

The Tigers (9-2) gave the Panthers (7-4) a taste of their own medicine with over 300 yards rushing on the night by three main ball carriers. Moore led the charge with 238 yards on the ground, finding the endzone three times. Tucker Jenkins was next at 67 yards, and Cooper Craig piled up 59 yards.

The three bullied a normally beefed-up Eastbrook defensive line, averaging 8.6 yards per rushing attempt. Of the five touchdowns, four of them were bursts of 38 yards or more.

"I felt really good running behind one of the best lines in the state," Moore said.

The Tigers have the ability to throw the ball with their senior leader and quarterback Braxton Betancourt, but head coach Brent Kunkel believed more in his offensive line more than the Panthers' defensive line.

"We watched film, and we thought we had an advantage up front just because of who we are and kind of the style of defense that (Eastbrook) had played all year," Kunkel said. "And so the plan all along was to use Khamel, to use Tucker, to use Cooper. That's kind of our identity."

Bluffton got off to a hot start, giving a typically elite Eastbrook team fits up front.

Moore broke out two touchdowns on gains of 38 and 57 yards, while Craig jolted one for 42 yards.

In the meantime, the Tiger defense held the opposition to 55 yards in the first quarter on just 12 plays. Eight of those plays went for three yards or less.

Fletcher Wenger led the unit with nine total solo tackles, with Jenkins and Alex West helping with seven. Johnny Cruz had five.

To start the second quarter, the Panthers began to find a rhythm, taking an 11-play drive to the one-yard line as the bulky 200-

pound Gage Engle powered through for six points.

But Moore would help lead the offense yet again for some more points. He slashed through two levels of the Panther defense for 29 yards making it to the four-yard line before punching it in for a one-yard score a few plays later.

At the half, it was all Bluffton 28-7.

"Our guys made some plays up front, especially in that first quarter," Kunkel said. "I thought we really kind of came out and established the line of scrimmage in that first quarter."

But what would be a Jeff Adamson run Eastbrook squad without a fight?

A combined 15-8 record over the past two years would be a good stretch for just about any other school, but the Panthers have made two state championship runs in the past six seasons. With Adamson at the helm, they've been to four state title matches (although going 0-4), and you can't count them out.

Eastbrook completed a 10-play drive aided by a roughing the passer call with just under six minutes remaining in the third quarter.

The score had Bluffton on its heels in a methodical, yet no-huddle, run game that started to catch some traction spanning the second into the third quarter.

The Panthers had gained momentum and looked as if they would give Bluffton a game with plenty of time in the fourth quarter.

"A lot of that is Coach Adamson at Eastbrook," Kunkel said of his counterpart. "He's a hall of famer in every sense of the word. I mean, he's been there for 35 years (with) over 300 wins, and he's just a class act. His program is a first-class program, so they're extremely well-coached. We knew that they did some things to give us some fits there."

With a third-and-short opportunity for the Panthers, lineman Cruz stuffed their leading rusher Engle for a one-yard stop. On fourth-and-3, West and Griffin Morgan plowed through the offensive line to stop Eastbrook for negative yards and give the ball back to the Tigers.

Jenkins would strike a dagger into the heart of the Panthers on a 38-yard carry, trucking an Eastbrook defender to make the score 35-14.

Eastbrook would score once more with 2:35 to go, but the Tigers recovered the onside kick to seal the deal.

With the win, Bluffton will host another sectional championship. Next Friday the Eastern Comets come to town, all the way from the east side of Kokomo, bringing a 9-2 record with them.

Eastern hasn't been a common opponent for Bluffton, at least in Kunkel's tenure, but he does know they'll be chomping at the bit to get their first sectional title.

"I know they have never won a sectional," Kunkel said of Eastern. "So they're going to come in with nothing to lose kind of a situation. Somewhat what we were in last year where it had been a long time. It's been better for them, and they might play loose and free. I'm sure they'll be the 'underdog' in the game, so yeah, it'll be an exciting atmosphere for sure."

sports@news-banner.com

BLUFFTON 35, EASTBROOK 21

At Bluffton

Score By Quarters
Eastbrook 0 0 0 0-21
Bluffton 0 0 0 0-35

Scoring Summary

First Quarter

B—Khamel Moore 38-yard run (Yaroslav Serdiuk kick), 8:56.
B—Moore 57-yard run (Serdiuk kick), 6:39.
B—Cooper Craig 42-yard run (Serdiuk kick), 1:47.

Second Quarter

E—Gage Engle 1-yard run (Keegan Hallis kick), 10:49.
B—Moore 1-yard run (Serdiuk kick), 6:28.

Third Quarter

E—Engle 5-yard run (Hallis kick), 5:58

Fourth Quarter

B—Tucker Jenkins 38-yard run (Serdiuk kick), 6:34.
E—Engle 6-yard run (Hallis kick), 2:35.

Team Statistics

	BLU	EAS
First Downs	17	18
Rushes-Yards	45-369	56-260
Yards Passing	59	15
Passing (C-A-I)	8-5-0	5-1-0
Penalties-Yards	7-70	9-76
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Punts-Average	1-34	3-44
Time of Possession	28:49	19:11

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Eastbrook: Gage Engle 25-94, Bodie Howell 17-87, Carson McDaniel 8-47, Cooper Crow 3-21, Colin Reyes 3-11. Bluffton: Khamel Moore 30-238, Tucker Jenkins 8-67, Cooper Craig 4-59, Braxton Betancourt 3-5.
Passing: Eastbrook: Bodie Howell 1-5-0 15. Bluffton: Braxton Betancourt 5-8-0 59.
Receiving: Eastbrook: Carson McDaniel 1-15. Bluffton: AJ Streveter 3-41, Andrew Hunt 2-18.



Bluffton tight end Tucker Jenkins stiff arms Eastbrook's Bodie Howell (15) for a big gain in the first quarter Friday night at Fred F. Park Field. Cooper Crow closes in to slow Jenkins down. (Photos by Glen Werling)



Bluffton's Khamel Moore is off to the races, easily outrunning Eastbrook's Kaden Bowser (60) and Kyle Shell in the second quarter.

CyberTigers to host 2nd annual Super Smash Bros tournament

Bluffton's e-Sports team is set to host its second Super Smash Brothers Ultimate game tournament this Saturday, Nov. 4.

The event is serving as a fundraiser for the program at the high school, home of the CyberTigers. The team is in its third season and has already had three state title appearances, winning it all in Overwatch and Tetris.

The doors officially open at noon,

and the tournament to start at 1 p.m. Competition will be at Bluffton High School's cafeteria.

Anyone interested in the event should register at ssbu.bhmsd.org for \$10 per person or can sign up on the day of for \$15.

Concessions will be available along with other fun ways to interact with participants during the day.

Browns Ford back at practice

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Cleveland Browns starting running back Jerome Ford made a surprise return to practice Friday after missing time earlier this week with a sprained right ankle suffered in last week's win at Indianapolis.

Ford, who has had to pick up the slack with star Nick Chubb out with a season-ending knee injury, is listed as questionable for Sunday's game at Seattle. Ford had been expected to miss at least one game.

That's still possible, but his presence on the field

was a positive sign for the Browns (4-2).

Ford is another weapon for backup quarterback P.J. Walker, who will start against the Seahawks (4-2). Deshaun Watson continues to be sidelined with a strained right shoulder.

High School Calendar

FRIDAY, OCT 27
FOOTBALL: (sectional semi-final) Eastbrook at Bluffton, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY, OCT 28
CROSS COUNTRY (CO-ED): Bluffton at State final meet host by Indiana State University (LaVern Gibson), 12 p.m.
MONDAY, OCT 30
No events scheduled
TUESDAY, OCT 31

No events scheduled
WEDNESDAY, NOV 1
No events scheduled
THURSDAY, NOV 2
No events scheduled
FRIDAY, NOV 3
FOOTBALL: (sectional championship) Eastern at Bluffton, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY, NOV 4
No events scheduled

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Marriage suffers due to wife's spending

Dear Annie: I am in my mid-30s and have never married or been engaged. I'm feeling frustrated, hopeless and depressed most of the time because of this. Is there really hope? — Depressed Help-Seeker

Dear Help-Seeker: Of course there's hope. I imagine it can be difficult to see your friends and loved ones hit life milestones you feel quite far away from achieving yourself. Remember, there is no exact timeline for when you should be in a serious romantic relationship.

If you're really committed to finding a partner, try browsing online dating sites. Are there new hobbies or activities you could pursue where you could meet people with similar values and interests? Perhaps one of your close friends could see you hitting things off with someone they know and can initiate a meeting.

It is easier said than done, but don't be discouraged. Romantic partnership is a big part of life, but it's not everything. There are so many other ways to feel fulfilled, happy and successful aside from having a boyfriend or husband. Oftentimes, when we stop focusing on the negative or forcing something to happen, things fall into place perfectly on their own.

Dear Annie: I've been married for 33 years. My wife has children and grandchildren from a different marriage. She has a wonderful job and makes great money. I am now retired. I have a nice little nest egg from my pension.

About 15 years ago, while we had a joint checking account that I trusted her to be in charge of, I found out she was giving away all our extra money to her children and keeping just enough to pay the bills. I decided we would have to have our own bank accounts. She got a loan in 2017 for \$21,000 to pay off her credit cards, which she paid off in 2019. When I retired in 2020, I paid off her credit cards once more and a new car hoping to encourage her to stop spending and start saving.

Since January of 2020, she has made \$69,000 in bonus money. She says she has \$15,000 left in her other bank that

she uses. Her only credit card that I have seen, and she has more than one, is back up to \$10,000. Added up since last January, she has given away \$54,000, mostly to her daughter.

None of her bonus money buys anything for our household or marriage. She has no retirement savings, 401Ks or anything. She had a 401K through her work but took that money out and doesn't recall what it was used for. She is 67 years old. I recently told her that she needs to get help with her spending and that I would support her and stand by her through this. She has decided not to seek help and says she can stop spending on her own.

I have seen this movie over and over for too many years. I live with a woman who has two lives, but her life with her "sponge family" seems more important to her. I'll take any advice. — Hopeless

Dear Hopeless: Your wife's financial decisions seem to be motivated differently; on one hand, she blows money in a way you've defined as a serious spending problem. On the other hand, quite a bit of money is going to her daughter. I can't help but wonder if her daughter is OK — has something drastic happened in her life where she needs access to a large chunk of money quickly?

Ultimately, you and your wife need to have an open, honest conversation about your finances. Whether you decide to sit down with a financial adviser to figure out a plan for your joint finances or you keep things entirely individually instead, you must lay everything out on the table — for money's sake and your marriage's sake — before you can move toward a resolution.

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

Dear Annie

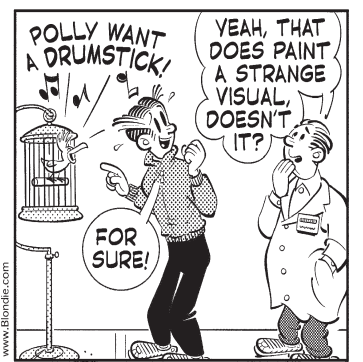
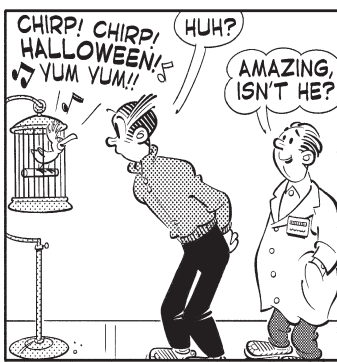
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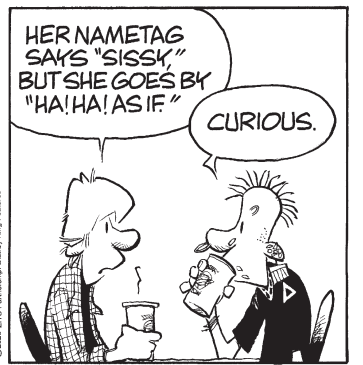
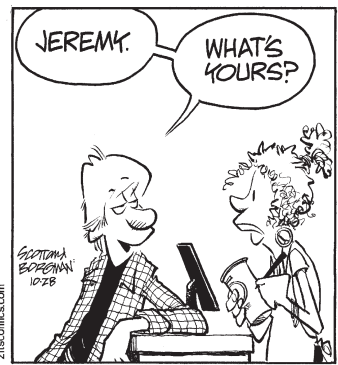
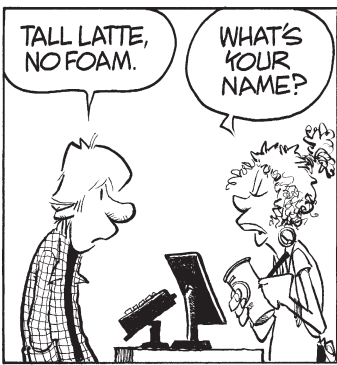
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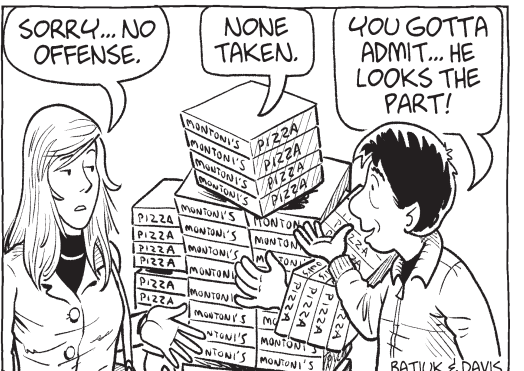
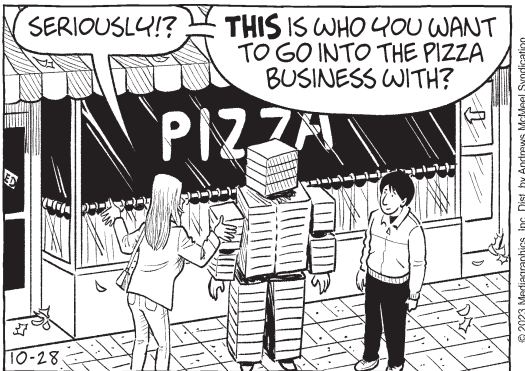
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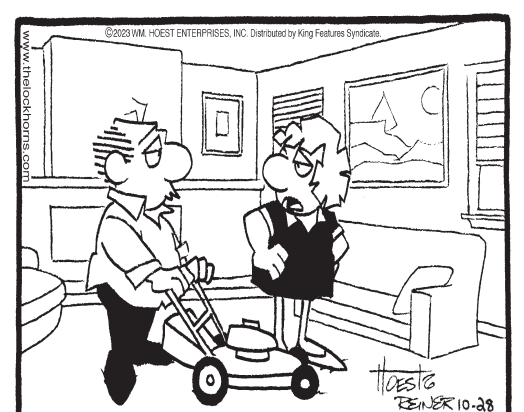
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



"THANKS FOR OFFERING, LEROY, BUT I THINK WE SHOULD JUST REPLACE THE SHAG CARPET."

My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



We need a revival of Christian example

mative work of God. The words of Jesus answer this question: "By their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:20). After being born again — receiving Christ as Lord and Savior — we are to demonstrate our faith by our works [conduct].

Effective Christians down through history have been people of great personal discipline. The connection between the words disciple and discipline is obvious. To be a true, effective disciple of Christ we must seek to discipline our lives and endeavor to walk even as He walked.

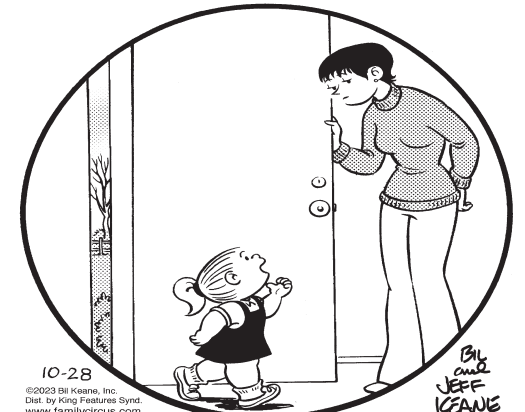
The thing that has hindered the progress of the church is not so much our talk and our creeds; but it has been our walk, our conduct, our daily living. We need a revival

of Christian example, and that can only come when professed followers of Christ begin to practice Christian discipline. Where do we begin? Having found the life that is in Christ, strict personal discipline leads to a full-bodied, rich, and complete life.

We must have a desire to follow Christ with a disciplined mind and tongue. We mustn't give Satan a foothold (see Ephesians 4:27), but walk in the footsteps of Jesus. He does not discipline us to subdue us but to condition us for a life of usefulness and blessedness.

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

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"If you're lookin' for Daddy, he's over helping Mr. Rice watch the game."

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 26 mins.

Grid for yesterday's crossword puzzle answer from 10-28.

Table with 24 columns (time slots) and 24 rows (channels). Lists TV programming for various channels like WINM, CBS, Antenna, ABC, NBC, etc.

