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Harrison Township to vote on BHMSD referendum Nov. 7

Explaining potential school safety plans, property tax increases

By HOLLY GASKILL

In a special election on Nov. 7, residents of Harrison Township will consider a school safety referendum for the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District.

If approved, the township agrees to an increase of \$0.075 on every \$100 in assessed property value for homesteads, a 9.63 percent increase, and \$0.065 on every \$100 in assessed property value for businesses, a 7.94 percent increase.

While new to BHMSD, nearly half of Indiana districts have put a referendum on the ballot, including neighboring Southern Wells Community Schools. Referendums can be supported under multiple potential forms, including supporting general school operations, building projects and school safety developments.

What is a school safety referendum?

A general school referendum places a levy on property taxes to increase funding for a particular area of need within the district. Sen. Travis Holman and several others introduced the concept of a referendum explicitly to improve school safety in 2019.

Using referendum funding, a district can employ school resource officers and mental health resources, conduct a needs or threats assessment, and cover capital expenses to improve building safety, among other items.

Since then, two districts have pursued the option, with only one, the Carmel Clay School Corporation in Hamilton County, being successful. However, BHMSD isn't alone in their pursuit this fall — the Fort Wayne Community School Corporation in Allen County is also seeking a school safety referendum, which would increase property taxes by 12.74 percent for homesteads and 11.96 percent for business properties.

How will a referendum support school safety?

BHMSD has advertised that the referendum would primarily financially support adding three new positions — two new school resource officers and a full-time mental health counselor. Currently, the district employs one SRO across its three

campuses and has added a part-time mental health counselor through grant funding.

A portion of the referendum will also support "safety equipment," which could include a variety of school resources. The district has outlined plans to increase video equipment and add visitor management systems, vape sensors, and staff training opportunities.

Altogether, these additions will increase safety across the district and with individual student needs, said Superintendent Brad Yates.

Yates told the News-Banner that these positions and resources were determined to be a need within the district, but more funding was required to do so. The school board — Bruce Holland, Mike Murray, Julie Thompson, Trent White and Angie Sheets — unanimously spoke in favor of pursuing a study of the tax base and putting the referendum on the ballot.

Why add more officers?

Yates explained that the schools aren't unsafe with one SRO, but that there are limitations. For example, there may be a delayed response if the officer is in another building at a time of need.

However, Yates said a large benefit of the additional SROs would be the "resource" aspect of their position more than the "officer" element.

"We're regularly in the 'resource' side of things, whether that's part of an investigation or providing support in a non-law enforcement capacity, where we can't do that with three buildings and one human," Yates explained.

This support, Yates continued, includes providing supervision at events during and outside of school hours, as well as building relationships and talking with students.

Yates added, "There are countless times where relationships with an officer in our buildings with our young students to our older students have (a) tremendous impact on their choices and their outcomes and can prevent to future negative activity and can

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Fall fitness frenzy

Southern Wells Elementary School students recently participated in the 'Fall Fitness Frenzy' to practice the sport and fitness skills they've been learning during the first nine weeks of school. Stations took on a Halloween theme, including 'haunted hula hooping,' 'jack-o-lantern juggling,' and 'bat cave.' Pictured are fifth grade students Zane Gates, Brien Alig and Hunter Baumgartner playing 'batty badminton.' (Photo submitted)

Maine mass shooter's family reached out to sheriff 5 months before rampage

By DAVID SHARP, ROBERT F. BUKATY, JAKE BLEIBERG and PATRICK WHITTLE
Associated Press

LEWISTON, Maine (AP) — Five months before the deadliest mass shooting in Maine's history, the gunman's family alerted the sheriff that they were becoming "concerned" about his deteriorating mental health while he had access to firearms, authorities said Monday.

After the alert, the Sagadahoc County

Sheriff's Office reached out to officials of Robert Card's Army Reserve unit, which assured deputies that they would speak to Card and make sure he got medical attention, Sheriff Joel Merry said.

The family's concern about Card's mental health dated back to early this year before the sheriff's office was contacted in May, marking the earliest in a string of interactions that police had with the 40-year-old firearms instructor before he marched into a bowling alley and then a bar in Lewiston last

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U.S. consumers spending despite high prices and own gloomy outlook. Can it last?

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — A flow of recent data from the U.S. government has made one thing strikingly clear: A surge in consumer spending is fueling strong growth, demonstrating a resilience that has confounded economists, Federal Reserve officials and even the sour sentiments that Americans themselves have expressed in opinion polls.

Yet economists caution that such vigorous spending isn't likely to continue in the coming months. Many households have been pulling money from a shrinking pool of savings. Others have been turning increasingly to credit cards. And the additional savings that tens of millions of households amassed during the pandemic — from stimulus aid and reduced opportunities to travel, dine out and visit entertainment venues — are nearly depleted, economists say.

Still, the truth is no one knows where things go from here, given the unusual nature of the post-pandemic economy. The "death of the consumer" and an ensuing recession have been forecast by most econo-

mists for at least a year. So far, not only is no recession in sight but consumers as a whole appear to be in robust health. Spending might cool in the coming months, yet it's far from clear it will collapse.

The durability of consumers' willingness to shop has caught the attention of Fed officials, who have signaled that they will keep their key interest rate unchanged when they meet this week. But they've also made clear that they are monitoring the economic data for any sign that inflation could reignite and require further rate hikes.

In the meantime, businesses, especially those in the sprawling service sector, are benefiting from what still appears to be pent-up demand, likely driven by higher-income earners, after the restrictions of the pandemic. Last week, Royal Caribbean Group reported robust quarterly earnings. Travelers crowded their cruise ships and spent more even as the company raised prices.

"The acceleration of consumer spending on experiences (has) propelled us towards another outstanding quarter," said CEO Jason Liberty. "Looking ahead, we see

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Biden signs executive order on AI development safety

By JOSH BOAK and MATT O'BRIEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Monday signed an ambitious executive order on artificial intelligence that seeks to balance the needs of cutting-edge technology companies with national security and consumer

rights, creating an early set of guardrails that could be fortified by legislation and global agreements.

Before signing the order, Biden said AI is driving change at "warp speed" and carries tremendous potential as well as perils.

"AI is all around us," Biden said. "To realize the promise of AI

and avoid the risk, we need to govern this technology."

The order is an initial step that is meant to ensure that AI is trustworthy and helpful, rather than deceptive and destructive. The order — which will likely need to be augmented by congressional action — seeks to steer how AI is developed so that companies can

profit without putting public safety in jeopardy.

Using the Defense Production Act, the order requires leading AI developers to share safety test results and other information with the government. The National Institute of Standards and Technology is to create standards to ensure AI tools are safe and secure before

public release.

The Commerce Department is to issue guidance to label and watermark AI-generated content to help differentiate between authentic interactions and those generated by software. The extensive order touches on matters of privacy, civil rights, consumer protection

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The Women of Wells who shaped me

Editor's Note: This story was submitted for publication in the Women of Wells magazine. The publication, inserted in today's edition, is full of local stories about inspirational Wells County women. The magazine is available online and will be distributed throughout the county.

by Melba Edwards

In my 86 years of life I have had many women of Wells County that have guided my path on this earth.

First off I was born in Wells County and was the granddaughter of Almissa Michael McBride who lived her 98 years on the other side of the county line in Allen County. She was without a mother when she was a teenager and helped raise her baby sister who later became the mother of Bluffton Mayor John Waid.

My grandmother, before I was born, owned the McBride Farm deeded to her from her husband Dr. J.L. McBride when he passed away. The farm has now been in the family for over 150 years and is located a half mile south of Zanesville.

When I was little, my Grandmother Almissa sewed all our clothes so I learned the trade that I would use the rest of my life

from her. I started sewing for people when I was 12 years old and continued with regular sewing, wedding dresses, men's suits, and upholstered furniture and automobiles.

Of course, my greatest inspiration in my life was my mother Mary. She knew how to do everything and taught us well. She married my dad in 1931 and moved to Wells County on that farm. We were taught how to wash clothes, work on the farm, cook and help with those amazing noodles and yeast rolls. We cleaned chickens and gathered eggs and learned how to be a great mother. It was from her that we also learned compassion for others that had less than we did.

We were lucky to go to a small school and my first teacher, and maybe yours too, was Bernice Martin. She taught me to love school work and especially books.

When I went on to high school at East Union, Hannah Rutenberg was my Home Ec teacher. I was assigned to be her student assistant to take care of the money and such for the cafeteria. Because of that, she would take me with her on shopping trips and we ate at many restaurants that I never dreamed of.

In later years, when our son Doug was a student, I relied on him being taken care of in the cafeteria by the women who worked there and the oversight of Hannah. She was to follow Doug right on to Norwell where she also watched over him as he controlled his diabetes.

Back to my senior year. A new English teacher came to Union. She also was a woman of Wells County as was Hannah. She enticed me to start writing. She had looked over some essays and book reports that I had done in other years and she saw the potential.

My first publication was an article on our German exchange student that I wrote and she sent to the Indianapolis Star. Her name was Edwina Patton and she was loved by all. She left Union Center to become a professor at Huntington College where she had my daughter Robin as a student. She remained a family friend all her life. I still see her red marks

on my paper!

Through her teaching and her living in Bluffton I met Mary Webber. She was a friend of Edwina and was instrumental in getting Robin her first managing job at the Huntington Richards Restaurant.

Through Mary, I met Zoe Malcolm. She lived in an upstairs apartment next to the Bluffton Clinic and was the wife of a chiropractor.

Mary Weber told Zoe I was a good upholsterer so she called me and wanted me to upholster her fine velvet love seat and a couple chairs. Only there were stipulations. I had to do them in her apartment. I had to tell her that I had a 3 year old son that I never left with a babysitter. He would have to come along. She readily agreed that she would take care of him while I worked on her prized furniture! Jimmy loved Mrs. Malcolm and she entertained him for about three days with lots of treats and toys.

The other women of Bluffton were amazed. They could not envision Mrs. Malcolm taking care of a child let alone having me distrust her life with a sewing machine and a mess that upholstering makes in a house. From her I learned to never listen to some people's opinions of other people and to become friends and make your own.

At this time I was making the move to Zanesville after being a Wells County woman for the first 22 years of my life, living in Markle/Huntington County for two years and then buying a home in Markle/Wells County for the next 13 years. I have now lived in Zanesville/Allen County for the last 50 years.

In the 13 years that I spent in Markle/Wells I met another woman who inspired me and remains a good friend to this day. Barbara Caley Girvin was my neighbor in Skyline Addition and a very good nurse to have in your life. She helped in the delivery room for a few of my kids and was an over all Wells County Woman to others.

Across the street was Alfreda Mossburg, who we looked to for advice. When I had a grouchy neighbor who complained of the kids ruining my grass she told me to reply this, "I will raise grass after I raise my children."

In Markle I became a closer friend to Eulala Martin McClean. We worked togeth-

er on alumni and spent some family vacations with her and Bob. She was raised in Wells County and lived there until she moved to Markle. She taught many children in her lifetime.

When we moved to Zanesville I became a closer friend than ever to Rosemary Smuts Kumfer who had the same love for history and Zanesville as I did. We knew we had to do things to keep Zanesville alive and worked many hours on festivals and the 1976 History Book. Rosemary was the postmaster in town for many years and was a friend to all. She was born in Allen County but, after her marriage to Bob, she moved to Wells County and now resides at the Ossian Health Care.

I cannot leave out my Wells County friend in Bluffton whom I met when Kenny and I joined Ouabache Friends at the park. Myra Myrtle gathered others interested in saving the history of the CCC Camp at Ouabache Park near Bluffton. She wanted to do this for her father and I also was interested in saving history there because the CCC and the WPA built the pond on our family farm south of Zanesville. Myra and a small group, along with her husband, were able to raise money for the CCC statue you now see in the park and also the Friends Group has made many improvements that we enjoy to this day. Myra is a true Woman of Wells.

So many of my friends and neighbors of both Wells and Allen County have inspired me to keep on keeping on. All the women that I have known have been an inspiration to their families through the years and their legacies will be remembered for generations to come.

I was also acquainted with two sisters who have lived east of Zanesville on the Wells County side of the County Line. They were teachers in both Allen and Wells County. Ann Ferguson was a teacher at Lafayette Central when my kids were her students. Her sister Millie taught in the Wells County schools. They recently sold their home and moved to Bluffton. Both were wonderful teachers.

I worked with Ann many years and we instigated the history bus tour for the elementary students that most will never forget. My thanks to Ann for adding to our love of history!



The exercise recipe for maximum longevity Also: Figuring out fatigue

Question: What kind of exercise program is most effective for maintaining heart health and resisting cancer? Weights? Running? Walking? Yoga? — Charles P., Birmingham, Alabama

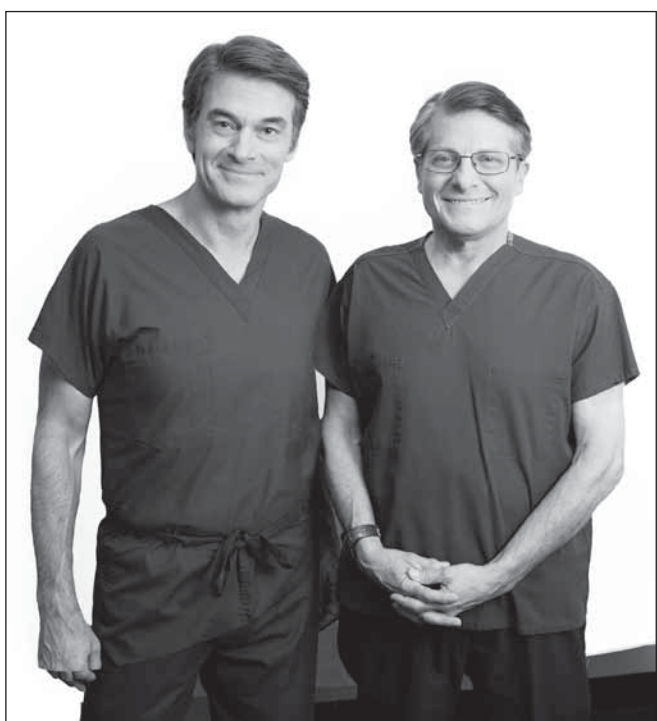
Answer: Folks are always looking for the one magic exercise to conquer their health worries. But there isn't one way to achieve heart health and protect yourself from cancer. As the RealAge exercise program I launched in 1999 demonstrated, it takes a blend: 10,000 steps a day, 20 minutes of vigorous exercise three times a week, two sessions of strength training weekly, plus 40 jumps a day creates a younger, healthier, disease-free future.

Now 24 years later, a study in JAMA Internal Medicine confirms that. An international team of researchers has found that to lower the risk of death from all-causes, including cardiovascular disease and cancer, at least some amount of moderate and vigorous aerobic physical activity, and muscle-strengthening activity, is needed.

The researchers looked at 10 years' data on more than half a million folks and discovered that doing more than 150 minutes of vigorous aerobics and two or more muscle-strengthening sessions weekly was the best way to dodge death from any cause.

To avoid heart disease the most effective routine was more than 150 to 225 minutes of moderate aerobics, more than zero to 75 minutes of vigorous aerobics, and two or more sessions of strength-training weekly. The best anti-cancer routine: more than 300 minutes of moderate aerobics, zero to 75 minutes of vigorous aerobics and two or more strength-training sessions a week.

The combination of increased respiratory health and improved circulation with better muscle strength reduces visceral fat and tamps down inflammation, as it protects your heart health and reduces the risk of cancer. It also improves



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

your mood, sexual function and cognition.

If you have chronic health issues check with your doctor about creating a workout routine. If you are free of those conditions, here is your chance to make sure you stay that way. Check out the exercise routines at LongevityPlaybook.com to get started.

Question: I'm tired all the time but don't seem to have any specific illness. What could be going on? — Glenda R., Des Moines, Iowa

Answer: Fatigue — defined as tiredness, weakness, lack of energy, and/or inability to concentrate — is a major problem for many adults. A recent study in Frontiers of Public Health says that more than 20 percent of you contend with general fatigue and 10 percent with chronic fatigue (fatigue lasting more than six months). And for some folks, it is even more of a problem: Fully 42 percent of folks whose job is in health care or they're a pilot, shift worker, have extra long hours, or are interacting with the public in stressful situations, are contending with chronic fatigue.

So what could be the source of your general fatigue? The top candidates are sleep disorders (sleep

apnea and insomnia), depression or anxiety, thyroid problems, iron-deficiency anemia, a poor diet, dehydration and medications. I suggest you drink a couple extra glasses of water three times a day. If the fatigue persists, talk to your doctor about finding the cause and the solution. You may need to have your sleep evaluated, talk with a therapist, and have a blood test to check for thyroid issues and anemia.

Chronic fatigue may signal other significant health issues. Heart disease, cancer, diabetes, kidney disease, multiple sclerosis, and rheumatoid arthritis may cause prolonged weariness (so can chronic dehydration). Chronic fatigue syndrome, now called chronic myalgic encephalomyelitis or CME, and chronic infections like Lyme disease and long COVID-19 may also be the sources of the problem.

I suggest you write out all your symptoms and when you experience them. Keep a water and food diary and correlate it with your symptoms. Then see your doctor to start the diagnostic journey — it may take some sleuthing, but it is worth the effort. Regaining your strength and becoming more physically active and socially interactive is vital for happiness, brain health and longevity.

Military display dedication at Historical Museum

A special program will be presented on Sunday, Nov. 5, at 2 p.m. at the Wells County Historical Museum's Annex as the newly renovated Military Exhibit is unveiled and dedicated.

The program will honor all Veterans. Many of the military exhibits have been relocated from the second floor of the

museum to the Annex to allow for easier viewing for Veterans. Museum volunteers have been working over the past several weeks to install new paneling in the Annex and the exhibits.

To help honor the Veterans and dedicate the new exhibit, Dr. Gene Bell, First Reformed Church; Bluffton Mayor John

Whicker and members of American Legion Post 111 will participate in the program. Noted Civil War speaker Sam Thor will be the main speaker and Civil War period music will be performed by Rich McConnell and others.

The event is free and open to the public. Visitor parking is located on the street and at nearby lots.

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FOOTBALL

NFL AMERICAN CONFERENCE East W L T Pct PF PA ... NATIONAL CONFERENCE East W L T Pct PF PA ...

Tennessee at Pittsburgh, 8:15 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5 Miami vs Kansas City at Frankfurt, DEU, 9:30 a.m. Arizona at Cleveland, 1 p.m. ...

BASKETBALL

NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division W L T Pct GB ... WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division W L T Pct GB ...

Philadelphia 126, Portland 98 L.A. Clippers 123, San Antonio 83 ... Metropolitan Division GP W L OT Pts GF GA ...

Tuesday's Games New York at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m. San Antonio at Phoenix, 10 p.m. ... Wednesday's Games Milwaukee at Toronto, 7 p.m. ...

BASEBALL

MLB WORLD SERIES (Best-of-7) (All Games on Fox) Texas 2, Arizona 1 ...

HOCKEY

NHL EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division GP W L OT Pts GF GA ...

Harbaugh says he'd 'love to' talk Michigan's sign-stealing investigation, but can't just yet

By LARRY LAGE AP Sports Writers ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Jim Harbaugh usually shares his thoughts freely, and often in unique ways. Amid an NCAA investigation into a sign-stealing scheme under his watch at Michigan, his approach has changed. "Stuff we just can't talk about," Harbaugh said Monday while the second-ranked Wolverines prepared to play Purdue. "I'd love to." Harbaugh, though, did address a report the school rescinded a contract offer for him in the wake of a scandal that has rocked college football's winningest program. "I wouldn't say that's accurate," Harbaugh said. What is true is that contract talks between Michigan and Harbaugh have lingered for many months.

Unresolved NCAA issues from a previous investigation, tied to improper contact with recruits, delayed Michigan finalizing a new deal for Harbaugh, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press last July. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss contract talks. The latest NCAA inquiry was triggered by an outside firm's investigation, which turned up videos of and documented plans and budgets for impermissible scouting of opponents. The Washington Post reported the firm obtained computer drives maintained and accessed by multiple Michigan coaches. Harbaugh has denied any knowledge or involvement in impermissible scouting of opponents and said no one has given him a timetable

for the probe. The firm presented evidence to the NCAA and suggested Connor Stalions, a low-level staffer who has been suspended by Michigan, was not the only person on staff aware of the scheme, according to the report. A second person with knowledge of the situation confirmed to the AP that a firm provided the NCAA with evidence, including photographs, videos and documents, that initiated the association's investigation. That person told AP on Thursday the NCAA has not shared any evidence from the scouting case with Michigan officials or school attorneys. It was unclear who hired the firm to investigate Michigan. "Cooperate with the investigation and watch how it plays out," he said. "The

speculation part, too much of a one-track mind on coaching the team to be able to engage in every speculation that seems to be any and everywhere." The Wolverines (8-0, 5-0 Big Ten) have won consecutive conference championships and reached the playoff semifinals each of the last two seasons and host the rebuilding Boilermakers (2-6, 1-4) on Saturday night. The NCAA does not directly ban the stealing of signs, but there are rules against using electronic equipment to record an opponent's signals and in-person, advanced scouting of future opponents in season. There are also rules against unsportsmanlike or unethical activities by coaches, and head coaches are generally considered to be responsible for violations that occur under them.

The Colts are looking for answers after their 3-game losing streak capped October

By MICHAEL MAROT AP Sports Writer INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — October began with so much promise for the Indianapolis Colts. Two straight wins put them atop the AFC South, running back Jonathan Taylor was about to be activated from injured reserve, rookie quarterback Anthony Richardson cleared the concussion protocol, and four of their next five games were at home. Then, reality hit. They endured the annual nightmare loss at Jacksonville, Richardson suffered a season-ending shoulder injury, and now a three-game skid has them searching for a way out of the division's cellar. "Everybody talks about toughness," quarterback Gardner Minshew said after Sunday's 38-27 loss to New Orleans. "When your body hurts, when your heart hurts, who's tough? I think we're about to figure that out, but I feel good about the guys we've got." What's gone wrong over these last three weeks? What hasn't? Since replacing Richardson, Minshew has thrown five interceptions, lost four fumbles, been sacked nine times and is 0-3. Taylor, the 2021 rushing champ, ended an ugly contract dispute by signing a three-year extension on Oct. 7, but had only one second-half carry Sunday after rushing for 87 yards in the first quarter. And one week after top receiver Michael Pittman Jr. publicly lobbied for a larger role in the offense, he caught eight passes for 40 yards and blamed his bad route for Minshew's lone turnover Sunday. Defensively, the Colts (3-5) have allowed 37, 39 and 38 points over the

last three weeks. "We know we're better than that," two-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle DeForest Buckner said. "We have proved we're better than that. There is nothing special (to do). There are things we prepare for and in those moments, we are just dropping the ball." The obvious solution to ending this midseason slump would be leaning more heavily on a ball-control game plan that would help reduce the number of turnovers, sacks and opponents' scoring chances. And while the doubters think it's an impossible task after eight games, Minshew believes the Colts can turn the corner in time to make November a month to remember. "It stings, it stings a lot when you lose three games, especially the way it's been going," defensive lineman Tyquan Lewis said Monday. "It does hurt, but there's always like a new week, a new opportunity. I think moving forward you don't have much of a choice but to win now." WHAT'S WORKING The short passing game. Quicker throws helped alleviate some of the pressure on Minshew and appeared to solve the turnover problem. Minshew had one giveaway Sunday after posting four in each of the two previous weeks. WHAT NEEDS HELP The secondary. There's a steep learning curve for young NFL defensive backs, and when injuries hit, the challenge becomes even greater. Only seven teams are allowing more than Indy's 247.3 yards passing per game. And while Indy's pass rush has been effective, its secondary has not. STOCK UP WR Josh Downs. The rookie seems

to be taking on a bigger role each week. He had seven catches for 72 yards against the Saints and is now second on the team in receptions (40) behind only Pittman (50). No other Colts player has more than 17 catches this season. STOCK DOWN CB Tony Brown. He has been primarily a special teams player for the Colts but made his first start of the season Sunday. It didn't go well. He gave up a 58-yard TD pass and the 51-yard pass that essentially sealed Indy's fate. He also drew a face mask penalty that helped set up the Saints' final TD. INJURIES Steichen didn't announce any injuries after the game, though Minshew (left ankle) and LB Zaire Franklin (right knee) got dinged up. The bigger question may be whether Indy gets anyone back from a list that includes CB JuJu Brents (quad), RT Braden Smith (hip and wrist), DT Eric Johnson II (ankle) and TE Kylen Granson (concussion protocol). KEY NUMBERS 6.8 — Taylor and Zack Moss have given Indy one of the league's top rushing tandems since Taylor returned to action. They did it again Sunday, combining for 23 carries, 161 yards and one TD as the Colts averaged 6.8 yards per carry. NEXT STEPS The Colts' next contest, against Carolina (1-6) and former coach Frank Reich, certainly provides hope for a turnaround. After all, they're facing a rookie quarterback, No. 1 overall pick Bryce Young, and one of the league's worst scoring offenses (18.8 points). It's also an opportunity for the league's worst-scoring defense (28.8 points) to show it can do better.

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SW Jr./Sr. High School announces 1st quarter honor

7th Grade High Honor Roll
Steven Bannister, Mack Frauhiger, Rylen Gates, Camryn Hamilton, Adelyn Heim, Gabriella Hoffacker, Gwyneth Howell, Logan Leas, Lyla Lyons, Amelia Penrod, Grace Rockwell, Grace Rogers and Timothy Smith.

Honor Roll
Aubrie Beavans, Alaina Edmonds, Kyan Johnson, Rylan Leas, Lyric McQueary, Olivia Newman, Lucille Palmer, Kylie Peterson, Adelynn Robles, Annalyse Roe, Ella Schwartz and Logan Tarr.

8th Grade High Honor Roll
Kameron Hawkins, Olivia Kahn, Sarah McFarren, Laren Schneider, Drew Steffen and Abriella Zigler.

Honor Roll
Adam Aulbach, Kaleb Boots, Ellie DeWeese, Harlie Durham, Madison Grover, Jacob Hahn, Sophie Heckman, Mary

Huffman, Bailey Jenkins, Drew Lahr, Violet McClain, Addison Miller, Marianne Pease, Evelyn Peterson, Milee Rickard, Cadence Watkins, Caylee Williams and Kendal Zavattaro.

9th Grade High Honor Roll
Kinley Allred, Joshua Aulbach, Cash Banter, Rhilyn Bouvier, Kaylea Coffel, Dirk Frauhiger, Gavin Howell, Carson Liddy, Sophia Meeks, Lillia Paxson, Delinda Schortgen and Kila Shelley.

Honor Roll
Kyah Boots, Jayda Brown, Andi Jane Bryant, Sylvie Gilbert, Miranda Holloway, Landon Johnson, Samantha Kahn, McKenna King, Savannah McEvoy, Aubree Meyer, Chanie Mounsey, Gunner Murray, Reagan Needler, Elisabeth Penrod, Catalina Ramirez, Lilly Roe and Jenna Shimp.

10th Grade High Honor Roll
Jadyn Bannister, Peyton Bertsch, Peyton

Ellis, Keith Gartin, Lilly Gartin, Addison Gaskill, Jazlyn Gillum, Lucas Goodrich, Ronan Jump, Gracie Reeves, Adeline Sabinske, Emily Steffen and Braden Yencer.

Honor Roll
Sydney Alstoft, Kolbie Beavans, Creed Beiswanger, Laura Benbow, Korbin Eltzroth, Chloe Enochs, Lexie Fiechter, Jarin Frauhiger, Kaitlyn Gardner, Miles Garrett, Shaylinn Geesaman, Leeland Goodnight, Wyatt Harker, Lucy Hayes, Kane Jenkins, Gage Lowe, Lillian Mahorney, Isabella Maul, Miley Michael, Anthony Mills, Hayden Morgan, Emma Parks, Lillian Pence, Taylor Rogers, Trey Slusher, Dalton Stephan, MacKenzie Taylor and Emmigen Walden.

11th Grade High Honor Roll
Ava Adkins, Alyssa Green, Nickolas Lee, Hana McClain, Bradon Reed, Collena Reeves and Derek Rockwell.

Honor Roll
Matthew Aulbach, Aidan Carney, Colten Clark, Quinten Darling, Avery Gaskill, Maya Ison, Owen King, Breanna Leidig, Bailee Moore, Ashlie Needler, Alaina Nusbaumer, Kenzie Paxson, Matthew Pearson, Dominic Ramirez, Cory Reber, Caroline Ripperger, Haidee Stetzel and Tucker Worster.

12th Grade High Honor Roll
Caleb Johnson, Kammy Miller, Keith Pluimer, Rylie Wilson and Tristen Worster.

Honor Roll
Seth Alstoft, Case Boxell, Isabella Bradley, Brittany Costello, Perrin Gates, Erik Habegger, Jaxon Heath, Brayden Jackson, Brandon Kirtley, Ella Lahr, Cambri Leas, Peyton Long, Tessa Maul, Gabe McElhane, Andrew Pearson, Evan Pennington, Emma Peterson, Kaiden Schmidt, Madalyn Scott, Audrey Sweeden, Yazmine Tucker, Karlee Warner and Delaney Zigler.

Biden administration moving toward narrower student loan relief

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration is moving toward a narrower student loan relief plan that would target specific groups of borrowers — those with soaring interest, for example — rather than a sweeping plan like the one the Supreme Court rejected in June.

The Education Department on Monday released a draft of new federal rules paving the way for a second attempt at student loan relief. The proposal targets groups that are seen as especially vulnerable, focusing on those who owe so much, or make so little income, that they otherwise may never repay their loans.

Though full details are likely months away, the department says it wants to cancel some or all student debt for: borrowers whose balances exceed what they originally owed; those who have loans that entered repayment 25 or more years ago; those who used loans to attend career-training programs that led to "unreasonable" debt loads or insufficient earnings; those who are eligible for other loan forgiveness programs but

did not apply. A fifth group is also being discussed — "those who are experiencing financial hardship that the current student loan system does not currently adequately address."

"President Biden and I are committed to helping borrowers who've been failed by our country's broken and unaffordable student loan system," Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said in a statement. "We are fighting to ensure that student debt does not stand in the way of opportunity or prevent borrowers from realizing the benefits of their higher education."

President Joe Biden's initial plan was broader. It would have canceled up to \$20,000 in federal student loans for those with annual incomes below \$125,000 or couples below \$250,000. But after that was rejected by the court's conservative majority, he called on the Education Department to try again using a different legal basis.

The new proposal aims to tackle issues that are seen as some of the biggest culprits behind skyrocketing debt.

It would help counter interest that snowballs beyond borrowers' original balances. It would offer relief to borrowers who attended for-profit college programs with poor outcomes. It would also help older borrowers who took out loans decades ago and struggle to make payments.

The department says it will continue to refine the proposal as it goes through a federal rulemaking process. The public will be able to provide written feedback next year.

The draft proposal would give the department authority to wipe away federal student loans entirely for borrowers in some categories.

For those who started repaying loans more than 25 years ago, the proposal says that "the secretary may waive the outstanding balance of a loan" — amounting to total cancellation. It's the same for borrowers who are eligible for other cancellation programs but haven't applied.

Loans used to attend low-value college programs would also be wiped away. Borrowers would fall into that category if they attended a program that fails new

standards outlined in a separate federal rule known as gainful employment.

For those with snowballing interest, the proposal would reset their loans back to the original balance, effectively canceling unpaid interest.

Even a more limited plan for relief is sure to draw fierce opposition from Republicans, who see cancellation as an unfair burden on taxpayers.

The latest attempt rests on the Higher Education Act of 1965, a wide-reaching law that gives the education secretary power to "compromise, waive or release" certain debts. But the law is unclear on how the secretary can wield that authority, creating a legal gray area that has been the subject of debate since Biden took office.

The proposal aims to settle the dispute by creating new federal rules detailing cases that merit cancellation. Before the rules can be enacted, they must be weighed by a committee of government outsiders in a process known as negotiated rulemaking. The new draft will be taken up when the committee meets next week.

The committee is made up of negotiators who represent a range of viewpoints on student loans. It includes students and officials from a range of colleges, along with loan servicers, state officials and advocates including the NAACP.

Meetings began earlier this month and are

scheduled to continue into December.

At the end of the process, negotiators will vote on a proposed rule. If they reach consensus, the department will move forward with it. If they don't, the agency will propose its own plan, which can be finalized after a public comment period.

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Almanac forecast: 'Get Ready for a Winter Wonderland'

By AGDAILY

Days are getting shorter, the air is cooler, and parts of the country are already seeing snow. Based on the 2024 Old Farmer's Almanac, expect these trends to continue, and "get ready for a winter wonderland."

According to the almanac, most parts of the United States that typically see snow should be prepared for totals at or above average. While the moisture will likely be welcome, and for those who enjoy winter sports, holiday spirits, and fires, it will also probably bring shoveling, show-blowing, poor road conditions, and unbearable temperatures.

Just how much snow are we talking?

2024 Old Farmer's Almanac predicts snowfall above normal across most snow-prone areas (except for the Pacific Northwest).

If you're in the Northeast and Midwest, snow will arrive beginning in November, with storms, showers, and flurries continuing through the start of spring.

Along with above-normal snow, the Almanac predicts normal to colder-than-normal temperatures in areas that typically receive snow.

Only snowy New England and the Atlantic Corridor will enjoy winter temperatures milder than typical for their regions.

Wetter-than-usual weather is coming to the southern portions of the Deep South, Texas, and California, with potentially drought-quenching rain. As the winter map shows, much of the U.S. coastline, from New England down to Florida across the Gulf Coast to the Pacific Southwest, will experience mild to cool temperatures.

In the Pacific Northwest, a relatively dry and cold season is predicted. While storm clouds will typically deliver rain, snow is possible for late December and mid-January.

As for Canada, be prepared for snow — and lots of it — in most parts of the country.

So, why this winter forecast?

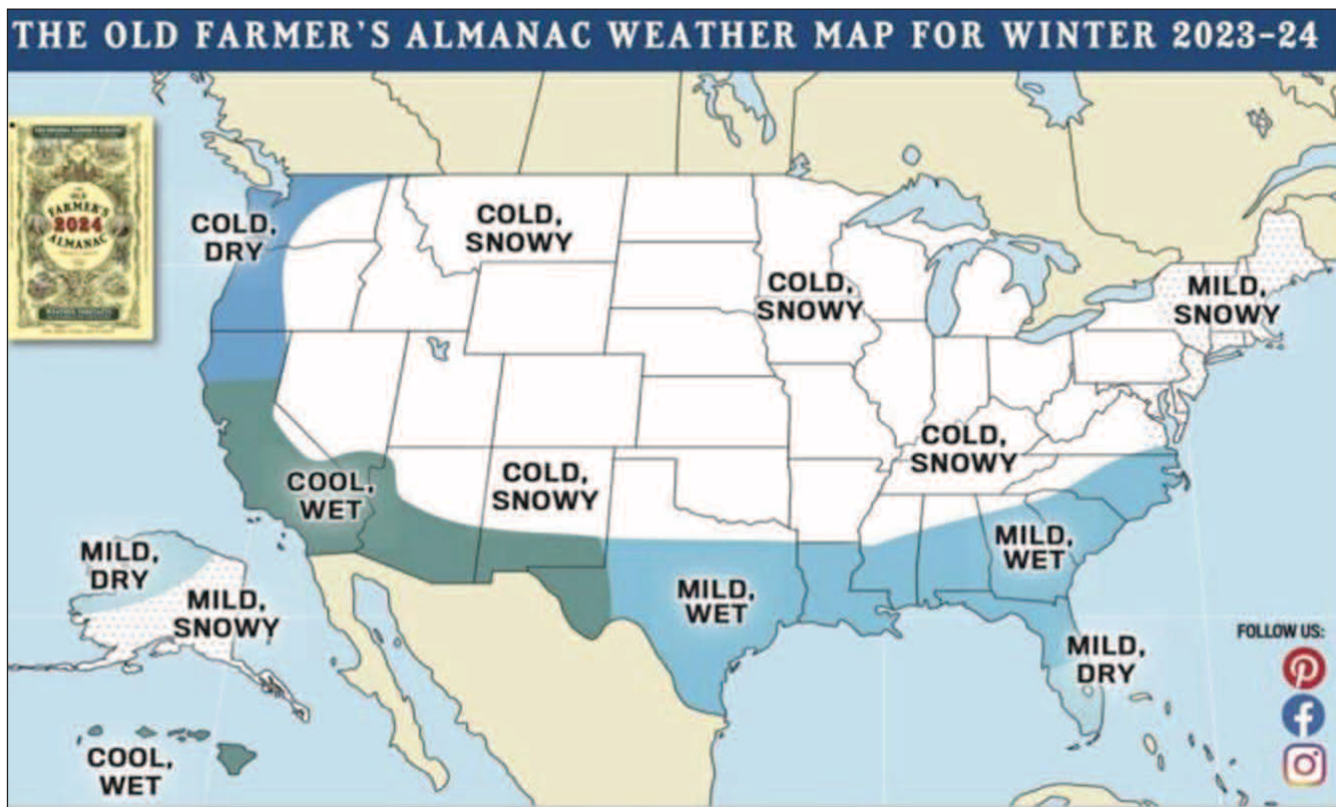


Image provided by 2024 Old Farmer's Almanac.

We are approaching the middle of Solar Cycle 25, which is increasing in intensity and already as strong as Solar Cycle 24, which possibly had the lowest solar activity in about 200 years. Such low activity has historically meant cooler-than-average temperatures across Earth, but this connection has become weaker since the last century.

The expected El Niño has emerged and should gradually strengthen into the winter.

El Niño is a natural climate phenomenon marked by warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean.

Typically, El Niño conditions result in wetter-than-average conditions from southern California to along the Gulf Coast and drier-than-average conditions in the Pacific Northwest. We also expect a warm Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation and cool Pacific Decadal Oscillation. Also important

are the equatorial stratospheric winds involved in the Quasi-Biennial Oscillation.

Under certain combinations of meteorological conditions, the polar vortex can be displaced from the North Pole, which could open the door for cold blasts to hit southern Canada and the central and eastern United States during this upcoming winter.

Where can you get a copy of the 2024 Old Farm-

ers' Almanac?

The 2024 Old Farmers' Almanac, with its yellow and green cover, is now available in bookstores and retail stores and on Amazon and Almanac.com. Not just for farmers, the Old Farmers' Almanac reaches a broader audience with husbandry tips, days to cut your hair or mow your lawn (that you won't see for a while), and how to quit bad habits, brew beer, and grow basil.

USDA's organic rules include more stringent care practices

By AGDAILY

Organic overhauls have been a long time coming. Among the Strengthening Organic Enforcement rule released earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has previewed today's Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards final rule, with a heavy focus on organic producers using better nutrition and medical practices to minimize pain, stress and suffering in their animals.

The new rule hopes to establish "clear, strong, and consistent standards for organic livestock and poultry production," while providing greater consumer transparency.

The flagship requirement says that organic producers treat animals with all necessary treatments, even if they lose out on their organic status. Currently, organic farming is based on the principles that an animal that is allowed to exhibit natural behavior and feeds with the hope that this will lead to better coping with infections. While there isn't specific data referenced in the USDA's changes, it seems clear that the new steps are being taken because of shortfalls in the current organic approach to animal

welfare. Despite a strong public perception of what organic labels mean, a number of myths surround organic production. And, the USDA found through 40,000 public comments a need to more clearly outline and enforce standards for animal welfare practices in organic production.

There are six primary areas in which the OLPS aims to provide greater uniformity and promote animal well-being for livestock and poultry:

Preventative health care practices: Producers must maintain preventive health care practices that include sufficient nutrition and comprehensive parasite prevention plans. Animals must be treated with allowed medicines to minimize pain, stress, and suffering. All necessary treatment must be administered, even if the animal loses its organic status.

Physical alterations and euthanasia: Physical alterations are permitted only for identification purposes or the safety of the animals, and certain alterations are prohibited altogether. Alterations must be performed at a young age for the species in a manner to minimize

the animal's pain and stress. Humane euthanasia may only be used if treatment is not an option.

Transport, handling, and slaughter: Operations must describe how organic management and animal welfare will be maintained for transport that exceeds eight hours. Animals must be fit for transport. The mode of transport must be seasonally appropriate to protect livestock from cold or heat. Operations must adhere to USDA humane slaughter standards.

Poultry stocking densities: The rule sets specific requirements for indoor and outdoor stocking densities to align with advisory board recommendations, third-party animal welfare standards, and public comments from organic stakeholders.

Indoor and outdoor living conditions: Shelters must have sufficient space for livestock to lie down, stand up, turn around, fully stretch their limbs or wings, and express natural behaviors, such as rooting in pigs and scratching in chickens. Bedding areas must be sufficiently large and comfortable to keep livestock hygienic (for the species), dry, and free of lesions.

Outdoor space requirements: OLPS sets minimum outdoor space requirements for organic poultry and requires ready access to the outdoors. Outdoor areas must be at least 75 percent soil and include vegetation to the degree possible.

In partnership with USDA-accredited certifiers, USDA's National Organic Program will oversee the implementation of and enforce compliance with these new, more consistent standards to support the growth of the organic market.

"USDA is creating a fairer, more competitive, and transparent food system. This organic poultry and livestock standard establishes clear and strong standards that will increase the consistency of animal welfare practices in organic production and in how these practices are enforced," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Competitive markets help deliver greater value to all producers, regardless of size."

The final rule will be published in the Federal Register. A preview of the rule is available on the AMS website.

Agri-food leaders optimistic about a sustainable food system

By AGDAILY

Around the world, agri-food leaders believe the industry can work together to create a better, more sustainable food system. That's one of the key findings of the Alltech Sustainability Insights Survey, which asked industry leaders to share their perspectives on the issues that matter most to the agri-food value chain.

The survey — conducted by Alltech in collaboration with independent, Ireland-based research agency Opinions — collected insights through 26 one-on-one interviews with industry leaders, as well as a comprehensive survey completed by more than 2,500 members of the global agri-food industry.

This effort presented an exciting opportunity to quantify attitudes and perceptions about sustainability from stakeholders across the agri-food value chain and to identify tangible actions to build a more sustainable future.

"Our goal was to listen to the voices of our industry and develop a robust, future-facing program of insights support that is relevant, ambitious, and genuinely impactful," says Tara McCarthy, Alltech's global vice president of environ-

ment, social, and corporate governance.

The survey questions were focused on five areas: challenges and opportunities, drivers and priorities, attitudes toward change, support and guidance, and who the respondents believe is going to pay for sustainability.

"We are an industry that has remained resilient and provides a robust and efficient food system. To be seen as sustainable food leaders, we need to adopt a holistic approach and continue to evolve the narrative," said Tara McCarthy, Alltech's global vice president of ESG. "While everyone across the value chain has a role to play, food producers are clearly front and center. The proactive role of the industry and policymakers in this conversation is absolutely vital."

Given the evolving understanding of sustainability and the complexity of the industry, Alltech believes there is significant value in exploring and sharing perspectives with agri-food stakeholders.

"This an opportunity to reframe the future," McCarthy said. "Armed with this data, we will be able to bring solutions to help our industry to adapt and partner."

More on the survey findings

Among the top findings, 85 percent of respondents within the industry believe that the system can rise to the challenge. However, the conflict in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic have illustrated how vulnerable food systems are and the need for food security.

Despite a belief in change, 80 percent of survey respondents also indicated that farmers are not being fairly rewarded financially for their role. Another two out of three respondents indicated that things will not change unless farmers are financially incentivized.

However, nearly 75 percent of producers indicated that they were willing to change their business practices to become more sustainable, even though over half of producers indicating that they were being unfairly targeted when it comes to sustainability (particularly those in ruminant production industries).

Nearly 90 percent of respondents agreed that technology and innovation are the key to a more sustainable food system.

Most survey respondents agreed that food systems are vulnerable, climate change will make production more

difficult in the future, and global food security is becoming a more significant issue.

Overall, respondents were optimistic that the global food system can rise to the challenge.

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Daily Three-Midday — 07-09-04, SB: 05
Daily Three-Evening — 06-00-00, SB: 08
Daily Four-Midday — 08-02-06-01, SB: 05
Daily Four-Evening — 03-02-03-00, SB: 08
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GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE (Last sale until March 2024), Forgotten Children Worldwide, 650 N. Main St., Bluffton, Nov. 2 & 3, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 4 (sack sale) 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Gently used lightweight & winter coats (adult & children), Christmas decor & trees, patio tables, antique chest of drawers, dishwasher, tools, much more.

HELOISE HINT: Use all the media platforms you have to get out the word about your garage sale. You can also take out an ad in a local newspaper, post a notice about it online or write a blog. Make sure to let all your neighbors and friends know about it. Notify churches that you want to donate any leftover items, too. Write to Heloise, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001.

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

SUDOKU ANSWER

10/31

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

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Walk on the wary side

Dear Annie: Both my wife and I are in our 80s, and we like to take walks together. Recently, we've noticed a safety issue that concerns us. As young children, we were always taught to walk facing traffic (i.e., the left side of the road). Older people, like us, seem to have learned this lesson well. But somewhere along the line, this simple safety tip got dropped.

What we see today are more and more young people and their families walking in the direction of traffic. Please tell your readers to be safe and walk facing traffic. — Two Walkers

Dear Two Walkers: Thank you for your observation. I will pass the tip on to my readers. And great job walking! Walking together as a couple is great for so many reasons. It helps you stay fit while growing closer to each other by having relaxed conversations in the open air.

Dear Readers: The following are some helpful tips to keep your children safe, courtesy of Safe Kids Worldwide.

Walking Tips:

- 1. Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.
2. Put electronic devices down, keep your head up and walk — don't run — across the street.
3. Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
4. Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with as few street crossings as possible.
5. Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
6. Join kids under age 12 for trick-or-treating. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, tell them to trick-or-treat in groups and stick to

familiar, well-lit areas.

Costumes for a Safe Halloween

- 1. Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and choose light colors if possible.
2. Choose face paint and makeup instead of masks whenever you can, as masks can obstruct children's vision.
3. Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
4. When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size, so as to prevent trips and falls.
Drive Especially Safely on Halloween
1. Slow down and be extra alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
2. Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
3. Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
4. Get rid of any distractions in your car — such as your phone — so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
5. Turn your headlights on earlier in the day so you can spot children from greater distances.
6. Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Be especially alert for kids during those hours.
Quick tip for the pets: Please keep your cats inside for Halloween and hide your candy from your dogs. Chocolate and raisins are poisonous to them.
Wishing everyone a happy and safe Halloween!

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Wishing everyone a happy and safe Halloween!

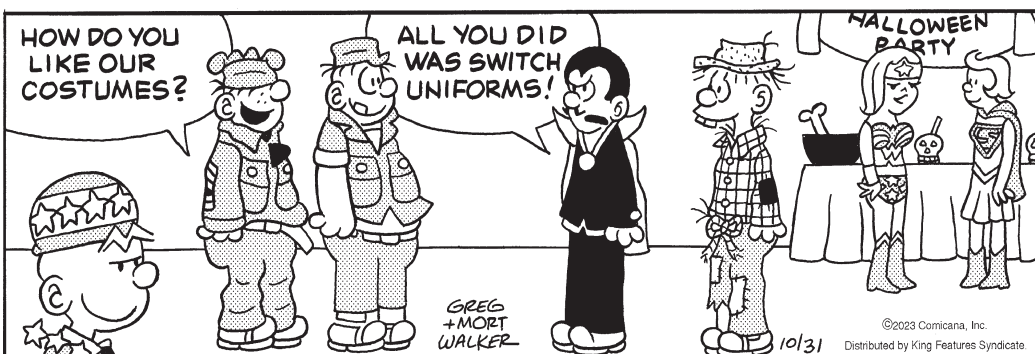
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Dear Annie

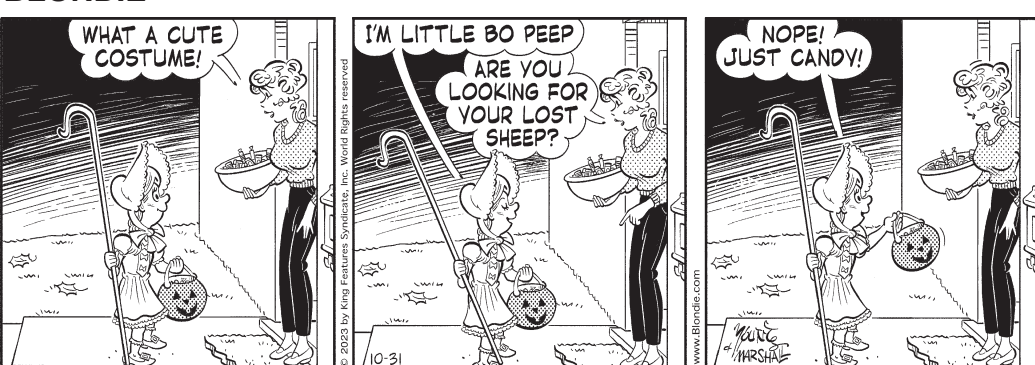
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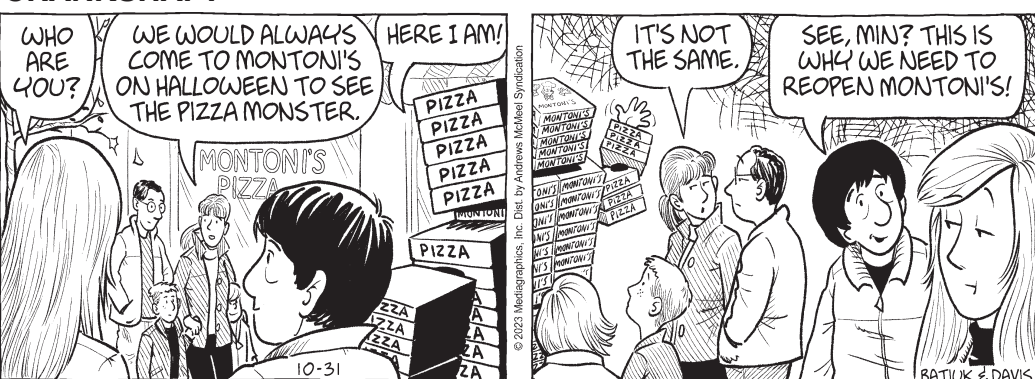
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



God communicates with those who are willing to obey Him

ally deaf every day; many men and women are more than deaf and blind, they are dead.

"You were dead in your trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1, HCSB).

Millions of people long for a world of joy, light, harmony, and peace; instead, they are engulfed in a world of pessimism, darkness, discord, and turmoil. They search for happiness, but it eludes them. Often their despondent attitude leads to a circle of cocktail parties or bars where they obliterate the reality of their world with the unreality of alcohol. Sometimes they are led to drugs, immorality, or an all-consuming pursuit of a hobby or a sport.

All these are symptoms of the great escapist disease caused by an insidious infection called sin. Many people want to dis-

sect God under their own microscopes. After establishing their own methods of analysis they come to no conclusions; God remains the great cosmic silence, unknown and unseeing. Its ear is too dull to hear the truth; people's eyes are blind.

They do not want to see. They do not want to hear. They hurry to their doom. However, God does communicate with those who are willing to obey Him. He penetrates the dark silence with free, life-giving discoveries in nature, the human conscience, Scripture, and the Person of Jesus Christ.

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

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"Well, I didn't have to turn any of our neighbors into frogs."

"EXCUSE ME... SOMEONE'S ABOUT TO LOSE HIS FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION."

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-31 crossword puzzle grid with numbers in the squares.

Table with 24 columns (10:31 to 12:30) and 32 rows (WJLA to TMC) listing TV channels and their programming for October 31, 2023.

Israel pushes deeper into Gaza and frees Hamas captive

Netanyahu rejects calls for cease-fire

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli ground forces pushed deeper into Gaza on Monday, advancing in tanks and other armored vehicles on the territory's main city and freeing a soldier held captive by Hamas militants. The Israeli prime minister rejected calls for a cease-fire as airstrikes landed near hospitals where thousands of Palestinians are sheltering beside the wounded.

held by Israel, including many implicated in deadly attacks on Israelis. Israel has dismissed the offer, and Netanyahu said the ground invasion "creates the possibility" of getting the hostages out, adding that Hamas will "only do it under pressure."

Hamas released a short video Monday purporting to show three other female captives. One of the women delivers a brief statement — likely under duress — criticizing Israel's response to the hostage crisis.

It was not clear when the Hamas video was made. The Associated Press usually refrains from reporting details of hostage videos because they show individuals speaking under duress and are often used for propaganda purposes.

Amos Aloni, whose daughter Danielle appeared in the video, told reporters that he and his wife were shocked when she appeared on TV but also felt "relief from her being alive and seeing her."

The military has been vague about its operations inside Gaza, including the location and number of troops. Israel has declared a new "phase" in the war but stopped short of declaring an all-out ground invasion.

Larger ground operations have been launched both north and east of Gaza City. Israel says many of Hamas' forces and much of its militant infrastructure, including hundreds of miles of tunnels, are in Gaza City, which before the war was home to over 650,000 people, a population comparable to that of Washington, D.C.

Though Israel ordered Palestinians to flee the north, where Gaza City is located, and move south, hundreds of thousands remain, in part because

Israel has also bombarded targets in so-called safe zones. Around 117,000 displaced people hoping to stay safe from strikes are staying in hospitals in northern Gaza, alongside thousands of patients and staff, according to U.N. figures.

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, says nearly 672,000 Palestinians are sheltering in its schools and other facilities across Gaza, which have reached four times their capacity.

UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini accused Israel of "collective punishment" of the Palestinians, and of forcing their displacement from northern Gaza to the south, where they are still not safe.

The death toll among Palestinians passed 8,300, mostly women and children, the Gaza Health Ministry said Monday. The figure is without precedent in decades of Israeli-Palestinian violence. More than 1.4 million people in Gaza have fled their homes.

Over 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during Hamas' initial attack, also an unprecedented figure.

Lazzarini said 64 of the agency's staff were killed in the past three weeks — the latest just two hours before he addressed an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting, when an agency security official was killed with his wife and eight children.

Most Gazans "feel trapped in a war they have nothing to do with" and "feel the world is equating all of them to Hamas," he told the Security Council.

Video circulating on social media showed an Israeli tank and bulldozer in central Gaza blocking the territory's main north-south highway.

The video, taken by a local journalist, shows a car approaching an earth

barrier across the road. The car stops and turns around. As it heads away, a tank appears to open fire, and an explosion engulfs the car. The journalist, in another car, races away in terror, screaming, "Go back! Go back!" at an approaching ambulance and other vehicles.

The Gaza Health Ministry later said three people were killed in the car that was hit.

Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, an Israeli military spokesman, declined to comment on where Israeli forces are deployed. He said additional infantry and armored, engineering and artillery units had entered Gaza and the operations would continue to "expand and intensify."

The military said troops have killed dozens of militants who attacked from inside buildings and tunnels. It said that in the last few days, it had struck more than 600 militant targets, including weapons depots and anti-tank missile launching positions. Palestinian militants have continued firing rockets into Israel, including toward its commercial hub, Tel Aviv.

Hamas said its fighters clashed with Israeli troops who entered the northwest. It was not possible to independently confirm battlefield claims made by either side.

Meanwhile, crowded hospitals in northern Gaza came under growing threat.

Gaza's Health Ministry shared video footage that appeared to show an explosion and a column of smoke near the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital for cancer patients. The hospital director, Dr. Sobhi Skaik, said it had sustained damage in a strike that endangered patients.

All 10 hospitals operating in northern Gaza have received evacuation orders, the U.N.'s office for the coordination of humanitar-

ian affairs said. Staff have refused to leave, saying evacuation would mean death for patients on ventilators.

Strikes hit within 50 yards of Al Quds Hospital after it received two calls from Israeli authorities on Sunday ordering it to evacuate, the Palestinian Red Crescent rescue service said. Some windows were blown out, and rooms were covered in debris. It said 14,000 people are sheltering there.

Israel says it targets Hamas fighters and infrastructure and that the militants operate among civilians, putting them in danger.

Beyond the fighting, conditions for civilians in Gaza are continually deteriorating.

With no central power for weeks and little fuel, hospitals are struggling to keep emergency generators running to operate incubators and other life-saving equipment. UNRWA has been trying to keep water

pumps and bakeries running.

On Sunday, the largest convoy of humanitarian aid yet — 33 trucks — entered the territory from Egypt, and another 26 entered on Monday. Relief workers say the amount is still far less than what is needed for the population of 2.3 million people.

The fighting has raised concerns that the violence could spread across the region. Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah have engaged in daily skirmishes along Israel's northern border.

In the occupied West Bank, Israel carried out airstrikes Monday against militants clashing with its forces in the Jenin refugee camp. Hamas said four of its fighters were killed there.

As of Sunday, Israeli forces and settlers have killed 123 Palestinians, including 33 minors, in the West Bank, half of them during search-and-arrest operations, the U.N. said.

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Ex-cop who fired into Breonna Taylor's apartment in flawed, fatal raid goes on trial again

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A former Louisville police officer who fired into Breonna Taylor's apartment the night she was killed is going on trial in federal court this week for violating Taylor's civil rights during the botched 2020 raid.

The trial will mark a second attempt by prosecutors to convict Brett Hankison for his actions on the night Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, was shot to death by police after they knocked down the door of her apartment. Hankison was acquitted in a state trial last year.

Jury selection lasted all day Monday and will continue Tuesday morning. Lawyers are working to select 16 from a pool of about 50 potential jurors.

Taylor was shot to death by officers who were executing a drug search warrant, which was later found to be flawed. Taylor's boyfriend fired a single shot that hit one of the officers as they came through the door, and officers returned fire, striking Taylor in her hallway multiple times. The other 32 bullets fired in the raid came from police, investigators determined.

When gunfire erupted, Hankison ran to the side of the apartment and sprayed bullets through Taylor's windows, later saying he thought he saw a figure with a rifle. None of the rounds he fired hit anyone, despite straying into another apartment where a couple with a child lived. Officers found no drugs or long guns in Taylor's apartment.

Hankison is one of four officers who were charged by the U.S. Department of Justice last year with violating Taylor's civil rights. The two counts of civil rights violations against him carry a maximum penalty of life

in prison if he is convicted.

Taylor's killing along with George Floyd's death at the hands of Minnesota police in 2020 ignited protests that summer around the country over racial injustice and police brutality. U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland announced the federal indictments in the Taylor case in August 2022, remarking that Taylor "should be alive today."

Another former Louisville officer, Kelly Goodlett, admitted she helped fabricate a portion of the Taylor warrant that linked Taylor to alleged drug activity. Goodlett pleaded guilty to a federal charge of conspiracy last year.

Former detective Joshua Jaynes and former Sgt. Kyle Meany were also charged with conspiring to deprive Taylor of her civil rights. Jaynes and Meany are set to be tried together next year. Goodlett is expected to testify against them. Hankison is the only officer of the

four charged by federal officials who was present at the March 13, 2020, raid.

The night of the raid, Hankison's 10 shots didn't hit anyone as he fired his handgun through Taylor's glass slider door and bedroom window, but his bullets flew into neighboring apartments with people inside.

He took the witness stand at his 2022 trial in state court and said after a fellow officer was shot in the leg, he moved away from the front door and to the side of the apartment, where he began firing.

"I thought I could put rounds through that bedroom window and stop the threat," Hankison said.

The officer shot in the leg, Jonathan Mattingly, and another, Myles Cosgrove, were at the door when it was knocked down and fired the shots that killed Taylor, prosecutors said. Cosgrove and Hankison were later fired by the police department. Mattingly retired.

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