

# 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.

cer" 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 (Continued on Page 2)



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, Bricen Alig and Hunter Baumgartner playing 'batty badminton.' (Photo submitted)

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

# 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 Sagadohoc 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

(Continued on Page 2)

#### 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 economists 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 higherincome 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 (Continued on Page 2)

# 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 cuttingedge 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 protec-(Continued on Page 2)



## **BHMSD** referendum

(Continued from Page 1)

also spur people into positive avenues in life."

The schools' current SRO, Phil Kurut, is contracted through the Bluffton Police Department. If the referendum is approved, Yates believes the district would likely contract the additional officers through the BPD.

Why add a mental health counselor? While the district has two guidance counselors at each school, Yates explained that the guidance counselors often wear many hats, from class scheduling to intervening with students. Simply put, they're exceeding the capacity of their resources.

Last year Bluffton-Harrison schools received a Lily grant that has allowed them to contract a licensed mental health counselor through Park Center for 12 hours weekly. Beginning this fall, the counselor has been meeting with high-need students on a regular basis with their guardians' permission.

"We're talking about a very small percentage of our student population, but a very acute, very high need," Yates explained. "A lot of those times are either in safety-sensitive situations, or some trauma situations (and) those students just need some extra support to learn effectively."

However, Yates said it's been clear this fall that there is a need for this service to be available in a full-time capacity.

If the referendum is approved, the program could be expanded through Park Center, another resource, or through an independently hired mental health professional. If the referendum is not approved, there is not funding secured to continue the current parttime mental health counselor.

#### What is the financial impact?

In a Policy Analytics study of the township tax base, this tax increase

should draw approximately \$445,000 annually. However, should the tax base grow or financial needs change, the district would have the ability to lower the rate as necessary.

"At any point in time, the school district can lower the request below that maximum rate (\$0.075 per \$100 assessed)," Yates explained. "(The study) established that line as the maximum community commitment towards safety and security. So the promise from the school site is it'll never be more than 0.075 percent, and, in the same breath, my promise would be that we would lower that rate to be what our need is, but we won't really know that until we get into one cycle."

For a home assessed at \$150,000, the referendum would add an annual \$45.90 in property taxes, and \$112.50 annually for a non-homestead property assessed at the same value.

In an annual district spending plan published by the Indiana Department of Local Finance, BHMSD outlined \$253,957 for additional school resource officers, \$62,375 for physical safety and security improvements, \$106,929 for mental health support, and \$22,277 for professional development with faculty and staff.

Yates added that he believed these funds would be used responsibly by the district and ultimately benefit families and the community.

"Personally, as a taxpayer, father and superintendent, I believe that the funds that are being presented are prudent and appropriate to assist in providing a safe environment for our students," Yates said. "Our goal is to (help students) excel, to learn, to graduate, and then to help in some capacity back into our communities. As a product of Bluffton-Harrison myself, and then coming back, staying here, and choosing to live here, work here, and rein-

vesting in the community — that's my goal for kids as they come through to see the value of what we have here in Bluffton and Wells County."

#### What will appear on the ballot?

The special election ballot will ask voters a specific question regarding the referendum and how it will affect taxes. Voting "Yes" will give support for the referendum's addition, and voting "No" will reject the referendum.

The ballot question will read as follows: "Shall the Bluffton Harrison M.S.D. increase property taxes paid to the school corporation by homeowners and businesses for eight (8) years immediately following the holding of the referendum for the purpose of funding the social, emotional, safety, and security needs for all students and staff including: (a) additional school resource officers, (b) physical safety and security improvements, (c) mental health support for students that promote social and emotional well-being, and (d) professional development/ training which focuses on proactive safety strategies for faculty and staff? If this public question is approved by the voters, the average property tax paid to the school corporation per year on a residence would increase by 9.63 percent and the average property tax paid to the school corporation per year on a business property would increase by 7.94 percent."

The ballot question requires a simple majority. Voting will be available at the Wells County 4-H Park from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 7, or for early and absentee voting from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 3.

Absentee and early voting is also available at the Wells County Clerk's Office from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Nov. 3, and 8 a.m. to noon on Nov. 4 and Nov. 6.

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# **Consumer spending**

(Continued from Page 1) accelerating demand."

What's behind the outsize gains, so far? Economists point to several drivers: Sturdy hiring and low unemployment, along with healthy finances for most households emerging from the pandemic. Wealthier households, in particular, have enjoyed substantial growth in home values and stock portfolios, which are likely juicing their spending.

"We continue to believe that you shouldn't bet against the consumer until actual job losses are on the horizon," said Tim Duy, chief U.S. economist at SGH Macro Advisers.

With inflation slowing — it's at a still-high 3.7 percent, down from a peak of companies have struggled to find and keep workers and have raised pay accordingly. Julia Pollak, chief economist at ZipRecruiter, calculates that for the lowest-paid 10 percent of workers, wages have jumped 25 percent since the first quarter of 2020, when the pandemic began. That's well ahead of the 18 percent increase in prices over that time.

And most households started 2023 in better shape than they were in before the pandemic erupted, according to a report from the Fed. The net worth of the median household - the midpoint between the richest and poorest — jumped 37 percent from 2019 through 2022 as home prices shot higher and the stock market rose. That was the biggest surge on records dating back more than 30 years. At the same time, the net worth of the richest onetenth of households leaped

by \$28 trillion — or about one-third — from the first quarter of 2020 to the second quarter of 2023, according to the Fed. The poorer one-half of Americans gained a bigger percentage increase but in total dollars much less, from about \$2 trillion to \$3.6 trillion. (Those figures aren't adjusted for inflation.)

"When wealth is growing by the amount that it has been the past three years ... I do think that it's playing a larger role in this spending strength than maybe we thought it would," said Sarah Wolfe, U.S. economist at Morgan Stanley.

Aditya Bhave, senior economist at Bank of America, noted that the spending isn't all driven by the affluent. Spending on the bank's credit and debit cards by households with incomes below \$50,000 has risen faster than spending by higher-earning clients. Many analysts still warn of a new crop of headwinds facing consumers and the economy. Nearly 30 million student loan borrowers had to start paying their loans this month. And government dysfunction in Washington could lead to a government shutdown next month.

A report Friday showed that while inflation-adjusted income fell last month along with the savings rate, consumers still ramped up their spending. That trend, economists say, is unsustainable.

Even so, those challenges may not prove as damaging as feared. Student loan payments, for example, jumped even before an Oct. 1 deadline for resuming them, Bhave noted. And few borrowers appear to have taken advantage of a 12-month grace period the Biden administration put in place, suggesting that most borrowers can afford to resume paying the money back — at least for now.

## Weather

LOCAL/NATION

Tuesday, October 31, 2023 (24-hour observations at 8:43 p.m. Monday) High: 45; Low: 33; Precipitation: 0.33 inches of rain Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.57 feet at 8:45 p.m. Monday

### Wells County forecast

**Today:** A 30 percent chance of snow showers after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 40. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Tonight:** A 30 percent chance of snow showers, mainly before 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 42. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 27. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 48.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 34.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 54.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41.

**Saturday:** A 20 percent chance of showers after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 59.

**Saturday Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43.

**Sunday:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 56.

**Sunday Night:** A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41.

**Monday:** A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 56.

# **AI development**

(Continued from Page 1) tions, scientific research and worker rights.

White House chief of staff Jeff Zients recalled Biden giving his staff a directive when formulating the order to move with urgency.

"We can't move at a normal government pace," Zients said the Democratic president told him. "We have to move as fast, if not faster, than the technology itself."

In Biden's view, the government was late to address the risks of social media and now U.S. youth are grappling with related mental health issues. AI has the positive ability to accelerate cancer research, model the impacts of climate change, boost economic output and improve government services among other benefits. But it could also warp basic notions of truth with false images, deepen racial and social inequalities and provide a tool to scammers and criminals.

With the European Union nearing final passage of a sweeping law to rein in AI harms and Congress still in the early stages of debating safeguards, the Biden administration is "stepping up to use the levers it can control," said digital rights advocate Alexandra Reeve Givens, president of the Center for Democracy & Technology. "That's issuing guidance and

standards to shape private sector behavior and leading by example in the federal government's own use of AI."

The order builds on voluntary commitments already made by technology companies. It's part of a broader strategy that administration officials say also includes congressional legislation and international diplomacy, a sign of the disruptions already caused by the introduction of new AI tools such as ChatGPT that can generate text, images and sounds.

The guidance within the order is to be implemented and fulfilled over the range of 90 days to 365 days.

Last Thursday, Biden gathered his aides in the Oval Office to review and finalize the executive order, a 30-minute meeting that stretched to 70 minutes, despite other pressing matters, including the mass shooting in Maine, the Israel-Hamas war and the selection of a new House speaker.

Biden was profoundly curious about the technology in the months of meetings that led up to drafting the order. His science advisory council focused on AI at two meetings and his Cabinet discussed it at two meetings. The president also pressed tech executives and civil society advocates about the technology's capabilities at multiple gatherings.

9.1 percent in June 2022 – average wages are starting to outpace price gains.

In many lower-paying industries, like hotels, restaurants and warehouses,

## Maine mass shooter

(Continued from Page 1) Wednesday, killing 18 people and wounding 13 others.

He was found two days later with a self-inflicted gunshot wound after an intensive search spanning two days that caused shelterin-place orders and put residents on edge.

Card underwent a mental health evaluation last summer after he began acting erratically at an Army training facility in New York, officials said. A bulletin sent to police shortly after last week's attack said Card had been committed to a mental health facility for two weeks after "hearing voices and threats to shoot up" a military base.

Authorities have not said whether they believe Card planned the Oct. 25 rampage in advance. Nearly three months ago, he tried and failed to acquire a device used to quiet gunshots, according to a gun shop owner in Auburn.

Rick LaChapelle, owner of Coastal Defense Firearms, said Card purchased a suppressor, also called a silencer, online and arranged to pick it up at his shop. Card already had submitted information to the federal government to purchase it, and federal authorities had approved the sale to that point, he said.

When Card filled out the form at LaChapelle's gun shop to pick up the silencer Aug. 5, he answered "yes" to the question: "Have you ever been adjudicated as a mental defective OR have you ever been committed to a mental institution?"

"As soon as he answered that 'yes' we know automatically that this is disqualifying, he's not getting a silencer today," LaChapelle said.

Silencers are more heavily regulated under federal law than most firearms. Federal law requires buyers to apply with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and be approved. The typical wait time is between six and eight months, said Mark Collins, federal policy director at the gun violence prevention group Brady.

After the bureau approves the application, the silencer is sent to a licensed firearm dealer, where the buyer is required to fill out another form required for any firearm purchase. The dealer then has to run a background check.

That form asks questions similar to the paperwork required to buy a gun. In Card's case, he likely would have completed the original federal paperwork months before he was committed to the mental health facility in July.

LaChapelle said he does not know when Card made the online purchase.

He said Card was polite when notified of the denial, mentioned something about the military and said he would "come right back" after consulting his lawyer.

Investigators are facing increasing public scrutiny and still searching for a motive for the massacre but have increasingly focused on Card's mental health history.

Police across Maine were alerted just last month to the "veiled threats" by the U.S. Army reservist. Two local law enforcement chiefs told The Associated Press that a statewide awareness alert was sent in mid-September to be on the lookout for Card after he made threats against his base and fellow soldiers. But ultimately, after a visit to Card's home, police moved on.

The Army directed that Card "should not have a weapon, handle ammunition, and not participate in live fire activity," according to Lt. Col. Ruth Castro, an Army spokesperson.

Card was also declared "non-deployable due to concerns over his well-being," and his company commander was notified of the restrictions, Castro said in a written statement, adding that the Army Reserve Command Surgeon Office and medical management made multiple attempts to contact Card.

The Army did not respond to questions about when those contacts were made.

On Monday, Gov. Janet Mills, a Democrat, held a news conference to provide an update on the response to the shooting. The conference turned contentious quickly when Mills declined to provide information about what the investigation has turned up so far.



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#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Avon D. Scott, 94

Avon D. Scott, 94, known as "Scotty" to nearly all who knew him, passed away Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, at Lutheran Life Village due to the effects of melanoma. Avon was a lifelong farmer, first in Ohio, and then in Jay and Wells counties in Indiana.

He milked cows and was proud that they were Jerseys! He was a former member of the American Jersey Cattle Club and was a big supporter of Wells County

4-H, and encouraged each of his four children as they completed 10 years in 4-H. He was also a longtime member of the Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren in Fort Wayne. He was a follower of Jesus Christ, and his biggest concern was that his family and friends would receive salvation and join him someday in heaven.

He was born Feb. 5, 1929, in Van Wert County, Ohio, in the home of his parents, the late Jacob and Eva (Pancake) Scott. A 1947 graduate of Monmouth High School in Adams County, he married the love of his life, Peggy (Hart) Scott on March 7, 1953. She preceded him in death on Jan. 13, 1989. He later married Marjorie (Brand) Crill, who passed away Nov. 14, 2013.

He served in the U.S. Army, including his deployment to Korea in the latter years of the Korean Conflict, attaining the rank of SP3 / Corporal prior to his honorable discharge. He was a member of the American Legion Post 111 in Bluffton.

After serving in the military, he and Peggy moved to Jay County and farmed for several years before moving east of Ossian, where he also worked part-time at Perfection Bakery, in addition to milking and farming. They later moved to the Southern Wells school area and farmed until the 1980s, when he moved to the south side of Bluffton. He was employed as a security officer at Peyton Northern until his retirement.

He is survived by two sons, Del (Sylvia) Scott of Largo, Fla., and Duane (Kathy) Scott of rural Bluffton; two daughters, Delora (Ed) Hartsock of New Castle, and Diane (Steve) Michael of Zionsville; two stepchildren, Connie (Rich) Thiel of Port Orange, Fla., and Mike (Paula) Crill of Fort Wayne; a brother, Carroll (Carol) Scott of Bluffton; five grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; six step-great-grandchildren; and several cousins, nieces and nephews and their families.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Peggy; his second wife, Marjorie; three siblings, Margaret (Gorman) Kauffman, Owen Scott, and Elizabeth (Jerome) Moser; and a great number of other relatives and friends.

A funeral service and celebration of life will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 4 at Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, with Pastor Jerry Ingalls of First Baptist Church in New Castle officiating. Calling will be 3-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, also at the funeral home, and for one hour prior to the service. Burial will follow at Brookside Cemetery in Montpelier, Indiana.

Memorials are preferred to the Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren, the Wells County 4-H Association, or Stillwater Hospice, and should be directed to the funeral home.

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

# Holcomb makes appointments to multiple state boards

#### INCIDENTS City:

Friday, 3:24 p.m., South Jersey and West South streets. Report of road rage, male followed female from Southern Wells.

Friday, 3:26 p.m., 400 block of West Wabash Street. Caller reported subject refused to return debit card.

Friday, 5:47 p.m., 500 block of East Cherry Street. Caller reported damage to fence.

Friday, 8:03 p.m., Premier Apartments. Report of a child continually knocking on and slamming doors and running down the hall. Officer advised the child is a management issue.

Friday, 11:45 p.m., Bluffton Regional Medical Center. Report of a man harassing staff.

Saturday, 2:30 p.m., Washington Park. Report of two boys fighting. Mother advised it was her children and everything was fine.

Saturday, 2:59 p.m., McDonald's. Driver cited for speeding and warned for driving without a license in possession

Saturday, 3:35 p.m., Hideaway. Report of a man pushing a woman around.

Saturday, 7:52 p.m., Capri Meadows. Report of a man yelling down the hall and pushing caller into apartment.

Sunday, 1:23 p.m., 700 block of Clark Avenue. Driver cited for speeding and disregarding lighted signal.

Sunday, 7:09 p.m., 300 block of West Wabash Street. Caller requested officer to stand by while she collected her cats.

Sunday, 9:11 p.m., 500 block of West Wabash Street. Caller reported they

# **Police Notebook**

**S** were locked upstairs with brother because mother was yelling at them for the house

> being a mess. Sunday, 11:40 p.m., 500 block of Eastmoor Drive. Caller requested assistance delivering a message.

Monday, 9:19 a.m., 100 block of East Cherry Street. Caller reported a dog pushed a patient down in the parking lot. Report requested.

Monday, 1:11 p.m., Capri Meadows. Caller requested assistance with stolen keys.

Monday, 1:25 p.m., Airplane Express and Service Station. Caller requested officer to meet him at the gas station and help him collect belongings from address.

Monday, 1:39 p.m., Airplane Express and Service Station. Caller requested officer remove man from property.

**County:** 

Friday, 2:37 p.m., Wells county Jail. Multiple warrants served at jail.

Friday, 3:48 p.m., 5900 block of North Lincoln Avenue, Uniondale. Report of a battery that occurred one year ago, caller requested to press charges now.

Friday, 5:01 p.m., 3500 West 900 South, Poneto. Caller reported she forgot to retrieve firearms in divorce and would like to retrieve them.

Friday, 5:48 p.m., 3500 West 900 South, Poneto. Caller reported man attempted to run her vehicle off of the road.

Saturday, 3:39 p.m., West 1000 South and South 200 West, Keystone. Report of three cows hanging out on the side of the road unsupervised.

Saturday, 4:49 p.m., Liberty Center Gas and

h Deli. Caller reported ex husband is showing up at her work with an active no contact order. One subject
0 detained.

Saturday, 9:12 p.m., Ind. 116 and East 100 North, Bluffton. Deer accident.

Saturday, 10:23 p.m., Ind. 3 and Ind. 216, Warren. Officer assisted driver in jump-starting dead battery in vehicle.

Sunday, 10:01 a.m., 4800 South 300 West, Poneto. Caller threatened to steal a horse from his soon to be ex wife.

Sunday, 1:28 p.m., 10000 West 1100 South, Marion. Report of a stolen gun.

Sunday, 6:10 p.m., 2700 West 100 South, Keystone. Caller reported woman destroying the house. Woman, who had a language barrier, told officers she was upset her husband would not turn on the heat and threatened to burn something to stay warm. Officers found a burnt marijuana cigarette in an ashtray next to a bed. The woman advised it was OK because President Joe Biden made marijuana legal. Officers advised that marijuana is not legal in this state. One woman arrested.

Sunday, 8:01 p.m., 6800 South 1000 West, Warren. Caller reported altercation with woman. Neither party wanted to press charges.

Monday, 9:02 a.m., Wells County Jail. Two warrants served to one subject.

#### Ossian:

Saturday, 12:51 p.m., 400 block of Ironwood Lane, Ossian. Caller reported a large golden retriever in the area.

Saturday, 3:23 p.m., 3600 East 1200 North, Ossian.

Caller requested trespass warning.

Saturday, 7:26 p.m., East 1200 North and North Meridian Road, Ossian. Caller reported a grain semi truck in the roadway taking up space, as tractors and trailers do. Officer observed that all lights and hazard lights were on. Nothing further.

Monday, 9:31 a.m., East 500 North and North 175 East, Ossian. Caller increasingly irritated that he has to move vehicle from roadway. **FIRES** 

#### City:

Saturday, 12:42 a.m., 1300 block of West South Street. Report of a house on fire. Fire under control approximately three hours later.

#### ARRESTS

Shawn Michael Collis, 30, Bluffton, domestic battery in the presence of a child and residential entry/ burglary, both Level 6 felonies, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. No bond set.

Ryan Manley Stinson, 37, Bluffton, domestic battery in the presence of a child less than 16 years old, a Class A misdemeanor, and domestic battery on a person less than 14 years old, committed by a person who is at least 18, a Level 5 felony. Bond set at \$50,000.

Shu Bergman, 60, Keystone, possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor.

Jake Alan Shanks, 35, Three Rivers, MI., failure to appear and possession of paraphernalia, both Class A misdemeanors. Bond set at \$1,500.

Holly Marie Elchert, 22, Fort Wayne, reckless driving, a Class C misdemeanor.

### Morales doles out over \$308K in spot bonuses

Spending outpaces peer offices, who spent less than \$75k combined

By CASEY SMITH and WHITNEY DOWNARD Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales has given a spot bonus to nearly every employee in his office this year — including a family member and his former campaign manager — for a total of more than \$308,000.

New data obtained by the

more than two times the maximum outlined in a nonbinding state personnel guidance for agency bonuses.

The Attorney General's Office, by comparison, has hundreds more employees at a total staff of 373, but has only issued \$48,000 in bonuses this year. For that office, bonuses ranged from \$500 to \$3,000 and averaged \$1,333 per bonus across 36 employees.

\$238,500 or 77 percent of all awards. The state's fiscal year ends on June 30th, which Eaton cited in her statement.

According to the office, the previous Secretary of State Holli Sullivan learned that the department's salaries were "underpaid compared to those in comparable private sector employfor employee compensation," Eaton said.

In January, Morales amended the budget submitted to legislators to include a 12.5 percent increase in employee salaries — but that meant employees wouldn't see an increase until July at the earliest, according to the statement.

The office declined to elaborate on awards to specific employees, though several high-ranking staffers have received more than \$12,000 in bonuses so far this year — including \$42,000 to four employees in the last two weeks. "The office cites employee privacy concerns as the basis for not commenting on individual employee compensation," Eaton noted.



Gov. Eric Holcomb has announced several appointments to various state boards and commissions.

• To the Underground Storage Tank Financial Assurance Board, Holcomb made six reappointments to the board, who will serve until Sept. 30, 2025: Mark Aldous (Indianapolis), producer at Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.; Kim Logan (Indianapolis), deputy treasurer and director of operations with Indiana Treasurer of State Daniel Elliott; Trout Moser (Bluffton), president of National Oil & Gas, Inc.; Tom Navarre (Valparaiso), vice president of Family Express Corp.; Toby Rickabaugh (Dayton, Ohio), environmental professional with Marathon Petroleum; and Nivas Vijay (South Bend), senior project manager and COO at Heartland Environmental Associates Inc., and principal/COO with Seratech Drilling & Exploration, LLC.

• To the Board of Trustees of Indiana University, Holcomb made one new appointment to the board, who will serve until July 1, 2026: Isaac Torres (Goshen), founder and president of InterCambio Express, Inc.

• To the Indiana Board of Accountancy, Holcomb made one reappointment to the board, who will serve until Sept. 30, 2027: Michelle Skeen (Anderson), senior manager with OnTarget CPA The governor also made three new appointments to the board, who will serve until Sept. 30, 2027: Colleen Scheele (Indianapolis), public policy counsel and director of tax and financial policy for the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies; Sarah Schenkel (Fort Wayne), audit director with Katz, Sapper & Miller; and John Wright (Evansville), former managing director of FORVIS.

• To the Indiana Board of Pharmacy, Holcomb made three reappointments to the board, who will serve until Sep. 30, 2027: Steve Anderson (Bedford), pharmacist with Crowder's Pharmacy; Matt Balla (Bloomington), vice president of CarDon & Associates; and Mark Smosna (McCordsville), regional manager, operations compliance with Amazon Pharmacy. The governor also made two new appointments to the board, who will serve until Sept. 30, 2027: Andrew Meador (Indianapolis), clinical educator with IU Health, and Kate Snedeker (Carmel), corporate and crisis communications consultant with Kate Snedeker Communications.

• To the State Board of Cosmetology & Barber Examiners, Holcomb made one new appointment to the board, who will serve until Sept. 30, 2027: Amy Worley (Brownsburg), owner of Mizell's Barber Shop. The governor also made two new appointments to the board, who will serve until Sept. 30, 2025: Lauren Nielsen (Trafalgar), owner of Terra Vitae Environmental Solutions, and Kevin Ryan (Indianapolis), former CEO of Financial Center First Credit Union.

#### **Obituary Policy**

The News-Banner and Ossian Journal publishes "basic" obituaries free of charge for "local" deaths. "Basic" obituaries will include the deceased's name, age, community of record, date and place of death, basic genealogical information, the date, time and location of calling hours and services and the name of the funeral home handling arrangements.

If additional information and/or a photo is desired to be included, or if the deceased does not meet the definitions of a "local" person, there is a charge.

Area funeral homes will provide details on the policy and will coordinate obituary publication.

Indiana Capital Chronicle showed that just four of six offices led by elected officials awarded spot bonuses in 2023. But Morales' spending far outpaces his peers and includes five \$10,000 bonuses and two \$12,000 bonuses.

Secretary of State Spokeswoman Lindsey Eaton said in a written statement to the Capital Chronicle that the office does not have a formal or written bonus salary payment policy.

Instead, Morales' employee compensation policy is that any employee "who exemplifies the office's stated purposes and values" — "Serve Hoosiers by being Welcoming, Responsive, Efficient, and Innovative" — will receive "fair, competitive, rewarding compensation, recognition, and opportunity for advancement."

Eaton said the "constraints of the state's finance, accounting, budget, and employee classification system" make bonus payments necessary, and that the agency's ability to adjust salaries "is not always available or advisable."

### Where did the \$308,000 go?

Eighty bonuses have been doled out this year to 68 staffers in the Secretary of State's office — an office with roughly 75 employees — ranging from \$500 to \$12,000, for an average of \$4,540 per employee. Nearly a dozen employees received two bonuses from Morales within the 10 months scanned by the Capital Chronicle, and one got two in one month.

Excluding the \$500 bonus, which was awarded before Morales was sworn into office on Jan. 10, the next-lowest bonus of \$719 went to a part-time employee. The lowest bonus from Morales to a full-time employee was \$2,500 — Attorney General Todd Rokita didn't respond to a request for comment on the office's spot bonus policy.

"It's really shocking to me (and) it's hard for me to get shocked by anything in government circles sometimes," said Paul Helmke, the former mayor of Fort Wayne and a professor at Indiana University's O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. "It raises questions: are you just rewarding your friends? Is this just some sort of slush fund that they've created? It just doesn't make sense to me ... This smacks of favoritism."

Bonuses offset low compensation, office says

The majority of the bonuses from the Secretary of State's office came during June, accounting for

ment."

Without naming Sullivan, Eaton said Morales' predecessor advised staff that "salaries would be reviewed and action taken."

"The former Secretary of State raised the hopes and expectations of agency employees but did not act on the matter before leaving office ... and did not request an appropriation increase





### Travel lets us carry the beautiful with us every day

"Traveling - it leaves you speechless then turns you into a storyteller."

Medieval Moroccan scholar and author Ibn Battuta coined that phrase, as he traveled some 75,000 miles during his life — quite an undertaking considering he lived in the 1300s.

I used his 11 impactful words to begin this travel series back in August when I started writing about the threeweek odyssey that my wife and I made to Africa this summer — one week in Rwanda and two weeks in South Africa.

I found myself speechless more times than I can count during the 21 days we spent exploring two lovely African countries because of the beautiful landscapes we saw and the effervescent people we met.

From spending a day in a rural village with a group of four vivacious women who run a cooperative to searching for lions, elephants, rhinos, buffalo and leopards during a daylong safari at Akagera National Park, Rwanda is a place I'm eager to visit again soon.

And from hiking in 50 mph winds up and over a mountain in Cape Town so that we could visit the Cape of Good Hope (the southwestern-most tip of Africa) to watching penguins play on the beach, our experiences in South Africa are ones that will forever remain with me.

Those adventures inspired this 10-part series, and I hope that the stories that I have narrated each week since August have let you experience vicariously our sojourn.

I have never been very good, however, at vicarious adventures — having an experience through someone else's stories, narratives and tales. I'm even worse at living vicariously when it involves travel. Instead, I find myself wanting to visit the place that a friend or colleague has told me about.

I had long listened to my wife talk about her experiences living and studying in various places around Africa, and each account left me a bit more curious and a lot more eager to see with my own eyes a new place. Traveling around Rwanda and South Africa certainly filled my cup this summer and left me eager for a refill.

Jen and I decided while we were still in Africa that we were going to return in a couple of years - in 2025, we hoped. That plan changed in September, however, when I woke her up on a Saturday morning and said let's go back to Cape Town in July 2024.

I'm sure by now that you know her answer was an unequivocal yes after telling me I better not be joking. She didn't know that I had been monitoring airfares for a couple of weeks and that Google suggested we needed to buy now because ticket prices were so low.

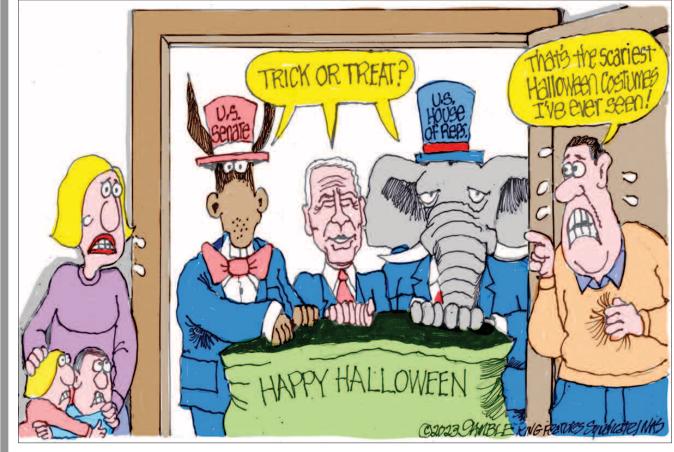
I can only think of a few places I have visited during my 43 years that had such an impact on me that would make me want to spend 15 hours in a tight-fitting airplane economy seat.

Africa is one of those places.

Don't take my word, though. Do some research; Google is a great place to start. Perhaps you'll be inspired to plan a trip to one of the many idyllic places in Africa.

Such a sojourn will change you. How? That's for you to figure out, as the beauty of travel is that it impacts us all in a unique way.

For me, one of the most powerful days was when we visited the genocide memorial in Kigali, Rwanda, as I wrote about earlier this summer. As you enter the memorial there is a sign with the word Ubumuntu. It means humanity - goodness, generosity and kindness. A person who has Ubumuntu is someone who has greatness of heart.



# **Complacency and neglect weaken** the Navy amid growing threats

"This stadium reminds us of the great battles in which those who came before you fought to defend democracy. Belleau Wood. Guadalcanal. Iwo Jima. Inchon. But what you don't see here is all the battles that never occurred, all the wars that never erupted because American Sailors and Marines showed up. They deterred conflict. They kept the watch."

- Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, U.S. Naval Academy commencement, 2023

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, wants you to be as alarmed as he is about this: If deterrence, which failed regarding Ukraine, fails regarding Taiwan, this might be because adversaries understand that U.S. leaders have allowed the nation's defense industrial base to become shockingly short of capacities commensurate with the world's multiplying threats.

The U.S. Navy — the nation's principal means of power projection; the answer to the "tyranny of distance" in the Indo-Pacific — is Wicker's foremost concern. Production of stealthy, lethal attack submarines, which Wicker calls "the crown jewels of U.S. military power," should, he says, be doubled. The Navy has only 49, and Wicker says nearly 40 percent cannot be deployed because of maintenance delays. So, crews endure grueling operation tempos. Retention falls.

Just to fulfill the 2021 AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States) commitment without reducing the U.S. supply of attack submarines, U.S. production would have to be 2.3 to 2.5 submarines a year. Since before the AUKUS agreement, Congress has been providing funds for two a year, but only 1.2 are being built.

Today's total U.S. fleet is not quite 300 ships. The fleet has generally been under that number for 20 years. A 355-ship fleet, the goal set at the end of the Obama administration, is a statutory aspiration, but would be 100 too few. A just-published study by Jerry Hendrix, a retired Navy captain now with the Sagamore Institute, notes that although a Biden administration document endorses 381 ships, the Navy's shipbuilding budget is consistently much too low to meet proclaimed goals. A ship's life is about 30 years. More than half the Navy's battle force has been in the water for more than 20 years. This, Hendrix writes, "drives dramatically increased costs to maintain the fleet in good repair. Thus, despite increased budgets, maintenance has crowded out money for new construction."

rations do not exist and cannot be quickly created. China, Wicker says, has more productive capacity in one shipyard than exists in all U.S. shipyards combined. Such is the U.S. maintenance backlog, one attack submarine was idled for five years. Another, after a 2021 accident in the South China Sea, probably will not be operational until 2026.

Writing in the Wall Street Journal, Wicker and former senator Phil Gramm (Tex.) note: "Like David's smooth stone that slew Goliath, two Ukrainian Neptune missiles sank the flagship of the Russian navy in the Black Sea. With 400 U.S. Harpoon missiles, costing only 0.3 percent of its GDP, Taiwan could imperil any Chinese warship in the Taiwan Strait." But munitions inventories are radically inadequate to sustain highintensity warfighting.

The U.S. military is experiencing the worst recruiting shortfall in 50 years. Wicker thinks this is related to "the injection of hyperpolitical culture into our fighting forces." Imagine what the Chinese military thinks when a Navy secretary says climate change is as important a challenge as recruiting. (The Navy missed this year's recruiting goal by 7,000 sailors.) The word "climate" appeared 63 times in the Biden administration's 48-page 2022 National Security Strategy. The military's alarming material deficits are perhaps matched by intellectual ones.

President Xi Jinping has reportedly directed China's military to be able to attack, blockade or otherwise subdue Taiwan by 2027. Unless the defense industrial base is urgently enlarged, America's military will be, as some policy experts have observed, like a great football team that can play only through the first quarter. Hence, Wicker's conclusion: "We are in our most dangerous security moment since World War II."

Winston Churchill wrote that early in 1942, "the foundation of all our hopes and schemes was the immense snipbuilding programme of the United States." "Immense" is no longer applicable. The ubiquity of wars throughout history, and the menacing nature of this moment, strongly suggest that we are living in what historians will describe as yet another span of "interwar years." History will not kindly judge national leaders who, while complacently producing \$2 trillion annual budget deficits, were parsimonious regarding the preparations for war that are necessary, if not always sufficient, for preventing war.



#### George Will



Peeper

Greatness of heart — three simple words that when put together convey one of the most beautiful expressions of language I have ever heard to describe a person's character and what we should strive to be like in our everyday lives.

I think of that word every day as I reflect on what it means to be human — to be good, to be generous and to be kind. That message is one I hope that we can all get behind.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us, or we find it not."

I'll continue to try to carry Ubumuntu with me at home and on my travels.

jdpeeper2@hotmail.com

# **Letters to the Editor**

#### Doesn't appreciate the comments

I generally enjoy the paper, but I've noticed recently a change in the police notebook. I don't find it necessary to add the sophomoric comments to the incidents.

For many years the incidents spoke well for themselves. I've enclosed a recent example. Please take this into consideration. R.T. JACKSON rural Bluffton

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit your Letter) • E-Mail: email@news-banner. com • Fax: (260) 824-0700 • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. Letters must be no more than 500 words. Please mark your correspondence as a "Letter to the Editor," or if you wish to express an opinion to us but do not want it published, please mark as "Not for Publication."

# Today in History

#### By The Associated Press Today is Tuesday, Oct. 31, the 304th day of 2023.

There are 61 days left in the year. This is Halloween. Today's Highlight in

History: On Oct. 31, 1984, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by two Sikh security guards. On this date:

In 1941, work was completed on the Mount Rush-

more National Memorial

in South Dakota, begun in 1927.

In 1961, the body of Josef Stalin was removed from Lenin's Tomb as part of the Soviet Union's "de-Stalinization" drive.

In 1964, Theodore C. Freeman, 34, became the first member of NASA's astronaut corps to die when his T-38 jet crashed while approaching Ellington Air Force Base in Houston.

Shipbuilding facilities sufficient to fulfill the aspi-

georgewill@washpost.com.

# **Anti-Israel demonstrators hate the West**

The cataract of anti-Israel sentiment on college campuses has been shocking, but it shouldn't be surprising.

It is the poisoned fruit of teaching a generation of college students to despise their own civilization.

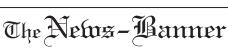
Jesse Jackson famously led a chant at Stanford University in 1987, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Western Civ has got to go." He was talking about the college course, but he might as well have been talking about the thing itself.

Jackson and his allies had extraordinary success in extinguishing the teaching of Western Civ. Not only have we largely stopped transmitting the story of our own civilization, we have substituted an alternative narrative that the West is reducible to racism, imperialism and colonialism.

It is in this context that the current outburst of anti-Zionism has to be understood. Yes, it has been fed by anti-Israel agitation on campus over the decades and yes, students are susceptible to witless radicalism in the best of circumstances. Yet the loathing of Israel is particularly intense because it is viewed as an outpost of Western civilization and all its alleged ills.

The hatred of Israel is tainted by and, in some cases, driven by anti-Semitism. Another way to look at it, though, is that it's not so much about hatred of the "the other," as progressives put it, as hatred of ourselves and all our works.

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Rich

It is, on one level, incorrect to consider Israel exclusively an artifact of the West. The Jews are indigenous to the region going back to Abraham, with their story caught up in the story of the land. A large proportion of the current population traces its origins from the Middle East and North Africa, rather than Europe.

But there is no doubt that Israel is a Western society — in its political system, in its respects for rights, in its innovative economy, in its mores. Someone sitting in a coffee shop in Tel Aviv could easily think they were in any thriving coastal society in the West.

From any rational perspective, this would be something to celebrate. Many legitimate criticisms can be made of Israel, and indeed are a feature of the Israeli domestic debate itself, but there's no doubt that it is a flourishing society.

If Gaza were equally Westernized, it would be worrying about whether it's overbuilding seaside real estate rather than having to get water and electricity from the neighboring country its governing authority – a savage terror group — is trying to destroy.

Yet this is the society that anti-Western opinion holds up and wants to sweep all before it. This point of view loves Gaza for its failure and hates Israel for its success; loves

Gaza for its terror and hates Israel for its self-defense; loves Gaza for its vicious anti-Western sponsors and hates Israel for its Western allies, especially the United States.

If this seems perverse, it's what you'd expect of students and young people who have absorbed the premises of Michel Foucault, Howard Zinn, Edward Said and their imitators. Even if students have never heard of them, these men and their thought suffuse higher education.

But what about the violence? How can these kids look past it, or implicitly endorse it?

Violence is part of the radical anti-Western vision. The anti-colonial bible, "The Wretched of the Earth," written by Frantz Fanon in 1961, is widely taught on campus. Fanon sketched out a woke worldview before anyone used that term, arguing that, as a New Yorker essay put it, "the Western bourgeoisie was 'fundamentally racist' and its 'bourgeois ideology' of equality and dignity was merely a cover for capitalist-imperialist rapacity."

Fanon wrote that "decolonization is always a violent phenomenon," and in a preface to the book, the French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre declared that the wretched of the earth "become men" through "mad fury."

By this standard, Hamas is a good and worthy anti-colonial organization, and there's no wonder it has found supporters and useful idiots among the West's self-loathing radicals. Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

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

Lowry

#### LIFESTYLES

# The Momen 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 distrupt 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 opions 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.

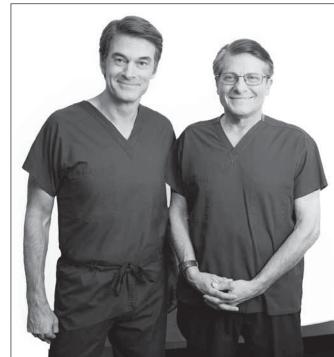
I was also acquainted with two sisters who have lived east of Zanesville on the Wells County side of the County Line. They were teachers in both Allen and Wells County. Ann Ferguson was a teacher at Lafayette Central when my kids were her students. Her sister Millie taught in the Wells County schools. 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 way to achieve ISH t OHE 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, diseasefree 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 musclestrengthening 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 strengthtraining 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. combination of The 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



#### 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.

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. \*\*\*

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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, irondeficiency 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 cause prolonged may 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.



#### SPORTS



#### Racing for history

Bluffton's Tyler Godwin (No. 63) races during the state meet Saturday afternoon at the LaVern Gibson Cross Country Course at Indiana State University. The senior was the first Tiger to make it to the state level since 2000, placing 168th. His accomplishments in his career include three ACAC individual and team titles, two semi-state appearances, and a sectional championship. (Photos provided)

# **Seager stars to lead Rangers over D-backs in World Series Game 3**

#### **By DAVID BRANDT AP Baseball Writer**

PHOENIX (AP) - Corey Seager launched a two-run homer and made a slick defensive play in the eighth

inning to start a crucial double play, Max Scherzer combined with four relievers for a gem on the mound and the Texas Rangers beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 3-1 to take a 2-1 lead in the World Series on Monday night.

Texas overcame injuries to Scherzer and slug-

ger Adolis García in improving to 9-0 on the road this postseason, this time in front of more than 48,000 fans at Chase Field.

'We're just coming ready to play every night, no matter where we are,? Seager said. "That's what the focus is."

The 29-year-old Seager — in the second year of a \$325 million contract - once again showed he was worth every penny on the game's biggest stage.

The shortstop smoked a two-run homer into the right-field seats as part of a three-run third after Diamondbacks starter Brandon Pfaadt left a



Chapman worked out of the jam – striking out Corbin Carroll before Seager started a clutch double play, sliding on his knees to field a hot smash from Ketel Marte before flipping to Marcus

Semien at second, who threw to first.

'Just trying to make the play," Seager said. "I think Marcus did a better job than me with the turn and the transfer. Props to him, props to Chapman for making a good pitch and we got out of the inning." After García

threw out Walker, the Rangers used a three-run third to take the early advantage. Semien's two-out single into left center made it 1-0 and then Seager smashed his nodoubt homer deep into the right-field seats. It was Semien's first RBI in 10 games.

Texas is 9-0 this postseason when scoring first.

It was Seager's fifth homer this postseason. The shortstop also was one of the heroes of Game 1 in this Fall Classic, belting a tying homer in the ninth that helped rally the Rangers to a 6-5 victory in 11 innings on García's homer.

Two batters later, Alek Thomas hit a grounder that deflected off Scherzer's right elbow toward the third-base line. Josh Jung was there to bare hand the ball and fling a strong throw across the diamond to beat the speedy Thomas.

Scherzer gave up no runs on two hits and two walks while striking out one.

YOUNG AND CLEAN(UP) Texas' Evan Carter became the fourth-youngest player to hit cleanup in a World Series game at 21 years, 62 days. The rookie hit third in the first two games, but manager Bruce Bochy said he flipped Carter and García in the lineup on Monday to break up the lefthanded bats.

The three youngest were Miguel Cabrera (2003), Ty Cobb (1907) and Juan Soto (2019), who were all 20.

#### **BEEN A WHILE**

This was the first World Series game played at Chase Field since Nov. 4, 2001, when the Diamondbacks beat the Yankees 3-2 in Game 7 after Luis Gonzalez's walk-off hit against Mariano Rivera clinched the series.

The D-backs lost Monday for the first time in the World Series at Chase Field. They were 4-0 at home during the 2001 series, which is the only other time they've been to the sport's biggest showcase.

#### **BIG SWING**

There have been 62 previous instances in World Series history when the series was tied at 1-1 after Game 2.

# **NE8 features four Knights on the** football award list

The Northeast 8 Conference released sections for its individual award-winners on Monday.

Norwell had four players represented on the list.

On offense, Cohen Bailey (wide receiver) and Ayden Billiard (offensive guard) received second-team recognition.

On defense, Trace Moser was an honorable mention as safety.

On special teams, Austin De Leon was first-team as a kicker.

The Knights finished tied for fifth with Columbia City and DeKalb in the NE8 with a 3-4 record. The wins came against the Eagles, along with Huntington North and Bellmont.

The conference also ended in a three-way tie for first with Leo, East Noble, and New Haven with a 6-1 record.

# **High School Calendar**

**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 GIRLS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Warsaw, 7:30 p.m. **MONDAY, NOV 6** No events scheduled **TUESDAY, NOV 7** GIRLS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Northrop, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Union City, 7 p.m. WEDNESDAY, NOV 8 No events scheduled THURSDAY, NOV 9 No events scheduled FRIDAY, NOV 10 No events scheduled

SATURDAY, NOV 11

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Northridge at Norwell, 2:30 p.m.; Eastbrook at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING: Norwell girls Invitational, 9 a.m.

# **Guardians interview Brewers manager Craig Counsell for job**

**By TOM WITHERS AP Sports Writer** 

CLEVELAND (AP) - Craig Counsell's place in Cleveland baseball history is as World Series villain.

He could become something more appealing



Counsell, who has led the Milwaukee Brewers to the playoffs five times in the past six seasons, met Monday with the Guardians about their managerial opening, a person familiar with the discussions told The Associated Press.

The 53-year-old Counsell spent most of the day at Progressive Field for his interview with the Guardians, said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because the team is

first-pitch changeup high in the zone. The ball left Seager's bat at 114.5 mph, which was the hardest-hit Fall Classic homer in the Statcast era, dating back to 2015.

García cut down Christian Walker at the plate with a stellar throw from right field in the second, stifling some early Arizona momentum. García exited in the eighth with tightness on his left side after appearing to get hurt on a swing.

Scherzer threw three solid innings before leaving with back tightness, and Jon Gray, Josh Sborz, Aroldis Chapman and José Leclerc combined to keep Arizona's offense quiet most of the evening.

Game 4 in the best-of-seven Series is Tuesday at Chase Field.

The D-backs rallied in the eighth when pinch-hitter Emmanuel Rivera led off with a double against Chapman. Geraldo Perdomo followed with an RBI single, making it 3-1. But then

The 25-year-old Pfaadt had been a revelation in the postseason with a 2.70 ERA through four October starts. despite a 5.72 ERA during the regular season. He wasn't quite as good on Monday – giving up three runs on four hits and two walks over 5 1/3 innings, striking out four.

The teams combined for no errors over the first two games of the series and the Rangers produced more defensive highlights that helped them take control of Game 3.

Walker led off the second with a double and Tommy Pham followed with a single, but Walker was thrown out at home. D-backs third-base coach Tony Perezchica put up a stop sign. but Walker either didn't see it or didn't care, never hesitating as he rounded third.

García - a Gold Glove finalist who has one of the best arms in the big leagues — threw a 94.6 mph rocket to the plate to cut down Walker.

The Game 3 winner went on to win 41 of 62 of those Fall Classics.

#### **UP NEXT**

The Diamondbacks will piece together Game 4 on the mound with multiple relievers. Manager Torey Lovullo showed his Southern California roots by mentioning a former Los Angeles Dodgers star when asked about his team's pitching plans.

"Don Drysdale is not going to fall out of the sky," Lovullo said. "It's definitely going to be somebody in our bullpen that's going to start the day tomorrow.

Drysdale teamed with fellow Hall of Famer Sandy Koufax in the pitching rotation to help the Dodgers win the World Series in 1959, 1963 and 1965.

The Rangers also aren't sure about their pitching plans for Tuesday. Bochy said before Monday's game that righthander Jon Gray was an option, but he threw in relief after Scherzer came out of the game.

# Nikola Vucevic helps the **Bulls rally past the Pacers**

#### **By PHILLIP B. WILSON Associated Press**

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Nikola Vucevic scored nine of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, and the Chicago Bulls rallied past the Indiana Pacers 112-105 on Monday night.

The Bulls trailed by five entering the fourth, but surged down the stretch as Vucevic delivered three key layups. The first two tied the game and the third gave Chicago a one-point lead. DeMar DeRozan put the Bulls ahead to stay on a layup that made it 101-99 with 3:46 remaining.

"The last five minutes, we played downhill," Bulls coach Billy Donovan said. We played down to the basket, at the basket. We're not trying to win by shooting jump shots."

Zach LaVine had 23 points and DeRozan scored 20 for the Bulls, who have split four games to start the season. The pair shot a combined 12 of 36 from field.

"If we can get everybody involved and play downhill, there's plenty to go around for everybody to eat," Donovan said.

Chicago went 26 of 31 at the line, where Indiana went 21 of 25.

The Pacers, who had opened with a pair of victories, were their own worst

enemy in settling for longrange shots. They made 12 of 46 3-pointers (26.1percent).

"Look, our guys played hard too, we just didn't play well," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "The quality of our 3s could have been better.'

Myles Turner led the Pacers with 20 points. Tyrese Haliburton had 19 points and 13 assists, and Bennedict Mathurin and Bruce Brown each scored 15 points.

Haliburton's driving layup in the final seconds gave Indiana a 55-53 lead at halftime.

"This was a big boys game, physical," Carlisle said. "We've got to learn



from it."

Two nights after scoring a career-high 51 points at Detroit, LaVine struggled early. The All-Star made two of seven shots but hit five free throws for 10 points in the first half. DeRozan missed six of seven shots in a four-point half.

#### **UP NEXT**

Bulls: At Dallas on Wednesday. Pacers: At Boston on Wednesday.

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!** www.news-banner.com or www.facebook.com/news-banner **Craig Counsell** not making its search public

Counsell's contract with Milwaukee is set to expire this week, but the Brewers are allowing him to look elsewhere while also hoping they can re-sign the coveted manager. The New York Mets are also reportedly interested in Counsell and have far more money to offer him than either the small-market Brewers or Guardians.

Brewers principal owner Mark Attanasio has said on multiple occasions the team wants Counsell back in 2024.

Counsell has an interesting connection to Cleveland. As a light-hitting infielder with Florida, he hit a tying sacrifice fly in the bottom of the ninth inning in Game 7 of the 1997 World Series as the Marlins rallied to beat Cleveland and win a title.

Counsell also scored the winning run in the 11th inning on Edgar Rentería's single off Cleveland's Charles Nagy.

Counsell played 16 seasons in the majors.

Cleveland is searching for a manager for the first time since 2012 after Terry Francona, the winningest skipper in club history, stepped down after this season.

The Guardians have interviewed several candidates to replace Francona. Mariners bullpen coach Stephen Vogt was in Cleveland last week for his second interview with the club and is considered one of the leading candidates.

Milwaukee went 92-70 this season and won the NL Central title before getting swept by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the Wild Card Series.

Counsell took over as Milwaukee's manager during the 2015 season after Ron Roenicke was fired. The Brewers had made a total of four playoff appearances before Counsell took over.

The longest-tenured manager in the National League, Counsell is 707-625 with the Brewers, giving him the club record for wins and games managed.

# Mahomes earns AP choice at the best QB

#### **By ROB MAADDI AP Pro Football Writer**

Even after one of the worst games of his NFL career, Patrick Mahomes stands alone at the top.

The two-time NFL MVP and Super Bowl MVP again was the unanimous choice by The Associated Press for No. 1 quarterback at the midpoint of the season.

A panel of nine AP Pro Football Writers ranked the top five players at QB, making their selections based on current status through Week 8. First-place votes were worth 10 points. Second through fifth-place votes were worth 5, 3, 2 and 1 points.

Mahomes also received all nine first-place votes in the preseason poll.

Tua Tagovailoa, Josh Allen, Lamar Jackson and Jalen Hurts each received second-place votes. Ten quarterbacks got votes, including Joe Burrow, Jared Goff, Kirk Cousins, Trevor Lawrence and Brock Purdy.

Mahomes, who has led the Kansas City Chiefs to five straight AFC championship games, posted the second-lowest passer rating of his career in a 24-9 loss at Denver on Sunday. Battling flu-like symptoms, Mahomes was 24 of 38 for 241 yards and two interceptions for a 59.2 rating.

#### SPORTS

# **News-Banner Scoreboard**

#### **FOOTBALL**

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W L Baltimore 6 2 Cincinnati 4 3 Cleveland 4 3 Pittsburgh 4 3 Wes	TPctPFPA0.7502021210.5711311440.5711541390.571113147
W L Kansas City 6 2 Las Vegas 3 5 Denver 3 5 L.A. Chargers4 4 NATIONAL CO	TPctPFPA0.7501871290.3751261870.3751722260.500174168
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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. Chicago at New Orleans, 1 p.m L.A. Rams at Green Bay, 1 p.m. Minnesota at Atlanta, 1 p.m. Seattle at Baltimore, 1 p.m. Tampa Bay at Houston, 1 p.m. Washington at New England, 1 p.m. Indianapolis at Carolina, 4:05 p.m. Dallas at Philadelphia, 4:25 p.m. N.Y. Giants at Las Vegas, 4:25 p.m. Buffalo at Cincinnati, 8:20 p.m. Open: Denver, Jacksonville, Detroit, San Francisco Monday, Nov. 6 L.A. Chargers at N.Y. Jets, 8:15

p.m.

#### **BASKETBALL**

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Chicago	2	2	.500	1/2
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Golden State 106, Houston 95

L.A. Clippers 123, San Antonio 83 Sacramento 132, L.A. Lakers 127, OT Monday's Games Boston 126, Washington 107 Brooklyn 133, Charlotte 121 Chicago 112, Indiana 105 Portland 99, Toronto 91 Atlanta 127, Minnesota 113 Golden State 130, New Orleans 102 Dallas 125, Memphis 110 Milwaukee 122, Miami 114 Oklahoma City 124, Detroit 112 Utah at Denver, late Orlando at L.A. Lakers, late Tuesday's Games New York at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m. San Antonio at Phoenix, 10 p.m. Orlando at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games Milwaukee at Toronto, 7 p.m. Portland at Detroit, 7 p.m. Brooklyn at Miami, 7:30 p.m. Cleveland at New York, 7:30 p.m. Indiana at Boston, 7:30 p.m. New Orleans at Oklahoma City, 7:30

p.m. Washington at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. Charlotte at Houston, 8 p.m. Denver at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Chicago at Dallas, 8:30 p.m. Memphis at Utah, 9 p.m. L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m. Sacramento at Golden State, 10 p.m. Thursday's Games Toronto at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

Detroit at New Orleans, 8 p.m. Orlando at Utah, 9 p.m. San Antonio at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

#### **BASEBALL** MLB

WORLD SERIES

(Best-of-7) (All Games on Fox) Texas 2, Arizona 1 Friday, Oct. 27: Texas 6, Arizona 5, 11 innings Saturday, Oct. 28: Arizona 9, Texas 1 Monday, Oct. 30: Texas 3, Arizona 1 Tuesday, Oct. 31: Texas at Arizona, 8:03 p.m. x-Wednesday, Nov. 1: Texas at Arizona, 8:03 p.m x-Friday, Nov. 3: Arizona at Texas,

8:03 p.m. x-Saturday, Nov. 4: Arizona at Texas,

#### <u>HOCKEY</u>

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Montreal	8	5	2	1	11	26	27
Tampa Bay	9	4	2	3	11	32	28

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ference advance to playoffs Sunday's Games Buffalo 4, Colorado 0 New Jersey 4, Minnesota 3 Washington 3, San Jose 1 Edmonton 5, Calgary 2 Monday's Games Carolina 3, Philadelphia 2 Seattle 4, Tampa Bay 3, OT Boston 3, Florida 2, OT Anaheim 4, Pittsburgh 3 N.Y. Rangers 3, Winnipeg 2, OT Detroit 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, OT Dallas 5, Columbus 3 Chicago at Arizona, late Montreal at Vegas, late **Tuesday's Games** Los Angeles at Toronto, 8 p.m. Nashville at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

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





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# 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

#### 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.

#### 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 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.



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.

Harbaugh has denied any knowledge or involvement in impermissible scouting of opponents and said no one has given him a timetable 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

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# 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 five games? 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

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#### Honor Roll

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# 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 sup of negotiators who represent a range of viewpoints on student loans. It includes must a range of colleges, along with loan servicers, state with loan service

including the NAACP. Meetings began earlier this month and are

officials and advocates

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, showblowing, 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 colderthan-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.

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



In the Pacific Northwest,

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-thanaverage 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-thanaverage conditions from southern California to along the Gulf Coast and drierthan-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 Farmers' Alamanc?

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 require-ments: 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.



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# Agri-food leaders optimistic about a sustainable food system

#### **By AGDAILY**

Around the world, agrifood 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, Irelandbased research agency Opinions - collected insights through 26 one-onone 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 agrifood 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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Zap Electric, Inc.

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Commercial-Industrial-Residential

24 Hr. Emergency Service

Charles Miller-Electrican 1233 W. Cherry St., Bluffton Estimates

Call 824-0224

or 622-4108

Nov. deadline is

Tues., Oct. 24!



JOIN THE BEST- HIRING CARPENTERS SKILLED With our continued growth, we're looking for highly \_carpenters with at skilled least 4-5 years experience in commercial or residential Experience construction. with rough & finish carpentry, framing or concrete forming required. James S. Jackson has a great team of profes-sionals, is well established, provides benefits and is looking for career-minded team members right now. Highly competitive pay, paid time off, health insurance and matching 401k are all part of the package. Please send resume or request an application at

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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 ta-bles, 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 of 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!

listed on the website for review.

**OTR DRIVERS: TRANSPORT** Oversize loads inc. windmill components. Opportunity for contracted lane to California to Texas and return. Personalized dispatch, great pay with weekly direct deposit, excel-lent health, disability, life ins., 401K, and well-maintained equipment. Must have a good Class A CDL record and 3 years in a like profession. Sycamore Specialized Carri-ers, 3400 Engle Road, Ft. Wayne, IN 46809, Phone: 260-478-6377 ext 340 or recruiting@sycamoretrkg.com

**BIDDING CLOSING NOVEM-**

**BER 5 STARTING AT 4 PM** 

owner and multiple consign-

ors. Online only consignment

auction. 1,000+ lots! Featuring

furniture, household items, col-

lectibles, antiques, tools, guns, & much more! Auction preview:

Nov. 2, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm St., Decatur. Pick up times: Nov. 6,

1-6 p.m. & Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-noon,

3 pick up locations in Decatur.

Krueckeberg Auction & Realty

LLC, Kjauction.com, 260-724-

**NOVEMBER 5-NOVEMBER** 

12 - (Online Only) - Kipfer Family, seller. New Holland

TL90 diesel tractor, Internation-

al 706 gas tractor, 1984 Case

Model 444 garden tractor, 2008 Miller 250 Bobcat welder generator, Pilot 24-volt fork

lift charger, Marathon, Shell, other gasoline plastic signs,

Fenton, Lladro, Carnival, Vase-

line, Royal Dalton, RS Prussia

glassware, antique & modern furniture. Preview: Nov. 2 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and Nov. 9 from

3 p.m.-6 p.m., 6345 W 200 S-1, Bluffton. Sale manager, Patrick

Carter, The Steffen Group Inc.,

www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-

NOVEMBER 27 - 6 p.m. -Pamela & Rick Myers, own-ers. Auction conducted at

Wells County 4-H Community Center, 1240 4-H Park Road,

Bluffton, IN. Land located at

County Rd. 100 N & State Rd.

116, NW corner of Bluffton.

118.91 acres, Sec. 28 & 33,

Lancaster Twp., Wells County.

7402

3006

- Randy Rossman,

**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

**Quick Draw Evening** 01-03-05-08-13-19-26-29-32-39-40-48-51-61-64-65-69-76-77-79, BE: 03

Hoosier Lotto - Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$42 million

**MEGA MILLIONS** Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$159 million POWERBALL 19-22-34-66-69; Power-

ball: 05; Power Play: 3X

These farms will be offered

in the following tracts, and/ or combined. Tract 1: 26.18

acres. Tract 2: 92.73 acres.

Auctioneer: Jody Holloway,

260-273-0999, Holloway Auc-

tion Company, Inc., 260-824-5060, www.HollowayAuction.

DECEMBER 5 - 2 p.m.-6 p.m. ET. (Online) - Farm: Good-

win Trust. Property location:

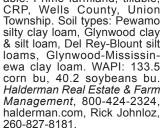
2 miles north of Markle, IN at

the intersection of N Marzane

Road and W 800 N. 157.3+/-total acres, 136.9+/- tillable, 12.2+/- CRP, 8.2+/- non-till-able. Prime farmland, tillable, CPP Wells County Union

Public

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Storage

Poneto, IN

260-273-7946

312 W. St. Rd. 218

**Jim Ameter** 

23

For as little as ...

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# Walk on the wary side

Dear Annie: Both my wife and I are familiar, well-lit 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 trickor-treating. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, tell them to trick-or-treat in groups and stick to

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 canconcentrate on the road and your surroundings.

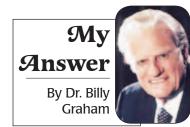
5. Turn your headlights on earlier in the day so you can spot children from greater distances.

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 vour candy from your dogs. Chocolate and raisins are poisonous to them.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe Halloween!

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



Q: When people obey Jesus' command to love thy neighbor but ignore everything else He says, are they spiritually blind? -S.B.

A: Many do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Before Jesus commanded to love thy neighbor, He said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all

### 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

#### 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.



#### **BLONDIE**

ZITS









#### CRANKSHAFT





"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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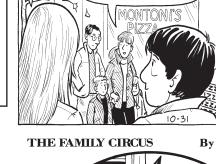




# IT'S NOT SEE, MIN? THIS IS THE SAME WHY WE NEED TO REOPEN MONTONI'S!

**By Bil Keane** 





your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind (Luke 10:27–28, NKJV).

For the spiritually dead, there is no communication with God. The world of the physically deaf is one which those with normal hearing find difficult to comprehend. But we walk in the world of the spirituwhere 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-

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

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# 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

The military said a soldier captured during Hamas' brutal Oct. 7 incursion was rescued in Gaza - the first rescue since the weekslong war began. Military officials provided few details but said in a statement that Pvt. Ori Megidish, 19, was "doing well" and had met with her family.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed her home, saying the "achievement" by Israel's security forces "illustrates our commitment to free all the hostages.'

He also rejected calls for a cease-fire to facilitate the release of captives or end the war, which he has said will be long and difficult. "Calls for a cease-fire are calls for Israel to surrender to Hamas," he told a news conference. "That will not happen."

Netanyahu, who faces mounting anger over Israel's failure to prevent the worst surprise attack on the country in a half century, also said he had no plans to resign.

Hamas and other militant groups are believed to be holding some 240 captives, including men, women and children. Netanyahu has faced mounting pressure to secure their release even as Israel acts to crush Hamas and end its 16-year rule over the territory.

Hamas, which has released four hostages, has said it would let the others go in return for thousands of Palestinian prisoners 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 humanitarian 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 deteriorat-

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 searchand-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

If your business depends on the traffic of the fastest growing customer group in our nationour Senior Citizens—you won't want to miss out on our upcoming ...

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 Javnes 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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