

Indiana is halfway through Medicaid 'unwinding'

Where does the state stand?

By WHITNEY DOWNARD Indiana Capital Chronicle

As Indiana hits the halfway point for the Medicaid unwinding process, the rate of Hoosiers losing benefits seems to have slowed as the state reassesses the coverage of millions of beneficiaries following the expiration of pandemic protections.

However, with a total of 231,403 Hoosiers kicked off of the rolls, Indiana could potentially exceed an earlier estimate that predicted only 300,000-400,000 Hoosiers would lose coverage.

During COVID-19, the federal government barred states from purging their Medicaid rolls during the economic tumult and

nearly three quarters of the cost of coverage rather than the traditional two-thirds.

Indiana's rolls grew from just over 1.5 million enrollees in February of 2020 to over 2.3 million in March of 2023, the last month of protections.

Now halfway through the pro-cess of "determining" the eligibility of each enrollee, 231,403

enhanced their match, paying for Hoosiers no longer have Medicaid coverage, as reported by the Family and Social Services Administration for the months of April through September, the latest month available.

Cora Steinmetz, the state's Medicaid director, shared her perspective on a panel with the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission on Thursday, a body of experts who report regularly to Congress about the status of government insurance programs.

Steinmetz called the process "extremely challenging" to implement as the expiration of the public health emergency kept getting delayed month after month, impacting how the agency could shore up call centers and ready their staff.

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Champions of the gridiron

The Tigers won their second consecutive championship Friday night. Top left, Bluffton football head coach Brent Kunkel

U.S. employers pulled back on hiring in October

Adding 150,000 jobs in face of higher borrowing rates

By PAUL WISEMAN and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO **AP Economics Writers**

WASHINGTON (AP) - The nation's employers slowed their hiring in October, adding a modest but still decent 150,000 jobs, a sign that the labor market may be cooling but remains resilient despite high interest rates that have made borrowing much costlier for companies and consumers.

Last month's job growth, though down sharply from a robust 297,000 gain in September, was solid enough to suggest that many companies still want to hire and that the economy remains sturdy. And job growth would have been higher in October if not for the now-settled United Auto Workers' strikes. The strikes ended this week with tentative settlements in which against Detroit's automakers granted significantly better pay and benefits to the union's workers.

Friday's jobs report from the government comes as the Federal Reserve is assessing incoming economic data to determine whether to leave its key interest rate unchanged, as it did this week, or to raise it again in its drive to curb inflation. The lower job growth in October, along with a slowdown in pay gains last month, could help convince the Fed that inflation pressures will continue to cool and that further rate hikes may not be needed.

On Wall Street, traders appeared to signal their growing belief in that scenario. Bond yields fell and stock prices rose sharply after the jobs report was released, indicating optimism that the Fed will decide it won't need to impose addi-

gets a victory shower by members of the team following the team's win. Top right, Bluffton senior Ben Ramseyer (25) hoists the Sectional Championship Trophy while being surrounded by teammates following the Tigers win Friday night. Above, the Tigers celebrate its 41-6 Sectional Championship win over the Eastern Fighting Comets Friday night in Bluffton. More on Page A1. (Photos by Chad Kline)

tional rate hikes.

The unemployment rate rose last month from 3.8 percent to 3.9 percent. And in another sign of a possible softening in the labor market, the Labor Department revised down its (Continued on Page 2)

Israel resists U.S. pressure to pause war to allow aid to Gaza

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, **BASSEM MROUE** and LEE KEATH **Associated Press**

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) -Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday pushed back against growing U.S. pressure for a "humanitarian pause" in the nearly month-old war to protect civilians and allow more aid into Gaza, insisting there would be no temporary cease-fire until the roughly 240 hostages held by Hamas are released.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken made his third trip to Israel since the war began, reiterating American support for Israel's campaign to crush Hamas after its brutal Oct. 7 attack in southern Israel. He also echoed President Joe Biden's calls for a brief halt in the fighting to address a worsening humanitarian crisis.

Alarm has grown over spiraling Palestinian deaths and deepening misery for civilians from weeks of

Israeli bombardment and a widening ground assault that risks even greater casualties. Overwhelmed hospitals say they are nearing collapse, with medicine and fuel running low under the Israeli siege. About 1.5 million people in Gaza, or 70 percent of the population, have fled their homes, the U.N. said Friday.

Palestinians are increasingly desperate for the most basic supplies.

The average Gaza resident is

now surviving on two pieces of bread per day, much of it made from stockpiled U.N. flour, said Thomas White, Gaza director for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees. Demands for drinking water are also growing.

People are beyond looking for bread," he told U.N. diplomats in a video briefing from Gaza. "It's looking for water."

After talks with Netanyahu, Blinken said a temporary halt was needed to boost aid deliveries and

help win the release of the hostages Hamas took during its brutal incursion nearly a month ago.

But Netanyahu said he told Blinken that Israel was "going with full steam ahead," unless hostages are released.

U.S. officials say they are not seeking a cease-fire but short pauses in specific areas to allow aid deliveries or other humanitarian activity, after which Israeli operations would resume. Netan-

(Continued on Page 2)

Billions roll in to help fight the growing U.S. opioid epidemic

One county shows how recovery can work

By GEOFF MULVIHILL and CARLA K. JOHNSON **Associated Press**

FINDLAY, Ohio (AP) - Communities ravaged by America's opioid epidemic are starting to get their share of a \$50 billion pie from legal settlements.

Most of that money comes with a requirement that it be used to address the overdose crisis and

prevent more deaths. But how?

It could mean that places look more like the area around Findlay. Here, conservative Hancock County has built a comprehensive system focused on both treatment and recovery by adding housing, a needle exchange, outreach workers and a community center.

"People recover in a communi-

ty," said Precia Stuby, the official who heads the county's addiction and mental health efforts. "We have to build recovery-oriented communities that support individuals."

It was 2007 when Stuby began hearing from officials about prescription opioids being misused. That was about the same time Jesse Johnson, then 14, was prescribed the painkiller Percocet.

The Findlay native was pregnant when she needed stents put into her kidneys as treatment for infections and kidney stones. After seven months on the opioid medication, she gave birth to a healthy daughter. Then she underwent an operation to remove the stents. The prescriptions stopped and she became sick from withdrawal.

"I remember not even being able to hold my daughter," said Johnson, now 31. "It just hurt."

Alcohol, marijuana and, a few years later, cocaine and opioids from the black market helped Johnson ease the pain.

By then, county officials were seeing the area's fatal opioid overdose toll tick up. The recovery system then included only some outpatient services and Alcoholics Anonymous.

"We were grossly underprepared, like I think many places (Continued on Page 2)



LOCAL/NATION

Medicaid 'unwinding'

(Continued from Page 1)

"... it was challenging to be in sort of an ongoing standby situation, quarter after quarter," Steinmetz said. "Every quarter we would do the preparation and I think after so long you become numb to the same message of, 'It might be coming. It might be coming.""

Despite the difficulties, Steinmetz said she felt the agency had "navigated it well and are pleased with the sort of outreach we ended up with."

What does outreach mean?

A few months into the unwinding period, Steinmetz said FSSA launched a data dashboard on the behest of stakeholders like the Indiana Hospital Association and Minority Health Coalition, many of whom can help current beneficiaries keep their coverage if they're still eligible.

"Those partners really are the boots on the ground, assisting with outreach efforts, and they were very clear with us that if we could make as much data public as possible that would really inform their ability to get out and reach as many Medicaid members as possible," Steinmetz said.

Though initially just a rehash of the monthly reports to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the data now includes demographic information and county-level details.

In particular, Steinmetz said the availability of county-specific data helped those entities target vulnerable populations to distribute information on redetermination. This also helps the agency better tailor its communications with members.

"One example of this is that our dashboard data ... the largest procedural disenrollment was our Healthy Indiana Plan," Steinmetz said. "We've now

pivoted our messaging to really target family advocates to encourage family advocates to reach out ... we also have our messaging now really reiterating (that) parents should take action even if they no longer qualify because their children may remain eligible."

The number of Hoosiers dropped from the rolls has decreased most months and averages 38,567 Hoosiers at the halfway point — a significant drop from the 53,000 lost in both April and May.

Steinmetz credited the work of partner organizations for continuing to spread the word about the redetermination process.

"We really embrace sort of a 'whole government' response to getting the word out because we know that our Medicaid members are served by many other state agency programs and they really have great connection points," Steinmetz said.

Steinmetz noted the distribution of renewal information materials through the Department of Workforce Development WorkOne Centers, the Department of Health's WIC clinics and the Department of Child Services. Outside of individual agencies, FSSA has tried to leverage first responders, food banks, pharmacists and schools to keep materials on hand for enrollees.

"We collaborated with the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles and located 80,000 addresses that were different for Medicaid members than what was registered with the and provided direct outreach via postcard to those mismatched addresses to try to address that," Steinmetz said. "We've really tried to make sure that we have a consistent message across all of the various entities so that Medicaid members are hearing this drumbeat from the ground level about what action is

needed."

Flexibilities from the pandemic

In addition to enhanced funding, CMS permitted many experimental waivers for services, such as submitted information via text or email — which Steinmetz called "incredibly useful" when it came to contacting younger beneficiaries.

Steinmetz said Indiana had adopted many such flexibilities under temporary waivers — such as leveraging eligibility in other government programs like supplemental food benefits or social security — and many could be incorporated permanently, if given the nod from the CMS.

But, for now, Steinmetz said there wasn't yet a way to track which specific waiver had helped an enrollee.

"That's just not how we are necessarily tracking from our renewal outcome standpoint but I think we will have the ability ... especially as we move into the second half of our unwind period," Steinmetz said.

For now, those flexibilities are slated to expire at the end of the redetermination process.

Moving forward from the halfway point, Steinmetz said the agency wanted to make sure it kept communications in "plain language" so enrollees up for redetermination could understand what was needed.

"This is very technical information and so I think we do continue to think about what we need to do to make sure that the information is as understandable as possible for members and beneficiaries. That they have the resources they need to understand what is being asked of them from a redetermination standpoint," Steinmetz said. "That's an area even beyond the unwind period we'll continue to pay close attention to."



feet at 7:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: A chance of sprinkles before 7 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 60. Southwest wind around 5 mph. **Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 37. Northwest

wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 56. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Monday: A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 65. Breezy.

Monday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers before 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 45. Breezy.

Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 58.

Tuesday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers, mainly after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41.

Wednesday: Showers likely, mainly after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Wednesday Night: Showers likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 44. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 53.

Thursday Night: A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48.



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(Continued from Page 1)

estimate of job growth in August and September by a combined 101,000.

The UAW strikes contributed to an overall loss of 35,000 factory positions in October. Several other sectors posted solid job gains last month, notably healthcare, which added 58,000, government agencies 51,000 and construction companies 23,000.

By contrast, the vast leisure and hospitality sector, which includes bars, restaurants and hotels, reported only modest job growth. So did professional and business services, a category that includes such high-paying occupations as accounting, engineering and architecture.

Wage pressures, which have been gradually slow-

Average hourly pay rose 0.2 percent from September and 4.1 percent from 12 months earlier. The year-over-year wage increase was the lowest since June 2021; the monthover-month rise was the smallest since February 2022.

The Fed has raised its benchmark interest rate 11 times since March 2022 to try to slow the economy and tame inflation, which hit a four-decade high last year but has slowed sharply since then. In September, consumer prices rose 3.7 percent from a year earlier, down drastically from a year-overyear peak of 9.1 percent in June 2022 but still well above the Fed's 2 percent target level.

The U.S. job market has remained on firm footing despite those rate hikes and spending, the primary driver of the economy. Employers have now added a healthy 204,000 jobs a month over the past three months. The combination of a solid economy and decelerating inflation has raised hopes that the Fed can nail a so-called soft landing — raising rates just enough to tame inflation without triggering a recession.

"This is still a good labor market," said Nick Bunker, head of economic research at the Indeed Hiring Lab. "There's no recession right now that you can see in the labor market data." Bunker added that the October jobs numbers are "mostly consistent with the soft landing story."

For the Fed, one unwelcome note in Friday's report in the labor force – those who either have a job or are looking for one - fell by 201,000 in October. It was the first such drop since April. Over the past year, more than 3 million people have entered the workforce, making it easier for companies to fill job openings. This has reduced pressure on employers to jack up pay and pass on their higher labor costs to their customers through higher prices. But the trend was broken last month.

Since matching a halfcentury low of 3.4 percent in April, the nation's unemployment rate has more or less steadily edged up. The 3.9 percent rate in October was the highest level since January 2022. Still, historically, any jobless rate below 5 percent has been consid-

ing, eased further in October. has helped fuel consumer is that the number of people ered healthy.

Israel, Gaza war

(Continued from Page 1) yahu has not publicly addressed the idea and has instead repeatedly ruled out a cease-fire.

Israeli troops tightened their encirclement of Gaza City amid continued battles with Hamas militants as airstrikes wreaked havoc around the city, the largest in the tiny Mediterranean territory. Al Jazeera TV reported that a strike late Friday hit a school in Gaza City where many were taking refuge, causing casualties.

Strikes hit near the entrances of three hospitals in northern Gaza just as staff were trying to evacuate wounded to the south, hospital directors said. Footage showed the aftermath outside Gaza's largest hospital, Shifa, where more than a dozen bloodied bodies of men, women and young children were strewn next to damaged cars

and ambulances. One bleeding boy screamed as he huddled on top of a woman sprawled on the pavement.

At least 15 people were killed and 60 wounded outside Shifa Hospital, said Health Ministry spokesperson Ashraf al-Qidra. At least 50 others were killed or wounded in a strike outside the Indonesian Hospital, its director said, without providing more precise figures.

The Israeli military said its aircraft Friday hit an ambulance that Hamas fighters were using to carry weapons. The claim could not be independently verified. It was not clear whether the strike was connected to the one by Shifa Hospital. The military said it took place "near a battle zone," suggesting it was close to ongoing ground battles.

Al-Qidra said a convoy of ambulances left Shifa, carrying wounded to Rafah, when a strike hit a vehicle on the edges of Gaza City. The convoy turned around, and another strike hit another ambulance. He denied that any of the ambulances were used by Hamas fighters.

Throughout the war, Israel and Hezbollah have traded fire almost daily along the Lebanon border, raising fears of a new front opening there.

In his first public speech since the war began, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said the cross-border fighting showed his group had "entered the battle."

He suggested escalation was possible: "We will not be limited to this." But he gave little sign that Hezbollah would fully engage in the fighting. So far, Hezbollah has taken calculated steps to show backing for Hamas without igniting an all-out war that would be devastating for Lebanon and Israel. 118.91 Acres - Sec. 28 & 33, Lancaster Twp., Wells County Located at County Rd. 100 N & State Rd. 116, NW Corner of Bluffton

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Opioid crisis

(Continued from Page 1) across the country were, for the opioid epidemic," Stuby said.

From 1999 through 2020, 131 deaths in the county were attributed to opioids. Across the country, it was more than 500,000. The county's opioid-linked death rate over that period paralleled the nation's.

But the county took a path that many places did not.

Officials created a plan with the help of the federally funded Addiction Technology Transfer Center that stressed recovery and built upon a local recognition that "this is our family, our friends, our brothers, our sisters," Stuby said.

A lot of the pieces of the county's transformation, including aggressive outreach to people who had overdosed, were in place nearly four years ago, when an overdose put Johnson at the edge of death. By then, the crisis had shifted from prescription painkillers to heroin and then to even more potent fentanyl, an opioid produced cheaply in illicit labs.

Her mother was told to prepare for a funeral.

Johnson, then 27, survived. But when she was well enough to leave the hospital, her mother didn't let her come home. Instead, she went to Findlay's homeless shelter. She had just hospital scrubs to wear.

There, a peer support worker — someone in recovery herself — tracked her down.

"The person who was trying to find me didn't give up," Johnson said. "She took me under her arm and carried me through some of the hardest weeks that I would have." The settlement funds from drugmakers, wholesalers and pharmacies will not be enough for every harm reduction, treatment, recovery and prevention program that might be needed to fight the nation's opioid epidemic.

But it could be enough to jumpstart major changes to the efforts.

Since its implementation began a decade ago, Hancock County has brought in more than \$19 million in grants, largely from the federal government. Other funding comes from a county tax levy and the state. Health insurance helps pay for treatment.

Some advocates urge communities not to spend settlement funds on drug courts, saying there's limited evidence they work and that participants who return to drugs can end up with harsh jail sentences.

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OBITUARIES

Bertha Marie (Faus) Wyatt, 83

Bertha Marie (Faus) Wyatt, 83, of Bluffton, passed away Friday morning, Nov. 3, 2023, at Lutheran Hospital of Indiana

Marie was born April 7, 1940, in Murray, Ind. to Harry and Mary (Archbold) Faus. She attended Lancaster High School and worked at the Dutch Mill, Fruehauf Trailer, and Corning Glass Works. She enjoyed bowling in the Bluff-

ton Woman's Bowling League, and her greatest job was raising her family. She loved to spend time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include her son, Tim (Patricia) Williams of Bluffton; a son-in-law, Bruce E. Wygant of Fort Wayne; along with her grandchildren, Josh (Brittany Fechner) Hartman of Fort Wayne, Heather (Ryan) Abbott of Fort Wayne, Timothy (Nikki)

Jack L. Kaufman, 79

Jack L. Kaufman, 79, died Thursday evening, Nov. 2, 2023, at Christian Care Retirement Community in Bluffton.

Jack was born in Wells County on June 4, 1944, to Fred E. and Thelma I. (Kummer) Kaufman. He married Martha L. Schafer in Bluffton on Dec. 29, 1962; she survives

In addition to his wife, Jack is survived by one daughter, Kim (Tom) Hartman of Berne; two grandsons and one greatgrandson, Oliver B. Hartman.

Aside from his parents, Jack was preced-

Rodney A. Pierce, 65

Rodney A. Pierce, 65, of Celina, Ohio, died at 5:33 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023 at a friend's home in Woodburn, Ind. He was born Saturday, Sept. 27, 1958, in Decatur. He married Cathy Sue (Eckrote) Pierce

Rodneyis survived by his son, Nicholas A. Pierce, Bluffton; daughters, Stephanie A. (Matthew) Heaton, Bluffton and Christina M. Holley; sisters, Cheryl Brest, Kingman, Ariz. and Jill Miller, Bluffton; and eight grandchildren.

Williams, Jr., Heidi (Chad) Ishee and Luke (Gina) Williams, all of Texas; along with 15 greatgrandchildren. Marie is preceded in death by

her parents; a daughter, Rebecca A. Wygant; and 13 siblings.

Funeral services will take place at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Burial will follow at St. Paul Cemetery in rural Bluffton.

Visitation hours will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, prior to the service, at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made in Marie's memory to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

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

ed in death by one sister, Janice Hiester.

Visitation will be held Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., at Goodwin – Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton, immediately followed by a funeral service at 11:00 a.m., at the funeral home. Pastor David Cox will officiate. Burial will follow at Six Mile Cemetery

Memorials can be made to the Donor's Choice.

Online condolences can be made to www.goodwincaleharnish.com.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Cathy Sue (Eckrote) Pierce; father, Edward Lamoin Pierce; mother, Loma Dorothy (Ray) Pierce; and sister, Dixie Pierce

Services to celebrate Rodney's life will take place at a later date.

Arrangements are being handled by Downing & Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva.

Online condolences may be made at www.glancyfuneralhomes.com

Bluffton Parks Rec News Notes

Destination Recreation

We had such a fun week of programs that kept us busy. We were amazed to have over 3,600 come through the city gym in a little over an hour during the Boo In Bluffton on Halloween night. Sam, the Sneaky Turkey, appeared in the parks, so be on the lookout for him again next week for a chance to win a prize.

Thursday morning was a special tot event, and children could visit the Fire Department for a tour. Drop-in tot time is every Tuesday and Thursday from 11-noon until March to give children a warm, safe place to play over the winter months. Open Gym for school-aged kids where kids can enjoy supervised gym time has started. Feel free to drop off your kids from 3:30-6 p.m. every Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday until mid-March. A waiver will need a parent's signature on the first day the child attends.

Don't forget to visit the Bluffton Parks Facebook page this weekend to vote for your favorite kid in the Virtual Costume Contest. Each like will count as a vote, and the photo with the most likes will receive a prize.

Wobble Before You Gobble is a free Thanksgiving Morning family-friendly fun run/walk. Get out and get moving before the big meal and football! The Wobble will start at 9 a.m., with checkin beginning at 8:15 a.m. at the Bluffton City Gym (128 E Market St., Bluffton). No need to pre-register; show up and check in. Our route will be entirely on the sidewalk and River Greenway, with the start and end at the Bluffton City Gym. There will be a marked turnaround for a 1-mile option, too. Oh, and did we mention DONUTS at the end of the course? If you have questions or need more information, contact us at sports@blufftonindiana.gov or 260-824-6069

Free Weekday Walking is held until March 29th from 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the Bluffton City Gym 128 E. Market St. Walking is one of the best exercises for all age groups and has many health benefits. If you can spare fifteen

By Brandy **Fiechter**

minutes every day for walking, it is sure to help you maintain a healthy weight. But in many places, the weather is unfavorable for many months, forcing people to remain indoors. That is why the Parks Department has decided to open the city gym free of charge to any adult who would like to get some exercise during the cold months. Participants can enter through the glass door on the West side of the building and sign in on the wooden door each day you attend. If you are the last to leave the gym, please turn off the light in the southwest corner. 1 Mile = 20laps

The Bluffton Parks Department is looking for any pet-friendly business that would like to be a vendor at our Paws and Claus event on Dec. 13. The program will run from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Bluffton City Gym. If you are interested in participating, email events@blufftonindiana.gov for free table space.

There is still time to reserve the pavilion at Washington Park for your November and December parties. The inside pavilion is open year-round and includes a warming kitchen and seating for 120 people. Amenities include a serving window with five dedicated outlets for crockpots/ roasters, a sink, microwave, refrigerator, and restroom access. To reserve the facility, call 824-6069.

Can you believe we have already had our first snow of the season? As a reminder, the tennis nets will come down as usual on the first Monday in November

We are looking forward to next week to see how the bids come out for the Interurban Trail and the new dedicated pickleball courts and parking lot improvements at Lancaster Park. The regularly scheduled Park Board meeting was changed to this Thursday, Nov. 9, to review the bids.

Have a great week!

Huntington **Co. card sale** fundraiser to begin

The LaFontaine Arts Council will be selling a limited set of greeting cards this holiday season featuring art from first and second grade students to raise funds to support Arts in Education and the Community. These sets will be available in select retail locations starting Nov. 6.

The LAC, in partnership with the Mayor of Hunting ton's Holiday Card contest, invited all Huntington County elementary 1st and 2nd grade students to submit holiday drawings this year. The LAC has chosen one winner from each grade from seven elementary schools to curate these 14-card sets, called "Hometown Huntington Greeting Cards." These sets include envelopes and feature a message on the back of each card with the artist's first name, grade and school. Participating schools include Roanoke Elementary School, Horrace Mann Elementary School,



Andrews Elementary School, Flint Springs Elementary School, Huntington Catholic School, Lincoln Elementary School and Salamonie Elementary School.

All artwork submitted by the schools within city limits will be on display at the city building. All artwork for the remaining schools will be on a gallery display at the Pathfinder Arts and Entrepreneurial Center. The LaFontaine Arts Council has been providing Arts in Education programming to the Huntington County Schools for over 30 years. Currently the council is funding programs including the Fort Wayne Phil-harmonic, Young Artist Awards, along with Grant and Scholarship programs. The LAC Board of Directors meets every fourth Tuesday at 6 pm and board meetings are open to the public. For more information, reach out to lafontaineartscouncil@gmail.com.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS City:

Wednesday, 2:19 p.m., South Hoosier Highway and East 200 South. Driver cited for speeding.

Wednesday, 3:43 p.m., Ind. 124 and North Main Street. Welfare check requested for subject in area. Wednesday, 4:52 p.m.,

Linger Inn. Subject given trespass warning. Thursday, 2:52 a.m.,

block of Pine Grove Court. Report of threatening via text message.

Thursday, 10:35 p.m., Pine Grove Apartments. Subject told she needed to leave.

Friday, 12:04 p.m., Dollar Tree. Caller requested assistance with dead battery for vehicle in front of ER doors. Car was jumped.

Friday, 12:30 p.m., Wells County Courthouse. Caller reported they have two flat tires after coming out of court.

Thursday, 9:48 p.m., 40 Lancaster Street, Bluffton. Driver cited for speeding 87 in a 55 MPH zone.

Thursday, 2:21 p.m., North 100 East and West Lancaster Street, Bluffton. Driver cited for passing in a no passing zone. Thursday, 7:10 p.m.,

Gerber Bridge. Car vs. deer. Friday, 8:31 a.m., 8700 North 100 West, Uniondale.

Report of stolen meds. Friday, 2:04 p.m., 1500

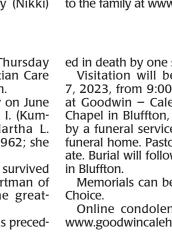
South 350 East, Bluffton. Report of a suspicious vehi-

Thursday, 1:58 p.m., 2000 East 700 North,

Ossian. Report of theft of

diesel fuel, siphoned from

combine. Two cameras



The greeting cards will be available for purchase at the following locations throughout the county for \$25 per set:

• JJ Javas - 2840 Guilford St. in Huntington

• Saving Grace - 212 Main St. in Roanoke

• Pathfinders Arts and Entrepreneurial Center – 32 E Franklin St. in Huntington

• Home Craft – 400 N Jefferson St. in Huntington • Whimzy – 45 Etna Ave.

in Huntington • Warren Service and

Supply – 104 N Wayne St. in Warren

• Trends Hair Studio -191 S Main St, Roanoke

200 block of South Street. Report of adult in black coat with hood up in backyard, looking in caller's garage. Unable to locate.

Thursday, 9:54 a.m., 100 block of West Wabash Street. Caller reported previous domestic incident.

Thursday, 12:46 p.m., Bluffton Church of God. Caller reported noise upstairs. Officer located no one in the building.

Thursday, 5:28 p.m., Walmart. Caller reported man followed her around Walmart. Subject was gone upon arrival, officer walked her to her vehicle to ensure her safety.

Thursday, 5:46 p.m., Airplane Express. Office removed object out of roadway.

Thursday, 6:00 p.m., 400 block of Eastmoor Drive. Caller reported phone scam.

County:

Thursday, 1:32 p.m., Silo Farms. Caller reported subject broke door at residence. Thursday, 2:13 p.m.,

North 100 East and West

VISITATION & SERVICES Galen J. **Carol Jean** Baumgartner (Schoeff) Meeks Calling: 12 - 7 p.m. Sunday, Calling: 2-7 p.m. November 5 at the funeral home and 9 - 9:45 a.m. prior Sunday, November 5 and one to the service at the church. hour prior to the service. Funeral: 10 a.m. **Service:** 10:30 a.m., Monday, November 6 at the Monday, November 6 at the Bluffton North Apostolic funeral home. Christian Church. Goodwin-Cale & Harnish Thoma/Rich, Lemler MEMORIAL CHAPEL **Funeral Home** cally Owned and Operated Since 192 308 W. Washington St. St. Rd. 124 East, Bluffton 824-3850 824-3852 vww.thomarich.com

cle.

Ossian:

destroyed.

American Legion to host Veterans Day meal

Amercian Legion Post 111 will offer a free dinner on Veterans Day, Saturday, Nov. 11. The meal will include ham, beans, and

RELIABLE

FAST,

a dessert. Meals will be available from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 111 W. Washington St. in Bluffton.



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ΟΡΙΝΙΟ

Message received. And it was no coincidence.

This week's Saturday morning entry is closely



linked to two recent ones. Last week, we began and ended with a question: "What's going on at the Health Department?"

A few weeks ago, the topic was coincidences — essentially that I have arrived at the conclusion that they do not exist.

A new friend gave me a book Wednesday by Philip Gully, a former Quaker pastor, titled "For Everything a Season."

Thursday morning, while continuing to contemplate whether or not to write a follow-up column about the health department and what it might include, I opened the book to read the introduction. It is a series of essays regarding Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. You are likely familiar with it: "For everything, there is a season ... a time to be born, a time to die...

His preface concluded with the full text of those verses, which I took time to read. The one phrase that smacked me in the forehead: "... a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;"

No such thing as a coincidence.

I had been feeling that some sort of attempt to answer that question — What's going on... — was in order, at least to some degree. Something tells me it's not meant to be.

But today, to be fair at the very least, a mea culpa: My analogy of the U.S. House of Representatives' mess was not perfect. As has been pointed out, the Gaetzand-crew's palace coup in Washington eliminated the head guy, whereas no one has been fired or involuntarily removed from office in the Wells County Health Department. Local elected officials stepped in after the environmental inspector quit in July. That resignation resulted in an elected official having a chat with the then-relatively new administrator — who then resigned the next day.

Fair enough.

What's going on? It's complicated. Beyond that, I will honor the message I believe I

heard. There is a time to speak up and ... miller@news-banner.com

Letters to the Editor Vote 'yes' for Bluffton school referendum

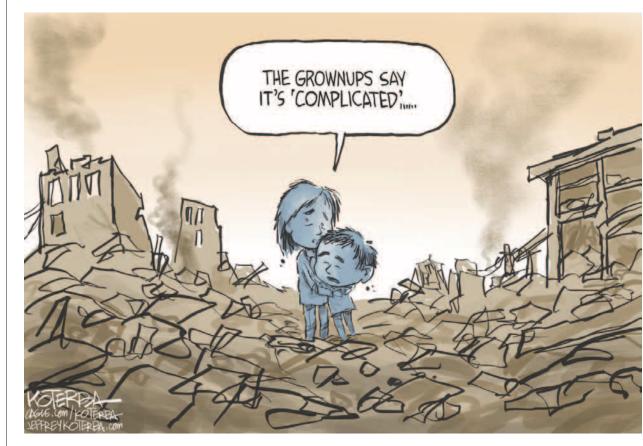
the residents of Harrison Township to vote "yes" for the upcoming school safety referendum within the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District (BHMSD). The future of our community and the well-being of our children depend on our collective support for this proactive initiative.

The proposed referendum seeks to provide essential funding for School Resource Officers, Mental

We are writing to urge that every child within BHMSD receives the assistance they require to succeed academically.

The Physical Safety Improvements mentioned in the referendum will modernize and enhance the infrastructure of our BHMSD schools. This will make them more resilient to potential hazards and provide a better environment for our children within BHMSD to learn and grow.

Finally, Professional



Is the House GOP about to give Putin a pat on the back for his barbarism?

"Russian occupiers ... forced families to listen as they raped women next door, members of a U.N.-mandated investigative body said." – Reuters

In March 2022, three weeks into the war, the Russians dropped two 500-kilogram bombs on a theater in Mariupol, Ukraine, where hundreds of civilians, their homes having been destroyed, were sheltering. On the pavement on each side of the theater was painted in giant Cyrillic letters the Russian word for "children." Perhaps 600 people died. The implausible idea that this was an accident became even more so 23 days later when, after a missile attack on refugees at a railway station, the words "for children" - up to 9 children were among the up to 63 people killed were found painted on fragments of the missile.

Did this mean revenge for children killed, according to Russian propaganda, by Ukrainian military actions in Russian-occupied portions of Ukraine? Retired Army Gen. David Petraeus and historian Andrew Roberts think not. In their new book, "Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine," they ascribe the missile attack not to revenge but to "a truly depraved psychology."

A Russian military consistency has been barbarism: Remember the explosive toys Russians scattered to maim Afghan children who would thereafter be burdens for adults too distracted to fight. This is the Russia that some congressional Republicans would, by ending aid for Ukraine, rescue from the criminal misadventure Vladimir Putin began on Feb. 24, 2022.

Today, for a second year, Russia is engaged in what is called "weaponizing winter." The aim, Petraeus and Roberts say, is to freeze "the Ukrainian people to death in their homes, barracks and foxholes, by destroying power stations, water treatment plants and electrical grids." But neither Napoleon's bedraggled troops on their 1,500-mile retreat from Moscow to Paris in 1812 nor Hitler's ill-equipped legions, some of whose frozen eyelids fell off, were as used to extreme cold as Ukrainians are. Churchill in 1942: "There is a winter, you know, in Russia.... Hitler forgot about this Russian winter. He must have been very loosely educated." It is fitting that eight decades after Hitler's hubristic invaders discovered that they should have been supplied with winter clothing, Putin's invaders blundered into Ukraine assuming that they would subdue a nation



George

Will

roughly the size of Texas in 72 hours: Soldiers were given only five days' provisions and were told to pack their dress uniforms for the victory parade scheduled for Kyiv on May 9, which Russia commemorates as the anniversary of Germany's 1945 surrender.

Putin's barbarians have, unsurprisingly, slaked their thirst for destruction by assaulting culture. "It is hard to escape the conclusion," write Petraeus and Roberts, "that by looting some museums and art galleries, and deliberately targeting others for destruction, the Russians were hoping to destroy Ukraine's sense of cultural and historical identity." Never mind

that Putin's war justification is that Ukraine has no distinct identity. And how should we categorize the barbarians' would-be abettors on Capitol Hill?

Days into the war, Russians attacked Red Cross evacuation routes. Later they would use thermobaric weapons, a vacuum bomb with two charges, as Petraeus and Roberts explain: "The first disperses fuel into the air and the second ignites it, sucking all the oxygen out of people's lungs." It was a notable barbarity, "especially against civilians trapped in enclosed spaces.

Russia's war crimes - targeting civilians, kidnapping children, mass executions, torture, rape - are not incidental to, they are premeditated tactics in, the war that some congressional Republicans seem eager to help Putin win. He knows the help he needs. "If Western defense supplies are terminated tomorrow," Putin said on Oct. 5, "Ukraine will have a week left to live as it runs out of ammunition."

This blithe acknowledgment that killing Ukraine is his intention came as some congressional Republicans were intensifying their opposition to aiding Ukraine. Their canine obedience to Donald Trump is congruent with his vow that if reelected he will end the war "in 24 hours." These Republicans, and the constituents to whom they pander, are not less odious than the congressional and campus progressives "contextualizing" (a progressive synonym for "justifying") Hamas's

Mark Miller

Health Supports, Physical Development/Training for Safety Improvements, and Professional Development/ Training for Faculty and Staff within BHMSD. These components are not merely expenditures; they are investments in the safety and development of our children.

First and foremost, the addition of School Resource Officers will enhance the security of our BHMSD schools. Trained professionals who can respond to emergencies and maintain a safe environment for our students and staff are indispensable. Their presence can deter potential threats and ensure that our BHMSD schools remain sanctuaries for learning.

Furthermore, the allocation of resources for Mental Health Supports is a vital step towards addressing the mental health needs of our BHMSD students in partnership with parents/guardians. The challenges our youth face are complex, and a comprehensive support system is essential to ensure

Faculty and Staff within BHMSD will equip our educators with the tools and knowledge necessary to address the ever-evolving safety needs of our students. By investing in their professional development, we are investing in the success of our children within BHMSD.

It is crucial to remember that this referendum does not only impact the present but also shapes the future of BHMSD. By voting "yes", we demonstrate our commitment to the safety, well-being, and educational excellence of our community's youngest members.

We urge our fellow residents to vote "yes" for the school safety referendum. Let us come together to ensure that our BHMSD schools remain secure, nurturing, and prepared for the future of all our children.

HEATHER MORGAN Bluffton Taxpayers Supporting Bluffton-Harrison MSD

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Nov. 4, the 308th day of 2023. There are 57 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 4, 1995, Yitzhak Rabin, prime minister of Israel, was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a peace rally.

On this date:

In 1842, Abraham Lincoln married Mary Todd in Springfield, Illinois.

In 1879, humorist Will Rogers was born in Oologah, Oklahoma.

In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1942, during World War II, Axis forces retreated

from El Alamein in North Africa in a major victory for British forces commanded by Lt. Gen. Bernard Montgomery.

In 1979, the Iran hostage crisis began as militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants; for some of the hostages, it was the start of 444 days of captivity.

In 1980, Republican Ronald Reagan won the White House as he defeated President Jimmy Carter by a strong margin.

In 1985, to the shock and dismay of U.S. officials, Soviet defector Vitaly Yurchenko announced he was returning to the Soviet Union, charging he had been kidnapped by the CIA.

sadism.

In his poem "September 1, 1939," as the war in Europe began, W.H. Auden wrote: "As the clever hopes expire / Of a low dishonest decade." Today, during the biggest European war since then, many Americans seem so indifferent to its outcome that they are prepared to decide the outcome by abandoning the bleeding victim with a low, dishonest shrug.

georgewill@washpost.com.

Matthew Perry and the cult of celebrity

I never saw an episode of "Friends," but that is probably because I am from the television era that began with black- and-white pictures and television screens so small you had to draw a chair up to the box to see a flickering image. Back then, celebrity was a byproduct of talent and accomplishment. I did have breakfast once with another "Friends" cast member, David Schwimmer, who was in town to promote a film. The female servers swarmed our table.

In the unlikely case you have missed the news, one of the stars on "Friends," Matthew Perry, 54, died last week in a hot tub in Los Angeles. No cause of death has been announced, pending toxicology report s. Perry reportedly had a long history of addiction to alcohol and opioids.

If drugs were the cause of death, he was not alone. So many performers have taken drugs because of their wide availability, some of them thinking they will enhance their performance and others just for the way it makes them feel. Legions of fans don't seem to be enough to satisfy their emotional needs. One can't have meaningful relationships with fans.

According to the Daily Mail, Perry "let the world know how lonely he was and how he yearned



Thomas

Cal

for children, in his deeply personal memoir" published in October last year.

The outpouring of grief from people who never met Perry was astounding. A Fox News sub-headline said the world mourned for him. The world? Really? When the Middle East is on fire, Russia's war against Ukraine is ongoing, and antisemitism

is a growing worldwide plague, the world has nothing better to do than to mourn an actor who had a troubled personal life?

Once again we have seen the triumph of celebrity over substance. It doesn't matter why one is famous, it only matters that one is famous. Look at the attention paid to Taylor Swift's every move. Or Harry and Meghan, Or the Kardashians, who at this point seem to have become caricatures of themselves. Instead of ingesting the intellectual equivalent of what's good for us, we are now obsessed with the cultural equivalent of sugar rushes. Rather than dwelling on matters of global import, our attention is increasingly focused on pop culture, reality TV, stars and their latest relationships or personal struggles.

Celebrities come and go. The national debt, the next presidential election, tax-and-spend policy, the open border, the loss of faith and so many other things are being ignored or de-prioritized by large numbers of us in favor of who's dating who in Hollywood.

How did this come to be? The media, including social media, are largely responsible, but they are just tools. We decide how or when to use them. The broken education system also contributes to a lack of seriousness. Our politicians may be the greatest contributors to the undermining of certain foundational principles that built and sustained the nation through many challenges, both foreign and domestic. Politicians in Washington know how to solve problems but won't because they prefer to keep them unsolved so they can argue about them in their next election campaign. For many, fixing our attention on celebrities provides an escape hatch from the cares of the world.

Matthew Perry, like other celebrities, is only a symbol of a deeper problem. His fellow "Friends" cast members are expressing shock at his death. They knew of his addiction problems and tried to help him. It is always sad when a life is forfeited to addiction.

Since no one has ever escaped death, or will, however, death should not surprise us. It is better to be prepared for it.

No matter what one does in the gym, or what one eats or doesn't eat, or how many weight loss programs one enters, death comes to us all. tcaeditors@tribpub.com

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

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The News-Banner (USPS 059-200)

CHURCH PAGE



A CITY ON A HILL CHURCH 705 W.-900 N., Uniondale 10 a.m. - Worship.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COUNTRY 1970 S.-800E., Bluffton 9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NORTH 630 E. Dustman Rd. 9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST 8013 W.-1100S.-90, Montpelier 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

BETHEL

(Independent Bible) 4500E-300S, Bluffton 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

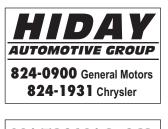
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN **CHURCH LCMS**

6114E-750N, Ossian bethlehemossian.org 9 a.m. - Divine Service. 10:15 - Adult Bible Class, Youth Bible Class & Sunday School. 11:30 - Voice of Bethlehem on 92.7 FM.

BLUFFTON CHURCH OF GOD

327 W. Cherry St. 10 a.m. - Sunday School. 11 a.m. - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN 8888S-1100W-90, Warren 9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Sunday School.



NATIONAL OIL

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BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL (Independent Holiness Church) 1309 W. Washington St. blufftonwesleyan.net 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6:30 p.m. - Worship.

BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST 3467 S 600 W, Liberty Center boehmerumc.org 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

CALVARY LUTHERAN, ELCA 1532 N. Main St.

9 a.m. - Worship.

CHESTER CENTER

900S-300W, Poneto 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

CHRISTIAN NEW LIGHT

1011 W. Washington St. 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Praise & worship.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

735 S. Marion St. 10 a.m. - Bible Study. 10:45 - Worship.

COVENANT CHAPEL

3550 S. SR 1 mycovenantchapel.org 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:15 - Worship. (Children's Church for ages 6-12).

DOMESTIC CHURCH **OF CHRIST**

9 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Church service.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST

1204 W. Cherry St. 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:40 a.m. - Sunday School.

FAIRVIEW CHURCH OF GOD

5511 W. Yoder Rd., Yoder fairviewlife.com 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST

210 W. Townley fbc-bluffton.com 10 a.m. - Worship. 11



by Martha

Paxson

This page is dedicated to the building of a more spiritual and greater church-going people and is made possible

GO TO CHURCH OR **BE THE CHURCH**

by the Advertisers on this page who want as their return to see more people go to church.

Ah, the joys of social media, allowing us to connect with loved ones while bringing unwanted attention from businesses, legitimate and otherwise. How easily we send "thoughts and prayers" at the click of an

icon without further thought or personal interaction of any kind. The amazing

reality of the Internet is that today's churches are able to present the Gospel through Scripture-based apps, Biblical teaching, and online access to a variety of Bible translations.

Christians are offered unlimited, unique opportunities to share the claims of the Creator on the lives of His creatures, all without human connection.

A wise man once cautioned that there are two Bibles read by this world: the actual Word of God and the everyday life of the believer. While people with whom we interact on a daily basis may never crack open the written Word to read God's message of love, they can observe the words, actions, and attitudes of Christians nearby who profess to follow Jesus.

Although God's people occasionally believe that sharing a thought-provok-



FIRST BAPTIST 202 W. Cherry St. fbcbluffton.com 10:15 - Worship.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST 325 W. Washington St.

end of their responsibility towards the lost. Christianity includes both internal and external professions of faith. Hebrews 10:24, 25 exhorts believers to continue

or meaningful song is the

meeting together regularly for encouragement, teaching, and support. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 explains that regular study of God's Word equips us for good works while James 1:19-27 reminds us that simply reading or hearing God's Word without application is like seeing our reflection in a mirror, then promptly for-

getting what we observed. The life of faith includes both knowing and being.

Jesus - fully man, fully God - not only spoke to His Father alone but also interacted with the community around Him. He attended services in the local synagogue, occasionally stepping forward to explain the Scriptures more fully. Today's Christians should not only attend a regular gathering of fellow believers in order to be strengthened and energized for action, but also BE the church in their

GO to church or BE the church? The family of God is called to do both.

mpaxson99@yahoo.com



School.

àvailable).

Be truly glad. There is u

LIBERTY CENTER **COMMUNITY CHURCH**

8:45 a.m. - Choir practice. 9 a.m. - Coffee, donuts, conversation. 9:30 - Worship w/infant nursery & children's church. 10:45 - Sunday

LIFE COMMUNITY

428 S. Oak St.

lifecommunity.net

LIVING WATER

UNITED CHURCH

6486 S 700E, Bluffton

8:45-9 a.m. - Prayer. 9

a.m. - Sunday School. 10

MARKLE CHAPEL

HILL SEVENTH DAY

ADVENTIST

470 E. Morse St.

Worship. 10:45 - Sabbath

MARKLE CHURCH

OF CHRIST

455 E. Morse St.

marklechurch.org

MARKLE

RIVERSIDE 316

145 W. Morse St.

MURRAY MISSIONARY

1117 N. Washington St.,

Murray

murraymc.org

9:30 a.m. - Worship. 11

NEW BEGINNING

2187 W. SR 218

NOTTINGHAM

1100 S. SR 1 9:30 - Sunday School.

10:30 & 6 p.m. - Worship.

a.m. - Sunday School.

10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

10 a.m. - Worship.

9 a.m. - Adult Bible

study groups. 10:30 -

Worship. Children's &

student programming

both hours.

Saturday: 9:30 a.m. -

School (Bible study).

a.m. - Worship.

10:30 a.m. - Service

(Children's programs

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN (Missouri Synod)

8824 N. SR 1, Ossian newhopelutheran-ossian. webs.com 9 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible study. 10 a.m. - Worship.

OSSIAN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

302 N. Metts St. ossiannaz.org 9:15 a.m. - Bible study. 10:30 - Service.

OSSIAN UNITED METHODIST 201 W. Mill St. ossianumc.org 9 a.m. - Worship, Worship child care nurse. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 -Adult Sunday School.

PARK COMMUNITY 617 S. Bennett St. blog.parkub.org 10 a.m. - Connection. 11 a.m. - Worship.

PETROLEUM **COMMUNITY CHURCH** 3625 E. 2nd St.

9 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 Sunday School.

PONETO BAPTIST Grape Street

8:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 9 a.m. - Worship.

PONETO FAITH **COMMUNITY CHURCH**

36 E. Walnut St. 9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 -Sunday School.

RIVER OF HOPE 1224 W. Central 11 a.m. - Worship & the Word.

RIVER OF LIFE 927 N. Main St. 10:30 a.m. - Worship.

SIX MILE 4790 SE SR 116 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

SONLIGHT WESLEYAN

2350 S. SR 1 sonlightwesleyan.org 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. Nursery & Children's classes available during Sunday School & Wor-

THE CHURCH AT MCNATT 9221 W 800 S-90, Montpelier 8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship. 9:15 - Worship.

THE MEETING PLACE 115 E. Market St.

6:30 p.m. - Bible study.

TOWER LIFE CENTER 11811 N. Wayne St., Zanesville towerlifecenter.com 9:30 a.m. - TLC Groups. 10:30 - Worship.

UNIONDALE **COMMUNITY CHURCH** 5867 N. Main St.

9 a.m. - Worship.

UNIONTOWN **CHURCH OF CHRIST** 11419 N-200W, Ossian 9 a.m. - Sunday School.

10 a.m. - Worship.

VERA CRUZ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER

CCCU 2771 SE Mulberry St., Vera Cruz 9-10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10-10:30 - Fellowship. 10:30 - Worship.

WESTSIDE **COMMUNITY CHURCH** 205 S. Adams St.,

Monroe 9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Discipleship for adults & children.

ZANESVILLE COMMUNITY **CHURCH OF GOD** 11984 N. Marzane Rd. 9 a.m. - Bible Class. 10

ZANESVILLE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST 3092 W. Broadway 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

a.m. - Worship.





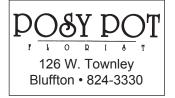
communities each day.

824-2220















824-0900 General Motors 824-1931 Chrysler

a.m. - Discipleship.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OSSIAN 1001 Dehner Dr. 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. - Worship. 6:30 - Service.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

909 W. Spring St. FCCfamily.com 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Worship.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

1515 Clark Ave. blufftonnazarene.org 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9-10 a.m. - Free ESL classes. 10:15 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

215 E. Dustman Rd. firstpcbluffton.org 9:30 a.m. - Children/ youth & Adult Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

(EVANGELICAL) 123 S. Jefferson St., Ossian www.OssianChurch.com 8:45 a.m. - Adult Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Mission Committee mtg.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF BLUFFTON 301 W. Cherry St. 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

blufftonfirstumc.com 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

FORGIVEN CHURCH 1409 S. Main St. forgivenonline.org 9 a.m. - Worship.

GRACE BAPTIST

1621 S. 350 E. Stogdill Rd. Ext. gbcbluffton.com 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship.

HARVEST TIME BIBLE 11015S-600E, Keystone 9:10 a.m. - Prayer. 10

a.m. - Worship. HOPE MISSIONARY 429 E. Dustman Rd.

hope4thefamily.com 8 a.m., 9:30 & 11 a.m. -Service at Main Campus. 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service, north campus, Ossian.

KEYSTONE CHURCH 10556S-200W 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 - Sunday School.

LANCASTER CHAPEL **UNITED METHODIST** 4510 E 400N, Craigville 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9:40 - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Worship.

LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST 3071 W. Cherry St.

8:30 a.m. - Pastor/Deacon's Prayer. 9 - Sunday School. 9:55 - Fellowship. 10:15 - Worship.

LIVING FAITH MISSIONARY 17718 Bluffton Rd., Yoder 10 a.m. - Worship. 11:30 - Sunday School.

TO REPORT CHURCH NEWS:

- · E-mail to churchnews@news-banner.com
- Drop information at 125 N. Johnson St. in Bluffton

ship.

SOUTHERN WELLS **COMMUNITY CHURCH**

9450 S 300 W, Poneto 9 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC

1300 N. Main St. Saturday: 7:45 a.m. -Prayer. 8 a.m. - Mass. 8:30 - Rosary. 4 p.m. or by appointment - Confessions. 5 p.m. - Mass. Sunday: 7:30 & 10 a.m. - Mass.

ST. LUKE CHURCH

4960W-100N, Decatur stlukechurch.in 9 a.m. - Worship, 10:15 - Sunday School.

ST. MARK EV. **LUTHERAN** 16933 Thiele Rd. stmarkfw.org 8:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN (NALC) 5912 N. Sugar St., Uniondale 10 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Children's Sunday School.

TURNPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN 500 W. Logan, Markle turnpointechurch.com 9:30 a.m. - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Adult & Children's Worship.

Les Gerber Insurance AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS Perry Gerber 1120 N. Main St., Bluffton 260-824-1237 PIZZAS 114 W S, KING Water 824-4956 Indiana Dine In, Carry Out or We Will Deliver "For The Times You Don't Want to Leave Home







Goodwin - Cale & Harnish MEMORIAL CHAPEL A Tradition of Caring Locally Owned and Operated Since 1922 Douglas L. Cale & Mitchel P. Harnish 3220 St. Rd. 124 East, Bluffton • 824-3852



Local Roundup

County Drainage Board will meet Monday afternoon

The Wells County Drainage Board will meet at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include:

• Consideration of a drainage easement on the A.P. Kelley Prong Tile Drain in Jefferson Township.

- Consideration of 2024 meeting dates and times.
- Project updates and miscellaneous drainage matters.

County Commissioners will meet Monday evening

The Wells County Commissioners will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

The meeting will begin with a public hearing regarding a request from Mark and Karen Shaffer to vacate an alley in Petroleum.

The commissioners' regular meeting will follow the public hearing. Topics on the agenda include:

• Department updates from Sheriff Scott Holliday, Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar and Nate Rumschlag.

• A presentation from Ron Turpin regarding the Northeast Indiana Strategic Development Commission.

• An appointment with Molly Hoag representing Citizens Against Drug Abuse (CADA).

• Updates from Jessica Bricker and Chad Kline regarding Imagine Early, and Kline regarding Wells County Economic Development.

• A quarterly Wells County Public Library update from Director Sarah MacNeill and board members Matt Yergler and John Stauffer.

- Monthly reports and miscellaneous business.
- 500W Vacate Scheduling
- Right-of-Way or Utility Agreement(s)

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Wednesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Financial matters.
- Opening of bids for the Interurban Trail.

• A request for the Wells County Chamber of Commerce for Parlor City Christmas.

- A request from Ted Sprunger regarding a water line.
- Personnel matters.
- A request from Bluffton NOW!
- Discussion regarding the utilities schedule of salaries.
- Announcements

Bluffton Common Council will meet Wednesday

The Bluffton Common Council will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Topics on the agenda include:

Chandler Gerber.

- Discussion regarding holidays and Christmas lights.
- · Consideration of an amended interlocal agreement for

the Emergency Communications Department. • Consideration of Ordinance 1604 permitting advance

payments.

Zanesville Town Council will hold executive session

The Zanesville Town Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7, at the Zanesville Town Hall, 17736 Wayne St., to conduct a maintenance interview, and finalize the use of COVID-19 funds and the handbook.

Visitors Commission will meet Wednesday morning

The Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission will meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, in the conference room of the Wells County Chamber of Commerce, 211 Water St. in Bluffton.

- Topics on the agenda will include:
- Financial updates
- Strategic planning metrics
- Marketing grant applicants
- · Monthly report

• Discussion regarding the commission's December meeting and the Visitors Guide.

Wells County Council will meet Wednesday evening

The Wells County Council will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include:

• Department requests for fund transfers and additional appropriations.

• Appointments with Wells County Recorder Carolyn Bertsch regarding an ordinance for the recorder's perpetuation fund and Molly Hoag for Citizens Against Drug Abuse (CADA).

• An update regarding the Wells County Health Department with Marlene Hoag, interim administrator.

 Consideration of an amended interlocal agreement for the Emergency Communications Department.



Miscellaneous business.

· Consideration of the 2024 salary ordinance, 2024 sur-• The presentation of a possible welcome sign from veyor salary ordinance, and 2024 sheriff salary ordinance.

Bluffton parks board will meet Thursday evening

The Bluffton parks board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Reports from the treasurer and superintendent.
- Acceptance of donations.

 Consideration of bids for the pickleball court and parking lot at Lancaster Park.

• Consideration of bids for the Interurban Trail.

· Request to purchase pool chemicals for the upcoming season

• Discussion regarding 2024 meeting dates.



BIDDING CLOSING NOVEMBER 5 STARTING AT 4 PM EST Randy Rossman, owner and multiple consignors. Online only consignment auction. 1,000+ lots! Featuring furniture, household items, collectibles, antiques, tools, guns, & much more! Pick up times: Nov. 6, 1-6 p.m. & Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-noon, 3 pick up locations in Decatur. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402

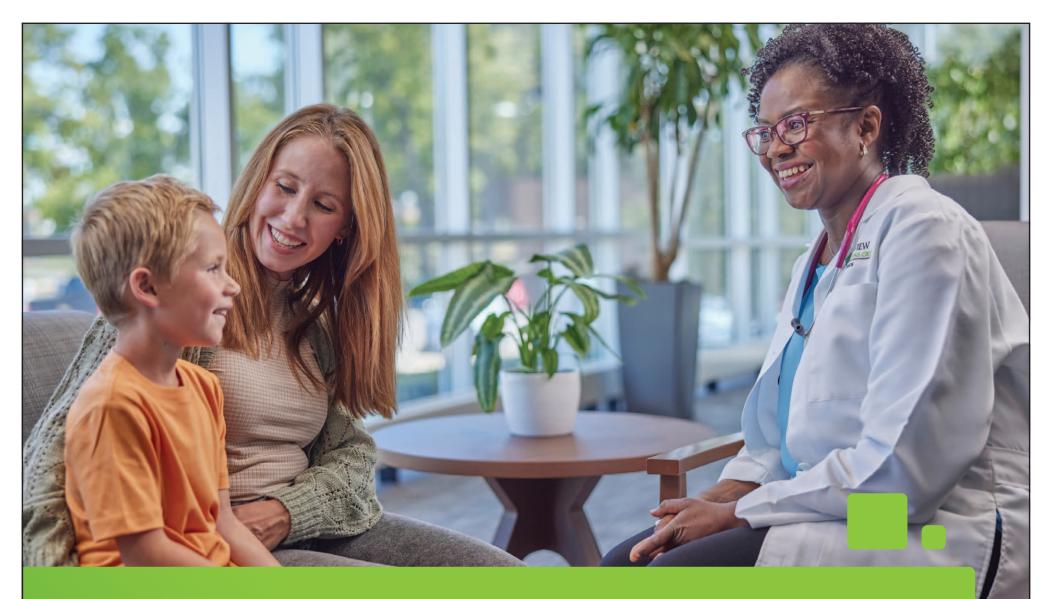
NOVEMBER 5-NOVEMBER 12 - (Online Only) - Kipfer Fam-ily, seller. New Holland TL90 diesel tractor, International 706 gas tractor, 1984 Case Model 444 garden tractor, 2008 Miller 250 Bobcat welder generator, Pilot 24-volt fork lift charger, Marathon, Shell, other gasoline plastic signs, Fenton, Lladro, Carnival, Vaseline, Royal Dalton, RS Prussia glassware, antique & modern furniture. Preview: Nov. 9 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 6345 W 200 S-1, Bluffton. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com. **NOVEMBER 17-NOVEMBER 24 - (Online Only Auction) -Fiechter, seller.** 2357 N. Main St., Bluffton. Glock, Smith &

Wesson, Sig Sauer, Ruger, Beretta, Remington, Century Arms, Kel-Tec, Kahr, Savage Arms, Winchester, Bushmaster, Saltwater Arms, handguns, pistols, rifles, shotguns. Preview: Nov. 21 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Nov. 22 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Bluffton Gun &

Pawn. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com. **NOVEMBER 27 - 6 p.m. - Pamela & Rick Myers, owners.** Auc-tion conducted at Wells County 4-H Community Center, 1240 4-H Park Road, Bluffton, IN. Land located at County Rd. 100 N & Vetato Rd. 416, NW corner of Bluffton, 140 01 corners, Sac 28 & 22 State Rd. 116, NW corner of Bluffton. 118.91 acres, Sec. 28 & 33, Lancaster Twp., Wells County. 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 Auction Company, Inc.*, 260-824-5060, www.HollowayAuction. **DECEMBER 1 - 8 a.m. - Secured creditors & various con-**signors, owners. 815 Adams St., Decatur. Truck & equipment surtion Jino and online bidding. Offering 7004 lotal 2014

auction. Live and online bidding. Offering 700+ lots! 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, dump trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket, trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's, pickup trucks, 100+ various skid steer attachments & much more! Cars, SUV, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickup trucks, cargo & passenger vans! Accepting consignments! *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

DECEMBER 5 - 2 p.m.-6 p.m. ET. (Online) - Farm: Goodwin 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-tillable. Prime farmland, tillable, CRP, Wells County, Union Township. Soil types: Pewamo silty clay loam, Glynwood clay & silt loam, Del Rey-Blount silt loams, Glynwood-Mississinewa clay loam. WAPI: 133.5 corn bu, 40.2 soybeans bu. *Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management*, 800-424-2324, halderman.com, Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181.



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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023 · The News-Banner · Page 1a

Defense leads Tigers to 2nd straight sectional championship victory

By RYAN WALKER Bluffton showed no mercy in a 41-6 victory over Eastern to claim its secondstraight sectional championship at home.

The win comes just one year after the Tigers brought the trophy back for the first time in 34 years. The night was reminiscent of last year when the Tigers knocked off Eastbrook. Head coach Brent Kunkel got a Gatorade bath, students rushed the field, and the boys took a team photo in front of the scoreboard in the same spot.

But this one felt different for Kunkel, returning most of the cast from last season and having high expectations to get back to the regional stage. The victory proved that last year was not, as Kunkel calls it, a fluke.

"It's just validation for these kids and the hard work they put in," Kunkel said, drenched in water on his allred Bluffton football sweatshirt. "Last year, I was like losing my mind. Now it's just relief.'

Other than Bluffton's first offensive possession, the Tigers (10-2) gave the Comets (9-3) fits on both sides of the ball.

In the first quarter, Bluffton's Johnny Cruz and Tucker Jenkins sacked quarterback Eli Edwards on second and third down. That led the Tigers' to their first score when Jenkins muscled his way for a three-yard touchdown run.

Led by the defense again, Bluffton notched two more through the endzone. Khamel Moore drew the first one for a six-yarder.

Then, on the ensuing kickoff, Jenkins squib kicked to the left side of the field that bounced around free in the hands of Cooper Craig to retain possession.

the play. "We've been practicing that play for a while, and I knew that we had 300 pounds of men pushing behind me, and we got it done.

In that first half, Bluffton's defense allowed virtually nothing. With the score at 20-0, Eastern only had 34 yards of total offense.

The saying goes, "Defense wins championships," and Bluffton's unit played the best it had all season. The starters allowed zero total points in the game (the junior varsity squad gave up the touchdown late in the fourth quarter). Kunkel's experienced defensive line pushed through Eastern's offensive line all night, getting the star quarterback Edwards three times behind the line of scrimmage.

The Comets had three standout players with big numbers on the season. Edwards was well over the 2,000-yard mark passing, running back Jayden Eagle carried for nearly 2,000, and Braylen Word with over 1,000 receiving. But the three did not look the part Friday night.

"(Eastern's) got some definite weapons, but (I) couldn't be proud of our kids up front," Kunkel said. "We really got pressure on (Edwards) with our D-line. Kids on the back end, you know, Ben Ramseyer, Hutch Craighead, Andrew Hunt, and Brody Lewis making plays on the back end. Linebackers cleaned up when No. 31 would break through.'

The Tigers' defense allowed 181 total yards of offense, and chunks of it came late in the fourth quarter with the starters out.

Statistically, Tucker Jenkins led the Tigers with seven tackles and a sack, Griffin Morgan had six tackles, and Hunter Wenger, Cruz, and Alex West contributed to the three sacks. With the defense doing its part, the offense continued to roll. Wenger got in the backfield to strip the ball from Edwards, and his twin brother, Fletcher, scooped the ball up. That gave the Tigers a first-play shot downfield as Braxton

High School Calendar

Betancourt threw a rainbow pass to Andrew Hunt for 33 yards right into the endzone.

Jenkins then hustled a 31-yard score on the next possession to blow the game open 34-0. AJ Streveler sealed the deal, receiving a forward pass for 29 yards.

Kunkel admitted after the game his team will celebrate the victory tonight, but business will start less than 24 hours later

Sitting on the other side of the field next Friday will be Bishop Luers, the team that ended Bluffton's magical run last season 35-6.

The players had worked hard in the offseason with the game in mind in the regional championship. Now, they'll get another crack at them.

"We had them up there last year and got embar-rassed," Wenger said. "Everything in the summer we've been working for has been towards them. I think we have what it takes, and I'm ready for them.

That game will kickoff at 7 p.m. at Bishop Luers.

sports@news-banner.com

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Braylen Word (kick		:59.	
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Yards Passing	69	112	
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Bluffton senior Ben Ramseyer (bottom) pulls down Eastern's Braylen Word following a reception in the second half of Friday night's sectional final game in Bluffton. The Tigers claimed their second consecutive championship with a 41-6 victory. (Photos by Chad Kline)



Bluffton had the ball down to the goalline faced with a fourth-and-one chance. Kunkel elected to go for it, motioning four players behind center. Hunter Wenger took the snap and powered through with the help of his teammates behind him, pushing their way through.

"I knew we needed a half a yard," Wenger said about Time of Possession 25:58 22:02 Individual Statistics Rushing: Eastern: Jayden Eagle

Fumbles-Lost

Punts-Average

18-81, Braylen Word 1-4, Eli Edwards 3-(-16). Bluffton: Khamel Moore 16-99, Tucker Jenkins 9-83, Andrew Hunt 4-17, Cooper Craig 4-16, Axton Beste 2-11, Braxton Betancourt 3-5, Hunter Wenger 1-1.

Passing: Eastern: Eli Edwards 9-21-0 106, Ethan Hasting 1-2-0 6. Bluffton: Braxton Betancourt 2-5-0 62, Axton Beste 1-1-0 7.

Receiving: Eastern: Braylen Word 5-85, Blake Robinson 2-10, Keaton Musgrave 1-8, Jayden Eagle 1-6. Bluffton: Andrew Hunt 1-33, AJ Streveler 1-29, Trey Bustos 1-7.

Bluffton senior Tucker Jenkins, (left) is wrapped up by an Eastern defender during a rush attempt in the second half. Jenkins rushed for 83 yards and two touchdowns to help the Tigers to a 41-6 championship win.

Browns' QB Watson back from shoulder injury to face Cardinals

By TOM WITHERS AP Sports Writer

CLEVÊLAND (AP) -Through sheer luck, some questionable officiating and



day," Stefanski said. "He's comfortable, and he looks good.'

Only one thing is certain: the Cardinals will have a new quarterback this week after trading Joshua Dobbs, who coincidentally spent last season and most of training camp with the Browns, to the Minnesota Vikings on Tuesday.

Dobbs' departure after starting Arizona's first eight games is either a precursor to Murray coming back for the first time since tearing his ACL on Dec. 12 or the Cardinals getting a look at rookie Clayton Tune, a fifth-round pick from Houston who has thrown just one pass in his NFL career - on a fake punt.

Murray, who is 2-0 against the Browns, was a full participant in practice this week, and by all accounts the dynamic twotime Pro Bowler looked ready. But first-year coach Jonathan Gannon wouldn't commit to Murray playing, and with Arizona's season going nowhere, there's no reason to rush.

Also, the fact that it's a road game against the NFL's top-ranked defense might sway Gannon into keeping Murray on the shelf another week.

"We've got to make sure we're doing the best thing for the team and the best thing for Kyler," Gannon said Friday. "That's how he plays into it. But he'll have a big part in saying to me, to us, 'Hey, I'm ready to go, I

want to play football.' And we're still working toward that.

"He knows he needs to do certain things and keep stacking good days, keep getting reps, playing the position to be ready to play.'

It could be Tune's turn. The Cardinals have been impressed by the young QB and expect him to perform.

"He's going to go in there, if he's in there, and let it rip," Gannon said.

That's exactly what the Browns are hoping from Watson, who will start after being on the field for just 12 total plays since straining his right rotator cuff on Sept. 24. He missed three starts, most of a fourth game and his absence has only fueled criticism that Cleveland made a huge mistake in trading for him in the first place.

There's urgency for Watson to get back on the field.

After playing the Cardinals, the Browns, who eked out wins over San Francisco (the 49ers missed a last-second field goal) and Indianapolis (the Colts got wronged by the refs) with Watson on the sideline, have consecutive games against AFC North rivals Baltimore and Pittsburgh.

Watson said those matchups have no bearing on his return. It's all about how his shoulder feels, if he's able to throw with velocity and being able to perform at his best.

SATURDAY, NOV 4 GIRLS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Warsaw, 7:30 p.m.; Union City at Southern Wells, 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.; Bluffton at Northfield, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV 8 No events scheduled

THURSDAY, NOV 9 No events scheduled FRIDAY, NOV 10 FOOTBALL: (regional final) Bluffton at Bishop Luers, 7 p.m. SATURDAY, NOV 11

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

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

No. 3 Boilermakers using NCAA Tournament exit as motivation

By MICHAEL MAROT **AP Sports Writer**

Purdue coach Matt Painter could have spent this past offseason shrugging off another stunning NCAA Tournament exit.

Instead, he and the Boilermakers owned

it. From the moment Painter and Virginia coach Tony Bennett traded postgame text messages, Painter and the third-ranked Boilermakers knew the endless questions about their historic first-round loss to 16thseeded Fairleigh Dickinson would follow them wherever they went. So they only had option: Follow Bennett's lead and turn a humbling loss into motivation for a championship run.

"You don't run from things. You always face things," Painter said when practice opened in September. "I think when you face things, it's harder. But that's what kind of brings the demons out and really helps you because now you have a little bit more



drive, you're a little more focused."

Purdue's remarkable 2022-2023 season started as the ride of a lifetime.

Three straight wins helped the Boilermakers go from unranked to No. 24. Their next three wins - over West Vir-

ginia, Gonzaga and Duke during a four-day span — sent them up to No. 5. Four more wins and a 10-0 mark put Purdue at No. 1 just one month into the season and for only the second time in school history.

Then Painter's crew proceeded to sweep the Big Ten regular season and tournament crowns and never fell out of the top five again while earning its first No. 1 seed since 1996, thanks largely to 7-foot-4 center Zach Edey, the consensus national player of he vear.

By March, most college basketball observers figured the third-ranked Boilermakers were finally poised to make that elusive Final Four run.

(Continued on Page A2)

a strong defense. h e Clevel a n d Browns have some-

survived with-**Deshaun Watson** out their franchise

quarterback for the past month.

The Arizona Cardinals haven't been nearly as fortunate.

As the teams get ready to play Sunday, there are few definitive answers about the quarterback situations for the Cardinals (1-7) or Browns (4-3).

Arizona is awaiting Kyler Murray's return from a knee injury that prematurely ended his 2022 season while Cleveland hopes that Deshaun Watson's sore shoulder won't turn a promising season into another painful one.

On Friday, Browns coach Kevin Stefanski said Watson will make just his second start in five weeks. The 28-year-old looked stronger and more confident while practicing three straight days. He and the Browns think he's ready.

"He had a really good Wednesday, really good Thursday, really good Fri-

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

High School Friday's Scores Sectional Championship Class 6Å Sectional 1 Crown Point 42, Lake Central 7 Sectional 2 Penn 31, Warsaw 10 Sectional 3 Hamilton Southeastern 38, Fishers 21 Sectional 4 Westfield 24, Noblesville 12 Sectional 5 Indpls Ben Davis 53, Indpls Pike 0 Sectional 6 Indpls Cathedral 20, Lawrence North 3 Sectional 7 Warren Central 47, Southport 0 Sectional 8 Center Grove 35, Columbus North 12

Class 5A Sectional 9 Merrillville 42, Hammond Morton 18 Sectional 10 Valparaiso 26, Michigan City 7 Sectional 11 Mishawaka 20, Concord 14 Sectional 12 Ft. Wayne Snider 49, Ft. Wayne North 14 Sectional 13 Decatur Central 34, Lafayette Harrison 17 Sectional 14 Whiteland 34, South Vigo 10

Sectional 15 Bloomington South 49, Seymour 14 Sectional 16 Evansville North 60, Castle 50 Class 4A Sectional 17

New Prairie 43, Culver Academy 14 Sectional 18 NorthWood 17, Northridge 14 Sectional 19 Leo 31, Ft. Wayne Dwenger 13 Sectional 20 Mississinewa 31 Kokomo 24 Sectional 21 Mooresville 40, Indy Brebeuf 39

Sectional 22 New Palestine 42, Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 6 Sectional 23

E. Central 47, Greenwood 0 Sectional 24

Evansville Memorial 21, Evansville Reitz 16

Class 3A Sectional 25

W. Lafayette 42, Hanover Central 41

Sectional 26 Knox 60, Glenn 37 Sectional 27 Delta 21, Garrett 15 Sectional 28 Indpls Chatard 28, Hamilton Hts. 8 Sectional 29 Tri-West 28, Monrovia 21 Sectional 30 Gibson Southern 27, Vincennes 13 Sectional 31 Batesville 29. Indian Creek 13 Sectional 32 Heritage Hills 51, Scottsburg 10 Sectional 33 LaVille 20 LaVille 28, Bremen 14

Sectional 34 Lafayette Catholic 33, Seeger 3 Sectional 35

Ft. Wayne Luers 42, Manchester 0 Sectional 36 Bluffton 41, Eastern (Greentown) 6 Sectional 37 Southmont 36, Linton 34, OT Sectional 38 Eastern Hancock 47, Winchester 14 Sectional 39 Triton Central 49, Eastern (Pekin) 0 Sectional 40 N. Posey 35, Paoli 14 Class 1A Sectional 41 N. Judson 33, Triton 7 Sectional 42 Indpls Park Tudor 41, N. Vermillion 28 Sectional 43 Carroll (Flora) 42, Tri-Central 0 Sectional 44 Adams Central 56, Madison-Grant , Sectional 45 Sheridan 27, Monroe Central 22 Sectional 46 N. Decatur 31, Milan 28 Sectional 47 Indpls Lutheran 57, Covenant Christian 14 Sectional 48 Providence 41, Springs Valley 8

College

Boston College 17, Syracuse 10 Dartmouth 23, Princeton 21 Kalamazoo 33, Greenville 23 Wyoming 24, Colorado St. 15

BASKETBALL

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Philadelphia 114, Toronto 99 New Orleans 125, Detroit 116 Orlando 115, Utah 113 San Antonio 132, Phoenix 121 Friday's Games Indiana 121, Cleveland 116 Brooklyn 109, Chicago 107 Milwaukee 110, New York 105 Miami 121, Washington 114 Golden State 141, Oklahoma City 139 Dallas at Denver, late Memphis at Portland, late Saturday's Games Phoenix at Philadelphia, 1 p.m. Atlanta at New Orleans, 7 p.m. Charlotte at Indiana, 7 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Orlando, 7 p.m. Boston at Brooklyn, 8 p.m. Sacramento at Houston, 8 p.m. Utah at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Chicago at Denver, 9 p.m.

Sunday's Games Phoenix at Detroit, 3 p.m. Toronto at San Antonio, 3:30 p.m. Golden State at Cleveland, 6 p.m. Charlotte at Dallas, 7:30 p.m. Memphis at Portland, 9 p.m. Monday's Games Dallas at Orlando, 7 p.m. Golden State at Detroit, 7 p.m. Golden State at Derolt, 7 p.m. San Antonio at Indiana, 7 p.m. Washington at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. L.A. Clippers at New York, 7:30 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Miami, 7:30 p.m. Milwaukee at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m. Atlanta at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m. Boston at Minesota, 8 p.m. Sacramento at Houston, 8 p.m. Sacramento at Houston, 8 p.m. Utah at Chicago, 8 p.m. New Orleans at Denver, 9 p.m.

<u>HOCKEY</u>

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Edmonton	9 10	2 2	6 7	1	5 5	25 22	36 38	
Calgary San Jose	10	2	9	1	5 1	10	38 45	
Jan 3056	10	U	3		- 1	10	40	

NOTE: Two points for a win, one

point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs

SPORTS

Thursday's Games N.Y. Islanders 3, Washington 0 N.Y. Islanders 3, Washingto Florida 2, Detroit 0 Los Angeles 3, Ottawa 2 Columbus 4, Tampa Bay 2 N.Y. Rangers 2, Carolina 1 Boston 3, Toronto 2, SO New Jersey 5, Minnesota 3 Dallas 4, Edmonton 3 Dallas 4, Edmonton 3 Seattle 4, Nashville 2 Vegas 5, Winnipeg 2 Arizona 3, Montreal 2 Vancouver 10 San Jose 1 Friday's Games Philadelphia 5, Buffalo 1 St. Louis 4, New Jersey 1 Saturday's Games Nashville at Edmonton, 3 p.m. Winnipeg at Arizona, 4 p.m. Boston at Detroit, 7 p.m. Buffalo at Toronto, 7 p.m. Columbus at Washington, 7 p.m. Montreal at St. Louis, 7 p.m. Tampa Bay at Ottawa, 7 p.m. Carolina at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m. Los Angeles at Philadelphia, 7:30

p.m. Florida at Chicago, 8 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Calgary at Seattle, 10 p.m. Colorado at Vegas, 10 p.m. Dallas at Vancouver, 10 p.m

Pittsburgh at San Jose, 10 p.m. Sunday's Games New Jersey at Chicago, 7 p.m. Vegas at Anaheim, 8 p.m. Monday's Games Columbus at Florida, 7 p.m. Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7 p.m. Boston at Dallas, 8 p.m. Edmonton at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Friday's Transactions

BASEBALL Major League Baseball American League CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Sent OFs Clint Frazier and Trayce Thomp-son outright to Charlotte (IL). Declined the club option on RHP Liam Hendricks. RHP Mike Clevinger declined his mutual option. CLEVELAND GUARDIANS

Selected the contract of OF Johnathan Rodriguez from Columbus (IL). DETROIT TIGERS — Declined the

2024 option on DH Miguel Cabrera. National League CHICAGO CUBS — OF Cody Bellinger declined his mutual option to become of face camp

become a free agent. ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Rein-stated RHP Wilking Rodriguez and Guillermo Zuniga, LHP Packy Naugh-ton, OF Dylan Carlson and 3B Brenda

Donovan from the 60-day IL. FOOTBALL

National Football League CHICAGO BEARS — Signed DE Khalid Kareem to the practice squad. CINCINNATI BENGALS — Placed S Tycen Anderson on injured reserve. DETROIT LIONS — Waived RB Devine Ozigbo.

Devine Ozigbo. HOCKEY National Hockey League COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Recalled RW Yegor Chinakhov from Cleveland (ECHL). Loaned LW Kent Johnson to Cleveland

Red Bull's Max Verstappen to start Brazilian Grand Prix on pole position

SAO PAULO (AP) - Formula One champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull will start this weekend's Brazilian Grand Prix in pole position, with his teammate Sérgio Perez lagging in 9th position at Interlagos after Friday's qualifying.

Verstappen clocked 1 minute, 10.727 seconds in qualifying, which

paced the field at Interlagos with a lap at 1 minute, 11.732 seconds at the only practice session of the weekend. Leclerc was 0.108 seconds behind.

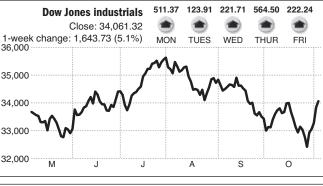
The three-time F1 champion Verstappen spent a long portion of the practice session working with Red Bull on adjustments to his car and was only 16th fastest. The effort paid off with his car looking steadier than his rivals' during qualifying.

Earlier, Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Bull has already won the manufacturer championship.

It's made the status of Perez, who has woefully underperformed this season in clearly dominant Red Bull equipment, the hottest topic in the sport. He's under contract at Red Bull, but the team also has Daniel Ricciardo under contract and Perez left Mexico City with reports swirling he'd be replaced next year by Fernando Alon-

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

WEEKLY DOW JONES AND S&P 500





		STOCK MARK	KET IND	DEXES			
52-' High	Week Low	Name	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg
35,679.13	31,429.82	Dow Jones Industrials	34,061.32	+1643.73	+5.07	+2.76	+5.12
16,717.04	12,894.63	Dow Jones Transportation	14,512.76	+956.69	+7.06	+8.37	+7.71
1,013.30	765.47	Dow Jones Utilities	860.05	+47.16	+5.80	-11.10	-5.80
16,458.89	14,297.06	NYSE Composite	15,475.20	+799.42	+5.45	+1.92	+5.25
14,446.55	10,207.47	Nasdaq Composite	13,478.28	+835.27	+6.61	+28.78	+28.67
4,607.07	3,698.15	S&P 500	4,358.34	+240.97	+5.85	+13.51	+15.59
2,743.01	2,322.38	S&P MidCap	2,478.34	+151.52	+6.51	+1.97	+3.02
46,570.30	36,938.66	Wilshire 5000	43,792.11	+2491.32	+6.03	+15.02	+16.36
2,007.31	1,633.67	Russell 2000	1,760.70	+123.77	+7.56	03	-2.18
15,531.26	11,731.63	Lipper Growth Index	14,359.06	+824.13	+6.09	+19.68	+20.47

STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

NYSE G	AINERS	6 (\$2 of	R MORE)	NYSE L	DSERS	(\$2 OR	MORE)	NYSE A	CTIVES (\$1 or	MORE)
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Heliogn rs	2.53	+.86	+51.5	PaycomSft	159.02	-81.32	-33.8	Palantir	4198794	18.89	+3.82
CooperStd	18.31	+6.11	+50.1	NEurO	7.84	-3.62	-31.6	FordM	3963571	10.56	+.75
OwensMin	19.71	+5.84	+42.1	Lifezone n	7.08	-2.92	-29.2	BkofAm	2678158	28.42	+3.25
HippoHl	9.78	+2.70	+38.1	Bill.cmHI	66.93	-22.59	-25.2	LumenTch	2514898	1.12	21
ProtoLabs	31.69	+8.41	+36.1	SpiritAir	11.26	-3.43	-23.3	AT&T Inc	1985478	15.88	+1.06
FathDig	4.29	+1.13	+35.7	CanoHI rs	10.21	-2.99	-22.7	Kenvue n	1735472	19.37	+1.16
PitnyBw	4.11	+1.05	+34.3	agilon	14.66	-3.40	-18.8	Pfizer	1711609	31.26	+1.15
GraniteC	45.93	+11.66	+34.0	TetraTech	4.56	99	-17.8	Carnival	1555789	12.55	+1.42
fuboTV	3.00	+.75	+33.3	IntellgSys	16.37	-3.47	-17.5	Pinterest	1411130	30.94	+6.58
JinkoSolar	34.40	+8.51	+32.9	CorEn pfA	4.08	80	-16.4	Nu Hldg	1382559	8.48	+.47
Nasdaq G	AINER	s (\$2 o	R MORE)	NASDAQ L	OSERS	s (\$2 or	MORE)	NASDAQ	ACTIVES	(\$1 or	MORE)
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
KaixinAut r	s 3.50	+2.50	+248.6	Cyclacel pf	6.40	-3.79	-37.2	Tesla	6201756	219.96	+12.66
Miromtrx	3.34	+2.30	+221.2	Conflunt A	17.75	-9.47	-34.8	AMD	4018841	112.25	+15.82
Cellectis	2.86	+1.85	+183.7	WwdWbb u	n 7.36	-3.20	-30.3	SoFiTech	3184930	8.01	+1.14
GSE Sys rs	3.49	+1.96	+128.1	NexImm rs	2.93	-1.21	-29.2	Apple Inc s	3085649	176.65	+8.43
PatriotTr	15.65	+7.97	+103.6	ForbEur un	20.00	-8.00	-28.6	Amazon	2815672	138.60	+10.86
VerveThr	15.58	+6.74	+76.2	SareptaTh	78.01	-28.82	-27.0	Nvidia	2172252	450.05	+45.05
WrapTc	3.01	+1.27	+73.0	RemitlyGI	19.00	-6.82	-26.4	Nikola	2147740	1.14	+.11
Alplmmu	16.07	+6.77	+72.8	SYLA Tc n	3.05	-1.10	-26.4	AmAirlines	1935317	11.98	+1.06
KodiakS h	2.36	+.94	+66.2	NaaS Tc	2.25	80	-26.2	Intel	1922230	38.14	+2.60
AuraBio	11.98	+4.73	+65.2	SunCar A	6.02	-2.06	-25.5	MarathDig	1701390	9.41	+.55

		S	бтос	KS C	F Lo	ocal Int	ER	EST			
Name	Div	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	Name	Div	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg
AFLAC	1.68	82.23	+5.74	+7.5	+14.3	iShR2K	1.77	174.49	+12.28	+7.6	+.1
AT&T Inc	1.11	15.88	+1.06	+7.2	-13.7	Intel	.50	38.14	+2.60	+7.3	+44.3
AMD	1.60	112.25	+15.82	+16.4	+73.3	IBM	6.64	147.90	+5.38	+3.8	+5.0
Amazon		138.60	+10.86	+8.5	+65.0	Inv QQQ	1.16	367.71	+22.40	+6.5	+38.1
AmAirlines	.40	11.98	+1.06	+9.7	-5.8	Kenvue n		19.37	+1.16	+6.4	-28.0
AEP	3.52	79.72	+4.79	+6.4	-16.0	Kroger	1.16	45.37	+.94	+2.1	+1.8
Apple Inc s	.96	176.65	+8.43	+5.0	+36.0	LincNat	1.80	24.56	+3.24	+15.2	-20.1
ApidMatl	1.28	139.75	+8.45	+6.4	+43.5	Lowes	4.40	194.94	+11.32	+6.2	-2.2
AvaloTh		.10	+.00	+3.0	-98.0	LumenTch		1.12	21	-15.8	-78.5
BP PLC	1.74	36.20	-2.44	-6.3	+3.6	MarathDig		9.41	+.55	+6.2 -	+175.1
BkofAm	.96	28.42	+3.25	+12.9	-14.2	McDnlds	6.68	267.87	+12.11	+4.7	+1.6
BitBroLtd rs		.05	02	-32.8	-99.6	micromobl rs	;	.04	00	-2.7	-100.0
BrMySq	2.28	52.82	+1.80	+3.5	-26.6	Microsoft	3.00	352.80	+22.99	+7.0	+47.1
CampSp	1.48	40.99	+.55	+1.4	-27.8	MullnAuto rs		.30	+.02	+5.7	-99.5
CardioDi		.37	+.14	+63.3	-64.7	NL Inds	.28	4.71	01	-0.2	-30.8
Caterpillar	5.20	240.75	+2.19	+0.9	+.5	NiSource	1.00	25.72	+.82	+3.3	-6.2
Chevron	6.04	147.61	+3.26	+2.3	-17.8	Nikola		1.14	+.11	+10.7	-47.2
Cisco	1.56	53.01	+1.45	+2.8	+11.3	NorflkSo	5.40	194.56	+11.38	+6.2	-21.0
Citigroup	2.12	42.26	+4.55	+12.1	-6.6	Nucor	2.04	152.31	+4.20	+2.8	+15.6
CocaCola	1.84	56.74	+1.50	+2.7	-10.8	Nvidia	.16	450.05	+45.05	+11.1 -	+208.0
DxSOXBr		10.82	-2.55	-19.1	-72.6	Nxu Inc A		.03	00	-2.9	-99.0
DxBiotBll		3.38	+.90	+36.3	-52.2	Palantir		18.89	+3.82	+25.3 -	+194.2
DxSOXBI		18.38	+3.28	+21.7	+90.1	PepsiCo	5.06	166.79	+7.17	+4.5	-7.7
Dir30TrBul		4.61	+.53	+13.0	-39.5	Pfizer	1.60	31.26	+1.15	+3.8	-39.0
Disney		85.07	+5.74	+7.2	-2.1	PrUltPQ		37.58	+6.28	+20.1	+117.2
Eaton	2.92	214.79	+20.34	+10.5	+36.9	PShtQQQ		18.82	-3.93	-17.3	-65.2
EliLilly	4.52	567.81	+7.58	+1.4	+55.2	RiviaAu A		17.71	+1.70	+10.6	-3.9
ExxonMbl	3.80	107.78	+2.23	+2.1	-2.3	SpdrDJIA	3.98	340.61	+16.42	+5.1	+2.8
FordM	.60	10.56	+.75	+7.6	-9.2	S&P500ETF	4.13	434.69	+24.01	+5.8	+13.7
FrankElec	.90	87.54	+3.77	+4.5	+9.8	SoFiTech		8.01	+1.14	+16.6	+73.8
FrptMcM	.30	35.15	+1.48	+4.4	-7.5	SPDR Fncl	.46	33.78	+2.33	+7.4	-1.2
GenElec	.32	108.92	+2.57	+2.4	+67.3	StIDynam	1.70	111.87	+7.76	+7.5	+14.5
HP Inc	1.05	27.42	+1.58	+6.1	+2.0	Tesla		219.96	+12.66	+6.1	+78.6
HomeDp	8.36	295.61	+19.15	+6.9	-6.4	VerizonCm	2.66	36.02	+2.58	+7.7	-8.6
iShChinaLC	.87	26.35	+.68	+2.6	-6.9	WalMart	2.28	164.66	+3.49	+2.2	+16.1
iShEMkts	.59	38.46	+1.93	+5.3	+1.5	WalgBoots	1.92	22.11	+.97	+4.6	-40.8
iSh20 yrT	3.05	87.63	+3.26	+3.9	-12.0	WsteMInc	2.80	168.12	+6.74	+4.2	+7.2
iShiBxHYB	5.09	74.41	+2.05	+2.8	+1.1	WellsFargo	1.40	41.62	+3.21	+8.4	+.8

was cut short due to rain.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc will start in second position, with a lap 0.294 seconds behind Verstappen's.

Two Aston Martins will be in the second row with Lance Stroll and Fernando Alonso, respectively.

Perez, who is still fighting for the runner-up position in the drivers' championship with Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton, will see his rival start from 5th place on Sunday.

Qualifying at Interlagos started with a 15-minute delay due to debris on some of its main turns. No accidents took place in the lone practice session earlier. Verstappen set his time early in the third and decisive part session of qualifying and then rain started to pour.

Perez was 18th in practice, in another sub-par showing for the embattled driver.

Verstappen has won a record 16 of 19 races so far this season, including four in a row. That includes the first two stops in a monthslong tour of the Americas. Verstappen won the U.S. Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, two weeks ago, then last Sunday at Mexico City.

F1 wraps up three consecutive weeks of racing this Sunday in Sao Paulo and has a one-week break before the eagerly awaited Las Vegas Grand Prix. Verstappen closed his third consecutive title early last month and Red

Alonso was displeased with the chatter when he got to Brazil and said it was disruptive to his Aston Martin team.

"Paddock rumors are normal, but people out there just try to make fun of it and gain some followers and these kinds of things," Alonso said. "But I am not into that game. I am not enjoying the rumors.²

Perez is clinging to second in the F1 standings and trying to hold off Lewis Hamilton, who cut the deficit from 39 points to 20 with three races remaining when Perez crashed out of his home race last Sunday in Mexico.

Money	RATES	S	Cu	RRENCIES	
	Last	Pvs Day		Last	Pvs Day
Prime Rate	8.50	8.50	Australia	1.5347	1.5552
Discount Rate	6.00	6.00	Britain	1.2381	1.2205
Federal Funds Rate	5.33	5.33	Canada	1.3660	1.3753
Treasuries			Euro	.9314	.9411
1-year	5.29	5.37	Japan	149.32	150.43
2-year	4.84	4.99	Mexico	17.4242	17.5408
5-year	4.49	4.65	SwitzerInd	.8980	.9058
10-year	4.57	4.67			
30-year	4.77	4.81	British pound ex others show dolla	pressea in U.S. r in foreign curre	dollars. All ncy.

MUTUAL FUNDS

	IVIU	IUAL	LOND	5			
		otal Asse			tal Returr	n/Rank	Pct
Name	Obj	(\$MIns)	NAV	4-wk	12-mo	5-year	Load
American Funds AmrcnBalA m	MA	89,536	30.00	+3.2	+10.3/C	+6.6/B	5.75
American Funds EuroPacGrA m	FG	18,067	51.86	+3.6	+16.1/C	+4.5/C	5.75
American Funds FdmtlInvsA m	LB	57,400	67.02	+3.9	+19.4/B	+9.6/D	5.75
American Funds GrfAmrcA m	LG	106,859	60.28	+3.3	+24.2/C	+10.5/D	5.75
American Funds IncAmrcA m	AL	69,226	22.12	+3.0	+5.2/E	+5.9/D	5.75
American Funds InvCAmrcA m	LB	69,438	47.22	+4.0	+23.0/A	+10.2/C	5.75
American Funds NwPrspctvA m	WG	i 49,329	53.30	+2.7	+19.9/C	+9.9/A	5.75
American Funds WAMtInvsA m	LB	70,419	53.81	+3.4	+12.3/D	+10.2/D	5.75
Davis NYVentureA m	LB	3,968	25.16	+4.3	+26.8/A	+7.5/E	4.75
Dodge & Cox Stkl	LV	59,978	226.42	+2.4	+11.3/A	+9.8/A	NL
Fidelity 500IdxInsPrm	LB	407,601	151.41	+3.2	+19.1/B	+11.8/A	NL
Fidelity Contrafund	LG	96,175	15.32	+3.9	+33.3/A	+12.8/B	NL
Fidelity TtlMktldxInsPrm	LB	72,105	120.55	+3.0	+17.5/C	+10.9/B	NL
Fidelity Advisor EquityGrowthA m	ו LG	1,642	15.46	+3.5	+25.5/C	+14.8/A	5.75
Fidelity Advisor GrowthOppsA m	LG	3,004	113.28	+3.5	+28.1/C	+15.1/A	5.75
George Putnam BalA m	MA	1,150	21.23	+3.2	+14.2/A	+7.8/A	5.75
INVESCO MnStrA m	LB	7,377	48.67	+2.6	+17.0/C	+9.6/D	5.50
PIMCO Inclnstl	MU	74,495	10.21	+0.8	+6.5	+2.4	NL
Putnam DiversIncA m	NT	532	5.32	+2.5	+2.2/D	-0.6/E	4.00
Putnam SustLeadersA m	LG	4,586	100.90	+4.5	+17.3/E	+12.0/C	5.75
Putnam TEIncA m	ML	505	7.30	+1.3	+4.5/B	+0.9/B	4.00
Schwab SP500ldx	LB	70,047	67.58	+0.8	+16.7	+11.5	NL
Thornburg IntermMnA m	MI	259	12.77	+1.0	+3.4/D	+1.2/C	2.00
Thornburg LtdTrmUSGvtA m	GS	42	11.52	+1.7	+2.5/E	-0.2/E	2.25
Vanguard 500ldxAdmrl	LB	410,264	402.50	+3.1	+19.1/B	+11.7/A	NL
Vanguard GrldxAdmrl	LG	58,840	144.06	+3.9	+35.2/A	+14.6/A	NL
Vanguard InTrTEAdmrl	MI	65,806	13.05	+1.2	+4.1/B	+1.7/A	NL
Vanguard PrmCpAdmrl	LB	60,496	152.48	+1.7	+21.5/A	+10.9/B	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2025Fd	ΤG	72,179	17.71	+0.6	+9.4	+5.0	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2030Fd	TH	81,553	33.55	+0.6	+10.4	+5.5	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2035Fd	ΤI	82,364	20.84	+0.5	+11.4	+6.1	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2040Fd	ΤJ	72,165	36.87	+0.6	+12.5	+6.6	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2045Fd	TK	68,781	24.92	+0.5	+13.5	+7.2	NL
Vanguard TtBMIdxAdmrl	CI	93,873	9.20	+0.6	+1.9	+0.3	NL
Vanguard TtInSIdxAdmrl	FB	67,020	28.91	+3.1	+17.9/D	+4.3/C	NL
Vanguard TtInSldxInv		168,365	17.28	+3.1	+17.8/D	+4.2/C	NL
Vanguard TtlSMIdxAdmrl		305,081	104.86	+0.4	+14.9	+10.6	NL
Vanguard WingtnAdmrl		88,290	69.28	+3.2	+11.6/B	+7.4/A	NL

CA -Conservative Allocation, CI -Intermediate-Term Bond, FB -Foreign Large Blend, GS -Short Government, IB -World Bond, IH -World Allocation, LB -Large Blend, LG -Large Growth, LV -Large Value, MA -Moderate Allocation, MI -Muni National Intermediate, ML -Muni National Long, NT -Nontraditional Bond, WS -World Stock, Total Return: Chng in NAV with dividends reinvested. Rank: How fund performed vs. others with same objective: A is in top 20%, E in bottom 20%. **Source:** Morningstar.

Stock Footnotes: g = Dividends and earnings in Canadian dollars. h = Does not meet continued Stock Footnotes: g = Dividends and earnings in Canadian dollars. h = Does not meet continued-listing standards. If = Late filling with SEC. n = New in past 52 weeks, p1 = Preferred. rs = Stock has undergone a reverse stock split of at least 50 percent within the past year. rt = Right to buy security at a specified price. s = Stock has split by at least 20 percent within the last year. un = Units. vj = In bankruptcy or receivership. wd = When distributed. vi = When inssued. vi = Warrants. **Mutual Fund Footnotes:** b = Fee covering market costs is paid from fund assets. d = Deferred sales charge, or redemption fee. f = front load (sales charges). m = Multiple fees are charged. NA = not available. p = previous day's net asset value. s = fund split shares during the week. x = fund paid a distribution during the week. **Source:** The Associated Press. Sales figures are unofficial.

Purdue's motivation

(Continued from Page A1)

But the lowest-seeded team in the 68-team tourney field had different thoughts. The Knights used a harassing, confusing defense to put the bigger Boilermakers on their heels and as the pressure mounted, Purdue's 3-point shots stopped falling in, Edey's impact shrunk, and Fairleigh Dickinson emerged as the second No. 16 seed to beat a No. 1, 63-58.

It wasn't the first time Painter or the frustrated Boilermakers suffered such a fate. Before the Knights, Purdue suffered losses to 15th-seeded Saint Peter's in 2022, 13th-seeded North Texas State in 2021, 12th-seeded Little Rock in 2016 and 11th-seeded VCU in 2011

If Painter learned anything from those previous losses, it was this: Live with the result and improve.

'When you have a loss like that, it's just really hard to talk to your players. It's hard for everybody because you put so much into it," he said. "You just have to sit in it. You soul-search. You figure out who's really behind you, and then you figure out you've done some really good things. What it gets you to do is think you've got to change a lot when in reality you don't."

Only one other coach truly understood what Painter and Purdue were dealing with - Bennett, whose topseeded Cavaliers lost to No. 16 UMBC 74-54 exactly five years earlier.

Bennett and Painter have more in common than just a couple of mystifying losses.

Both grew up in the Midwest. played for Gene Keady and served Big Ten stints for their coaching mentors. Bennett even helped lead Wisconsin-Green Bay past Painter and Purdue in December 1991 at Mackey Arena, and Keady, who coached Bennett on the 1991 U.S. team for the Pan American Games even believed both proteges would one day become successful coaches.

Then in 2019, Bennett and Painter found themselves squaring off again, this time at the Elite Eight, with both seeking to reach their first Final Four. Bennett won that matchup, too.

So when Bennet reached out, Painter welcomed the gesture.

"I talked to him the night we got beat. I talked to him. We texted each other," Painter said. "Obviously, he experienced that. But what stood out to me was more was what he just went through. They had just gotten beat by Furman on a real tough play where they were in control of the game. It was tough. So for him to think about us when it happens to you, it's a pretty big hole in your stomach."

As the months went by, the Boilermakers used that burning desire to do it all over again as inspiration.

Forward Mason Gillis watched game tape and started searching for solutions. Edey opted to return for his fourth college season and worked overtime putting up shot after shot in his quest to become the fifth back-to-back winner of The Associated Press player of the year award.

Sophomore guards Fletcher Lover and Braden Smith were determined to come back stronger and better suited to deal with the long, physical workload after faltering late last season, including a combined 6 of 20 shooting with 10 turnovers against Fairleigh Dickinson

"It's listening to this guy (Edey), playing with my players and being able to iron out things that we need to," Gillis said, explaining the resolve to do it all over again. "Just learning the game continually, that's all it takes."

Purdue may be deeper, too. Eight of last season's top 10 players return. Painter has added all-conference guard Lance Jones, a transfer from Southern Illinois, and promising recruit Myles Colvin.

And, incredibly, the Boilermakers appear to be even bigger with Caleb Furst's brother, Josh, joining the program and 7-2 Will Berg expected to play after redshirting last season.

Will all that be enough for Purdue to follow the same script Bennett's team created in 2018-2019, winning the program's first national title? The mission begins Monday night against Samford.

"When you have a chance to kind of right your wrong, you don't get a lot of opportunities like that in life,' Edey said. "We have that opportunity in front of us. It's a blessing, it's something a lot of people on our team take very seriously. Everyone's worked really hard this summer to right that wrong."

DIVERSIONS

BUT I STILL

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FOR FOUR

HOW MUCH FOOD

ARE YOU GOING

WHEN YOU'RE DOWN AND OUT, VOU CAN'T BE PICKY, MR. B. J

FREE-ISH

TO ORDER

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Feeling down over dishonest boyfriend

Dear Annie: About eight months ago, ering their age gap I met "Len" through a dating app. I'm is more than 50 71, and he's 81. We clicked right away and started a beautiful relationship. He calls me twice a day and comes to visit he's never told me once a week. We go out for dinner me the truth and and take some road trips once in a while. He never invites me to the house where he lives; he told me that it belongs to his brother and he only occupies a room in the back, which was added to the house. He told me he has a house he's renting somewhere five hours away from where he presently lives.

He was divorced three times and has only one daughter from his first marriage. He said that his daughter never liked or loved him, although he supported her until she finished college. Len is a very generous and kindhearted person. He has helped me in so many ways, too.

One day, we were at a gas station and his cellphone, which was plugged in inside the car, rang. He was pumping gas while I was in the car. He asked me to answer it. The lady at the other end was furious right away after hearing my voice and asked me who I was. I told her I was Len's girlfriend. She asked to talk to Len, so I handed the phone to him outside the car window. I overheard Len tell her that I'm nobody.

Since then, I became suspicious of Len. I found out that he has a live-in 26-vear-old woman he's been supporting and sending to college. I always noticed him calling and answering someone on his cellphone, but each time it would happen, he'd walk away so I couldn't hear the conversation. Recently, after I told him that I want to break up with him because I feel he's being dishonest and lying to me, he told me that the woman was his adopted daughter. He's keeping so many secrets from me about their relationship. He wouldn't tell me the truth until one day, I found out from their cleaning lady when I called their landline that they were living together as husband and wife. I felt sick to my stomach after hearing that, consid-

years.

Up to now, keeps on insisting their relationship is like father and daughter and

they've been together since 2018. I've been helping him to clean the yard at his rental house since the renter left because he wants to put the property on the market. While I'm working there 12 hours a day, three days a week, this live-in woman (he calls her "daughter") enrolled in a law school in San Diego. He bought her a condominium and told me that it would be cheaper for his daughter to own a condo than rent an apartment, and he can save some money in the long run.

I'm fed up with his lies and deception. He wants to keep me as his girlfriend but stay with this young woman, too. I suspect that she's only using him and now continuing her studies to become a lawyer. She'll leave him after she graduates from law school and marry a younger man, and Len will end up brokenhearted. Please give me advice on what to do. Do I walk away from him now, even if I love and pity him? - Confused Monogamous Woman

Dear Monogamous Woman: The relationship "Len" has with this younger woman is extremely odd, to say the least, and poses serious problems considering he hasn't been forthcoming about it whatsoever. Beyond that, even if he weren't lying to you or deceiving you, fundamentally, you both want different things out of a relationship. I advise you to run, not walk, away from this situation and seek companionship with someone who is honest and serious about a monogamous partnership.

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



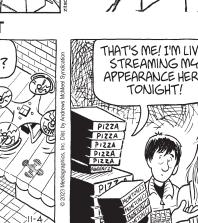
Dear

Annie

HEY! MY PHONE IS ELIGIBLE FOR A FREE UPGRADE!

CRANKSHAFT I WONDER WHAT THAT'S ALL ABOUT

ZITS









Q: Why do so many intellectuals have a hard time trusting the Bible? It seems all they can do is tear it down and suggest that anyone who believes its truth is anti-intellectual. -K.I.

A: The Gospel is not anti-intellectual. It demands the use of the mind, but the mind is affected by sin, whether that mind is

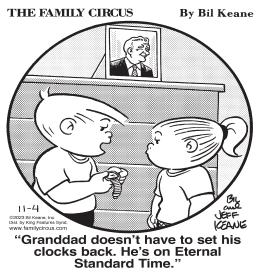
God will give us faith to believe

be turned into a firstclass mind when Christ penetrates the heart. Some years ago, one of the most brilliant men in the world was reported to have an IQ of 208 with over 140 patents with a worldleading company. He even attempted theoretically to reconstruct the human brain. He became completely bewildered and shaken, however, when confronted with the complexity and utter impossibility of such a reconstruction. He didn't know what to do or where to run. His choice was twofold: either the human brain came about by a fantastic chance or by intelligent planning. When faced with the alternative he knew he had only one choice, and he became a believer in God as it was revealed to him through Jesus Christ, whose

intellect he could not surpass.

Many people of great intelligence will not accept Christ as their Savior because they cannot prove His existence, yet the plain truth is that God cannot be proved by intellectual arguments alone. If the human mind could fully prove God, He would be no greater than the mind who proves Him!

We may not understand everything in the Bible, but God will give us faith to believe. We must allow faith to go beyond our intellect, receiving His words as the inspired Word of God.



The LOCKHORNS



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MICROWAVE SOUP MIX

"FREE"JUST MEANS THAT

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of superior intelligence or average. A person may be intellectually brilliant, but spiritually ignorant. "A natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; ... and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14, NASB).

An intellectual mind can

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.) ©2023 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.



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EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE is currently seeking applicants for the position of Full Time Court Security Supervisor. This position over-sees the coordination of the day-to-day operations for the protection and security of the Wells County Courthouse. Must have college level courses or work experience in supervision or management, and at least five (5) years of experi-ence in law enforcement or corrections, including experience with security measures and devices. Must have at least two (2) years of direct supervisory experience. Must pass background investigation which may include but is not limited to employment history and criminal history check. 20year matrix salary range for a Court Security Supervisor is \$43,682 - \$52,774. Years of service and experience will be honored for a starting salary up to five years in the pay matrix. Deadline for Pre-application submission is no later than November 10, 2023. Apply at www.wellscountysheriff.com under "Job Opportunities". A full job description will also be listed on the website for review

Help Wanted

LOCAL DRIVER: LOCAL pickup or delivery and transport in Ft. Wayne area of both legal and oversized loads. Personalized dispatch, great pay with weekly direct deposit, excellent health, disability, life 401K, and well-mainins.. tained equipment. Must have a good Class A CDL record and years in a like profession. Svcamore Specialized Carriers, Inc., 3400 Engle Road, Ft. Wayne, IN 46809, Phone: 260-478-6377 ext 340 or recruiting@sycamoretrkg.com

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, excellent 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 Carriers, 3400 Engle Road, Ft. Wayne, IN 46809, Phone: 260-478-6377 ext 340 or recruiting@sycamoretrkg.com

SERVICES

ISS

Services MILLER'S U-STOR We have clean, secure storage units available. Various sizes. 260-824-4141. Miller U-Stor, 1118 W. Silver, Bluffton, IN.

CONSTRUCTION MARV'S Room additions, fix old saggy floors, all types remodeling. Redo bathrooms, old founda-tion repairs. Marv Schwartz: 260-525-8877.

NOTICE



WAS LAST JOON seen around St. Rd. 124 & W. Cherry St., Bluffton, Oct. 31. He is 1 1/2 yrs. old with a short, stubby tail. 260-273-2196



Lost

MARIE WAS LAST seen October 27 between SR 124 E and 450 E. She is 7 lbs., 5 years old, grey and beige. 260-458-7371.

VEHICLES

Auto/Trucks

INDIANA AUTO AUCTION, INC. Huge Repo Sale November 9, 2023. Over 100 repossessed units for sale. Money order or cashier's check only \$500 cashier's check or money order deposit per person required. Register 8 am-9:30 am. No public entry after 9:30 am. All vehicles sold AS IS! 4425 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne. (A)

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312 W. St. Rd. 218

Jim Ameter



JOIN THE BEST- HIRING SKILLED CARPENTERS With our continued growth we're looking for highly skilled carpenters with at least 4-5 years experience in commercial or residential construction. Experience with rough & finish carpentry framing or concrete forming required. James S. Jacksor has a great team of profes sionals, is well established provides benefits and is look ing 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 hireme@jjacksonco.com www.jjacksonco.com

OWNER/OPERATORS:

TRANSPORT Oversize loads inc. windmill components. Opportunity for contracted lane to California to Texas and return California legal. Personalized dispatch, great pay with week-ly direct deposit, FSC, bobtail and OCC/ACC insurance insurance available. Must have a good Class A CDL record, 3 years in a like profession, and DOT certified equipment. Sycamore Carriers. Specialized Inc.. 3400 Engle Road, Ft. Wayne, IN 46809, Phone: 260-478-6377 ext 340 or recruiting@sycamoretrkg.com (A)

Friday's Drawings

Lottery Numbers

HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5-03-17-22-40-41 Cash4Life — 14-21-30-32-55, Cash Ball: 02 Quick Draw Midday — 01-03-08-10-15-17-19-25-27-33-37-45-47-52-54-59-62-71-73-77, BE: 10 **Daily Three-Midday** — 07-00-04, SB: 07 **Daily Three-Evening** — 00-00-09, SB: 02 **Daily Four-Midday** — 07-00-04, SB: 07 **Daily Four-Evening** — 05-01-07-07, SB: 02 Quick Draw Evening — 13-14-21-23-27-29-31-40-46-47-51-54-61-63-72-73-76-78-79-80, BE: 61 **Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$42.2 million **MEGA MILLIONS** 15-32-38-47-65, Mega Ball: 12, Megaplier: 3X **POWERBALL** Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$173 million



\$5,000 Sign On Bonus!!

LOOKING FOR EMPLOYEES?

Place a 20 word line classified ad for a month for \$52. Add a graphic or photo for an additional \$5. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner, 260-824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., or online at www.news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

Notice of Consideration of Proposed Ordinance

Number 2023-9 Town Council for the Town of Markle, Indiana Wednesday, November 15.

2023, at 7:00 p.m. Markle Town Hall 197 E. Morse Street

Markle, Indiana 46770 On October 12, 2023, the Town of Markle, Indiana Town Council received from the Markle Town

Marshal, a proposed amendment to the Town of Markle Town Code regarding garage sales. The Town Council for the Town of Markle ordinance Number during a meeting at the date, time and place referenced above

Ordinance #2023-9: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Markle, Indiana Amending Title XI of its Code of Ordinances **Business Regulations**

A copy of proposed Ordinance 2023-9 may be obtained during regular business hours from the Markle Clerk-Treasurer, Markle Town Hall, 197 E. Morse Street, Markle, IN 46770, 260-758-3193 nb 11/4

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Water Included