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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

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Health Department positions remain open

By HOLLY GASKILL

More than a few times, Marlene Hoag, interim administrator for the Wells County Health Department, has been asked, "What's going on at the Health Department?"

"It seems to be the question of the month, or the year, or the last five months," Hoag told the Wells County Council during a regular update Wednesday evening. "So, I'm going to tell you."

She continued, "Since I returned in July, there's been 72 births and 90 deaths filed. There have been 435 birth certificates and 423 death certificates issued, 420 flu shots have been administered (and) 92 COVID shots ... 122 TB (tuberculosis) tests, 1,054 shots of other kinds for kids and adults, eight site evaluations, 11 septic permits, and nearly 100 food inspections done."

Hoag emphasized that these individual tasks include accompanying work answering inquiries, scheduling appointments, filing for insurance and other regulatory work.

While there has not been significant progress in hiring since the last Health Board meeting, Hoag stressed that the cur-

rent staff is still working through the day-to-day load. Currently, the department has three full-time staff, including Hoag, and two part-time staff.

"We're understaffed, and we're overworked — there's no doubt about that," Hoag said. "Everybody's got an opinion, nobody has a solution. I'm here to tell you — we need applicants and we need support. But the health department is doing the job that they're intended to do, regardless of all the other crap going on."

Hoag has advertisements posted for a full-time environmental specialist (septic) and part-time medical assistant position, as well as her own position, deputy administrator. Hoag noted that Nov. 9 marks the one-year anniversary of her original retirement before she was asked to return following her first replacement's sudden resignation in June.

Council member Seth Whicker asked if there was any potential to elevate a current part-time employee to full-time status, and Hoag said that would be an option. However, (Continued on Page 2)



The Bluffton Parks Department held its annual WOOF Trail Run on Nov. 4. Pictured below is Griffin Linderwell in the race day t-shirt and above is the start of the race. There were 132 participants in the race. (Photos provided)

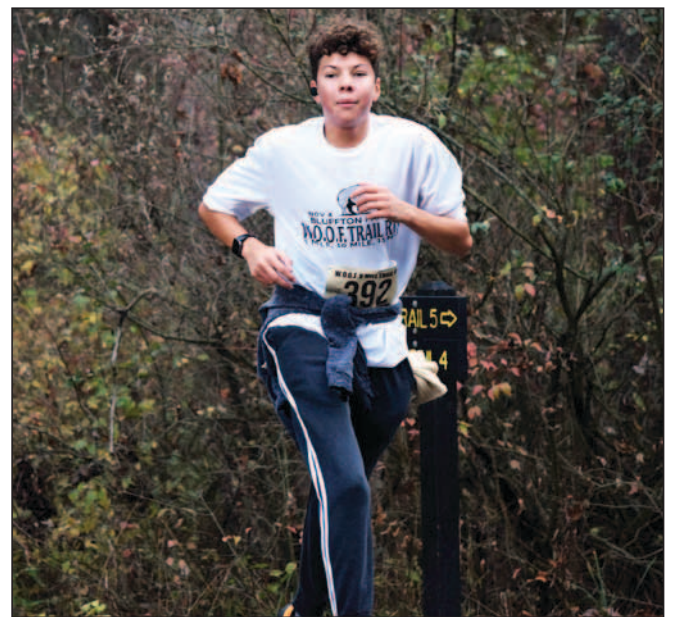
County Visitor Commission awards first marketing grant

By HOLLY GASKILL

The Bluffton Parks Department has become the first benefactor of marketing grants available through the Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission.

Audry Dudley, tourism coordinator, informed the board members Wednesday that the grant subcommittee had awarded the parks department a grant to market their WOOF Trail Run. "Wells Outrageous Ouabache Fifteen" brought 132 participants for the 15-mile run on Nov. 4. Brandy Fiechter, parks department superintendent, told the board a fair amount of participants had traveled from neighboring counties.

In return, the parks department offered visitor guides at the event, includ-



Dudley stated another group would soon receive a grant, and the subcommittee (Continued on Page 2)

ed the commission in event promotion, and incorporated Wells County on their race shirts.

U.S. launches airstrike on site in Syria in response to attacks

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. launched an airstrike on a facility in eastern Syria used by Iranian-backed militias, in retaliation for what has been a growing number of attacks on bases housing U.S. troops in the region for the past several weeks, the Pentagon said.

Wednesday's strike by two U.S. F-15 fighter jets was on a weapons storage facility linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard.

"The President has no higher priority than the safety of U.S. personnel, and he directed today's action to make clear that the United States will defend itself, its personnel, and its interests," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in a statement.

This is the second time in less than two weeks that the U.S. has bombed facilities used by the militant groups, many operating under the umbrella of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, which U.S. officials say have carried

out at least 40 such attacks since Oct. 17.

That was the day a powerful explosion rocked a Gaza hospital, killing hundreds and triggering protests in a number of Muslim nations. The Israeli military has relentlessly attacked Gaza in retaliation for the devastating Hamas rampage in southern Israel on Oct. 7.

Israel denied responsibility for the al-Ahli hospital blast, and the U.S. has said its intelligence assessment found that Tel Aviv was not to blame. But the Israeli military has continued a ferocious assault on Hamas, with ground troops now deep inside Gaza City in a war that has a staggering death toll of more than 10,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and children, according to the Health Ministry of the Hamas-run territory.

The latest U.S. strike was designed to take out supplies, weapons and ammunition in an effort to erode the abilities of (Continued on Page 2)



Making headway on the pathways

Work continues to progress on Bluffton NOW!'s "Downtown Pathways" project. Pictured is the alleyway between Market and Perry streets where crews have been removing the old pavement between buildings. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



Librarians turn to civil rights agency to oppose book bans

By MEAD GRUVER

Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — She refused to ban books, many of them about racism and the experiences of LGBTQ+ people. And for that, Suzette Baker was fired as a library director in a rural county in central Texas.

"I'm kind of persona non grata around here," said Baker, who had headed the Kingsland, Texas,

library system until she refused to take down a prominent display of several books people had sought to ban over the years.

Now, Baker is fighting back. She and two other librarians who were similarly fired have filed workplace discrimination claims with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. And as culture war battles to keep certain books from children and teens put

public and school libraries increasingly under pressure, their goal is redemption and, where possible, eventual reinstatement.

So far, it's a wait-and-see whether the claims will succeed — and set new precedent — in the struggle between teachers and librarians around the country who oppose book bans and conservative activists who say some books are inappropriate for young minds.

The fight has involved a record number of book-banning efforts; some libraries cutting ties with the American Library Association, which opposes book bans; and even attempts to prosecute librarians for allowing children to access books some consider too graphic.

At least one terminated librarian has gained a measure of success.

Brooky Parks, who was fired

for standing up for programs on anti-racism and LGBTQ+ stories she organized for teens at the Eric Community Library north of Denver, won a \$250,000 settlement in September. Reached through the Colorado Civil Rights Division, the settlement requires her former employer to give librarians more say in decisions involving library programs. (Continued on Page 2)

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Outside

Partly sunny and breezy, cool and cloudy tonight

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 54	High 53	High 49
Low 37	Low 29	Low 28

More Weather on Page 2

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Health Department

(Continued from Page 1)

er, Hoag made one thing clear — she's ready to find a replacement and retire.

Other updates were:

- Citizens Against Drug Abuse were allowed to use \$22,128.07 of their collected funds for multiple local grants. The Highway Department was also appropriated \$5,000 from the general fund for pay matrix increases. Several department transfers were permitted. These items were

approved 4-0; Whicker, Todd Mahnensmith, Vicki Andrews and Brian Lambert voted in favor, and Brandon Harnish abstained. Council members Scott Elzey and Steve Huggins were absent.

- Council approved the use of \$23,195 from the recorder's fund for a part-time employee. Per the Indiana Code, this matter has to be approved annually.

- An amended version of the

Interlocal Agreement for Emergency Communications Department was unanimously approved. Whicker explained the amendments largely clarified the distinction of county funds regarding the city-operated bank account for the Public Safety Answering Point.

- Council approved the 2024 salary ordinance, surveyor salary ordinance and sheriff salary ordinance.

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Marketing grant

(Continued from Page 1)

had several more applicants to review. In this grant cycle, organizations and businesses can receive up to \$2,000 to assist in marketing events that may bring tourists to the area.

The commission was

unable to meet a quorum on Wednesday, meaning no specific actions could be taken. However, the group proceeded with regular updates regarding tourism activities. Present board members were Fiechter, Steve Higgins, Jeff Reed

and Jay Esparza; Scott Elzey, Michelle Blount, Zane Herr, Jon Winne and Justin Osborne were absent.

The present group decided to hold their next meeting, 8 a.m. Dec. 6, at the Comfort Inn to

accommodate Osborne. Chad Kline, Wells County Economic Development executive director, said the board could consider varying their meeting locations several times a year.

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U.S. launches airstrike

(Continued from Page 1)

the Iranian-backed militants to attack Americans based in Iraq and Syria. And it reflects the Biden administration's determination to maintain a delicate balance. The U.S. wants to hit Iranian-backed groups suspected of targeting the U.S. as strongly as possible to deter future aggression, possibly fueled by Israel's war against Hamas, while also working to avoid further inflaming the region and provoking a wider conflict.

Similar U.S. airstrikes on Oct. 27 also targeted facilities in Syria, and officials at the time said the two sites were affiliated with Iran's Revolutionary Guard. When asked why those locations in Syria were chosen — since many of the attacks have happened in Iraq — officials said the U.S. went after storage sites for munitions that could be linked to the strikes on U.S.

personnel.

The U.S. has often avoided bombing sites in Iraq in order to lessen the chances of killing Iraqis or angering Iraq's leaders.

While officials have said the strikes are meant to deter further attacks, they have not had that effect. Rocket and drone attacks have occurred almost daily, although in nearly all cases they have resulted in little damage and few injuries.

According to the Pentagon, a total of 45 personnel have been injured and all of those were in attacks on Oct. 17 and 18. Of those, 32 were at al-Tanf garrison in southeastern Syria, with a mix of minor injuries and traumatic brain injuries, and 13 were at al-Asad air base in western Iraq, with four cases of traumatic brain injury and nine of minor injury. One person was injured at Irbil air

base in Iraq.

The Pentagon has faced repeated questions about whether deterrence against Iran and its proxies is working because the attacks have only increased.

At the same time, the department has moved a number of air defense systems and other forces into the region to beef up protection for U.S. forces. And on multiple occasions, the systems have intercepted incoming strikes. According to a U.S. official, the number of ships in the Middle East has more than doubled, the number of Patriot air defense missile systems has about tripled, a few more fighter jet squadrons have been added and hundreds of additional troops have been deployed to the region. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss force numbers not yet made public.

Civil rights agency

(Continued from Page 1)

Parks' settlement with the High Plains Library District capped a stressful eight-month period without work, when community donations helped her avoid losing her home. And it will likely resolve Parks' claim with the EEOC, said her attorney, Iris Halpern, who represents the three librarians.

"I just wasn't going to back down from it. It was just the right thing to do," said Parks, now a librarian at the University of Denver.

After her firing in 2022, Baker filed an EEOC claim against her employer, the Llano County Library System in Kingsland, Texas. And in September 2023, Terri Lesley, executive director of the Campbell County Public Library System in Gillette, Wyoming, filed a claim over her firing last summer.

Halpern, with the Denver firm Rathod Mohamedbhai, compared the wrongful termination claims to civil rights era legal battles.

"It is honestly sad that we've gotten to this point. But history is a constant struggle and we have to learn from our past," she said.

The 1964 Civil Right Act established the EEOC to enforce laws against workplace discrimination. One legal expert thinks the librarians might be able to prevail on the grounds that, under those laws, employees may not be discriminated against for associating with

certain classes of people.

"With any case, the devil can be in the details in terms of how the facts come out and what they can present. But these are definitely actionable claims," said Rutgers University law professor David Lopez, a former EEOC general counsel.

An EEOC investigation can take over a year. After that, the EEOC may attempt to reach a settlement with the employer out of court, sue on the employee's behalf or issue a letter saying the employee has grounds to sue on their own.

The librarians haven't yet received an EEOC response and none is expected before the end of next year.

"I would love to be optimistic," Baker said. "I know there are a lot of people in this community who are just absolutely behind the library being open and free and equal for all. And there's a lot of people who aren't. So it's a hard, hard situation."

EEOC spokesperson Victor Chen declined to comment on specific filings, adding "we can't even confirm or deny we have these complaints."

The county attorney offices and other representatives of the government officials who fired Parks, Baker and Lesley did not return phone and email messages seeking comment, or declined to comment.

At her Texas library, Baker displayed several books that have been targeted in recent book bans and a

sign that read: "We put the 'lit' in literature" — a reference to a Tennessee pastor's recent burning of books.

Baker was fired after refusing to take down the display and signs — the last straw after she resisted book banning in her own library.

In March, a federal judge ordered 17 books returned to Kingsland library shelves while a citizen lawsuit against book banning proceeded. The works ranged from children's books to award-winning nonfiction, including "They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group," by Susan Campbell Bartoletti; and "It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex and Sexual Health," by Robie Harris.

"Content-based restrictions on speech are presumptively unconstitutional and subject to strict scrutiny," Texas U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman wrote in his March 30 ruling. He cited a 2015 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that barred communities from banning signs because of what they say.

The Llano County Commission considered but decided against closing the county's three libraries in response to the ruling. Closing the libraries would have been eerily similar to the history across the U.S. of closing swimming pools rather than desegregating them, Halpern said.

Like Baker, Lesley had

trouble finding work after being fired from the library system she directed in Gillette, Wyoming. Her dismissal followed two years of turmoil over challenges to the books available and library programs.

Some of the same county officials who opposed a transgender magician's plans to perform at the library went on to join local residents in seeking to ban books, according to Lesley's EEOC filing.

Baker and Lesley both were fired after local officials appointed new library board members willing to be more aggressive about pulling books.

"Our county commissioners appointed board members who were sympathetic to the people who wanted to remove the books. And it was a long dance to try to get it there. And in the end they had to fire me, I think, in order to be able to meet their goal," Lesley said.

The Campbell County Commission skirted a deputy county attorney's recommendation not to appoint past applicants for the board without re-interviewing them along with new candidates, according to Lesley's EEOC claim.

"I saw this as a well-executed attack on the library by a group of citizens and elected officials. It was an attack on the LGBTQ+ community as well," she said. "And it was an attack on the books."

8 dead in crash after police chased a suspected human smuggler

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Eight people died Wednesday when the driver of a car suspected of carrying smuggled migrants fled police and smashed into an oncoming vehicle on a South Texas highway.

The crash happened around 6:30 a.m. when the driver of a 2009 Honda Civic tried to outrun deputies from the Zavala County Sheriff's Office and attempted to pass a semi truck on a two-lane

road, the state Department of Public Safety said. The Civic collided with a 2015 Chevrolet Equinox.

The driver and five passengers in the Civic died, according to DPS. Some of the passengers were from Honduras, department spokesman Christopher Olivarez said in a statement. Two people in the Equinox who were from Georgia also died.

The identities of those killed

will be released to their families first, Olivarez said.

Wednesday's crash near Batesville — about 80 miles southwest of San Antonio — is the latest deadly vehicle crash involving migrants, marking the highest death toll since 13 people died in a collision in remote Holtville, California, in March 2021.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Texas has tallied 106

deaths in Border Patrol vehicle pursuits from January 2010 to June of this year. Deaths averaged 3.5 a year through 2019 but spiked in 2020, leading officials to develop a new policy for vehicle pursuits with an eye toward increasing safety.

The policy announced in January stops short of prohibiting chases but, according to CBP, "provides a clear framework for

weighing the risks of conducting pursuits, such as the dangers they present to the public, against the law enforcement benefit or need."

Local law enforcement agencies have been involved in fatal crashes as well in recent years. In June 2022, four migrants were killed in a smuggling attempt following a police chase in the South Texas city of Encinal, about 80 miles southeast of Wednesday's crash.

Weather

Thursday, November 9, 2023

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

High: 67; Low: 41; Precipitation: Trace of rain

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.19 feet at 9:45 p.m. Wednesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Partly sunny, with a high near 54. Northwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 37. West wind around 10 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 53. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 29. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

Veterans Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 28.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 32.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 54.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 32.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 57.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 37.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59.



Hollywood actors strike is over as union reaches tentative deal

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hollywood's actors union reached a tentative deal with studios Wednesday to end its strike, bringing an end to months of labor strife that ground the entertainment industry to a historic halt.

The three-year contract agreement must be approved by votes from the union's board and its members in the coming days, but the leadership declared the strike will end at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday.

More than 60,000 members of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Performers went on strike July 14, joining screenwriters who had walked off the job more than two months earlier. It was the first time the two unions had been on strike together since 1960. Studios chose to negotiate with the writers first, striking a deal that their leadership marked as a major win and bringing their strike to an end on Sept. 26.

The details of the agreement were not immediately released, but are likely to be shared with the actors and the public in the coming days. Issues on the table included both short-term compensation and future royalty payments for film and TV performances, along with control over actors' images and likenesses regenerated with artificial intelligence.

Executives from top entertainment companies including Disney, Netflix, Warner Bros. Discovery and Universal had a direct hand in negotiations, which like all Hollywood union talks were led by the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers.

Although the writers strike had immediate, visible effects for viewers, including the monthslong suspension of late-night talk shows and "Saturday Night Live," the impact of the actors' absence was not as immediately apparent. But its ripple effects — delayed release dates and waits for new show seasons — could be felt for months or even years.

Actors could quickly return to movie sets where productions were paused, including "Deadpool 3," "Gladiator 2" and "Wicked." Other movies and shows will restart shooting once returning writers finish scripts.

And beyond scripted productions, the end of the strike would fully free actors to return to red carpets, talk shows and podcasts, as Hollywood's awards season approaches.


The only major awards show directly effected by the strike was the Emmys, which was moved from September to January. Now, the usual fall Oscar campaigns are likely to mobilize.

But any feeling of industry normalcy could prove temporary. The circumstances that brought on the strikes — the shift from traditional theatrical and broadcast media to streaming, and emerging tech like AI — have not been slowed. And the gains made by the strikes may embolden other Hollywood unions, or these same guilds in negotiations that will come up again in just a few years.

Union leaders treated the strike like a watershed moment from the start, coming as it did amid wider labor fights in other industries.

"I think it's a conversation now about the culture of big business, and how it treats everybody up and down the ladder in the name of profit," SAG-AFTRA President and "The Nanny" star Fran Drescher told The Associated Press in an August interview.

Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, the executive director and chief negotiator who led the team that struck the deal for the guild, told the AP in August that he was "honored to be part of making sure that our members get a fair contract that's going to protect them going into the future and make sure that the 14-year-olds I talked to on the Disney picket line still have the ability to be an actor when they turn 18."



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Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
 Tuesday, 10:17 a.m., North Johnson and West Water streets, Bluffton. Officer checked on subject who ran out of gas station and then into another building before he ran out with a bag. Subject advised he just likes to run and was doing laundry. Records check clear.
 Tuesday, 3:12 p.m., Western Avenue and South Merchant Street. Report of a noise complaint.
 Tuesday, 3:35 p.m., Capri Meadows. Welfare check requested for man supposed to be moving into apartments.
 Tuesday, 4:56 p.m., YMCA. Multiple members reported couple yelling back and forth and arguing with children in car. Parties warned for disorderly conduct and child hotline contacted.
 Tuesday, 6:19 p.m., 500 block of East Spring Street. Report of a civil issue regarding vehicle title and plate transfer.
 Tuesday, 7:31 p.m., 300 block of East Central Avenue. Report of ring camera going off several

times, caller is out of the area. A couple was chasing after a dog.
 Tuesday, 8:36 p.m., 700 block of West Silver Street. Welfare check requested for subject after a comment he made. Subject advised he was okay.
 Tuesday, 9:42 p.m., 400 block of West Market Street. Caller reported loud music, believed apartment renter was incarcerated. Officer did not hear anything.
 Tuesday, 11:08 p.m., Comfort Inn and Suites. Report of a verbal altercation with employee. Subject requested officer assist him with getting a room at alternative hotel. Man was transported to different local hotel.
 Tuesday, 9:18 p.m., 400 block of Eastmoor Drive. Report of a broken no contact order via third party.
 Wednesday, 7:13 a.m., 500 block of Meadow Lane. Report of a dead animal in a bag placed in vehicle.
 Wednesday, 8:23 a.m., North 450 and 200 North. Driver cited for speeding.
 Wednesday, 8:33 a.m., 800 block of Cari Drive. Report of

missing items from home, unsure when happened.
 Wednesday, 9:03 a.m., 900 block of South Main Street. Report of two men trying together into house. Men advised they were looking at house for sale.
County:
 Monday, 12:38 p.m., Wells County Jail. Served warrant to subject without incident.
 Monday, 4:52 p.m., Ind. 224 and 400 West, Markle. Car versus deer. Both damaged but not totaled.
 Tuesday, 5:53 a.m., Ind. 116 and 300 North, Bluffton. Car versus deer.
 Tuesday, 6:59 a.m., 200 South and 300 West, Liberty Center. Work truck vs. deer.
 Tuesday, 11:37 a.m., Wells County Jail. Subject came to the jail to report poaching.
 Tuesday, 1:33 p.m., 6700 South Ind. 1, Bluffton. Report of a wire down in front of truck. Accident report completed.
 Tuesday, 2:07 a.m., Wells County Jail. Woman reported man stole car seat from her car in Fort Wayne while she was working and

picked their child up from daycare in Ossian. The woman admitted there was no court ordered custody arrangement. She told officers the father used fentanyl and was driving unsafely and illegally. The drivers license returned as suspended.
 Tuesday, 4:08 p.m., 3900 East Ind. 218, Bluffton. Officer stood by while AEP completed work along roadway due to previous issues in area.
 Tuesday, 4:46 p.m., 1100 South and 200 East, Montpelier. Report of a stop sign in ditch.
 Tuesday, 6:17 p.m., 9300 South 300 West, Poneto. Dog hurt by car.
 Wednesday, 1:29 a.m., 1900 West 600 North, Uniondale. Report of a vehicle in ditch, driver intoxicated. PBT was .231. Driver somehow alive.

ARRESTS
 Joseph James Roth-Bradley, 27, Berne, family offense — invasion of privacy, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$50,000.
 Avery Dean Bodwell, 33, Ossian, possession of child pornography, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$10,000.
 Dominique Denzel Kirby, 30, Bluffton, domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor and disorderly conduct, a class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$26,000.
 Sherri Sashay Flowers, 26, Bluffton, domestic battery and resisting law enforcement using a vehicle, both Class A misdemeanors, and disorderly conduct, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$27,500.
 Terry Christopher Hollingsworth, 42, Kendallville, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more and operating a vehicle while intoxicated — endangerment, both Class A misdemeanors. Bond set at \$1,500.
 Jennifer J Spencer, 49, Franklin, disorderly conduct and possession of marijuana, both Class B misdemeanors, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor.
 Lester Obed Perez Martinez, 37, Indianapolis, operating without ever obtaining a license, a Class C misdemeanor.
 Keenan Andrew Shepherd, 20, Bluffton, possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor.

BRMC encourages use of end-of-year health benefits

Using your health plan benefits for medical visits, screenings and procedures is the best way to support your overall health. And, as the current plan year comes to an end, right now may be the best time to address any outstanding medical needs, by taking advantage of paid-up deductibles or funds available in your flexible spending account.
 Most health insurance plans have a deductible requirement—a predetermined amount of healthcare expense that you must cover out of your own pocket before the plan begins paying the majority of (if not all) remaining expenses. Procedures such as mammograms and other diagnostic imaging studies, colonoscopies, surgeries like joint replacements and hernia repairs, vision care, and physical therapy may cost you less if your deductible has been reached.
 Review your plan to see how close you are to meeting your deductible, or if you've already met it, because once the threshold is met, your plan may cover the expense for most additional health care services received before year end. On Jan. 1, you'll be starting over at zero towards your deductible.
 "Since many people have met their deductible by this point in the year,

it's a good time to schedule any recommended procedures or medical visits before the deductible resets. You may save hundreds or even thousands of dollars, depending on what healthcare you need, if it's obtained within this calendar year," said Julie Thompson, Chief Administrative Officer, Bluffton Regional Medical Center.
 The end of 2023 also affects individuals who have FSAs which are pre-tax dollars set aside primarily for health-related expenses. The Internal Revenue Service requires those funds to be spent, or forfeited, by Dec. 31.
 "Money in your flexible spending account is yours to use for medical expenses through December 31, but no later," added Thompson. "Work to schedule your appointments so there is enough time to have the test or elective procedure done before the end of the year. Getting everything squared-away by early December means the services you receive are considered part of your 2023 coverage."
 Health plans can vary in many ways, so learn how your plan works to get the most from your benefits. Visit <https://www.blufftonregional.com> to schedule screenings and appointments.

Bail set for Indy woman accused of driving into building she believed was 'Israeli school'

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An Indianapolis woman accused of backing her car into a building she believed held an "Israeli school" was ordered Wednesday by a judge to stay away from synagogues and other Jewish religious and cultural centers.
 Ruba Almaghtheh, 34, was formally charged Tuesday with intimidation, criminal recklessness and institutional criminal mischief, all felonies. A Marion County judge entered a not guilty plea for her and set her bond at \$200,000 during her initial court hearing Wednesday.
 Two adults and three children were inside the Israelite School of Universal and Practical Knowledge on Saturday when Almaghtheh allegedly backed into it and shouted "Free Palestine." No one was injured.
 Her attorney, Gary Colasessano, told The Associated Press that his client doesn't remember driving into the building. He said he believes she experienced an "episode," possibly due to several medications she takes for physical disabilities and the mental stress of a pending divorce while caring for her three children.
 According to a probable cause affidavit, Almaghtheh told officers at the scene that she had been watching TV coverage of the war in the Middle East "and decided to plan an attack by crashing into the building on purpose because she observed a symbol located on the residence that she took high offense to and related it to being an Israeli school."
 The front of the building has a "Hebrew Israelite" symbol resembling a Star of David with lettering, the affidavit says.
 The Israelite School of Universal and Practical Knowledge is in fact listed by the Southern Poverty Law Center among various groups it terms "Radical Hebrew Israelites," and which the law center has designated a "hate group," noting its ideology has become increasingly antisemitic, anti-white, anti-LGBTQ, xenophobic and misogynistic since the 1960s.
 The leader of the Israelite School of Universal and Practical Knowledge in Indianapolis, Captain Chaapash Yahawadah, said Wednesday it is part of an international organization with several schools, including

some in the United Kingdom. He said it is challenging the Southern Poverty Law Center's designation.
 A man who had been sitting in a car outside the school building told police he watched a woman put her car in reverse and back directly into the building, the affidavit states. He told police he went to check on the driver and she "immediately starting ranting, yelling 'Free Palestine, Free Palestine'" and accused him "of sending money to keep her people oppressed."
 The affidavit said another man who came out of the building after hearing a "big boom" told police the woman made similar comments to him. The court record said the building sustained about \$10,000 in damage.
 Colasessano said his client is Muslim and is a U.S. citizen originally from Jordan who has no previous arrest or criminal record. He was not aware of any ties to Palestine but said that before Saturday she had been watching "the constant barrage of news about the war in Gaza" and became overwhelmed.
 He said Almaghtheh recently filed for divorce after her husband left her and moved to Africa. He said she has also been under a doctor's care for several physical ailments that cause her physical pain.
 He said her \$200,000 bond is "astronomically high" given the charges.
 A deputy prosecutor wrote in a motion seeking the greater than standard bond that Almaghtheh "intentionally crashed her vehicle into a building that she believed was home to a religious or cultural center that supports Israel."
 At Wednesday's hearing, a judge set a bail review hearing for Nov. 17 and approved a no-contact order ordering Almaghtheh to stay away from the Israelite School of Universal and Practical Knowledge and "all synagogues, temples, and other Jewish religious and cultural centers in Marion County."
 "The allegations in the probable cause affidavit are extremely disturbing. We cannot and will not tolerate hate in our community," Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears said Wednesday in a statement.

State Rep. Haggard announces congressional bid

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle
 First-term state Rep. Craig Haggard says he's running for Congress whenever incumbent U.S. Rep Jim Baird of Indiana leaves his post — whether that's in 2024 or afterward.
 Haggard said he's filing with the Federal Election Commission on Wednesday to create an exploratory committee. He won't have to declare candidacy until next year: the monthlong filing window doesn't open until January 10, according to Indiana's election calendar.
 "My plan is not to challenge the incumbent," Haggard told the Capital Chronicle in an exclusive interview.
 "... The best way for me to put it is: I'm going to run for the Fourth Congressional District, period — when it's ready to go — whether that's in a month or two, whether that's February 9, or after this next term," he continued. "I'm running!"
 But — despite rumors to the contrary — Baird announced last month that he would seek reelection.
 Asked if he'd withdraw from the race if Baird files a declaration of candidacy, Haggard said there's "nothing to drop out of yet" if he hasn't yet filed his own declaration.
 Baird's son, Beau, has long been a rumored replacement. Haggard even noticed changes in campaign merchandise during parade season to just focus on "Baird" instead of using Jim Baird's first name.

That wouldn't stop Haggard.
 "Of course I would (run) — this is the United States," he said. "... I've heard that from some folks: 'This seat, I bequeath it unto you,' or a coronation of the (heir). I don't like that. That's not what our system is."
 Haggard, of Mooresville, was first elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 2022, representing parts of Hendricks, Johnson and Morgan counties. He said he'd be running his state-level reelection campaign alongside the congressional campaign.
 And he wasn't worried about the prospect of leaving the Statehouse so soon.
 "I spent my entire life in the real world," Haggard said. "... I think everything that I've done has kind of prepared me for what I'm doing now. I quickly, my first year, was able to wrap my head around how things worked. I got one of my first bills authored."
 Haggard, a small business owner and commercial broker, previously worked as the Indiana field representative for the National Rifle Association for six years, according to his Statehouse biography.
 He began his career with an 11-year stint as a naval aviator for the U.S. Marine Corps, according to his LinkedIn. He served as an active Indiana Air National Guard reserve member for another 11 years afterward, until he retired in 2013 as a lieutenant colonel.

Still time to join the actors for 'Joyful Sounds'

There is still time to be a member of the cast for the coming "Joyful Sounds of Christmas" program planned for Saturday, Dec. 16, at 2 and 7 p.m., by director Otto "Tank" Lowe.
 Those planning to sing should send their song choice to Lowe, so that there will not be duplications of numbers. There will be a run through of the program on Dec. 14 and 15 at the Auditorium, South Oak St., Bluffton.
 Volunteers are also needed to assist with the production, as well as youngsters to

be elves and reindeer. In addition to entertainment there will be opportunities for photos with Santa and light refreshments will be available.
 To contact Lowe go to tanklowe1@gmail.com.

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Balancing tax reforms and public investment in Indiana

It's something of a paradox that over the summer, while debating the need for increased public investment in child care access, transportation infrastructure, public employee retirement benefits, and Medicaid reimbursement, legislators also considered proposals that could dramatically reduce the revenues needed to finance those priorities.

Appointees to the State and Local Tax Review Task Force have been exploring the potential elimination of the state's individual income tax (income tax), a goal that is central to the campaign of at least one candidate for governor.



David Ober

Hoosier Opinions

The fiscal impact of such a policy change is far from trivial. In FY23, the income tax generated approximately \$7.6 billion, constituting roughly 36% of state revenues. In just the first three months of the current fiscal year, income tax collections exceeded estimates by nearly \$150 million. The proposal to eliminate the income tax echoes former Gov. Mike Pence's promise to reduce the income tax rate by 10%, from 3.4% to 3.06%. At the time, Pence's tax cut was estimated to reduce state revenues by \$500 million, a nominal figure compared to what is now under consideration.

Next year, Hoosiers will finally realize the 10% income tax cut Pence proposed in 2012. Granting that a modest rate cut took more than a decade to achieve, the prospects of eliminating the income tax appear dubious. The means of achieving the tax cut are more significant than the motivations behind the policy, and the cadence of rate cuts might reasonably measure in decades.

To achieve such an aspiration, let's first consider the income tax base along with the deductions, exemptions, and credits which narrow the base and reduce state revenue. Broadening the tax base could enable policymakers to further decrease the tax rate. Just repealing a handful of deductions, exemptions, and credits with the largest base-narrowing impacts would enable the state to capture more than \$2 billion over the biennium. However, these reforms include eliminating the personal and dependent child exemption, the renter's and homeowner's deduction, as well as the earned income tax credit and 529 contribution credit. Eliminating these tax benefits, some of the most popular among Hoosiers, represents significant political risk and would make the tax code more regressive.

Another proposal could be expanding the sales tax base to include more goods as well as services. Though considered by legislators in the past decade, this idea has never advanced to a vote by a House or Senate committee. Taxing these transactions would generate greater sales tax revenue to offset revenue losses resulting from a lower income tax rate.

However, imagine receiving a little more in your paycheck but paying 7% more on various goods or services, effectively reducing your buying power. Also consider what proportion of an average salary earned by a Hoosier, just over \$58,000 per year, would be dedicated to state taxes. Without new or expanded exemptions this base-broadening would, by definition, exacerbate the regressivity of the state tax code.

A third option could include dramatic reductions in state spending. Given the high proportion of the state budget dedicated to K-12 education and health services, it's hard to envision the scope and quality of these services remaining intact with reduced funding. Perhaps reducing the state workforce of roughly 32,000 employees could reduce costs. The reality is that for nearly two decades the seeming *raison d'être* of state leaders has been responsible budgets, prudent reserves, and a competitive tax environment for individuals and business. As of 2021, Indiana ranked 37th (well below the national average) in total state expenditures per capita. Can more spending be cut? Certainly. Can legislators cut enough to meaningfully reduce the income tax rate while maintaining the services Hoosiers have come to expect? Decidedly not.

Returning to our paradox, the legislature is considering the need for increased public spending in critical areas to boost our quality of life, improve our health and access to care, increase workforce participation, and provide greater connectivity between our communities. A focus on tax policies that are understandable, equitable, and just, with a bias toward competitiveness is important. However, growing our citizenry and enhancing their well-being will require similar focus and dedication.

David Ober is Vice President of Taxation and Public Finance at the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. He previously served as a commissioner for the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission and as a member of the Indiana House of Representatives.

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Nov. 9, the 313th day of 2023. There are 52 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 9, 1989, communist East Germany threw open its borders, allowing citizens to travel freely to the West for the first time

in decades; joyous Germans danced atop the Berlin Wall. On this date:

In 1620, the passengers and crew of the Mayflower sighted Cape Cod.

In 1918, it was announced that Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II would abdicate; he then fled to the Netherlands.

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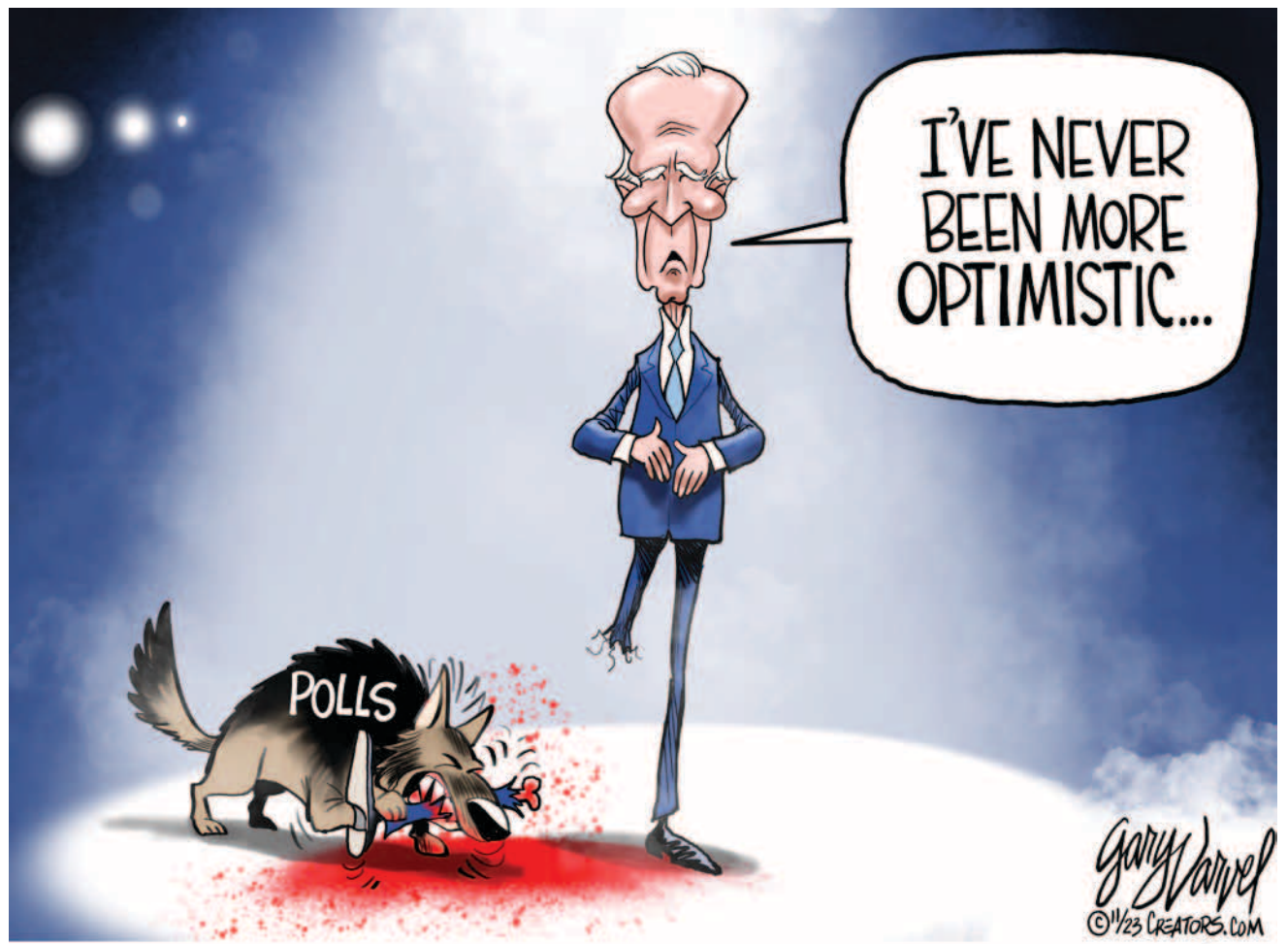
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It beggars belief that Democrats will keep sleepwalking ahead with Biden

Decorous panic is a difficult mannerism to master, as Democrats are finding out. Their divorce from President Biden is becoming increasingly likely.

The headlines from the New York Times-Siena College poll published this week were deflating: Donald Trump leading Biden in five of six swing states (Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania) and within the margin of polling error in Wisconsin (Biden +2). Beyond Biden's obvious difficulty (he is "just too old to be an effective president," 47 percent strongly agree, and 24 percent somewhat agree), the poll contained grim data.

"Do you think (Biden/Trump) has the personality and temperament to be an effective president?" Trump: 43 yes, 55 no. Biden: 46 yes, 51 no. Biden is essentially tied with a coarse, erratic figure. Trump's comprehensive vulgarity is unhelpful to Biden. The following also is ominous:

To the question "Are you currently personally paying off any student loans for yourself or your family?" the six-state average was 20 percent yes, 79 percent no. Biden is obsessed with unilaterally canceling the debts of the minority of borrowers among the minority of Americans who receive college degrees. The Supreme Court has blocked Biden's unconstitutional attempt to unilaterally spend more than \$400 billion doing so. Yet he persists with other attempts, each an affront to the Constitution's appropriations clause. Why?

Because he is eager to comfort, with a regressive transfer of wealth, a relatively small, relatively comfortable cohort — college graduates — who are mostly Democrats. What does Biden suppose the 79 percent think of his solicitousness toward the 20 percent?

The Democratic Party has benefited from the monochrome culture of campuses. Now, however, a bill is coming due for progressives' identification with academia.

Today, whenever someone prominent says something grotesque, such as that Hamas's predatory sadism is "exhilarating," no one wonders whether it was said at a union hall or a Kiwanis luncheon. Everyone assumes, correctly, that it occurred in academia (in this instance, Cornell). Democrats are uncomfortably connected to campuses, where there is one permissible ideology (progressiveness), many genders and even more pronouns. The Republican Party has its share of weirdness, but its stupidity stops short of sympathy for genocide and enthusiasm for enforcing speech etiquette that bewilders almost everyone.

The Democratic Party did not, however, become

the world's oldest party by being suicidal.

It is viscerally more serious about winning and keeping power than the Republican Party is. This is because so many Democratic factions are directly dependent on government (e.g., public employees unions, especially teachers unions) or are subsidized by it (e.g., automakers organized by the United Auto Workers, and other corporations on the ever-lengthening list of those receiving subsidies for "green" or other "industrial policy" reasons).

In presidential politics, this is a period of equilibrium akin to the 1880s, when (analyst Michael Barone notes) both parties' nominees in the three elections received between 47.8 and 48.9 percent of the popular votes. Barone says of 2016 that "the percentage of voters who switched from one party to the other — mainly white college graduates switching from Republicans to Hillary Clinton, and white non-college-graduates switching from Democrats to Donald Trump — is actually small when considered in historical perspective." And in 2016, Trump "lost the popular vote by 2 percent, the average for Republican nominees in the previous four presidential races."

Trump's 2016 popular-vote percentage was one point lower than Mitt Romney's in 2012. Then, in 2020, having witnessed Trump govern for four years, voters increased his popular-vote total by more than 11 million.

Given the current equilibrium between the parties, and the almost uniformly awful (for Biden) data in the Times-Siena poll, it beggars belief that Biden's party will sleepwalk with him for 12 months toward defeat. Will the party allow him and his uniquely important (because of his infirmity) and uniquely implausible (because of her flat-as-Kansas learning curve) vice president to stand between the nation and a second Trump term?

If the Republican competition becomes, after Iowa (Jan. 15), Trump vs. just three, and, after New Hampshire (its date not yet set), Trump vs. just one, his rock-solid vote might be revealed to be at most 20 percent by South Carolina (Feb. 24). Then national polls might reveal the one non-Trump survivor leading Biden by even more than Trump now is.

This is not a probability, yet. It is, however, enough of a possibility that the Democratic Party, whose seriousness is occasionally commensurate with its longevity, should be making plans for a path different than the crumbling one it currently is on.

georgewill@washpost.com



George Will

Eastern pondhawk vs blue dasher

Angelkeep took on a pride, albeit bordered on arrogance, when a common and Angelkeep-abundant dragonfly variety became known. Upon sight the name could be remembered, and dropped it was, if someone was nearby that seemed interested, or if an inner self arose in want of showing off. All who arose to such an egotistic pinnacle were destined to be knocked down a notch. . . or four. So it went.

Blue dasher became an annual overachiever for producing progeny, or offspring, in the spring of each year. Generation after generation emerged from their longer stage of nymph life in the waters of Angelpond. Angelkeep became familiar with several dragonfly species, all from the classification order of Odonata. Angelkeep preferred trying to learn common names. For example blue dasher's scientific species classification binomial name in 1839 became *Pachydiplax longipennis*. Try saying each three times, fast.

Blue dasher became one of the larger dragonflies on Angelpond and easily identified with its blue body. Vibrant blue. The thorax had a bit of yellow striped in black, like a stained glass window. The eyes appeared as blue-green. They were friendly enough, at least males, to pose occasionally on a stalk for a digital portrait. Female were rarely seen. Their abdomen held little of the blue, but looked more like a continuation of the thorax design, with eyes of bronzy-red.

Life at Angelkeep remained good and somewhat easy while blue dasher's numbers ruled the roost, so to speak. The name of a larger, quite

Angelkeep Journals

friendly, dark purple dragonfly never had been discovered. Others were easy to spot with identification due to names like twelve-spotted skimmer. Eastern amberwings have, you guessed it, amber colored wings and body. One of the largest dragonflies of Angelkeep's history appeared in 2023. It flew swiftly from one end of the pond to the other at eye level. Was it dining or showing off? When zipping past within a few feet, the colors appeared alluring. It simply refused to perch for a photo leading to identification.

Ouabache State Park provided the opportunity to learn of Angelkeep's newest species of large dragonfly. Identification following a photo of this same dragonfly resting on the ground proved to be an Eastern pondhawk. The true identification didn't come easy. It introduced more dragonfly confusion. It was like the dragonfly world was expressing, "You don't know all you think you know."

You too will prefer the common name "eastern pondhawk" over the binomial of "*Erythemis simplicicollis*." Blue dashers and eastern pondhawks are similar. They can be confused for each other, especially the males who are of similar size. Male dasher faces below the eyes are green, pondhawks have a white face. Oops, NO, the other way around. It's



Alan Daugherty

confusing. Both have blue bodies. Blues are more aggressive and will actually take over pondhawks' prime perches.

Females have strikingly different coloring with the pondhawk female being mostly green and the blue dasher lady preferring being robed in a brownish-yellow coloring. Female eastern pondhawks come a bit larger than feminine blue dashers.

The tail end of the abdomen of the males holds the claspers. The name "claspers" is not rocket science. It's dragonfly science and means it is the part that clasps her when they are both in the mood for romance. Blue dasher's clasper color was navy blue or black, the pondhawk's clasper being white like its face.

All this vital information goes right out the window if you, as a dragonfly stalker, get to observe a juvenile eastern pondhawk. You will find both the male and female pondhawk juvenile looking almost exactly, including color, like its mama pondhawk. That means no adult male blue color.

To complicate matters, additional differences occur for a western pondhawk. Fortunately for this Angelkeep dragonfly novice, who only sometimes pretends to know much about dragonflies, his land and pond are located in the eastern half of America.

"Full disclosure" apologies were in order at this stage for previously intimating Angelkeep knew a thing or two about dragonflies. Get perfect information from the writings of the late E. Bruce Williamson of Bluffton, a world expert on the subject.

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

Gloria welcomes her in-laws to the neighborhood

“Mom, you need to write a column about this!” Julia quipped as she scattered another handful of straw over her grandparents’ newly seeded lawn.

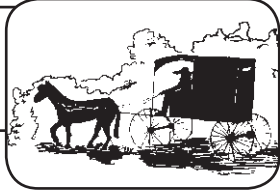
Daniel’s liking for putting in new yards was planted into all of us. No, I’m not running the skid steer to getting everything ready as he used to, but as I grabbed another handful of straw and spread it over the yard, the ache in my heart was soothed a tad. “Do you remember when we helped with Brother Javin’s yard?” I asked Julia. Much had transpired since that day five years ago. Now, little Joshua was even helping as he scooped straw by the handful and dumped it off. The smile lighting his entire face spoke of the importance he felt.

My mind skipped ahead to next summer as I pictured the children playing in the large yard surrounding the new gray/ tan house with charcoal siding. Lush green grass is a blessing, especially after trying to keep little boys out of mud.

This was the week of Grandpa Yoder’s moving to their new house. Moving entails many tasks. Besides those last closet shelves to install and sinks to set up, there are all sorts of things to be hauled into the new house and a spot to be found for every bit of it. Aunt

The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



Mary was a huge blessing in managing the organization aspect and unpacking; Uncle Joseph helped with moving their belongings, putting in the new yard, and doing fix-it jobs.

Even the flu bugs showed up to help. Oh my, it made memories, just not the kind we would have chosen!

On Saturday afternoon, I told the children we’d head home and have supper; then when everyone has had their showers, we’ll come back to sit down and see Grandpa in their new house.

A couple of hours later, we were at the entrance, getting ready to go, “You may wear your good stocking caps, boys, since you just washed your hair,” I instructed the boys.

The short walk over the field and through the narrow strip of woods was soon bridged, and we were knocking at the door. “Come on in!” came the cheery greeting. The children quickly hung their clothes along the long row of hooks that had been put up for the grandchildren. I smiled. This was happening for real!

We have enjoyed having them in the neighborhood since their move from Ohio a little over a year and a half ago, and now they are in their new house at last. The house was designed with the thought of hosting family and friends. Behind the attached garage is an extra bathroom and bedroom to host their out of state family. The living room has ample space to accommodate a sizeable group of people. Grandma’s can room located under the back porch is accessible from the living room and also serves as good place to store potatoes, apples, and the likes. The shelves are already lined with canned goods she so readily shares with dinner guests.

After all the hard work, things are actually coming together. Candles flickered, curtains graced the windows; yes, it was inviting, and already, it felt like home. The children eagerly played in the toy corner behind the couches in the living room while I visited the kitchen.



Soon, Grandpa was dishing fruit slush into mugs for everyone. The children all stood around the new island and together enjoyed a refreshing treat. I knew how much Daniel would be pleased to see his children living next door to his parents. What a privilege to have their support even after he’s gone to heaven.

Winding up with a recipe, Aunt Mary suggested I share the sweet and sour green bean recipe with you. The flavor is an authentic twist, blending a tangy, sweet combination. Try it for your Thanks-

giving table, and remember to thank the One who is worthy to be thanked!

SWEET AND SOUR GREEN BEANS

1 quart green beans
3 slices bacon, fried
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup vinegar
1 egg, well-beaten
Heat the beans. Fry the bacon, drain, crumble, and set aside. In a saucepan, mix together sugar, vinegar, and eggs. Bring to a boil. Drain water off beans then add sauce and bacon. Stir and serve.

This Weekend

First Baptist Church of Ossian Thanksgiving meal

The First Baptist Church of Ossian will host a free community Thanksgiving meal from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11 at the church fellowship hall.

Carry-out service as well as limited guest seating will be available.

The meal includes turkey, potatoes, vegetables, desserts and drinks. The meal is in addition to the regular food ministry distribution every Thursday.

The church address is 1001 Dehner Drive on the north side of Ossian.

For more information, please contact the church office at (260) 622-6900.

Ducks Unlimited Bingo

A Bingo Night will be sponsored by Adams County Ducks Unlimited on Saturday, Nov. 11, at the K of C Hall, 1703 High St. in Decatur. Kids are welcome to attend.

Doors will open at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. and Bingo beginning at 7 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are priced at \$25 Single, \$40 couple, table of 4-\$80, table of 8-\$120. At door tickets will be available at a higher price: single \$30 and couple \$50. To purchase tickets in advance check out ducks.org.events.

Activities at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art

Current exhibits at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art include the following:

Landfall Press: Five Decades of Print making, through Nov. 12, a celebration of 50 years. (free with museum admission).

Indiana Artists Club 2023 Annual Members Exhibition, through Nov. 26. Featuring over 50 diverse works by Indiana artists. Nick Antonakis is juror for this exhibit. This club was founded in 1917 by 46 artists.

Fort Wayne Philharmonic November events

Among the coming programs by the Fort Wayne Philharmonic are the following:

Concerto for Oboe: Saturday, Nov. 11, 7:30- p.m. at the Auer Performance Hall at PFW Music Center. Featuring the Phil’s principal oboist, Orion Rapp.

The Muppet Christmas Carol in Concert: Thursday, Nov. 16, 7:30-0 p.m. at Auer Performance Hall at PFW Music Center.

For tickets go to ArtsTix Community Box office. For questions go to tickets@fwphil.org or call 260-422-4226.

November Events at FW’s Promenade Park

Among the events at Fort Wayne’s Promenade Park in October will be the following:

Yoga at the Riverfront at Promenade Park on 2nd Sunday, Nov. 12 from 10:30-11:30 a.m., a free event.

Free Sunday Heritage Concerts will be held on the Sunday Nov. 12 at 2:30 p.m. at the Park Foundation Pavilion. It will include a Veteran’s Tribute.

West Coast Swing Dance Lessons will be offered on Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m., through Nov. 8 with a Dance party to be held on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Park Foundation Pavilion at Promenade Park. \$10 in advance \$12 for drop-ins. Register at 260-427-6000. For all ages and limited to 100 people.

For information on all events check out Riverfrontfw.org/events.

Salamonie Summer Festival hosts Arts & Crafts Marketplace

The first annual Arts & Crafts Marketplace will be held Saturday, Nov. 11 at the Knight-Bergman Center, 132 Nancy Street in Warren.

The event will help raise funds for the Salamonie Summer Festival which has been ongoing for over 50 years.

Participating vendors will include wooden items; signs, quote blocks, snowmen, Christmas trees, blown glass, pottery including demonstrations), door decor, handmade cards, watercolor paintings, stamping projects, paper crafts, lanterns, wreaths, jewelry, crochet, soaps, color street, authors signing their books, Tupperware and more.



Highway cleanup

The Pharoahs Car Club of Bluffton gathered Sunday afternoon to pick up trash from their sponsored section of IN 116. Club members pictured from left, Sid King, Kris King, Linda Aker, Dave Aker, Pat Johnson, Joe Johnson, Dakota Johnson and Ed Ferguson. Not pictured was the photographer, club member Belinda Schmidt. (Photo contributed)

Online Directory

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

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Kiwi is a seven-month-old, tiger striped, domestic short hair, neutered male.

A Talk with Tego



Maggie is a three-year-old, black/white, domestic short hair, spayed female.



Bandit is a five-year-old, gray/white, domestic short hair, neutered male.



Tego

Tego's Tips: Keep pets busy during the holidays with their toys and pet-safe treats.

Pokagon State Park Toboggan Run

The Toboggan Run at Pokagon State Park will open for the season on Friday, Nov. 24, with hours from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekends through Feb. 19th.

In addition to weekends the slide will be open every day Dec. 23-31. Sleds rent for \$20 per hour and the park entry is \$7 per car. Gloves must be worn when riding. A warming house is available as are concessions. The slide

closes if the weather is below zero.

The wooden slide was originally built in 1935 by members of the CCC and over the years higher towers and a second track have been erected. Refrigeration was added in 1971 to allow for operation even without snow.

Cross country skis and snowshoes also are available for rental during the same hours of the slide operation.

Winter camps offered by FW Zoo

Winter camps are being offered by the Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo.

Experiences include animal encounters, behind-the-scenes learning and engaging zoo tours. Space is limited with information at 260-427-6800 ext. 301 or check out education@kidszoo.org.

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Deleon willing to do anything to extend football kicking career

By RYAN WALKER

Norwell's football season ended in the sectional quarterfinal at home against Delta a month ago.

For some players at this level, this was the last time they'd suit up and put on the pads. A small percentage of those will move on to the collegiate ranks and continue playing.

But Knights' kicker Austin Deleon is stuck somewhere in the middle, and he's doing just about everything to extend it.

Deleon was a utility defensive player for Norwell's middle school team, primarily playing outside linebacker and cornerback. During a practice in eighth grade, an assistant coach changed the trajectory of his calling in sports.

"One day, one of the coaches was talking about kicking, and I volunteered," Deleon said.

Ever since he's been the main guy kicking the pigskin for a dominant Norwell football program.

This year, Deleon made five field goals with distances from 51, 46, 41, 31, and 26 yards while missing some time with an injury. On kickoffs, 18 of the 21 went for touchbacks in the endzone. His PAT rate was a near-perfect 15/16.

His love for kicking began well before football, as Deleon's first love was for soccer. His favorite

teams include the world-famous FC Barcelona team in La Liga and West Ham United FC in the Premier League. But like some famous Barcelona players Lionel Messi and Neymar, Deleon could put it in the back of the net, too.

In his freshmen season, Deleon was the team leader in goals scored with 10 and in total points with 24. In his junior season, he tallied the team-high again with 11 goals and 25 points. He earned first-team all-NE8 twice while kicking for the football in the same season.

In the mix of on-field success, Deleon was struggling with cartilage damage in his knee after his freshmen and junior campaigns. Both of the injuries required surgery, and the first one allowed him to play both sports, but the second wasn't the same luck.

"I had surgery at the end of my freshmen year on my knee, and I was told I could keep playing through that," Deleon shared. "At the end of last year, my junior year, I had to get another surgery on my knee. The doctor I had kind of gave me the decision to keep playing both or to pick one or the other, and he said that I would be better off playing football since it wasn't as much stress on my knee."

Deleon took the doctor's advice and focused strictly on football, forgoing his

senior soccer season.

The choice gave him a new opportunity to extend his athletic career for his newfound love as a kicker, though it wasn't easy to say goodbye to another sport.

"Football has kind of taken over," Deleon said. "I've played soccer basically my whole life since I was three, and I had been playing it ever since. At the end of my junior year and this year, I've mainly just focused on football."

Throughout this football season, Deleon has posted videos, statistics, and honors via @DeleonAustin18 on Twitter (now called X).

One of the highlights includes three videos against Delta in week two, nailing a 46-yarder with plenty of room to spare, a booming touchback on a kickoff, and a high-flying close-range field goal.

Another was a re-post, showing the award winners in the Northeast 8 as he picked up his second first-team all-NE8 honor this season.

The only thing that's missing on his profile is a scholarship offer.

Deleon said that he has had some interest from other schools and is keeping in contact. His first visit occurred over the weekend at the University of Indianapolis, where he was a guest on the sidelines for the game. This offseason, he will



Norwell kicker Austin Deleon lines up for a field goal at home against Huntington North. (Photo by Glen Werling)

be reaching out to schools to get his name on their radar while attending kicking camps.

He prefers to stay close to home if given the opportunity to play at the next level, but is open to other places in the Midwest to kick. One of his dreams is

to play Division I, and he mentioned going to a MAC school would be ideal.

Even without an official offer just yet, Deleon still has time. The NCAA's early national signing day period for DI and DII football players opens on Dec. 20-22. The regular period opens

Feb. 7 to Aug. 1 if he chooses that route.

In the meantime, Deleon will be working hard from home and getting his name out there to potential schools, hoping to get the right fit.

sports@news-banner.com

Nesmith leads six Pacers in double figures as Pacers pull away from Utah Jazz

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana used its quick pace and 3-point shooters to draw Utah's defense away from the basket Wednesday night.

Then the Pacers took full advantage of their size.

Aaron Nesmith scored 24 points, Benedict Mathurin and Myles Turner each added 22 and Indiana finished with 74 points in the paint as it pulled away for a 134-118 victory over the Jazz.

"The offense we play, how fast we play, it can be anybody on any given night," Nesmith said. "It was just one of those nights."

For the Pacers, there already have been a lot of entertaining nights this season, and television celebrity David Letterman got to witness this one in person.

The NBA's highest-scoring team has won three of four and topped 120 points in four straight games. Indiana had six players reach double figures again including Tyrese Haliburton, who had 16 points — all in the second half — and 13 assists. Jalen Smith posted his first double-double of the season with 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Utah was led by Jordan Clarkson, who had a season-high 33 points. Lauri Markkanen added 24 points and nine rebounds for the Jazz, who lost their fourth in a row and fell to 0-5 on the road.

But the loss was only part of Utah's story. Before the game, the Jazz announced starting center Walker Kessler, a first-team all-rookie selection last season, will miss at least two weeks because of an injured left

elbow. Doctors recommended Kessler avoid all contact until he is re-evaluated at the end of the rest period, team officials said.

To compensate, first-year coach Will Hardy went with a three-guard lineup, giving two — rookie Keyonte George and Ochai Agbaji — their first starts of the season.

While George had seven points and nine assists, things didn't work out as Hardy expected.

"I thought we started the game well, helping our teammate who was guarding the ball," Hardy said after Indiana made 13 3-pointers. "Then as the game went on, I thought the threat of the 3-point shot impacted our defense and we started creeping out closer and closer to our own man. We left teammates on an island and the Pacers started throwing it inside."

Utah's mistakes allowed Indiana to do pretty much anything it wanted offensively.

Turner dominated the middle with a 20-point first half, helping the Pacers erase an early 10-point deficit in taking a 67-60 halftime lead.

It was even worse over the final 13 minutes. Indiana scored the final six points of the third quarter to take a 101-98 lead and extended the margin to 120-106 with 5:49 to play. That was it for the Jazz.

"Pretty much like I said, teammates just found me in the right spot," Nesmith said. "And it's the offense we play all the time. I just took advantage."

UP NEXT

Jazz: Finish a four-game trip Friday at Memphis.

Pacers: Head to Philadelphia for back-to-back games Sunday and Tuesday.

Butler AD and former basketball coach Barry Collier set to retire

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Butler athletic director and former men's basketball

coach Barry Collier will retire at the end of April, the school said Wednesday.



He said in a message to the university community. He said he planned on spending more time with his family and friends.

Before moving into administration, Collier spent three decades coaching basketball — the last 17 as a head coach at Butler,

helping to resuscitate the school's flagship program.

He later coached at Nebraska.

Collier finished with a career mark of 285-223 and was 196-132 with Butler. He led the Bulldogs to three NCAA Tournament appearances and an NIT appearance during his final four seasons at the school.

He also served as an assistant coach at Rose-Hulman in Indiana, Seattle Central Community College, Idaho, Oregon, and Stanford before taking over as Bulldogs head coach in 1989-90.

"When I first stepped onto Butler's campus in the fall of 1974, I immediately felt at home," he wrote. "I loved my time in a Bulldog

coach at Butler, helping to resuscitate the school's flagship program.

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(Continued on Page 7)

High School Calendar

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.

MONDAY, NOV 13

No events scheduled
TUESDAY, NOV 14
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Homestead at Norwell, 7:45 p.m.; Mississinewa at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING: (girls only) Norwell at Adams Central, 5:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Huntington North, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV 15
No events scheduled

The Angels hire Ron Washington, his first manager job since 2014

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — The Los Angeles Angels hired Ron Washington to be their new manager Wednesday, turning to a veteran baseball mind in an attempt to end nearly a decade of losing.

The 71-year-old Washington became the majors' oldest current manager and only the second active Black manager, joining Dave Roberts of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"I'm lost for words, but not the work it will take!" Washington told The Associated Press by text message.

Washington led the Texas Rangers from 2007-14, winning two AL pennants and going 664-611. He spent the past seven seasons as Atlanta's third base coach, helping the Braves to their 2021 World Series title.

Washington replaced Phil Nevin, who wasn't re-signed last month after 1 1/2 losing seasons in charge of the long-struggling Angels. Los Angeles is mired in stretches of eight consecutive losing seasons and nine straight non-playoff seasons, both the longest streaks in the majors.

Washington has never shied away from work: He's regularly among the first on the field, hitting hundreds of grounders to infielders.

Arte Moreno, the Angels' 77-year-old owner, clearly hopes the experienced Washington can get the most out of a long-underachieving franchise with a big payroll and three-time AL MVP Mike Trout, but almost no team success to show for it. Shohei Ohtani, the team's superstar two-way player, became a free agent this week.

Washington got a two-year contract. He's the fourth manager in the last six seasons for the Angels following the departure of Mike Scioscia, who spent

19 years running the Halos' bench before walking away after the 2018 season. Brad Ausmus, Joe Maddon and Nevin have all tried and failed to reverse the Angels' slide.

Washington's successful tenure at Texas had plenty of bumps along the way. He tested positive for cocaine use during the 2009 season and offered to resign, but he kept his job and led the Rangers to the World Series in 2010 and again in 2011.

Washington abruptly resigned from the Rangers on Sept. 5, 2014, surprising the baseball world. Two weeks later, he acknowledged having an extramarital affair and cited it as the reason for leaving Texas, which had intended to bring him back in 2015.

With a reputation as a personable, old-school manager with an ebullient personality and an exciting edge, Washington also knows the AL West well. Along with his time in Texas, he spent 13 seasons over two stints as a coach with the Oakland Athletics.

In the 2011 film "Moneyball," about the A's unlikely 2000s success, Washington was played by actor Brent Jennings, who delivered one of the movie's most memorable lines when urged by GM Billy Beane (Brad Pitt) to tell a player how easy it is to learn how to play first base: "It's incredibly hard!"

In real life, Washington is one of the most respected infield coaches in the game's history — and former A's third baseman Eric Chavez once gifted Washington one of his Gold Gloves because he played such a vital role. His drills and viewpoints have been used across the majors to improve players' performance, and he helped the Braves' infielders throughout his most recent coaching stop — all four Atlanta infielders made the 2023 NL All-Star team, along with former Washington disciples Freddie Freeman and Dansby Swanson.

Washington passes Bruce Bochy of Texas and Brian Snitker of Atlanta, both 68, as Major League Baseball's oldest current manager. Dusty Baker was the oldest at 74 before retiring this month as Houston Astros manager, and he was also the only Black manager besides Roberts.

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News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL High School

Table with columns for team names and scores. Includes 'Tuesday Girls Scores' and 'Wednesday's Scores'.

Table with columns for team names and scores. Includes 'Tuesday's Games' and 'Wednesday's Games'.

Table with columns for team names and scores. Includes 'FAR WEST' and 'Women's College Basketball Scores'.

Table with columns for team names and scores. Includes 'Pacific Division' and 'Tuesday's Games'.

Table with columns for team names and scores. Includes 'Arizona at Nashville' and 'Philadelphia at Los Angeles'.

practice squad. LOS ANGELES RAMS — Signed QB Carson Wentz. MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Placed RB Cam Akers on injured reserve.

NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE

Table with columns for team names and stats (W, L, Pct, GB). Includes 'Atlantic Division' and 'Southeast Division'.

NBA WESTERN CONFERENCE

Table with columns for team names and stats (W, L, Pct, GB). Includes 'Southwest Division' and 'Northwest Division'.

NBA CENTRAL DIVISION

Table with columns for team names and stats (W, L, Pct, GB). Includes 'Central Division'.

NBA NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Table with columns for team names and stats (W, L, Pct, GB). Includes 'Detroit Pistons' and 'San Jose'.

FOOTBALL

Table with columns for team names and stats. Includes 'Arizona Cardinals' and 'Philadelphia Eagles'.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

Table with columns for team names and stats. Includes 'Arizona Coyotes' and 'Detroit Red Wings'.

COLLEGE

Table with columns for team names and stats. Includes 'Men's College Basketball Scores' and 'College Basketball Scores'.

HOCCY

Table with columns for team names and stats. Includes 'NHL' and 'Eastern Conference'.

HOCCY

Table with columns for team names and stats. Includes 'NHL' and 'Western Conference'.

HOCCY

Table with columns for team names and stats. Includes 'NHL' and 'Central Division'.

HOCCY

Table with columns for team names and stats. Includes 'NHL' and 'Western Conference'.

HOCCY

Table with columns for team names and stats. Includes 'NHL' and 'Western Conference'.

Ohtani free agency sweepstakes begin at MLB's GM meetings

By DAVID BRANDT AP Baseball Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — The race to add two-way baseball superstar Shohei Ohtani in a blockbuster free agency deal is off to a clandestine start.

GM Perry Minasian said. "Great player. We'll see how the offseason develops. We've got our plan and we're going to try to execute that plan and see where it leads us."

There's also an off-the-field component that can't totally be quantified. Ohtani has reached a celebrity status that few other current baseball players can even imagine, and his arrival in any city would undoubtedly mean a huge boost for fan interest.

scenery. The pitching scene is a little more robust, with veterans Aaron Nola, Sonny Gray, Jordan Montgomery and Japanese star Yoshinobu Yamamoto on the market.

But none of them come close to bringing the juice — on or off the field — that Ohtani provides. Still, a half-billion bucks? That's a lot of money.

"You don't base an off-season on one single player," Minasian said.

You have to have Plan A, Plan B, Plan C, Plan D, so on and so forth. We're going to work like we always do. We're going to be aggressive, we're going to have a lot of conversations and see how everything goes."

Ichiro Suzuki and it's relatively large Asian population. Seattle GM Jerry Dipoto agreed that the Mariners have a lot to offer — though he wasn't specifically talking about Ohtani.

Buck and Aikman are now the longest-tenured broadcast crew

By JOE REEDY AP Sports Writer

Joe Buck and Troy Aikman were nicknamed "The A Team" when they joined Cris Collinsworth to form Fox's top NFL broadcast crew in 2002.

Buck and Aikman surpassed the legendary duo of Pat Summerall and John Madden, who worked together for 21 years on CBS and Fox.

Buck and Aikman surpassed the legendary duo of Pat Summerall and John Madden, who worked together for 21 years on CBS and Fox.

Three-time series champion Max Verstappen won for the record 17th time in 20 races this season and Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez padded his lead over seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton in the fight for second place in the final F1 standings by finishing fourth to Hamilton's eighth with two races remaining.

Next race: Nov. 18, Las Vegas. INDYCAR Last race: Scott Dixon won at Laguna Seca, his third win of the season, all in the last four races.

Next race: Feb. 16, Daytona Beach, Florida. FORMULA ONE Last race: Three-time series champion Max Verstappen won for the record 17th time in 20 races this season.

Butler's Collier to retire

(Continued from Page 6)

uniform and competing in Hinkle Fieldhouse. While my coaching career took me around the country for years, my heart was never too far from Indianapolis.

As athletic director, Collier hired Brad Stevens, now the Boston Celtics president of basketball operations; Chris Holtmann, the current Ohio State coach, and brought Thad Matta, one of his former players, back to the Bulldogs last season for his second stint as head coach.

Danko said the university would spend the remaining months of Collier's tenure honoring his legacy to the school. Danko also said Collier would serve as part of the transitional team for his successor.

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Advertisement for NASCAR CUP SERIES: Last race: Ryan Blaney raced to his first career NASCAR championship by banging his way past fellow contender and 2021 champion Kyle Larson.

Advertisement for NASCAR XFINITY SERIES: Last race: Cole Custer pulled away in a three-wide race with fellow contenders Justin Allgaier and John Hunter Nemechek.

Advertisement for NASCAR TRUCK SERIES: Last race: Ben Rhodes' fifth-place finish in a crash-filled, quadruple-overtime Truck Series finale.

Advertisement for FORMULA ONE: Last race: Three-time series champion Max Verstappen won for the record 17th time in 20 races this season.

Advertisement for NHRA DRAG RACING: Last event: Mike Salinas won in Top Fuel and Robert Hight won in Funny Car in Las Vegas.

Ready to be rid of accidental 'roommate'

Dear Annie: I have gotten myself into a bit of a pickle. A few months ago, I ran into an old work acquaintance at the store. We hadn't seen each other in several years. He asked to exchange numbers, and I did, thinking nothing of it. A day or two later, I received a text asking how things were going — small talk.

Long story short, I found out he was homeless and living on the streets. I told him I had a spare room and that he was welcome to stay. He said he couldn't afford to pay rent. I said it was OK and that I can give him a roof over his head and that I didn't need rent. Fast-forward a couple of months and I realize I'm paying for EVERYTHING — not just a room but also laundry supplies, food, beverages, etc.

Granted, he made a great "live-in maid," but that's not what I signed up for. I told him I was not willing to support him; all I agreed to was to give him a room to help. Fast-forward a couple more months and he ended up being able to provide his own food and beverages but still used my laundry supplies. He has replaced toilet paper once since he's been here.

The point is I don't want a roommate any longer. He barely does chores, and he sleeps all the time when he's not working his part-time job. I asked what his plans were for winter because he has a seasonal job. He claims he has in several applications. I thought helping him out would give him a hand up, not a handout. I want him out, but I feel bad that if I kick him out, he's going to be back on the streets for the winter, even though I understand his lack of motivation is not my problem. I'm tired of coming home mad almost every day

because he's a bum and does barely enough to scrape by. It may be good enough for him, but it is not for me. — Regrets Being Nice

Dear Regrets Being Nice: You did a good thing, but you probably should have seen this coming. Next time your emotions move you to take drastic measures, ask yourself whether you are truly willing to accept the ramifications. In a perfect world, you would have discussed your house rules and a timeline for how long he would be living there BEFORE he moved in.

You have slightly less leverage now that he's already living in your home, but it's still important that you have a conversation. Now that you have involved yourself in his affairs, you can't very well just kick him onto the street. Agree on a move-out date that will give him enough time to find affordable housing and a new job. If that doesn't motivate him, then you can always give him the contact information for homelessness assistance programs in your state.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



BEETLE BAILEY



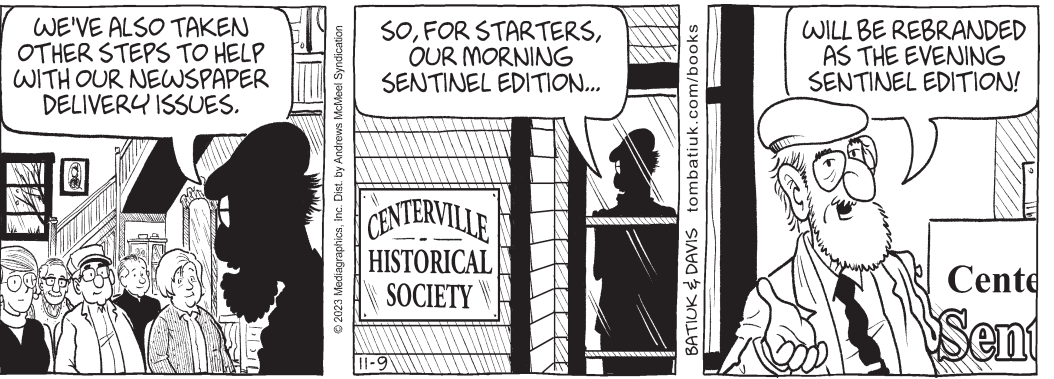
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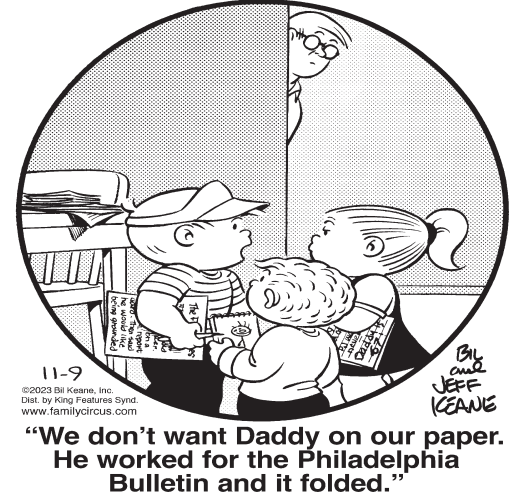
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer



By Dr. Billy Graham

The Bible teaches that guilt is inescapable

Q: I'm a social worker and a Christian. I deal with people who cannot overcome guilt for things they've done, and they can't see how God can forgive them. Why is this? — G.R.

A: The Bible teaches that guilt is inescapable. It says that all have broken God's laws. Therefore, guilt rests upon the entire human race. Some people may feel it more intensely than others, but the guilt is there whether in the conscious or in the subconscious realm. It must be dealt with before we can become normal, fulfilled personalities. This is why Jesus died. He died on the cross to take our guilt away. He shed His blood to purge our dead conscience. So

guilt is not all bad. Without it, there is nothing to drive a person toward self-examination and toward God's forgiveness.

Everywhere today hearts are empty. Hearts not attuned to God will become catch basins for every device of the devil. Yes, Satan is at work in our world (see Job 1:7). This is what the Bible says. Satan exists and has control over multitudes whose hearts have never been captured by Jesus Christ. The devil has hundreds of agents writing pornographic literature and producing immoral movies to pollute human minds. He has intellectuals in high positions teaching a hedonistic and permissive philosophy. He has recruited even church leaders who are advocating more promi-

scuity. The culture has had great success in infiltrating people's minds. But is there hope? The answer is absolutely. The Bible is filled with testimonies of those who, by God's grace, were victorious over Satan's power. John Newton was a slave trader on the west coast of Africa. One day in a storm at sea, he met Jesus Christ and it changed his life forever. He will always be remembered for writing the hymn "Amazing Grace." No one is beyond the reach of the loving arms of the Savior.

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

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 37 Plus
 39 Russian space station
 41 "Diamonds" singer

DOWN
 2 Brooch
 3 Grants a right to
 4 Tel Aviv's land
 5 Menlo Park
 6 Building wings
 7 "Twilight" author
 8 Danger sign
 9 "Superfood" berry
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 11 Tolkien creatures
 16 Apr. check
 20 Piano support
 21 Fed workplace monitor
 22 Salt Lake City squad
 23 Bit of advice
 27 River blocker
 29 Uzbek capital
 30 Theater award
 31 Peruse
 33 Shoulder muscle
 35 Cacophony
 38 — chi
 40 Kings and queens
 43 Major mix-up
 45 Muppet eagle
 46 Youngsters
 47 Bailiwick
 48 LPGA star Pak
 49 Wide smile
 53 Roman 1051
 54 Up-to-date
 55 Brewed drink

Solution time: 24 mins.

11/09	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30
WINM (12)	11	26	63		3D Woman Julie & Friends	Movie					TCT Today News	Perry Stone James Robison	Dr. Robert Jewish	Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor	Rabbi Lapin				
CBS WANE (18)	2	15	15		News (N) Inside Edition (N)	News at 6 (N)	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Big Brother (N)	Following a live vote, a houseguest is evicted & interviewed; remaining houseguests compete.	SEAL Team (N)	Trust, But Verify: Part 2 (N)	Nightcast (N)	(35) Late Show-Colbert (N)	(35) Comics Unleashed				
Antenna WANE-2 (152)	106	20			Chicago P.D. "Assets"	Chicago P.D. "Familia"	Chicago P.D. "Infection, Part III"	Chicago P.D. "Let It Bleed"	Chicago P.D. "The Real You"	Chicago P.D. "A Good Man"			Chicago P.D. "Donde Vives"	Chicago P.D. "End of Watch"						
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21		ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 (N)	ABC World News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	Bachelor "The Women Tell All" (N)	(15) Bachelor Stars & villains from "The Bachelor" & "The Bachelorette" get another chance to find love.	Transplant "Nadir" (N)	Dateline NBC	News (N)	(35) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon			(35) Jimmy Kimmel	(35) Nightline		
NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8	14		Family Feud 25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	Law & Order "Class Retreat"			Chicago P.D. "Buried Secrets"	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Mom	Mom	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	
MNT WPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	The King of Queens "Kid 'Hi-Def Jam"	Modern Family	News (N)	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Dateline "The Call" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Buried Secrets"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Mom	Mom	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs		
CW WISE (38)	8	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show	TMZ Live (N)		Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Son of a Critch (N)	Runs the Burbs (N)	Children Run (N)	Everyone E (N)	Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	
PBS WFWA (39)	13	5	39	39	(4:00) Perform. Ask This Old House	PBS NewsHour (N)	BBC News America	Arts In Focus (N)	This Old House (N)	Old House (N)	Little Bird "I Want My Mom" (N)	World on Fire on Masterpiece	Amanpour and Company (N)	This Old House	Ask This Old House					
PBS WFWA (48)	3				(4:00) Perform. Ask This Old House	Context	BBC News America	PBS NewsHour (N)	Now Entering Wapahani	Little Bird "I Want My Mom" (N)	World on Fire on Masterpiece	Amanpour and Company (N)	This Old House	Ask This Old House						
FOX WFFT (55)	6	5	55	55	WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	Big Bang	Big Bang	Hell's Kitchen (N)	LEGO Masters (N)			FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon					

The Classifieds

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

King Classic Sudoku

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

11/9

VEHICLES

Auto/Trucks



2011 CADILLAC CTS 4 door coupe, V-6, 307 H.P., local, 1 owner, 51,100 miles, Tuscan bronze, clear Carfax Report, \$13,500, 812-699-1341.

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

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

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Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 10-19-25-37-39
Lotto Plus — 04-10-13-14-19-41
Cash4Life — 16-24-37-52-56, Cash Ball: 04
Quick Draw Midday — 03-07-08-10-14-17-21-28-29-34-38-52-54-55-58-67-70-74-77-79, BE: 28
Daily Three-Midday — 08-00-06, SB: 08
Daily Three-Evening — 08-02-06, SB: 03
Daily Four-Midday — 04-08-07-04, SB: 08
Daily Four-Evening — 00-00-05-07, SB: 03
Quick Draw Evening — 04-12-15-16-21-22-27-31-32-36-40-46-51-61-73-74-77-78-79-80, BE: 80
Hoosier Lotto — 01-03-13-29-31-37
MEGA MILLIONS
Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$223 million
POWERBALL
14-21-33-39-62 Powerball: 20; Power Play: 2X

Mark your Calendar for this event

FREE EVENT - Surviving the Holidays After Loss Sunday, Nov. 12, 2-4 p.m., Hope Missionary Church. No registration needed. Griefshare.org for more information.

Public Sale Calendar

BIDDING ENDS NOVEMBER 12 - (Online Only) - Kiper Family, 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. Auction conducted at Wells County 4-H Community Center, 1240 4-H Park Road, Bluffton, IN. Land located at County Rd. 100 N & State Rd. 116, NW corner of Bluffton, 118.91 acres, Sec. 28 & 33, Lancaster Twp., Wells County. 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.](http://HollowayAuctionCompany.com), 260-824-5060, www.HollowayAuction.com.
DECEMBER 1 - 8 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. 815 Adams St., Decatur. Truck & equipment 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](http://KrueckebergAuction.com), 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](http://HaldermanRealEstate.com), 800-424-2324, halderman.com, Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181.

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HELOISE HINT: When you head out to a garage sale, Grab a roll of paper towels and a bottle of hand sanitizer. You will be better prepared to handle items that are dirty or dusty. Bring along a tote bag as well to hold the items you buy. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

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

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WELLS COUNTY)
IN THE WELLS)
CIRCUIT COURT)
CAUSE NUMBER:)
90C01-1209-JP-000059)
ON RELATION OF THE)
DEPARTMENT OF CHILD)
SERVICES)
CHILD SUPPORT BUREAU)
IN THE SUPPORT OF)
THE PATERNITY OF:)
BRAYLON A. MARTIN)
Petitioner)
vs)
DERRICK WEEDMAN)
Respondent)
To: DERRICK WEEDMAN)
816 N 100 E)
BLUFFTON, IN 46714-9741)
AND)
To: JENNIFER L. WELLS)
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LIBERTY LAKE, WA)
99019-9604)
ORDER TO APPEAR
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Modification hearing will be held in the above captioned cause on the 8th day of December, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the Wells Circuit Courtroom, Wells County Court House, Bluffton, IN 46714. The Court being duly advised in the premises hereby ORDERS you to appear at said hearing. Your failure to appear as ordered may result in a bench warrant being issued for your arrest.
EXAMINED, ORDERED and DECREED this October 26, 2023
Kenton W. Kiracofe
JUDGE
WELLS CIRCUIT COURT

Blinken urges united future Palestinian government for Gaza, West Bank

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Antony Blinken called on Wednesday for a united and Palestinian-led government for Gaza and the West Bank after the war ends, as a step toward Palestinian statehood. That vision sharpens U.S. differences with ally Israel on what the future should look like for the Palestinian territories once Israel's military campaign against Hamas winds down.

Blinken's outline of what Americans think should come next for Gaza also serves as a check on the postwar scenarios floated by officials of Israel's hard-right government and its supporters. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statement Monday that Israel's military would likely maintain security control of Gaza for an "indefinite period" appears to have heightened U.S. concerns.

Any postwar governing plan for Gaza "must include Palestinian-led governance and Gaza unified with the West Bank under the Palestinian Authority," Blinken told reporters in Japan.

He and other top diplomats of the Group of Seven leading industrial democracies were gathered in Tokyo for a meeting focused on Hamas' Oct. 7 attacks in Israel and on easing the suffering of the 2.3 million Palestinians trapped in Gaza under Israel's now month-old military offensive and blockade.

Blinken reinforced the Biden administration's rejections of any return of lasting direct Israeli control in Gaza, as well as of a proposal — promoted in a policy report by Israel's intelligence ministry — to push Gaza's Palestinian residents into neighboring Egypt.

"We're very clear on no reoccupation, just as we're very clear on no displacement of the Palestinian population," Blinken said. "And, as we've said before, we need to see and get to, in effect, unity of governance when it comes to Gaza and the West Bank, and ultimately to a Palestinian state."

The U.S. diplomat's remarks highlight the areas of widening

daylight between Netanyahu's government and its most important ally on how Israel conducts the war and its postwar relations with the Palestinians.

The U.S. and Israel agree that the Hamas militant group cannot return to its rule of the Gaza Strip. But none of the ideas that Israeli officials have raised for Gaza's governance after the war have included independent Palestinian rule as a credible possibility.

The Palestinian Authority administers semiautonomous areas of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. While internationally recognized, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is widely unpopular among Palestinians even in the West Bank. Netanyahu long has depicted both Abbas and the Palestinian Authority as too incapable to be a credible partner in peace efforts with Israel.

A member of Israel's decision-making War Cabinet on Wednesday acknowledged that Israel does not yet have a vision for the Gaza Strip after its war against Hamas ends, saying the battle plan is open-ended and will include a long-term Israeli security presence in the besieged territory.

The comments by Benny Gantz added new uncertainty to the Israeli campaign in Gaza, which has come under growing international scrutiny because of the heavy civilian death toll and widespread destruction. The Group of Seven, which includes many of Israel's closest allies, called for Israel to do more to improve the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Speaking in Israel to international journalists, Gantz, a former defense minister and military chief of staff, said the only certainty in Israeli thinking is that Hamas can have no role in the future of Gaza. But he described a lengthy campaign in Gaza and linked the territory's future to quiet along Israel's northern front with Lebanon and eastern front with the West Bank.

"Once the Gaza area is safe, and the northern area will be safe,

and the Judea and Samaria region will calm down, we will settle down and review an alternative mechanism for Gaza," he said, using the biblical term for the West Bank. "I do not know what it will be."

"We can come up with any mechanism we think is appropriate, but Hamas will not be part of it," he added. "We need to replace the Hamas regime and ensure security superiority for us."

Asked how long the war would last, Gantz said, "there are no limitations."

Since Israel's 2005 withdrawal from Gaza, successive Israeli governments have pursued a policy of severing links between the West Bank and Gaza, the two territories that, along with east Jerusalem, were to make up a future Palestinian state. The isolation of Gaza deepened after Hamas drove out the forces of Abbas in 2007 and Israel, along with Egypt, imposed a blockade.

Hamas' breakout from Gaza on Oct. 7 and Israel's deepening military response have marked the bloodiest fighting by far in repeated wars. President Joe Biden, whose administration had made a policy of not publicly pushing Netanyahu's coalition to return to long-abandoned talks to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, from the first hours after the Hamas attack declared the U.S. would stand by Israel in its military response.

Biden rushed U.S. weapons to Israel and sent warships to the region. The American president flew on Oct. 18 to Israel, where he clasped Netanyahu and Israeli survivors of the Hamas raids, which killed more than 1,400 people, in tight hugs.

The past week, however, has seen increasing private and public U.S. pressure on Israel to alter how it conducts its air, ground and sea campaign against Hamas.

Deaths in Gaza under Israeli bombardment have soared past 10,000, alienating international

Israel-Hamas fight heats up in Gaza City, accelerating exodus of Palestinians to the south

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Palestinians living in the heart of Gaza's largest city said Wednesday they could see and hear Israeli ground forces closing in from multiple directions, accelerating the exodus of thousands of civilians as food and water become scarce and urban fighting between Israel and Hamas heats up.

The Israeli army has not given specifics on troop movements as it presses its ground assault, vowing to crush Hamas after its deadly Oct. 7 assault inside Israel. But residents said Israeli forces had moved into inner neighborhoods of Gaza City amid intense bombardment all around the surrounding north.

Clashes took place within 0.6 miles of the territory's largest hospital, Shifa, which has become a focal point in the war.

The Israeli military says Hamas' main command center is located in and under the hospital complex and that senior leaders of the group are hiding there, using the facility as a shield.

Hamas and hospital staff deny the claim and say the military is making a pretext to strike it.

For Palestinians in Gaza, the hospital is a symbol of civilian suffering in the war. Like others, it has been overwhelmed by a constant stream of wounded and struggling as electricity and medical supplies run out. Tens of thousands of displaced people have been sheltering in and around the complex.

The Group of Seven wealthy industrial nations issued a statement Wednesday condemning Hamas and supporting Israel's right to self-defense. But the group also called for the "unimpeded" delivery of food, water, medicine and fuel, and for "humanitarian pauses" in the fighting.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has left open the possibility of small pauses to deliver aid, but has ruled out a broader cease-fire unless nearly 240 hostages taken by Hamas are freed.

"There are no limitations" on how long the war will last, Benny Gantz, a member of Israel's decision-making War Cabinet, said Wednesday.

Gantz acknowledged that Israel does not yet have a vision for the Gaza Strip after it destroys Hamas rule, but said it will include an Israeli security presence in the territory after the war — a point that echoed comments earlier this week by Netanyahu, who said Israel would likely maintain security control of Gaza for an "indefinite period."

governments that had endorsed Israel's right of self-defense. Israel blames Hamas for the heavy death toll, accusing the group of using civilians as human shields.

Emerging U.S.-Israeli differences already included Americans pressing for what they call humanitarian pauses in the fighting to

allow for greater delivery of aid to Gaza's blockaded residents. Israeli officials have linked any cease-fires to Hamas releasing the more than 240 people it is believed to be holding hostage.

Blinken said Wednesday the time "is now to start the conversation about the future" for Gaza.

Third GOP debate begins with candidates competing on foreign policy

MIAMI (AP) — A smaller field of presidential candidates took the stage in Wednesday's third Republican primary debate, where they were expected to focus on the Israel-Hamas war and try to make the case that they can cut into Donald Trump's sizeable lead.

Trump, meanwhile, again skipped the debate, instead holding a rally not far from the Miami debate site. He refused to participate due to his large lead in national and early state polls.

With voting set to start in leadoff Iowa in January, no one has thus far been able to shake Trump's dominance of the Republican primary. Many of the candidates have gone after each other hoping to break out as a viable alternative to the former president, emphasizing their differences on foreign policy but also ripping Trump for his criticisms of the Israeli prime minister and claims that a

group attacking Israel was "very smart."

Republican strategist David Kochel, who has advised several past presidential campaigns, said beforehand that despite Trump's absence from the stage, the debate offers a chance for someone like Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis or former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley to try to emerge as a strong alternative.

"If this race does get much more quickly down to a two-person race," Kochel said, "Who knows what the dynamic will be?"

So far, however, Trump has retained huge leads despite his efforts to try to overturn his 2020 election loss, his embrace of those jailed for storming the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021 and his facing four criminal indictments and a civil fraud case against his businesses for which he testified in New York this week.

His campaign has worked to overpower DeSantis in their shared home state and publicly said it wants to score blowout wins in early primary states to seal the nomination.

The rivalry between DeSantis and Haley has ramped up in recent weeks, with Haley rising in a prominent Iowa poll and gaining new interest from donors and voters. Both campaigns and allied super PACs have hit each other over the war in Israel and the U.S. relationship with China as Republicans take an increasingly antagonistic view of Beijing.

Both candidates have also diverged on abortion rights, a political challenge for Republicans since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. Supporters of abortion rights claimed new momentum Tuesday after elections in several states went in their favor.

In addition to DeSantis and Haley, also appearing on stage Wednesday were South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy.

The Republican candidates have been staunchly supportive of Israel in its offensive after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack killing more than 1,400 people.

DeSantis has used his official role as governor to show support for Israel, authorizing the state to fly hundreds of Americans evacuated from Israel to the U.S., ordered state universities to disband chapters of a pro-Palestinian group, and arranged to help send weapons, ammunition and other supplies to Israel.

Haley, also the former governor of South Carolina, has leaned into her experience as Trump's U.N. ambassador arguing in support of the Israeli government.

Haley and DeSantis have also become more frequent and vocal critics of Trump in recent weeks.

The race's overwhelming front-runner, meanwhile, was in a stadium about 10 miles away from the debate in the heavily Latino city of Hialeah.

Trump's campaign has suggested the Republican National Committee should stop having debates and instead focus on supporting his campaign.

Top advisers Susie Wiles and Chris LaCivita raised Trump's debunked claims of election fraud and said that if the party does not cancel debates, it is "an admission to the grassroots that their concerns about voter integrity are not taken seriously and national Republicans are more concerned about helping Joe Biden than ensuring a safe and secure election."

The RNC did not respond to a message seeking comment.

Meta says it will start labeling political ads that use AI-generated imagery

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facebook and Instagram will require political ads running on their platforms to disclose if they were created using artificial intelligence, their parent company announced on Wednesday.

Under the new policy by Meta, labels acknowledging the use of AI will appear on users' screens when they click on ads. The rule takes effect some time in the new year and will be applied worldwide. A specific date has not been set.

Microsoft unveiled its own election year initiatives on Tuesday, including a tool that will allow campaigns to insert a digital watermark into their ads. These watermarks are intended to help voters understand who created the ads, while also ensuring the ads can't be digitally altered by others without leaving evidence.

The development of new AI programs has made it easier than ever to quickly generate lifelike audio, images and video. In the wrong hands, the technology could be used to create fake videos of a candidate or frightening images of election fraud or polling place violence. When strapped to the powerful algorithms of social media, these fakes could mislead and confuse voters on a scale never seen. Meta Platforms Inc. and

other tech companies have been criticized for not doing more to address this risk. Wednesday's announcement by Meta — which came on the same day House lawmakers held a hearing on deepfakes — isn't likely to assuage those concerns.

While officials in Europe are working on comprehensive regulations for the use of AI, time is running out for lawmakers in the United States to pass regulations ahead of the 2024 election.

Earlier this year, the Federal Election Commission began a process to potentially regulate AI-generated deepfakes in political ads before the 2024 election. President Joe Biden's administration last week issued an executive order intended to encourage responsible development of AI. Among other provisions, it will require AI developers to provide safety data and other information about their programs with the government.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Yvette Clarke of New York is the sponsor of legislation that would require candidates to label any ad created with AI that runs on any platform, as well as a bill that would require watermarks on synthetic images, and make it a crime to create unlabeled deepfakes inciting violence or depicting sexual activity. Clarke

said the actions by Meta and Microsoft are a good start, but not sufficient.

"We stand at the precipice of a new era of disinformation warfare aided by the use of new A.I. tools," she said in an emailed statement. "Congress must establish safeguards to not only protect our democracy but also curb the tide of deceptive AI-generated content that can potentially deceive the American people."

The U.S. isn't the only nation holding a high-profile vote next year: National elections are also scheduled in countries including Mexico, South Africa, Ukraine, Taiwan, India and Pakistan.

AI-generated political ads have already made an appearance in the U.S. In April, the Republican National Committee released an entirely AI-generated ad meant to show the future of the United States if Biden, a Democrat, is

reelected. It employed fake but realistic photos showing boarded-up storefronts, armored military patrols in the streets, and waves of immigrants creating panic. The ad was labeled to inform viewers that AI was used.

In June, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' presidential campaign shared an attack ad against his GOP primary opponent Donald Trump that used AI-generated images of the former president hugging infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci.

"It's gotten to be a very difficult job for the casual observer to figure out: What do I believe here?" said Vince Lynch, an AI developer and CEO of the AI company IV.AI. Lynch said some combination of federal regulation and voluntary policies by tech companies is needed to protect the public. "The companies need to

take responsibility," Lynch said.

Meta's new policy will cover any advertisement for a social issue, election or political candidate that includes a realistic image of a person or event that has been altered using AI. More modest use of the technology — to resize or sharpen an image, for instance, would be allowed with no disclosure.

Besides labels informing a viewer when an ad contains AI-generated imagery, information about the ad's use of AI will be included in Facebook's online ad library. Meta, which is based in Menlo Park, California, says content that violates the rule will be removed.

Google unveiled a similar AI labeling policy for political ads in September. Under that rule, political ads that play on YouTube or other Google platforms will have to disclose the use of

AI-altered voices or imagery.

Along with its new policies, Microsoft released a report noting that nations such as Russia, Iran and China will try to harness the power of AI to interfere with elections in the U.S. and elsewhere and warning that the U.S. and other nations need to prepare.

Groups working for Russia are already at work, concluded the report from the Redmond, Washington-based tech giant.

"Since at least July 2023, Russia-affiliated actors have utilized innovative methods to engage audiences in Russia and the west with inauthentic, but increasingly sophisticated, multi-media content," the report's authors wrote. "As the election cycle progresses, we expect these actors' trademark will improve while the underlying technology becomes more capable."

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