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Full hearts, empty plates

Raina Sisson shares passion for food service

By SYDNEY KENT

As the Food Services Director for Norwell Community Schools, Raina Sisson asks a lot of questions.

Some of the questions are small, like: "What kind of foods do you want to see at school?" or "What is your favorite item on your tray today?" Some of the questions are big, like: "What training is available to me or my staff to better serve students?" or "Is there enough food at home?"

Sissons is in her fourth school year in the role, however, she has dedicated the last three decades to answering these questions in the field of child nutrition. Sisson said that her conversations with experts in the field of child nutrition while writing a college paper sparked her interest.

The topic seemed obvious for her as the daughter of an administrative assistant for the Child Nutrition Program at the Department of Education.

"As luck would have it, I went to Ohio State," Sisson explained. "I would see my mom and the people that I would talk to when I visited her, which eventually became my coworkers. The National School Breakfast Program was getting a huge push in Ohio at the time. The school I went to growing up did not have a breakfast program and it was neat to see they were working on ways to feed kids. It opened my eyes to how critical child nutrition is. That was the first time I really saw the plight of children who are food insecure."

According to Feeding America, one in

eight children do not have enough food to eat in Indiana. When schools in the state stopped offering free lunches last year, Sisson wrote letters to and spoke with congressmen to request that they extend the free lunch program.

It takes an unbelievable amount of foresight to feed a school — with meals planned as far as 18 months in advance. On days where there is an unexpected shortage from the food truck, Sisson embodies the next door neighbor with the cup of sugar, only for hundreds of students and staff.

This was evident as squeaky shoes, smiles and laughter quickly filled the line at Norwell High School last Thursday. Trays of the once-beloved Turkey Shortcake and gravy, green bean casserole, pizza, iced coffee and fresh salad filled the line — thanks to a dedicated staff and quick run to the store by Sisson that morning.

Many students opted for pizza, unsure of the new addition, while others took several helpings of the Thanksgiving meal. One student said she really enjoyed the green bean casserole. Another emphatically commented that the shortcake was "bussin'," a current teen-embraced slang term meaning "excellent."

Sisson was quick to credit her staff and the school board for their unwavering dedication and support to feeding kids. Sisson said she is grateful for the dedication of Megan Simmerman, Teresa Gerwig and Debbie Fillers, the three managers for the district's food service

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Above, Food Services Director Raina Sisson stopped from table to table asking students what they thought about the turkey shortcake. The students at this table were big fans. At left, Heather Sinclair and Sue Baller filled the kitchen with bright smiles and the smell of delicious food. (Photos by Sydney Kent)



A day of thanks

Laughter and chatter filled the halls of the First Reformed Church of Bluffton as volunteers took to their respective stations. Upstairs, groups took on the task of divvying up pies and rolls. Downstairs, volunteers worked on preparing green bean casseroles, potatoes, turkeys, and more. Current residents at Hannah's House helped prepare cups of cranberry sauce for meals. The church offered the free Thanksgiving meal for the 18th consecutive year, utilizing 250 pounds of potatoes, 131 pies, 75 loaves of bread, 34 gallons of green beans, 24 turkey breasts and 16 whole turkeys, 15 dozen eggs, and pounds and pounds of bacon to make the meal.

Above, Diana K., administrative assistant at the church, emulated the heart of the church's mission Thursday morning as she held open the doors: all are welcome. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

Above right, Carry-out turkey dinners were offered by church members. Loading up a car were, left to right, Alannah Goodwin and Melissa Tolson. Middle right, there was an assembly line for dishing up turkey dinners in the church's kitchen, with folks of all ages assisting, including Kayde Smith, at the right. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)

At right, pictured left to right, Cathy Hayden, Julie Johnson, Pam Tuttle, and Judy Glenn peel over 250 pounds of potatoes for the free meal for the community. **More photos on Page 5.** (Photo by Sydney Kent)



Lawmakers to revisit third-grade students reading proficiency

Plans to double-down on antisemitism ban as some Democrats plan push for the right to citizen-led ballot initiatives on Org Day

By WHITNEY DOWNARD and LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Too many Hoosier third-graders can't read at an appropriate skill level — and some shouldn't be going on to fourth grade, Indiana lawmakers said Tuesday during the ceremonial start to the legislative session.

They're also planning to tackle student truancy, antisemitism and more during the non-budget session, which will begin in earnest Jan. 8 and must end by mid-March. Leaders elaborated on what they won't pursue during a legislative preview Monday.

"We're adversely affecting any student that we pass along (because) they can't read at the appropriate level," said House Speaker Todd Huston, R-Fishers.

He emphasized that low literacy is connected to a greater
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Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade ushers in the holiday season

By LISET CRUZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Beloved characters like Snoopy and SpongeBob SquarePants soared through the skies above New York City on Thursday and bands marched along the streets below as the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade ushered in the holiday season.

The parade started on Manhattan's Upper West Side making its way alongside Central Park in front of big crowds and a national television audience before ending in front of Macy's flagship store on 34th Street.

Among the big names performing is Cher, who just released her first Christmas album. The Oscar-, Emmy- and Grammy Award-winner has a prime spot — performing just before the arrival of Santa Claus, which marks the end of the
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Outside

No warm weather to be seen in Black Friday sales

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 38	High 40	High 37
Low 22	Low 24	Low 22

More Weather on Page 2

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Vol. 95 No. 20

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November 24, 2023

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Full hearts, empty plates

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program. “They’re doing a great job,” Sisson began. “They’re working hard to make meals appealing to kids. We like to make sure we have lots of color. But if kids don’t like it we switch it out and find something else they do like and want to eat.”

While some students may not eat nutritious meals outside of school due to the rising cost of food in grocery stores, Sisson said that for many other students it is a cultural issue.

“We are a fast food generation,” Sisson explained. “It’s not just a low income issue with students not getting fruits or vegetables. A lot of veggies kids eat is a potato in the form of a french fry. Parents are busy and going to the drive thru on the way to practice. We offer as many choices as we can to expose kids, and they will try them. It’s been really cool to see kids eating cherry tomatoes and apricots and strawberries and grapes.”



Above, Sarah Herbse, Emily Morales and Daniela Claudia picked the turkey shortcake to try during the Thanksgiving-themed meal. (Photos by Sydney Kent)

Sisson said she is constantly on the search for new trends and healthier options to be comparable to what kids are eating outside of school. She recently applied for a grant to bring smoothies to the cafeteria.

“From the board members to the lovely ladies

in the cafeteria, I am truly blessed with a great team,” Sisson added. “The board looks at the program as being such an important part of our school. The support we get from them is incredible. I can’t say enough about that. Kids are constantly evolving and changing, we

try to keep up.” In a society where students are hungry for both food and connection, the food service staff at Norwell clearly demonstrates a daily example of what it means to nourish one another with a thankful heart.

sydney@news-banner.com

Reading proficiency

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likelihood of incarceration and use of government assistance, adding, “That’s just not fair to the kid.”

Importance of reading scores

Third grade is typically the point at which children shift from learning to read to using reading itself as a tool to learn other information. In Indiana, third-graders who fail a reading exam can be held back unless they’ve already been retained twice — with additional exceptions if a child is disabled or an English-language learner and a committee decides to promote them.

But legislative leaders said those exceptions have been misused.

“There have been exceptions created and the exceptions have gotten broader and broader and broader,” Huston said.

“There may be some opportunities for waivers under the right circumstance, but it seems like an awful lot of kids are getting into fourth grade and then we’re not keeping an eye on them to make sure that they do later become proficient,” Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray said.

“Will it make some parents mad? Yeah, I suppose so,” Bray, R-Martinsville, added. “But they need to be vested in their child’s education ... so we hope that they’ll be partners with us.”

State law refers to retention as “a last resort.”

But if lawmakers create a bottleneck at third grade, schools could struggle to staff enough teachers. Large class sizes also have negative effects on students.

Bray acknowledged that possibility, especially in the first year after implementation of such a law, but said schools could move their teachers and classrooms around to adjust.

Asked how the move would impact school budgets, Huston countered, “How does it affect kids?”

“(Lawmakers will) figure out the budget thing, but we are doing those kids a total disservice,” he added. “We’ll have to figure (it) out because if it’s gonna cost us more money, we should pay more money.”

But he was clear that Indiana’s goal isn’t to hold back kids — it’s to ensure that they’ve learned to read by the time fourth grade rolls around.

The focus on education could extend to student truancy.

Nearly 20 percent of Hoosier students were chronically absent from school last year — meaning that they missed 18 days or more — according to the Indiana State Board of Education.

Bray called that a “horrific statistic.” But he and Huston noted that there are already laws about truancy on the books. Instead, they proposed a greater focus on enforcement.

Proposals on defining antisemitism, ballot initiatives

One bill making a comeback will be legislation defining antisemitism, including it in code as religious discrimination and requiring schools to provide education “free of religious discrimination.”

Huston said it would be “even more appropriate” in 2023, acknowledging Israel’s ongoing war against Hamas, a terrorist organization. An Oct. 7 Hamas attack killed more than 1,200 Israeli people and Hamas is still holding hostages. Counter-attacks from Israel have killed more than 12,000 Palestinians.

Over the last few weeks, reports of violence against Jewish, Muslim and Arab people have increased.

“You don’t have to turn on the news or read the news ... to see the situation happening far too often across our country to the Jewish students,” Huston said.

However, the bill didn’t receive a hearing in the Senate last year, and Bray didn’t commit to hearing it this year.

“We’ll take a look at it when it comes back over here. I haven’t spent much time on that yet,” Bray said.

Across the aisle, Senate Democrat Leader Greg Taylor said his caucus would be advocating for working Hoosiers “still struggling to get by.”

Key issues would include child care policies, paid family leave and even a push for citizen-led ballot initiatives — something other states have used to legalize marijuana for medicinal or recreational purposes.

“It would be scary to put that on the ballot. But what does it say about us that we don’t want to hear from Hoosiers? ... (And) allow everyday Hoo-

siers to have their voices be heard?” Taylor said.

The Indiana Constitution doesn’t currently allow ballot initiatives. Any sort of citizen referendum would need buy-in from Republican lawmakers, who seemed uninterested.

“We pass laws here in the General Assembly and we hope and ask the voters to hold us accountable,” Bray said.

AFT calls for protections to collective bargaining, unions

In a separate event, GlenEva Dunham, president of the Indiana chapter of the American Federation of Teachers, said the union wanted to work with lawmakers to find “real solutions,” including a plan to address teacher shortages that doesn’t rely on temporary licenses.

“We know that public schools are the backbone of our democracy and they create opportunities for our children, regardless of their zip codes,” Dunham said. “We know that public schools unite all of us.”

Dunham also announced that AFT would be endorsing Democrat Jennifer McCormick, the former Superintendent of Education, in the 2024 race for governor.

In terms of agenda, Dunham said the organization wanted to protect collective bargaining and union negotiations with districts.

Current teacher Sen. Andrea Hunley said her own district had benefited from collective bargaining, which she said expanded the use of floating holidays and added leave for staff recovering from a miscarriage.

“But that’s not something that the people at the top are going to come up with on their own,” Hunley, D-Indianapolis, said.

Another Democrat from Indianapolis, Sen. Fady Qaddoura, announced his intention to reopen the state budget and add \$650 million more in funding for schools — which would shore up tuition support and cover school textbooks fees. However, his proposal is unlikely to get much traction with the Republican supermajority.

Asked if he’d consider reopening the budget for education, Huston was quick to answer with a firm “No.”

Weather

Friday, November 24, 2023

(24-hour observations at 8:13 p.m. Thursday)

High: 48; Low: 33; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.46 feet at 9:45 p.m. Thursday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 38. North wind around 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 40. East wind around 5 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24. East wind around 5 mph becoming south after midnight.

Sunday: Rain and snow showers likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 37. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 31.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 16.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 32.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 20.

Jury finds Indiana Senate candidate’s family-owned company price gouged eggs

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle

An Illinois jury found on Tuesday that several companies, including one co-owned by a U.S. Senate candidate from Indiana, conspired to restrict the supply of eggs to drive up the prices.

Rose Acre Farms Inc. — previously chaired by John Rust, who is running to succeed U.S. Sen. Mike Braun — Cal-Maine Foods Inc. and two egg-industry groups will have to pay damages to General Mills Inc., a Kraft Heinz Co. unit, Kellogg Co. and Nestle SA. The same jury will determine the damages to be awarded in a trial scheduled to begin on Nov. 29, as reported by Bloomberg.

Rust said he couldn’t comment on the case because it is still under adjudication. Rose Acres also said it couldn’t comment for the same reason.

Rust is challenging U.S. Rep. Jim Banks, a Columbia City Republican, who has the backing of the Indiana Republican Party, a commanding lead and Braun’s endorsement.

“Today’s verdict proves John Rust isn’t just a conman pretending to be a Republican, he is a crook who exploits working class Hoosiers across Indiana for his own financial gain,” Banks said in a statement. “While Indiana families struggle to put food on the table, he’s making it even harder to do that. Hoosier families deserve to know whether he is bankrolling his campaign with money he made ripping off Hoosier families by gouging the price of eggs for decades and through the COVID pandemic.”

According to court filings, the business competitors coordinated to limit the supply of eggs by timing their slaughters earlier and delaying hatchings — starting in 2000. In particular, Rose Acre exported eggs even when it didn’t have a surplus, decreasing the domestic supply, and “under the guise of animal welfare” reduced henhouse density.

Emails included in the final arguments include messages from Marcus Rust to John Rust, his brother, detailing plans to reduce the egg supply under financial pressure from egg industry groups.

Marcus Rust now chairs Rose Acres after John Rust stepped down. The company is the second-largest egg producer in the United States.

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Macy’s Thanksgiving parade

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parade.

Other celebrities and musical groups taking part include Jon Batiste, Bell Biv DeVoe, Brandy, Jessie James Decker, Pentatonix and Miss America 2023 Grace Stanke. The parade also includes performances from the casts of some Broadway shows.

The parade was briefly disrupted when about a half-dozen protesters in jumpsuits covered in fake blood glued themselves to the street just in front of a float carrying characters from the fast food giant McDonald’s. They carried a banner that said “Free Palestine” and “Genocide then. Genocide now” and were taken into custody.

The parade continued as police worked.

New balloons debuting this year include Leo the lizard, a character from a Netflix film, who is more than 40 feet tall, as well as ones that have been there before — like SpongeBob, coming in at 44 feet.

Some characters, like Snoopy, have been in the parade for many years, but this year’s balloon is a new Beagle Scout Snoopy version — celebrating the 50th anniversary of his first appearance in the Peanuts comics.

The parade isn’t just about what’s going on in the skies, though. At street level, the procession includes more than two dozen floats, inter-

spered with marching bands from around the country and a number of clown crews among the 8,000 people participating, organizers said.

Thousands lined the streets in coats on a chilly, sunny morning. Children were on the shoulders of their parents, shouting as

characters like Bluey and Big Bird from Sesame Street passed by.

This is the 97th time the parade has been held since 1924.

The broadcast is hosted by Savannah Guthrie, Hoda Kotb and Al Roker from “Today” and airs on NBC.

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OBITUARIES

Robert E. Spangler, 71

Robert "Bob" E. Spangler, 71, of Craigville, passed away Wednesday evening, Nov. 22, 2023, at his residence.

He was born Jan. 26, 1952, in Peru, Ind. to Eugene and Virginia (Hollis) Spangler. Bob graduated from Maconaquah High School in 1970 and earned his B.S. Degree at Indiana Central College, with a major in business and a minor in English.

Bob served as the pastor of Petroleum United Methodist Church for six years, Otterbein United Methodist Church in Walton, Ind., worked at Pretzels Inc. in Bluffton, and as a rural mail carrier for Geneva and Berne. He enjoyed reading and was a fan of the Cubs, Colts and IU. Most importantly, Bob's life centered around his faith in Jesus Christ.

On Oct. 26, 1977, at the Otterbein United Methodist Church in Greenfield, Ind., Bob and Theresa J. Brewer were married.

Survivors include his wife Theresa Spangler of Craigville; a son, Travis (Andrea Farley Spangler) Spangler of Minneapolis; and a daughter, Megan (Matthew) Eckelbarger of Craigville; along with 4 grandchildren, Miles, Sawyer and Ira Eckelbarger, and V.J. Spangler.

Bob is also survived by his siblings, Barbara (Mark) Deeds of Bunker Hill, Ken (Sharon) Spangler of Bunker Hill, Joyce (Phil) Kline of Rochester, Ind.; and a brother-in-law, Kevin Wideman of Macy, Ind.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Karen Wideman.

Visitation will be held from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Funeral Service will take place at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, at the funeral home with calling for one hour prior to the service. Dr. Bryson "Gene" Bell will officiate.

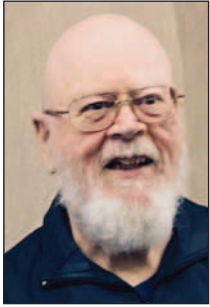
Burial will follow at Six Mile Cemetery in Bluffton. Memorials may be made to Friends Who Care Cancer Relief Foundation and should be directed to the funeral home.

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

Jill Ann Bowman, 54

Jill Ann Bowman, 54, of Bluffton, died Thursday afternoon, Nov. 23, 2023, at her residence.

Funeral arrangements are pending at this time with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.



Justin Peeper earns BSU journalism award

Justin Peeper, a Bluffton native, and former full time News-Banner staff member, was the recipient of the Marilyn Weaver Scholastic Journalism Award at a ceremony held Nov. 16 at Ball State University.

The honor is for a Ball State alumnus who is or has made "outstanding contributions to scholastic journalism."

After graduating from Bluffton High School and then earning a degree in journalism and Spanish, Peeper worked at The News-Banner for two years before beginning his teaching career at Homestead High School in Fort Wayne.

He continues to write a weekly column for The News-Banner and occasional stories.

Peeper was the assistant director of Homestead's student publications from 2009 to 2020. He is currently serving as chairman of Homestead's World Language Department and teaches Spanish. He and his wife, Jen, reside in Fort Wayne.

The award is named after Marilyn Weaver, retired former workshops director and chairperson of the School of Journalism and Strategic Communication at Ball State University. During her tenure, Weaver garnered numerous awards and accolades for her staunch support of scholastic journalism.

"It was such an honor to receive this and to have Marilyn Weaver present it," Peeper said. "Marilyn, Dan Waechter and Brian Hayes have been great role models and friends for 24 years and I'm thankful to have learned so much about journalism from them and so many others at Ball State."



Justin Peeper accepts a Ball State University alumni award from Marilyn Weaver at a ceremony held Nov. 16. (Photo provided)

Wells County Briefs

Solid Waste District considers commercial permits

The Solid Waste District board continued their discussion regarding commercial permits for the use of the Recycling Center. Commissioner Jeff Stringer said he had called multiple neighboring counties, who all advised they required a permit fee. The city of Bluffton has also recently approved a similar model for their compost site.

Superintendent Kevin Poling noted, however, that businesses are still taxpayers, and their taxes ultimately permit them to use the county resources. Commissioner Blake Gerber said they would discuss a potential model for permit fees at the next SWD board meeting on Dec. 18.

Also during the meeting, the board decided not to enroll in IMPACT, a volunteer program through the state. As it was discussed, Poling advised there is no need for volunteers, and subsequently, Mayor John Whicker said the program may not be worth the paperwork. Several other board members also reached this conclusion, and the board did not vote on the matter.

Construction moving quickly on Highway building

Power and gas are expected soon at the new highway building, reported Supervisor Shawn Bonar.

"There's a lot of moving parts in there that just continuously drop in," Bonar said. "To be able to tell you every single one of them, we might have a long meeting here — but it's moving along good."

Additionally, the main entry doors are nearly complete, the fence is installed, and interior items continue to come along.

Outside of construction, Bonar said the department re-established the road to a Uniondale cemetery, which had been discussed at the commissioner's Oct. 3 meeting. Crews will continue to work on road conversion of County Road 450 South between Ind. 1 and CR 200E as time allows, Bonar said.

November to bring the end of jail renovation

Sheriff Scott Holliday stated the final small projects associated with the jail renovation should be done by

the end of the month. The overall bulk of the renovation — which increased the jail's capacity — was finished roughly six months ago, but some finishing items remained.

As of Monday, Holliday reported 61 inmates in the Wells County Jail. Of this total, 21 were pre-trial holds for the Circuit Court, 20 for the Superior Court, 14 from the Department of Correction, and five Level 6 felons.

County considers health insurance increases

With another year of high use, Jessica Clayton of Platinum Benefit Consultants said the county may soon have to consider a new health insurance plan for its employees. That said, Clayton advised the county compares well in cost-increase over the last 10 years compared to the national average.

The commissioners approved a proposed plan that was near the same employee out-of-pocket last year but noted that there may be an increased cost to employees next year.

Stringer also asked Clayton how Wells compares in its costs and benefits, noting that some employees have cited insurance as a reason for leaving. However, Clayton stated it was "apples and oranges" to compare counties and cities with different circumstances.

Drainage board approves easement

The drainage board approved an encroachment request on the Russel Somers Prong 6 Tile Drain. Surveyor Jarrod Hahn advised that the pole barn the petitioners hoped to build would not cause any issues.

Given his resignation as engineer, Nate Rumschlag also advised that he would be unavailable to consult on board matters moving forward.

Karen Bell's preschool students practiced table manners for Thanksgiving this week, learning where to place their napkins and how to pass a plate around the table. They also made feather hats and tried cornmeal pancakes, also called "johnny cakes," which were said to have been at the first Thanksgiving meal. Above, the long table of students sing a song before beginning their meal.

— Compiled by Holly Gaskill

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County: Tuesday, 1:19 p.m., Ind. 124 and Ind. 201, Bluffton. Report of a car accident. Injuries reported for driver, minor damage to sign.

Tuesday, 3:47 p.m., West 400 South and 100 West, Bluffton. Driver cited for speeding 75 in a 55 mph.

Tuesday, 4:29 p.m., 4700 East 300 South, Bluffton. Trespass warning issued to

subject.

Ossian: Tuesday, 9:45 p.m., 4600 North Ind. 1, Ossian. Report of a car accident.

ARRESTS

Simone Ashli Routen, 33, Markle, public administration — escape, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

Wilson Fernando Matias Ramirez, 18, Bluffton, operating without ever receiving a license.



Decorating the Williamson tree

Alan Daugherty has decorated a very special tree for the Wells County Historical Society's "Christmas in the Mansion," to be open for viewers the next four weekends on Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. each day. All of the decorations feature members of the E.B. (Bruce) Williamson family that brought fame to Bluffton through their Longfield Iris Farm. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

Bluffton Regional Medical center recognized for performance leadership

Bluffton Regional Medical Center has been recognized with a 2023 Performance Leadership Award for excellence in Outcomes. Compiled by the Chartis Center for Rural Health, the Performance Leadership Awards honor top quartile performance (i.e., 75th percentile or above) among rural hospitals in Quality, Outcomes and/or Patient Perspective.

"Bluffton Regional Medical Center consistently focuses on delivering compassionate quality care every day for every patient. We are honored to be recognized with this award," said Julie Thompson, chief administrative officer for BRMC.

The Performance Leadership Awards are based

on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX, the industry's most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance. INDEX data is relied upon by rural hospitals, health systems with rural footprints, hospital associations and state offices of rural health around the country to measure and monitor performance across several areas impacting hospital operations and finance.

"Wherever we go in rural America, we witness first-hand the commitment, determination, and compassion with which rural hospitals serve their communities. Rural healthcare truly is mission-driven," said Michael Topchik, national

leader, The Chartis Center for Rural Health. "This National Rural Health Day, let us recognize the efforts of this year's Performance Leadership Award winners and all those driven to deliver high quality care throughout rural communities."

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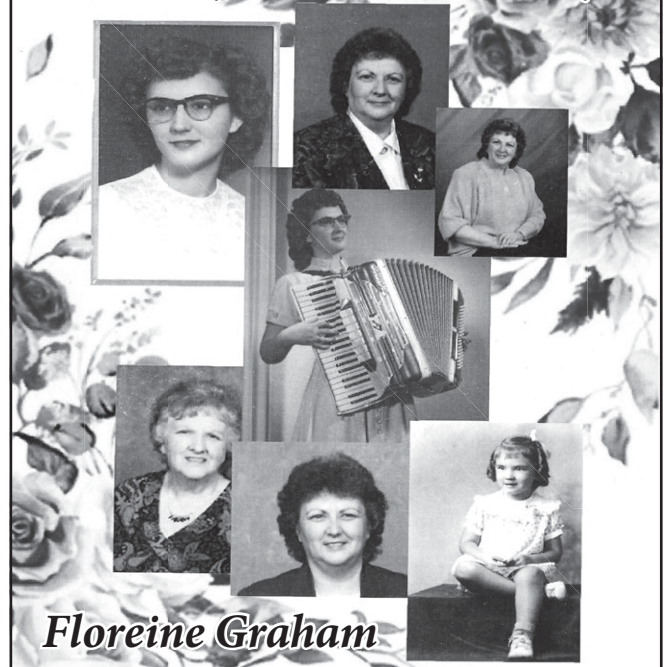
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The News-Banner and Ossian Journal publishes "basic" obituaries free of charge for "local" deaths. "Basic" obituaries will include the deceased's name, age, community of record, date and place of death, basic genealogical information, the date, time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

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

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

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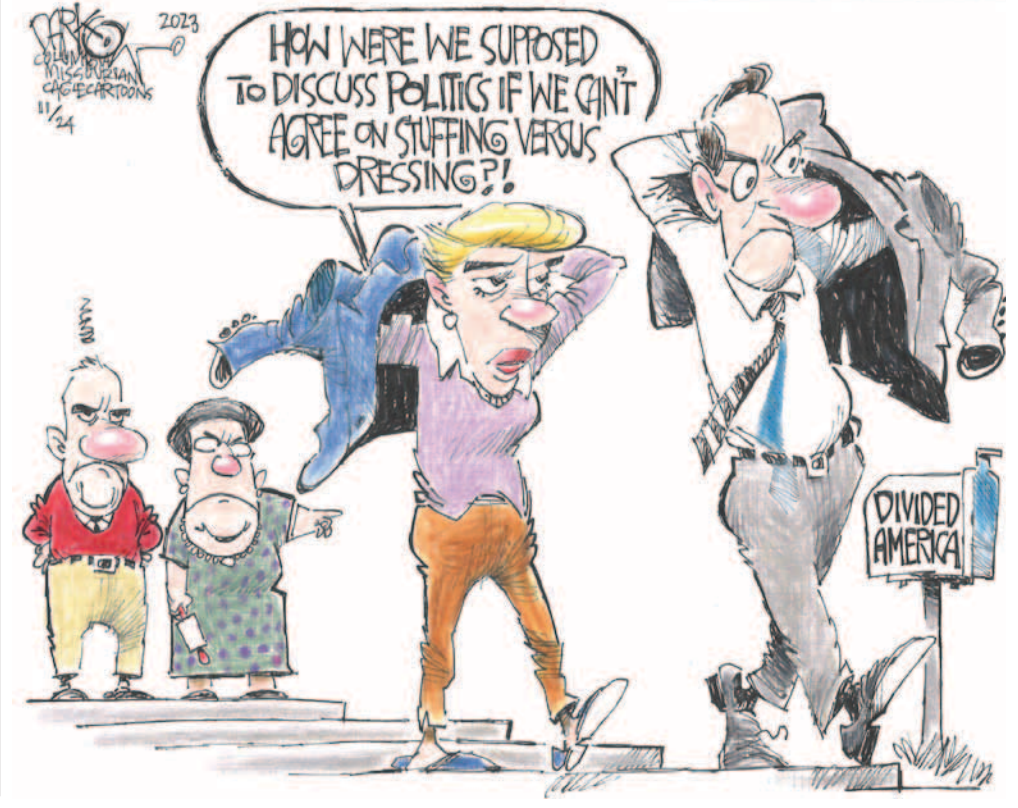
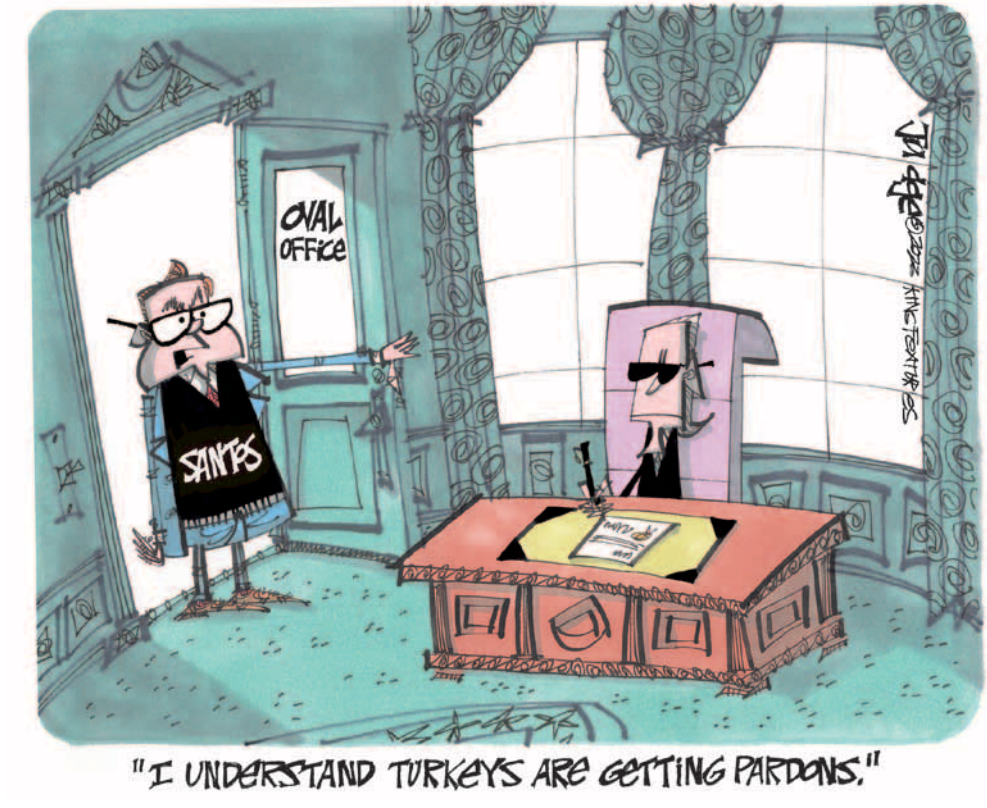
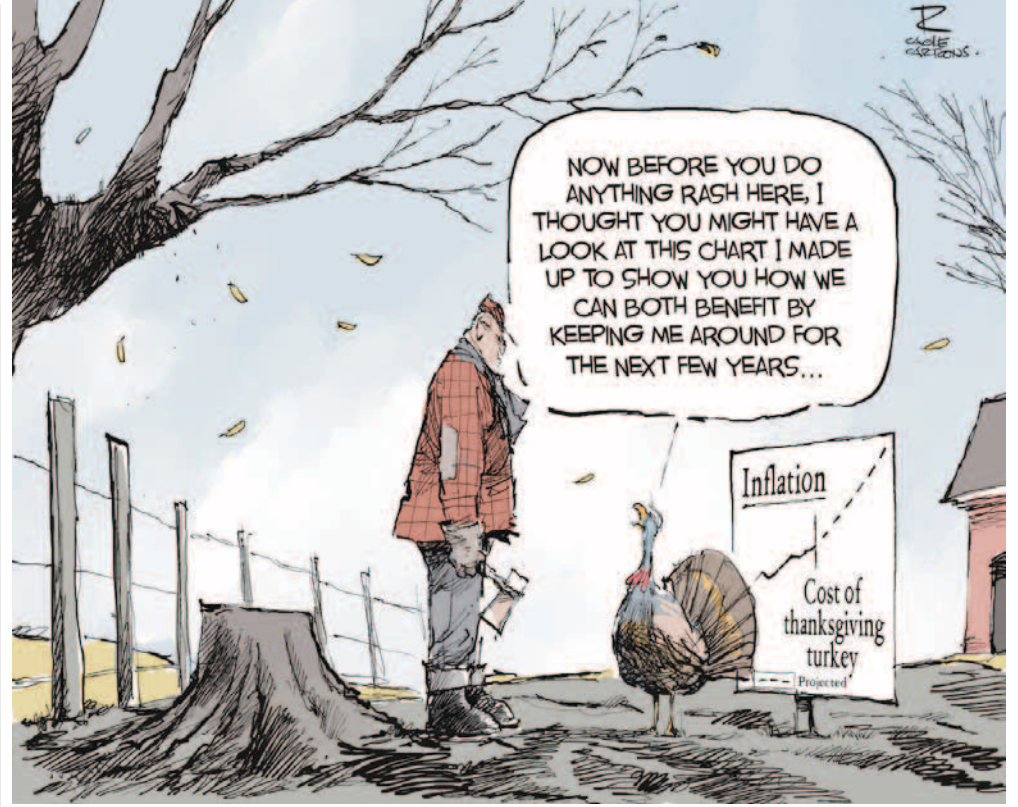
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Thanksgiving 2023 - a look through cartoonists' eyes...



Fed up? Yes. Nasty? No.

If you listen to pollsters and politicians, or consume heavy doses of social media and cable-TV news, you might come away thinking the nation is in a collective bad mood. We're said to be irritable, even hostile.

I've just come off a 18-day road trip that took me from New Hampshire to Florida, spending time in nine states. My sense is that folks are frustrated with pretty much everything over which they have no control: the economy, politics and global conflict, to name just three biggies. But it's a mistake to conclude that they're taking it out on each other.

Americans I encountered seem to be compensating by treating each other — and strangers like me — with surprisingly pleasant vibes, almost the way they did at the start of the pandemic.

My conclusions are unscientific. Yet, having spent much of my career studying human nature on "Candid Camera," I trust my instincts.

On I-275 in Florida I found myself having to pay a \$1.75 toll with a 50-dollar bill. "No worries!" said the remarkably cheerful woman, laboring in a tiny booth on an 82-degree afternoon. "I've got plenty of change!" Still feeling guilty about the inconvenience, I fibbed, "I've never been on this road before." "Oh, what fun!" she chirped as I pulled away.

When the young delivery woman in Columbia, S.C., accidentally went to the wrong hotel, she ripped up the bill for my pizza and her boss tossed in a free desert and soda.

In Manchester, N.H., I was among 1,700 people at the SNHU Arena watching Seth Meyers do comedy. It was the most courteous, mild mannered crowd I've ever encountered. The cops were like ambassadors, explaining how the facility is struggling since the minor-league hockey team moved away.

At the Mayflower Inn in Washington, Conn., I watched a young man spend nearly 15 minutes carefully guiding a motorist to safety after a semi had wedged his car into an impossibly small corner of the parking lot.

In Harrisonburg, Va., the internet was out at the Hampton Inn and the manager insisted on giving me a partial refund. He was so apologetic you'd think an evening without wifi was something truly awful.

After my rental car blew a tire in Ocala, Fla., the guys at H&D Services could not have been more sympathetic and accommodating, replacing the tire while regaling me with stories about highway mishaps they've observed.

In Fort Myers, a city still struggling to recover from last year's devastating hurricane, employees were setting up holiday decorations at the Big Tower mall, where many of the stores didn't make it back and half the palm trees are supported by large wooden trusses. "I'm just glad to have a job," a middle-aged guy told me, as he stacked potted poinsettias in the shape of a ten-foot Christmas tree.

Look, I'm not naive about national discontent. But it's good to know the American spirit is more resilient than many influencers on the national stage would have you believe.

After 15 years hosting the landmark TV series "Candid Camera," Peter Funt writes frequent op-eds for The Boston Globe and The Wall Street Journal.



Peter Funt

Thankful for soon being able to say 'Good riddance, 2023'

Thursday's holiday is devoted to the noble sentiment of gratitude. So, as you pass around the cranberry sauce, give thanks that 2023 experienced no repeat of the Great Cranberry Scare of 1959.

Three weeks before that year's Thanksgiving, the government announced that a small portion of a Pacific Northwest cranberry crop contained traces of a herbicide that caused abnormal growths in rats stuffed with it. President Dwight D. Eisenhower substituted apple sauce for cranberry sauce. This episode pre-empted subsequent panics, dietary and otherwise, and today's apocalypse fatigue, when everything poses an "existential" threat to this or that. This year — the 10th anniversary of a Cambridge University scientist saying the Arctic might be ice-free in two years — has been replete with reasons for saying good riddance to 2023. Bud Light heartily agrees.

Some Colorado school officials, with no sense of irony, cracked down on a 12-year-old whose backpack had a "Don't tread on me" patch. A Florida charter school principal was forced to resign for not notifying parents that she planned to illustrate Renaissance art by showing her sixth-graders Michelangelo's "David." A Northern Virginia playground's 21 rules include "no loitering" at the slide's bottom.

Progressive criminology blamed cars for being stolen: Several cities sued Kia and Hyundai for making cars that are too easy to steal. In Maryland, the guardian of four teenagers arrested for car theft picked them up at the police station in a stolen car.

California's third draft of a new K-12 math curriculum toned down the progressivism of the first two, but still urged instructors to "teach toward social justice" and "focus on complex feelings." Oregon recommends teachers attend a seminar on "ethnomathematics." Perhaps Oregon is influenced by nearby Seattle's math framework, which asks, "How important is it to be right?" (Implied: Not very.) A Maryland test found that 40 percent of Baltimore public high schools had no student proficient in math. The authors of Rhode Island's social studies standards think the Russian Revolution happened before World War I.

In 2023, "citation justice" involved scholarly articles subverting white supremacy by citing research from marginalized voices. According to Pronouns.org, International Pronouns Day (Oct. 18) celebrated "people's multiple, intersecting identities."

After being expelled from a Denver production of "Beetlejuice," Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) said, "I simply fell short of my values," when she (who

says God called her to Congress) continued vaping, taking flash pictures, singing along with the cast and being friskily affectionate with her date. A former (and perhaps future) president, whom Boebert adores, explained in a deposition that he once said "stars" can grope women because "historically, that's true." Provided with 40,000 hours of video from security cameras on Jan. 6, 2021, Tucker Carlson concluded in 2023 that, aside from "a small percentage" of "hooligans," most of those who smashed their way into the Capitol were actually "sightseers" who were "orderly and meek." (Approximate number of injured police: 140.)

Discovering something not yet subsidized by government, some planet-protecting communities in 2023 offered tax rebates and vouchers to purchasers of e-bikes. Kansas City's "Barbie"-themed pink streetcar was supposed to increase ridership, which is free.

An indispensable 2023 book, "The Canceling of the American Mind" by Greg Lukianoff and Rikki Schlott, reports that Yale has "one administrator for every four students. That's the same ratio the government recommends for child care of infants under twelve months." Northwestern University's student government offered "mental health support" for students traumatized by news that a conservative speaker was coming to campus. After the Supreme Court declared race-based college admissions policies unconstitutional, the Boston University School of Law student government assured students that BU's "wellness resources," a.k.a. therapy, could help them "navigate these times." Perhaps related: A YouGov survey in June found that more than one-third of American adults under age 45 sleep with stuffed animals.

Finally, in 2023, Howard "Ken" Potts, 102, the oldest known survivor of the Japanese sinking of the battleship Arizona on Dec. 7, 1941, died in Utah. Traute Lafrenz, 103, died in South Carolina. She was the last of the small White Rose resistance group whose young members risked, and often lost, everything by distributing anti-Hitler leaflets in Germany. Some resisters were among the estimated 5,000 beheaded after Hitler revived use of the guillotine.

On this day of gratitude, remember these two, who lived bravely in testing times. It is unlikely that, as adults, either slept with stuffed animals.

georgewill@washpost.com



George Will

Today in History

By The Associated Press Today is Friday, Nov. 24, the 328th day of 2023. There are 37 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 24, 1963, Jack Ruby shot and mortally wounded Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, in a scene captured on live television.

On this date: In 1859, British naturalist Charles Darwin published "On the Origin of Species," which explained his theory of evolution by means of natural selection.

In 1865, Mississippi became the first Southern state to enact laws which came to be known as "Black Codes" aimed at limiting the rights of

newly freed Blacks; other states of the former Confederacy soon followed.

In 1941, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Edwards v. California*, unanimously struck down a California law prohibiting people from bringing impoverished non-residents into the state.

In 1947, a group of writers, producers and directors, who would become known as the "Hollywood Ten," was cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions about alleged Communist influence in the movie industry.

In 1971, a hijacker calling himself "Dan Cooper" (but who became popularly known as "D.B. Cooper") parachuted from a Northwest Orient Airlines 727 over the Pacific Northwest after receiving \$200,000 in ransom;

his fate remains unknown.

In 1974, the bone fragments of a 3.2 million-year-old hominid were discovered by scientists in Ethiopia; the skeletal remains were nicknamed "Lucy."

In 1987, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed on terms to scrap shorter- and medium-range missiles.

In 1989, Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu was unanimously re-elected Communist Party chief. (Within a month, he was overthrown in a popular uprising and executed.)

In 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court stepped into the bitter overtime struggle for the White House, agreeing to consider George W. Bush's appeal against the hand recounting of ballots in Florida.

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First Reformed Church of Bluffton's Thanksgiving



(From left to right) Harper Miller, Cayde Smith, Melissa Tolson, Anthony Tolson, and Ian Tolson work together to individually bag nearly 1,000 rolls. (Photo by Sydney Kent)



Dining in at the First Reformed Church was also an option on Thanksgiving Day. In addition to the traditional turkey and dressing, a wide variety of desserts were offered as well. (Photo by Barbara Barberi)

Residents of Kentucky town can return home after crews extinguish derailment fire

LIVINGSTON, Ky. (AP) — A chemical fire at a Kentucky train derailment that caused evacuations has been extinguished and people can return to their homes, rail operator CSX said Thursday.

CSX spokesperson Bryan Tucker said in an email Thursday afternoon that "the fire is completely out." He said that authorities and CSX officials reviewed air monitoring data and decided it was safe to let displaced return home.

The CSX train derailed around 2:30 p.m. Wednesday near Livingston, a remote town with about 200 people in Rockcastle County. Residents were encouraged to evacuate.

Two of the 16 cars that derailed carried molten sulfur, which caught fire after the cars were breached, CSX said in a statement.

It's believed that the fire released the potentially harmful gas sulfur dioxide, but officials have not released results of measure-

ments taken from air monitoring equipment that was being deployed Wednesday night.

The derailment meant some Livingston residents woke up on Thanksgiving in a middle school shelter.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency website, sulfur dioxide can cause respiratory problems, depending on the concentration and length of exposure. The gas is commonly produced by burning fossil fuels at power plants and other industrial processes, the EPA says.

The danger from sulfur dioxide tends to be direct and quick, irritating the lungs and skin, said Neil Donahue, a chemistry professor at Carnegie Mellon University.

"It is just nasty, caustic, and acidic stuff that hurts. It's unpleasant to be in," Donahue said.

Once the fire was put out, the threat from the chemicals was expected to diminish quickly, Donahue said.

FBI ends investigation of car wreck at Niagara Falls bridge, no indication of terrorism

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. (AP) — The FBI has ended its investigation of a fiery car wreck that killed two people at a border checkpoint in Niagara Falls after finding no evidence that it was a terror attack, easing a period of high tensions as Americans headed into the Thanksgiving holiday.

The FBI's decision late Wednesday came several hours after the vehicle raced through an intersection, hit a median and was launched through the air before slamming into a line of booths and exploding at the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls. Local police are now handling the case as a traffic investigation.

"A search of the scene revealed no explosive materials, and no terrorism nexus was identified," the FBI's Buffalo office said in a statement. "The matter has been turned over to the Niagara Falls Police Department as a traffic investigation."

The investigation has been taken over by the Niagara Falls Police Department's Crash Management Unit, according to a news release from the city's police department, which added "Due to the complexity of the incident, the investigation will take some time to complete."

The two people who died were a husband and wife, according to a per-

son briefed on the investigation who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release information about the people who were killed. The identities of those in the car have not yet been released.

The crash prompted the closure of the Rainbow Bridge and three other bridges connecting western New York and Ontario, as

federal officials swarmed the area and both U.S. President Joe Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau received briefings. Hours later, officials sought to calm concerns on what is one of the busiest travel days of the year.

"Based on what we know at this moment," New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said at a news conference, "there is no sign of terrorist activity in this crash."

Public Sale Calendar

BIDDING ENDS 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. 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.*, 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*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

DECEMBER 5 - 2 p.m.-6 p.m. ET. (Online) - Farm: Goodwin Trust. Property location: 2 miles north of Markle, IN at the intersection of N Marzane Road and W 800 N. 157.3+/- total acres, 136.9+/- tillable, 12.2+/- CRP, 8.2+/- non-tillable. Prime farmland, tillable, CRP, Wells County, Union Township. Soil types: Pewamo silty clay loam, Glynwood clay & silt loam, Del Rey-Blount silt loams, Glynwood-Mississinewa clay loam. WAPI: 133.5 corn bu, 40.2 soybeans bu. *Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management*, 800-424-2324, halderman.com, Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181.

Santa says ... Support your ho-ho-hometown!



Not just for the Holiday Season

Sure, Christmas is a great time to shower your loved ones with locally bought gifts. But what about the other major holidays throughout the year?



Extend your yuletide joy to Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays and anniversaries for maximum impact on your local community and business owners.

Your effort in doing so may make more of a difference than you realize. A recent collaborative study by the Small Business Administration, United States Department of Labor and other major organizations found that small businesses employ about 77 million Americans and account for 65 percent of all new jobs over the past 17 years.

So by spending your money locally, you are helping keep your friends and neighbors employed during the holiday season and beyond!

Here are some of the other notable findings from the study:

- Eighty-nine percent of consumers agree that independent businesses contribute positively to local economies.
- Residential neighborhoods served by a successful independent business district gained, on average, 50 percent more in home values than their citywide markets.
- Independent retailers return more than three times as much money per dollar of sales than chain competitors. Independent restaurants return more than two times as much money per dollar of sales than national restaurant chains.
- If independent businesses regained their 1990 market shares, it would create 200,000 new small businesses, generate nearly \$300 billion in revenues and employ more than 1.6 million American workers.
- If just half of the United States employed population spent \$50 each month at locally owned independent businesses, it would generate more than \$42.6 billion in revenue.
- For every square foot a local firm occupies, the local economy gains \$179, vs. \$105 for a chain store.

Santa says ... Be sure to shop these businesses:

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- ❄ Moser & Son
- ❄ Northwood Computer
- ❄ Paddlefish
- ❄ Parlor City Cabinetry
- ❄ Unique Blue Bar & Grill
- ❄ Wells County Chamber of Commerce
- ❄ Wells County Foundation

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Online Directory

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

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Knights fall to Chargers in season home opener

By ANDREW FEEBACK

Three-point shooting proved to be a major factor in Wednesday night's boys basketball game between the Norwell Knights and the visiting Carroll Chargers.

The Chargers knocked down 10 from beyond the arc, compared to just one by the Knights, and Norwell dropped its season opener 66-49.

There really wasn't an easy way to defend a very quick and athletic Charger team that could also hit outside shots.

"We were really worried about their penetration," coach Mike McBride said. "They had some guys who could drive it and were very explosive to the basket. That concerned us, so we really tried to protect that."

Norwell took an early 10-6 lead, as Carroll wasn't hitting shots early. But once they got going, there wasn't much Norwell could do to slow them down.

Long-range buckets from Jaiyre Sampson, Jaxon Pardon and Cannen Houser led to an 11-0 run in a span of less than two minutes as the Chargers jumped in front.

Two more triples from Sampson and Houser had Carroll up 27-15.

The Chargers took their biggest lead of the game at 41-23 after a three-pointer from Tyler Morris.

"They shot it well in the first half," McBride said. "I thought the other thing that hurt us in the first half was they had transition layups. Several times, they got the ball out, pushed it up and got a layup, and we just didn't get back. That's an area we've got to improve on and get better at."

Seven of Carroll's treys

came in the first half, resulting in a 16-point halftime lead for the visitors.

Norwell attempted just one shot from behind the arc in the first half and finished the game 1 of 6.

"Our gameplan was to go inside," McBride said. "We made that an emphasis coming in, and we did a good job of that. They have really good defensive length, and they're very athletic, which caused some problems. We knew this would be a game where we wouldn't shoot a lot of threes."

The inside play of Ashton Federspiel allowed Norwell to climb back in it for awhile, with the senior scoring 14 of his team-leading 32 points in the third quarter on 7 of 7 shooting.

The Knights got within six points on two occasions, the second of which came after Federspiel's three-point play early in the fourth quarter made it 50-44.

"I think he's in for a big year," McBride said. "He's worked really hard, and I think he's going to be a handful for teams inside. Now, what he's got to do is understand and recognize when double teams come, he's got to be able to play out of that. Once we start to see those things happen, you'll probably start to see us get a little more looks outside."

Carroll got timely triples from Pardon and Morris to push its lead back to double digits.

Cohen Bailey made Norwell's only three-pointer of the game to make it 58-49, but the Knights failed to score over the remaining four minutes.

Federspiel's 32 points led all scorers. Bailey added 11.

Sampson topped the Chargers with 21, while Pardon had 14 and Houser scored 13.

Only four players scored for Norwell in this game, and McBride wants to see someone emerge as a consistent third scoring threat.

"We've got a different team this year, and we've got to play to our strengths," he said. "Ashton and Cohen were our two tonight, now we've got to get a third guy. Whether that third guy is Cade Shelton, or Adam (McBride), or maybe it's a different third guy every night, we've got to get one more guy to double figures. If we can do that, then I think we'll be in a good spot."

Norwell will travel to Mississinewa Tuesday night.

The Knights took the JV game 44-33, led by Brady Smith with 16 points and Nick McBride with 11.

CARROLL 66, NORWELL 49

At Norwell
CARROLL (1-0): Jaiyre Sampson 9-11 0-2-21, Briggs Pardon 1-3 2-2-4, Jaxon Pardon 6-13 0-0-14, Cannen Houser 4-6 2-2-13, Evan Hall 0-0-0-0, Tyler Morris 2-3 0-0-6, Miles Hering 0-0-0-0, Grant Peters 3-4 0-0-6, Paxton Crane 0-3 0-0-0, Brody Fisher 1-2 0-2-2. **TOTALS:** 26-45 4-8-66.

NORWELL (0-1): Cade Shelton 1-3 0-1-2, Caiden Petrie 0-0 0-0-0, Garry Riley 0-0 0-0-0, Brady Smith 0-1 0-0-0, Kaedyn Quintanilla 0-1 0-0-0, Adam McBride 1-4 2-4-4, Trace Moser 0-0-0-0, Owen Wallis 0-0 0-0-0, Cohen Bailey 4-9 2-2-11, Nick McBride 0-0 0-0-0, Ashton Federspiel 14-21 4-7-32, Ryne Thornton 0-0 0-0-0. **TOTALS:** 20-39 8-14-49.

Carroll 17 24 9 16 - 66
Norwell 12 13 16 8 - 49

Three-point Goals: Carroll 10-20 (Houser 3-4, Sampson 3-4, Morris 2-3, Jaxon Pardon 2-7, Fisher 0-1, Crane 0-1), Norwell 1-6 (Bailey 1-3, Adam McBride 0-2, Federspiel 0-1). Rebounds: Carroll 23 (Crane 8, Houser 5, Peters 3, Briggs Pardon 2, Jaxon Pardon 2, Sampson 2, Fisher 1), Norwell 16 (Federspiel 5, Quintanilla 3, Shelton 3, Bailey 3, Adam McBride 2). Turnovers: Carroll 13, Norwell 16. Fouls: Carroll 13, Norwell 11. Fouled out: None. Technicals: None. JV: Norwell 44, Carroll 33.



Above, Norwell senior Ashton Federspiel, right, drives toward the hoop as Carroll's Brody Fisher attempts to cut off the route in the second half of Wednesday night's non-conference match at Norwell. Federspiel led all scorers with 32 points.

At right, Norwell senior Cohen Bailey, right, glides toward the hoop as Carroll's Jaxon Pardon attempts the block during the first half. The Knights dropped the season opener, 66-49.

(Photos by Chad Kline)



SW's Chandler Oswald's 26 points cannot overcome Bellmont's quickness, numbers

By RICK SPRUNGER

Southern Wells pried the lid off the 2023-24 boys' basketball season Wednesday night when the Raiders played host to Bellmont.

Bellmont proved to be rude guests as it handed the Raiders a 71-37 thrashing.

Southern Wells coach Joel Roush was unfazed by the one-sided loss, preferring instead to focus on his team's development.

"Bellmont is a much improved team from last year, and I thought they were pretty good last year," said Roush after the game, tipping his hat to the other side. "They have skill, they have quickness, and they have length."

Bellmont enjoyed a considerable size advantage over the Raiders, who gave away an average of three inches per starter.

And that kind of length proved pivotal in the game's opening moments.

After Southern Wells earned an early 2-2 tie, Bellmont ran away with the game on the strength of an effective 2-2-1 press that forced the Raiders into five turnovers, five straight misses from the field, and two timeouts, all in the span of just four minutes.

Bellmont took the lead for good on a pair of free throws by Jack Scheumann, then connected on seven straight field goal attempts, all of them from directly under the basket.

Gavin Krull turned a steal into one layup, then took an outlet pass after a

steal by Kord Fuelling for another within 14 seconds of each other, driving Roush to his first timeout.

Scheumann then scored on back-to-back layups, Dylan Velez and Fuelling both connected from underneath, and Andrew James punctuated the Braves' dominance with another steal and dunk for an 18-2 score with still 3:04 left in the first quarter.

The lead ballooned all the way up to 49-16 after Krull's desperation, off-balance three-point heave from the left corner found its way into the basket at the half-time buzzer.

To add insult to injury, Krull was fouled on the play but missed the free throw.

"We needed to communicate better defensively, and we needed better movement on the defensive side," said Roush of his team's first-half struggles.

"Once we started communicating better on defense in the second half, we were noticeably better."

Southern Wells also tried some things offensively.

Although the Raiders struggled on the perimeter against Bellmont's relentless pressure, once they got past the Braves' perimeter defense, they were consistently able to get the ball into the post.

They had a hard time finishing, but Bellmont's considerable size advantage had plenty to do with that.

"It's much easier to shoot from the outside when you're set rather than hav-

ing to create your own shot off the dribble," explained Roush of his team's offensive strategy.

"When three-pointers get made, it's because we've driven the gap and pitched it back out.

"We want to play below the free-throw line.

Or from well behind it.

Chandler Oswald rifled five three-pointers, all of them in the second half, and most of them from well behind the arc.

He ended up with a game-high 26 points on 8-for-15 shooting from the field.

Even the opposing coach noticed.

"Oswald shoots as well as anyone we'll see this year," complimented first-year Bellmont coach Peyton Selking, knowing full well that "anyone-we'll-see-this-year" includes considerably faster company than Southern Wells runs in.

"Not only can he shoot it," pointed out his own coach, Roush, "he is a much more complete player than he was last year.

"He is the one who started our communication on defense in the second half.

"He and Evan Pennington are our team leaders."

Southern Wells also had moments when it tried to run with the fleet-footed Braves.

"We want to run selectively, if we can get the floor scattered and get the ball in the middle," said Roush.

"But right now, we have only six varsity players, so

we'll pick our spots.

"We dress nine, but only six are ready for varsity ball right now."

Bellmont placed three players in double figures, led by Scheumann with 20 points on 9-for-12 shooting, James with 16 on 5-for-8, and Fuelling with 13 on 6-for-9.

None of those three played in the fourth quarter.

Bellmont finished 29-for-48 from the field for a red-hot .604 shooting percentage.

Southern Wells was 13-for-33 for .394.

Bellmont won the junior varsity contest by a 57-24 score.

Southern Wells got seven points each from Trey Slusher, six from Joshua Aulbach, and four from Wade Tappy.

BELLMONT 71, SOUTHERN WELLS 37

at Southern Wells
BELLMONT (1-0): Andrew James 5-8 6-6 16, Jack Scheumann 9-12 0-0-20, Kord Fuelling 6-9 0-0-13, Dylan Velez 1-2 0-0-2, Gavin Krull 2-3 0-1-4, Will Baker 2-6 0-0-6, Job Hoffman 1-1 0-1-2, Daniel Vogel 0-1 1-2-1, Maddux Miller 1-2 0-0-3, Beau Baker 1-3 0-0-2, Jake Hackman 1-1 0-0-2. **TOTAL:** 29-48 7-10-71.

SOUTHERN WELLS (0-1): Andrew Aker 1-4 0-0-2, C.J. Reber 0-2 1-2-1, Evan Pennington 3-7 0-1-6, Chandler Oswald 8-15 5-7-26, Perrin Gates 1-3 0-2-2, Caleb Johnson 0-2 0-0-0. **TOTAL:** 13-33 6-12-37.

Bellmont 27 22 15 7 - 71
Southern Wells 8 8 12 9 - 37

Three-point shooting: Bellmont 6-18 (James 0-2, Scheumann 2-4, Fuelling 1-1, Velez 0-1, Krull 0-1, W. Baker 2-5, Vogel 0-1, Miller 1-2, B. Baker 0-1), Southern Wells 5-12 (Aker 0-1, Reber 0-2, Oswald 5-9). Rebounds: Bellmont 29 (Fuelling 5), Southern Wells 15. Turnovers: Bellmont 9, Southern Wells 17. Personal fouls: Bellmont 16, Southern Wells 12. Fouled Out: None. Technical fouls: None. Junior Varsity: Bellmont 57, Southern Wells 24.

Goff's career-high 3 fumbles pave way for Lions' 29-22 loss to Packers

DETROIT (AP) — Detroit Lions quarterback Jared Goff struggled to move his offense consistently for the second game in five days.

Goff lost a career-high three fumbles in the 29-22 loss to the Green Bay Packers on Thursday.

"I've got some time here to look at a couple of things and see where we can get a little more efficient," coach Dan Campbell. "At the same time, this is the same

team that's been here all year — offense, defense.

"Goff is the same quarterback. If we clean a couple things up, I think we'll get back in a rhythm and be just fine."

In the Lions' 31-26 win over the Bears on Sunday, Goff threw three interceptions for the first time in three years with the franchise.

"The turnovers in the first half have certainly been a problem the last two

games that put us behind and subsequently it's part of the reason we lost today," Goff said. "The efficiency and how well you'd like to play on offense can certainly go up. The last two games is not to our standard."

Campbell insisted he's not in a panic mode as the NFC North-leading Lions (8-3) lost some of their cushion in the division race.

Goff takes responsibility for the turnovers.

"Can always do that bet-

ter and yeah, it's a part of my job," he said.

Goff fumbled and lost the ball in the first quarter on a second-and-12 play at the Detroit 23-yard line, when the ball was knocked out as he was attempting to throw it. The play was reviewed and the call stood. It was recovered by Green Bay's Jonathan Owens and returned 27 yards for a touchdown.

On the Lions' next possession, Goff scrambled but

the middle for 2 yards, then fumbled and the Packers' Karl Brooks recovered.

Early in the fourth quarter, Goff was sacked by Rashan Gary and fumbled. Gary, who tied a career high with three sacks, made the recovery.

The Packers pressured Goff throughout the game, sacking him three times and hitting him 12 times.

"I don't blame our O-line as the reason for that at all," Goff said. "I probably

could've got rid of the ball a bit quicker on some of those as well."

Goff and the offense came out firing in the third quarter on a seven-play drive ending with a 6-yard touchdown run by David Montgomery and a 2-point conversion by the running back to close the gap to 23-14.

In the fourth quarter, Goff was 1 of 3 on fourth downs, including one that ended with his fumble.

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

College

Major Scores, Thursday, Nov. 23
SOUTH
Alabama St. 41, Tuskegee 3
Mississippi 17, Mississippi St. 7

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	7	3	0	.700	305/238
Buffalo	6	5	0	.545	294/190
N.Y. Jets	4	6	0	.400	150/204
New England	2	8	0	.200	141/238

South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Jacksonville	7	3	0	.700	230/204
Houston	6	4	0	.600	238/208
Indianapolis	5	5	0	.500	242/248
Tennessee	3	7	0	.300	168/214

North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	3	0	.727	304/177
Cleveland	7	3	0	.700	227/180
Pittsburgh	6	4	0	.600	166/195
Cincinnati	5	5	0	.500	202/226

West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	7	3	0	.700	225/164
Denver	5	5	0	.500	217/268
Las Vegas	5	6	0	.455	185/225
L.A. Chargers	4	6	0	.400	259/238

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	9	1	0	.900	273/212
Dallas	8	3	0	.727	347/185
Washington	4	8	0	.333	246/350
N.Y. Giants	3	8	0	.273	149/285

South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	5	5	0	.500	214/198
Atlanta	4	6	0	.400	189/217
Tampa Bay	4	6	0	.400	192/200
Carolina	1	9	0	.100	163/275

North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	8	3	0	.727	294/258
Minnesota	6	5	0	.545	253/230
Green Bay	5	6	0	.455	231/224
Chicago	3	8	0	.273	230/286

West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	8	3	0	.700	279/157
Seattle	6	5	0	.545	216/210
L.A. Rams	4	6	0	.400	195/228
Arizona	2	9	0	.182	192/284

Thursday's Games
Green Bay 29, Detroit 22
Dallas 45, Washington 10
San Francisco 31, Seattle 13

Friday's Games
Miami at N.Y. Jets, 3 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Carolina at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Houston, 1 p.m.
New England at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Buffalo at Philadelphia, 4:25 p.m.
Kansas City at Las Vegas, 4:25 p.m.
Baltimore at L.A. Chargers, 8:20 p.m.

Monday's Games
Chicago at Minnesota, 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 30
Seattle at Dallas, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 3
Arizona at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Denver at Houston, 1 p.m.
Detroit at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
L.A. Chargers at New England, 1 p.m.
Miami at Washington, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 4:05 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m.
San Francisco at Philadelphia, 4:25 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 4
Cincinnati at Jacksonville, 8:15 p.m.

Atlanta	7	7	.500	2½
Charlotte	5	9	.357	4½
Washington	2	12	.143	7½

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	10	5	.667	—
Indiana	8	6	.571	1½
Cleveland	8	7	.533	2
Chicago	5	11	.313	5½
Detroit	2	13	.133	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Dallas	10	5	.667	—
Houston	7	6	.533	2
New Orleans	8	7	.538	2
Memphis	3	11	.214	6½
San Antonio	3	12	.200	7

Northwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	11	3	.786	—
Oklahoma City	11	4	.733	½
Denver	10	5	.667	1½
Portland	4	11	.267	7½
Utah	4	11	.267	7½

Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Phoenix	9	6	.600	—
Sacramento	8	6	.571	½
L.A. Lakers	9	7	.563	½
L.A. Clippers	6	7	.462	2
Golden State	7	9	.438	2½

Wednesday's Games

Charlotte 117, Washington 114
Orlando 124, Denver 119
Miami 129, Cleveland 96
Boston 119, Milwaukee 116
Toronto 132, Indiana 131
Atlanta 147, Brooklyn 145, OT
Minnesota 112, Philadelphia 99
Oklahoma City 116, Chicago 102
L.A. Clippers 109, San Antonio 102
New Orleans 117, Sacramento 112
Portland 121, Utah 105
Dallas 104, L.A. Lakers 101
Houston 111, Memphis 91
Phoenix 123, Golden State 115

Thursday's Games

No games scheduled.

Friday's Games

Boston at Orlando, 2:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Memphis, 5 p.m.
Chicago at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Houston, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Indiana, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Washington at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Golden State, 10 p.m.
New Orleans at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

College

Men's Basketball Scores

Wednesday, Nov. 22

EAST

American 68, Mount St. Mary's 65
Florida 86, Pittsburgh 71
Harvard 76, Colgate 70
Hofstra 97, High Point 92, OT
Iona 89, Buffalo 64
Mississippi 77, Temple 76
Rhode Island 97, Johnson & Wales (RI) 59
St. Bonaventure 67, Bucknell 61
St. Francis (Pa.) 107, Franciscan 54
UMass 89, CCSU 60
Vermont 106, Northern Vermont-Johnson 57
Virginia 56, West Virginia 54

SOUTH

Appalachian St. 67, Murray St. 57
Campbell 65, The Citadel 58
Louisiana Tech 71, McNeese St. 62
Louisiana-Lafayette 92, Long Beach St. 82
Maine 70, South Florida 59
Memphis 71, Michigan 67
Merrimack 96, NC A&T 73
Morehead St. 94, Midway 53
N. Kentucky 88, Texas A&M-CC 73
Princeton 76, Old Dominion 56
Queens (NC) 97, Fairleigh Dickinson 84
S. Dakota St. 65, Southern Miss. 54
S. Utah 74, Texas St. 67
Sam Houston St. 86, Grambling St. 68
Samford 99, Alabama St. 67
Tenn Tech 79, Presbyterian 75, OT
UT Martin 105, No Alabama 103, 2OT

MIDWEST

Cincinnati 89, Georgia Tech 54
Cleveland St. 72, ETSU 70
Creighton 88, Loyola Chicago 65
Kansas St. 100, Cent. Arkansas 56
Missouri 82, SC State 59
Nebraska 89, Duquesne 79
North Carolina 91, N. Iowa 69
Notre Dame 75, Md.-Eastern Shore 55
Omaha 76, Mid-America Christian 59
South Dakota 100, Northland 48
UC Irvine 77, Toledo 71
Wisconsin 69, SMU 61

WEST

Wright St. 74, Illinois St. 49
SOUTH
Bradley 63, UTEP 59
Georgia St. 93, UALR 90, OT
Incarnate Word 67, Jacksonville St. 66
New Mexico 90, Rice 56
Tarleton St. 59, CS Bakersfield 40
Texas-Arlington 82, Alcorn St. 69
Villanova 85, Texas Tech 69
FAR WEST
Air Force 64, VMI 54
Arkansas 77, Stanford 74, 2OT
Austin Peay 74, Sacramento St. 71
Baylor 88, Oregon St. 72
Chicago St. 84, Morgan St. 83
Colorado St. 86, Boston College 74
Denver 100, Colorado Christian 68
E. Washington 97, Walla Walla 46
Hawaii 70, N. Arizona 61
Indiana St. 90, Pepperdine 82
James Madison 95, Fresno St. 64
Kansas 69, Tennessee 80
Montana St. 69, UC Riverside 68
Purdue 78, Marquette 75
Radford 79, N. Colorado 68
S. Illinois 81, New Mexico St. 54
San Francisco 76, Fort Wayne 60
Seattle 92, Idaho 55
Syracuse 105, Chamblaine 56
UC Santa Barbara 91, Westminster 79

Thursday, Nov. 23

EAST

Villanova 83, North Carolina 81, OT
SOUTH
Iowa St. 68, VCU 64
Virginia Tech 82, Boise St. 75
MIDWEST
Colorado St. 69, Creighton 48
FAU 91, Butler 86
Loyola Chicago 71, Boston College 68
Oklahoma 79, Iowa 67
SOUTHWEST
Memphis 84, Arkansas 79
Texas A&M 89, Penn St. 77
Texas Tech 72, N. Iowa 70
FAR WEST
Arizona 74, Michigan St. 68
Gonzaga 69, UCLA 65
Southern Cal 71, Seton Hall 63
Tulane 84, California 81

Women's Basketball Scores

Thursday, Nov. 23

EAST

Bowling Green 85, Lehigh 73
Princeton 77, Oklahoma 63
Sacred Heart 73, Tarzans 42
W Virginia 54, George Washington 51
SOUTH
Appalachian St. 68, Furman 63
Bethune-Cookman 64, Bradley 57
Campbell 60, Morgan St. 46
Eion 75, Georgia St. 68
Indiana St. 64, Radford 52
Mercer 73, Marist 67, OT
Michigan St. 95, James Madison 69
NC State 84, Kentucky 55
S. Illinois 55, Charlotte 52
South Florida 61, High Point 32

MIDWEST

UCF 63, Jackson St. 54
VCU 56, St. John's 51
MIDWEST
Creighton 57, Georgia Tech 46
Green Bay 85, UMass 52
Indiana 71, Tennessee 57
SOUTHWEST
Nebraska 75, Lamar 61
TCU 85, UTEP 56
Texas 84, Arizona St. 42
FAR WEST
Colorado 77, Cincinnati 60
Montana St. 75, New Mexico 57
Washington St. 87, Maryland 67

HOCKEY

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	18	14	1	3	31	63
Florida	19	12	6	1	25	58
Tampa Bay	20	9	6	5	23	72
Toronto	17	10	5	2	22	62
Detroit	18	9	6	3	21	65
Buffalo	19	8	9	2	18	64
Montreal	19	8	9	2	18	69
Ottawa	15	8	7	0	16	57

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Rangers	17	13	3	1	27	56
Washington	16	10	4	2	22	43
Carolina	18	11	7	0	22	57
Philadelphia	19	10	8	1	21	62
N.Y. Islanders	18	7	6	5	19	47
Pittsburgh	18	9	9	0	18	58
New Jersey	17	8	8	1	17	59
Columbus	20	5	11	4	14	58

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	18	12	4	2	26	62
Colorado	18	12	6	0	24	70
Winnipeg	18	11	5	2	24	66
St. Louis	18	10	7	1	21	53
Arizona	19	8	9	2	18	63
Nashville	18	8	10	0	16	59
Minnesota	17	5	8	4	14	54
Chicago	17	5	12	0	10	43

Pacific Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	20	14	4	2	30	69
Vancouver	20	13	6	1	27	80
Los Angeles	17	11	3	3	25	67
Seattle	21	8	8	5	21	61
Anaheim	19	9	10	0	18	60
Calgary	19	7	9	3	17	54
Edmonton	18	5	12	1	11	53
San Jose	19	3	15	1	7	28

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Wednesday's Games

Detroit 4, New Jersey 0
Columbus 7, Chicago 3
Boston 3, Florida 1
Washington 4, Buffalo 3, OT
Winnipeg 3, Tampa Bay 2, OT
N.Y. Rangers 1, Pittsburgh 0
Carolina 6, Edmonton 3
N.Y. Islanders 3, Philadelphia 2
St. Louis 6, Arizona 5
Nashville 4, Calgary 2
Vegas 2, Dallas 1, OT
Seattle 7, San Jose 1
Montreal 4, Anaheim 3
Colorado 5, Vancouver 2

Thursday's Games

No games scheduled

Friday's Games

Detroit at Boston, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Toronto at Chicago, 2 p.m.
Columbus at New Jersey, 3 p.m.
Edmonton at Washington, 3 p.m.
Nashville at St. Louis, 3 p.m.
Los Angeles at Anaheim, 3:30 p.m.
Montreal at San Jose, 3:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 8 p.m.
Winnipeg at Florida, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Colorado at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Transactions

Thursday's Transactions

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
SAN ANTONIO SPURS — Assigned G/F Sidy Cissoko and G Blake Wesley to the Austin Spurs of the G League.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed DT Bruce Hector and DE Kerry Hyder to the practice squad.
LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Waived M/LF Jaylon Smith.
LOS ANGELES RAMS — Signed RB Darrell Henderson to the practice squad.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Elevated RB Darrynon Evans to the active roster.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed WR Trishon Jackson to the practice squad.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Waived K Cade York.
NEW YORK JETS — Activated OT Duane Brown. Released O/Ls Chris Glaser and Chris Glaser. Elevated O/Ls Xavier Newman-Johnson, Jake Hanson and DL Tanzel Smart to the active roster from the practice squad.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Reinstated CB Samuel Womack from injured reserve. Waived CB Shemar Jean-Charles. Elevated O/Ls Jesse Davis and Corey Lucian to the active roster from the practice squad.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Reinstated CB Coby Bryant from injured reserve. Placed S Jerick Reed II on injured reserve. Elevated QB Brett Rypien to the active roster from the practice squad.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Signed DB Keenan Isaac and TE David Wells to the practice squad.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ANAHEIM D

How to reject a holiday gift

Dear Annie: We have a relative coming from out of town to visit for a week. I'd love to say I'm excited to see her, but I'm not. Last time she stayed, I was ready to push her out the door! She's bossy and tries to tell me what to do and how to do it. I don't appreciate people questioning me, especially in my own home. She's fanatically religious. I'm the opposite. She pushes religion and her God on me to the point that I get so angry. And she gets worse when she's drinking. She's not even here and I'm ready for her to be gone. How do I handle this? — Unwelcome

I told them, "Do not send me any magazines, and do not share my address with any other businesses." Nevertheless, I would continue to get some things that I did not want to get. And this would repeat each year, as she always gave the same gift.

Dear Unwelcome: If you were ready to push her out the door after her last visit, then I don't recommend opening your home to her again. Sounds like it's too late to rescind the invite, but in the future, when she comes to town, tell her you'd love to see her but your week is a bit too hectic to host this time. Offer to meet up for a meal or an activity instead.

Finally, though this was not the best way to deal with it, I persuaded my mother to talk to my aunt and ask her not to do it anymore. Afterward, I received a non-religious magazine subscription, which I also did not want, but at least it was not religious. I always thanked her for "thinking of me" at Christmas, no matter the situation. I was a coward.

There are still some ways to make this upcoming visit more manageable. For starters, don't serve any alcohol. When the topic of religion comes up, tell her that you appreciate her concern but that you are an adult who has made her own decisions about religion, and those decisions are not changing. Also tell her that the constant religious pressure is driving a wedge in your relationship with her and, frankly, driving you away from religion altogether. That way, assuming her goal is for you to see the light, it's in her best interest to pipe down.

It would be good to know how to approach things like that, when you receive something you don't want or are fundamentally opposed to. — Unwanted Gift

Dear Annie: When I was a young adult out living on my own, I used to get subscriptions to Christian magazines from my very religious aunt every Christmas. I happen to be an atheist and did not appreciate the magazine, nor did I appreciate all the mailing lists that having a subscription to that magazine put me on.

Regarding the new subscription: Receiving gifts that we don't particularly want is simply a part of the holiday season for most of us. So long as the gift is not offensive to our beliefs — such as the religious magazine — it's best to simply smile and send them a thank-you note. This is not cowardly but gracious.

It was very difficult for me to find a way to get out of receiving those subscriptions every year. I immediately would contact the magazine and ask them to take me off their mailing list.

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

My Answer



We need to be prepared for grief

By Dr. Billy Graham

tells us to have faith in Him. He has told us that He will be with us always and never leave us or forsake us (see Hebrews 13:5). Often it takes that "knife in our heart" to drive us to Him. Our faith is dependent upon God, and when we enter the valley of grief, we need His help or we will never overcome the sorrow that weighs us down.

Guilt, anger, resentment, and panic are some of the faces of grief. None of these reactions are abnormal.

Countless people have had religious experiences but only a personal relationship with Jesus through repentance of sin and receiving salvation is what brings comfort and joy to life. The Bible says to fill our minds with things that are true, honorable, pure, and lovely and "His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7, NLT).

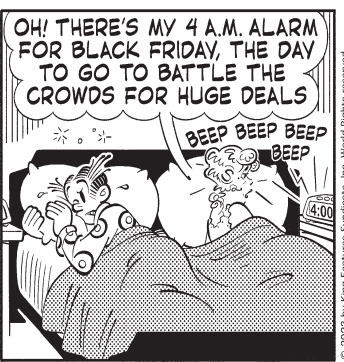
(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

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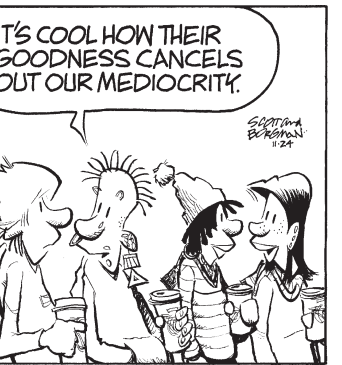
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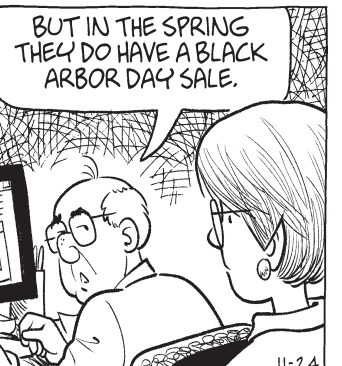
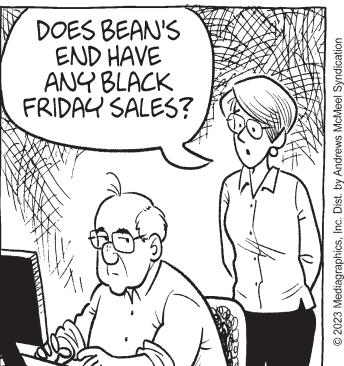
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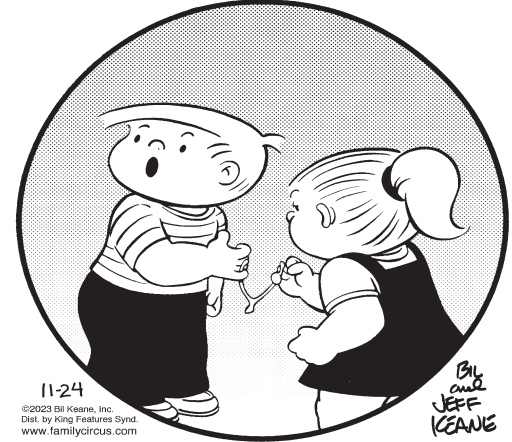
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



Q: As a social worker, I've been trained in grief management, which includes encouraging people to find comfort in a religious practice. My job is on the line because of my personal beliefs, but people can't be truly helped until they come face-to-face with Jesus as their Lord, correct? — G.C.

A: Like soldiers going into battle, we need to be prepared for grief but the culture of today does not prepare us for it. What we need more than anything else during times of grief is a friend who stands with us, someone who will not leave us. Jesus is that friend.

The Lord prepares us to weather life's storms. He

11/24	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-w	Jewish Jesus	James Robison	Dr. Robert Jeffrey	Living in the Light	Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor		Prop. Com	
CBS WANE (18)	2	15	15		4:00 College Football	Missouri at Arkansas	From Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium in Fayetteville, Ark. (L) (N)				Jeopardy!	The Greatest	Raid the Cage		Blue Bloods	"To Protect and Serve"	Nightcast	(35) Late Show-Colbert	(35) Comics Unleashed		
Antenna WANE-2 (152)	106	20			4:00 A Prince and Pauper Christmas	A Christmas Witness (2021, Romance)	Colin Egglesfield, Miranda Arpin, Arielle Kebbel.				The Christmas Thief (2021, Mystery)	Vivica A. Fox, Michelle Borth.			The Case of the Christmas Diamond (22, Mys)	Allen Williamson, William Baldwin, Kelly Daly, Secret Santa					
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21	21	3:30 College Football	Teams TBA (L)	Football (L)	Football (L)	College Football	Texas Tech at Texas From Darrell K. Royal - Texas Memorial Stadium in (N)				ABC21 (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)						
NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8	14		Family Feud	25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Big Ten (L)	College Football	Penn State at Michigan State From Ford Field in Detroit. (L) (N)			News (N)	(35) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon						
MNT WPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	The King of Queens	King "S" no of Queens	Modern Family	News (N)	Last Man Standing	Chicago P.D.	"The Thing About Heroes"	Chicago P.D.	"Promise Live!"	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Mom	Mom	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs		
CW WISE (38)	4	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show	TMZ Live (N)			Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer	FBoy Island (N)		Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers		
PBS WFWA (38)	13	5	39	39	Secrets "The Princes in the Tower"		PBS NewsHour (N)		BBC News America	PrimeTime Live	Washington Wk (N)	Firing Hoover (N)	Perform. A review of Broadway shows & songs from 1973-2023 from Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater.	Amanpour and Company (N)		Washington Wk	Firing Hoover				
PBS WFPB (48)	3				Secrets "The Princes in the Tower"		Mavericks		PBS NewsHour (N)	Washington Wk (N)	Firing Hoover (N)	Perform. A review of Broadway shows & songs from 1973-2023 from Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater.	Amanpour and Company (N)		Washington Wk	Firing Hoover					
FOX WFTL (55)	6	6	55	55	Basketball	Hoops (L)	Basketball	Rady Children's Invitational: Iowa vs. TBA From LionTree Arena in La Jolla, Calif. (L) (N)	Update (L)	College Football	Oregon State at Oregon From Autzen Stadium in Eugene, Ore. (L) (N)										

11/24	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	
LIFE	23	113	108	252	4:00 Jingle Belle	Xmas on Wheels (2020, Drama)	Michael Xavier, Lara Ambery, Tiya Sicar				Toy With the Holidays (21, Rom)	Cindy Busby, Callum Shoniker, Chad Michael Murray.			My Favorite Christmas Melody (21, Rom)	Rainbow Sun Franks, Brielle Robillard, Mya.					
FX	24	132	136	148	9:00 Daddy's Home 2	*** The Santa Clause (94) Tim Allen.					*** The Santa Clause 2 (02) Tim Allen.			*** The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause							
TVLAND	25		106	304	Andy Griffith	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens
E!	26	142	114	236	4:30 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2	(2011, Fantasy) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.					Dr. Seuss' Grinch	*** Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (2009, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.			Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows: Part 1						
PARMT	30	241	241		Yellowstone "You're the Indian Now"	Yellowstone "Freight Trains and Monsters"	Yellowstone "An Acceptable Surrender"	Yellowstone "Going Back to Cali"	Yellowstone "Cowboys and Dreamers"	Yellowstone "All for Nothing"	Yellowstone "The Beating"										
ESPN	31	50	140	206	Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
FSMW	33	418	671		NHL Hockey	Blues Post	Sports Stars	The Rally (N)	Breaking Par	NHL Hockey	Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo.			Football	Icons	World Poker	World Poker	World Poker	World Poker	World Poker	World Poker
USA	34	133	105	242	1:15 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2	(2011, Fantasy) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.					Dr. Seuss' Grinch	*** Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (2009, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.			Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows: Part 1						
DISC	35	72	182	278	Gold Rush "50 Ounce Ultimatum"	Gold Rush "Last Ditch Gold"	Gold Rush "The Legend of Porcupine Creek"	Gold Rush "Pivot!" (N)	(05) Sea Gold	The miners boost their operations with new tech & unconventional, never-before-seen dredges.	(05) Mysteries of "Porcupine Palace" (N)										
HLC	36	73	183	280	Fat Fabulous	UnExplained "Serial Killer Creations"	UnExplained "Wonders of the Ancient World"	UnExplained "Mysteries of the Missing Link"	UnExplained "Secrets of the Vikings"	UnExplained "Mysteries of the Vikings"	UnExplained "Mysteries of the Vikings"	UnExplained "Mysteries of the Vikings"	UnExplained "Mysteries of the Vikings"	UnExplained "Mysteries of the Vikings"	UnExplained "Mysteries of the Vikings"	UnExplained "Mysteries of the Vikings"	UnExplained "Mysteries of the Vikings"	UnExplained "Mysteries of the Vikings"	UnExplained "Mysteries of the Vikings"	UnExplained "Mysteries of the Vikings"	UnExplained "Mysteries of the Vikings"
TST	41	135	122	244	4:40 Santa	*** The Wizard of Oz (39) Judy Garland.					*** Elf (03) James Caan, Will Ferrell.				*** Elf (03) James Caan, Will Ferrell.						
AMC	45	131	138	245	2:45 The Karate Kid	*** Weekend at Bernie's (1989, Comedy) Jonathan Silverman, Terry Kiser, Andrew McCarthy.					*** The Great Outdoors (1988, Comedy) John Candy, Stephanie Faracy, Dan Aykroyd.				*** Sixteen Candles (1984, Comedy) Anthony Michael Hall, Michael Schoeffling, Molly Ringwald.						
COM	47	107	249		The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office
FS1	48	64	150	219	4:00 College Football	Air Force at Boise State From Albertsons Stadium in Boise, Idaho. (L) (N)					SmackDown	The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rival.			SmackDown	The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rival.					
WE	53	307			The Hill (L)	On Balance (N)					Cuomo (N)	Dan Abrams Live (L) (N)			Cuomo						
WGN	57	128	260		5:25 Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit	Whoopi Goldberg	Love After	Love After	Love After	Love After	Love After	Love After	Love After	Love After	Love After	Love After	Love After	Love After	Love After	Love After	Love After
FOOD	59	153	110	231	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
BRavo	60	140	129	237	Movie	*** A Bad Moms Christmas (17) Kristen Bell, Mila Kunis.					Grinch	*** It's a Wonderful Life (46) Donna Reed, James Stewart.			Grinch	*** It's a Wonderful Life (46) Donna Reed, James Stewart.					
NICK	68	170	299		SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob
DISN	69	30	172	290	Ladybug	Kiff	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City
FREEFORM	70	32	180	311	4:15 Despicable Me 3 (17) Steve Carell.	*** Disney's A Christmas Carol (2009, Animated) Voices of Robin Wright Penn, Gary Oldman, Jim Carrey.					*** Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000, Children) Jeffrey Tambor, Christine Baranski, Jim Carrey.				The 700 Club						
HBO	301	300	301		*** The Manchurian Candidate (04, Thriller) Meryl Streep, Liev Schreiber, Denzel Washington.	*** Paycheck (2003, Sci-Fi) Aaron Eckhart, Uma Thurman, Ben Affleck.					*** Unbreakable (00) Samuel L. Jackson, Bruce Willis.				Real Time With Bill Maher	*** Heist (15) Robert De Niro, Kate Bosworth, Jeffrey Dean Morgan.					
MAX	325	310	315		4:10 Push (09)	*** Paycheck (2003, Sci-Fi) Aaron Eckhart, Uma Thurman, Ben Affleck.					*** Unbreakable (00) Samuel L. Jackson, Bruce Willis.				*** Heist (15) Robert De Niro, Kate Bosworth, Jeffrey Dean Morgan.						
SHOW	351	851	318	545	4:20 *** The Cutting Edge (92) D.B. Sweeney.	*** Mean Girls (2004, Comedy) Rachel McAdams, Tina Fey, Lindsay Lohan.					*** When Harry Met Sally... (89) Meg Ryan, Billy Crystal.				*** Memories of Me (1988, Comedy) Alan King, JoBeth Williams, Billy Crystal.						
TMC	375	859	327	553	4:35 *** The Cutting Edge (92) D.B. Sweeney.	*** Mean Girls (2004, Comedy) Rachel McAdams, Tina Fey, Lindsay Lohan.					*** When Harry Met Sally... (89) Meg Ryan, Billy Crystal.				*** Memories of Me (1988, Comedy) Alan King, JoBeth Williams, Billy Crystal.						

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Wee bite	2 Bassoon	26 Counter-feit
1 —	39 Playwright	3 Actress	27 LBJ biographer
4 Citrus drinks	40 Year in Acapulco	4 Rise	Robert
8 Spiced tea	41 Fairway shots	5 Belittle	28 Epps of "House"
12 Attorneys' org.	45 Trojan War hero	6 Historic time	29 "— the season ..."
13 Antitoxins	48 Preach aorns	8 Software writer	32 Wise king
14 Erstwhile	50 Palm starch	9 Guffaw	33 Cyber-messages
15 Casa-blanca	51 Thor's father	10 Alias	35 Barbie's guy
17 "Phooey!"	52 Bikini half	11 Follower (Suff.)	36 Straying
18 Pitcher known as "Tom Terrific"	53 Scheme	16 Cameo shapes	38 Anglo—"Thor"
19 Dr. of hip-hop	54 Tree home	17 Pierced body part	39 "— the actor Elba
21 Whatever	55 Pierced body part	23 Metric measure	42 Unspoken feeling
22 Financier J.P.		24 Ethereal	43 Old Testament book
26 Berate		25 Siestas	44 Blacken
29 Bar bill			45 Cleo's slayer
30 Estuary			46 Tokyo-based carrier
31 Holiday entries			47 Istanbul honorific
32 Go astray			49 Lyric poem
33 Lawman Wyatt			
34 Altar constellation			
35 Decks in the ring			
36 TV trophies			

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	L	I	P	A	A	S	I	D	I	G	
T	O	R	E	R	C	A	F	I	D	O	
D	R	A	C	H	A	M	A	S	O	P	E
S	E	S	A	M	E	H	U	R	L	E	
N	O	N	A	R	G	O					
M	S	G	S	I	A	L	O	M	A	N	
D	A	R	T	A	G	O	T	A	K	E	
S	L	A	W	S	T	U	B	S	A	W	
N	O	T	S	R	O	I					
R	E	D	S	E	A	T	A				

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

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

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Difficulty: ★★★★★

11/24

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

✓ THIS OUT!
MICHIGAN CHRISTMAS TREES! Tim Murray's Fresh Cut Christmas Trees, Wreaths, Garland, Grave Blankets and Bougths! Also Michigan Maple Syrup. Located at Bummys Root Beer Stand, 1263 S. Main Street., Bluffton. Open Daily at 10am beginning Saturday, Nov. 25. Phone: 231-920-6194.

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HELOISE HINT: If you love animals/pets and have extra time on your hands. Call up your local animal shelter to see if they need volunteers. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

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LOCAL DRIVER: LOCAL pickup or delivery and transport in Ft. Wayne area of both legal and oversized loads. Personalized dispatch, great pay with weekly direct deposit, excellent health, disability, life ins., 401K, and well-maintained equipment. Must have a good Class A CDL record and 3 years in a like profession. Sycamore Specialized Carriers, Inc., 3400 Engle Road, Ft. Wayne, IN 46809, Phone: 260-478-6377 ext 340 or recruiting@sycamoretrkg.com (A)

Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
 Cash 5 — 04-17-24-39-41
Lotto Plus — 05-07-33-42-43-44
Cash4Life — 01-21-32-48-51, Cash Ball: 03
Quick Draw Midday — 09-10-12-17-23-24-28-37-39-44-47-48-51-52-53-59-62-67-73, BE: 48
Daily Three-Midday — 05-05-06, SB: 04
Daily Three-Evening — 09-09-09, SB: 06
Daily Four-Midday — 01-05-06-09, SB: 04
Daily Four-Evening — 01-02-03-04, SB: 06
Quick Draw Evening — 02-04-05-06-08-12-15-20-26-41-45-46-47-49-52-54-58-60-62-71, BE: 05
Hoosier Lotto — 13-17-33-38-39-43
POWERBALL
 20-24-33-39-42 Powerball: 21; Power Play: 2X

Thursday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
 Cash 5 — 12-13-17-25-26
Cash4Life — 35-44-46-50-55, Cash Ball: 03
Quick Draw Midday — 02-07-09-10-15-17-21-35-42-43-51-52-55-57-61-69-72-78-79-80, BE: 69
Daily Three-Midday — 07-01-06, SB: 01
Daily Three-Evening — 09-07-02, SB: 04
Daily Four-Midday — 07-01-09-06, SB: 01
Daily Four-Evening — 02-04-09-04, SB: 04
Quick Draw Evening — 03-05-07-09-10-18-20-23-24-29-30-38-42-43-44-58-60-64-67-72, BE: 23
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$43.4 million
MEGA MILLIONS
 Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$308 million
POWERBALL
 Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$340 million

Help Wanted

THE BLUFFTON POLICE Department is seeking applications to fill the position of Ordinance Compliance Officer. This full-time civilian position is responsible for ensuring compliance with all city ordinances and is based in the police department working M-F 8a-4p. Duties include downtown parking enforcement and resolution of weed and junk complaints. The successful applicant must be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma or GED equivalent, possess a responsible driving history and clean criminal background. Knowledge of law procedures preferred. Application is available on the city's website www.blufftonindiana.net. For more information contact Chief of Police Kyle Randall at 824-3320 or kyle.randall@blufftonindiana.gov. Applications are due back December 22, 2023 by 4:30 p.m.

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

EARLY MORNING DRIVER needed to deliver papers to post offices and stores in southern part of county. Must have reliable transportation. Call Natasha or Doug, (260) 824-0224, for more information.

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
 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 MATTER 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 23507 E 2ND AVE. 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

Note: Personal Service Required by Sheriff cc: Wells Co. Child Support nb 11/9, 11/16, 11/24 hspaxlp

Board Appointments for 2024
 The Wells County Board of Commissioners and/or the Wells County Council are accepting applications for Board Appointments to:

- Local Alcoholic Beverage Board
- Area Plan Commission Board
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Cemetery Board
- Community Corrections Advisory Board
- Community & Family Services
- Health Department Board
- Property Tax Board of Appeals
- Regional Sewer District
- Rockcreek Conservancy District
- Tourism Commission
- Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

The appointments to these boards vary from annual appointments to 5-year appointments. All appointments are effective on January 1, 2024. Some qualifications may apply for certain boards. If you are interested in serving on any of these boards, please contact the Wells County Auditor's Office at 260-824-6470 for an application. Applications can also be downloaded by going to the Commissioner or County Council page of the County Website at www.wellscounty.org. Send completed applications to Wells County Auditor, 102 W Market St., Suite 205, Bluffton, IN 46714 or email to auditor@wellscounty.org. Applications will be accepted through November 29, 2023.

Wells County, Indiana prohibits discrimination and/or the exclusion of individuals from its governmental facilities, programs, activities, and services based on the individual person's race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, low-income status, sexual orientation or limited English proficiency. Wells County, Indiana affirms its commitment to providing meaningful opportunities and access to government facilities, programs, activities and services in an effort to comply with all laws including: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended.
 nb 11/10, 11/17, 11/24 hspaxlp

Help Wanted

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

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Contact the Bluffton News-Banner, 824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., or classifieds.news-banner.com

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 Ossian, IN 46777
 Attorney Gerret J. Swearingin

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SUDOKU ANSWER

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

Qatar says Gaza cease-fire will begin Friday morning

Aid to follow 'as soon as possible'

By WAFSA SHURAF, NAJIB JOBAIN and JACK JEFFERY
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — A four-day cease-fire in Gaza between Israel and Hamas was set to begin Friday morning, Qatar said after a daylong delay extended the agony for those hoping for some relief from the deal, which is to bring the release of dozens of hostages held by militants and Palestinians imprisoned by Israel.

The diplomatic breakthrough promised some relief for the 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza who have endured weeks of Israeli bombardment, as well as families in Israel fearful for the fate of their loved ones taken captive during Hamas' Oct. 7 attack that triggered the war.

The cease-fire was originally set to begin Thursday morning, but it appeared to hit a snag the night before when Israel's national security

adviser, Tzachi Hanegbi, announced a one-day delay without providing a reason.

On Thursday, Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari announced the cease-fire will start at 7 a.m. local time Friday.

He said the two sides had exchanged lists of those to be released, and the first group of 13 women and children held by Hamas would be freed Friday afternoon. He did not say how many Palestinian prisoners would be freed, but officials have said three would be freed for every hostage.

Increased aid for Palestinians will start to enter Gaza "as soon as possible," al-Ansari said. The hope is that the "momentum" from this deal will lead to an "end to this violence," he told reporters.

RISING TOLL IN GAZA

Israeli airstrikes continued Thursday. In the afternoon, a strike leveled a residential building in the

Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza. At least 12 people were killed, according to officials at nearby Al-Aqsa Hospital.

One resident, Hosni Moharib, said his wife and several children were killed and other relatives remained buried under the rubble.

"It exploded on the house, striking the babies and young children. Everyone in the house, they are all dead," he said, bursting into tears.

The Israeli bombardment, now in its seventh week, has killed more than 13,300 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza, which resumed its detailed count of casualties in Gaza from the war. The ministry had stopped publishing casualty counts since Nov. 11, saying it had lost the ability to do so because of the health system's collapse in the north.

The new numbers were not fully broken down, but women and minors have consistently made up around two-thirds of the dead.

The figures do not include updated numbers from hospitals in the north. The ministry says some 6,000 people have been reported missing, feared buried under rubble.

The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and militants in its death tolls. Israel says it has killed thousands of Hamas fighters, without presenting evidence for its count.

NETANYAHU SAYS TRUCE WON'T END WAR

The truce agreement raised hopes of eventually winding down the war, which has leveled vast swaths of Gaza, fueled a surge of violence in the occupied West Bank and stirred fears of a wider conflagration across the Middle East.

Air-raid sirens sounded across northern Israel on Thursday as Hezbollah said it fired 48 Katyusha rockets from southern Lebanon. The barrage came after an Israeli strike killed five Hezbollah fighters, including the son of

the head of the group's parliamentary bloc.

The Israeli military said it was striking the sources of the launches. Israel and Hezbollah, which fought a monthlong war in 2006, have repeatedly traded fire across the border since the war in Gaza broke out.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to continue the war after the truce expires to destroy Hamas' military capabilities, end its 16-year rule in Gaza and return all the estimated 240 captives held in Gaza by

Hamas and other groups.

"We will continue it until we achieve all our goals," Netanyahu said, adding that he had delivered the same message in a phone call to U.S. President Joe Biden. Washington has provided extensive military and diplomatic support to Israel since the start of the war.

In Gaza's city of Khan Younis, Palestinians welcomed the respite of the upcoming cease-fire but said four days would do little to relieve the humanitarian disaster caused by the war.

Indiana Supreme Court rules in favor of Ball State University in COVID class action case

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Indiana Supreme Court on Wednesday sided with the state legislature over a Ball State University student who wants a refund for his pandemic-interrupted classes in early 2020.

The 5-0 decision made three key findings:

- The law passed by the Indiana General Assembly in 2021 barring class action COVID-19 suits doesn't violate constitutional separation of powers.

- The student doesn't have the right to sue on behalf of others.

- The law doesn't unconstitutionally impair the student because he can still pursue individual claims against Ball State.

College student Keller Mellowitz was enrolled at Ball State for the Spring 2020 semester when the university "sent students home, cancelled

in-person classes and closed campus facilities as a result of COVID-19," according to court filings.

He filed a class action complaint against the university and its board of trustees in Marion County Superior Court in May 2020, accusing them of "breach of contract and unjust enrichment" over decisions to cancel in-person classes and close campus facilities due to the pandemic.

Specifically, Mellowitz cited Ball State's retention of tuition and "numerous" fees, including those for student services, university technology, student recreation, student health, and student transportation.

The lawsuit estimated as many as 20,000 Ball State students were due some sort of reimbursement.

The General Assembly, however, enacted a retroactive law in 2021 that prohibited class-action complaints against state universities related to COVID-19. Instead, Mellowitz — and

any other students impacted — would have to file individual suits.

Wednesday's ruling said the legislature didn't encroach on judicial powers because the law's scope was limited to a narrow category of COVID-19 claims and had a public policy objective — "reducing postsecondary educational institutions' litigation exposure for their emergency responses to the pandemic."

The decision also reinforced that Mellowitz can sue for his own damages — but isn't entitled to class-action status on behalf of other students.

During oral arguments in the case, his attorney said individual suits aren't feasible due to only a few thousand dollars being at stake.

"The purpose of a class action is ... to provide a remedy where often the claims are too small to even viably gain counsel," he said. "As shown in this case, the defense of Ball State is vigorous."

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